

OTWAY AGROFORESTRY NETWORK Harvest Field Day

Friday 15th August 2008
Deans Marsh, Victoria

A great opportunity for an informed discussion from a tree-roots perspective of pre & post harvesting issues.

Four Otway Agroforestry Network members, in the north-eastern foothills of the Otway Ranges, harvested plantations last year. These harvests were for Blue Gum wood chips and commercial thinning of a sawlog plantation.

The plantation designs varied from a large 38ha woodlot to 8ha of trees forming 3 kms of 8 - 12 row shelterbelts integrated into a prime-lamb farming landscape.

Many lessons have been learned about the harvesting process, and management techniques are now being considered to maximize coppice or re-growth potential.



The field day will feature the landholders telling their stories about harvesting experiences including financial analysis. The three properties to be visited adjoin each other but have different plantation designs and objectives.

Midway harvesting and plantation managers will be in attendance, along with other professional foresters and farmers.



Australian Government



The day will start at 10.00am at David Swann & Fiona Brockoff's property:- 270 Fords Outlet Road (between Bamba and Deans Marsh).

David and Fiona have converted an ex-diary farm into Blue Gum for woodchips, Shining Gum for sawlogs and other assorted commercial species including Blackwood, Spotted Gum, Sugar Gum and Southern Mahogany. Here we will view and discuss harvesting for woodchips and commercial thinning of Shining Gum sawlog plantation.

At 11.00am we move to the Stewart family property Yan Yan Gurt West (2005 Winchelsea-Deans Marsh Road), Andrew & Hugh Stewart will discuss the harvested 12-row shelterbelts that are integrated into the farming system. A comparison of forestry and agricultural returns will be presented along with the pros and cons of an integrated system designed to deliver multiple benefits. Then we walk through riparian revegetation along the eroded Yan Yan Gurt creek featuring multi-purpose forestry.

At 12.00pm we will hop over the fence to Angus Edgar's 38ha of harvested Blue Gum. Coppice management will be featured at this site.

Then back at 1.30pm for lunch at the Stewart's barn - which features 8 species of timber flooring in the mezzanine.

After lunch a panel discussion of issues will be hosted by Rowan Reid.

And hopefully we will all be ready for home at 3.30pm!

The walk through the properties is about 3 kms - downhill! There is transport available for those who can't make the distance, and we will run you back to your vehicle at the end of the day. Sturdy foot wear and coats are advisable.

There is no cost to participants, but we do need you to RSVP for catering (or NO LUNCH!).

RSVP to
 Andrew Stewart
 t: 5236 3277
 e: andrew.stewart@oan.org.au
 or Mike Edwards
 t: 5233 8551
 e: mike.edwards@oan.org.au

The turnoff to Fords Outlet Road is approx. 17kms from Winchelsea.

