

Media Release

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Koondrook's vibrant timber industry to feature on Channel Seven

The team from Channel Seven's Going Bush recently visited the Arbuthnot Saw Mill in Koondrook to learn more about VicForests' community forestry operations.

Going Bush is a series that tells the story of Australia's forestry industry to an audience of around 100,000 viewers across the country.

Paul Madden, Managing Director of Arbuthnot Saw Mills, said that the Arbuthnot mill deals exclusively in river red gum timber from forests growing around the Murray.

"Our mill has been producing high quality, sustainable red gum products for almost 130 years now. "River red gums regenerate naturally through flooding and produce a very high grade of timber that goes into making quality furniture, flooring, bench tops and more.

"Timber produced from our mill has re-built the Echuca wharf and will be used to re-build the wharf in Koondrook also. Our timber built the Alexandra Arbuthnot paddle steamer at Koondrook mill in 1923 which remains in service at the Port of Echuca," he said.

Arbuthnot Saw Mills are one of VicForests biggest customers in the north-west where most operations are on a much smaller scale than those in other parts of Victoria.

The main species of timber that VicForests harvests in the west include red ironbark, grey box, yellow gum, sugar gum, blackwood and red gum.

Bill Paul, VicForests Manager Community Forestry said that most of VicForests operations in the west involve single tree selection or thinning, which is when they remove trees from a high density area to let other trees grow bigger.

"We refer to these operations as Community Forestry because all products are channelled back into the local community.

"Our operations in the west are on a much smaller scale which means we are able to supply timber for high quality products and firewood to the local communities we operate in.

"Timber from our north-west operations goes towards producing many highly sought after timber products including tables, chairs, flooring and even some guitars," he said.

VicForests operations in north-west Victoria provides local employment, boosts the economy of regional communities and produces quality sustainable timber products.

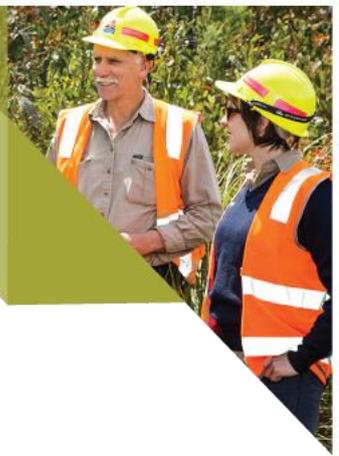
This episode of Going Bush will be aired in August 2016 and will available to watch on Channel Seven online or via the VicForests website and YouTube channels.

NOTES:

www.vicforests.com.au

www.arbuthnotsawmills.com.au/

<https://au.tv.yahoo.com/plus7/going-bush/>



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www.youtube.com/user/VicForests1



Image: Arbuthnot Saw Mill