

Media Release

16 June 2016

Sustaining the Native Timber Industry for Five Generations

Family has always been an integral part of the A.G Brown Sawmill.

Five generations have worked in the Victorian native hardwood industry for almost 100 years and seven of the 55 current staff at the sawmill are members of the Brown family.

Seventy-five per cent of the approximately 1800 cubic meters of timber the sawmill processes each month produces high quality furniture, flooring, staircases and decking.

Graeme Brown, Owner of A.G Brown Sawmills, said that their best quality Highland Oak (Mountain Ash) timber is used to produce furniture and staircases throughout Australia and is the only product of its kind in the country.

“Due to the unique length of the Highland Oak, there is no other sawmill in Australia that is able to produce the same quality product,” he said.

They also operate a minimal waste policy meaning that the remaining 25 per cent of timber that is not processed into furniture or flooring is used in other quality products such as structural timber, firewood, pallets, woodchips, wood shavings and sawdust.

Graeme said that he feels great satisfaction when watching the transformation process of the timber from the forest to the home.

“It is such a great feeling to see the whole process from when VicForests harvests the timber to when it is processed through our mill and then transformed into a beautiful piece of furniture.” He said.

Robert Green, VicForests CEO said that VicForests has a huge amount of respect for the hard work its customers put into producing quality timber products.

“It’s businesses like A.G Brown Sawmill that keep the sustainable native timber industry alive. Our customers are a vital part of timber production and it is encouraging to see a family run business that is so committed to the future success of the industry,” he said.

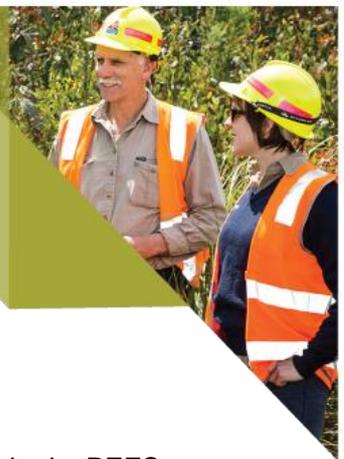
Emily Brown, A.G Brown Sawmill Noojee said that her great, great grandfather Andrew Brown and his two brothers with their parents started up Brown Brothers Sawmills in 1920 at the current Noojee site.

“Sawmilling and timber runs through our veins. Andrew passed away just before the Noojee mill burnt down in the 1939 bushfires which resulted in the mill closing down.

“My Grandfather Graham Brown Senior was just a child when the mill closed but he grew up working in sawmills and driving log trucks, continuing to raise our family in the sawmilling business, until eventually rebuilding the Noojee mill in the early 1970’s,” she said.

Graeme and Julie, Graham Brown Senior’s son and daughter, now own and operate the mills in Noojee and Drouin West.

Julie’s daughter Emily operates out of the mill in Noojee and is raising her two children Cooper and Ryan to one day continue as the sixth generation sawmillers in the family business.



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All timber at Browns Sawmill is supplied by VicForests from sustainably managed forests.

Both VicForests and A.G Brown Sawmill are certified to the Australian Forestry Standard Limited a PEFC recognised organisation.

IMAGES



Images: (L) Emily Brown with sons Cooper and Ryan (R) Timber stacks at Noojee



Images: (L) Timber stacks at Drouin West (R) Logs at Noojee



Images: (L) Finished product at Drouin West (R) Mountain Ash staircase