

Media Release

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Woodchop Champions a Chip off the old Block

A family of Woodchopping champions from regional Victoria took home an impressive 23 ribbons at this year's Royal Melbourne Show.

For almost 70 years now, the Meyers have been competing and making a name for themselves in woodchop events all around Australia and the world.

This year saw Brayden Meyer, fourth generation woodchopper, take home the STIHL Timbersports Champions Trophy in Austria and a number of world titles at shows around Australia.

The family tradition began in 1948 when Les Meyer first competed at the Royal Melbourne Show in the woodchopping event.

Les passed on his skill and passion for woodchopping to his sons, grandsons and great grandsons and this year saw an impressive seven Meyers travelling from Romsey and Broadford to compete at the Show.

Romsey local Brad Meyer, Les Meyer's grandson and contractor for VicForests said that wood-chopping has become a proud family tradition.

"When I was younger I saw woodchopping as a way that I could really bond with my dad and I grew to love the sport. I think my boys now see it the same way.

"My brother Rod and I have been competing in events for 30 to 35 years. My sons Blake and Kyle and nephews Brayden and Luke have been competing for around eight to ten years," Brad said.

But it is not just the men who compete in wood-chopping competitions. It is also a sport that is increasingly attracting more and more women to compete.

"This year my sister-in-law Janet competed in the inaugural womens cross-cut sawing at the Melbourne Show," Brad said.

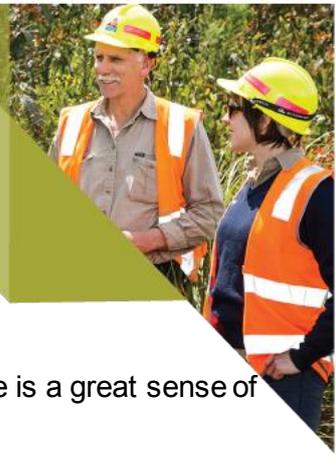
"There were many women's events this year and it was great to see so many talented women showing off their skills at such an important event for the sport.

"I think the most noteworthy win for this year's show was when Kyle won overall handicap axemen of the show" he said.

In addition to his passion for wood-chopping, Brad has also been working in the timber industry for almost 30 years now and currently contracts for VicForests along with his two sons.

Nathan Trushell, VicForests General Manager Planning said that VicForests places a lot of importance on supporting the local communities they work in throughout Victoria.

"Our staff and contractors are members of many local communities throughout Victoria, Mr Trushell said.



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“Forestry is a vibrant and essential component to many of these communities and there is a great sense of pride among these timber communities.

“Many timber industry workers, like the Meyers, are the fourth, fifth or sixth generation of forestry industry workers in their family.

“By supporting regional events such as wood-chops and regional shows, we are not only supporting the local community but also our own employees.

“We congratulate Brad and his family in their success at this year’s show and wish them all the best with any future wood-chops,” he said.

Brad and his sons also supplied and trimmed all 1,400 logs and 40 tree poles used for the wood-chop events at the Royal Melbourne Show this year.

Image (from left to right): Brayden Meyer, Brad Meyer, Blake Meyer, Kyle Meyer, Janet Meyer, Rod Meyer, Luke Meyer.

