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opportunities for the Bombala region

David Smith Senior
Executive - Forestry
Operations Willmott
Forests Limited
Wednesday, 21 January
2004

During 2003 we had
5 staff graduate at
Level 2 - Forest
Management and
Growing, with 6
more set to
graduate at Level 3
early in 2004.

Andrew Power and
Colin Groves

completed their Advanced Diploma in Forestry studies at the University of Melbourne, Creswick campus. This study was successfully completed following years of on-campus lectures and a number of units by correspondence. A special mention to the families of Andrew and Colin who provided them with the support needed to complete this course whilst away from home.

All forestry staff are trained fire fighters, Willmott Forests' commitment to fire fighter training is absolute. Training (on the job and specifically targeted courses) and the knowledge it brings to Willmott Forests underpins the success of our business and in many ways the company's economic contribution to the region. In the year ahead more training opportunities will be provided to staff and we wish them every success.

Work experience program

During 2003 Willmott Forests remained a supporter of the Bombala High School work experience program, offering secondary school students an opportunity to experience first hand, some of the tasks that beset forestry employees.

Summer 2003/04 also saw the Company offer vocational employment to forestry students from both the Australian National University and



Willmott's Senior Executive - Forestry Operations, David Smith believes that 'jobs, growth and future opportunities for the Bombala region rather than elsewhere should remain the focus.'

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the University of Melbourne. The on-the-job training experience that this provides to these students is a vital part of their studies whilst these young people also get to experience the Bombala region. Who knows, perhaps Bombala and/or surrounding towns may become a future settlement opportunity for them once their studies are completed.

Community activities

Our commitment to community based activities remains a strong part of our focus.

Willmott Forests is an active participant in local landcare initiatives working closely with farmers on issues such as wild dog and fox baiting programs.

Support of local functions and events is another key way that the community benefits, whilst being unable to sponsor every local event, many clubs and community groups and functions have received valuable assistance.

Active dialogue with the community over any and all issues is the foundation of our Good Neighbour Policy and this was demonstrated in the latter part of 2003 when we attended community meetings at Delegate and Tubbut. Willmott Forests promotes open dialogue and welcomes people to discuss their concerns with its staff at our Delegate or Bombala Offices.

Where to next?

The softwood plantation industry and the region in general needs to continue to expand its plantation base in order to secure long term investment in value-adding processing plants, infrastructure and developing markets. Willmott Forests is in a position to continue to expand the region's plantation base and at the same time secure 100's of jobs (direct and indirect), and underpin the region's economy by ensuring timber is produced locally rather than in other areas.

As highlighted above there continues to be more local job prospects created throughout the business. Those interested should ensure they monitor local advertising of these future employment opportunities although we also encourage those considering a future in the local softwood industry to contact us and register their interest.

"Jobs, growth and future opportunities for the Bombala region rather than elsewhere should remain the focus".

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