



# autumn 2011 issue of UNITED PRESS

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Welcome to our Autumn 2011 Newsletter. As far as drought is concerned our fortunes have changed dramatically over the past six months. We have had well in excess of average rainfall and the countryside is showing the effects. We have grass that is now going to seed providing for future stock feed and the major water supply dams are full or near full. We can only hope that the 10 year plus drought is finally over.

## FOOTBALL TIPPING CONTEST

Our annual contest is again underway. I hope you have all registered for this season which will see a prize pool in excess of \$2500.

My only wish is to beat Kim and this year I am feeling very confident.

## WILLMOTT/ TASCO SALE

I have recently read that the financially troubled Willmott Timbers has been taken over totally by Tasco. It will be interesting to watch the future direction of the group.

## THE MARKET

Our sales have continued to hold up over the past few months. Whilst we are not setting any records there is a slight trend of improvement. Future sales will depend largely on fuel prices which have jumped dramatically over the past six weeks. Our transport companies are now charging us a levy of 9%. We will continue to absorb the increase for as long as we can but if the price of fuel continues to escalate we may have to reintroduce a fuel levy to recover our costs.



## STEAM PISTON GENERATOR

In past newsletters I have advised that we purchased a steam piston motor from the UK last year. We are now in the process of commissioning it and producing our own power on site for sale back to the electricity grid. Whilst it will never produce enough power to offset totally our present electricity cost of approximately \$15000 per month any reduction will be important. As a matter of interest our electricity bill has increased by 80% over the past four years due mainly to price hikes.



## NEW SLABBER FOR THE ROUND WOOD AREA

As we go to print with this letter we are in the final stages of commissioning our new slabber. Other than saving on staff costs the machine will be safer to operate and provide a better finish on the flat surfaces of our slabs and winged splits.

