



CHIPPER CHATTER

Safety | Experience | Trust

The Official E-Newsletter of the Tree Contractors Association of Australia - TCAA

President's Message



Dan McArdle
TCAA President

The TCAA is at the forefront, directing an expanding tree industry, it's commitment to policy making, management and training has resulted profitably to TCAA members.

The current consumer environment is demanding highly skilled and approved tree contractors. This is evident with increasing public awareness, website visits and referrals, the TCAA website has received over 1200 views this quarter.

Over the last 12 months the TCAA has undertaken accreditation by BNG Conserve, the costs for this independent audit are covered within the membership fee.

Accreditation will conclude in June 2015 when all TCAA members will attain a **TCAA industry license**.

The TCAA understands the importance of continued education and support to strengthen its members and the industry, therefore the TCAA has provided \$130,000 for training level 3 certificate and diploma arborists.

The TCAA believes that training adds value to members and compliments the industry licensing system.



TCAA General Meeting 11th October 2014

Subcontractors to comply with the TCAA

Sub-contractors working for TCAA members are to maintain the same standards as the members. They need to respect and adhere to the required TCAA Code provisions and comply.

The TCAA member should view the subcontractor as an extension of their business and the member is responsible for induction into the practice, work quality, ethics and obligations of the TCAA and the industry licensing system.

Induction

Induction of subcontractors to the working environment should:

- Ensure subcontractors receive a copy of, or have ready access to, the code.
- Ensure subcontractors understand their personal responsibility to abide by the provisions and standards of the TCAA.

The Tree Contractors Association Australia

We seek companies to join our association for all tree industry related work.

Contact our Membership Officer

Shui Narayan on

02 9748 2323

0427 631 299

membership@taa.com.au

Set your company apart. Get Accredited!

BNG Conserve is contracted by TCAA to independently audit approved members

- Compete among the most professional companies in the field
- Attract career-driven, loyal employees who take pride in their work
- Increase profits and reduce insurance rates and other costs

Accreditation closes June 2015



BNG Conserve

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www.bngconserve.com.au



Arborist Training Day

28th of February, 2015

The TCAA offered a course for members and their employees engaged in tree climbing.

The course was held at the Active Industry Training Facility in Wongarah’s Central Coast, many members travelling long distances to attend.

The training day focused on tree biology, plant identification and aerial rescue.

Dan McArdle President of TCAA and training facilitator

said “Because climbing arborists spend more time in the canopy of the tree, it’s important that they acquire skills in tree identification, pests and common tree diseases, our training teaches aspects of tree anatomy, growth, and regeneration.”

Shui Narayan was on hand to assist participants gain knowledge and skills in various tree climbing methods and their application. He also assessed ground support and tree climbers in Aerial Rescue techniques.

The day concluded with practical scenarios of aerial rescue performed in a controlled environment so that climbers become familiar in dealing with different situations and responding appropriately. Competencies are assessed at the conclusion of this course by theory study and a practical assessment on equipment use, knot tying, tree climbing techniques, hazard and risk assessment, emergency procedures and rescue techniques.



Special Guest Molly the Cow. No Bull!

TCAA participants from left Terry, Maurice, Chris, Daniel, Jason, Orlando & Mario, not in Photo Shui Narayan, Bradley Tubb & Dan McArdle

Safe Work & Method Statement (SWMS)

- Complies with current legislation
- Assists with compliance requirements for WHS inspections
- Risk Matrix
- Job Safety Analysis Checklist
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Hierarchy of Control

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Trees in Schools

The TCAA has been working collaborative with the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) to review the tree risk assessment in schools.

TCAA consults with DEC about Tree Management Guidelines.

The TCAA’s president Dan McArdle and secretary James McArdle have met with the DEC’s director of compliance Mrs Vicki Li to give advise about tree management guidelines for schools.

Subsequently, a draft management guideline was developed which outlines procedures for contractors, principals, General Assistants and anyone working with trees in schools.

The DEC will release the new Tree Management Guidelines at some stage in the future.

The TCAA has developed an interim tree management guideline tool which is available on the website for TCAA members.



Photo courtesy J.McArdle Warrah School

Member Of the Month

Jim McArdle

from McArdle Arboricultural Consultancy & TCAA Secretary



What's your favourite tree?

The Sherwood Forest Oak tree.

What part of the job do you love the most?

Meeting interesting people.

Do you have any advice for new employees?

Set realistic goals and work hard to achieve them.

How do you turn a bad day around and make it good?

Review your successes and keep everything in perspective.

What are some current issues in the tree industry? There needs to be more funding for arborist training, retention of key employees and the DEC tree risk management requires transparency.

What was your first car?

I bought the family car, a Holden Belmont station wagon

What was the best vacation you ever had?

Backpacking in Tasmania through the cradle mountains.

Do you need a permit for a 100 year old bonsai tree?

I would probably pass this job onto my colleagues.

Some say your work is 'A-boring'. What do you say to that?

It's Arbor-real, never boring when the challenges are met.

If you had the chance would you enter the Big Brother house?

No chance, I have too much body hair, it would be bad for ratings.

Myrtle Rust: Is it a threat?

Myrtle Rust was first described in Brazil in 1884 when the rust disease killed lines of young Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus grandis*) in plantations and nurseries.

In 2010, the unusual leaf blotches on plants in NSW nurseries signalled the pathogen had arrived in Australia.

Myrtle Rust spread within the countries dominant plant family - the Myrtaceae, the species have affected areas spanning from Wollongong to Gympie.

Over 2200 Australian Myrtaceae species may be susceptible to the disease.

The rust will only develops in actively growing shoots, it requires at least 3 hours of leaf moisture to germinate and grows best between 14 and 25 degrees celsius.

Areas East of the Great Dividing Range are most at risk.



What can I do to prevent spreading?

- Do not move plants known to be affected
- Start new jobs with clean clothing equipment and vehicles

How can I treat Myrtle Rust? Treat with an approved fungicide

- Remove and dispose of the diseased plant

1. NSW department of Primary Industries <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

2. Booth C. (2011). Myrtle Rust: how big a threat to native plants? *ECO SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY* CSIRO 1996-2015



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