GLEN INNES ON THE MOVE

Glen Innes Sawmill
Board of Management

Another step forward for CSI was taken recently with the inaugural meeting of the Glen Innes Sawmill Board of Management. The Board comprises Regional Commander Ken Middlebrook, Governor Jim Gallagher, CSI Business Manager Rob Steer, CSI Operations Manager Bob Dwyer, Forestry Consultant Peter Fisher and CSI Director Wayne Ruckley.

The Board is charged with the responsibility of establishing and reviewing the development and performance of the Glen Innes Sawmill. At its first meeting the Board placed on record the outstanding performance achieved by the sawmill in producing high quality supplies of timber and increasing productivity.

Sale of Glen Innes Timber To Queensland

Charlie Henry Timbers of South East Queensland has purchased more than $300,000 worth of timber this year. Charlie Henry, pictured above with CSI Regional Business Manager Rob Steer, Governor Jim Gallagher and CSI Operations Manager Bob Dwyer now accounts for almost the total production of the sawmill.

Charlie Henry has been pleased with both the productive output and the quality of timber produced from the sawmill. As greater levels of productivity are achieved, Charlie Henry Timbers will be increasing their purchases of timber from the Glen Innes Sawmill.

The Great De-Barker

A timber de-barker has been purchased and recently installed at the Glen Innes Correctional Centre. The function of the de-barker is to remove the outer bark crust from timber logs prior to milling.

This has significant implications in reducing the wear of saw blades on the major breakdown saw. Blade changes are reduced and an additional 30 minutes production time is obtained daily.

Procurement of the de-barker represents a major capital investment to improve the operation and viability of the Glen Innes Sawmill on a commercial footing.
Regional News

Northern Region

CSI was well represented by the northern region at the recent Muswellbrook Show. P.D.C. labour was utilized in the initial ground maintenance work as well as the rodeo activities. The draught horses picked up three first prizes, two second prizes, one grand champion and one reserve champion. The needlework exhibit of the St Heliers Homestead was also successful in its division, winning third prize.

Eastern Region

Bread production has commenced on Sundays at Long Bay’s Hard Rock Bakery. After their recent success with hot cross buns, the bakery is now planning expansion into the fruit bread market. Long Bay’s Nursery is also enjoying a measure of success with the latest plant sale contributing over $11,000 in revenue. A number of donations were accepted on behalf of the inmates working in the nursery and passed on to the Starlight Foundation.

Central Region

A new business opportunity is being developed at Mulawa Correctional Centre assembling Hortico hanging baskets and a range of other garden pots for Yates. The work has been enthusiastically embraced by staff and is expected to provide regular employment for ten inmates.

South-West Region

CSI Operations Manager Fred Hucker is to be congratulated on winning a significant order of office screens for Goulburn Correctional Centre. The University of New South Wales has requested seventy-three screen items of various sizes made from living fabric. The contract represents over $19,000 in revenue for Goulburn.

From the Minister’s Desk

The Government is committed to a program of Corrective Services Industries that is commercially viable and publicly accountable.

On January 2, I released a report on the operation of CSI prepared by Mr Michael Easson, secretary of the NSW Labor Council.

I was delighted that Mr Easson strongly supported CSI, commenting that there was a "good story to tell" about its role in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

However, Mr Easson did identify some deficiencies in the operation of CSI, particularly concerning the pricing policy for prison-made products.

In response, I announced a package of reforms designed to ensure fair competition between prison industries and the private sector.

I am confident these changes, which I believe should allay concerns previously expressed by some businesses, will allow CSI to operate in harmony with the private sector.

During my five months as Minister, I have had the opportunity to see CSI in action at several correctional institutions - and I have been enormously impressed by what I have seen. I strongly believe CSI is a fundamental part of modern correctional policy.

I would like to congratulate all involved in the success of the program so far, and wish them all the best as CSI faces the exciting challenges of the future.

The Hon. Wayne Merton, MP.