

# **M.B. NEWS**

OCTOBER 2009 EDITION

"Without prejudice"

## **INTRODUCTION**

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I haven't done a letter for a number of months now and a lot of water has passed under the bridge. In that time we have seen many things happen including the turn in the global economy. Australia has come through it far better than a lot of other countries throughout the world. There has even been talk, as late as last week that the price of a litre of standard petrol may fall as low as a \$1 per litre in the next month or so. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Geelong secured their second Grand Final flag in three years and they deserved it. It was a close and extremely hard fought game and unfortunately there has to be a loser. Congratulations to both teams for their efforts.

Over the past three months we have seen things pick up to a point things are getting extremely busy. This year we look like having a Christmas, unlike the last year where there was little activity.

## **TIMBER INDUSTRY**

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Today I have received a letter from Carter Holt Harvey stating that as of the 1st of Feb 2010 timber prices will rise. All framing up to 5.1 metres will go up 5% and 5.4 to 6 metres will go up 7.5%.

## **FRAME & TRUSS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA**

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The FTMA Australia held their 2nd National Awards night on the 10th October at the Great Hall in the Arts Centre Melbourne. There were some 278 attendees which made it a very enjoyable night. MC was Marty Fields and the band was the Baker Boys who were very good. Unfortunately M.B. was the runner up to the national winner, but congratulations to the winner and to all of the others that participated.

Don't forget that the DVD "Prefabricated Timber Roof Truss Installation- Good Practice is available from MB Pre-Fab Framing. The DVD is \$15.00. All monies go to charity.

## **ADVANTAGECARD**

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We were delighted last month to have one of our clients redeem their AdvantageCard points to reduce the amount of their monthly statement.

You too have the chance to get extra benefits for the dollars you spend – by using M.B. Pre-Fab Framing and other AdvantageCard suppliers and being rewarded for your loyalty! All of our account holders have been sent an AdvantageCard, so if you aren't actively using yours, then you are missing out. There are a number of AdvantageCard suppliers in the Geelong area where you can earn points and this will only increase with time.

The way it works is, for every dollar you spend with participating suppliers, you will earn reward points. With us, for example, if you purchase \$10,000 (ex GST) worth of walls and roof trusses, and you pay for them within the required period, your card will automatically be credited with 10,000 points. If you were to do this say three times a year, that would mean 30,000 points on your card. Then if you went to Faggs Mitre 10 and over a year spent another \$30,000, you would end up with another 30,000 points bringing your total to 60,000 points from just two suppliers. You are not restricted to use your AdvantageCard only in Geelong; you can earn points with any participating business listed on the AdvantageCard trade website, just open an account with them – there are even some online businesses

that reward you up to 10 points per dollar or more! Imagine how many points you could earn if you were building three or four houses a year and your main suppliers were AdvantageCard suppliers!

The points you earn hold a dollar value, so 10,000 points is equal to \$65.00 to spend, and you can spend these points with any participating business in the program. You even earn points when you make a redemption! AdvantageCard is not like other reward programs; you don't lose the points if they aren't used, as they don't hold an expiry date, there is simply an annual renewal fee of 1000 points (which you are exempt from if you are an MBA AdvantageCard member). Remember, you are going to spend that money anyway, so why not get some extra benefits for your dollar!

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## HIA GEELONG AND WESTERN DISTRICT BRANCH

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The HIA Awards night was held at the Geelong West Town Hall on the 9th of October. They had some 136 attend the awards and congratulations to all those that took away an award. Eco Homes was the overall winner. Signature Homes, MG Design & Building and Pivot Homes all won multiple awards. First time entrant Duncan Pascoe, also collected an award.

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## LIGHT HEARTED

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### **Can you guess which of the following are true and which are false?**

(Answers are below.)

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a belly button.
3. A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
4. People do not get sick from cold weather; it's from being indoors a lot more.
5. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart!
6. Only 7 percent of the population are lefties.
7. Forty people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.
8. Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until they are 2 - 6 years old.
9. The average person over 50 will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.
10. The toothbrush was invented in 1498.
11. The average housefly lives for one month.
12. 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
13. A coat hanger is 44 inches long when straightened.
14. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute.
15. Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than any other time of day.
16. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
17. The REAL reason ostriches stick their head in the sand is to search for water.
18. The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot.
19. John Travolta turned down the starring roles in 'An Officer and a Gentleman' and 'Tootsie.'
20. Michael Jackson owns the rights to the South Carolina State Anthem.
21. In most television commercials advertising milk, a mixture of white paint and a little thinner is used in place of the milk.
22. Prince Charles and Prince William NEVER travel on the same airplane, just in case there is a crash.

23. The first Harley Davidson motorcycle built in 1903 used a tomato can for a carburettor.
24. Most hospitals make money by selling the umbilical cords cut from women who give birth. They are used in vein transplant surgery.
25. Humphrey Bogart was related to Princess Diana. They were 7th cousins.
26. If colouring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.
- Now, for the answers.....

They are all TRUE ... Now go back and think about #16!!!

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## EMPLOYMENT

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About a month ago Ryan Darling has joined the team as a Truss Designer. He has come here with a number of years experience in the job. If the name is familiar it's because his father is a well known builder around the Geelong & coastal areas. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with him, even though he is a Hawthorn supporter!

With a large increase of the number of jobs being ordered, we have advertised for experienced wall frame and roof truss assemblers so we can run an afternoon shift.

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## SEASONS GREETINGS

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This will be the last newsletter for this year. We thank you for your patronage throughout the year and we look forward to servicing you in 2010.  
May you & your families have a wonderful & safe Christmas & a prosperous New Year.



## DIRECT LINES

If you need to know something or require any assistance please do not hesitate to use the contacts set out below. Remember if you need a set of plans picked up; give one of the C.D.O.'s a call or call our office. We will arrange a time and place convenient to you.

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Doug Maxwell	Longreach Floor Trusses	5249 4411 Direct Fax 5223 1022
Clive Martella		5249 4412 Direct Fax 5223 1022
Darren Benn	General Manager / Logistics Manager	5249 4403
Anne Preston	Deliveries / Orders / General Enquiries	5223 2888
Lauren Barrow	Accounts / General Enquiries / Orders	5223 2888
Tim Watson	Customer Development Officer / Estimator	0407 232 884
Paul Christie	Customer Development Officer / Estimator	0409 940 757 or 5249 4408
Davin Pate	Truss Designer	5249 4410
Matthew Lauder	Truss Designer	5249 4409
Ryan Darling	Truss Designer	5249 4419
Andrew Graham	Wall Frame Designer	5249 4415
Neil Thomas	Estimator / Trainee wall frame designer	5223 2888
Neil Edwards	Estimator	5249 4407
James Compston	Estimator	5249 4423
Elliot Connell	Estimator	5249 4421