



Media Release

12 April 2016

World Champion Woodchop at AusTimber

VicForests is sponsoring an event for Australia's most skilled woodchoppers this year at AusTimber.

The event has already attracted many state, nation-wide and international woodchopping champions including Laurence O'Toole, the world champion in Underhand and Standing divisions.

Mr O'Toole has won over 350 Victorian and Australian Championships over the last 15 years and competes in up to 20 shows a year both nationally and internationally.

Liz Langford, VicForests' Regional Engagement Manager, said that woodchopping events always draw a big crowd and the community really get involved in the spirit of the event.

"Woodchopping is a uniquely Australian sport and VicForests recognises the important role it plays in many rural communities throughout Victoria and Australia.

"Laurence is a third generation woodchopper. He is also a Victorian local which gives rural communities a real sense of pride.

"The skill and speed with which he operates during a competition is truly remarkable," she said.

The competition features a range of disciplines including Standing block, where the axeman swings at the log in a baseball fashion, Underhand, where the axeman stands on the block and chops it from above and a chainsaw racing competition using production hot saws.

There will also be Double handed cross saw cutting which requires one person on each end of the saw and a Tree felling championship competition.

"The tree felling completion is a truly spectacular event that requires great skill and stamina.

"The competitors are required to climb up the tree pole and then chop it while balancing on a board being held up by the tree," Ms Langford said.

Almost 40 axeman have signed up for the competition so far bringing with them a vast range of skills experience.

"The double handed cross cut saw contestants will be competing for Victoria's state title.

"We are looking forward to watching some of Australia's top woodchoppers and Victoria's top tree climber and fellers compete," Ms Langford said.

VicForests is proud to support woodchop events in Victoria and provide the high quality wood required to hold such competitions.

The AusTimber and VicForests woodchop will be held on Saturday 16 April at 10am at the Traralgon Showgrounds.



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AusTimber is held every four years and is the largest event in the Australian timber industry.

For more information please visit <http://www.austimber.org.au/competitions/wood-chop/>

For more information about Laurence O'Toole please visit <http://www.lmotoole.com/bio.html>