

## A TIMBER MAN'S STORY



I was born in Yarra Junction, have grown up in the valley, I left school at age 15, I am now aged 62, I have proudly worked in the Timber Industry my whole life.

My Uncle worked in a Sawmill at Richmond, Victoria where my Grandfather and Father originally came from, they had a sawmill and a plaster factory situated at McConachy's Road, Gilderoy during the 1940's. My two sons work in the Industry and are 4<sup>th</sup> Generation,

I am so proud of this Industry that after 200 years of sustainable managed timber harvesting, we still have these beautiful forests, we have cared for and the wildlife that lives within. Every-one comments how beautiful they look. Something to remember the whole of Melbourne used to be Forested land, yet our Forests are harvested and regrown for future generations.



I would like to thank the Greens on finding over 800 colony's of Leadbeater's Possum within our regrowth forest, it goes to show how regrowth forest stimulates new wildlife within. The Arthur Riley Institute have done surveys on Leadbeaters and have indicated they should be taken off the endangered list.

This renewable resource absorbs carbon while growing, then when harvested, carbon is stored forever in beautiful timber for structural building, furniture, flooring, joinery, mouldings, fencing and Residual wood is then used for paper that can be recycled.

If sustainable multiple use Native Forest all goes to National Park where will all the people be working and to source these beautiful products, "from unmanaged forested overseas", just think all the Tradies, Timberworkers, Builders, Hardwares, Furniture makers, Sawmills, Mechanics, Transport, the list goes on and all tributary businesses that stem from these, small shops, supermarkets, schools etc.



**If we vote for Labour or greens, this is a vote for the Greater National Park, what you are doing today won't be able to be done tomorrow, no fishing, no bushwalking, no cycling, no camping, no hunting, and no four wheel driving.**

I feel so sad to see my fellow timber workers going through the mental stress of the green attack and the insecurity from the Government, one only has to go into Warburton for example that was a Timber Town, you receive discriminating looks and comments because of the industry you are in.

**The Labour Government used to stand up for the worker but have gone to the Green Side purely for votes. The last sustainable cutting area that was locked up to National Park was the Barmah Forest, I was working there only selective harvesting, Government received 400 submissions to keep it going but Labour Government still closed it down, small towns suffered and still are.**

Daniel Andrews announced \$110,000,000 for plantation development in the last budget, not one \$ has been spent to this day, as the years go, we are behind in growth. To transition into plantations 100,000 plus hectares is what is needed to fully fill our current needs, where will this land base be found, 80 years to grow to same age as native hardwood. At present Government is exporting 100's of tons of round log from plantation and native forests to China and Vietnam, this resource could be utilised in Victorian Sawmills instead of closing sawmills down and putting people out of work.

*Peter McConachy*