

# Loggers losing drivers to mining

DESPERATE South-East logging companies have said they will consider luring drivers from overseas to fill an "acute" shortage.

The claim comes despite ongoing uncertainty about the industry's future.

Drivers and mechanics were being "siphoned" off by the mining industry, transport company operator Peter Whitehead said.

Mr Whitehead said there was a severe shortage of truck drivers, particularly those with special skills needed for the logging industry.

"We also have a shortage of diesel mechanics and if we don't overcome both these



**MICHAEL MILNES**

problems, we will have to look overseas to try and encourage people to come and live in the South-East," he said.

"We would be looking at South Africa or New Zealand because both of those countries would have people with the skills we require. If we put 50 truck drivers in the Mount tomorrow, we could find jobs for them, it's that acute."

He said the ageing workforce

was another problem, with the average age of logging truck drivers "50 and above".

"Another dilemma we have is who knows what is going to happen if the forests are sold? We are just treading water, waiting for the government to come clean. It's very disturbing. They need to come out categorically and say what they are going to do."

Ray Wyatt, Transport Workers Union Branch secretary, said: "A lot of the problem ... is brought about by the transport industry not investing in young people."

"Everybody wants an experienced driver, but where do you get them unless you start it from

the beginning, invest in young people, train them up, because they are the future - this problem is not going to go away."

South Australian Road Transport Association executive director Steve Shearer said part of the problem was that the trucking industry did not use smaller trucks as in the past, when drivers could learn as they worked their way up.

"Nowadays... big trucks are the most cost effective and productive way to transport," he said. "We believe there is funding available from the Federal Government to train drivers... but the industry must be prepared to step up to the plate."



## Never too young to start reading

**BEDTIME STORY:** New mum Kim Genrich reads to her two-month-old son Cooper.

Picture: MARK BRAKE

### JULIAN SWALLOW

BABIES can make friends with characters they will meet again and again in April's *The Advertiser Little Big Book Club* releases.

The club features three groups of books that form part of a series - the *My First Board Books* by publisher Dorling Kindersley, *Grug-The Series* by Ted Prior, and *The Rascal Series* by ac-

### The Advertiser THE LITTLE BIG BOOK CLUB

claimed author Paul Jennings - with a particular focus on books for the very young.

National marketing and communications officer Nicole Marshall said the *My First Board*

*Books series* - which includes *My First Word*, *My First Numbers*, and *My First Colours* - is perfect for our smallest readers because of the colourful pictures and introduction to simple words and numbers.

She said babies also appreciate repetition and that characters in a series can become much-loved friends.

"If a child reads a book and finds a charac-

ter they like, they can revisit the character over and over again," she said.

New mum Kim Genrich, 27, said the *My First Board Books* were just right for her two-month-old baby Cooper because of their sturdy cardboard pages and the vivid use of colour.

"Cooper has just started focusing and is really looking at the bright pictures," she said. Ms Genrich said

she was looking forward to introducing Cooper to other books in the series as he gets older, to teach him words and numbers.

*The Advertiser Little Big Book Club* provides all parents with babies aged 0-12 months with a free "It's Story Time" reading pack, featuring a copy of the *It's Rhyme Time* book and DVD. For details, visit: [thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)

### WINDSCREEN GLITCH

## Tiger cancels, delays flights

A DAMAGED windscreen seal has caused further delays for Tiger Airways passengers heading away this weekend.

Two flights between Melbourne and Sydney were cancelled yesterday and "a couple" of other flights were delayed, Tiger spokeswoman Vanessa Regan said. The latest problem was caused by a dam-

aged windscreen seal on an aircraft, discovered during a routine maintenance check.

Ms Regan said the airline had been able to put passengers on other Tiger flights and offered to pay for flights with other airlines if its flights were delayed. "Everyone's going to get to where they want to go," Ms Regan said.

### WORLD MENINGITIS DAY

## Disease flies under the radar

ALMOST three-quarters of Australian parents have no knowledge of the deadly pneumococcal disease, a survey has found.

Pneumococcal disease, an infection that most commonly strikes infants and children, is caused by bacteria that can result in a variety of serious illnesses, including meningitis.

Tomorrow is World Meningitis Day and health professionals want to educate Australians and encourage prevention through vaccination and early detection of symptoms.

Organisers were alarmed by a survey that found almost three-quarters of Australian parents had no knowledge of pneumococcal disease.



**Mosquitoes** can attack day or night. Not only are they a nuisance but some can spread serious disease when they bite. Protect yourself, your family, your community.

**Protect yourself and your family** > cover up > wear long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing > use insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin (but always read the instructions first).

**Mosquito-proof your home and community** > make sure windows and openings are fitted with fine, insect proof screens > cover rainwater and septic tank openings with insect proof mesh > ensure gutters are not holding water > regularly empty all containers that retain water, such as pot-plant saucers, bird baths and tyres.

For more information on how to **fight the bite** contact your Local Council Environmental Health Officer or SA Health on (08) 8226 7100 or visit [www.health.sa.gov.au](http://www.health.sa.gov.au)



Government of South Australia  
SA Health

HEALTHINFO

## kernewek Lowender

MAY 10-15

A week of events culminating in the BIG weekend.



### VILLAGE GREEN FAIR

Friday 13th May Kadina

The essence of 'Cornishness' enjoy the traditional Maypole dance, Furry Dance and May Queens.

### FER KERNEWEK

Saturday 14th May Moonta

Watch the Grand Procession, indulge in a Cornish Pasty, enjoy the live entertainment.

### CLASSIC CAVALCADE OF CARS

Sunday 15th May Wallaroo/Kadina

Hundreds of classic cars and motorcycles cruise the Copper Coast Towns leading to a Fun Fair.

For full program information, costs and booking details, phone (08) 8821 4500 or check out the website.

### LET YOURSELF GO!



[www.kernewek.org](http://www.kernewek.org)

Major Sponsors



ADV664