

Perth Royal Show 2009

Pat & Tish stand the test of patience!!

You'll be pleased to know that we managed to survive eight days at the Perth Royal Show. And we didn't spend that time enjoying the rides and entertainment; we spent the eight days encouraging kids (and their parents) to get involved in our educational activities and enlightening them to how much timber they all use every day without even thinking.



It's amazing what some people will do for a lollypop! Our most successful activity was listing all the uses of wood or wood products you use in everyday life, and if you could think of ten, you earned yourself a lollypop. We managed to go through around a thousand lollypops, and we had kids that couldn't wait to get to ten and we had kids that managed over fifty uses. (It's easy to see the kids that want to go far in life). We even had kids that knew that we use wood to make oil and perfume (Sandalwood), some knew

about Biomass (yay) and sporting equipment such as bats and wickets and the less than obvious musical instruments such as a harp along with Violins and lots more.

We had 2 daily prize draws thanks to Lindsey Daniels from CJD who kindly donated miniature replica machinery to give away, and FIFWA and Whittakers who donated \$500 each which we used to buy show bags for the girls prizes and also for ten cash prizes for our colouring in competition which closed at the end of the school holidays.



The Forest Products Commission spent the week trading seedlings for completed surveys. The surveys asked questions ranging from opinions about forestry in general to the role that carbon plays in forestry and whether carbon is or is not released back into the atmosphere when trees are harvested.



It's clear by many of the questions asked and conversations we had with showgoers during the week that the industry and FPC still has a long way to go to educate the general public about not just the benefits of using wood, but also in many cases the fact that every person, every day depends on timber and timber products just to get through life.

Our next TCA show appearance will be at the **Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival** which is an annual event for Manjimup and derived its origin way back in 2003 at a TCA conference held in Manjimup called 'Where to Now- the Future'. The festival will be held on the weekend of **December 12th**, where we will not only have our usual timber furniture display in the town hall, but with the help of our loyal volunteers, we will copy our royal show work, encouraging and educating kids.

