

# A cracking start for bluegums



Left to right, Mr Itsuo Takada, Senshukai Company, Dr Syd Shea, Premier Richard Court, Environment Minister Kevin Minson and Mr Toshiaki Fujii, Itochu Corporation, break the ceremonial sake barrel to signify the start of a new venture.

Photo courtesy The Australian

**A RECORD 1.9 million seedlings will be planted this year in a single tree crop project in the Albany region.**

The planting is the second of a 10-year, \$60 million investment by the Albany Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd (APFL).

APFL is a joint venture between the New Oji Paper Company, Itochu Corporation and Senshukai Company which have a combined annual turnover of \$250 billion.

The joint venturers have appointed CALM to manage the project, which is based on sharefarming with local landowners.

A formal ceremony to mark these new partnerships was held at Yerriminup Bluegum Grove near Mt Barker late last month. The ceremony included the traditional opening of a barrel of sake, to symbolise a new start.

Those attending included Premier Richard Court, Environment Minister Kevin Minson, the Japanese Consul-General, Yoshihiro Imamura, direc-

tors of the Japanese parent companies, CALM staff and farmers taking part in the project.

Mr Court said that 25 million bluegums would be planted around Albany to produce wood fibre for paper manufacture.

The seedlings would come from CALM's nursery at Manjimup.

"This is an excellent new cash crop for local landowners, which can be integrated with traditional farm production," he said.

Mr Minson said there were also enormous environmental benefits to planting trees.

"The whole region will benefit from the investment in infra-structure required when the trees begin to be harvested at the end of the 10-year planting cycle," he said.

"The harvest will then generate \$50 million a year in export income."

Premier Court said the project represented many important partnerships.

"It has also shown that we can integrate our economic and environmental goals."



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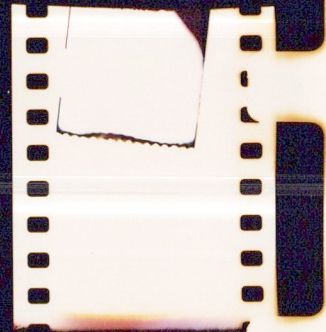
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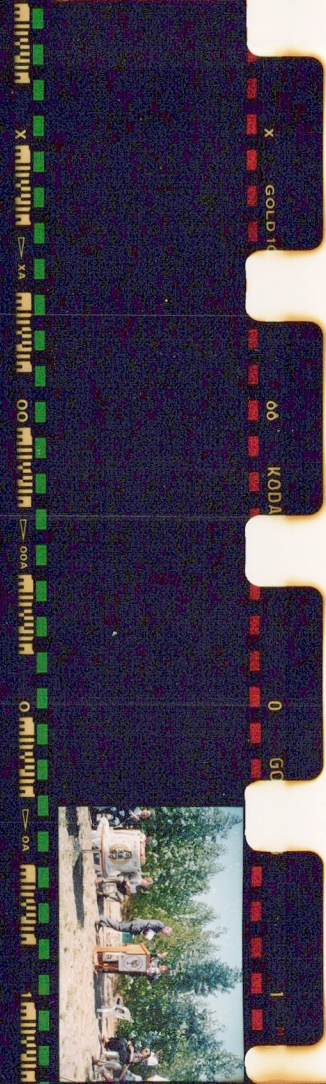


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