

Victim of hoax

People who read the story 'Eden to be the centre of the Nippon Paper expansion' on Page 10, News Weekly March 8, should obliterate it entirely from their minds. Regrettably the newspaper was the victim of an April

Fools Day hoax.

The News Weekly apologises to Nippon Paper, East Fibre Exports manager Peter Mitchell and corporate affairs manager Vince Phillips for any embarrassment the publication of this article may have caused.

2 - Merimbula News Weekly, Wednesday, April 15, 2009

email : editorial.newsweekly@ruralpress.com

Eden to be centre of the Nippon Paper expansion

Japan's largest paper manufacturer, the Nippon Paper Industries Group has announced a major expansion of its operations in Australia and a big shake up of existing operations.

"Eden will become the hub of the company's expanded operations, with South East Fibre Exports manager, Peter Mitchell to be appointed chief executive officer in charge of all the company's Australian business," said Nippon president, Mr Yoshio Haga.

"Mr Mitchell has been an inspirational 'hands on' manager who once dismantled a protester's tripod with his own chainsaw," Mr Haga said.

"Our interests in Australia now range from Australia's oldest and most profitable woodchip mill at Eden, to a large plantation estate in south western Victoria and now the former PaperlinX mills at Shoalhaven NSW and Maryvale in Victoria acquired for up to \$A700 million as announced in February and approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board this week."

"With Mr Mitchell at the helm we plan to take advantage of the recession induced crash in the woodchipping/ paper industry

to strengthen and expand our base here."

"Outgoing corporate affairs manager, Mr Vince Phillips has accepted the company's offer of a generous redundancy package," Mr Haga said.

"Under our new management regime, Nippon Paper will not need a public relations professional of Mr Phillips' calibre and we expect his talents will be highly sought after even in the current tough market place.

"Nippon Paper is one of the two biggest paper companies in Japan and is looking forward to being the biggest paper maker in Australia

"Japan's tough competition laws have hindered the company from growing in its domestic market and we are now having to look overseas for opportunities to expand."

"Nippon is paying up to \$700 million for its two new paper mills and while many industry observers thought that was cheap, we have to remember that the company made a loss of over \$500million in the final half of 2008.

The changes became effective on April 1, which is the first day of the new financial year in Japan.