

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Pole chainsaw

Name Greg Culell.

Job Zoo owner.

Where Halls Gap Zoo.

Why is it important? We have to cut off high branches in trees for browsing animals and we use the pole chainsaw to do it. The pole extends up to six metres, so it allows us to cut eucalyptus for koalas, acacia for giraffe, bamboo for the red pandas or mistletoe for various animals. It's all done safely from the ground. You buy the chainsaw as one unit. The weight of the motor on the bottom of the chainsaw is balanced to help you hold the pole up.

In the case of koalas, you want to be cutting nice fresh leaves with tips; that's their favourite. Giraffes also have their favourites; they'll eat 90 per cent of acacias, but each giraffe has its particular favourite.

What do your colleagues think?

The pole chainsaw makes many difficult tasks a lot safer. You can imagine how much better it is to cut something when you are stable on the ground, rather than standing four metres up a ladder. Once you've done it a couple of times it's not difficult to use, although you do need a bit of upper body strength.

Unusual moment? Often we'll cut branches for the koalas, but if a koala has had branches from that particular tree too many days in a row, they won't eat it and you'll have to cut another one. They are fussy.

How much does it cost? \$1400. It's worth its weight in gold to us.

SUE WHITE



Cuts above ... Greg Culell.