
Australian Forest History Society

**Newsletter No. 63
September 2014**

*"... to advance historical understanding of human interactions with Australian forest
and woodland environments."*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A03228

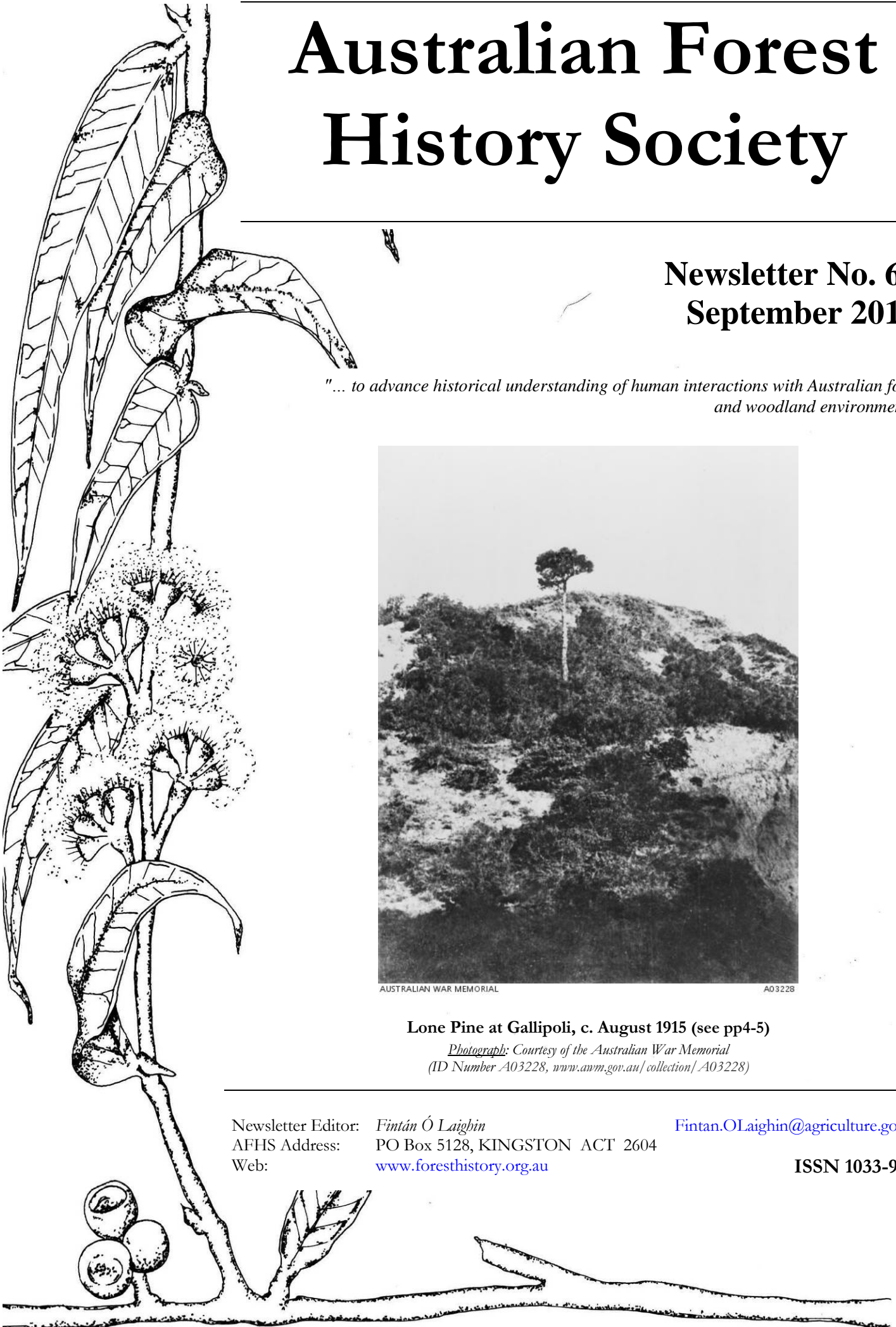
Lone Pine at Gallipoli, c. August 1915 (see pp4-5)

*Photograph: Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial
(ID Number A03228, www.awm.gov.au/collection/A03228)*

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) Inc is A\$25 a year for Australian and New Zealand addressees or A\$15 a year for students. For other overseas addressees, it is A\$30.

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EDITOR'S NOTE - MAILING LIST PROBLEMS

Some members may not have received a printed copy of the April 2014 newsletter. This was because my mailing list became corrupted shortly before I went on holidays. I did a quick recovery, but a few came back marked "Return to Sender", so obviously I missed some. If you're not receiving a printed copy, but would like to, just send me an e-mail or write to me at the above address.

THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The society's Annual General Meeting for 2014 will be held in Canberra on **Wednesday 19th November**.

Information will be provided to members in coming weeks, including the venue (noting that we normally have it at the Australian National University).

Among other things, we'll be calling for nominations to the committee. We have a conference planned for next year, so we're looking forward to an active year.

ADDITION TO THE 2013-14 COMMITTEE

And talking of the committee, Rob Robinson has accepted an invitation to join the committee for 2013-14. Rob joins the other members of the 2013-14 committee elected at the 2013 AGM:

- President: Sue Feary
- Vice-President: Jane Lennon
- Secretary: Kevin Frawley
- Treasurer: Fintán Ó Laighin
- Committee: Peter Evans, Leith Davis, Ian Barnes
- Public Officer: Juliana Lazzari

2015 AUSTRALIAN FOREST HISTORY CONFERENCE UPDATE

As mentioned in the April 2014 newsletter - www.foresthistory.org.au/afhsnewsletter62.pdf - the next AFHS conference is planned for 2015:

Forest History Conference, Mid 2015

The committee supported a proposal from Sue Feary and Leith Davis for the next conference to be held in South Australia, probably Mount Gambier, with a plantation history theme, perhaps with "science and innovation" as well. There is potential to link strongly to plantation history in New Zealand. Mid-2015 has been suggested as a suitable date.

A small committee has already been established and is in the early stages of planning. The conference will be held in Mount Gambier, South Australia, and is now tentatively scheduled for October 2015. The broad theme will be "planted forests". Please let us know if you would be interested in one or more of the following:-

- * Joining the conference committee (you don't have to be based in South Australia).
- * Giving a paper.
- * Running a session.

Any ideas for subthemes, excursions, extra curricula activities and keynote speakers would be most welcome.

The people to contact are:

- * Sue Feary - suefeary@hotmail.net.au
- * Leith Davis - davis.leith@gmail.com
- * Rob Robinson - Rob.Robinson@sa.gov.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK / DECK CHAIR

By Sue Feary

The society had a higher than previous profile at the recent second World Congress on Environmental History, held in Portugal in July 2014 (www.wceh2014.org), co-hosted by the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), the University of Minho (Universidade do Minho) and the International School Congress/International Workshop on Environmental History Group (ISC/IWEH).

The congress was attended by our members Libby Robin and James Beattie (in their own capacities) and we congratulate Libby on her election as incoming President of ICEHO. ICEHO is a "network of networks" (something like a meta network), promoting environmental history in all its forms. The AFHS is a continuing member and can use the ICEHO website - www.iceho.org - to promote our activities, including the upcoming Australian Forest History Conference to be held in 2015. [*Editor's note: Libby Robin's report on the conference is on p15.*]

Planning for our conference is still in its formative stages. Committee members Leith Davis, Rob Robinson and I have formed a small committee, and we hope to have a venue and date finalised in the near future. Once this is done we will be calling for papers and session coordinators, as well as canvassing members for thoughts and ideas on a key speaker and major themes within the broad church of plantation history.

Our website administration now has a more formal arrangement. Michael Goasdoue has been managing our website on a voluntary basis for a few years, but he has agreed to enter into a formal contract with the society and will be paid (rightfully) for his services.

I still have a few other actions to follow up from our recent committee meeting. One action is to scope a project for investigating the status of old forest records in each state. With the closure of many regional and district offices, records and files are moved around or dumped and there is a real danger of them being lost to future forest history research. An archivist colleague of mine has suggested I write to the forestry and national park departments in each state and territory and seek information on their record disposal policies. There may be opportunities for society members to offer assistance in return for access to the records.

Some of you may be interested in the upcoming World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney in November this year (www.worldparkscongress.org). No doubt there will be presentations on the interaction between forests and people in a protected area context, especially non-Western countries. Protected area categories that allow for sustainable use of resources, including harvesting timber and non-timber forest products are receiving increasing global attention as they reflect a delicate and often heavily negotiated balance between forest conservation and sustainable forest use.

My most recent personal forest experience was of savannah woodlands while walking the Jatbula and southern trails in Nitmiluk National Park, which adjoins the southern end of Kakadu National Park. This amazing sandstone country supports native grasses whose seeds are food for many bird species, including the endangered Gouldian Finch (which we didn't see). Evidence of wet season buffalo activity and introduced grasses reveal the impacts of a history of feral animals and changed fire regimes in this jointly managed national park.



Smitt Rock, Nitmiluk National Park: Just before we made our steep descent to the camp site next to the river on one of the southern walks in Katherine Gorge. (*Photo: Sue Feary, July 2014*)

LONE PINE PUZZLE

By Roger Underwood¹

A minor, but intriguing aspect of World War I history is the controversy over the botanical identity of the famous Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

This tree stood on a ridge on the battlefield, and until destroyed by gunfire, was a reference point for soldiers on both sides. Over the decades it has become symbolic and many memorials contain a specimen or grove of "lone pines", usually said to have been propagated from the original tree.

There is a typical example in Kings Park in Perth, Western Australia. Close to the War Memorial a pine tree has been planted which has a plaque at its foot, identifying the tree as an Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*). The wording on the plaque goes on to claim that the tree was "grown from seed from the Lone Pine in Gallipoli". This is incorrect in several ways, not the least being that the original Lone Pine ceased to exist nearly a century ago.



Plaque at the foot of "the Lone Pine" in Kings Park

The most likely source of the seed for the Kings Park tree is the Aleppo Pine growing at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. This tree was planted in 1934 by the Duke of Gloucester, raised from seed from a pine cone found in a Turkish trench and sent home from Gallipoli to his mother in New South Wales by Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith. The tree at the War Memorial is still alive, still produces seed and is the major source of "lone pines" regularly planted on Anzac Days all around Australia.

However, the Aleppo Pine was not indigenous to Turkey or the peninsula on which the Gallipoli campaign was fought. Although it has long been planted in woodlots and as an ornamental tree in many countries, it grows naturally only in Mediterranean countries like Spain, Syria and Morocco.² Branches of Aleppo Pine were brought in to Gallipoli from plantations beyond the Dardanelles and were used to roof the Turkish trenches and dug-outs. It seems that this material was the source of Benjamin Smith's cone.

The pine tree that is native to Gallipoli is the Turkish Red Pine (*Pinus brutia*). Scattered specimens of Red Pine grew in the area that later became the battlefield, but all trees except one were cut down by the Turks for construction of their defensive trenches in the expectation of the ANZAC landings. The celebrated Lone Pine was certainly a Turkish Red Pine, and it is this species that should be honoured.

In fact, a cone from the "real" Lone Pine on Lone Pine Ridge was collected by Sergeant Keith McDowell who put it in his knapsack, where it remained until he returned to Victoria after the war. Four seedlings were raised from seed from this cone and planted at shrines and war memorials in several places in Victoria, including the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. These seedlings were/are indubitably *Pinus brutia*.

They are the only true descendants of the original Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

To add to the confusion, it is not possible that any Aleppo Pine seedlings could be grown from seed from the current "Lone Pine" now growing and revered by visitors at the ANZAC War Memorial at Gallipoli. This tree is a Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*). Stone Pine is not native to this region either. It grows naturally in Italy, and is seen at its best providing shade in Rome. However, it has for many years been planted throughout Turkey (and elsewhere) for the production of edible seeds, and is thought by some people now to be indigenous to the area.



The "Lone Pine" at the ANZAC Memorial at Gallipoli ... a Stone Pine (Photo: Gary Bacon)

Does any of this matter?

In my view it is important that plaques against trees should give accurate information. This is especially so in a botanic garden. The flaws in the plaque at the "Lone Pine" in Kings Park (the home of the Western Australian botanic garden) were drawn to the attention of the park managers some time ago, but no attempt has been made to correct the message.

On the other hand, the planting and nurturing of "lone pines" can be regarded as a symbolic act of commemoration, a reminder of sacrifice and courage.

¹ Roger Underwood is a forester and author of *A Botanical Journey: The Story of the Western Australian Herbarium* (WA Department of Environment and Conservation, 2011).

² Many Western Australians are familiar with the species from the settlement at Rottneest, at one time favoured as a source of pine cones for the stoves in the old bungalows.

From this perspective, botanical accuracy does not matter: any species of tree will serve the purpose. Interestingly, one of the trees adopted in New Zealand as a representative Lone Pine is Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) which comes originally from California ... but to the credit of New Zealanders it is not claimed that this tree is derived from seed from the original Lone Pine of Gallipoli.³

Also to their credit, the Australian War Memorial does not claim that their memorial tree is a descendent of the original Lone Pine, and they acknowledge that the original was Turkish Red, not Aleppo Pine. However, Memorial historian Peter Burness says the taxonomy of the tree does not affect its symbolic significance. It is the connection to the bloody assaults and staunch defence on the Sari Bair (Lone Pine) ridge that is important, he says, because it reminds us of the lives that were lost.



The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, planted by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934

And in any case who, other than a few old foresters or dendrologists, can tell one species of pine from another? Both the Aleppo and the Stone Pine are grander trees than the Turkish Red Pine, and are possibly better adapted to growing in the climates of southern ("Mediterranean") Australia. This suggests a compromise that Australian memorialists could adopt:

- (a) accept the concept that any pine tree can be planted to commemorate the fallen at Gallipoli; but
- (b) ensure the published botanical and historical information about the tree is correct.

³ Mike Wilcox and David Spencer (2007). *Stand up the real Anzac Lone Pine of Gallipoli*. New Zealand Journal of Forestry, Vol. 52 No. 1, pp3-9. This is the best paper ever written on the subject of Lone Pine history. Back issues of the journal are available from www.nzjf.org.

WILCOX AND SPENCER - LONE PINE

In footnote 3 to his article on the Lone Pine, Roger Underwood says that the Wilcox and Spencer article is "the best paper ever written on the subject of Lone Pine history".

It would be remiss not to follow up such a recommendation, so I contacted the editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*, Chris Goulding, who has given permission for our newsletter to print the abstract which is also available at the following link, as is the full article: www.nzjf.org/abstract.php?volume_issue=j52_1&first_page=3.

New Zealand Journal of Forestry (2007) **52(1)**: 3-9
 © New Zealand Institute of Forestry

Forum article

Feature: uncommon exotic species Stand up the real Anzac Lone Pine of Gallipoli

Mike Wilcox and David Spencer

The native pine of Gallipoli is Turkish red pine (*Pinus brutia*). After World War I Sergeant Keith McDowell brought back a cone from the famous Lone Pine, from which four trees were later planted at war memorials in Victoria, Australia, in 1933-34. These are *Pinus brutia*. However, most ANZAC pine trees planted in Australia and New Zealand to commemorate men lost in the Gallipoli campaign, and in particular the Lone Pine Ridge, are Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) which does not grow naturally in Gallipoli but is found near the Mediterranean coast in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Syria, Turkey, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The origin of these *P. halepensis* trees is attributed to a cone collected by an Australian soldier from the Turkish trenches off a tree branch, probably brought in from a woodlot or hedgerow planted on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Two of the most prominent ANZAC pines in New Zealand are radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*), and one is a Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*). Whilst there are several in Australia, the only authentic *Pinus brutia* in New Zealand from the Gallipoli Lone Pine seems to be the one at the Paeroa Golf Course very likely derived from the cone Sergeant McDowell brought back with him to Australia, and as such must rank as one of the most historic trees in the country.

SHOALHAVEN TIMBER FESTIVAL, MILTON SHOWGROUND, OCTOBER 2014

The Shoalhaven Timber Festival will be held at the Milton Showground on Sunday 5th October 2014, organised by the South Coast Sawmills & Bush Timber Workers Association. More information is available at www.scsbtwa.org.au and www.scsbtwa.org.au/southcoastsawmills_003.htm.



OWEN JONES: EMPIRE FORESTER & VICTORIAN FORESTS COMMISSIONER (1920-25)

By Michael Roche

Latterly I have been looking more closely at the early group of professional foresters whose careers took them across the British Empire. John Dargavel's biography of CE Lane Poole is an exemplar of this type of inquiry. To date I have focussed on Hugh Corbin who after a period in India headed the forestry school at the University of Adelaide and later was Professor of Forestry at Auckland University and thereafter worked as a forestry consultant in New Zealand as well as McIntosh Ellis, the Canadian who served as the first Director of Forests in New Zealand before shifting to Australia in 1928. I now hope to turn my attention to Owen Jones who was the first chair of the Forests Commission of Victoria from 1920 to 1925 before he resigned to take up a position in New Zealand with afforestation company New Zealand Perpetual Forests. Their prior training and colonial service not to mention the confidence they had in forestry principles helps in understanding how men such as Corbin and Ellis responded to Australasian conditions. But as Edinburgh and Toronto graduates respectively, they did not completely fit the mould of the imperial forester while Jones on the other hand does both in terms of education and early work experience.

Jones was in many ways the archetypal colonial forester. Educated at Kingswood School he was captain of the 1st XI and the 1st XV; sporting achievement was taken as an indicator of teamwork and the capacity to adapt to the bush camp side of forestry work. Winning a scholarship, Jones completed a natural sciences degree at Oxford in 1910 followed by a Diploma of Forestry in 1911 under Sir William Schlich.

In 1908 Jones had entered Oxford as a probationer in the Ceylon Forest Service which meant he had consciously opted for the archetypal imperial forestry career. Consciously in two senses, that he had been accepted as probationer prior to commencing university study and also because after 1906 Oxford lost its monopoly on providing foresters to the Indian Forest Service. Edinburgh University was also training foresters, although it remained a smaller school.

After graduating with a BA in Natural Sciences followed by Diploma of Forestry, Jones undertook the obligatory finishing tour to Germany, inspecting long managed German forests, the equivalent of which did not exist in Britain. This involved preparing a working plan, the epitome of scientific forestry accomplishments, for 20 compartments of managed forest 1580 ha in extent, in the Mitteldich Ranges near Frankfurt and having this commented on and signed off by the German forester in charge. Like his contemporaries he had to be able to read technical forestry material in their original language - his German was fluent, his French much less so.

Appointed as an Assistant Forester in 1911, Jones was in the first cohort of professionally qualified officers employed by the Ceylon Forests Department. At the time Ceylon was still around 80% forested with virtually all the remainder of the land used for agriculture. Less

than 10% of the forest by land area was of either Forest Reserve or proposed as Forest Reserve. None of it was under any sort of working plan. A new Forest Ordinance had been passed in 1907, but the level of the railway sleeper extraction along with that of firewood and timber felled for public works was matter of official concern.

As a forester in Ceylon, Jones faced three main problems - reducing unsustainable levels of demand for railway sleepers and public works purposes, forest offences and the complexities of gazetted areas as forest reserves because of the need to investigate and extinguish a complex sets of land titles and use rights granted by the Dutch, Portuguese and Sinhalese in earlier times.

Foresters believed they had the tools to respond to the first two of these by implementing sustained yield management to maximise longer term forest production, assisted by afforestation efforts, and by policing of reserves for illegal use, backed up by adequate fines.

It was this professional background and experience that shaped Jones' initial responses to Victoria when he arrived in 1920 and is an area I look forward to working on further.

TIMBER TRUSS BRIDGES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Not quite forest history, but certainly within the sphere of interest of the AFHS was an article by Stephen Burns published in *The Land* of 4th September 2014 (www.theland.com.au/news/agriculture/general/news/heritage-headaches/2710859.aspx).

With the headline "Heritage headaches: Historic wood bridges trouble local councils", the focus was the cost of maintaining the 63 timber truss bridges that remain in New South Wales, 29 of which are on the State Heritage Register, the conflict between those who want them replaced, and those who want them preserved. At least one bridge - Tuddadunna Bridge in Narrabri Shire - was removed from the register last year, and there is a proposal for another twelve to also be removed. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), a New South Wales Government agency, is responsible for 48 bridges, and there are reports that 22 may be replaced with modern bridges, while 26 would be retained for historical purposes.

Mr Burns quotes Hillston Historical Society secretary Lyn Manton who said that the timber bridges represented an important link to Australia's pastoral heritage. Built between 1860 and 1936, many were constructed when paddle steamers carried wool along the rivers.

While not mentioned in the article, the RMS website includes a December 1998 study conducted for the then Roads and Traffic Authority by McMillan Britton & Kell. The report, "Timber Truss Bridges: Study of Relative Heritage Significance of All Timber Truss Road Bridges in NSW", includes a short history of timber truss bridges in New South Wales and is available at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/environment/bridge-types-historical-overviews-2006-timbertruss.pdf.



THE FORESTRY OFFICE AT BEECH FOREST

By Norman Houghton

The management of the forests to the south of Colac, Victoria, was the responsibility of a Lands Department officer for much of the latter nineteenth century, although the Department of Agriculture had jurisdiction for some years in the 1880s. The administration was based at Geelong but a local Lands Baliff/Forester was stationed at Colac from the 1880s.

The land settlement schemes of the 1880s alienated most of the West Otway lands, apart from some forest reserves at Wyelangta and Cape Otway, so there was only minimal need for official oversight of forests. The main concern of the local forester was the policing of licensed timber cutters who removed undersized trees.

The forest jurisdiction changed with the formation of the State Forests Department in 1908 when, for the West Otways, areas of permanent forest were defined around Beech Forest and Wyelangta. There was another change in 1918 when the department was formally constituted as the Forests Commission of Victoria (FCV).

A forester was placed at Beech Forest in 1916. There was no formal office building then but when the FCV was constituted, a forestry headquarters and hardwood depot was built at the west end of Gardner's hill in and around Buchanan Street. At first the personnel were few in number. The district was under the charge of a forester (James Firth) who was assisted by a staff foreman, a foreman, a leading hand, a couple of axe men and a few labourers and fireguards. In time four dwellings for the forester and support staff were placed at the depot and a fire spotting tower was placed in the yard to allow all round observation from Beech Forest to Mount Cowley to Gellibrand to Crowes and to the coast.

The FCV at Beech Forest supervised and directed hardwood logging in state timber reserves, collected revenue from sawlogs, undertook silvicultural works and improvement thinnings and developed hardwood forest reserves from resumed farmlands. The latter had ample scope at Beech Forest owing to the high failure rate in agriculture and willingness of farmers to sell to the FCV after it initiated a buy-back scheme from 1929.

In the 1930s local forestry suddenly expanded with implementation of the FCV softwood scheme in the Aire Valley. Plantations were to be created here from abandoned and resumed farmlands as well as voluntarily offered blocks on the perimeter. A works office and depot for this project was established in Beech Forest at the eastern end of Main Street and here was also constructed engineering infrastructure and a dwelling for the plantation manager.

Staff numbers increased at this time to manage the expanded operations and supervise the pine planting teams employed under a work for the dole scheme. By the end of the 1930s the FCV staff establishment at Beech Forest comprised one forester, three foremen, one clerk, one cook, eight leading hands, 78 labourers, 26 casual labourers, 26 lad labourers and three

experienced lad labourers. The FCV was the biggest employer in town by a long way and this lasted until the war broke out in 1939.

The FCV foresters were mostly young men who participated in Beech Forest social and sporting affairs to the full. Foresters were active in various clubs and societies around town and were particularly evident in football and cricket teams. Forester George Gerrarty did not play football but made a name for himself as an umpire. He is best remembered as the umpire who was thrashed with a folded umbrella by an enraged female barracker who took exception to his calls during one particular game in the 1920s.

After the war ended in 1945 the FCV resumed its employment of large permanent gangs engaged on hardwood and softwood management. At any one time from the late 1940s to the 1960s there were 20 to 30 experienced personnel in each gang as plant and machinery operators. The usual tasks were clearing and road making using FCV bulldozers, graders, tip trucks, tankers and wheel tractors.

There were no roads into or through most forested areas under FCV jurisdiction so they had to be constructed. Without roads there could be no timber harvesting nor follow up management of coupes. Main access roads were built to allow for the movement of logs and from these there were side roads and tracks laid down for logging, fire breaks and fire-fighting purposes. Starting in 1945 from virtually nothing, the FCV over the next 20 years constructed 300 kms of all-weather roads and 220 kms of jeep tracks in the Otways. About half of this tally was in the West Otways. The larger sawmilling companies contributed as well and made roads and tracks on their own behalf with their own plants.

Other tasks involved in hardwood management were departmental logging, regeneration, fire prevention, fuel reduction burning, firebreak maintenance, dam building and rock crushing for road making materials. The hardwood gangs at Beech Forest were employed in the regeneration of both logged and degraded sites, the latter overrun with scrub, blackberries, weeds and non-commercial timbers.

Softwood tasks in the plantations included clearing, pruning, liberating (removing scrub from around young trees), fire prevention and firebreak maintenance. At most times the total complement in pine management was around 40 persons.

During the bushfire season the FCV staff were on alert and managed the suppression of fires when they broke out. The bush was dotted with steam engines at the mills and winch sites but the official record and folk memory reveals that no bushfires broke out or small fires escaped from this source. The bush workers were very careful in this regard. Bushfires were primarily caused by lightning strike or the deliberate ignition by settlers as a means to clear their lands of timber or to burn old grasses to encourage spring growth. The FCV was hard pressed to prosecute fire lighters under the then *Police Offences*



provision as the forester had to catch a culprit in the act, which was near impossible. As well, neighbours would not inform against a fire lighter because all seemed to possess the attitude that fire was the best way to clear the bush on the selection and if it got away into next door or into state forest it was a price worth paying. In the rare cases where the FCV and police could launch a prosecution, the defence usually advanced the proposition that fires outweigh any temporary loss in the long term and it is absolutely necessary for settlers to burn off.

In the aftermath of fires the FCV organised salvage and repair. Some of these salvage assessments were heartbreaking for the foresters. For instance, Forester Firth submitted the following report on the 1919 fire:

"Over 24,000 hectares were burnt and over 100 homes destroyed. The north wind blew with terrific force and the fire fairly raced up the steep slopes to the top of the Otway Range. Practically the whole of the damage was done in three or four hours, and during that time the fires travelled for miles. The fire that caused the greatest destruction started at the back of Walsh's and McKinlay's allotment in the Parish of Moomowroong and swept through the whole of the unoccupied Crown lands between these allotments and the top of the range, and reaching to top had a face of several miles, extending from Stalker to Wattle Hill. The fire destroyed in addition to sawmills, at least 800 ha of valuable mountain ash, messmate and gum on the Crown lands. At a conservative estimate this would have yielded a total of 140,000 cubic metres of timber. This timber has been killed outright and after three or four years will be practically valueless for building timber."

By the late 1940s the FCV adopted a policy to remove from the Beech Forest district those sawmills using state forest logs and concentrate them at Gellibrand. One of the reasons was a new government policy that no log should pass a substantial bush settlement without being milled there in order to create employment. This gradually shifted the management focus so the district office was moved to Gellibrand and officially opened on 14th May 1957 under DFO Brian Williams. Here was built an administration block and several houses to accommodate the district forester, assistant district forester and forester plus a workshop staffed by two fitters. Provision was made for a log checking point and one full time scrutineer staffed this to validate each log truck load passing through. The staffing complement at Gellibrand under the new arrangement comprised 20 permanents plus six casuals over the fire season.

After 1957 the Beech Forest office became an operational base for day to day activities, particularly for pines as the first large scale thinnings from the Aire Valley were about to commence. One forest officer was retained at Beech Forest to supervise logging and FCV crews.

The acquisition of perimeter blocks at existing timber reserves continued after the war as the FCV sought to expand the forest estate. This trend meant that by the

mid-1950s the FCV was the largest land "owner" in the Otway Shire, controlling 59% of the Shire's total area.

The notion of forests as possessing recreational value had long been recognised but it was some time before the FCV in the West Otways began establishing scenic reserves with easy access. Several reserves were established beginning from the early 1960s at sites such as the Calder River, Maits Rest, Beauchamp Falls, Loves Creek, Hopetoun Falls and Triplett Falls.

Around 1970 the local strength at the Gellibrand DFO was lifted following the relocation from Colac of four field staff and equipment was expanded to cope. FCV crews were then based at Gellibrand, Beech Forest, Lavers Hill and Cobden and performed a wide variety of work in the West Otways district. Such works included road construction and maintenance, bridge building, pine planting, seed collection, fuel reduction burns, scrub slashing in pine plantations, silvicultural thinning and culling, some logging in the foothills, construction of tourist amenities and fire spotting. Bushfire suppression was a regular summertime task.

The scale of plant and equipment at the Gellibrand depot at this time was generous and comprised large and small bulldozers, tip trucks, road graders, tractor, slasher, fire tankers, winch and pumps plus hand tools.

The ongoing scheme to purchase or resume farmlands adjoining forest reserves or reclassify abandoned lands was subject to ups and downs, depending on funds availability, but the FCV kept on at this and was able to add significant hectareage to its forest estate over the years. The breakdown of acquired lands between the East and West Otways districts is not available but overall the Otway bush classified as "reserved forest" was increased from 35,000 ha in 1931 to 93,000 ha by 1990.

Improvements in roads and log carrying vehicles plus reduction in sawmill numbers to a few major plants and lesser numbers of logging crews eventually moved the management focus from Beech Forest to Gellibrand and ultimately to Colac. This trend resulted in a further reduction at the Beech Forest depot from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s to five permanents and a few summer time casuals. The fire tower was demolished around 1975, the FCV houses sold a little later and the pine plantations privatised from 1998. The last of the Beech Forest personnel ran out of work to do when the plantations were sold and their positions were abolished.

A similar reduction at Gellibrand was put in train from the early 1980s, transferring management to Colac in the early 1990s but leaving a few field staff for day to day operations in the bush. When state forest logging ended in 2008 the forestry staff continued in the job doing Timber Industry Strategy regeneration and other monitoring works for three years. Later administrative change by government put the Gellibrand depot under the Department of Primary Industries. At the time of writing Gellibrand supports a small staff and a range of equipment, including two bulldozers, to assist with national park maintenance and fire-fighting.

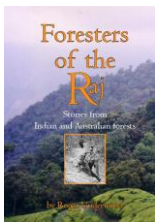
The West Otway District Forest Officers (Beech Forest and Gellibrand) have included Joe Firth, J. Brown,

G. Gerrarty, J. Zimmer, K. McKee, A. Tomey, McRae, R. Oldham, J. Barling, Alec Hedley, Frank Smith, D. Beale, S. Ryan, A. Leslie, T. Cleary, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Loughrey, Bob Nigel, Ken Simpfendorfer, Russ Ritchie and Brian Williams.

Forest Officers based at Beech Forest, Lavers Hill and Gellibrand over the years have included William Warren, Eric Johnstone, John McDonald, Norm Donohue, W. Meadow, G. Pollard, Stuart Cameron, Ed Page, Andrew Beveridge, Jim Bates, David Harvey, Michael Clark, Ross Loveridge, Barry White, Andrew McLennan, Jim O'Dowd, Toby Turner, Brad Fisher, Rob Walliss, Steve McDougal, Darryl Scherger, David Rourke, Steve Prasevic and Stuart Gardiner.

BOOK REVIEW

By John Dargavel



Roger Underwood, *Foresters of the Raj: Stories from Indian and Australian Forests*. York Gum Publishing, 2013. ISBN: 9780646595054. \$30 plus \$12 p&p in Australia. Contact Roger Underwood, 7 Palin Street, Palmyra WA 6157 or by email yorkgum@westnet.com.au.

What is it about nineteenth century India that draws forest historians to it from across the English-speaking world? Over the last few years, we have had rich histories from Richard Grove (*Green Imperialism*, Cambridge University Press, 1995), Grove *et al.* (*Nature and the Orient*, Oxford University Press, 1998), Gregory Barton (*Empire Forestry and the Origins of Environmentalism*, Cambridge University Press 2002), S. Ravi Rajan (*Modernizing Nature: Forestry and Imperial Eco-Development 1800-1950*, Oxford Clarendon Press, 2006), papers in the environmental history journals, and now from Roger Underwood with a compendium of stories and observations, *Foresters of the Raj*. Forestry in India is important in its own right, but it was as the site where the emerging ideas of European scientific forestry were adapted to the colonial world and spread out to other lands, that attracted these authors. It was not unique as Indian forestry influenced and was influenced by comparable developments in the Dutch, French and German empires, but India had a special place in the British imagination. It was the "Raj" replete with its durbars, rajahs, splendid uniforms, elephants and tigers, the Queen Empress, and a "New" Delhi. It reached out to Australia with supplies for our colonies, markets for our horses, names like Lucknow or Travencore for our towns and streets, pyjamas for our bodies, curry and rice for our tummies, and tea for our pots and billies. It was pervasive. In forestry its ideas and practices were gradually absorbed. Deeply so for Underwood who discovered that he was "through my professional inheritance, a forester of the Raj".

Underwood's discovery came from reading the *Indian Forester*, one of the world's oldest forestry journals that was started in 1875. Fortunately, he had access to the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation's library that holds the only complete

collection in the country. At first he started reading to learn about growing Indian sandalwood that was being tried in Western Australia; then his eye strayed to an obituary of a forester that had been thrown down a precipice by a black bear, and he was hooked; science and tales of the exotic. He read on up to 1919, took notes and drew on his own experience to give this book its sub-title, *Stories from Indian and Australian Forests*. The authors mentioned earlier also read the *Indian Forester* thoroughly, but Underwood read it differently.

His is a book of stories; there are forty-five of them, all short, between two and eight pages long, loosely organised into six groups from "Starting Out", about the early foresters, to "Wildlife" about elephants, snow leopards and "barking bears". And it is a book of connections between the Indian stories and the forestry in Western Australia he knows so well a century later. The rich variety of the stories is impossible to review in detail, but it was the many foresters who are alive in these pages, but otherwise forgotten, that caught my imagination. The great names - Brandis, Ribbentrop and Schlich - are there, but so is the unfortunate Alfred Pengelly killed on 25th July 1880 by a bear while trying to save his dog. Although Barton discussed army officers turned foresters, like Colonel GF Pearson and Captain Ian Campbell-Walker, Underwood writes others into history from the grand Major-General Frederick Cotton to Lieutenants Forsyth and Douglas. This connection between military engineering and forestry might be worth exploring further, especially as the first British forestry course was started by Schlich in the Royal Indian Engineering College before it moved to Oxford.

Tigers, elephants and hunting are essentials in any collection of Indian stories and shooting a tiger while sitting on an elephant is the ultimate one. Underwood gives us several "ripping yarns". One from a 1926 *Empire Forestry Journal* tells how a forester EA Smythie and his wife were taking their Christmas holidays to a "good shooting block" and were perched in tree platforms, or "machans" waiting for the tiger which duly appeared; Smythie fired and missed; she fired, wounded and enraged the tiger which climbed her tree; she toppled out, but he finally shot and killed the tiger. Hunting was very much part of the traditions of German forestry, English sport and military prowess, but foresters were also called on to despatch animals killing local villagers and here is another ripping yarn of shooting a tiger in a house. But it was not all jolly good stuff and pegs of whisky, the lives of some foresters were cut short in accidents in remote locations, but more from ill health in an age when fewer treatments were available for tropical diseases.

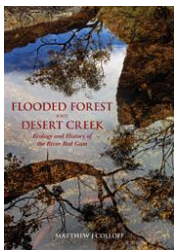
The connections between the evolving forestry of India, its inheritance in Australian practice, Underwood's experience are drawn throughout the book and in an "Afterword" chapter. Some of the connections are small insightful asides; others and especially the use of fire are major concerns. His view of the present state of Australian forestry is a dismal one:

"The old lags of Australian forestry (an unofficial society of grumpy grey-beards, of which I am a proud member) often express regret at the way the profession in this country has declined since we retired from it. Our sorrows focus on big-picture issues such as ill-considered policy, amateurish administration, loss of corporate and professional memory and the absence of a fierce passion for the forest." (p.89)

For example he draws a connection between the story of the sissoo plantation at Changa Manga in the Punjab, and a brown mallet plantation at Dryandra in Western Australia. The sissoo plantation had an undergrowth of mulberries that prompted the foresters to start a silk industry that failed. The brown mallet plantation was grown for its tan bark for which no market eventuated. The sissoo plantation has become a wildlife reserve and the mallet plantation a national park, and while both have retained their beauty, Underwood rues the loss of managing such places for their many uses together.

It would be a mistake to let the author's occasional grumpiness detract readers - grey-beards and smooth-chins alike - from the large and small delights in this book. It can be dipped into here and there and thoroughly enjoyed sitting by the fire in a Canberra as I did, or even better under a shady tree on a fine summer's day.

NEW BOOKS



Matthew Colloff, *Flooded Forest and Desert Creek: Ecology and History of the River Red Gum*. CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, 2014. ISBN: 9780643109193. \$69.95.

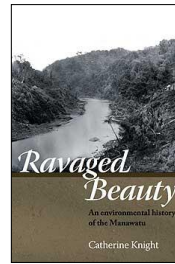
www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7055.htm

The river red gum has the most widespread natural distribution of

Eucalyptus in Australia, forming extensive forests and woodlands in south-eastern Australia and providing the structural and functional elements of important floodplain and wetland ecosystems. Along ephemeral creeks in the arid centre it exists as narrow corridors, providing vital refugia for biodiversity.

The tree has played a central role in the tension between economy, society and environment and has been the subject of enquiries over its conservation, use and management. Despite this, we know remarkably little about the ecology and life history of the river red gum: its longevity; how deep its roots go; what proportion of its seedlings survive to adulthood; and the diversity of organisms associated with it.

More recently we have begun to move from a culture of exploitation of river red gum forests and woodlands to one of conservation and sustainable use. In *Flooded Forest and Desert Creek*, the author traces this shift through the rise of a collective environmental consciousness, in part articulated through the depiction of river red gums and inland floodplains in art, literature and the media.



Catherine Knight, *Ravaged Beauty - An environmental history of the Manawatu*. Dunmore Publishing, 2014. ISBN: 9781927212134. NZ\$49.99. www.dunmore.co.nz/product/803884-RavagedBeautyAnEnvironmentalHistoryoftheManawatu-9781927212134.

A history of the dramatic changes undergone by the Manawātū landscape, particularly over the past 150 years, was launched in June. Written by Massey University alumna and honorary research associate Dr Catherine Knight, *Ravaged Beauty - An environmental history of the Manawatu* backgrounds the geological forces that shaped the environment, then moves to the arrival of Polynesians and their transition from a predominantly coastal people to a "river people".

It then moves to the European settlement, detailing how, within a few decades, the Manawātū's dense forests were reduced to ashes and its swamps and lagoons - teeming with birdlife, eels and other fish - were drained for farms and settlements. Dr Knight details the resulting erosion and pollution and the consequences - mass deaths of fish and floods that ravaged farms and towns - and how the communities in the region responded.

This book builds on the work of other national and local scale environmental histories by taking a fresh approach of examining the environmental history of one region through the lens of many disciplines - history and geography, of course, but also geology, archaeology, anthropology and ecology.

In the book's foreword, Professor Mike Roche from the School of People, Environment and Planning at Massey University says almost none of the previous histories of Manawātū explicitly focus on the environment. "Many of the existing local histories have a celebratory tone of settler triumph over nature," Professor Roche says. "Dr Knight inserts the Māori presence back into her account so that 'history' does not begin only with the arrival of the first Europeans in the Manawātū. Likewise, she has also successfully re-read many of the existing works 'against the grain', so to speak, to reveal some hidden environmental narratives." Professor Roche says the book is not solely a record of transformation, but sets out to show how the legacies of good and bad decisions in the past continue to impact on the region today.

Editor's note: Manawātū is located in the south of the North Island, around Palmerston and Wanganui. The above paragraphs are drawn from www.massey.ac.nz/~massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle=ravaged-beauty-of-manawatu-environment-in-print-03-07-2014.

GREEN ARMY PROJECT - BOOLARRA OLD MILL

Rehabilitating the site of an old timber mill in Gippsland in Victoria is one of a number of projects being funded by the Australian Government in 2014-15 through the Green Army project.

The Victorian Farmers Federation Farm Tree and Landcare Association and Conservation Volunteers Australia have been awarded funding for a project called "Boolarra Old Mill Site and Forest Rehabilitation, Stage 2". Activities to be undertaken include upgrading the tracks, revegetating areas of forest, controlling weeds and monitoring wildlife. As part of the project, there will be field days, workshops, and working bees.

Denise Schiller of the Boolarra South Landcare Group has written a short article on the site at www.boolarra.vic.au/index.php/near-by-attractions/30-old-mill-site. Although mainly written from a "landcare" focus, she does start with a little bit of mill history:

"A timber mill operated in Foster Road for many years. It was established by the Thorburns in the 1880's. The Dyers took over from Thorburns and Kevin Tyers took over from Dyers. The lease expired in the 1990's and the land reverted to the Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE). The mill site occupies 5 acres and is bounded by State Forest. There were a number of popular walking tracks through the bush but these had been covered in regrowth since the fires and so the area was not being used. The Boolarra South Landcare Group (BSLG) had done some planting on the site before the fires but many of these trees had been burnt. We decided to re-plant and began removing weeds and collecting seed so we could establish local plant species."

More info on the site is available at <http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/boolarra/projects/old-mill-site-boolarra> and www.environment.gov.au/land/green-army/projects.

YORNUP TIMBER MILL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We've received a request for information from Kate Tillman regarding the Yornup Timber Mill in Western Australia:

"I was wondering if you could help me with my enquiry regarding the Yornup Mill in Western Australia, or if you could forward this email to someone who could help.

I am trying to find out when the mill was first built. I understand that the mill was run under Lewis and Reid around 1923 but can find no earlier information. There seems to be plenty of information following the selling of the mill to the Bunnings Bros. but nothing prior to this.

Any help would be appreciated."

If you're able to help, please contact Kate at katetillman96@gmail.com.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Australian Government is currently developing an Australian Heritage Strategy. Its development was announced in November 2013 and a draft strategy was released for public consultation in April 2014. The public comment period closed in June, and the government is currently finalising the strategy. More information is at www.environment.gov.au/heritage/australian-heritage-strategy.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

The Collaborative Research Centre for Australian History has been established at the Federation University in Ballarat. It was launched in May 2014 by Professor Tom Griffiths of the School of History at the Australian National University in Canberra, with an address titled "History under the Southern Cross: Reflections on the future of Australian history". More information on the CRC, including events, its postgraduate research program and scholarships, is at <http://federation.edu.au/research-and-innovation/research-areas/research-centres-and-networks/crcah>. The events page includes a link to a video and transcript of Professor Griffiths's address.

BC FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE, VANCOUVER ISLAND

By Peter Davies

The BC Forest Discovery Centre is a terrific experience for visitors to Canada interested in the forest and logging history of British Columbia. Located at Duncan, 50 km north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, the Centre is an open air museum showcasing numerous aspects of forest history and technology. The 100 acre site was established in 1964 and now features twelve heritage buildings and over 5000 artefacts on display.



A popular excursion for families is the train ride hauled by steam and diesel locomotives salvaged from the old Kowichan Valley Railway, which takes visitors on a figure-of-eight loop through the entire site. The train also skirts a large clearing which is a graveyard of logging trucks, early bulldozers and steam winches. A recent development is a beautiful interpretive walking trail through a remnant patch of old-growth forest with Douglas Firs up to 300 years old.

Highlights for me included the chainsaw exhibit, featuring an array of fearsome early model power saws, and archival film of a rigger sawing the top from a spar tree, 200 feet from the ground. There is also a collection of Le Tourneau log stackers from the 1950s, railway-skidded camp huts from the Copper Canyon sawmill in the 1940s, and a 108-inch circular saw blade weighing 1000 pounds, used for 42 years at the Chemainus sawmill.

Further details at www.bcforestdiscoverycentre.com.

BIOGRAPHIES OF FORESTERS: PROGRESS REPORT

By *John Dargavel*

The co-operative project between the National Centre for Biography at the Australian National University (ANU), the AFHS and the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) is progressing steadily. There were already 21 foresters included in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, so the first stage was to look for more obituaries. So far we have found them for 211 people and thanks to mainly to the work of Geoff Dean in Tasmania they have been digitised. We are now preparing extra supporting information, such as date of birth, or education that may not have been recorded in an obituary. Once this is done, the obituaries are entered on the Centre's *Obituaries Australia* website (<http://oa.anu.edu.au>). Eighty-nine had been entered at the time of writing this report. They can be found most easily by searching under Faceted Browse/Occupations/Forester.

We are fortunate in having books, CDs, papers and other material from AFHS members Peter Holzworth and Roger Underwood. A further stage of the project will be to find ways to make information, particularly about other individuals available.

OBITUARY - VALE DAVID BILLS CBE FICFOR (1948-2014): A CAREER WELL SERVED

By *Bob Newman*

Throughout his career David clearly exhibited those characteristics which mark a well-rounded individual who had the ability to lead in his profession.

David was a student at Taroona High School and Hobart Matriculation College and studied Forestry at the Australian National University (ANU). He played Rugby Union for Tasmania for the under 19s, and in the Tasmanian University team.

His first assignment after graduation from ANU was to work on policy in the then Federal Forestry and Timber Bureau where he assisted the Director-General Dr Neil Cromer to organise the National Forwood peak conference dealing with, among other things, community concerns about forestry. He also worked on catchment management at the Norwegian Forest Research Centre.

David then returned to Tasmania in 1978 and joined Associated Pulp and Paper Mills as an executive forester. By the time he was in his early forties David, still working in the same business, became a Board Member of North Broken Hill Ltd, who had bought APPM, and represented that company's interests as General Manager from 1986 to 1995 in the largest forestry operation in Australia with over 125,000 hectares of forest. The company exported very large quantities of a variety of wood products whilst serving the domestic market.

David oversaw North Forest Products' 5000 ha per annum plantation forestry expansion and three large scale chip export mills with associated port structures. He was also subsequently responsible for the divestment

of some of the assets of North Forest Products to Gunns Ltd in 1990 when Rio Tinto had bought North Forest Products from NBH Ltd.

At the same time he participated in both a diploma course on Pulp and Paper Technology at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and the Senior Executive programme at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While in Australia David was Vice President to Mike Hall AM, who was the President of the Australian Forest Development Institute, a role he held for some years. He facilitated the wood products industry to fund the Australian Forest Development Institute to conduct the International Bicentennial Forestry conference in Albury. Other local roles included Vice President of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of Australian Veneers Ltd, member of the Tasmanian Marine Board, which included the Port of Hobart and West Coast Ports, and member of the Australian Prime Minister's Panel on sustainable development.

He served on the Board of the National Association of Forest Industries and was President in 1994 and 1995.

In 1995, at the age of 46 he took up the position of Director-General of Great Britain's Forestry Commission, the largest estate manager in England, Scotland and Wales, and remained in that position for 8 years. He played an important part at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) 1992 that resulted in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration, which in turn resulted in establishing the UK Forest Plan.

Under his leadership the Forestry Commission received recognition from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International for their efforts in promoting independent certification of forests by facilitating the UK Woodland Assurance Standard to Forest Stewardship Council standards. David himself was presented with a *Gift to the Earth Award*, WWF's highest accolade.

David managed the devolvement of forestry management from the Forestry Commission from a single authority to English, Scottish and Welsh control. He represented the UK position on forestry in Europe at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

David was Chair of the Commonwealth Forestry Conference Standing Committee through meetings in Zimbabwe in 1996 and Perth WA in 2001.

On retiring from the Commission he became Vice Chairman of the Forestry Commission of Great Britain and worked as an independent consultant to a number of clients, including SAFCOL, the plantation owner and paper manufacturer in South Africa, as the first part-time Chief of the Confederation of Forest Industries and

established its governance, management systems and business planning arrangements.

He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to forestry in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2001. David was only the second Australian-born forester to hold the Forestry Commission leadership position.

In 2006 David became the first Australian to be President of the Commonwealth of Nations Forestry Association, the oldest forestry association in the Commonwealth.

He was, during 2004-2011, also the technical advisor and spokesperson for the *Wood for Good Campaign* funded by the Nordic Timber Council and UK Domestic Producer. He also led a review of the Scottish National Heritage programme of that conservation body which was answerable to the devolved Scottish Parliament.

David's success was hard earned. He was strong, intelligent, enthusiastic and energetic and effectively applied himself to the many and varied tasks which he undertook.

A remarkable record of a fine man.

Editor's Notes:

1) *The above article appeared in the April 2014 issue of "The Forester", published quarterly by the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and it used with permission. It will form part of the "Obituaries of a Profession: Forestry" project currently being undertaken jointly by the AFHS, the IFA and Obituaries Australia.*

2) *FICFor stands for "Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters", described on its website (www.charteredforesters.org) as "the Royal Chartered body for forestry and arboricultural professionals, our members are part of the UK's leading professional organisation relating to forests, woodlands and trees."*

3) *Bob Newman mentions that "David was only the second Australian-born forester to hold the (British) Forestry Commission leadership position" - the first was Sir Roy Robinson who was born in South Australia and was head of the commission from 1932 until his death in 1952.*

4) *Bob also refers to the Forestry Commissions of Great Britain, England, Scotland and Wales, but not to Northern Ireland where forests are the responsibility of the Forests Service (within the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) and/ or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.*

5) *And finally, as Bob mentions, David worked at the Forestry and Timber Bureau in Canberra. A story I'd been told about David is that one day he turned up not wearing a tie; he was sent home to get one but never went back. I met David some years ago when he visited Australia in the lead up to Australia hosting the Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Perth in 2001. I asked him if that story was true. He neither confirmed or denied, but the way he smiled suggested that it was either true, or that he liked the idea that people thought it was.*

AUSTRALIAN WOOD COLLECTION

The newsletter has previously printed articles by John Dargavel and Gordon Dadsell regarding the need to preserve historic wood collections (e.g. issue no. 58, Dec 2011 pp8-9; issue no. 61, Sep 2013 p5).

The following article appeared in the "Friday Offcuts" e-newsletter of 11th July 2014 (www.fridayoffcuts.com) and is used with permission of the editor, Brent Apthorp.

Partnership saves the Australian Wood Collection

A partnership between CSIRO, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) and the Gottstein Trust in Australia has revived the national wood collection and made it in a fit state for inclusion in the CSIRO Collections of National Significance.



The partnership provided funds for Dr Jugo Ilic (pictured), formerly of CSIRO and currently running the consultancy Know Your Wood, to prepare the collection for

transfer to Canberra in order to co-locate this internationally significant collection within the Biological Collections Unit of CSIRO.

"The Dadsell Memorial Wood Collection was collated over seven decades to make it the largest wood collection in the southern hemisphere and the third largest in the world," explained Dr Ilic. "With the changes in CSIRO's research priorities the future of the collection was unclear, and uncertain".

"I'm thankful that the CSIRO and the Australian forest and wood products industry, through FWPA and the Gottstein Trust, formed a coalition to prepare the wood collection for functional access and transfer to Canberra. The wood collection required much updating in terms of digitalising much of the information and ensuring that this information could be linked to an on-line resource - the Atlas of Living Australia," he said.

"The funding provided by the three organisations allowed a master collection index to be developed that provides a means of linking collection information from scans of the original log books, the original index cards, 41,600 wood specimen photos and 4,500 images of microscope slides for ready reference. The slide images have been forwarded for inclusion in the InsideWood database maintained by North Carolina, USA for use by wood researchers worldwide."

Both the FWPA and the Gottstein Trust are proud to have been associated with this significant project. Ric Sinclair, Managing Director of FWPA said "It's important not to throw out the baby with the bath water - with the decline in investment in wood research over recent years it is essential that Australia maintains a credible wood collection for both national and international reference and research purposes."

FORESTRY THESES ABSTRACTS

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) maintains a list of forestry-related Masters Degree and PhD theses abstracts as a public resource on its website at www.forestry.org.au/resources/forestry-theses-abstracts.

There are 968 listings, with the oldest said to be from 1960. However, some of them may even be older - for instance, the two listings for Maxwell Ralph Jacobs (Director-General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau from 1959-70) are both dated 2012, as is the doctoral thesis for his successor as Director-General (1970-75), DAN (Neil) Cromer.

The IFA interprets "forestry" in its earlier sense of "forest management", rather than the more prevalent narrower sense of "timber production". As a result, the list of topics is broad drawing from a range of disciplines, including forestry, conservation, architecture and engineering. The abstracts range from technical wood production matters discussing growth rates and wood properties, to forest conservation, including general and species-specific tracts. There are theses on birds, ants, reptiles and mammals, including the interactions with logging. There are social studies into farm forestry and private forestry, and of community forestry in Nepal, and studies into fire behaviour and fire ecology.

The sixty-plus years covered by the database also reveal the changing nature of forest management, with more recent decades showing an increasing number of abstracts having an environmental focus.

Some topics reveal how some public policy issues never go away; for instance, in 1966 Ronald J. Slinn wrote on "Commonwealth taxation and private forestry in Australia" while in 1997, Patrick Chivinge presented a thesis on "Corporate finance for plantation forestry development" - both are topics that could have been the subject of study in 2014.

Other topics focus on issues current at the time, but represent an interesting historical perspective when viewed from 2014; for example, Alf Leslie's 1963 "Forecasts of timber consumption in relation to forest management and policy in Victoria" and EJ Thompson's 1977 study into "The application of aerial photography to forest inventory in Northern Australia".

Some titles that may be of specific interest to forest historians are:

- Boden, RW (1971). Changing land use in the Canberra region. Australian National University.
- Clark, Robin L. (1983). Fire history from fossil charcoal in lake and swamp sediments. Australian National University.
- Cokley, Keith V. (1996). Preserving our natural heritage timber. University of Queensland.
- Duggan, Robina (1987). History of fire in eucalypt ecosystems. Monash University.

Frawley, Kevin J. (1983). Forest and land management in north-east Queensland: 1859-1960. Australian National University.

Gell, Peter A. (1988). The fire and vegetation history of the Upper Delegate River Catchment, East Gippsland, Victoria, and its implications for forest management. Monash University.

Hince, Bernadette (1992). A Pryor commitment: Canberra's public landscape 1944-1958. Australian National University.

Neumann, Frederick D. (1992). Perspectives of forest entomology research in Victoria 1970-1991. University of Melbourne.

Nolan, Gregory (1995). The forgotten long span timber structures of Australia. University of Tasmania.

Potts, Bradley Michael (2012). Studies in eucalypt genetics and evolution. University of Tasmania.

Pulsford, Ian F. (1991). History of disturbance in the white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) forests of the lower Snowy River Valley, Kosciusko National Park. Australian National University.

Rotheram, Ian David (1986). The use of Western Australia's tall forest for timber production: past experiences and present problems. University of Western Australia.

Stubbs, Brett J. (1996). A question of competing values: forest and timber conservation in New South Wales. Southern Cross University.

AFHS members and former members are well-represented among the listings - names I found were John Banks (1972 & 1982), Ian Bevege (1971), Robert Boden (1962 & 1971), Les Carron (1968 & 2012), Dick Curtin (1968), John Dargavel (1970 & 1982), Peter Davies (1994), Kevin Frawley (1983), Roger Heady (1997), Peter Kanowski (1986), Marie Keatley (1999), Bill McDonald (1996), Brett Stubbs (1996), Robert Thistlethwaite (1970) and Kim Wells (1986).

(With 968 abstracts listed, I expect that I've overlooked some people, so apologies for that. Please let me know if that's the case.)

Searches can be done by title, author, institution, qualification and year. The database includes abstracts from 24 Australian institutions, as well as ones in Canada, Germany, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The IFA invites the listing of abstracts; the IFA can be contacted at admin@forestry.org.au.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Second World Congress of Environmental History, Portugal 2014

By Libby Robin

The Second World Congress of Environmental History was jointly hosted by the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), the University of Minho and the city of Guimarães, Portugal from 8th-12th July 2014. The Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) is a member group of ICEHO which has reach in all continents. There are many other small and large members, including the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The total number of people involved in all these is probably about 10,000.

The AFHS was represented by James Beattie and Libby Robin, who, together with Alan MacEachern from Canada, were invited to represent "CANZ Lands" - i.e. Canada, Australia and New Zealand - on a Presidential panel of organisations, chaired by Jane Carruthers (South Africa), the retiring inaugural President of ICEHO. James Beattie presented the joint paper, which concentrated on the strengths and directions in environmental history in these countries. Forest history was of course, one of these strengths.

The other two plenary sessions featured keynote speakers Mohan Munasinghe, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that shared the Nobel Prize in 2007, and Mandy Martin, Australian Artist. Thus the Presidential Panel was a "state of the discipline" address, and the other plenaries concerned complementary disciplines.

The Academic Program, arranged by Graeme Wynn from Canada and a team of supporters from all over the world, was very impressive with some 450 presentations arranged in coherent panels.

At the closing ceremony, Libby Robin, incoming President of ICEHO, had the opportunity to mention the forthcoming Australian Forest History conference on the history of plantation forestry. As soon as information is available, this can be added to the ICEHO website. There may well be international interest in this subject and this organization is a great way to contact people.

Australian Historical Association Annual Conference, July 2014

The Australian Historical Association (AHA) (www.theaha.org.au) held its 33rd annual conference at the University of Queensland in Brisbane from 7th to 11th July 2014. This year's theme was "Conflict in History". The final program (www.sapro.com.au/conventions/aha2014/downloads/ahaprogramfinal.pdf) had a session on Environmental History, and included a presentation from Julia Miller of Macquarie University titled "In Conflict with Nature: Battles Fought on the Environmental Frontier in Australia and New Zealand". According to the abstract:

"The push to tame nature in Australia and New Zealand was a response to a view of nature as a resource. Increasingly, in the twentieth century, masculinist attitudes that saw the fight to wrest control of the unruly bush and to transform it into a civilized and productive garden, relied on the application of science and technology. In Australia a more intensive use of the land was the marker of progress. In New Zealand, the grasslands revolution persisted as a heroic rendering of man's battle against nature. In both, the land fell victim to the science of empire."

(www.sapro.com.au/conventions/aha2014/downloads/AHA_Conference_%20Abstract%20Book.pdf, p57)

Another presentation of relevance to the AFHS was from Robyn Curtis (Australian National University) who spoke on "'Desponding Looks, Murmuring Language and Revulsion of Feeling': The Language of English Environmental Protest".

Looking ahead, the AHA's 2015 conference will be at Sydney University from 6th to 10th July with the theme of "Foundational Histories".



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

National History Conference, Brisbane, September-October 2014

Hostly jointly by the History Teachers Association of Australia and the Queensland History Teachers' Association, the National History Conference will be held at Brisbane Grammar School from 30th September to 2nd October. The theme of this year's conference is "History for the Future: What Future for History?"

More info at www.qhta.com.au/conferences.htm.



European Society for Environmental History Conference, France, June-July 2015

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) is holding its next biennial conference at the University of Versailles in France from 30th June to 3rd July 2015. It is inviting proposals for sessions, papers and other formats which are due by 1st October. More information is available at <http://eseh.org/event/upcoming-conference/call-for-proposals>.

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS

Forest fire lookouts have their own organisation in the USA - the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) - which was founded in 1990 and is involved in researching current and former forest fire lookout sites, ground cabins and early forest fire detection methods. The association promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of lookouts.

The association's aims encompass:

- Organising lookout restorations;
- Providing grants for lookout projects;
- Documenting lookout sites;
- Historical research of lookouts;
- Assembling of programs to increase lookout awareness; and
- Documenting anecdotes of lookout operators, past and present.

The association has chapters in most US states as well as international chapters in Canada and Australia.

Its website at www.firelookout.org includes a history of the association (www.firelookout.org/history.html) and a quarterly "Historian's Corner" (www.firelookout.org/historians-corner.html) which has an archive of editions going back to 2007.

The association also co-sponsors the "Former Fire Lookouts Sites Register" (www.fretower.org) which is looking to document old sites (the page has a useful interactive map).

This page advises that:

"At one time there were 8,000+ fire lookouts in 49 states according to the national inventory completed by FFLA and partners in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. Today fewer than 2,000 lookouts remain and FFLA's goal is to recognize, help maintain and restore as many as possible. Currently there are nearly 1000 lookouts registered on the National Historic Lookout Register (www.nhllr.org), and most are received (sic) some kind of maintenance and about 500 are staffed by paid observers or volunteers."

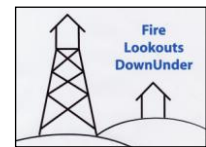
The (US) Forest History Society also has a page on "Fire Lookouts" as part of its series on the history of the United States Forest Service - see www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Policy/Fire/Lookouts/Lookouts.aspx.

Forest Fire Lookouts - Australia

The FFLA has scant information about its two Australian chapters at www.firelookout.org/chapters.html, but one is listed under the heading of "Australia (Victoria)" and the other under "Australian Research". Something to follow up for the next issue of the newsletter.

Fire Lookouts Down Under

There is also a website at www.firelookoutsdownunder.com which says that:



"The history of fire lookouts dates back to the early 1900's.

The early forms of lookouts were often just a clearing on the top of a hill or a tree with the head removed, a platform attached and spikes in the side of the tree for the observer to climb."

The links page at Fire Lookouts Down Under has one to the National Historic Lookout Register referred to above, and notes that it includes seven Australian sites, two of which are in Western Australia, and five are in Victoria:

- * ***Diamond Tree***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=1038
- * ***Gloucester Tree***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=1039
- * ***McVeigh's***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=1040
- * ***Poley***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=1041
- * ***Mount St Leonard***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=1042
- * ***Strath***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=552
- * ***Mount Brenanah***
www.nhllr.org/lookouts/Lookout.aspx?id=553

NEXT ISSUE

We're aiming to be a bit more frequent with our newsletters, although I missed my aim of having one out in July.

The next issue will be published in December 2014.

Input is always welcome.

Contributions can be sent to the editor at Fintan.O'Laughlin@agriculture.gov.au.

**** Please also note the new e-mail address. ****