

AUSTRALIAN
Forest History
SOCIETY Inc.

Newsletter No. 62
April 2014

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



Theodore Norman Stoate
(1895-1979)



Alf Lawrence OBE
(1904-1986)



Frederick Manson Bailey
(1906-1984)



William Douglas Muir
(1905-1980)



Jack Thomas
(1905-1980)



DAN (Neil) Cromer
(1910-2003)

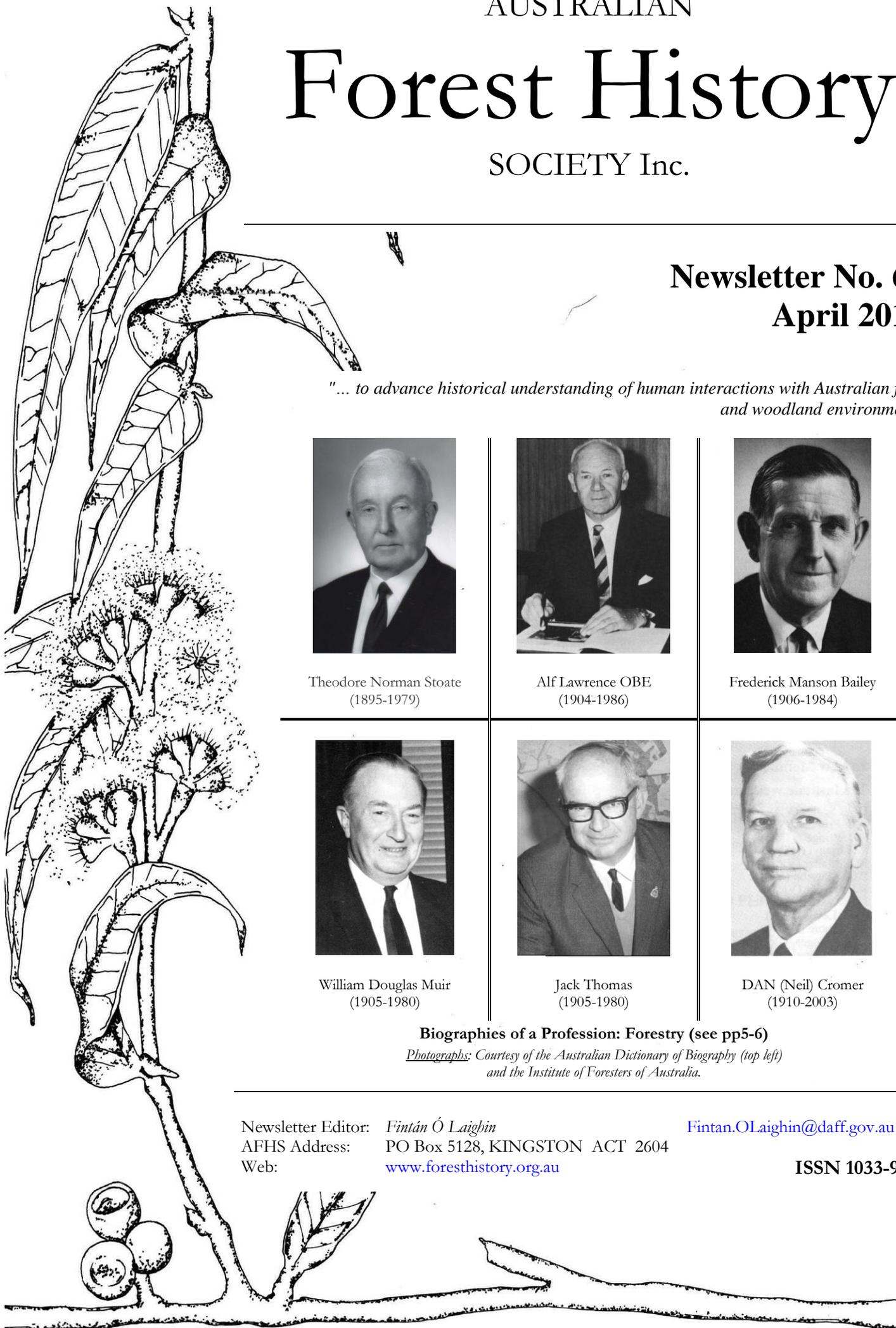
Biographies of a Profession: Forestry (see pp5-6)

Photographs: Courtesy of the Australian Dictionary of Biography (top left) and the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

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NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sue Feary

Thanks to Greg Barton for doing a sterling job as the third President of the Australian Forest History Society, following John Dargavel and Brett Stubbs. I am honoured and excited to step up as the new President for 2014. Having been involved with the society since its inception in 1988, it has somehow become part of my very being.

A glance through the proceedings of conferences shows that we are leaving a great legacy for future generations of scholars of forest history. Our multi- and inter-disciplinary approach is reflected in the great diversity of topics in the proceedings. Where else would you find a paper on the artistic beauty of wood seen through a microscope juxtaposed with one on timber tramways or traditional use of forest products? Through our collective knowledge and wisdom I believe we have forests and their history covered, no matter how small our membership. There will always be stories to tell about forests and their connections with people and we, as a society, have a responsibility to seek them out and showcase them to the world at large or at least Australia and New Zealand and, I hope, one day, the Pacific as well.

There is much to be done during 2014. We will have a small team organising the next conference, tentatively to be held in South Australia in 2015. Management and administration of the society's website will be formalised and possibly developed as a forum where members can exchange information and news. John Dargavel's project, "Biographies of a Profession", will I am sure, stimulate exploration of other, related professions and forest related activities. I hope that we can move forward on our quest to "do something" to stop the loss of archival records from forestry and national park offices. After the extremely successful joint field trip with the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) last year, let us have more of the same.

I look forward to working with the committee in what promises to be an exciting year.



Sue Feary walking across deforested hills above Honiara, Solomon Islands, 2012.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30TH JUNE 2013

By Gregory Barton

My report at the previous year's Annual General Meeting focused on the big issues that the society has tackled, and the very healthy debates that have ensued. This includes, primarily, the expansion of the name and mission of the AFHS to include environmental history and New Zealand. The first would keep forest history as a key mission of the society but add broader concerns of investigation, and the second would engage the many foresters, historians and interested participants from our closest neighbour. The discussion has been useful, because it forces us to examine our core mission and project into the future our vision for growth and change. The arguments in favour of change were persuasive to most: the need to bring in new members by broadening the appeal of the society, the need to explore the interaction between forestry and soil conservation, biodiversity, agriculture, air pollution, and climate change. We also concentrated discussion on how, with such a change in name and scope, an upcoming conference would look.

The AFHS however is established as an incorporated association under ACT law. To change a constitution, ACT legislation requires a 75% vote in favour. As Kevin Frawley, our Secretary, has pointed out, we did not attain the 75% vote required. The name change therefore has not happened.

The question remains, where do we go from here? I have wholeheartedly supported the name change and laid out an agenda for conference, media contacts, and other activities that would build membership to fit the broadened mission. With the failure of this vote I think two questions face the society. 1) How can we build membership, and interest, while focusing on Australia and on forest history only? 2) How useful is a society with so few members?

The society has, under present rules, decided to keep with its core mission and name. I respect that decision. It may very well be that this decision will preserve the unique contributions of the AFHS and keep that contribution defined and recognizable in the future. As I finish my second year at President of AFHS, and continue as a member, I look forward to seeing the society meet the challenges of the future with energy and creativity.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30TH JUNE 2013

By Fintán Ó Laighin

Audited financial accounts for the 2012-13 financial year were presented to the AGM. The financial position of the society remains strong, with little significant expenditure in the financial year. The society benefited from the proceeds of the 2010 conference (income of \$1195) which had been transferred to the society's account by the conference organising committee.



Of concern, there continued to be a decline in membership during the year, possibly a reflection of the lack of activity since the 2010 conference. The society had 52 financial members at the end of June 2013.

Mr Stephen Bailey was thanked and acknowledged for agreeing to be the Society's auditor on a voluntary basis. He has audited our accounts since 2003-04 and his contribution to the Society is very much appreciated.

The meeting agreed that current annual subscription of \$25 (Australia & New Zealand) / \$15 student / \$30 (other overseas) should be maintained.

THE 2013-14 COMMITTEE

The following people comprise the committee for 2013-14:

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

Juliana Lazzari (ACT) was appointed Public Officer.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Since the AGM, the committee has met to discuss a few things, including a proposal for a conference in 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.

Obituaries and Biographies of Foresters

At the AGM, John Dargavel circulated a proposal for a project titled *Biographies of a Profession: Australian and New Zealand Foresters*. The proposal is to "collect and publicise biographical material of foresters in Australia and, if possible, New Zealand". The ANU's National Centre for Biography (publishers of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB)) has expressed a keen interest in the project. This proposal was consistent with previous discussions about projects that the society could support. The AGM endorsed this proposal, and agreed that the committee should consider contributory funding for the project when the proposal is further developed.

In mid-February 2014, John Dargavel and Sue Feary met with the National Centre for Biography and the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and have finalised the proposal. The National Centre is very enthusiastic as is the IFA which would like to have a publication for its 80th anniversary in April 2015.

As a first step, it was agreed that the project would be staged, eventually producing a book compiling obituaries and biographies of foresters and other people involved in forest management, together with some pithy thematic essays. Stage 1 will compile the obituaries of 100 foresters/forest related people, which the ADB will produce, index and put on its website (with links to the

AFHS website). John Dargavel has already done a considerable amount of research but there are other sources of information that still need to be pursued and which could involve society members. The committee agreed to contribute \$1000 to this project. The IFA will also contribute, and also assist with indexing and putting information on the website.

Editor's note: See John Dargavel's article on pp5-6.

Historical Material in State Forestry Offices and State Archives

Another proposal is to look at historical material held in state forestry offices and state archives. There is concern that if we do not keep track of the archives, we will not have the primary source material for accurate forest history - only newspaper and journal accounts. In some agencies, there have been enormous culls by managers concerned about saving space, rather than preserving the records for historians or foresters who know how important some of the annual incremental reporting is for future policies and for monitoring on outcomes.

A related activity is a review undertaken by Ian Barnes of stored office records for both the Batemans Bay and Eden offices of Forests NSW (now the Forestry Corporation of NSW). Both offices contained material from many years of operations, not only from these two offices but other subsidiary offices since closed (Batemans Bay Region/(sub) District, Nowra, Moss Vale, Queanbeyan, Tumbarumba, Eden Region/(sub) District, Bega, Bombala and Narooma).

Editor's note: See also Jane Lennon's paper from our 1996 conference - "Studies for the Western Forest Region of New South Wales" in John Dargavel (ed) 1997, Australia's Ever-changing Forests III: Proceedings of the Third National Conference on Australian Forest History.

Index of AFHS Conference Proceedings

There is also a proposal to develop an index of all conference proceedings papers, covering the eight conferences held to date.

Proposed Society Name Change

While the 2012 motion to change the society's name and focus did not attract the level of support required by ACT law, the new committee supports expanding the name to include New Zealand. This essentially recognises that the society already encompasses New Zealand forest history, as evidenced by the contributions of our New Zealand members to our newsletters and conferences (including the seventh conference being held in Christchurch), and frequent New Zealand involvement on the committee. The proposal will be canvassed with our New Zealand members, but it is proposed that a motion be presented to the 2014 AGM to change the name to the "Australian and New Zealand Forest History Society Inc."

Forest Environmental History

The committee is discussing this aspect of the society's focus. While it has always been part of the society's "charter" (for want of a better word), a lot of the focus of the society's activities reflect forest industry history.



WEST OTWAY PLANTATIONS

By Norman Houghton

Plantations of exotics were an occasional feature of the landscape in the Colac Shire from the 1870s. The Victorian Railways planted silver and black wattles along its rail reserve in the Shire in 1879 to supply the wattle bark trade. The Colac Shire used various plantings of cypress or Monterey pines two to four rows deep along its roadsides in troublesome areas for use as wind breaks or to control erosion. These plantations had no commercial purpose at the time but at the end of their tree life 50 years later the timbers were sold to sawmillers. There were several school plantations for endowment purposes within the Shire and these were harvested by Colac sawmillers 40 to 50 years after planting.

Large scale commercial plantations in the West Otways were initiated by the Forests Commission of Victoria (FCV) at Beech Forest as part of its softwoods policy for import substitution and supplementation of native hardwoods. The West Otways was seen as an ideal growing region for exotic pines owing to it being a temperate rain forest environment. The selection of particular ground for planting was determined by the number of abandoned agricultural allotments around Beech Forest. The Aire Valley was chosen as the first site and the FCV began acquiring abandoned blocks there from 1929.

This particular setting was seen as ideal because most of the blocks had been cleared of native timbers by farmers and then contained scattered dead trees and logs lying on the ground as well as a thick carpet of bracken. In addition, the blocks were fenced and the entire valley had a high rainfall that minimised fire risk and allowed an extended growing season. The few remaining farmers offered their blocks and within a short time agriculture disappeared from the valley to be replaced by tree plantings on a massive scale. The planting target was seven million trees, a colossal figure but one that was justified on the reasonable assumption that the Otway is good tree growing territory offering relatively short rotation lengths as well as high productivity and the ability to produce long length and large diameter sawlogs. By 1935 some 1475 ha had been planted and another 400 were added by 1939.

The plantings in the Aire Valley were *Pinus radiata*, *P. muricata*, *P. laricio* (a synonym of *Pinus nigra subsp. laricio*), *P. ponderosa*, *P. longifolia*, *P. samfolia* and *Pseudotsuga douglasii*. The first round of plantings was experimental to see what would grow best over time. The *radiata* was initially planted as a wind break around the other species and not as a major resource but it surprised the planters when it took off and grew the fastest and sturdiest. So this and the Douglas fir and Corsican pine (*Pinus laricio*) proved to be the best growers.

The seedlings were planted during the winter months by itinerant gangs, mostly city unemployed, who were accommodated in camp barracks situated in the Aire Valley. The planters, who numbered 100 or so at the

peak, had a rugged existence and there were many complaints about the working conditions. Sleet, rain and churned up mud were constant companions to these men. As well, the men's clothing and boots became saturated from walking through bracken and standing in mud and rain most days.

Camps were established at different times at what were called Halls, Congrams, Seaview and the Redwoods (the main camp). A separate facility, known as the Boys' Camp, was established on Blackwood Creek at the site of Marchbank's former mill. The camp housed unemployed city youths engaged to do thinning in hardwood areas. This camp accommodated 60 youths who laboured six hours a day in the bush in return for a small wage and board and keep. The Aire Valley camps worked at their peak through to the outbreak of war in 1939, when all work ceased.

The young pines found a use during the war when Australia's supplies of imported match wood failed and certain quantities of Aire Valley pines were harvested to make matches.

Plantings resumed after the war. The pine fieldwork remained as unpleasant as ever and labour deficits were the rule. These shortages were partly alleviated by the employment of European refugees, commonly called "Balts" (although few came from the Baltic States) and these workers mostly from Poland, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia and Italy filled out the pine gangs. These men were supposedly inured to rough weather, having been reared in the icy winters of northern Europe, but even they complained about the cold and wet experienced at Beech Forest. The Aire Valley scheme reached its final scope in 1961.

Pine plantings were then switched to the Webster Hill area where substantial hectares were put under pines on abandoned and resumed farms along Lardner Track and Sayers Track. The Webster Hill pines were mechanically planted. By the late 1970s the FCV had around 2500 ha of softwood plantations in the Beech Forest district.

The young pines were first harvested from the late 1940s through selected thinnings of the various compartments and others were harvested as required through salvage cutting of wind damaged, landslip falls and dying suppressed trees. These logs were used for case making and paper pulp. The first major thinning operation commenced in the late 1950s for the same end use.

Harvesting of the fully grown, mature trees commenced in the mid-1960s when some 13,000 cubic metres of mill and case logs and 5000 cubic metres of pulp were cut each year. The timber went to softwood mills in Colac, to peeler plants in Melbourne for veneer products and to paper mills.

Company plantations came into vogue at Beech Forest from the early 1970s when sawmilling and timber processing businesses, some being Colac based, initiated a strategy of resource security for future requirements. The background was a timely Federal Government policy to support plantations in order to cover expected

national shortfalls in timber. Run down and abandoned farms became targets for acquisition by the pine companies, particularly those on steep slopes with large areas of ground that was uneconomic to work for agriculture. In addition, a slump in dairying provided more take-over opportunities when struggling farmers decided to quit.

The pine companies were the most active from 1976 to 1982 when they purchased numerous farm lots in all areas of the Otways but mainly in the West Otways. The farms they bought were a roll call of Otway settlement. In the West Otway region, Smorgon Consolidated Industries purchased 15 lots, Victree 26, Associated Kiln Driers eight, Calco Sawmilling Co four, and four other smaller businesses one each, for a total of around 4000 ha. Entire areas were depopulated in one fell swoop, particularly along the old Beech Forest Road at Banool, Wimba, McDevitt and along Charleys Creek Road.

The initial softwood revolution on private land was sudden and swift and caught the Otway Shire flat footed in regard to its planning and land use policies. Farm values dropped because of the checkerboard acquisition by the pine companies. Cr. Bob Knox of the Otway Shire suggested that the FCV purchase all the farms along the Ridge to about 1.5 kms on each side to stop the fragmentation by private companies and sell the blocks as demand arises. The Shire was concerned about productive agricultural land being depopulated and turned to passive tree farming, with all the implications for rate revenue and amenity of the area.

The Shire subsequently introduced planning controls and codes of practice to minimise the adverse social and environmental impacts but the broad trend to plantations could not be halted. In fact the trend to private plantations accelerated and was given a substantial boost in 1998 when the Victorian Government privatised all of the FCV's softwood and hardwood plantations. Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP) bought the lot - all the sites at Irrewillipe, the entire Aire Valley plantings, Webster Hill, McDevitt and Meehans. This acquisition, plus others in the then Otway and Corangamite Shires brought the HVP holdings to over 5500 ha.

The other novel development from the pines issue was that an emerging conservation movement fired its first shots at Otway forestry practices. In September 1976 the Geelong Environment Council first raised concerns about private companies buying large tracts of land for pine plantations and clear felling the native forest thereon. This movement was to play out over the next 30 years and while it could not stop the pines it resulted in the termination of native forest logging in state forest.

Softwoods were sown in the first tranche of the company plantation revolution. These trees were given a first round harvest from the late 1990s for saw logs, pulp logs and chip logs. Changing market preferences at the time led to a portion of the pines being replaced with fast growing hardwoods for the paper pulp market.

By 2010 there were 13,000 ha of soft wood and hard wood planted lands (plantations and bush blocks) in the entire Otways available for commercial harvesting. By way of comparison this hectarage was a mere 14% of the former Reserved Forest area managed by the FCV in its heyday.

At the time of writing plantation harvesting in the West Otways is carried out by HVP on its own account and for others such as AKD and Midway and, depending on market conditions, can run to around 200,000 tonnes mass per season. The saw logs are primarily directed to the AKD mill in Colac but some are exported for making into packaging boxes. The pulp logs are taken to Geelong for chipping and then exported to Japan and Korea.

BIOGRAPHIES OF A PROFESSION: FORESTRY

By *John Dargavel*

In February this year, the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) entered into a new project with the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and the National Centre for Biography at the Australian National University. Its aim is to make biographical information about an entire profession freely available via the internet. Professor Melanie Nolan, Director of the Centre, said that she was attracted to the project as a pilot study for other professions because the relatively small size of forestry made the project readily "doable". Opportunities for further collaboration with the AFHS were welcomed by IFA President, Rob de Fégely, during a field day in southern NSW last year, and have been followed up by IFA CEO, Alison Carmichael. She noted how the IFA had marked its jubilee in 1985 by commissioning *The Foresters* by Athol Meyer*, and that it was currently building its digital database of knowledge.

The National Centre for Biography is the home for the well-loved *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) that started in 1959 and now makes its descriptions of 12,500 Australian lives - including 22 foresters † - freely available online. In 2011 it started *Obituaries Australia* to make published obituaries available online. Although it has now gathered almost 4000 obituaries, no foresters were included until this project started. The AFHS's mission to "advance historical understanding of human interactions with Australian forests and woodland environments" covers many professions, of which foresters are a vital part that should not be forgotten. AFHS President, Sue Feary, noted how many people who had trained as foresters had formed the early echelons of national parks organisations. Once this project has been completed, it will be important to see how other disciplines connected with forests could be covered.

The first stage of the project needed the published obituaries to be digitised from the original documents, or available images. Thanks mostly to the work of IFA member, Geoff Dean in Tasmania, 200 obituaries from *Australian Forestry*, the IFA's *Newsletter* and its magazine *The Forester*, the *Australian Forestry Journal* (that preceded *Australian Forestry*), and newspapers accessed through the National Library's *Trove* site.

The next stage of the project is about to commence. It will process the digitised obituaries into the common format and index each one according categories that provide a "life summary" alongside the text. This indexing is a key to the power of the Centre's web-based system as it enables searching and generates commonalities across all the databases automatically. The indexing is done by people skilled in the Centre's systems. Funding support to enable casual staff to do this on half the project has been approved by the AFHS. A request for support for the other half is to be considered by the IFA's Board. There are still lots things for volunteers to do because published obituaries rarely have all the information, like date and place of birth, memberships of organisations like the AFHS and IFA, or early workplaces. If such things can be found out, they can be noted in the "life summary". Another task is to prepare short descriptions of every significant organisation that is mentioned, and it is surprising how many there are to be done.

How to make all the other biographical information that is available better known has yet to be worked out. There are books about Dahl, La Gerche and Lane Poole; books and papers about Queensland foresters by Peter Holzworth; oral histories, some collected by AFHS members, and so forth. Together with the ADB and *Obituaries Australia*, there is a wealth of material.

The last stage of the project envisages a book to be published through the National Centre for Biography by ANU Press in both hard copy and free online. It would consist of some thematic essays with entries selected from ADB and *Obituaries Australia*.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the project is asked to contact one of the following: Sue Feary (AFHS) suefeary@hotmail.net.au; John Dargavel (ANU, AFHS, IFA) John.Dargavel@anu.edu.au; Alison Carmichael (IFA) ifa@forestry.org.au; or Christine Fernon (National Centre for Biography) Christine.Fernon@anu.edu.au.

* *Editor's Note 1:* Athol Meyer's book is still available from the IFA for \$10 incl p+p - see www.forestry.org.au/resources/other-publications.

† *Editor's Note 2:* The ADB is available at <http://adb.anu.edu.au>. The 22 foresters (some of whom are described as "wood scientists", "silviculturalists" or "horticulturalists") are Isaac Herbert Boas (1878-1955), John Ednie Brown (1848-1899), Herbert Eric Dadsnell (1903-1964), Stanley Wallace (Wal) Gentle (1932-1989), Wilfred Alexander Watt de Benzenville (1884-1954), Victor (Peter) Grenning (1899-1984), Maxwell Ralph Jacobs (1905-1979), Norman William Jolly (1882-1954), Stephen Lackey Kessell (1897-1979), Charles Edward Lane Poole (1885-1970), Alfred Oscar Platt Lawrence (1904-1986), Philip John MacMabon (1857-1911), Alan Grant McArthur (1923-1978), James Bannister McAdam (1910-1959), Stanley Robert McDougall (1889-1968), Angelos Palmos (1903-1976), Sir Roy Lister Robinson (1883-1952), Geoffrey James Rodger (1894-1982), Edwin James Semmens (1886-1980), Theodore Norman Stoate (1895-1979), Edward Harold Fulcher Swain (1883-1970) and Thomas Charles George Weston (1866-1935).

The IFA's document repository has 131 obituaries - see <http://forestry.bost4kb.com>.

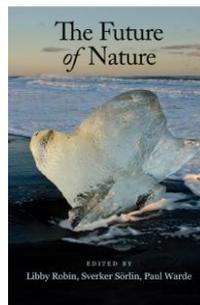
Another source of information is the *Encyclopedia of Australian Science* (www.eoas.info) which has a "function" list that includes a number of categories for "forest" and "forestry", and even "forest historian".

NEW BOOKS



Peggy James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists: Greening Modern Sydney*. Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2013.
 ISBN: 9781925003086. \$39.95.
www.scholarly.info/book/340

The book by (AFHS member) Peggy James is a history of conservation and planning efforts in the Sydney region in the first half of the twentieth century. It focuses on the city's network of influential conservationists and planners, including Thistle Harris, Annie Wyatt, Marie Byles, Myles Dunphy, Walter Burley Griffin, and David Stead, and the many green spaces they helped to shape throughout the Sydney region. The chapter on Thistle Harris in particular includes information on Sydney's forest history, including the work of its Australian Forest League branch, and the establishment of demonstration forests in the region at Castlereagh and West Pennant Hills (Cumberland Forest). The book also contains information on foresters Richard Dalrymple Hay, Edward Swain and Baldur Byles.



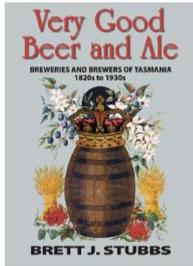
Libby Robin, Sverker Sörlin and Paul Warde (eds), *The Future of Nature*, Yale University Press, 2013.
 ISBN: 9780300184617.

This anthology provides an historical overview of the scientific ideas behind environmental prediction and how, as predictions about environmental change have been taken more seriously and widely, they have affected politics, policy, and public perception. Through an array of texts and commentaries that examine the themes of progress, population, environment, biodiversity and sustainability from a global perspective, it explores the meaning of the future in the twenty-first century. Providing access and reference points to the origins and development of key disciplines and methods, it will encourage policy makers, professionals, and students to reflect on the roots of their own theories and practices.

The book presents essays from the work of eighteenth century writers Hans Carl von Carlowitz (1713) and Thomas Malthus (1798) through the centuries to Johan Rockström et al (2009) and Mike Hulme (2011), each accompanied by a present day commentary.

The book won "Best Anthology" in the 2013 New England Book Festival in the USA.

Thanks to the Australian & New Zealand Environmental History Network for bringing this book to our attention.



Brett J. Stubbs, *Very Good Ale and Beer: brewers and breweries of Tasmania 1820s to 1930s*, Tankard Books, 2013. ISBN: 9780980620931.

www.tankardbooks.com.au,
 \$49 + p&ap.

One thing I've always liked about history is that it can lead one down paths that might not otherwise be

taken. A query at work about when the first powered sawmill in Tasmania was established led me to this book by former AFHS president, Brett Stubbs, who is described on the www.brewsnews.com.au website as "Australia's leading brewery historian".

And the link between powered sawmills and brewing? The Cascade Brewery in Hobart claims its origins to the 1824 establishment of a powered sawmill at The Cascades on Mount Wellington in Hobart. This is despite the brewery not being established until 1832, a claim also supported by Gregory Jefferys who says that one of the two founders, Peter Degraives, arrived in Hobart in 1824 with a steam engine, a sawmill and a corn mill (*Hugh Macintosh and Peter Degraives: the story of an Officer and a Gentleman*, <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/11730/1/Jefferys.pdf>). The things you learn. It also emphasises that many of us in the AFHS are interested in the history of many different subject.

NEW JOURNALS

Environment & Nature in New Zealand (ENNZ)

Vol 8, No. 1 November 2013 and
 Vol 9, No. 1 February 2014

Two editions of this online journal have been issued in recent months, both of which are available at <http://environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/new-zealand> (as are all issues). While having a broader focus than forest history, the themes will be of interest to AFHS members, including the review of James Beattie's book, *Empire and Environmental Anxiety: Health, Science, Art and Conservation in South Asia and Australasia, 1800-1920*. As Paul Star writes in his Editorial, Beattie "seeks out the global context when discussing, among other subjects, the course of forestry practice in nineteenth-century New Zealand".

The February 2014 edition is a special issue that features seven essays, five of which were written between 1989 and 2000 by fourth year students at the University of Otago, and another two written as dissertations for a Postgraduate Diploma. While none of the essays are specifically on forests or forestry, this issue does highlight how much good undergraduate research never sees the light of day. Not all students go on to become academics. Perhaps it's an idea that the AFHS could pursue.

FOREST HISTORY IN NEW ZEALAND - SOME RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

By Mike Roche

The 2013 New Zealand Historical Association conference featured special sessions on environment history. In addition a new edition of environmental Histories of New Zealand appeared late in 2013. This is a substantial reworked and enlarged version of the original and has the new title of *Making a New Country*.

New Zealand Historical Association Conference, Dunedin, November 2013

Forest History

James Braund, 'The Geologist and the Ravaged Kauri Forest: Ferdinand von Hochstetter as an Environmental Commentator'.

Tom Brooking, "'An Unexpected Pleasant Surprise". Why Did Seddon Introduce Scenery Preservation in 1903?'

Michael Roche, 'Podocarps and Pines - Revisiting Forestry in early 20th century New Zealand'.

(New) Perspectives on Environmental History

Katie Pickles, 'For the good of the environment? New Zealand claims Antarctica'.

Matt Henry, 'Enrolling Weather Observers: Citizen Science and the Fashioning of Meteorological Networks in New Zealand'.

Joanna Bishop, 'Medicinal Plant Use in New Zealand's Settler Medical Culture, 1860s-1920s'.

Peter Holland, 'Pests follow the plough: rabbits in Central Otago'.

For more information on the New Zealand Historical Association, see <http://nzha.org.nz>; for information on the 2013 conference, including the full program, see <http://nzha.org.nz/2013/02/07/nzha-2013-biennial-conference-information>.



Recent Publications

Adam, J.P. 2012. Plant trees now! A short history of the Forest Tree Encouragement planting policy of the nineteenth century, particularly in Auckland and Otago. *ENNZ: Environment and Nature in New Zealand*, Vol 7(1&2), 46-57.

Beattie, J. 2012. Recent Themes in the Environmental History of the British Empire. *History Compass* 10, 129-139.



Munro, D. and Boswijk G. 2013. *Quantification of a use-date range for archaeological kauri timber: documentary evidence.* School of Environment Working Paper Series 49. University of Auckland.

Pawson, E. and Brooking, T. (eds.) 2013. *Making a New Country.* Otago University Press, Dunedin.

Berg, P. 2013. Alexander Robert Entrican: The Man of his Time. *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* 58(2), 20-24.

Berg, P. 2013. The events of 1987: Corporatising and privatising the state's forests. *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* 58(1), 12-17.

Goulding, C. 2013. The 1913 New Zealand Royal Commission on Forestry. *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* 58(1), 3-6.

Roche, M. 2013. The Royal Commission on Forestry 1913 Viewed from 2013. *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* 58(1), 7-11.

Roche, M. 2013. 'H Hugh Corbin at the University of Adelaide School of Forestry, 1912-1925.' *Australian Journal of Forestry* 76(1), 1-8.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES



The British Society for the History of Science, Annual Conference
 University of St Andrews
 United Kingdom
 3rd-6th July 2014
www.bsbs.org.uk/conferences/annual-conference/2014-standrews



Second World Congress of Environmental History
 Guimarães, Portugal
 8th-14th July 2014
www.wceh2014.ecum.uminho.pt

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.

These prices do not include GST as the AFHS is not registered for paying or claiming GST. Membership expires on 30 June each year.

Payment can be made by cheque or money order, or through Electronic Funds Transfer.

Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to the AFHS and sent to:

Australian Forest History Society Inc.
 PO Box 5128
 KINGSTON ACT 2604

Electronic Funds Transfer can be paid into:

Commonwealth Savings Bank
 BSB 062 911
 Account No.: 1010 1753

Please also return this form if you pay by EFT or send an e-mail to the Treasurer - Fintan.OLaighin@daff.gov.au.

Name:	
Address:	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Please mark the box if you would like a receipt - otherwise an acknowledgment will be sent by e-mail.
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NEXT ISSUE

We're aiming to be a bit more frequent with our newsletters. The next issue will be published in July 2014.

Input is always welcome.

Contributions can be sent to the editor at Fintan.OLaighin@daff.gov.au.

