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

Woodcutting tools from Bhutan. The Ogyen Choling Museum, Bumthang District, Central Bhutan

Photo by Sue Feary.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the AFHS newsletter is the largest yet, due to the effort and dedication of those who have made contributions. It has been a joy to put together and I would like to thank you all.

The next issue is due out at the end of the year and the guest editor is Leith Davis (davis.leith@gmail.com). We will call for contributions in a few months time.

Don't forget that any feedback on John Taylor's article on the future directions for the Society published in the last issue (Dec 2010) would be most welcome.

Our President, Brett Stubbs tells me that he is still working on the proceedings from the Lismore conference, which should be published in the second half of this year. Authors should expect to receive editorial queries, or perhaps page proofs for checking in the not too distant future.

Sue Feary
Newsletter Editor

WOODSTOCK MILL, JAMBEROO

By Leith Davis

Woodstock Mill was built in 1838 in the rich Illawarra coastal region of New South Wales south of Sydney, a few kilometres inland from Kiama Harbour. It was one of the first sawmills built in New South Wales and one of the first two mills on the south coast. In its grandiose scale and ambition, it is a worthy rival for whaling's Boydtown, and its founder Captain Collins could be characterised as the timber industry's own Ben Boyd, although the gentlemanly Captain Collins would find the comparison offensive.

Captain JG Collins was an officer in the 13th Dragoon Guards, based in Madras. Reports had filtered through to India from New South Wales of the suitability of Australian horses for the Madras Army, and Captain Collins was backed by a wealthy Indian merchant, William Hart, to source horses from Australia for the Madras Army. He arrived in Sydney in January 1834, and in February 1835 word came from India that his first shipment had been very successful (although not a financial success), and a continuing trade was assured. Collins imported Arab breeding stock to Sydney to improve the blood lines of colonial horses, and it was in this way that the Waler breed of cavalry horse was begun, and a lucrative trade that continued into the mid 20th century.

In December 1836, there were meetings in London between Mr Hart and Captain Collins, and Mr Hart agreed with some reluctance (he had lost £4000 to £5000 in the venture at that point) to continue his partnership in the NSW trade in remounts and a number of other schemes put forward by Captain Collins, which included the establishment of a sawmill on land he proposed to lease at Kangaroo Valley. He noted that "The consumption of Timber at Sydney for buildings and for exportation (cedar which is abundant and equal in all respects to Mahogany) is very great and on the Illawarra districts is abundant and obtainable for only the trouble of cutting down". The sawmill was ordered from Graham West & Company of London, who agreed to provide a mill "suitable for cutting timbers of 6 feet diameter and 30 feet long (warranted to cut ½ inch each stroke and 30 strokes in a minute and planks and battens) the whole not to exceed £390 and 5 per cent discount for cash". Machinery for a windmill was also ordered at a cost of £20. An additional £330 was allowed in Hart and Collins' agreement for shipping, assembly and the construction of additional buildings etc.

The mill was eventually constructed on 8 acres leased near Jamberoo on a property owned by a settler who, it appears, had some connections with Collins' regiment in the Madras Army. It was a substantial structure, 100 feet long and two stories high that included a sawmill and flour mill, both powered by water and later by steam, a ships biscuit factory, a cooperage, a piggery and later a brewery. The sawmill had both vertical and circular saws, and machinery for dressing timber, spokes, naves and felloes.

In 1838, a notice was published in the Sydney Gazette to inform the public that the Woodstock Saw Mills, with Rabbiting and Turning Machinery would commence work early in July. The price list of timbers included:

Flooring Boards & Battens, at per 100 ft	£0 15s 0d
Scantling, at per ditto	0 13s 0d
Felloes for Drays, per 100 in number	3 0s 0d
Ditto for Carts or Carriages, per ditto	2 10s 0d
Spokes for Drays, per ditto	2 0s 0d

The notice advised that "Coach Builders can be supplied with the finest Country Pine"[1]. A W. Carter, Ship Agent at Australian Stores near Queen's Wharf would maintain supplies of these articles and take orders. Timber would be sold at Woodstock for 4s per 100 feet less than in Sydney (a useful estimate of transport costs at that time, by bullock dray to Kiama and thence by ship to Sydney).

A village of 80 people grew up around the mill and its various activities. Collins employed a workforce of nine mechanics, with their families, as well as four unmarried female domestic servants, and a group of assigned and former convicts to work the land.

It appears that the mill was never profitable being affected by first, drought and second, the bank failures of 1842 and 1843. The partnership between Hart and Captain Collins was dissolved in 1842 or 1843, followed by a series of long and bitter court disputes. A Henry Heathorne, from Kent, was brought out by the Hart family to operate the mill as well as a brewery on the site. His daughter Henrietta wrote later of her time at Woodstock: "How pleasant it was to enter the long shed of the saw-mills close by, where the vertical or circular saws in quick movement made a lively whirring noise, as

[1] "Country Pine" may be *Casuarina*, but this was usually referred to by the early settlers as "beefwood" or "she-oak". Given Woodstock's coastal situation and the difficulties of transport to and from the interior, it is unlikely to refer to *Callitris*.

they cut up long trunks of all sorts of trees that had been felled in the bush and dragged higher by the slow, patient oxen". Henrietta met Thomas Huxley, later the eminent scientist but then assistant-surgeon on HMS Rattlesnake, when his ship was visiting Sydney in 1847. They married in England after an 8 year courtship which became famous after the publication of their love letters between England and Australia.

Captain Collins with his family set out to return to England in 1845 on board the *Mary*. It was wrecked in Bass Strait, with the loss of 17 women and children including two of his daughters, but not a single man. They continued their voyage to England some months later on the *Sons of Commerce*.

William Hamilton Hart, son of William Hart, was sent to Australia by his father to try and protect the family investment. WH Hart became superintendent of the Bank of Australasia, but was removed in 1849, it seems partly because of his association with Woodstock Mill, which had almost ruined him. He became director of Bright & Company in Melbourne and his sons moved to Brisbane, later founding the famous law firm of Flower and Hart.

It seems that Captain Collins left New South Wales with his reputation intact: reports of the loss of the *Mary* refer to him as "an old colonist, and of first-rate character and connexions".

The sawmill itself was operated by Henry Heathorne from 1843 until 1845, then by a Mr Newnham of Kent Brewery, and in the 1850s by a Captain Hart (probably a grandson of the original William Hart) until 1860. The building was used for a number of purposes but by 1900 not a brick remained of the whole imposing edifice.

REPRINTING LES CARRON'S *A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY SCHOOL*

By Kim Wells

Around 350 A4 booklets were distributed to people who attended the Australian Forestry School Reunion in 2000: a further 150 copies were sold, first from the ANU Forestry Department, then from the Institute of Foresters' secretariat, with proceeds going to the MR Jacobs Silviculture Prize fund.

Seeing that stocks were exhausted and believing the publication important for foresters in Australia and overseas, I went to the compiler, John Gray, and to the IFA, with a plan to have more printed cheaply. As secretary of the above-mentioned reunion, I was still in possession of a copy of the computer print file, so I had experimented with producing a light-weight A5 version.

The print was still readily readable, so, with the agreement of those who might be concerned about copyright, I took the file with me on a visit to Myanmar where a forester friend, U Aung Kyaw Myint, himself a forestry graduate of ANU, kindly arranged to have 120 copies printed at very low cost. These are available through the IFA secretariat in the old forestry school buildings, Schlich Street (PO Box 7002), Yarralumla ACT 2600.

GEOFF PARK SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

By Michael Roche
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Dr Geoff Park will be remembered by AFHS members as the key note speaker at the AFHS conference held in Christchurch in 2007. On that occasion Geoff spoke about his work on the forests of the Bay of Islands and made a sustained contribution to the entire conference and fieldtrips. That he had completed his PhD in Australia, something unknown to me at the time added to the appropriateness of his participation. A number of Australian members were aware of his successful 1995 *Ngā Uruora: the groves of life: ecology and history in a New Zealand landscape*. This marked his transition from ecologist to ecological historian.

At the time of Geoff's death in 2009, a number of moving tributes and obituaries were published and Radio NZ rebroadcast the reading of his *Nga Uruora* book. Geoff Park's published work charts his shifting interests from ecology and a career as a government scientist, through to applied ecological work and then a move across to a particular type of ecological history. He stands apart from most other New Zealand environmental historians in that he moved from the sciences to embrace the humanities (whereas the engagement is often the other way around from "culture" to "nature"). His intellectual concerns can be tracked in his publications and a select bibliography is listed below.

2009 Totara weed, *Forest & Bird,* 331, 48-49.
2008 To the Island, *Forest & Bird,* 330, 48-49.
2008 The wind of change, *Forest & Bird,* 329, 44-45.
2008 Keeping Restoration, *Forest & Bird,* 328, 44-45.
2008 Teeming with birds still, *Forest & Bird,* 327, 34-35.
2007 Long-lived in the native ecosystem, *Forest & Bird,* 326, 38-39.
2007 The remnant ecology of Waitangi Park, *Forest & Bird,* 325, 36-37.
2007 The forest that sailed on the tide, *Forest & Bird,* 324, 36-37.
2007 Slips in the Temple, *Forest & Bird,* 323, 40-41.
2006 A pilgrimage to big tree, *Forest & Bird,* 322, 42-43.
2006 Huia baking in the Waiarapa, *Forest & Bird*, 321, 40-41.
2006 McIntyre River, *Forest & Bird,* 320, 36-37.

Geoff (with Eric Pawson) speaking about Podocarps at Kennedy's Bush, AFHS conference 2007

WHAT GOT ME INTO FORESTRY?

*AFHS member **Ian Barnes** retired from Forests NSW in early 2011 and with a little editorial persuasion has penned a few words about himself and his forestry memories.*

***L-R:** Ian Barnes, Wendy Dashwood, John &Carol Reynolds at Ian's farewell party, Holmes Lookout, Clyde River National Park (ex State Forest), Batemans Bay*

I vividly remember a "day out" in December 1970 with Keith Watt, the Sub District Forester at Gloucester, a small town located on the mid north coast of NSW. This forestry visit was arranged by my dairy farming parents as a possible alternative career to agriculture, then suffering the long economic ravages of 1960s drought.

Keith and I spent quite some time driving into the upper reaches of the Manning River to inspect a logging operation near Nowendoc. This was in the days when the present tourist route known as Thunderbolts Way was a complicated series of back country Shire dusty roads, logging roads and other tracks connecting one property to the next. As Keith well knew, one always took a passenger along to open the many gates involved, many being dingo proofed. One could drive for hours without seeing a house or people, only the occasional wild eyed bovine.

Eventually we arrived at the logging site. It was both a shock and a revelation to me. A lasting memory of that day is of large, roaring, grinding, Caterpillar bulldozers twisting each way and other, clawing and squeaking their way up from the deep gullies, inching a path between giant trees. On taut wire ropes they were pulling their prizes of the large logs slowly sliding behind, logs doggedly resisting all efforts of the mighty machines to overcome its gravitational origin. The power in the tussle was awesome. The smells were distinct, of freshly disturbed soil and the mineral sharpness from the short crisp explosions of rock beneath the bulldozers' cleats amidst a background of crushed eucalypt leaves and the freshness of sap laden bark.

A muscled logger with covered boots followed the log's freshly smoothed earthen furrow, a big McCulloch chainsaw balanced on one grimy singletted shoulder beside the battered felt hat, and a signature durry in one corner of the rough and grizzled unshaven face, his measured plodding inexorably beckoned no doubt by the contents in the rough wooden tucker box higher up the hill on the log dump.

The evidence of this mighty combination of men and machines meandered throughout a seemingly never ending forest, most tracks accumulating at small clearings on narrow ridges where the hard won prizes were tidied up and rolled onto skeleton trailered log trucks.

The drivers of the big Macks then had an equally challenging route out of the forest roaring in their lowest gearing, threading their way up steep tracks to a higher class feeder road, creaking and groaning as their heavy towering loads shifted with every undulation in the fresh earth, still consolidating with every truck departure. Occasionally a bulldozer clanked in the rear, ready at the tail logs to deliver the grunt needed to beat the steep grades or to overcome a lack of traction on shaded, slippery, earth, not yet dried from the morning's mists, and unlikely to ever dry in winter months.

The tracks were narrow and basic, requiring all a driver's concentration as he hunched intensely over the massive steering wheel. His task was characterised by a constant checking of wing mirrors and the whirring of arms to keep the long bonneted trucks on the pavement. Years of experience taught him to ensure the front wheel tracked the outside of every curve, ensuring the trailing bogie wheels neither collapsed the fresh fill nor climbed the cutting bank. Any hesitation in the assault risked losing the momentum, only recoverable by a push up from the nearest cleat cladded friend.

At the very front of the immense bonnet, the strutting Mack emblem pointed the way, weaving side to side across the centre line, seeming to urge the whole combination of power and weight up the grade. Only a brandished sword was missing to complete the image of intense effort.

On that day it was all action and high drama midst a cacophonous cloud of dust and noise, a demonstration of brute force pursuing industrial endeavour, the intenseness of it all no doubt accentuated by the remoteness of the site.

I was hooked, forestry was for me!

From there, for the next forty years, I witnessed a rapid sophistication in the way we manage forests in Australia, particularly for timber production.

What are my important memories and impressions from the last forty years?

The camaraderie and good humour of forestry students, priming to manage forest ecosystems, oblivious to the challenges they would later face from forest owners.

The initial five years at Kyogle was a joyous mixture of working in rainforest, eucalypt and hoop pine plantation and, at weekends, bushwalking in nearby forests and paddling on swollen rivers. To think I was paid for it!

A five year small mammal study in sub tropical rainforest, cut short by a change in rainforest conservation policy.

The field use of aerial photos for bush navigation (the Kyogle 1940s mapping was inadequate), and three years of aerial photo interpretation work for forest typing and road planning across north east NSW, based at Kempsey. Among a number of interesting projects such as Comprehensive Regional Assessments, and APM plantation purchases, we ventured into many remote areas visited by few others. This work was a timely launch into

the science of mapping and subsequent Geographic Information Systems.

Five years in Bega grappling with the high wood production model of the Eden Pulpwood Project, and the public attention it attracted. This initiated more extensive experience in "uninvited visitor" management.

A short secondment in 1995 with the Forestry Branch of the Commonwealth's Department of Primary Industries and Energy, a time when political angst on the future of the nation's forest was at its highest, culminating in a Parliament House blockade.

The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) program - one of the world's greatest land use decision programs still to be admired (an ESRI consultant intimated at the 1999 negotiations that the NSW GIS datasets were the largest being managed worldwide at the time). There is still a large degree of personal satisfaction in the largely unaltered and on-schedule Southern NSW and Eden RFAs.

Leading a multi-agency team of fire fighting professionals from Cooma (and subsequently Bombala) to assist in the (locally successful) containment of the 2003 Canberra/Alps fire. The only disappointment was witnessing the avoidable incineration of the upper Cotter catchment. Dealing with a different type of forest fire in the Glacier National Park, Montana, USA, one of the world's more special spots.

Six years on the board of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA), three as national president, was a very valuable expansion of my national and international outlook on forestry. It also exposed me to a much larger pool of very professional foresters involved in an impressive range of work. In forest management and forest resource Australia is an international leader, and the envy of many.

The latter years in NSW forestry senior management were difficult. Continued non acceptance of a democratically elected government umpire decision (demonstrated in RFAs) by a vocal and well organised minority has been a path of negativity and frustration. I am always reminded of seeing both John Howard's and Bob Carr's signatures on the RFAs, two more diametrically opposed environmental philosophies it would be hard to find. Nevertheless, I always had access to an immediate "fix", just one trip to the bush and the bush workers therein.

The role of forestry in Australia, including timber production from native forests, still has a great future. I am always heartened to see healthy timber production forests everywhere I go, continuing to serve society's multi facetted needs.

Lastly, from an AFHS viewpoint, we know that history is everywhere in our forests but unfortunately not well documented, partly the result of the nature of forestry and partly because, in the end, there are so few of us who were directly involved. I hope to assist in that area.

The AFHS wishes Ian all the best in his retirement and looks forward to his contributions on south coast forest history.

A retirement cake befitting a forester

OBITUARIES AUSTRALIA

By John Dargavel

The National Centre for Biography at the Australian National University has launched an on-line publication, *Obituaries Australia*, that complements their authoritative *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB). *Obituaries Australia* re-publishes the obituaries of Australians in the same easily readable format as the ADB. An interesting difference between the two is that *Obituaries Australia* seeks contributions from the public, whereas the ADB has a system of state and national committees that select the individuals for inclusion and commissions scholarly biographies.

Obituaries Australia has the potential to make some information about people connected to Australia's forests more widely available. If readers find a relevant obituary in professional journals, such as *Australian Forestry*, they could submit it to Obituaries Australia for inclusion.

At present, there are no people indexed under "forester" in *Obituaries Australia* and only 19 out of the 10,000 entries in the ADB:

Boas, Isaac Herbert (1878-1955) scientist.
Brown, John Ednie (1848-1899) silviculturist.
Dadswell, Herbert Eric (1903-1964) wood scientist.
de Beuzeville, Wilfred Alexander Watt (1884-1954) forester.
Gentle, Stanley Wallace (Wal) (1932-1989) forester and public servant.
Grenning, Victor (Peter) (1899-1984) forester.
Jacobs, Maxwell Ralph (1905-1979) forester.
Jolly, Norman William (1882-1954) forester.
Kessell, Stephen Lackey (1897-1979) forester and administrator.
Lane-Poole, Charles Edward (1885-1970) forester.
McAdam, James Bannister (1910-1959) forester and soldier.
McArthur, Alan Grant (1923-1978) forester.
MacMahon, Philip John (1857-1911) horticulturist, author and public servant.
Palmos, Angelos (1903-1976) forester.
Robinson, Sir Roy Lister [Baron Robinson] (1883-1952) forester.
Semmens, Edwin James (1886-1980) forester, local historian and community leader.
Stoate, Theodore Norman (1895-1979) forester.
Swain, Edward Harold Fulcher (1883-1970) forester.
Weston, Thomas Charles George (1866-1935) horticulturist.

Websites

Obituaries Australia (oa.anu.edu.au)
ADB (www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm)

BOOK REVIEWS

Circumspice, One Hundred Years of Forest Education Centred on Creswick, Victoria, compiled by Rob Youl, Brian Fry and Ron Hateley, 2010, Forest Education Centenary Committee, South Melbourne, 278 pp.

Review by Jane Lennon

A history of forest education over the last 100 years is presented in this book through the lens of those who trained and later taught at the School of Forestry at Creswick and experienced the connection with the University of Melbourne.

Victoria needed trained foresters to remediate the environmental damage from gold mining and on the job training for nurserymen and plantation hands in the early 1900s evolved into part time instruction in forestry at Creswick from 1910 and then a three year comprehensive course that resulted in diplomas to graduates. The Forests Commission of Victoria ran the school for 70 years despite pressure from the Commonwealth for its closure (well documented in John Dargavel's 2008 history of Lane Poole). Then in 1980 the University of Melbourne which had enabled Creswick graduates to obtain science degrees from 1943 took over all undergraduate training, although the department continued to host research, refresher courses, technical training and conferences (including the Australian Forest History Society Conference in December 1992 and proceedings published as Australia's *Everchanging Forests II*). In 2010 the school's main focus is on post-graduate research and education.

With four forewords (by Prof Ian Ferguson, Prof Rod Keenan, Alan Threader and Gerry Griffin, Dr Peter Grieg), the reader is alerted to a complex set of stories to follow. The book is generally a chronological narrative composed of 25 chapters written by 18 authors. It commences with a competent chapter on the landscape and peopling of the Creswick district providing the context for the time line (appropriately called "tree rings") of forest education there.

The next three chapters deal with establishing the school, the Forest Board of Examiners and an assessment of the first 25 years when Creswick faced off against the Australian Forestry School in Canberra - "partly a battle between states' rights versus centralism, partly tradition and new ideas, partly standards and uniformity, partly personalities, strong ones" (p.43). This chapter also has some poignant letters home from young Creswick cadets. The following three chapters discuss the development of the Victorian forestry degree from various perspectives, then chapter 9 provides a summary of activity in the forests and foresters' activities during World War II and after, while chapter 11 discusses the changing political and bureaucratic structures.

Four chapters follow with lecturers' perspectives of curricula change. Chapter 15 - "Stock, shelter, sawlogs and sequestration" - describes the development of courses in farm forestry. Chapter 18 presents a well referenced history of the School's herbarium by Dr Tina Bell, Penny Blackwell and Amanda Ashton describing local, Australian and international collections (from California, Oregon, South Africa, England, India). The 9000 specimens represent rare species as well as a diverse collection of eucalypts.

The role of foresters as managers beyond the Commission is examined in Chapter 22:

> "For its first seventy years, The Victorian School of Forestry mostly provided foresters all male, for the land management departments of the Victorian public service - for many it was a life-long career.
>
> Before the Cain government's election in mid 1982, and particularly during the four decades after World War II, these departments were very competent but specialised, independent, compartmentalised, territorial and more or less uni-disciplinary. Internal promotion and continuous tenure meant departmental heads and senior executives served for long periods, generally providing consistent advice to ministers, who came and went, rarely accompanied by advisers - as is the case today." (Youl: 156).

But change came in 1973 with a Ministry of Conservation and foresters moved out into its departments - Land Conservation Council, National Parks Service, Fisheries and Wildlife - and into the timber companies.

Chapter 24 at 65 pages is a long collection of memoirs of each decade and reminiscences of many individuals, some unusual such as Lativian forester refugee John (Ansis) Heislers. This section has popular appeal because as the Editorial says, "We saw our readership as the graduates and staff of the Creswick campus over the last eight decades".

The book ends with current professors Gerd Bossinger and Rod Keenan examining prospects: "To provide sustainable forest management we need smart, well educated people who care about forests." Knowing and caring requires the best advice of *Circumspice* - looking around.

Many photographs, both in black and white and colour, historical and contemporary, illustrate the book which also contains an appendix of all graduates from 1912-2009. It is a worthy celebration of a centenary of forest education in Victoria and of interest to forest historians as well as those graduates who it was hoped would be interested. With so many contributors it is a cross between "family reminiscences" and thematic histories, not a simple narrative, and varies in writing styles and ability to hold the reader's attention.

The book is available from Rob Youl, 113 Nelson Road, South Melbourne VIC 3205 at a cost of $40 plus postage or email him at robmyoul@gmail.com.

Sawdust and Steam: a history of sawmilling in the East Otway Ranges from 1850-2010 by Norman Houghton

Review by Rob Youl

The Otway Ranges, with their fertile soils and high rainfall, carry some of Australia's finest hardwood forests. Sawmillers heavily utilised these forests for mining and building timbers from the 1850s until the last decade; now Great Otway National Park almost encloses them. Devoted to the eastern half of the Otway, and based on an extraordinary series of field investigations, this admirable and enjoyable book is well written, comprehensive, full of historic and contemporary photos, and backed by research in libraries and government archives and many conversations with Otways' sawmillers and their descendants. Its provenance is long. Son of a railwayman, Norman Houghton, now sixty-three, grew up in Colac, the regional town and timber industry centre. He trained as an historian, and besides establishing and managing museums, has written organisational, company, township and regional histories, biographies and books on railways and timber. He launched this volume in 1975, reprinted it in 1985, then revised and reissued it in 2010.

Houghton retained his original cover, which I'm told is not a good marketing strategy with new editions, but on the other hand collated the results of his innumerable gruelling solitary surveys on foot in the 1990s through dense, wet, cold, leech-ridden bush, following old tramlines, snig tracks and logging roads. An appendix movingly describes his operational techniques and the physical and mental hardships.

Otways sawmilling started around 1852 along the coast, providing timber for railway and wharf construction and relying on small ships for transport to markets. Then, from the 1860s and 1870s the industry moved into the ranges, especially from settlements on the northern flanks, such as Forrest and Deans Marsh, with rail connections to Geelong and Melbourne. Sawmilling needed skilled, ingenious, hardy men, ever alert to danger, who could tolerate isolation, and very patient investors, given the timber industry's fluctuations. Not infrequent floods and fires, including in 1939, added further challenges, plus gorges, waterfalls, escarpments, undergrowth, numerous steep slopes and rain and cold.

Nevertheless, the Otways forests were heavily logged until the 1980s and 1990s when the industry restructured. It may be an obvious evolution to AFHS members, but Houghton's book chronicles well the gradual transition from hand tools, horses, bullocks and steam winches; from cleverly constructed and arduously maintained tramways and hard manual labour in the mills; to chainsaws, bulldozers, log trucks and computerised saws and kilns; and from the state railways distributing sawn products to total use of motor transport. Besides that the industry gradually improved the workers' domestic conditions. He conveys something of the dogged spirit of the workers themselves, and the entrepreneurial mill owners. Family names such as Hayden, Henry, Armistead and Bennett indicate that often these qualities passed to later generations: good man-management, alertness to new technologies, the capacity to share hardships, vertical integration and high standards of milling.

Houghton emphasises that today motorists and even bushwalkers are hard-pressed to visualise this long history, so complete has been the regrowth. One needs to read this book carefully to imagine what the forests once looked like. The tramlines, bushmill sites and shanty towns are difficult to locate, often obliterated by post WWII machine logging, and the huge stumps have mostly decayed or burnt away. Occasionally one finds abandoned machinery, rail axles, piles of bricks, scattered bridge timbers, rusted boilers and the like.

There was no code of practice, no critical public, no prying bushwalkers, no-one questioning the industry's right to exploit the entire resource, little thought of the effects on biodiversity, few water quality concerns. Tramlines ran along creeks, sometimes in the bed itself; snig-tracks went downslope if that were more economic. WR Henry with Ballarat miners even built a 437 metre tunnel between Noonday Creek and the Barwon River, which Norman Houghton has bravely explored. Steam-powered ground winches apparently prevailed, with no reference to spar trees for high-lead logging, unlike in the Central Highlands ash forests.

There are minor deficiencies. The many detailed maps of logging tramlines and tracks and mill-sites could better relate to today's geography. Blending, separation and context of imperial and metric units are always difficult (exact or rounded off?), as are vernacular names. What exactly are these timber species from the text: white gum, spotted gum, holly, pencil wood, brown messmate (perhaps Otway messmate, a hybrid between *E. obliqua* and *E. regnans*), candlebark (*E. rubida*) is absent from the Otways)? "Kauri" is wrongly used for "Karri" with respect to Millars' onetime Otways mill, a not uncommon slip. The modern practice of eliminating hyphens leaves complex and slightly unclear series of adjectives. Perhaps there could be more on the forest administrator, the Forests Commission Victoria - but of course that wasn't the real aim. Broadly, however, Norman Houghton can be proud of this book. It should be widespread in Victorian libraries, and at least perused by all modern foresters and bushland managers.

My qualifications to confidently review this book? In 1964, our Creswick class visited a winch site described and depicted in the book. That Christmas, Mrs Jess Zimmer recalled Beech Forest in the 1920s when dancing with bush workers at socials often required experimentation to get the right hold on one's partner, so many had lost arms in milling and winching accidents! From 1981-83, I commanded 91 Forestry Squadron RAE, with its own sawmill, not unlike the standard Otways bush operation; our brilliant mill boss, Staff Sergeant George Facey, who contributed photos to this account, came from yet another Otways timber family. In civilian life, he managed Bennetts mill at Birregurra, located in a large shed with an attractive and ingenious timber frame and roof trusses. This diversified plant still saws timber today, but it is a rarity. Finally I worked for Southern Otway Landcare Network a decade ago, as community opposition to logging culminated in the declaration of today's extensive national park.

ARCHIVAL ADVENTURES IN ADELAIDE

By Michael Roche
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Thanks to a Ralph Maxwell Jacobs Award from the Institute of Foresters of Australia I was able to visit Adelaide for a week in mid-February in order to continue my research on Hugh Corbin whose professional forestry career encompassed India, Australia and New Zealand. Corbin ended his career with Whakatane Board Mills, a public company that was manufacturing pulp and paper from its own plantation forests by WWII. Prior to this he had been Professor of Forestry at Auckland University (1925-1931) when his position had been discontinued after the merger of the two short lived New Zealand forestry schools. Before coming to New Zealand Corbin had been Lecturer in Forestry at the University of Adelaide from 1912-1925 and consulting forester to the South Australian government.

While in Adelaide I was able look at material from the University of Adelaide archives, from State Records, and from the State Library. This has helped flesh out this earlier part of Corbin's career. While I still have to properly digest this material, it is clear that although Corbin achieved much during his time in South Australia, in terms of promoting forestry, getting the university forestry department up and running, and preparing some reports for the Woods and Forests Department of South Australia, there were many frustrations.

Some of the main difficulties from Corbin's viewpoint included bureaucratic opposition from Walter Gill the long standing, but not formally trained, Conservator of Forests who kept Corbin away from the state plantations, except when he required his technical assistance; the difficulties put in the way of Corbin's efforts to manage Kuitpo Forest along professional forestry lines; and the increasingly fraught position over university forestry education in Australia. Adelaide as the first forestry school, harboured hopes of being able to train students for other Australian states and these were raised in recommendations from an early interstate forest conference, only for CE Lane Poole to make a case for a single national school (a "School of Australian Forestry Thought" as he put it, that was ultimately based in the ACT). In addition, Corbin had NW Jolly, an Adelaide Rhodes scholar who had studied forestry at Oxford and the initial instructor at the Adelaide forestry school, before abruptly leaving in 1911, argue that university qualified foresters were not needed at that time in Australia. Finally, Corbin's career aspirations were repeatedly thwarted by the University. Although he had been allowed to undertake some consultancy work (Auckland University would later be quite particular about what was permissible) his efforts to be promoted to Professor of Forestry were declined. Thus when Auckland University College advertised a Professorship in Forestry, Corbin was only too ready to apply and accept the New Zealand offer.

A GEELONG MERCHANT MILL - THE FIRST FEW YEARS - FAGG BROS TIMBER

By Norman Houghton

The present hardware and builder supply business of Fagg's Mitre Ten, situated in Moorabool Street, South Geelong, has been in business as a family company since 1854. In that year Samuel and William Fagg opened a timber yard to supply the gold boom Geelong housing market. The initial premises were in Newtown and remained here for a few years until 1863 when the business was relocated to South Geelong, where it currently operates. The company has been doing the same throughout from the 19th to the 21st centuries - selling timber, tools and homewares.

The Moorabool Street premises allowed for a full range of wares to be retailed and wholesaled to customers for many years. This remained so until 1913 when Harry Fagg suggested that the company erect a full size timber mill in order to supply their customers with a complete range of timbers and give the company more control over, and flexibility in, the market place. It was a logical decision in that the company had for decades been on-selling pre-cut timber and foregoing the opportunity of bulk buying raw flitches and doing its own value adding. In market terms, the Geelong economy was probably too small for Faggs to consider this initiative prior to the 1900s building boom.

Land was purchased in Fyans Street just around the corner from Moorabool Street and here, in 1915, was established a saw and moulding mill. The structure was a square 14 by 14 metre corrugated iron shed set back from the street. The building was functional, primitive and not one square metre bigger than it needed to be. The plant was initially equipped with a band saw, circular saw, morticer and thicknesser. A moulding machine was later acquired and it was placed close to the front door, a handy position when running long lengths of window sill moulding because the leading end could be poked out the door.

Raw materials were carted from the Geelong wharf or the railway stations at Geelong and South Geelong to the site and stacked to the rear in two large rack sheds each nearly 60 metres in length. The mill processed softwoods for mouldings and industrial uses such as creeper laths for woollen mill applications.

Those lines not requiring cutting or machining, and this included weatherboards and lining boards, were stocked at the South Yard, an annexe at Moorabool Street. Hardwood scantling orders and red gum foundation timbers continued to be handled direct from the South Geelong railway station to the building site because these orders were freighted cut to size from the bush mills. Orders on the mill were processed through the South Yard. Bulk orders were delivered direct from the mill but stock items were conveyed around the corner to the South Yard racks for on-selling.

The First World War slowed trade and it was not until 1919 that the mill got into its stride with the post-war

building boom. Demand picked up to such an extent that the mill was doubled in size in 1919.

In 1927 the mill was extended yet again by installing a second floor to the main north shed to house a joinery shop. Three staff were then employed full time on joinery work, one on sawing and two milling assistants.

At the same time a new stand alone structure 40 by 15 metres was added on the south side for an Oregon shed. The Oregon mill was designed to store the raw Oregon flitches imported direct from the west coast of the USA. An overhead travelling electric hoist was installed to service the whole shed. A roadway was laid out on the west side for access by horse drawn jinkers and, later, motor trucks. From these vehicles the heavy flitches were hoisted by the crane and laid out in stacks according to size and length. A 3 ft (914mm) circular saw fitted with run up roller benches on each side was then used to cut the flitches to order. The whole complex was cleverly designed for efficiency and economy in working.

The plant was improved from time to time when market conditions and economics allowed. In 1929 the company purchased a second hand, Robinson belt driven 12 by 4 inch, four side moulder from the wound-up sawmilling and moulding business of Pettit-Robertson. Market activity was then at an all time low due to the Depression and the timber strike, so Bert and Hadley Fagg had plenty of time to excavate the foundation and counter shaft pits for the installation of the 25 horsepower electric drive to the Robinson moulder.

The output from the Oregon mill was mostly for industrial purposes at factories in and around Geelong - short lengths, long lengths, thin and thick ones for bins, liners, packers, spacers, etc in dynamic and static applications. In the 1930s the equipment comprised the Oregon circular saws, a moulder, a thicknesser and the Robinson moulder all linked to two dust extraction systems and hoppers, one for sawdust and one for shavings .

Housing construction at this time consisted of on-site eucalypt hardwood floor and wall timber frames resting on red gum stumps, imported Baltic tongue and groove boards for lining and flooring and weatherboards for external cladding. Brick veneer tied to interior timber framed walls as a form of construction was gradually coming into vogue from around this period as well.

The mill did not re-saw much of this house construction stock but concentrated on Oregon sawing and dressing mouldings for skirting boards, window architraves, door frames and doors and scotias, mostly using USA redwood. Prefabricated lattice had not been thought of then and hundreds of metres of trellis laths were often sawn at a time from lengths of green hardwood 100 by 35 mm brought up from the South Yard.

The outbreak of the Second World War caused work at the mill to decline markedly as the civilian market contracted. The company secured war orders but timber and labour shortages saw the plant struggle to maintain these more modest outputs. Harry Fagg had to manage both the mill and the Moorabool Street shop. Hadley Fagg carried on full time at the mill assisted by a family friend and retired builder

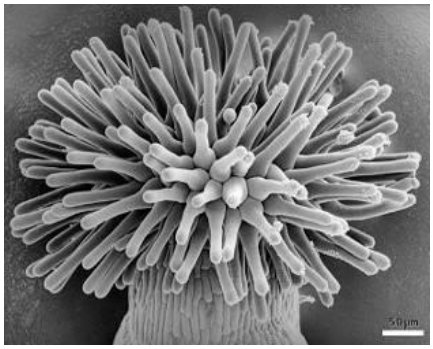
At the height of the Japanese invasion scare in 1942 the company was contracted to mill a large quantity of pine timber for very plain coffins to be used in the burial of the many casualties anticipated from bombing and shelling. As it happened the coffins were not needed and, after cluttering the mill shed for a while, were eventually sold as shelving units.

At war's end the mill returned to normality as fast as conditions allowed. The rest of the story from 1945 is beyond this scope, suffice to say that changing market trends, plant obsolescence and increased usage of engineered and plywood beams, the operating nuisance of two sites close to one another and cost pressures caused a fundamental reappraisal by the 1990s. The days of the old fashioned omnibus, do-it-all-on-site, multi-faceted sawmill were over. The Company Board, decided to consolidate operations at an expanded Moorabool Street and closed the mill in 1998.

THE POETICS OF THE UNSEEN - AN EXHIBITION OF ROGER HEADY PHOTOGRAPHS

Continuing with his poetic theme (see last newsletter) **Roger Heady** had an exhibition of his wonderful electron microscope photographs at the ANU School of Art last year. Titled *The Poetics of the Unseen: The Electron Photomicrography of Roger Heady* , the exhibition presented a different perspective on wood: "We are blind to the vast spatial scale of the universe we inhabit - we are within something that spans more than 40 orders of magnitude from subatomic particles to the size of the Universe and we cannot comprehend most of it. Our perception of the world is a presumption we create for ourselves from experience and reflection. The basic stuff of wood for example, is far-removed from our perception of it in our hand: micro is revealed in macro by the prescription of the nature of the microstructure: not like it, but entirely of it - and there is Poetry in this new world." (http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=63258).

The exhibition coincided with the release of Roger's book *Exploring the Natural World with a Scanning Electron Microscope* which is a collection of outstanding examples of distinctive and unbelievable motifs of micro flora and fauna. The book is available from the Centre for Advanced Microscopy for a price of $33 including GST. To order a copy, contact Elizabeth Richter at elizabeth.richter@anu.edu.au.



The stigma and style of an Arabidopsis flower

POSTMODERN FORESTRY: OLMSTED AND PINCHOT BEGAN A CIRCULAR CENTURY OF U.S. FORESTRY

By Alan G. McQuillan,
School of Forestry, University of Montana

(Published in *Inner Voice,* November 1992 by AFSEEE (Association of Forest Service Employees for Ethics and Environment, Eugene, OR.))

Gifford Pinchot, the first U.S. born forester and Forest Service founder, continues to hold a rightfully-respected and revered position within the American forestry profession. By now, almost everyone knows him for his political fervor, his skill in promoting an agricultural ideal of forestry, and for his humanitarian concern for the *little guy*. We know how, at his father's behest, young Pinchot returned to his ancestral homeland of France and brought back a knowledge of European forestry methods (already expounded in the U.S. by the Prussian-born Fernow).

And we know too, that Gifford adopted as his maxim "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long-run." This phrase originated with the early Enlightenment philosopher Francis Hutcheson, and was canonized by the humanitarian and founder of *utilitarian philosophy,* Jeremy Bentham.

Most foresters have heard how Pinchot's fame and success began with his introduction of modern forestry practice on Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate in North Carolina. Fewer might know just how Pinchot came to be at Biltmore. The answer turns out to be enlightening to the evolving nature of public-lands forestry as we near the end of the twentieth century.

Bentham's utilitarianism had been designed to address the social blight that spread across England with the industrial revolution. In the U.S., industrialization did not begin in earnest until after the Civil War, so Pinchot's adoption of utilitarian precepts in the 1890s was timely. Bentham had pioneered many of the social reforms that we now take for granted, which eased the pain of everyday life for ordinary people in industrial society. As is apparent in the very word *utilitarianism,* it is not much concerned with the "finer" things of life, with beauty, harmony, or the sublime, and Pinchot's policies were true to his utilitarian philosophy.

When humanitarian concern is with entire cities of slums without sanitation, children working in coal mines or factory workers being maimed by unsafe Victorian machinery, a lack of concern with anything other than simple *utilities* is certainly understandable.

Today, if city slums persist it is obviously not because of the collective poverty of the nation, but because of the way in which society has chosen to allocate its energies. Accordingly, it is not the role of the Forest Service to address an urban problem that larger society chooses to ignore, but to manage the public forest lands in accordance with their owner's (society's) collective wishes. The agency's recent adoption of *new forestry* practices, *new perspectives* initiatives, and *ecosystems management* are clearly an appropriate move.

Forestry, as it developed during this century, was an expression of *modernism*. The *modernist* movement believed that people were best served by *simplified* systems; the maxim was that form should be functional, and the belief was that efficient functioning required simplification of design - an optimistic belief in the boundless power of mechanistic technology. We have seen this in the rectangular austerity of modern architecture and furniture, and in the geometric forms of modern art. We saw it expressed also in forestry, in its emphasis on even-aged monocultures and in the "efficient" geometry of logging blocks.

For about two decades now, architecture, artistic criticism, and philosophy have been moving beyond modernism into the *postmodern* era. Some of the *buzz words* of *postmodernism* are *diversity, complexity, eclecticism, pluralism, multiculturalism,* and *multi-valency* (connectivity). It is no accident that these expressions are so similar to forestry's emerging concerns with *biodiversity, ecosystem complexity,* the interrelatedness or interdependence of ecosystem components (connectivity), and with *beauty*, the aesthetic of relationships between people and nature. Forestry, too, has moved into the *postmodern* era.

Gifford Pinchot had set the stage for *modernist* forestry in 1910 when he wrote: "Today we understand that forest fires are wholly within the control of men .... The first duty of the human race is to control the earth it lives upon." Pinchot instituted a very effective program of fire suppression in U.S. forests and, today, forest ecologists spend considerable time explaining how this preoccupation with fire suppression has led to dangerous fuel buildups, stagnated trees, and associated problems with insects and disease. Reinstituting the natural role of fire in U.S. forests is a prime focus of *postmodern* forestry. That this role must nonetheless be *managed* (as opposed to running *wild*) is perfectly congruent with *postmodernist* precepts.

Another focus is on the role of aesthetics, on managing for an integrated landscape that is not only ecologically healthy but also beautiful to behold. There is an awakening realization that, as Edward Wilson has noted and as Aldo Leopold inferred, there is often a coalescence of advanced science with beauty.

So, back to Biltmore. While it is true that Pinchot began forestry at Biltmore in 1891, the major work of laying out the Biltmore estate was in fact being performed by the aging Frederick Law Olmsted, Senior. Olmsted is the renowned originator and grand master of American landscape architecture. His first achievement was the creation of Central Park in New York City, around the time of Pinchot's birth.

After a distinguished career, Olmsted found himself with three major projects during his last ten years of professional life: Stanford University, the Chicago World Exposition, and the design of the Biltmore estate. Olmsted recommended to Vanderbilt that, since the soils were poor and the trees had been mostly logged off "until nothing remained but runts and ruins and saplings," the best disposition of the property would be as a

European-style forest, this being "a hunting preserve for game, mainly, with a view to crops of timber".

Nine months later, in October 1891, young Pinchot, whose school friend was a cousin of the renowned landscape architect, was seeking his first job and went to see Olmsted. Encouraged again by his father, the enthusiastic Gifford tried to sell Olmsted on the idea of forestry at Biltmore. Olmsted needed little convincing since that was precisely what he had in mind, but was unimpressed by Gifford's initial approach: "What exactly do you have in mind that would warrant the introduction of forestry to the timberlands of the Vanderbilt estate?" Olmsted asked. "Oh, I hadn't thought that far ahead," Gifford replied. At which Olmsted sent him packing, with instructions not to return unless he had a properly-formulated plan.

Pinchot set to work immediately and produced a detailed plan. The goal, he wrote, was to "prove selective cutting of mature trees can improve timberland, and at the same time provide a long-range steady income from lumbering". Olmsted hired Pinchot in December as Forester for Biltmore, and Gifford adopted the silvicultural practices first tried out by Olmsted in California - tree thinning (back in 1886), and tree planting (in 1888). Gifford himself developed new techniques of forest inventory, and successfully launched his illustrious career.

Olmsted, in failing health, lost control of the Biltmore project in 1895, and Pinchot also departed, handing over control to a young recruit from Germany, Carl Schenck. A year or two later, Pinchot was able to reciprocate the Olmsted family favor by hiring his school friend, Fritz Olmsted, whom he convinced to take up a career in forestry.

Throughout his life, Olmsted had infused his work with an intense passion for cultivating the beautiful. As an educator, he valued those students who shared his passion for active participation with nature in protracted development of large-scale works of art, fashioning and composing the landscape:

"What artist so noble as he who, with far-reaching conception of beauty and designing power, sketches the outlines, writes the colors, and directs the shadows of a picture so great that Nature shall be employed upon it for generations, before the work he has arranged for her shall realize his intentions." (Olmsted)

Olmsted's approach was to thoroughly integrate artistic creativity with a grounding in natural science and engineering. His students were required to take courses in architecture, engineering, drawing, botany, and horticulture. He believed that inability to appreciate the value of artistic training was "the essence of vulgarity". Olmsted's interest in the aesthetics of landscape development was not elitist; his career had been devoted to improving the aesthetic lot of all people, Central Park having been his first such endeavor. He railed against the formalism of French and Italian gardens, preferring to find beauty "in commonplace and peasant conditions".

Olmsted has been called a "romantic engineer" and a "Utopian Socialist" - referring to a movement popular among some of New York's social and literary elite. This sympathy was shared by Pinchot, as expressed, for example, in his opinion of Biltmore House. Gifford described it as a "magnificent chateau .... But in the United States of the nineteenth century and among the one-room cabins of the Appalachian mountaineers, it did not belong. The contrast was a devastating commentary on the injustice of concentrated wealth".

With utilitarianism's displacement of romanticism, at the close of the Nineteenth Century, "popular interest in the role that landscape architecture might play in directing and civilizing America's physical development was lacking". From the 1890s on, the sympathetic congruency of aesthetics with forestry in the U.S. rapidly dissolved, as the romantic ideals of Olmsted gave way to the utilitarian pragmatism of Pinchot, Schenck, and the other founders of American forestry.

And aesthetics itself followed the same cold-steel path of *modernism* through the 1900s. It was annihilated by modernism (says Baudrillard), and became no longer amenable to concerns with nature. This remained so until the 1970s, when a *postmodern* transcendence of the over-simplification of *modernism* erupted in consort with popular revolt against the "mangy-dog" appearance of spasmodically clear-cut hillsides. Largescale social movements take time to develop, and it is only now that forestry is at last responding to the emergent concerns of twenty years ago.

Last January, at the "Defining Sustainable Forestry" workshop in Washington, DC, forester Bill Ticknor emphasized how architecture provides an appropriate role model for the new forestry. In Missoula the previous fall, preeminent silviculturalist David Smith remarked that "silviculturalists manipulating stands of vegetation are like artists painting pictures". Since at least 1971 the Society of American Foresters has defined forestry as both "art and science".

The practice of forestry presents society with a multitude of choices, a palette with which to create the *desired future condition* of the landscape and provide the flow of goods and amenities that society most *wants*. From a perspective of survival, people's *needs* are truly minimal; the vast majority of our wealth is spent satisfying *wants*. This is a point which forestry literature continues to ignore, dwelling as it still does on the notion of *needs*. *Postmodern* forestry's emphasis on ecosystem management is not a strait jacket confining practices to a niggardly narrow path, but a vast milieu within which to exercise choice.

Postmodernism is not a return to romanticism, nor an absolute repudiation of *modernism*, but rather a complex and evolving synthesis of past and future concerns, sophisticated yet uncertain, a non-prejudicial and eclectic pluralism. Similarly, evolving forestry cannot be a romantic deification of an untouched and untouchable *nature*, of an unreachable past; neither can it be a naive repudiation of *modernist* forest science. It can only be an *engagement* of people with nature. A forestry that accepts

the complexity and diversity of forests must itself be complex and diverse.

Accordingly, forestry must transcend the notion that it is *only* a science. The fields of architecture, philosophy, literary and artistic criticism, among others, are every day concerned with the continually-evolving cultural discourse that defines the *desirable*. Recognizing that forestry is more than a science, that it deals with all relationships between people and forests, it is time for us to explicitly recognize forestry's *postmodern* tendencies and engage in a critical discourse on the aesthetic value we attribute to nature.

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

One time AFHS member, **Norman Endacott** has been made a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. He was brought up in and successfully practised native forest management in the pre-environmentalist era. In this time he was the quintessential District Forester or DFO. He was responsible for and knew every facet of the forest area for which he had been made the steward. As well as completing a comprehensive and varied forestry career in his working life it is his passion for commenting on and endeavouring to influence forestry policies and practices in Victoria over the last 20 years that is the most remarkable. Despite innumerable rebuffs and lack of support he has been challenging governments, academics, politicians, agencies, journalists and environmental organisations whenever they propose or introduce forest management practices that he considers are illogical or fail to take account of the accumulated wisdom of forest science (Source: IFA website, www.forestry.org.au).

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The cover of this issue features a photo of *Woodcutting tools from Bhutan*. It was taken by **Sue Feary** who has recently travelled through Bhutan, a tiny mountain kingdom replete with amazing forests, flowers and temples. More about this in the next issue.

THE LONG AWAITED POEM FROM MARK ALLEN AS PRESENTED AT THE AFHS CONFERENCE, LISMORE, JUNE 2010

At Invercauld House on Monday night
There were rooms to find and friends to meet;
Time to register, have a drink,
Then massive barbecue to eat!

Tuesday:
And Mary's first on the conference stage,
To tell of Life from age to age.
She's very keen to make it clear
We belong to a "living biosphere".
And the real driver of all of this is
Long-term photosynthesis!
In fossil record scientists saw a
Fine display of ancient flora.

Aborigines, said Robyne, found the forests good
For clothes, medicine, wooden artefacts and food.
In short, the forests were always very liveable
For the people of the Githabul.

Brett's talk was tough on one who writes verse,
It was really quite hard to find rhymes.
He outlined the progress of legal protection
Of forested lands for future times.

Early photos used by Nick to show
Activities in plantations years ago.
Now the hoop is nearly gone; more southern pines we see
At Banyabba and at Whiporie.
And hardwoods too play a major part
In the plantation forester's art.

Then a trip to Booyong on the bus,
While Alison explains to all of us
About the scrub, koalas, the macadamia;
Well I guess that's partly why we came 'ere.
A rainforest remnant we looked around,
After lunch at the cricket ground.
And a plantation rarely seen, a
Mix of Grevillea and Casuarina!
Via lowland road, past notable "Grasses"
And traffic holdup—how time passes!
To Hurford's mill, where all were impressed
By stacks of timber, dried and dressed.
An erstwhile brewery new days to see,
No longer producing Tooth's KB.

Wednesday:
For bureaucrats they're out of fashion,
But records for Jane are quite a passion.
She ran the gamut from first to last
Of uses of forests in the past.
For a century loggers to the fore,
Now ... Park declaration and felling no more.

Polly told how the very best land
For scenery was the Central Westland.
From wilderness to mining, logging, farming;
(Could these the environment be harming?)
Then different perceptions; regard bush as scenery,
And something pretty good about the greenery.

Mark told of ploys old-timers thought of;
His talk was interesting ... well sort of.
Though we've no idea what he said, you see
We were wondering what's for morning tea!

And in case I'm right, well here's the gist
Of something that you might have missed.
Land Acts used by covetous squatters
To leave selectors quite bereft;
But a loophole too for timber getters—
They paid deposit, took the logs, and left.

Dilettante Jenny's family
Owned orchard near Mundaring Weir;
Started out as classy vineyard
With natural shelterbelt at rear.
Jarrah forest round about
Was site of early working plan;
Of "kings" and "queens" a few remain,
Awe-inspiring still to man.
Now water-treatment plant delay
While everybody has a say.

Kristen uses several ways
To learn land use of earlier days.
Major changes then she shows
Over later years as Brisbane grows.

Jim told of many arboreta
In ACT, and grown to meet a
Need to learn of other nations'
Trees that are suited for our plantations.
When need was gone the trees became
Really quite neglected;
Then people found them pretty places,
And interest resurrected.
Major fire brought devastation,
Saw only one survive;
Jim thinks that it should be preserved
As a monument ... alive.

Now Dan is one who was really born a
Bloke to research our native fauna.
Nadgee beautiful, lots of animals, history minimal,
White man's influence at most subliminal;
And the beach is really grand:
Just kangaroo prints in the sand.

Robert wants to know why mixed forests grow
In places where rainforests should.
He supports the idea of fires it is clear,
And wants this well understood.

Steve's task is hard; he knows he will find
Landscapes cultural and natural intertwined.
Which is which, and why and how?
All questions for the here and now;
What's created the scenes we see today?
Is it human activity or Nature's way?

North Brother Mountain is Elaine's theme,
With history from the dream time.
Now back as "Protector", it's gone full circle,
With logging in the meantime.

Wollemi Pine's only just been found,
But it's been around for ages:
A "living fossil", very big,
If we read the tabloids' pages.
Roger's intrigued by this ancient tree
And told of its odd biology.
A wonderful talk; but I'm troubled, or worse—
I've just been upstaged by Roger in verse!

To "give the trees a chance":
Scruffy bunch stopped for lunch in middle of the track,
Stood in the way, and decided to stay, and said they won't turn back;
Yelling and balling as trees were falling,
They thought it right to stand and fight;
They stayed and stayed as tempers frayed,
Or camped in trees to commune with bees
As others with coppers played!
Cabinet divided, then some decided to go and check it out;
But Neville Wran, he was the man who really had the clout.

Thursday:
Thursday morning, on the road, and at our side
Peter Hardwick was our guide.
For years he's learned of forest foods;
He really reckons they're the goods.
Though on Tuesday some we saw,
Today of macadamias learn more:
De-husking plant we cluster round,
And machines to pick them off the ground.

At rainforest remnant, Victoria Park,
Jane lists events that made their mark—
Reserved for Water, then Recreation,
Conservation and Education.
But "vista extended"
Now not so splendid.
Walk boarded track and learn much more,
Though big fig's gone—now forest floor.
Next all enjoy bush tucker snack,
Then board the bus to hurry back.

Evil sands take over lands;
James tells how we reacted.
Not too flash, for want of cash,
As those affected lacked it.

Sue looks at area, big but specific,
Sea of islands in Pacific.
Austronesians set off in wooden canoes
With dogs, chickens, taro and bamboos.
Vege gardens in PNG
Work OK with fallen tree;
Outsiders' method bound to fail,
Local knowledge will prevail.

Paper by John clearly expressed
A concern for people dispossessed.
Conservation claims can all sound fine,
But bring communities to end of line.
Biodiversity agencies with acronymic lingo
Take on States' roles, and BINGO!

Burke and Wills, seeking northern link,
Taking everything but the kitchen sink,
Inscriptions on the trees would make;
(But some along the route are fake).
At Cooper Creek on Napa Merrie
Is found a very famous tree—
Commands DIG here—or is it there?
In fact, some eight ideas of where!
Artist's impression is clearly not right;
Surveyor's sketch may reveal the site.

Robert shows how styles change
As forests described through others' eyes.
Some are sensory, emotive,
Others cross the T's and dot the I's.

At conference dinner, later on,
We hear of cradle-snatcher John
Evelyn. View copy of *Sylva*, but I think he slipped;
He failed to mention the Eucalypt!

Friday:
These are the verses I did not say,
For lack of time on the final day.

Edwina shows routes that sawmillers take
When policy changes force them to make
Decisions that affect the whole community,
As governments "restructure" with impunity.

In determining how Parks and Forests mix,
Bill knows first hand the role of politics.
In the West, clearfall and burn meant lots of waste,
And woodchipping on the map was placed;
But then a new-look ALP
Saw conservationists in ascendancy.
Within a decade, Parks were to the fore
And the Forests Department, once powerful, was no more.

Peter is passionate about rainforest foods;
In fact he finds it incredible
That, for a century or more, Europeans
Considered most of them barely edible.
We must learn, he says, to process the fruits,
As the Aborigines knew all along.
Present them well and they're likely to sell;
To destroy the gene banks is wrong.

Brett tells why many now abhor a
Tree introduced "to enrich the flora"
In schoolyards, parks, streets or as shade for dairy cows
To ruminate beneath its shady boughs.
But locally it spread alarmingly; now a noxious weed no less
The camphor laurel—indeed a victim of its own success.

Forests logged of timbers tall
May no longer represent at all
The types so desired for conservation
That they were chosen for reservation.
John points out that realistically
They have been much modified floristically.

For a century and a half on the Sunshine Coast
Timber was drawn from the nearby hills.
Peter spoke of early rafting grounds, then steam,
So important once for powering the mills.
Next industry close to railway yards,
And, more recently, plantations and heritage places there.
He uses history (geography too) as a guide
To the likely sites to look for, and where.

Stephen told of three Victorians, all passionate advocates
Of forest conservation.
To prove their point each used a different way—
The press, the miners, and oration.
Skilful organizers, they would not let up
Till reserves were notified and ministry set up.

Paul told the story of Henry Matthews;
As an "Empire Forester", his interest cursory.
In fact what he was keen to prove
Was the relevance of the forest nursery.
None he established still survive,
But another achievement was to start a
Major network of plantations,
Yet preferring Larch to Radiata!

Though an old-time forester through and through,
Baldur Byles understood and knew
The intrinsic values of our alpine zone.
He walked, observed, and learned first hand
Of humans' impacts on this fragile land;
And promoted wilderness, untouched and left alone.
A trait that Curly didn't hide
Was his philosophic side.
His ordered thoughts we could not miss
On what it meant to reminisce.
It's recollection and narration,
Enabling personal revelation.

Something very different Nigel's audience anticipated,
For he promised them a movie, with a warning—it's R rated!
At Terania Creek the standpoints of the timber men and anti-logger greens
Were based on diverse points of view of what "rainforest" means.
So different histories evolved; and which is really right
May not be resolved or matter; there'll be another fight!

At the last we're all invited by Jane and also John
To take our thinking caps and each to put them on;
To see if in some way we can really get it clear
Just how our Society carries on from here.

To Brett and Alison, Jane and John,
In a few days' time we'll all be gone;
But there's one thing certain, in fact I'd bet
That this was a conference we won't forget.

SOCIÉTÉ FORESTIÈRE FRANCO-AUSTRALIENNE - INFORMATION SOUGHT

On the back page of this issue is an illustration of an attractive share certificate issued by the Société Forestière Franco-Australienne on 21 March 1921. Mark Allen obtained a few of these not long ago. Little appears to be known of the activities of this group, which may well be of interest to forest historians. Can any readers help? Did it in fact operate in Australia? What did it do? Where? For how long? Please address any replies to the Newsletter editor.

Editor's note: A quick search on the internet returned over 670 results in English, many for sites selling old stock certificates, almost 2600 in French, and over 5200 returns in Any Language (including English and French). The quick look didn't find a description of the company though.

Membership of the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) Inc is $25 a year, or $15 a year for students and for overseas addresses is $30 (**in Australian currency please**):

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

Electronic Funds Transfer can be paid into:

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RECORDS OF EARLY FORESTERS

By John Dargavel

The Commonwealth Forestry Bureau under the aegis of Charles Lane Poole prepared personal and career records of people he regarded as qualified foresters, notably excluding all the foresters who qualified from the Victorian School of Forestry at Creswick. The records are now held in the Australian National University Archives (A3083). They consist of three groups of printed cards titled "Post-graduate record" and sub-titled "Adelaide Forestry School", "Other Forestry Schools" and "Australian Forestry School". The records were collected from 1929 to the 1940s and ceased after Lane Poole retired.

The forms record: Date and place of birth, Secondary education, Tertiary education and War service. The Bureau asked foresters to continue to provide information on their careers and publications. The extent to which they did so varies from annual updates of postings and promotions to none. Foresters included in the collection who worked in Victoria did not provide information.

The tables were prepared for the Adelaide Forestry School and the Other Forestry Schools groups. No attempt has been made to verify the information or add missing information from other sources.

Adelaide Forestry School

Name	Dob	Place	Degree	Date
Adams, Arthur John Sorby	15/9/1904	Mt Pleasant, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1926
Bednall, B.H.	5/7/1904	Sephamore, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1924
Brockway, George Ernest Emerson	8/12/1900	Claremont, WA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1921
Byles, Baldur Unwin	24/10/1904	England	BSc (For) Adelaide	1925
Cole, Cyril Richard	27/1/1894	Mintaro, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1914
Cowell, G.R	6/6/1901	Menindee, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1922
Davey, R.H	10/8/1896	Terowie, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1920
Harris, A.G.	18/1/1904	Moonta, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1923
Hone, A.A			BSc (For) Adelaide	
Jacobs, Maxwell Ralph	25/2/1905	Adelaide, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide Dip For, Oxon Thrandt Yale PhD	1925, 1931 1932, 1941
Kessell, Stephen Lackey	17/3/1897	Wollongong, NSW	BSc (For) Adelaide Dip For (Oxon) MSc Adelaide	1916, 1921 1927
Mackay, S.A				
Moore, Don R	16/4/1902	Malvern SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1922
Newman, L.A.				
Pinches, Alfred Leslie	25/5/1891	SA	Dip For Adelaide	1914
Rodger, G.J	4/7/1894	Nth Kensington, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1915
Shedley, Alfred Charles	18/5/1991	Adelaide, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	1919
Symonds, W.M.G	7/11/1897	Chain of Ponds, SA	BSc (For) Adelaide	

Other Forestry Schools

Carter, C.E.	17/5/1885	Melbourne, Vic	B.AgSc Melb Dip Ed Melb,MF Yale	1909, 1919 1922
Ellis, C	19/11/1905	Kingaroy, Qld	BSc Civil Qld	
Ferguson, K.V.M			BSc, MA Edin	
Gray, Hugh Richard	15/11/1892	Oxford, England, UK	BA, Dip For Oxon MA Oxon	1920, 1926
Grenning, V.	17/1/1899	Queensland	Oxford	
Helms, A.D.	9/11/1891	Sydney, NSW	Copenhagen	1918
Jolly, Norman	5/8/1892	Mintaro, SA	BSc Adelaide BA Oxon	1901, 1906
Lindsay, Alexander Douglas	20/7/1900	Glasgow, Scotland, UK	BSc (For) Edin	1921
Litster, W.			BSc (For) Edin	
Lockhart, W	17/9/1900	Huntly, Scotland, UK	BSc (For) Aberdeen	1922
Marshall			BSc (For) Edin	
Rule, Alexander	21/9/1895	Huntly, Scotland, UK	MA Aberdeen BSc (For) Aberdeen	1920, 1921
Semmens, E.J			BSc	

Share certificate issued in Paris in March 1921 by the Société Forestière Franco-Australienne (see article page 14)