
Australian Forest History Society

Newsletter No. 76
December 2018

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



**Kangaroo Studies in the Mount Lofty
Ranges of South Australia**

See Michael Bleby's article, pages 4-5.

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NEXT ISSUE

The newsletter is published three times a year and the next issue should be out in April 2019.

Input is always welcome.

Contributions can be sent to
Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

There has been a longer than expected interval since our last "normal" issue in April 2018. Our special edition in June 2018 on forestry research in Queensland advised that there would be an August issue, but unfortunately that didn't happen. Apologies to those contributors who submitted articles some time ago - thank you for your patience.

On the plus side, this issue presents a diverse selection of articles, representing a fraction of the wide range of topics that come under the broad heading of "forest history". At times we go off on tangents, straying off the forest history path into other areas, but that's part of the appeal of a line of inquiry - it can lead to an unexpected discovery.



"FOREST CAPITAL" - IAN GORDON

*From the transcript of Brendan O'Keefe's interview
 (summarised by Fintán Ó Laighin) **

The interview starts with Ian Gordon's recollections of his time at the Australian Forestry School (AFS) in Canberra, as a student in 1962 and 1963, and as a demonstrator until late 1965. During this time the school was incorporated into the Australian National University, although it remained at Yarralumla until 1968.

Gordon had previously studied engineering at Sydney University which he described as being quite impersonal compared with the atmosphere at the AFS where classes were much smaller, and the staff got to know the students.

There was a strong practical focus to the course, with a lot of field work during the year, and the requirement to undertake summer work during the break. Many of the students were on bonded scholarships from one of the state forestry commissions which required the summer work to be done in the sponsoring state. Gordon, however, was on a Commonwealth scholarship which gave him more flexibility. He saw a lot of Australia during this time, with forestry taking him to all states except Western Australia and Tasmania. He described the forests of the ACT and nearby New South Wales as "outdoor laboratories".

In December 1965, he joined what became ACT Forests, although was then part of the Commonwealth Government's Forestry and Timber Bureau. He retired in 1991 by which time he was acting director.

One of his early projects concerned investigations into the source of a smell that was drifting across to Government House from the Weston Creek sewage treatment works. While Brendan O'Keefe expresses surprise that foresters were involved in this type of work, no real explanation was provided, although it had been mentioned that the director-general of the bureau, Max Jacobs, had previously investigated the possibility of using sewage to irrigate pine plantations in the Greenhills part of the Stromlo Forest. This didn't proceed because of Health Department concerns about contamination. While the smell at Government House was not a forestry problem, a forestry solution was provided. After determining its source, a patch of forest was clearfelled in an attempt to create a drainage passage.

Gordon also talks about the implementation of CSIRO's work on land use analysis using air photo interpretation:

"The key to it was that if you recognised a particular pattern in one spot and you went and analysed on the ground, the detail there, if your analysis was good enough and you recognised the same pattern on the air photo elsewhere, you could confidently predict that the

same sorts of details would apply in that area even though you didn't visit it that represented a massive improvement in efficiency and mapping basically and in analysis."

The vision was for an ACT forest estate of about 16,000 ha, but there were battles with other government bodies, including the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of the Capital Territory, over what land they could have. When asked about the major change over his time at ACT Forests, Gordon said "it was the capacity to present plantation forestry in the ACT in a rational, well planned way to other people who were trying to be rational about planning in the ACT".

In the 1960s, the Commonwealth Government provided loans to the states to convert native forest to plantation, mainly softwood although hardwood plantations were funded in Tasmania. Gordon notes that there wasn't much conversion in the ACT - most of the plantation estate was planted on cleared farmland, although there was a little bit of conversion around Gibraltar Creek in 1967. He says that there were plans to convert Boboyan Forest in the south of the ACT, but that the economics didn't stack up. However, even then, there was resistance to conversion.

The establishment of plantations in the ACT also took account of the aesthetic attributes of the landscape, and how to accommodate other uses, such as recreation. Forest managers were moving away from the idea of forests as wood factories, and towards multiple use. The British Forestry Commission had employed landscape architect Sylvia Crowe in the 1950s although it took a while for such ideas to catch on in Australia.

When Gordon started work in the ACT, forests were off limits to the public - there were ordinances that restricted access and trespassers could be prosecuted. When ACT Forests set up some picnic areas, he said colleagues in other states thought they were nuts. He credits supervising forester Mark Edgerley for this change in approach, with support from Jerry Cross and Tony Fearnside. He notes that doing so was "a conscious decision to contravene the ordinance". The ordinances could be pretty ad hoc - someone would complain about something and then an ordinance would be issued.

When he moved to Stromlo in 1969, fire control and management of the nursery operations became his focus. He mentions that early plantings - some dating back to 1915 - got destroyed in a big fire in 1952, although the patch of Canary Island Pine at the top of Mount Stromlo had survived. There had been a number of arboreta across the ACT, trialling different species under different conditions. Radiata Pine did particularly well in plantations, much better than in its natural environment in Monterey. Gordon also notes the big fires of 1988-89, including at Pierces Creek where \$1 million worth of timber was lost in a couple of hours.

He also discusses the problem of rabbit control and using sheep to reduce fuel loads in the forest, the prospect of log exports, the closure of the ACT's only plywood mill in 1989, and the administrative changes that affected forestry in the ACT.

* *Brendan O'Keefe's interview with Ian Gordon is the first of the ten interviews in the book "Forest Capital: Canberra's foresters and forestry workers tell their stories", published by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service in late 2017. The interviews were conducted in 1994 but the tapes were stored at ACT Forests headquarters which was destroyed in the Canberra fires of January 2003. However, transcripts of the interviews were discovered in 2016. The book is available at ACT and Queanbeyan libraries.*

KANGAROO STUDIES IN THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Michael Bleby



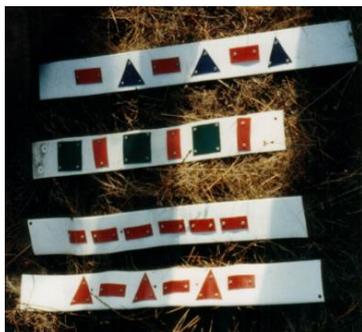
My first real encounter with the problem of too much wildlife cropped up when I was working as Assistant District Forester at Mount Crawford in the Mount Lofty

Ranges in South Australia during the late 1970s.

The mix of radiata pine plantation and native forest plus the adjacent cleared farm land, provided ideal habitat for the Western Grey Kangaroo to breed and thrive. Neighbouring farmers on the forest boundary to the north of Kersbrook and in the vicinity of the South Para Reservoir plantations were particularly affected by the problem of "over-abundant macropods" as they competed for feed with sheep and cattle and were responsible for ongoing damage to boundary fences. As a consequence, some landowners were from time to time issued with destruction permits to shoot a certain number of kangaroos. Of necessity, the numbers on the permits were based on a "best guess" rather than any scientific studies.

The SA Woods & Forests Department at the time was keen to contribute what it could to the issue, both as a good neighbour and as a corporate citizen. The forest estate had significant areas of reserved native forest in all districts, and the department's zoologist coordinated matters of wildlife management.

A study of the numbers, their movements and the range of Western Grey Kangaroos in the area was commenced, and a system for identifying individual animals was designed. Remember, this was well before the days of



GPS or any sort of economic radio tracking. A whole series of white neck collars with individually uniquely coded reflective coloured symbols were prepared in advance for attaching to kangaroos.

The plan was that individual animals could be identified and their location recorded when sighted, either casually during the day when patrolling or by spotlight searches and recordings at night. These data over time would then assist the decision making for destruction permits, by ascertaining the size and extent of the population, their movements, and whether the culling should be focused on young females, older males, or some other criteria.

Our zoologist had devised two methods of getting these identification collars on to kangaroos.

The **first method** was by random catching and collaring in the forest after dark. I was first invited to join the small group of staff who were engaged in this process as a driver. We met up on designated evenings and got ourselves organised. On the rear tailgate of the Landcruiser stood a "catcher" who hung on to the roof rack with the spot light. Next to him was the "shooter", who rested his rifle, with scope, on the roof. The other catcher was in the passenger seat and we sometimes had a runner in the back seat with the tarpaulins and the box of gear - the collars, tin snips, rivet gun, measuring tapes, clipboards etc. We would slowly cruise along forest tracks with headlights on and the spot light sweeping the bush and firebreaks for grazing kangaroos. Once in the spot light they invariably looked up and being motionless, gave the competent shooter the opportunity to put a supersonic bullet just above the head between the ears. The kangaroo



would then unmoved, shake its head and be dazed long enough for one of the catchers to dash out and grab its tail.

Meanwhile still dazed, the tarpaulin would be deployed over the animal so it could be immobilised by being wrapped up in it. The vehicle would be repositioned so the next stage could be done in the headlights. We would carefully unwrap the held down parcel - to see which end we had - to reveal the head. The neck would be quickly measured, the selected collar was then cut to length positioned and riveted. Other checks were made with



notes taken on its sex, its size, its age category, if female whether any young were in pouch, and the collar code it had been fitted with. It was then time to

release the by now very with it, surely frightened and sometimes angry kangaroo. We often had to steer the animal away from the vehicle on release as there was tendency to jump towards the headlights.

As can be imagined, not every occasion went smoothly. Sometimes the catchers were to be seen going for a roo that had decided to hop away straight after the bullet, by crashing through the undergrowth with or without the help of the spot light. We got this down to a fairly slick operation, and collared a good number of animals in this way.

The **second method** involved more planning and resulted in many kangaroos being collared at one time



and was carried out on several occasions. It involved help from students from the Natural Resources course at Roseworthy College as well as one of the college vets. The system involved putting out several "free feeds" of lupin seed in a suitable open area in the forest over a week or so, to train the kangaroos to come in and feed on them.

When the weather was right, and the team was available, a carefully calculated dose of drugged lupins would be put out for feeding and the area would be visited in the early hours of the morning.

We would arrive to find some kangaroos asleep nearby, others who had hopped further away and then fallen asleep and had to be found by searching students. Others in the vicinity were not asleep but groggy and slowly moving around nearby. The dilemma with this method was that there was no control over how much lupin seed

each animal had consumed and hence no control over the exact drug dose rate. Consequently the more gluttonous feeders were already asleep and would be for some hours to come. Other lighter feeders maybe asleep for less time, and those who had arrived and fed late were still to succumb. So the first task was to find all the animals, bring them



to a central location for processing, and put them in a hessian bag to keep them warm, as one of the side effects of the drug was loss of body temperature. Some of us were delegated to build a bon fire so that the kangaroos waiting in their sleeping bags could be placed around it to assist with warmth in the early morning cold air. What a sight!

The collaring, sexing, measuring, and in this instance the inclusion of weighing, could be done with much less of a struggle than the "catching" method. With the help of the



students, and the overall guidance of the vet, we successfully collared up to some 20+ animals in one session.

The next task was to assist the waking kangaroos to be on their way. As they woke up one by one, the team of helpers would assist a kangaroo get out of its sleeping bag, and make sure that it was capable of hopping off into the bush proudly sporting its new colourful collar.

This phase of the operation often lasted till the middle of the day, as the last few animals woke up and headed off. I recall on one occasion, there was just one kangaroo that was in no hurry to wake up and it was time for the last of us to leave. The vet was happy that it was OK and in due course it would wake up and be able to leave its bag when ready. So we left it near a track and headed for home after a pretty long session.

The next morning after I had left for work, my wife answered the phone when it rang at the house. The Kersbrook Forest Sub District office was a small room on our enclosed verandah. It was a member of the public who had been bush walking in the forest the previous afternoon who wanted to report something strange. "You'll never guess" he said, "I was just walking along, and there was this kangaroo, asleep near the track, in a bag! And it was wearing a collar! And then when I came back an hour or so later - it was gone!" Well - what and how much do you say in such circumstances? The bush walker was reassured that forestry staff did actually know about that, and that it was part of a scientific study that was taking place - and that the kangaroo in question had been examined by a vet that morning. I was thankful that the bushwalker didn't rush off to the newspaper with his story.

Over the next months and years, kangaroos with collars were sighted, locations and dates recorded, some collars had come off, were found and handed in, some were found caught in a fence. The studies did however identify the range capability of the species in that general location, and their movement from farmland to forest and vice versa.

Life as an operational a forester has never been dull. My involvement in these kangaroo studies was something quite different, probably never to be repeated, and one thing was for sure - you never knew what the next phone call might be.

THE 2018-19 COMMITTEE

The society's Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on Monday 19th November 2018. The following committee was appointed:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| President: | Sue Feary |
| Vice-President: | Jane Lennon |
| Secretary: | Kevin Frawley |
| Treasurer: | Fintán Ó Laighin |
| Committee: | Leith Davis Peter Evans Gerry Fahey Juliana Lazzari |
| Public Officer: | John Gray |

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORESTRY BUILDING AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

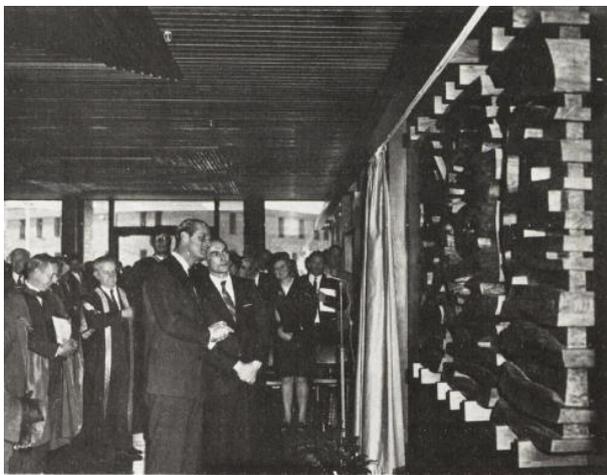
One event marked this year was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Forestry Building at the ANU in Canberra. It was opened on 16th May 1968 by the Duke of Edinburgh *, as shown by the plaque adjacent to the front door:



Photo by Juliana Lazzari.

The opening was reported in *The Australian National University 1968 Report* (<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au>) (p16), with a photo appearing among the selection of photos between pp18-19:

The Departments of Botany and Forestry each occupied buildings designed for their particular purposes. The incorporation into the fabric of the Forestry Building of a wide variety of timbers donated by foreign governments and private industries, and by the forestry departments of the Australian States greatly adds to its beauty and utility. It was fitting, indeed, that this building should have been opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and sculptor Vincas Jomantis view the wood sculpture by Jomantis symbolising the growth of a seed, which the Duke unveiled at the opening of the Forestry Building. Behind them are the Vice-Chancellor and Professor J. D. Ovington. Photo by courtesy of Australian News and Information Bureau.

The ANU report doesn't explain how the Duke of Edinburgh came to be invited to open it, but the reason he was in Canberra was to attend the Third Commonwealth Study Conference, an initiative he

founded following a trip to Canada in 1954. Its formal title was "H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh's Third Commonwealth Study Conference on the Human Problems of Industrial Development and Redevelopment in Commonwealth Countries". The official website - www.csc-alumni.org/About-CSC-Alumni/history.html - advises that:

The first Commonwealth Study Conference held in the UK in 1956 was, in the words of its founder HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh "an extraordinary experiment". It set out to provide an opportunity for people from all over the Commonwealth and all walks of life to leave behind their usual roles and, with a diverse group of people, examine the relationship between industry and the community around it. The purpose was not to produce high sounding resolutions and weighty conclusions but to challenge the participants' assumptions and prejudices; to give them the chance to examine real situations and the issues arising from the interaction of businesses, their employees and the communities in which they operated. The members were, at Prince Philip's insistence, to be "people who appeared likely to be in the next generations of leaders so that when the time came for them to take important decisions they would have the benefit of what they had discovered on the Study Conference to help them".

Although the first conference was conceived as a "one-off", its participants found it such a worthwhile experience that they determined to make it available to subsequent generations. Since 1956, conferences have been run at approximately six-year intervals, variously hosted in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The sculpture unveiled by Prince Philip is accompanied with a plaque with the following details:

Growth of a Seed
 Vincas Jomantis
 Laminated Blackwood 1968
 Donated by
 Australian Newsprint Mills.



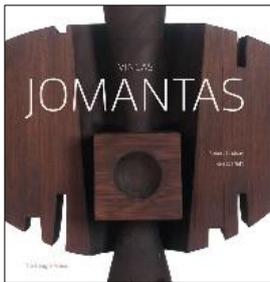
Photo by Juliana Lazzari.

The bottom of the middle panel is signed "V. Jomantas" (not "Jomantis" as recorded on both the plaque and in the ANU report of the opening). Jomantas was quite a prolific artist whose work can be found in the collections of a number of major galleries, including the National

* This was at least the second ANU building opened by the Duke of Edinburgh - in February 1954, he opened University House, the first building on the ANU campus - see <http://unihouse.anu.edu.au/about/history-of-the-house>.

Gallery of Australia, the Art Gallery of NSW, the National Gallery of Victoria and the Queensland Art Gallery. He also designed a bronze sculpture that is outside the ANU Physics Building. The ANU's sculpture walk guide calls it "Pursuit of scientific knowledge" but a list of his works, prepared by the Watson Place Gallery in Melbourne, calls it "Outdoor sculpture (bronze)".

https://services.anu.edu.au/files/guidance/Sculpture-Walk-Brochure_0.pdf and www.placegallery.com.au/2004/artists/vincas_jomantas/vincas_jomantas_cv.pdf.



Earlier this year, Beagle Press published a monograph of his work, authored by Robert Lindsay and Ken Scarlett. The publisher's notes state that "As an artist who settled in Australia after the Second World War, Vincas Jomantas created a body of over 100 works that directly engaged

with both the twentieth century movement towards abstraction and the modernist art environment of Melbourne." www.beaglepress.com.au/vincas-jomantas.

The National Library website includes a short biography of him at trove.nla.gov.au/people/548741:

Vincas Jomantas (1922-2001) was born in Kaunas, Lithuania. After World War II he emigrated to Australia (1948) and under the terms of the assisted migration scheme was sent to East Wichcliffe, Western Australia for 2 years. Moved to Victoria where he was a house painter, toy factory worker, furniture factory worker, and a draughtsman with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of Victoria. In 1960 Vincas was a foundation member of 'Centre Five', and in 1961 was appointed as a temporary instructor in art at RMIT. For two years he shared a studio with painter Leonard French in Cheltenham. In 1965 he married Laima Taskunas, bought a house in Cheltenham, and was appointed as Lecturer in Sculpture, RMIT. In 1973 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Sculpture at RMIT, a position he held until his retirement in 1987. He died in Melbourne on the 19th of December, 2001.



FRIENDS OF BLACK MOUNTAIN SYMPOSIUM



On 24th August 2018, the Friends of Black Mountain (in Canberra) convened a symposium with the theme of "The Past 50 Years Informing the Next 50". The three presentation themes covered cultural uses,

biophysical values, and natural history.

As can be expected from the focus of the past informing the future, many papers had a specific historical theme. Mark Butz's paper, "The Canberry Ranges, Black Hill, Black Mountain, 'the Golden Hill' and beyond" discussed the cultural landscape from 1820 to 1970, while one of Rosemary Purdie's six papers was titled "Black Mountain plant collections and collectors, 1927-2017". Another of her papers discussed the plant collections and collectors over this period.

For their paper on frogs and reptiles, Will Osborne and Anke Maria Hoefler examined fifty years of records, and Paul Fennell wrote about bird observations from 1964 to 2016. There were papers on mammals, invertebrates, vascular plants, non-vascular plants and fire ecology.

Papers covered a wide range of topics, from the geology and the vegetation, to the various types of fauna - birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles and invertebrates.

Abstracts of the papers and the papers themselves are available respectively at www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au/sites/default/files/Symposium2018/00-Paper-abstracts.pdf and www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au/SymposiumPapers.

AFHS MEMBER ROB YOUL AWARDED THE IFA'S N.W. JOLLY MEDAL

Belated congratulations to AFHS member Rob Youl for being awarded - jointly with Christine Stone - the 2017 N.W. Jolly Medal by the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA), a professional body for foresters and other forestry professionals.

The IFA describes it as its "highest and most prestigious honour for outstanding service to the profession of forestry in Australia. It recognises that science, research and how this translates into practical implementation are critically important aspects for the achievement of sustainable forestry and a sustainable and competitive forest industry something that foresters have always strongly advocated and worked for." The IFA page is at www.forestry.org.au/awards-honours-scholarships/n-w-jolly-medal.

The medal was first presented in 1959 and has been awarded almost annually (47 times in 59 years). It is named in honour of Norman William Jolly (1882-1954) who made an outstanding contribution to the development of professional forestry in Australia in the first half of the 20th century.

Rob is at least the third AFHS member to have received the award, with Roger Underwood (2008) and Ian Bevege (2009) also having been honoured. A list of winners is at www.forestry.org.au/ifa/past-jolly-medal-winners.

HOW THE WARDIAN CASE REVOLUTIONISED THE PLANT TRADE - AND AUSTRALIAN GARDENS

*By Luke Keogh, Visiting Scholar, Deakin University **

The first journey of a Wardian case was an experiment. In 1829, the surgeon and amateur naturalist Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward accidentally discovered that plants enclosed in airtight glass cases can survive for long periods without watering. Four years later he decided to test his invention by transporting two of his cases filled with a selection of ferns, mosses and grasses from London to Sydney, the longest sea journey then known.

On November 23 1833, Ward received a letter from Charles Mallard, the ship captain responsible for the two cases, telling him: "your experiment for the preservation of plants alive ... has fully succeeded".

The next challenge was the return journey. In February 1834, the cases were replanted with specimens from Australia. Eight months later, when Ward and friend George Loddiges, a well-known nurseryman, went aboard the ship in London they inspected the healthy fronds of a delicate coral fern (*Gleichenia microphylla*), an Australian plant never before seen in Britain. The experiment was a success.

The Wardian case, as it would become known, revolutionised the movement of live plants around the globe. They were shaped like a miniature greenhouse, made of timber and had glass inserts in the roof. In the cases, plants had a greater chance of survival when in transit.



Wardian cases full of cycads from Rockhampton, Queensland, arrive at the Missouri Botanic Gardens after a long journey via London and New York, c.1920. Missouri Botanic Gardens.

Often thought of as only a product of the gardening crazes of the Victorian era, the Wardian case was actually a notorious prime mover of plants. Some of the key uses

** Luke Keogh's book The Wardian Case will be published next year by the University of Chicago Press. He delivered the Redmond Barry Fellowship Presentation at the University of Melbourne on July 25 2018.*

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons licence. The original article is at theconversation.com/bon-the-wardian-case-revolutionised-the-plant-trade-and-australian-gardens-100448. The original includes some additional photos that have been omitted due to space restrictions.

Thanks to Juliana Lazzari for forwarding this article.

of the case include moving tea from China to India to lay the foundations of the Assam and Darjeeling tea districts; helping move rubber from Brazil and transporting it via London to Asia, which is now the leading producer of the crop; and repeatedly moving bananas over many decades to the Pacific Islands, Central America and the Caribbean.

The Wardian case resolved a major bottleneck in the transport of live plant species, but it also had major consequences for environmental relationships in the 19th and 20th centuries.

An untold story

Botanists and horticulturalists used this simple box for over a century to carry hundreds of thousands of plants around the globe, whether they were in England or the United States, France or India, Russia or Japan. The Australian story of the Wardian case is an important and untold one.



Wardian cases line the paths at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Each state has an important connection to it. New South Wales received the first plants from Ward himself. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, sent its first Wardian cases, full of fruit trees and ornamental plants, to Western Australia. The Adelaide Botanic Gardens even had a path lined with Wardian cases. Tasmania was vital in the 19th-century fern trade. And Queensland used the Wardian case to transport the cactoblastis moth to help solve the prickly pear infestation.

Victoria's connection to the case is unsurprisingly one of gardeners and ornamental plants. Today, Victoria is home to Australia's largest nursery industry, by some reports worth more than \$1.6 billion annually and employing more than 11,000 people. The industry today cannot be separated from the long global history of moving beautiful and useful plants to Australia more than a century ago. Two examples illuminate the thriving early trade in Victoria.

Published in 1855, Charles Mackay's widely circulated poem The Primrose was about the landing in Melbourne of a beautiful rare flower and the procession from the docks to an exhibition location in the city. It read, in part: "She has cross'd the stormy ocean/A pilgrim, to our shore/As fresh as Youth and Beauty/And dear as days of yore."

By some reports, more than 3,000 people turned out to see the floral traveller. Police were called in to restore order to Melbourne's streets during the procession. News of the fanfare was carried in major international newspapers including Harper's Weekly and the Illustrated London News.

The British artist Edward Hopley painted the scene, *A Primrose from England* (1855), to memorialise both the moment of the plant arriving in Melbourne and, in typical Hopley style, the social milieu of the period. The technology for moving the plant was not lost on either artist. The primrose that Mackay so eloquently lyricised and Hopley so captivatingly brought to life arrived in Melbourne in a specially designed Wardian case. It would not have arrived without this technology for moving plants. It was not just the primrose. In the decades following 1858, the Wardian case played a major role in shaping the aesthetics and species available in the Victorian landscape.



Preparing to send live plants in Wardian cases at the Jardin d'Agronomie Tropicale, Paris, c.1910. Image courtesy Bibliothèque historique du CIRAD.

In early April 1862, three decades after Ward's invention, the well-known Victorian nurseryman Thomas Lang delivered a lecture to the Ballarat Horticultural society titled "On Wardian, or Plant Cases". Lang began by describing his first encounter with the cases in Edinburgh. He went on to detail the many useful plants, such as the giant Californian redwood, that he had introduced with the help of the case. By his own estimate, Lang transported nearly a million plants to Victoria in just one decade in the late 19th century, a staggering number by just one nurseryman.

Now living in regional Victoria, after many years of travel researching a book on the Wardian case, I often think about Lang and the enthusiasm colonists had for bringing over beautiful plants. Lang proclaimed in his lecture of 1862: "The comfort, the pleasures, the commercial interests, the happiness of mankind are promoted by the use of Wardian cases."

To move beautiful ornamental plants here was very much part of the home-making process for colonists. But it was always a trade. While beautiful plants came into Australia, many useful ones went out. Often we forget that the beauty of our gardens is as much about moving plants, as it is about the hard work of tilling the soil.

Next time your hands are covered in soil, it might be good to wonder where that camellia or fuchsia or rose or apple or kiwi fruit or lemon originated – chances are it travelled in a Wardian case.

THE CONVERSATION AUSTRALIA - BEATING AROUND THE BUSH NEWSLETTER

In May 2018, *The Conversation* started an ad hoc series of articles under the heading "Beating Around the Bush", described as "a series that profiles native plants: part gardening column, part dispatches from country, entirely Australian". A full list of articles - including links - is at <https://theconversation.com/au/topics/beating-around-the-bush-54029>:

- * Madeleine De Gabriele, "Welcome to Beating Around the Bush, wherein we yell about plants" (23rd May).
- * Ian Wright, "Bunya pines are ancient, delicious and possibly deadly" (23rd May).
- * Danica-Lea Larcombe and Eddie van Etten, "Sandpaper figs make food, fire, medicine and a cosy home for wasps" (24th May).
- * Gregory Moore, "Mountain ash has a regal presence: the tallest flowering plant in the world" (1st June)
- * Cris Brack, "Wollemi pines are dinosaur trees" (15th June).
- * Steve Wylie, Jen McComb and Kevin Thiele, "The mysterious *Pilostyles* is a plant within a plant" (10th Aug).
- * Matthew Biddick, "The Lord Howe screw pine is a self-watering island giant" (26th Aug).
- * Stuart Worboys, "It's hard to spread the idiot fruit" (15th Sep).
- * "Grass trees aren't a grass (and they're not trees)" by John Patykowski (21st Sep).
- * Marina Hurley, "'The worst kind of pain you can imagine' - what it's like to be stung by a stinging tree" (28th Sep).
- * "The black wattle is a boon for Australians (and a pest everywhere else)" by Gregory Moore (5th Oct).
- * "Leek orchids are beautiful, endangered and we have no idea how to grow them" by Marc Freestone (12th Oct).
- * "Australia's native rhododendrons hide in the high mountain forests" by Stuart Worboys (20th Oct).
- * "Spinifex grass would like us to stop putting out bushfires, please" by Kristian Bell (26th Oct).
- * "Stringybark is tough as boots (and gave us the word 'Eucalyptus')" by Gregory Moore (2nd Nov).
- * "Warty hammer orchids are sexual deceivers" by Ryan Phillips (30th Nov).
- * Madeleine De Gabriele and Wes Mountain, "Comic explainer: forest giants house thousands of animals (so why do we keep cutting them down?)" (9th Dec).
- * "Native cherries are a bit mysterious, and possibly inside-out" by Gregg Müller (14th Dec).

To sign up for the newsletter, see <https://theconversation.com/au/newsletters>.

**AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 CONFERENCE, TOOWOOMBA, JULY 2019 ***

The 38th Australian Historical Association conference will be held from 8th-12th July 2019 at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba. The overall theme is "Local Communities, Global Networks" and the organising committee is seeking paper and panel proposals on any geographical area, time period, or field of history, especially those relating to the theme. Information on the conference is available at www.theaha.org.au/aha-conference-2019-local-communities-global-networks.

As part of the conference, the Australian and New Zealand Environment History Network (ANZEHN) is organising the "Green Stream" and has also issued a call for papers - www.usq.edu.au/events/2019/07/local-communities-global-networks/australian-and-new-zealand-environmental-history-network.

Global grassroots: Human connections in environmental history

Human communities have long worked together to care for and conserve the living systems around them. In the midst of a flourishing planetary consciousness, the rise of the new environment movements in Australia and beyond in the 1970s saw an intensification of local activity with a global orientation, while the dawning awareness of climate breakdown has focused attention on the entanglement of local action and global change.

The Local Communities, Global Networks theme for the 2019 AHA Conference is an opportunity to newly examine how ties within local communities emerged before and since the 1970s in response to changing understandings and experiences of living in a more-than-human world. How have the tendrils and boles of shared human concerns taken shape? What kind of communities have coalesced around environmental concerns, and what networks have they developed and made use of? Where are environmental movements based and placed, intellectually and spatially? How have Indigenous communities responded to local and global environmental threats and environmentalist agendas? What of community resistance to environmental protection? What are the legacies of leaders of communities and networks devoted to understanding and protecting the environment? What can we learn from environmental campaigns and movements in the past to tackle contemporary problems? And what stories and networks might emerge if we acknowledge that historical communities are always more-than-human?

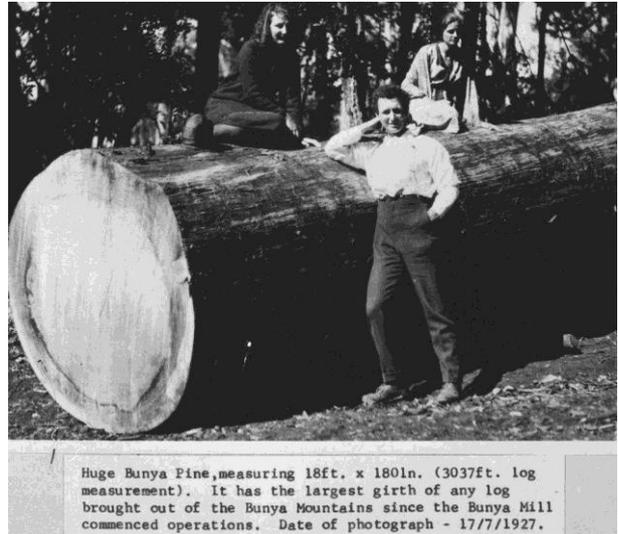
We invite proposals for presentations that address the conference theme and will also consider other research on environmental history as this conference stream is integral to our intellectual community. Individual papers and panels of three are welcome, as are proposals for roundtables and non-conventional, interactive sessions.

* Thanks to the Australian and New Zealand Environment History Network for this information. For more info on the network, including how to subscribe to its newsletter, see www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org.

To ensure your abstract proposal is peer-reviewed for the Green Stream select the ANZEHN option during the online submission process. To submit a paper, return to the call for papers

(www.usq.edu.au/events/2019/07/local-communities-global-networks) information on the event homepage.

Please direct any questions to Dr Julie McIntyre (julie.mcintyre@newcastle.edu.au) or Dr Margaret Cook (mcookhistory@gmail.com).



Huge Bunya Pine, measuring 18ft. x 180in. (3037ft. log measurement). It has the largest girth of any log brought out of the Bunya Mountains since the Bunya Mill commenced operations. Date of photograph - 17/7/1927.
Naturalist and tourism entrepreneur Arthur Groom and unnamed companions with bunya pine log, Bunya Mountains near Toowoomba, 1927. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

**DISCOVERY OF THE BURRAGA COPPER MINE
 TRAMWAY IN A PINE PLANTATION**

In June 2018, newspapers in central western NSW, including the *Western Advocate* (Bathurst) and the *Oberon Review*, reported the discovery of an old tramway in a pine plantation. The tramway operated from 1913-19 and was used for firewood collection for the Burraga Copper Mine.

I forwarded the article to Peter Evans who said that he had already received a field report on this tramway, submitted by Ian McNeil. The report, with some excellent maps and photographs, was subsequently published in the October 2018 edition of *Light Railways* (no. 263) - see our review on p20.

A 2014 report on the *History of Lloyds Copper Mine and the Township of Burraga* by Iain Stuart, Deputy Chair Industrial Heritage Advisory Committee, is available at www.academia.edu/25705830/History_of_Lloyds_Copper_Mine_and_the_Township_of_Burraga. The report was prepared to accompany a nomination of the area for heritage listing. The report notes that the "site was originally proposed for listing by Dr Sybil Jack of the Industrial Archaeology Committee in 1974". That would be "our" Sybil Jack.



FOREST PIONEERS' STORY SHARED

By *Todd Lewis* *

'Grandfather of the Pines' Recounts South East Industry History

AT THE tender age of 102, a man known as a "grandfather" of the pine industry in the South East is still able to vividly recount the stories regarding the key role he played in forestry in the region.

Now living a quiet life in Adelaide, Norman Lewis was recently tracked down by Mount Gambier resident Pat Boylan, who had made a remarkable connection.

"I was reading a book on trees called *The People's Forest* in which there's a chapter dedicated to Norm and it included an image of my father and Norman together, working on the Unplanted Lands Project," Pat said.

After meeting in 2016, Pat developed a friendship with Norman over the next two years, visiting his home for dinner, where he "picked his brain" about the project. Post World War II, Norman became chief of the Forest Management Department and over several years, he and his colleagues - including Pat's father - would conduct assessments on the "unplanted lands", which looked at whether there was plantation potential.

"The project was to determine the suitability of the higher parts of the Mount Burr range (and other areas) for pines, as pre-war plantings only covered the lower slopes where water availability and soil type were known to be good for radiata pine growth," Pat said.

Using survey chains, Norman and other pioneers of the forest would walk thousands of acres through scrub, boring holes to test soil and map vegetation.

He said they traversed more of the South East by foot than any other white man.

"We would make a map along the chain of the vegetation and the soil information would be contained to five chain intervals (the length of five cricket pitches)," Norman said.

"Pat's dad would bore the holes while I would check them out and using the information we would boil it down to a composite map, which would be called a suitability map."

Norm described the work as vigorous, with holes of up to 13 feet being dug, but said the equipment made it easier than it sounded.

While digging the holes took a toll physically, analysing the soil and vegetation was a very complex science.

"It was a bit of guess work, but we were a lot better at it than a lot of other people," Norman said.

Trudging through thick scrub for days on end also presented dangers in the form of wildlife.

We surveyed the whole damn lot - the Mount Burr range, Penola forest, Caroline, Noolook, Comaum, Nangwarry ... until we finished the Unplanted Lands Project, no one knew as much about South Australia's potential forestry land than around a half a dozen blokes

Norman Lewis

"We saw stacks of snakes, you would be lucky to get through a day without seeing a snake," Norman said.

"They would have heard us coming, so they were probably there but we did not know where, under logs and things like that."

For pine plantation in South Australia, Norman was described as the man who started it all.

Historically, the work of he and his colleagues marks a key chapter in helping the state consolidate a forest service and timber industry.

"We surveyed the whole damn lot - the Mount Burr range, Penola forest, Caroline, Noolook, Comaum, Nangwarry," Norman said.

"Until we finished the Unplanted Lands Project, no one knew as much about South Australia's potential forestry land than around a half a dozen blokes."

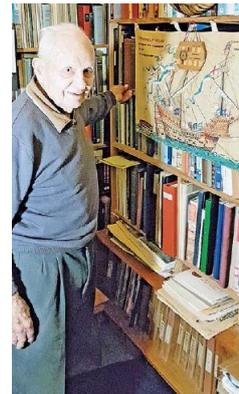
Following the project, Norman went on to study at Oxford University on a forestry scholarship during the 1950s. †

He returned to work in the forestry industry before retiring some years later.



FAMILY CONNECTION:

Pat Boylan met Norman Lewis in 2016 after discovering the 102-year-old pioneer in forestry used to work with his own father post World War II.



OXFORD SCHOLAR:

Over his 102 years, Norman Lewis has conducted broad research on forestry, which has led to some calling him the "grandfather" of the pine industry.



UNPLANTED LANDS: *This picture taken from the book *The People's Forest* shows Norman Lewis (right) and Des Boylan (centre) during the Unplanted Lands Project.*

* Thanks to Rob Robinson for providing this article. It was first published in *The Border Watch*, Mount Gambier (SA), on 13th Sep 2018. Rob contacted the author, Todd Lewis - a journalist on the *Border Watch* - seeking permission to reprint the article in the AFHS Newsletter. In response, Mr Lewis provided a copy of the article. <http://edition.borderwatch.com.au>

† **Editor's note:** *The forestry scholarship to Oxford was the Russell Grimwade Prize which Mr Lewis was awarded in 1957.*

**OBITUARY: CHARLES DOUGLAS HOWICK,
 1935-2018 (83 YEARS)**

By Jim Bowden & Ion Staunton *

The Doug Howick era in wood protection is over. And what an expansive and positive era it was. He has provided a solid base for the next era.

Charles Douglas Howick passed away in Melbourne on the 1st of June 2018 after a short illness. His loved and loving wife Sigrid was by his side.

Departing from his usual style of formality, he had stipulated there be no memorial service but a private cremation followed by a Wake when friends could gather and tell of their recollections. It wasn't formal, but it was proper - as he'd have expected.

Life started for Doug Howick at Twickenham, London, on April 9, 1935.

After his early education he joined the Merchant Navy serving as a radio operator with the Shaw Saville Line on the MV Romanic. His travels took him to many ports and eventually he chose to "go ashore" in Melbourne. Brighton, a bayside suburb, became his home for the rest of his 83 years.

His first step into wood protection was taken in 1961; he joined the CSIRO Division of Forest products in Melbourne as a Technical Officer and Experimental Scientist, retiring some 31 years later as Assistant to the Chief of the Division as a Senior Specialist.

His research focused on termite and other insect studies and the management of a variety of projects in wood protection, but also importantly, industry interactions, networking and technology transfer. His emphasis on these last three were the reasons he became one of the best known persons in the world of wood protection.

Doug's many positions on industry bodies included national secretary of the J.W. Gottstein Trust(1984-87) and Secretary-Treasurer to the formation committee of the National Association of Forest Industries (1986-87).

Already making an impression and being noticed in CSIRO as someone with potential, in 1967 he was awarded one of the early Australian Churchill Fellowships, for a ten-month world study tour - *An International Study of the incidence, distribution and economic significance of certain wood-destroying insects having the potential ability to establish in Australia.* For the most of 1968, he met and worked alongside most of the international

gurus in that field in USA, UK, Europe and South and East Africa. He returned to his Division to find that many of those international experts had communicated commendatory remarks about his abilities to the CSIRO management. The Organisation listened to and accepted his recommendations to expand its research and experimental entomological endeavours.



Doug, a year or several ago, on a CSIRO project in the NT, about to push over a termite mound.

Doug was author of more than 60 scientific papers on forest products entomology, wood technology and pest management as well as a further 50 reports, conference papers and presentations. He retired from CSIRO in 1992, aged 57. He was far too young, had too much knowledge, too many contacts and therefore involvement with so many organisations, to actually retire - so he didn't.

He was offered the position of the National Secretary of the Timber Preservers Association of Australia (TPAA) which he held for 20 years, and during that time he also served as the National Executive Director of the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association (AEPMA) for 10 years. His drive in both organisations saw an increase in membership and involvement with government and like-minded organisations - and he was honoured by both with Life Memberships. The deepening ties between the AEPMA and the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Associations (FAOPMA) led to Doug being given the title of Honorary Advisor to FAOPMA. Then he "retired." He was only 71, he was still healthy, and he wanted to continue being useful.

* Our April 2018 issue included Ian Bevege's review of a book by Doug Howick and Ion Staunton, "Colonies in Collision, a concatenated chronicle of termites and termiteers^(R) in Australia 1788-2018". It wasn't long after publication that Ion relayed the sad news that Doug had passed away. As Doug wrote in his e-mail, "His life cannot possibly be evaluated so soon after his passing but I'm sure there are very few who have positively impressed as many people in the pest management, termite research, timber preservation and Hoo Hoo communities as Doug. Presence, integrity and humour are but three of so many words that fit ... and which he wore quite comfortably." His life was celebrated with a wake after a private cremation.

His Advisory role within FAOPMA meant attending the conferences with Sigrid and, to fill in "spare" time, he edited and produced their bi-monthly Newsletter "PPM News." and, continuing his involvement with TPAAs, did the same with the "CONTACT" newsletter.

For most of all this time, Doug was also a member of the timber industry service club: the Hoo Hoo Club. He became the Jurisdiction IV President, 1983-84, and also wore the mantle of Hoo Hoo Historian. He was the driver of the Hoo-Hoo International Convention in Melbourne in 1982 which attracted the biggest delegation of US and Canadian industry representatives ever assembled Down Under. He earned his Life membership there as well.

Then he did something for himself.

Doug had authored many scientific papers but he thought he might have something else to say - to write a book on the history of termite research in Australia. He phoned Ion Staunton and asked about his historical flavoured *Preface: in the beginning*, in the book *Urban Pest Management in Australia*. After an overnight think, Doug phoned Ion again and asked if he would join him as co-author. He felt that between them, the threads of scientific developments could be entwined with the threads of commercial stories.

Doug had a cavernous vault of meticulously recorded facts about anything pertaining to wood particularly termites including many hard copies - real paper scientific papers - in two steel cabinets beside his desk. Over 600 of these are listed in three Appendices. The book as planned, morphed into something bigger during the writing and the word "concatenated" from the Hoo Hoo influence was inserted into the title which was published in October 2017 as *Colonies in Collision: a concatenated chronicle of termites and termiteers in Australia 1788-2018*. (Doug really liked alliteration.)

During the co-writing years, they referred to it as "the CTB" (coffee table book) and, printed in Australia on good quality "paper from trees not eaten by termites" and weighing 1.5 kg, it will hold down any coffee table. It was favourably reviewed and buyers usually comment on how delightfully readable it is. It was Doug's last big effort - apart from always being on-time or a day early with the bi-monthly newsletters. Mr Dependable.

The Wake was a wonderful tribute to Doug, Sigrid and their family. Attendees from WA, SA, NT, Queensland, NSW and Victoria spent a few hours reminiscing on Doug-stories rather than his achievements.

"I thought he would live forever; he was so helpful and an inspiration to me as a young timber technician."

"I thought he was indestructible."

"Sad news. A mate gone too soon."

"Doug had the rare combination of being both a gentleman and a character. His knowledge of the industry was immense."

"How dreadfully sad! That is one very important pillar of our industry gone that will not, cannot, be replaced."

"Doug always seemed above mere mortality to me."

"I am deeply saddened ... Doug was an old friend of FAOPMA and his contributions to the industry are beyond what any words can describe" - Ms Huang Xiaoyun, President.

"Doug's presence, integrity and humour are but three of so many words that fit - and which he wore quite comfortably."

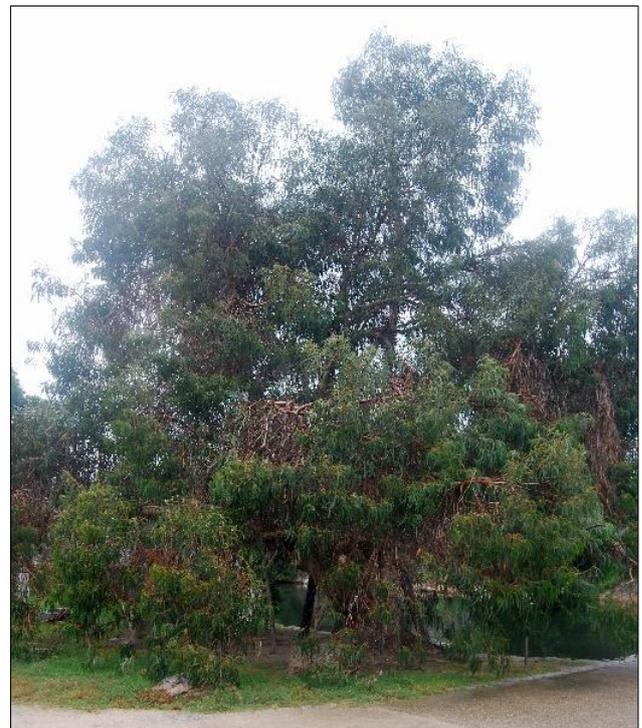
Many speakers began with the words: "I first met Doug in ..." That told us that meeting Doug Howick was a significant milestone in the life of so many.

"He was many things ... all good, but I think his way with words and use of puns was endearing."

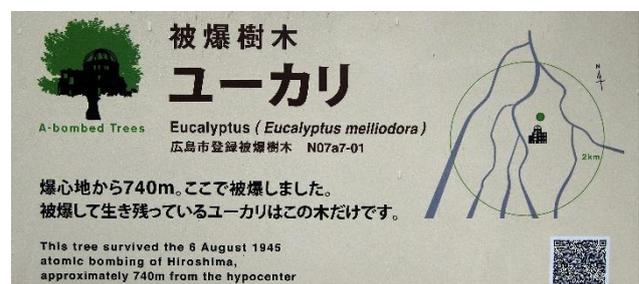
An example: Doug wrote a column in his industry newsletters entitled "Howick-citing" in other words, Doug's viewpoint. We think he'd appreciate Jim Bowden's newly minted pun for this occasion: "Howick-traordinary".

AN A-BOMBED EUCALYPT

By Peter Evans



This *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) was planted in the grounds of Hiroshima Castle and survived the explosion of the atomic bomb on 6th August 1945 despite being only 740 metres from the epicentre. Does anyone know how it came to be planted there?



ABC TV: GARDENING AUSTRALIA - "TREES IN TIME"

In July 2018, the ABC television program, "Gardening Australia", included a segment on the Waite Arboretum in Adelaide presented by reporter Sophie Thomson. It features Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM, who had recently retired from her position as curator of the arboretum.* The video is available on the ABC website at www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/trees-in-time/10043502. The program description is below.

Thanks to Juliana Lazzari for forwarding this link.

SERIES 29 | Episode 27

Sophie Thomson visits Waite Arboretum, to discuss the value of trees with Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM, who recently retired from her position as curator of the Waite Arboretum, where she has served since 1986. She still works on some arboretum projects in an honorary capacity as a visiting associate.

One of the projects Jennifer has been involved in is the assessment of all the trees in the Arboretum using the i-Tree online software tool. This calculates a value for trees by assessing the environmental benefits of each tree (carbon stored), its size, species, location and age, to give each tree a financial value, in the hope this dollar value will make trees more appreciated.

To date the team has valued the tree collection at \$13 million dollars, and they are only half way through measuring the specimens. For example, a 150-year-old *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* has been valued at \$58,000 by Marian McDuire, a GIS consultant, who measured the trunk diameter, the total height tree, the total canopy area, and the distance between the ground and the lowest part of the canopy. Another specimen, a Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*), planted by Peter Waite in 1893, had a structural value of more than \$40,000, and each year stores around 2.5 tonnes of carbon and removes 4kg of air pollution, including larger particles, which are the most detrimental to human health. While younger trees are more vigorous, older trees have a more valuable biomass.

The value of a tree in terms of habitat is not considered in this matrix, yet this cannot be underestimated. A large grey box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) feeds birds and native bees via its nectar and pollen, it hosts possums, microbats in the tree hollows, as well as geckos, skinks and other lizards in the bark's cracks and fissures - characteristics that take years to develop. Valuing trees is hard, but the process makes us more likely to appreciate them.

* Dr Gardner spoke at the AFHS conference in Mount Gambier in October 2015. Her paper, "The Waite Arboretum - Science, Trees and Technology", is available at www.foresthistory.org.au/2015_conference_papers/01-Gardner.pdf.

ABC RADIO NATIONAL: EARSHOT - "ERIC ROLLS AND THE PILLIGA"

In August 2017, the ABC Radio National program "Earshot" broadcast a story on Eric Rolls - www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/eric-rolls-and-the-pilliga/8742184. The program description is below.

You may know the Pilliga as the site of an ongoing coal seam gas dispute. But it's also the subject of Eric Rolls' fascinating and ground-breaking environmental history, 'A Million Wild Acres', a book that 36 years later can still raise the blood pressure of some conservationists. Published in 1981, it was swashbuckling and bold and arose from his lifetime struggle between poetry and the land. Readers from the poet Les Murray to semi-literate farmers wrote to tell him how much it meant to them to read something that grew directly from the soil.

Eric Rolls uncovered a story of conflict and colonisation at a time when few had heard it - of how the Aboriginal people who'd been maintaining open pastures across that country through use of fire, were violently forced off their land. In their absence, the bush took over. The result was the Pilliga Scrub. His great forest wasn't ancient, wrote Rolls; it had grown up thanks to European land grabs. Conservationists still haven't forgiven him for that claim.

Thanks to Professor Tom Griffiths, whose book 'The art of time travel: historians and their craft' gave rise to this program, also to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Charlie from the Cypress Campground at Baradine for their assistance. Excerpts from 'A Million Wild Acres' were read by William Zappa.

Guests in the program:

- * Tom Griffiths - W K Hancock Professor of History at the Australian National University
- * David Johnston - Baradine neighbour and bird watcher
- * Ray Tassell - she delivered the post to Eric and Joan at their property, Cumberlandden
- * Ron Cutts - the last brumby musterer in the Pilliga
- * Judith Hadfield - sold Joan and Eric their Baradine property, Cumberlandden

WOOD COLLECTION AT THE ANU

In July 2018, ABC Radio Canberra featured a segment on the wood collection at the Australian National University, interviewing Dr Matthew Brookhouse from the ANU's Fenner School. The accompanying article, "Growing interest in wood libraries sees tree lovers converge at local branches", is available at www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-28/treelovers-converge-at-local-wood-library-branches/10033194 and includes a link to the 8 minute audio. A related video (1 minute), "Take a leaf out of nature's book and visit your nearest xylarium", is at www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-27/take-a-leaf-out-of-natures-book-and-visit-your-nearest-xylarium/10039466. The ANU has also published an interview with Dr Brookhouse, "Our Lord of the rings", at www.science.anu.edu.au/research/academic-profiles/our-lord-rings.

DIGGING IN THE FHS CRATES: LAUSMANN'S LOUSY LOGGERS BAND

By Eben Lehman

Here at Peeling Back the Bark World Headquarters we occasionally like to get our fingers a little dusty by digging through the vinyl record collection in the FHS archives. Our collection may be modest, but it's full of vintage forest-related audio treasures. One of our favorite items from the collection is undoubtedly the self-titled album from Lausmann's Lousy Loggers Band. Everyone who sees the album gets a kick out the band's name as well as the photos inside the record sleeve. But who were these guys?

The Lousy Loggers were a band made up of members all with connections to forest industries. Here's how the group was described by the Western Conservation Journal: "The story of the barkclad bards who keep the loggers dancing is an inspiring example of men dedicated to a rewarding purpose. Each Lousy Logger earns his bread in a job related to bringing in the trees. Each donates his time and pays his entire expenses - instruments, travel, convention board and room; everything. As a group, they give and ask nothing back except that their friends, the loggers, swing their partners."



The band was led by the legendary Anton "Tony" Lausmann (1889-1978), founder of KOGAP Lumber Industries in Medford, Oregon. Lausmann was certainly a character.

He could easily be spotted by either the ever-present cigar in his mouth, or the concertina in his hands - and oftentimes with both at the same time. In addition to founding KOGAP, Lausmann's long forest industry career included serving as director of the Oregon Forestry Center, the Industrial Forestry Association, and the National Lumber Manufacturers Association. But what brought him the most joy (and fame) was his concertina - or "squeeze-box" - which he was said to have carried with him just about everywhere since he was a kid.

It was Lausmann's commitment to carrying his concertina that led to the Lousy Loggers name. In 1958 he was on a voyage by ship to Hawaii with a group of Shriners. Asked to entertain the passengers with his concertina, Lausmann was eventually joined by other "musicians" on board playing the harmonica, tin cans, and other improvised instruments. A fellow passenger asked what the name of the group was, and another one of the Shriners yelled out "Lausmann's Lousy Loggers." The name stuck.

That same year Lausmann was invited to play at the Pacific Logging Congress Annual Convention. He recruited some forest industry musician friends and the

official Lousy Loggers Band was born. Following a successful debut at the 1958 Pacific Logging Congress, the group performed for much of the next two decades at various conferences and conventions, mainly in the Pacific Northwest. The band recorded their one and only album in 1972. At the time of this recording, the band included Lowell Jones on the keys; Gene Pickett on trumpet and trombone; three men on sax and clarinet - Clifton Crothers, Bill Preuss, and Vince Bousquet; Jack Bennett on drums; Dave Totton on bass; and Rex Stevens on vibes. Other past members of the group included Howard Smith, Jim Bigelow, Stu Norton, Clyde Lees, Ed Pease, Phil English, Gene Duysen, and Tony's son Jerry Lausmann.



Editor's note: The website discogs.com describes the 1972 album as "jazz" and "easy listening"; it includes renditions of such tracks as "Hello, Dolly!" and "Sentimental Journey". See www.discogs.com/Lausmanns-Lousy-Loggers-Band-Lausmanns-Lousy-Loggers-Band/release/7320890 for the track listing.

The original article on the FHS website includes a few more photos and a link to a video of the band performing "Hello, Dolly!"

It did make me wonder if there are Australian and/or New Zealand equivalents of the Lousy Loggers?

On a separate point, "Shriners" (mentioned in the last complete paragraph in the left column) are members of a masonic group called Shriners International, historically known as the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Wikipedia says that they "are well known for their maroon fezzes, lavish parades, and sponsorship of children's hospitals". For those familiar with US band the Dead Kennedys, the cover of one of their albums features a photo taken at a Shriner parade in the 1970s. The band had bought rights to the photo from *Newsweek* which had first published the photo. The band and *Newsweek* were sued for their trouble.



* Reprinted from the Forest History Society, Durham NC, USA; published 18th Dec 2015. www.foresthistory.org/digging-in-the-fhs-crates-lausmanns-lousy-loggers-band-2

Thanks to Graeme Wood for telling me about Lausmann's Lousy Loggers Band.

**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN:
 BLUNDELLS FLAT AND SHANNONS FLAT**

The AFHS has recently published on our website a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Blundells Flat and Shannons Flat in the ACT. The plan can be downloaded from the AFHS website at www.foresthistory.org.au/publications/Blundells%20Flat%20and%20Shannons%20Flat.html.

The need for the CMP was prompted by the 2003 bushfires in Canberra which burnt out all but one of the ACT historic arboreta, including the historically significant poplar arboretum at Blundells Flat. Concerned about the loss of natural and cultural heritage, Friends of the ACT Arboreta (FACTA - now called Friends of ACT Trees) obtained a grant through the ACT Government's Bushfire Recovery Program to examine options for the recovery of the arboretum at Blundells. FACTA engaged heritage professional Mark Butz to undertake the study, the results of which appear in a 2004 publication titled *Blundells Flat area ACT: Management of Natural and Cultural Heritage Values. Background Study for the Friends of ACT Arboreta*. The study is available at www.markbutz.com/Butz%202004%20Blundells%20Flat%20management%20study_FACTA.pdf.

This report formed the basis of a comprehensive paper presented by Mark at the AFHS conference at Augusta in Western Australia in 2004. Due to the society's interest in the role of arboreta in Australia's forest history, discussions were held with Mark regarding additional research into Blundells Flat arboreta. The society then applied for and received a grant from the ACT Government's 2004-05 Heritage Grants Program to prepare a CMP for Blundells Flat and Shannons Flat.

Mark prepared this plan over a number of years, but it has only recently been finalised and is now available for download from the AFHS website. It is a detailed and carefully researched document providing an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the complex interweaving of nature and culture in the history of human settlement in the ACT.

REDISCOVERY OF DIELS' WATTLE

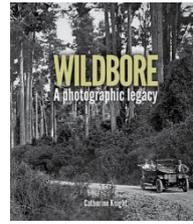
In December 2018, the ABC reported the rediscovery by botanist Libby Sandiford of *Acacia prismifolia*, a plant long thought extinct and last seen in 1933 in the Stirling Range in south-west Western Australia. The ABC news item is at www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-13/seed-bank-holds-the-forgotten-conservation/10610418.

Florabase says that it is a shrub, 0.5 to 2m high, with yellow flowers from August to November, and has been recorded around Albany and Esperance - <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/3299>.

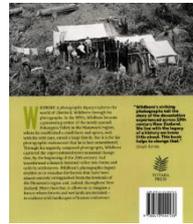
The species was named by German botanist Ernst Georg Pritzel who, along with fellow German Ludwig Diels, collected plants in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand from 1900 to 1902.

In 2001, the Royal Society of Western Australia published an article by JS Beard titled *The Botanists Diels and Pritzel in Western Australia: A centenary* - [www.rswa.org.au/publications/Journal/84\(4\)/BEARD.PDF](http://www.rswa.org.au/publications/Journal/84(4)/BEARD.PDF).

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



Catherine Knight, July 2018. *Wildbore: A photographic legacy*. Totara Press, New Zealand. Paperback, approx. 100 pages with colour and B&W illustrations. ISBN 9780473444136. RRP NZ\$29.99.



From the publisher's notes. This book explores the world of Pohangina Valley farmer Charles E. Wildbore through his remarkable photographs. Wildbore captured the unprecedented environmental change that, by the beginning of the 20th century, had transformed a densely forested valley into farms and orderly settlements. Wildbore's photographic legacy enables us to visualise the forests that have been almost entirely extinguished from the lowlands of the Manawātū region and, indeed, throughout New Zealand. More than that, it allows us to imagine a future where forests and wetlands are restored - to coalesce with landscapes of human endeavour.

www.khm.co.nz/totara-press

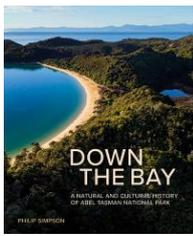


Paul Bensemann, 2018. *The fight for the forests. The pivotal campaigns that saved New Zealand's native forests*. Potton & Burton, Nelson, New Zealand. Hardback with dustjacket, 300 pages. ISBN 9780947503130. RRP NZ\$69.99.

From the publisher's notes.

The greatest success stories of the modern environmental movement in New Zealand were the public campaigns to save our native forests, beginning in the 1960s with the battle to stop Lake Manapouri being drowned. By 2000, all the significant lowland forest in South Westland had become part of a World Heritage Area, the beech forests of the West Coast had largely been protected, Paparoa National Park had been established, the magnificent podocarp forests of Pureora and Whirinaki in the central North Island had been saved from the chainsaw, and many other smaller areas of forest had been included into the conservation estate. *Fight for the Forest* tells this remarkable story, how a group of young activists became aware of government plans to mill vast areas of West Coast beech forest, and began campaigning to halt this. From small beginnings, a much larger movement grew, mainly centred around the work of the Native Forests Action Council, whose young, committed and extremely capable conservationists tapped into huge public support and changed the course of environmental history in this country. Mainly based on interviews with key players, author Paul Bensemann has recorded a largely untold but significant and inspiring history, one that reminds us that change for good is always possible.

www.pottonandburton.co.nz/store/fight-for-the-forests.



Philip Simpson, 2018. *Down the Bay. A natural and cultural history of Abel Tasman National Park.* Pottan & Burton, Nelson, New Zealand. Hardback with dustjacket, 312 pages. ISBN 9780947503932. RRP NZ\$79.99.

From the publisher's notes.

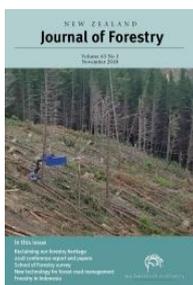
Down the Bay is a natural and cultural history of Abel Tasman National Park, one of New Zealand's most loved and popular national parks. A war-time baby, the park was created in 1942 to protect the wonderful sequence of beaches, headlands and forest that characterises this idyllic stretch of coastline at the top of South Island.

Philip Simpson, an award-winning author of a number of books on New Zealand trees, presents a comprehensive picture of the distinctive landforms of Abel Tasman, from the granite headlands and golden-sand beaches of the coast to the deep caves of the uplands, the diversity of plants and animals, the marine environment, and the overlay of both Māori and European history.

As well, the book records how Project Janszoon, a trust funded by a remarkably generous philanthropic gift, is working with the Department of Conservation and a range of other organisations to transform the park, by removing pests and weeds and then restoring and preserving the wildlife of Abel Tasman. This is an inspiring and hopeful story of how the future of an important area of New Zealand is being secured for future generations.

Down the Bay is the first authoritative account of Abel Tasman National Park to ever be published, a book that also beautifully captures an unforgettable visitor experience.

www.pottanandburton.co.nz/store/down-the-bay.

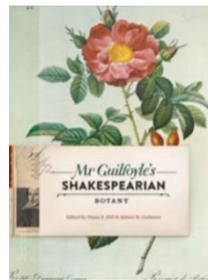


Michael Roche, 2018. World War I and Forestry in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* 63 (2), pp31-34.

Abstract: World War I influenced the course of state forestry in New Zealand by delaying implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Forestry 1913. New

Zealand's first professionally qualified forester was killed during the war, but post-war scholarships provided opportunities and enabled other New Zealanders to take forestry degrees at Edinburgh. Indeed the war also placed L.M. Ellis, who was to really shape the course of state forestry in New Zealand, in a position where he was able to apply successfully for the position of inaugural Director of Forests in 1919.

www.nzjf.org.nz/contents.php?volume_issue=j63_3



Edmée Cudmore and Diana Hill (eds), September 2018. *Mr Guilfoyle's Shakespearian Botany.* Melbourne University Press. ISBN 9780522873986. \$45. www.mup.com.au/books/mr-guilfoyles-shakespearian-botany-paperback-softback.

From the publisher's notes.

An extraordinary mix of Shakespearian references, Guilfoyle's botanical lore, and lush botanical illustrations.

The great William Guilfoyle, credited as the architect of Melbourne's Royal Botanic gardens, was an eminent landscape designer, botanist and writer. Here are his collected writings on the dozens of plants, fruits and flowers William Shakespeare referred to in his plays and poems. Each entry is accompanied by Basilius Besler's groundbreaking illustrations and delicate watercolours by Jacques le Morgues.

Shakespearian Botany is a feast for those who love the bard, gardens and art. It is the first in the Mr Guilfoyle trilogy.

Mr Guilfoyle's Honeymoon: The Gardens of Europe & Great Britain and *Mr Guilfoyle's South Sea Islands Adventure on HMS Challenger* will be published in 2019.



John Weaver, 2016. Capital in Nature/Nature by Capital: Global Integration and New Zealand's forests 1870-2000. *Environmental History* 21 (4); 688-717.

Abstract: From earliest colonization, New Zealand's forests have been altered by timber merchants, land-hunting

settlers, acculturation societies, and plantation enthusiasts. Many stages in remaking the forests involved the state. From 1920 forward, the State Forest Service established pine plantations; these extensive tracts of introduced species inspired private corporations that planted further acreage. A salubrious climate allowed radiata pine in particular to mature in thirty rather than sixty years. Consequently, by the early 1950s, public and private forestry industries, managing immense plantations, emerged as substantial employers and town builders in the central North Island. A Labour Party government in the late 1980s resolved to privatize the state plantation forests for fiscal reasons and to end the conflict of interest that existed with locating conservation and commercialization in a single Department of Forests. The decision to sell forests precipitated impassioned debates about national identity, recreation, aesthetics, the organization of industry, the paternalism of state forestry towns, and the relations of Māori with the state.



Timo Särkkä, Miquel Gutierrez-Poch and Mark Khulberg (eds.), 2018. *Technological Transformation in the Global Pulp and Paper Industry 1800-2018: Comparative Perspectives*. Springer, Switzerland.

From the publisher's notes.

This contributed volume provides 11 illustrative case studies of technological transformation in the global pulp and paper industry from the inception of mechanical papermaking in early nineteenth century Europe until its recent developments in today's business environment with rapidly changing market dynamics and consumer behaviour. It deals with the relationships between technology transfer, technology leadership, raw material dependence, and product variety on a global scale. The study itemises the main drivers in technology transfer that affected this process, including the availability of technology, knowledge, investments and raw materials on the one hand, and demand characteristics on the other hand, within regional, national and transnational organisational frameworks. The volume is intended as a basic introduction to the history of papermaking technology, and it is aimed at students and teachers as course material and as a handbook for professionals working in either industry, research centres or universities. It caters to graduate audiences in forestry, business, technical sciences, and history.

www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319949611.

Among the papers are two written by AFHS members.

Michael Roche, "Technological Transfer and Local Innovation: Pulp and Paper Manufacture in New Zealand, c.1860-c.1960", pp189-216.

Abstract: This chapter surveys the evolution of papermaking in New Zealand over roughly one century, specifically from the 1860s when paper was manufactured from rags and waste paper until about 1960, by which time there were pulp and paper mills in operation serving local and export markets. A distinctive feature of the New Zealand scene was that the wood pulp was sourced from exotic plantations largely comprised of *Pinus radiata*, a Californian species previously untried for papermaking. Ownership of the plantation forest estate was divided between the state and private companies. The state had long planned for a pulp and paper industry and sought to shape its structure but ultimately the companies were able to develop separate processing schemes. Both state and industry depended upon pulping trials conducted in the United States, while the technological solution to pulping sappy southern pines in the US also gave hope that *Pinus radiata* would be suitable for newsprint. Other organisational models and technical assistance came, however, from Scandinavia, although some technical problems were solved locally. The establishment of a pulp and paper industry in New Zealand became the life's work of a small number of individuals working both in the Forest Service and for private companies, and many conflicts occurred along the way.

Gordon Dadswell, "Making Paper in Australia; Developing the Technology to Create a National Industry, 1818-1928", pp217-236.

Abstract: This chapter discusses the development of a national paper making industry in Australia between 1818 and 1928. The chapter is divided into six sections. A conclusion summarizes the sections. The introduction, Sect. 10.1, establishes the significance for the chapter of the concept of national efficiency, the necessity to link science with industry. Section 10.2 discusses the colonisation of Australia in 1788 and the first recorded manufacture of paper in 1818 as well as investigations conducted a century later. In Sect. 10.3 the emphasis is on the use of Australian hardwoods and the creation of a national forest products laboratory in Perth, Western Australia. Section 10.4 discusses investigations aimed at proving that earlier research could be translated to a semi-commercial environment. This was conducted in Fyansford, Victoria that used an underused commercial mill. The final Sect., 10.5, discusses the work conducted in a fully commercial environment as well as identifying the financial implications for establishing a papermaking industry in Australia. The conclusion summarises the various sections discussed in the chapter and concludes that the research prior to 1918 was inconsistent, but that which followed was consistent. Various technologies are discussed as are the establishment of national forest products laboratories.



Michael Roche, 2018. "Charles Poweraker: forestry and ideas of sustainability at Canterbury University College (1925-1934)." *Environment and Nature in New Zealand*. Vol. 11, pp6-23.

Introduction (extract): This paper considers an earlier set of sustainability principles expounded by the first generation of forestry professionals in New Zealand in the 1920s and 1930s. In this respect they were inheritors of a set of ideas, constituting 'sustained yield management' that stretched back to the origins of modern scientific forestry in Germany and France in the 17th century and which were intended to provide a predictable supply of timber in perpetuity. Sustained yield management of timber thus prefigures some but not all elements of sustainable development and was one of the targets of environmental groups' critique of the New Zealand Forest Service (NZFS) in the 1970s. Ultimately this led to the disestablishment of the NZFS in 1987 and the creation of new agencies such as a policy oriented Ministry of Forestry, a Department of Conservation (incorporating some groups from the former Lands and Survey Department and Wildlife Service of Internal Affairs) and a Forestry Corporation, a State Owned Enterprise, to run the exotic plantations on a commercial basis. Of these only the Department of Conservation survives. New legislation was passed, notably the Resource Management Act, 1991 which gave central place to 'sustainable management'.

www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ENNZ-Issue-11-Dec-2018.pdf



W.L. (Bill) Mason, 2018. "Forest gardens find a renewed role in British forestry." *CFA Newsletter*, No. 83, December 2018. ISSN 1750-6417. Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Review by Fintán Ó Laighin

While intended for the present, this short article gives an overview of the expansion of planted forests in Great Britain during the 20th century, particularly in the north and west of the country. The opening paragraph cites a 1957 Forestry Commission Bulletin which describes "the results from an extensive programme of screening 'exotic' species for use in British forestry, most of which occurred during the early part of the last century".

To illustrate his points, the author discusses the history of Kilmun Forest Garden in western Scotland which was planted in 1930. The site was used to for species trials to assess their potential in the region. By the 1980s, over 400 plots had been established, encompassing 200 species, including various types of eucalypt. However, interest waned after the site was damaged by storms and, in the late 1980s, responsibility was transferred to the local forestry division which continued research, but on a much smaller scale. However, interest in the site was rekindled towards the end of the century and, in 1999, *Scottish Forestry* published a review of the first 70 years of research, written by Mason and two colleagues - P. Cairns and D.R. Tracey.

I started this short review by saying that the article was intended for the present. As Mason notes, "in the last 20 years, there has been increasing awareness of the desirability of diversifying British planted forests because of the risk from climate change and from new pests and diseases" and a "recognition of the potential vulnerability of the single species planted forests (primarily Sitka spruce) created during the twentieth century".

https://issuu.com/cfa_newsletter/docs/_web_cfa_newsletter_december_2018

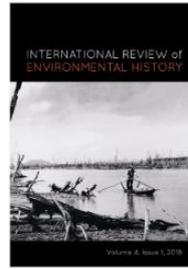


John Dargavel and Elisabeth Johann, 2018 (translated from English by Ingrid Vogel). *Die Geschichte der Forstwissenschaft - eine Geschichte der Hoffnung*. Remagen: Kessel Verlag.

This is a recent German translation of Dargavel and Johann's 2013 book, *Science and Hope: a Forest History* (White Horse Press, Cambridge). It is

a history of science and forestry ideas over the past three centuries and tells the story of hopeful science and the trusting art of forestry. It is a story about the hopes of foresters and other scientists to understand the forests more deeply, and their unspoken confidence that their knowledge could secure a lasting future for the forest.

A point of interest is that John took the cover picture in Elisabeth's forest in Austria. It has a different cover photo than the English edition.



John Dargavel, 2018. "Views and Perspectives: Why Does Australia Have 'Forest Wars'?" *International Review of Environmental History*, vol. 4, no. 1, May 2018. ANU Press, Canberra. ISSN 2205-3204 (print), ISSN 2205-3212 (online). Cost \$30 (print) plus postage, or available for free download from the ANU Press.

Abstract: The governance of Australia's forests has been highly contentious for 40 years, with many environmental conflicts between wood production and conservation that became known as 'forest wars'. Although much has been written during and about them, relatively little has been written about *why* they continue and *why* apparent resolutions do not hold in Australia while they do in some other countries. This paper introduces a brief history of the Australian forests from European settlement to the onset of environmental conflicts in the 1970s, and a brief history of the conflicts over pine plantations, the export of woodchips, rainforests and wilderness. Ten historically contingent and interacting factors that underpin forest wars are discussed: forestry, ecology, time, landscape and the rural divide, class, tenure, economy, philosophy, presentation and process. This paper offers another way of looking at an enduring problem.

<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/international-review-environmental-history-volume-4-issue-1-2018>



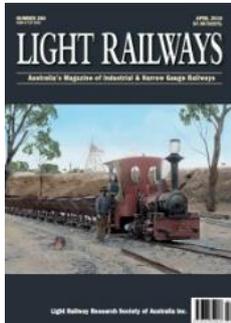
Grant Wardell-Johnson, Angela Wardell-Johnson, Beth Schultz, Joe Dortch, Todd Robinson, Len Collard and Michael Calver, 2018. The contest for the tall forests of south-western Australia and the discourses of advocates, in *Pacific Conservation Biology*, CSIRO Publishing. ISSN: 1038-2097 eISSN: 2204-4604.

Abstract: After over 50 000 years of interaction between Aboriginal people and changing climates, south-western Australia's tall forests were first logged less than 200 years ago, initiating persistent conflict. Recent conservation advocacy has resulted in the protection of 49% of these tall forests in statutory reserves, providing an opportunity to implement and benefit from a growing moral consensus on the valuing of these globally significant, tall forest ecosystems. We analysed a cross-section of literature (63 papers, 118 statements) published on these forests over 187 years to identify values framing advocacy. We differentiated four resource-oriented discourses and three discourses giving primacy to social and environmental values over seven eras. Invasion sparked initial uncontrolled exploitation, with the *Forests Act 1918* managing competing agricultural and timber advocacy. Following the *Colonial* and *Country Life* eras, industrial-scale exploitation of the karri forest region resulted in reaction by increasingly broad sectors of society. Warming and drying in the 21st Century emphasises the importance of intact tall forest and the *Indigenous Renaissance* discourse. Vesting for a more comprehensive set of values would acknowledge a new moral consensus.

www.publish.csiro.au/pc/pdf/PC18058

Light Railways: Australia's Magazine of Industrial & Narrow Gauge Railways, April 2018 (no. 260), June 2018 (261), August 2018 (262), October 2018 (263) and December 2018 (264). Light Railway Research Society of Australia. ISSN 0727 8101. www.lrrsa.org.au.

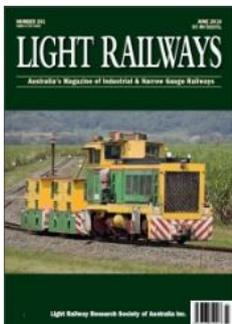
Five editions of *Light Railways* have appeared since our last "normal" newsletter in April 2018, all of which contain items of relevance to forest history.



LR260 starts with an article by Mike McCarthy who discusses the construction of the Torrumbarry weir and lock from 1919-22, located along the Murray River, downstream from the major Victorian river port town of Echuca. While not specifically on a timber tramway, the section on "Sand" discusses the need for copious amounts of

firewood to fuel the boilers on the site and notes that a sawmill was erected and a branch line constructed to bring wood from a forested area to the north-west. The article includes diagrams of the firewood tramways and sidings.

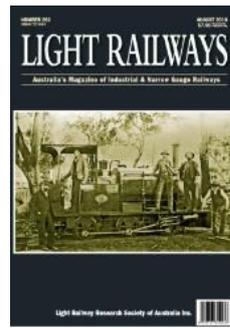
Also included in LR260 is a review by Phil Rickard of Mark and Angela Fry's book *On Splintered Rails: The Era of the Tasmanian Bush-Loco 1873-1974, Volume 1* (as reviewed by Peter Evans in our April 2018 issue), and a field report by Colin Harvey and Phil Rickard of the Planet Mill, a steam-powered sawmill on Mount Disappointment in Victoria.



LR261 includes another article by Phil Rickard, this time on the timber tramways around Apollo Bay in Victoria, featuring both maps and a number of historical photos from the State Library of Victoria, including of people bushwalking along disused tracks in the early 1900s.

A letter from a reader provides additional information on the Marrawah Tramway (discussed in LR254 and LR257, and the subject of a letter in LR258), including upgrades required by pulpwood traffic in the 1950s, and a letter from Mark and Angela Fry about the review of their book in the previous issue. They advise that Volume 2 will be published by Easter 2019 and will cover the locomotive worked logging tramways of Tasmania's north-west and central coasts.

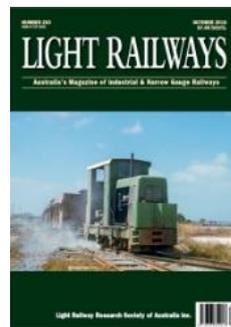
Ian Bevege has written a review of Robert B. Whiter's *When the Chips are Down: Sleepercutting in Australia*, (also see Ian's article on sleeper cutting in the December 2017 issue of our newsletter), and Norman Houghton has provided a field report on the tramway and siding of West Otways sawmiller AG Hitt & Sons in Victoria.



LR262 is a bumper 48 page issue which includes an article by Jeff Austin on the Baxter & Prince sawmills at Donnybrook in Western Australia, not far from one of a number of places in Australia called "Irishtown". Baxter & Prince were primarily railway constructors who, in the mid-1890s, won a government contract to build the

Mullewa-Cue railway. They took over the existing 24 Mile sawmill to supply sleepers for the railway. The article concludes with a field report prepared in 2018.

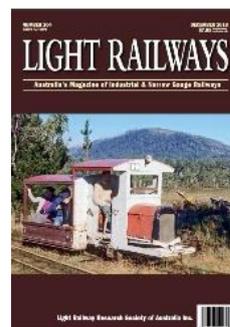
A separate field report, prepared by Norman Houghton, is on the Driver/Knott mill at Arkins Creek, Wyelangta, Victoria. This provides an update to a narrative he wrote in his 1992 book *The Beechy*. The mill dates from the 1920s.



LR263 includes an article by Ian Barnes and Ian Bevege on the Pebbly Beach tramways operated by the Guy Family to serve its sawmill on the south coast of NSW, between Kioloa and Durras. Well illustrated with a map, a diagram and photos (including of Ian Bevege), the article discusses the timber operations of four generations of

the Guy family, from the mid-1870s to the 1930s. The authors made seven field visits during May 2015, and drew on their study of old maps and the few old photos available.

LR263 also includes a field report by Ian McNeil of the Lloyd Cooper Company Firewood Tramway (the Burruga Copper Mine). In early 2018, McNeil was contacted by the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) about remnant earthworks that were in radiata pine compartments that it had recently bought from a private company. FCNSW recognised that they were part of the heritage of the district and that they should be preserved. The field report is accompanied by maps and photographs and a promise of a report on further field work on the Burruga Copper Mine site.



LR264 is one of those seemingly rare issues of *Light Railways* that doesn't include a feature article on timber tramways. However, it does include a field report by Alan Bryce and Mike Kinion on an 1890s log haulage tramway operated by Toowoomba (Queensland) timber merchants A&D Munro.