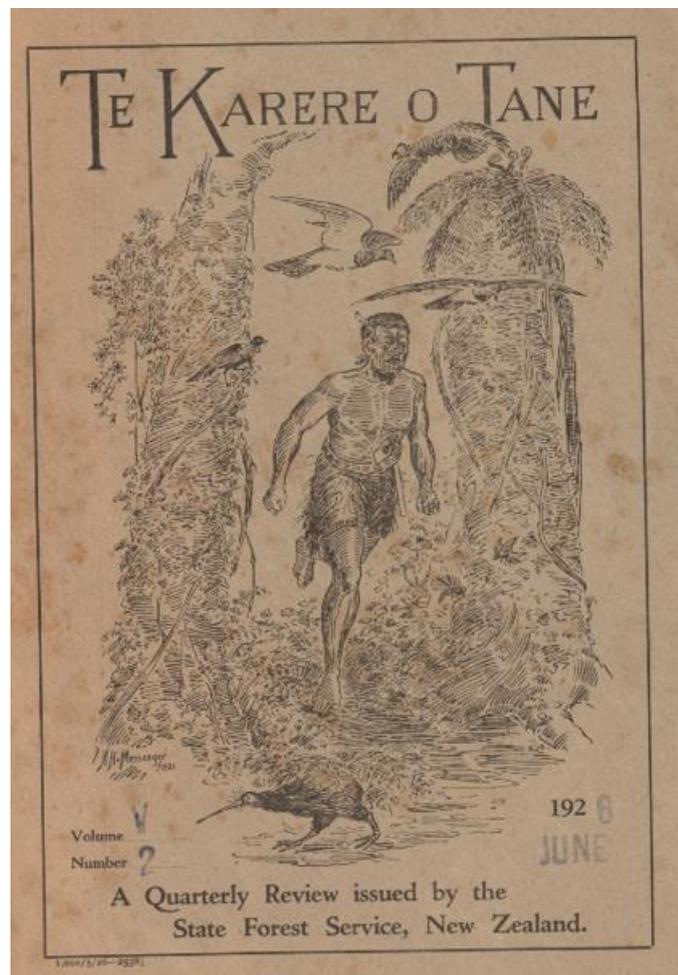

Australian Forest History Society

Newsletter No. 81
December 2020

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



*Te Karere o Tane: Newsletter of the New Zealand
State Forest Service 1920-1927*

See pages 7-9

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NEXT ISSUE

The newsletter is published three times a year and the next issue should be out in April 2021.

Input is always welcome.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE
 By *Fintán Ó Laighin*

After my boast in the July issue about being ahead of schedule, I'm back to being behind again, although we still meet the aim of three issues a year – perhaps 2021 will bring some long-anticipated regularity.

The Big Change since the last issue is that we have a new president, Juliana Lazzari, who was elected at the 2020 AGM and who takes over a position that was left vacant after Sue Feary stood down at the 2019 AGM. Sue had been president since the 2013 AGM during which time the society had a number of achievements, including a successful conference in Mount Gambier in October 2015. A full list of the committee members for 2020-21 is below.

And finally, the July issue included an article about John Curtin but didn't include the name of the author. I received some queries about this. The article was written by me but the omission of my name wasn't due to me being modest, it was just an oversight. I was pleased to learn that people enjoyed the article.

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE 2020-21 COMMITTEE

The society's Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on Thursday 26 November 2020. The following committee was elected:

- President:** Juliana Lazzari
- Vice-President:** Vacant
- Secretary:** Kevin Frawley
- Treasurer:** Fintán Ó Laighin
- Committee:** Peter Evans, Stuart Pearson
- Public Officer:** John Gray

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MARYBOROUGH FORESTRY DISTRICT

By Peter Cook and John Huth

The beginning of forestry

Maryborough played a key role in the establishment of the forestry and timber industry throughout Queensland.

In the 1870s a group of enlightened sawmillers eager to safeguard their future timber supplies, joined the growing forestry conservancy movement. In 1875 the case against the wanton destruction of the forest was taken up by John Douglas, the parliamentary member for Maryborough, who called for a select committee to consider the preservation and conservation of the forests. The committee on forest conservancy, appointed by the state government in 1875, comprised six people and was chaired by John Douglas. It met from 24 July to 4 August 1875 and took evidence from 14 people, including timber merchants Robert Hart from Maryborough and William Pettigrew from Brisbane. On 31 August 1875 the committee made seven recommendations, three of which were the appointment of forest rangers, the security of tenure for special timber licences and that a forest conservancy board should be formed. However, the government took little notice of most of them; however, they did create a position of state forest inspector (John Williams) in 1882.

In 1889 Richard Matthew Hyne, MLA for Maryborough, saw the need to control the exploitation and destruction of forests. He was successful in introducing to the House a motion that the government take action to replant the forests and to create a department of forestry. However, although the motion was passed this was not implemented. In 1890 the government called for reports on forestry matters. Reports were submitted by a number of commissioners including George Leonard Broad (Land Commissioner of Maryborough and Gympie) and Archibald McDowell (District Surveyor, Wide Bay and who had previously initiated the planting of kauri pine on Fraser Island in 1876). The recommendations were: a system of conservation (reservation and management of the native forest); a planting program (replanting and enrichment planting of the production forests); and extension (planting of forests in treeless areas). In 1896 Broad suggested in a report to government that a system of forest conservation was necessary as the country was becoming "denuded of natural timber". Finally, a Forestry Branch was created within the Department of Public Lands in August 1900 with Broad (now Lands Commissioner for Maryborough, Gympie, Bundaberg and Gladstone) appointed as Inspector (Brisbane) and two Crown Land Rangers appointed as forest rangers: F.W.H. Lade (north Queensland, Cairns) and Gilbert Burnett (south Queensland, Nanango).

From 1900 to 1905 Forestry was under the control of the Department of Public Lands, the chief officer having the title of Inspector of Forests. When Broad was replaced by Philip Mac Mahon in November 1905, the title changed to Director of Forests. In mid-1921, the Forestry Branch became the Queensland Forest Service.

Between 1924 and 1933, the Queensland Forest Service was controlled by a Provisional Forestry Board. The three-person board, headed by a chairman (who was also the Director of Forests), reported to the Minister for Public Lands.

In 1932 Forestry became a sub-department within the Department of Lands and with the passing of the Forestry Act in late 1957, it became a department in its own right. With the amendments to the Forestry Act in 1959, the board ceased to exist and on 1 August 1960 the title of the Director of Forests was changed to Conservator of Forests. A major change occurred in 1989 when the Forestry Department was restructured and became the Queensland Forest Service within the Department of Primary Industries. Although no longer autonomous, it retained all the functions and responsibilities of the former department. In 1991-92, the Forest Service was integrated fully into the Department of Primary Industries and the title Conservator was removed. All the responsibilities were transferred to the Director-General of Primary Industries and head of Forestry was given the title of Executive Director.

In 2006, commercial plantation forestry operations and native forest operations were split, with the former being managed by a Queensland Government plantation forestry corporation – Forestry Plantations Queensland – and the latter by Forest Products, a business group within the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management. This culminated in 2010 with the sale of the Forestry Plantations Queensland business to Hancock Queensland Plantations, a privately-owned company managed by Hancock Timber Resource Group.

Maryborough District

The original Maryborough Forestry District boundary ran between Gladstone and Busted Heads in the north, westwards to the Many Peaks Range, south along the Dawes Range taking in Mount Perry and Gayndah. It continued running southerly following the Boyne River and south of Proston and then swung east taking in Wondai and Manumbar, headed north to Theebine and then east to Tin Can Bay and included Fraser Island.

It was split into four sub-districts:

- Maryborough – this was later split into Maryborough and Tuan Sub-Districts.
- Bundaberg – this was later divided between Maryborough and Monto District.
- Kilkivan – excised in 1956 and formed part of the Murgon District.
- Fraser Island – transferred to control of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1992.

The district contained cypress pine, hoop pine, wet and dry rainforests, wet and dry eucalypts forests. During World War Two, a lot of harvesting was done in pine forests throughout Queensland. Pine plantations (both native and exotic conifers) were later established within the district.

It was reported that the first forest office in Maryborough began in 1912. In 1926 it moved to the upper floor of the then Commonwealth Bank. Another shift occurred in 1940 to the new SGIO building which was built in Wharf Street adjacent to the Court House. The next shift was in the early 1950s to the former Department of Labour building in Richmond St and in 1964 it returned to the SGIO building.

Bundaberg Sub-District had its own office at various sites in Bundaberg, mainly in Quay Street using rooms in other government buildings.

Tuan Sub-District

After World War Two it was decided to plant exotic pines from North America on a large scale.

Tuan was one of the areas selected for these plantings and planting started in 1948. At that stage there was a shortage of labour and displaced overseas persons or refugees from the eastern European states (commonly called "The Balts") were engaged by Forestry on a two-year contract basis. An estimated 30 of these refugees were stationed at Tuan Creek and started work on these pine plantations. Many of the refugees made Forestry their careers and contributed greatly to Forestry development after finishing their contract period.

Plants for the initial planting at Tuan were supplied from the Beerwah nursery. A nursery established at Tuan provided plants for subsequent plantings in the area until it closed 1971.

The Tuan plantation eventually became the second largest plantation area in Australia.

Wongi

Planting in this area began in 1978 with an experimental planting by Overseer V. Eckert for planting in shallow soils. Due to the success of the experiment:

1. Parcels of private lands in the area were purchased for forestry purposes.
2. Large areas of vacant Crown land were also converted to state forest.
3. An office and camp area were set up near the Wongi Water Holes.
4. Plantation establishment continued.

Bundaberg Sub-District

The plantations in this sub-district are at Gregory – an old soldier settlement area – being gazetted as state forest in 1956 and plantation establishment commenced in 1960. A camp consisting of barracks, truck shed and office was also built at this time. The forest station at Gregory was closed after the establishment of new facilities at Elliott River when planting started here in 1966.

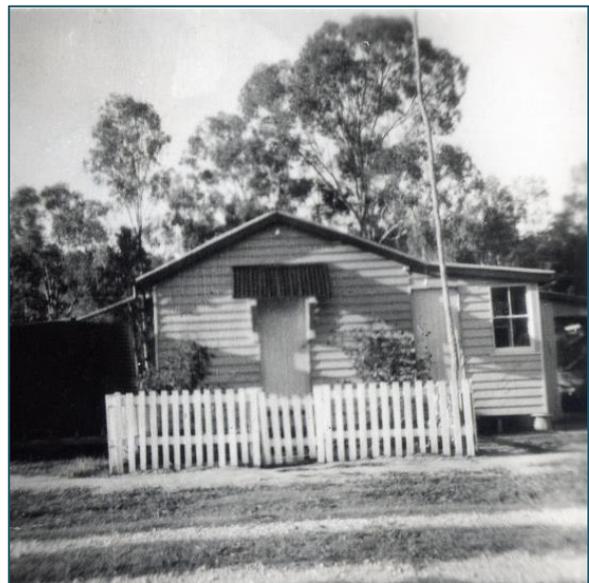
A number of land swaps between Forestry and adjacent landholders occurred in this vicinity because of salt problems being experienced with soil on their cane lands. Planting the old cane lands with exotic pine reduced the water table and overcame the soil salt problems.

Kilkivan Sub-District

Forestry in this area started in the early 1920s with the opening of an office in Kilkivan. Initial work involved brushing out unwanted species to allow other species to mature. Plantation establishment followed soon after with hoop pine being planted at Oakview in 1926-27. The first planting of bunya was in 1928 and the first planting of silky oak was in 1928-29.

Plantations were also established at Elginvale, Kabunga, Gallangowan¹, Jimmy's Scrub, Wratten's Camp and Cinnabar.

These areas remained under Kilkivan control until 1932 when an office started in Goomeri. In 1956 the sub-district was separated from Maryborough District and became part of the newly formed Murgon District.



Kabunga Forestry Office 1950s. Photo: Peter Cook.

Fraser Island Sub-District

This island was gazetted a Reserve for Timber in 1882 and then the majority as State Forest 3) in 1908.

Logging on the island started in the mid-1800s and by 1883 there was concern for the amount of timber being removed from the island. During 1883-84, planting of kauri pine was carried out on about 93 ha of land near Bogimbah Creek. This turned out to be a failure because of competition of undergrowth and the overhead canopy.

The management of blackbutt on Fraser Island was one of the great success stories in native forest production in Australia.

¹ **Authors' note:** Peter Cook lived in these three locations in the early 1950s as his father Bill Cook worked there as an Overseer.

In the 1980s, the environmental movement commenced putting pressure on the Queensland Government to stop logging on Fraser Island. Eventually in 1991 the government decided that logging on the island would cease on 31 December 1991. On that day, a brush box log was the last to be cut on Fraser Island. The last barge of logs was unloaded in Maryborough on 21 January 1992.

In January 1992, Dr Jim Thorsell, a senior advisor for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), inspected the island and in May of that year recommended that Fraser Island be listed as a World Heritage Area. This gives testament to the way Forestry management practices had preserved the island.

Forestry operations ceased in February 1992 and control was transferred to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

A legacy of the timber industry remains on Fraser Island to this day. In March 1986 Andy Postan, a long-term logging contractor on the island, donated his Caterpillar 35 to be displayed at Central Station Museum. This was bought to Fraser Island in 1935 and was the first tractor on the island.



*Geoff Clare, Ray Robinson, Peter Holzworth, Warren Edwards and Cecil Neilsen at the donated dozer, March 1986.
 Photo: J Huth collection.*

Hardwood areas

The state forests to the west of Maryborough and in the Bundaberg area contained good stands of hardwood forests. Forest stations and camps were established before World War Two with the aim of providing hardwood timbers for future generations. Firebreaks and road systems were put in place and hardwood treatment – the removal of useless stems and the spacing of other stems to allow the best trees to mature – was carried out.

These forests were managed on a sustained yield basis and provided good quality milling timber as well as poles, railway and fencing timbers. With a multi-use policy in place, they also allowed for stock grazing, beekeeping and recreational use.

The forestry activities in these areas were of major benefit to local landholders for fire prevention and control as well as other social benefits in small communities. Many small towns grew up around the forestry and sawmilling activities in these remote areas.

Parts of the state forests around the Brooweena area were recognised as suitable for plantation establishment and were planted with hoop pine in the mid-1960s and early 1970s. The remainder was left as hardwood area.

Hoop pine scrub wood area

This Goodnight Scrub Reserve had a top canopy of hoop pine to a height of 30m with a scrub wood lower canopy of 10m. It is what is now called a dry rainforest area. It is a very harsh environment containing scrub ticks, stinging trees, prickly and itching vines to pester occupants. It is the only area in Queensland where the hoop pine was treated in the same way as a hardwood forest to promote the growth of the best trees.

Workshop

The forestry workshop was built in the late 1960s on land adjacent to the Maryborough cemetery. This was just prior to the large expansion of planting activity at Tuan in the mid-1970s. At this time, Tuan was operating 23 tractors and dozers together with ploughs, planting machines, vehicles (both large and light), fire tankers, chainsaws and other light mechanical items. The workshop became a very busy place. Other smaller workshops operated at Elliott River, Tuan, Wongi and Fraser Island.

As work shifted towards engaging contractors to carry out forestry activities, workshop activities began to slow down for forestry needs; however, work was taken up carrying out repairs to other government vehicles around Maryborough and Bundaberg.

The Maryborough workshop also became the location for government vehicle auction sales. This brought in extra work for staff in preparing vehicles for these sales.

Recreation

In addition to management of native and plantation timbers, Forestry opened their areas to the public for various recreation purposes. Forest recreation areas and forest drives quickly became very popular places where people could escape from their normal routines and enjoy their leisure time in peaceful surroundings.

With the introduction of the Fraser Island Public Access Act in 1985, the Maryborough Forestry District played a major part in the development of policies and procedures for management of recreation areas and tour operator permits on Fraser Island. The policies and procedures developed at that time were later adopted by the government to apply to Morton Island and then to the rest of Queensland.

With greater emphasis being placed on recreation activities on Fraser Island at this time, a permanent base was set up at Eurong. This comprised an office-information centre, staff housing and workshops.

West Indian drywood termite

The West Indian drywood termite is an introduced species in Australia and considered the world's most destructive drywood termite. It caused considerable damage to timber structures in Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Townsville. Forestry administered the legislation to help eradicate this termite.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Forestry carried out a campaign to identify affected buildings. During this period, large buildings in Maryborough and other cities were covered in plastic sheeting into which gas could be safely pumped to fumigate to termites.²

Administration

The office staff in Maryborough held a wide range of skills because of their duties within forestry and therefore were not afraid to take on extra duties as they arose.

Dilli Village

Maryborough Forestry District took over management of Dilli Village on Fraser Island from the Queensland Recreation Council sometime in the late 1980s. Very little notice of this handover was given and it was a challenge for staff to get management and administrative functions in place to run a resort style complex like a private concern. Special financial systems were set up to cater for shop management, accommodation and meals as these fell outside of normal government accountability functions. The management of this facility was transferred to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in February 1992.

Department of Primary Industries amalgamation

In 1989, the state government decided to amalgamate Forestry, Water Resources, Boating and Fisheries and Primary Industries into one department. With this amalgamation the Maryborough office became the management centre for the new district. Office staff not only had to provide services to Forestry but also to Water Resources (Mundubbera and Maryborough), Boating and Fisheries (Maryborough and Hervey Bay) and various units within DPI (Mundubbera, Gayndah, Brian Pastures, Maryborough).

Displaced timber and sawmilling workers

With the closure of logging on Fraser Island, the Maryborough office staff put up their hands to provide services to the state government in relation to displaced workers in the timber and sawmilling industry. This involved the payment of wages and compensation packages as determined by the government until the workers found alternative work

Commercialisation

In 1995 a decision was made to commercialise and regionalise Forestry. Peter Cook who was Maryborough District Manager, Corporate Services under the amalgamated DPI structure was seconded to move to Gympie and set up the Regional Office. Once established, administrative functions from Maryborough District office (and other district offices) were transferred to the Gympie office. In 2003, administrative staff in the Maryborough office became surplus to requirements and were given the opportunity to transfer to the Gympie office or seek positions elsewhere. Luckily at the time various government departments in Maryborough had vacancies and were pleased to gain the services of experienced staff. Several staff took up positions with the prison that was being established outside Maryborough.

Senior staff

District Foresters

M.H. Simon
Kell McGrath
Arthur Owens
William Suttie
A.G.W. (Andy) Anderson – early 1953-75
Peter Kanowski (Snr) – January 1975 to April 1981
Norm Clough – 1981-83
John Duus – 1983-85
Peter Holzworth – 1986-90
William Greasley – Relieving
Erwin Epp – Relieving
Peter Locos – 1992-96
Peter Locus – 1996-2002: title changed to Principal District Manager

In 2002 all districts were abandoned, and the department went to a regional management structure.

Senior Clerks

James Templeton
Spencer Camp
Thomas Mahoney
Maxwell Wroe (acting)
Peter Cook
Douglas Johnson
Ivan Casperson

Acknowledgements

This article has been prepared from extracts from *A History of Forestry & Timber – Maryborough / Fraser Island* by former Forestry employee Dick Eckert in 2003 and from the various published and unpublished writings of John Huth and Peter Holzworth.

² **Editor's Note:** One of the buildings covered in plastic sheeting was Parliament House in Brisbane – see David Gough's article in the June 2018 issue of the AFHS newsletter, www.foresthistory.org.au/newsletter/afhsnewsletter75.pdf (p8).

**TE KARERE O TANE: NEWSLETTER OF THE
 NEW ZEALAND STATE FOREST SERVICE 1920-1927**

By Michael Roche

From late 1920 until September 1927, at regular intervals, the New Zealand State Forest Service issued a gestetner produced in-house newsletter of some 20 pages called *Te Karere o Tane*. This was an initiative of the first Director of Forests, Canadian L.M. Ellis, and designed to raise esprit de corps. This it did by means of provision of professional and technical information, regional updates from the forest conservancy districts, personal items, and crosswords. The editor of the newsletter was usually unidentified, but from comments in some of the issues, Head Office staffers, Frank Foster and Frank Hutchinson were among those who performed this role. Almost certainly it was never Ellis nor Arnold Hansson, the Chief Inspector of Forests; it was not intended to be an official "top down" communique. Before turning to the content of the newsletter, it is worth considering the name and the cover, which remained unchanged throughout the newsletter's entire life.

The cover design features a Māori warrior running through the forest which includes tree fern and various native birds including kiwi, tui, kereru, and tūairaka (fantail) (Figure 1). Tāne was the Māori god of the forest. Karere may be translated as messenger, envoy, or courier and refers to the running figure. The artwork is signed – A.H. Messenger.¹ While scientific forestry principles may have been universal, the newsletter symbolically was concerned with what was a highly endemic flora and fauna – there is a hint of "eco-nationalism" in Messenger's design.

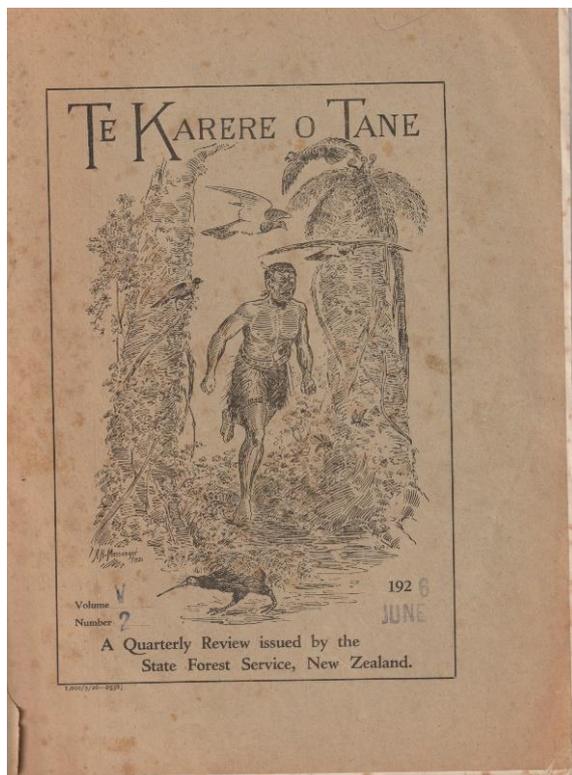


Figure 1: *Te Karere o Tane* (Author's collection).

Arthur Messenger (1877-1962) grew up in Taranaki and Wellington. He joined the Department of Lands and Survey as a cadet but left to go to sea in 1900. On returning to New Zealand around 1904, he joined the staff of the *New Zealand Herald* in Auckland. Over the course of several decades, he produced ink drawings to illustrate various aspects of the spar trade, many sketches of sailing ships, Māori pa, and interpretations of Māori mythology. In 1914, he rejoined Lands and Survey in Auckland as a draughtsman and in 1921 transferred to the newly formed New Zealand State Forest Service and relocated to Wellington. Messenger additionally provided articles and ink drawings for several New Zealand magazines. He departed the State Forest Service for the Department of Internal Affairs in 1923 as Government Publicity Officer and later rose to become Publicity Officer for the New Zealand Tourist Bureau. He retired in 1943 (Personal Notes, 1943).

Curiously enough, one of the elderly foresters I interviewed in the early 1980s, Sam Darby, eventually Conservator of Forests for Wellington, recounted Messenger's appointment to me. Messenger seemed to Darby to be the best candidate, but Phillips Turner, the Secretary of Forestry, favoured another applicant. The gentlemanly Phillips Turner was in Darby's recollection "a poor advocate" and Ellis agreed to hire Messenger as a draughtsman, but with the admonition that, "he (Darby) had better be right". Already an experienced illustrator, Messenger provided the cover design (and possibly even the name) for the newsletter.

In terms of content, this was varied but over time a pattern emerged. This was of a series of conservancy reports, a professional or technical article, some practical items to do with the actual management of the forests and sundry short paragraphs some humorous in nature. Ellis occasionally contributed to the newsletter. The November 1922 issue (Volume II No. 3) for instance, led with a summary of his address to staff in Palmerston North (13 November). This began with a locally specific "timber famine" introduction, including the future cost of power poles, before turning optimistically to the timely management of indigenous forests and the future value of city, borough, and county afforestation projects.

On its establishment in 1921, the State Forest Service, numbered very few trained foresters in its ranks. One important function of the newsletter was to disseminate professional and technical information within the service. Accordingly, lectures on forestry in New Zealand originally delivered by Charles Foweraker, a botanist at Canterbury College (now University of Canterbury), who had enrolled in the Cambridge forestry diploma course after WWI, were reprinted, as were his later notes on New Zealand forest types prepared for forestry students at Canterbury (e.g. Foweraker, 1922, 1923, 1927).

¹ Editor's note: The National Library of NZ has a biographical entry on Messenger at <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22372389>.

Capacity building: Forest rangers' courses

In the absence of any higher forestry education in New Zealand before 1925, Ellis resorted to in-house courses and staff conferences to train and upskill his staff. Material from these important but somewhat overlooked events was included in the newsletter. They also throw some light on the personalities of the senior staff.

In 1924, Ellis requested that two staff from each of the seven forest conservancies be sent on a three-week course to be held at Whakarewarewa, near Rotorua, site of most of the experimental plantings made by the Forestry Branch (part of the Lands Department) from 1897 to 1919 (Anon, 1924). This course was aimed at sub-professional staff, that is most of the department. The officer in charge was Arnold Hansson, the Chief Inspector of Forests. Hansson was a Norwegian-trained forester with work experience in Canada and a Master of Forestry from Yale (Roche, 1998). He was assisted by two ex-NZEF servicemen (New Zealand Expeditionary Force) who had taken up scholarships to study forestry at the University of Edinburgh after the end of WWI: Frank Foster and R.B. Steel (Roche, 2018). The third instructor was Frank Hutchinson, a New Zealander who completed a forestry degree at the University of Montana and later served as Lecturer in Forestry at Canterbury College (B.M.,1982). The men were housed in a tent camp (but with the luxury of wooden floors) and nearby to a cook house. The programme was a mix of theory and practice. A lecture on the biology of trees by Frank Foster was followed by a day of hands on nursery practice overseen by H.A. Goudie, the Conservator of Forests Rotorua, a qualified nurseryman, and an expert

on eucalyptus in New Zealand. Rua Tawhai, the first Māori to attend the Forestry School at Canterbury, provided guidance on preparing and sowing seed beds. Hansson lectured on methods of timber cruising and there were associated field exercises. There was also a fieldtrip to the Kaingaroa plantation, subsequently to be a major focal point of the State Forest Service's planting effort from 1925 to 1934.

Circulating forestry knowledge

Updated lists of the State Forest Service head office and conservancy library holdings were also included in the newsletter. These point to the sorts of professional and technical knowledge that Ellis wished to circulate within the State Forest Service. The August 1925 issue for instance, listed recent accessions to the Wellington (Palmerston North HQ), Nelson, and Westland forest conservancies. "General forestry" catalogue items for Wellington are listed in [Table 1](#). This is enough to make the point that although state forestry was initiated in New Zealand within a British Imperial setting, North American literature was readily drawn on because it dealt more usefully with the forestry problems facing New Zealand than did imperial and European literature that dealt with long managed forest areas.

Short local technical notes also appeared in *Te Karere o Tane*. For example, Frank Hutchinson (1924) produced a key for identifying exotic conifers and Charles Foweraker, now in the Forestry School at Canterbury College, contributed a short article on forest nomenclature (Foweraker, 1927).

Table 1: General forestry holdings, Wellington Conservancy library 1925

Author	Title	1st Published	Author affiliations
Chapman, H.H.	Forestry: An Elementary Treatise	1912	Professor of Forestry Yale
Hutchins, D.	New Zealand Forestry Part I	1919	British forester in India and Africa
Moon, F.F. and Brown N.C.	Elements of Forestry	1914 [1924]	Both Professors of Forestry New York State College of Forestry Syracuse
Cary, Austin	Manual for Northern Woodsmen	1911 [1924]	Ex-Yale and Harvard then US Forest Service
Pinchot, G.	Primer of Forestry	1903	First head of the US Forest Service
Cobbs, John L.	The Open Road through the National Forests	1919	US Forest Service
Smith, H.A.	How the Public Forests are Handled	1921	State Forester Columbia, South Carolina
Canterbury College	Syllabus of School of Forestry 1925	1925	Prospectus of the forestry school opened in 1925

Source: Te Karere o Tane IV, August 1925.

Overseas and local news roundup

The newsletter included notes excerpted from longer items in various periodicals, such as *Australian Forestry Journal*. Pertinent information was included, for example Alex Entrican contributed a synopsis of forestry in the Federated Malay States in the aftermath of a visit to Wellington by Dr Nosworthy, their Forest Research Officer (Entrican, 1922). Developments in Scotland were also reported on (Anon, 1923).

There was a plethora of local information, of particular use to the front-line forest guards and forest rangers, for instance, Ranger R.N. Uren's (1922) article on wild pigs in the Taranaki forest. R.B. Steele (1924) on heather in New Zealand, and the properties of some of the lesser-known timber trees (Whitehorn, 1922). Conservancy information was also reported, along with many smaller items that point to the day-to-day concerns of those in the service.

The "Personal and Social Gossip" page attests to the demands made on staff in terms of travel, and mentions episodes of ill health which slowed some work, most of which escapes mention in official reports. There is also humour in some of the items, part of the developing esprit de corps of the service.

Conclusion

By its very nature, few copies of *Te Karere o Tane* seem to have survived – at least in public repositories. Recourse to the annual reports of the State Forest Service as well as working on the service's archives held in Archives New Zealand and even examining early issues of the *New Zealand Journal of Forestry* misses much of the material contained in *Te Karere o Tane*. Conversely *Te Karere o Tane* does not provide much discussion about policy formation, but it does provide some sharp commentary from the field and from the districts, into the day-to-day concerns of those charged with forest management in the 1920s. *Te Karere o Tane* offers insights into a "hidden history" of the State Forest Service as an organisation. It is a reminder that the official account as recorded in an annual report, on which most of my own work has been anchored, is only part of the story of state forestry in New Zealand. That the newsletter did not survive beyond Ellis, who resigned early in 1928, is also symbolic; his departure marked the end of nearly a decade of frenetic activity that was not matched in the following years (aside from state exotic afforestation activity which was in any case initiated by Ellis).

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AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCES 2021 AND 2022

Due to ongoing issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the organising committee of the 2021 AHA Annual Conference has pushed the conference back to 29 November to 2 December 2021. This revised timing represents the best chance for this conference to be primarily face-to-face, subject to the pandemic. More information (including a Call for Papers) will follow but members are encouraged to put the revised dates in their diaries.

The organising committee of the 2022 AHA Annual Conference has indicated the 2022 conference at Deakin will be held in late June/early July 2022.

The AHA was founded in 1973 and is the peak national organisation of historians – academic, professional and other – working in all fields of history. It has over 900 members represented by an executive committee that draws its members from all over the country. The Association holds an annual conference and administers a portfolio of prizes, awards and grants.

A list of conferences held since 1982 is at www.theaha.org.au/about-the-aha/aha-conferences-since-1982 and includes links to more information about most conferences held since 2013.

Recent conferences have included a "green theme" organised by the Australian and New Zealand Environmental History Network at which AFHS members and past members have presented papers, such as Tom Griffiths and André Brett in 2019.

More information on the AHA is available at www.theaha.org.au.



**OBITUARY: GRAEME WARBOYS AM,
 6 MAY 1950 TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 ***

IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) are sad to announce the passing of one of the most dedicated of WCPA Commission members, Dr Graeme Worboys AM.

Graeme epitomised the nature of those who are committed to conservation, and to serving the cause of conservation as a selfless volunteer. A career protected area manager, he stayed the course, working as a ranger, superintendent and senior manager in protected area authorities in Australia, and contributing to the science of governance and management of protected areas internationally through his contributions to the IUCN WCPA. He had an abiding interest in mountains and connectivity conservation and mobilised resources and people to study and develop guidance on these topics, notably through some engaging meetings in Ecuador, Nepal and other workshops which many had the pleasure of attending. He also contributed his skill and expertise to the evaluation of prospective World Heritage Sites.



He was awarded the IUCN WCPA's Fred Packard Award for outstanding service at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in 2016, which carried the citation:

"In recognition of Dr Graeme Worboys, for outstanding dedication to the vision and mission of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. As Vice Chair for the Mountains and Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group of WCPA, Graeme has been an outstanding champion of the importance of connectivity for conservation across landscapes globally. With enormous drive and dedication, he has consistently built a body of knowledge and advice to promote connectivity conservation initiatives around the world, and in the process, has developed a suite of publications and a committed cadre of protected area professionals to carry out this work."

Graeme was a remarkable man, a "doer" who not only campaigned constantly to strengthen management in Australia's protected areas, and especially his beloved Kosciuszko National Park, but also responded to the need to build expertise for conservation management more generally, through his prodigious efforts to publish guidance for protected area management. He recognised the need to develop freely-available learning resources for this global community, and through his quiet persistence and determination, motivated hundreds of professionals to contribute voluntarily towards the "state of the art" publication *Protected Area Governance and*

Management, launched at the World Parks Congress in 2014. *Protected Area Governance and Management* has since been translated in its entirety into Spanish and French and is available to protected area managers and students worldwide at:

<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/protected-area-governance-and-management>. Through this and other major publications on connectivity conservation, Graeme has left a lasting legacy that continues to make a significant contribution towards the education and professionalization of protected area governance and management.

Despite the medical demands of the last few years, Graeme continued to write, teach and mentor colleagues and students through his work with WCPA specialist groups and Australian universities. Another major triumph was his publication of the long and unflinching story of the creation of Australia's iconic Kosciuszko National Park, a legacy document for all the conservationists and professional park managers whose work and commitment has continued through many trials to protect Kosciuszko. He also campaigned tirelessly in the highly contentious and political battle to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko and to ward off other threats to its integrity over tourism development, serious fire damage and the building of a vast new Snowy 2 hydro project.

In a fitting acknowledgement of his service, on Australia Day 2020, this fine life of contribution was acknowledged by his nation. Graeme and his family were delighted and moved when Graeme was awarded the high honour of being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). COVID delayed the ceremony at Government House in Canberra but fortunately Graeme was able to receive the honour in person just a few weeks ago.

"WCPA will remember and honour Graeme as a dedicated and passionate conservationist, inspiring champion, mentor and teacher, always willing to share his knowledge and expertise to promote protected areas. He epitomised all that is best in a volunteer network like WCPA – we have lost a very good friend", reflects Dr Kathy MacKinnon, Chair of the IUCN WCPA.

In the many tributes which have come from all around the world, colleagues and friends have remembered Graeme as gentle unassuming, and always polite, but those who know him well also reflect on his driving commitment and motivation, undeterred and unflinching to achieve the outcomes in which he so passionately believed. Our thoughts go out to his family Bev, Patty and Andrew and their families and the grandchildren in whom he delighted.

* This article was published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), www.iucn.org/news/protected-areas/202009/memori-am-dr-graeme-l-worboys. Copyright is owned by the IUCN as per the advice at www.iucn.org/terms-and-conditions.

OBITUARY: ROBERT LOUIS NEWMAN OAM
20 JULY 1929 TO 11 AUGUST 2020

*By Michael Bleby OAM, Commonwealth Forestry Association
 Regional Co-ordinator S.E. Asia & Pacific**

Bob Newman, forester, consultant, past Chairman and Vice President of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA), died on 11 August 2020, aged 91.

Regarded as a leader in the development of private forestry in Australia, Bob Newman's 60 year career as a forester was characterised by work in many facets of forest management and by taking on significant roles in professional and industrial associations.

In 1955 he gained a Diploma from the Australian Forestry School Canberra, and a B.Sc. (For) from Melbourne University in 1958. He later obtained qualifications in Business Management. In his retirement he wrote a thesis on the ways government can encourage timber plantations by using long term incentives and in 2018 was awarded a Master of Science by Research from Southern Cross University.

Born in the UK at Barton on Sea in Hampshire on 20 July 1929, Bob travelled as a teenager to Australia in 1946. His first work in forestry in 1951 was as a student for the Forests Commission of Victoria, followed by a period with the CSIRO Division of Forest Products. His first appointment as a forester at the end of 1955 was in Tasmania with Australian Newsprint Mills (ANM) at Maydena. This involved resource assessment and silvicultural research with Dr Max Gilbert. He then joined the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in 1959 as the Works Forestry Officer for the Kiewa Hydro-electric scheme at Bogong in north-east Victoria.

During the 1960s, Bob's career took him to managing sawmills in Myrtleford and in the Otways, including timber treatment plants, a veneer mill, and new timber drying facilities. He became involved in timber distribution in the ACT and southern NSW, followed in 1970 by the establishment of a successful timber supply business based in Canberra.

In 1976 he was one of the first foresters to start a consulting business, with work in Tasmania and he took on a founding role in the organisation formed for private (non-government) forest owners, the Australian Forest Development Institute (AFDI) which became Australian

Forest Growers (AFG). He became a champion for private and farm forestry encouraging investment in plantations and he successfully lobbied politicians for taxation deductions to remain in place.

In 1987 he based his office in Albury and was instrumental in organising the 1988 Bicentenary Forestry Conference and subsequently the National Foresters Grove, which is a reserve of trees planted in recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to forestry.



He moved his consulting practice to Yarralumla in Canberra in 1993 and in 2002, merged his practice with G.H.D. Consultants and continued in private practice until 2011. His clients included many major forest companies, governments, and work overseas in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, the Solomon Islands, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, China and the U.K.

Bob's involvement in various professional associations was significant. Apart from AFG, he was a founding member of the Association of Consulting Foresters of Australia, involved

with the Hoo Hoo Club and with the Timber Preservers' Association. He held office and was a keen supporter of many gatherings and conferences.

As a forester, he initially joined the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) in 1951 as a student member, becoming a full member in 1961. He was one of the founders of the Murray Catchment branch of the IFA. He became a Fellow in 2005, and was awarded the Institute's highest Award, the NW Jolly Medal in 2011. In his response, Bob acknowledged those foresters who had supported him through his career right from his early days:

My tertiary education was helped by John Chinner of Melbourne University, Sibley Elliot of CSIRO Forest Products, Sir Edward Weary Dunlop of Japanese War Fame and a Wallaby, and Dr M.R. Jacobs the iconic Principal of the Australian Forestry School.

Bob was a great encourager and understood the value of recognition. He was instrumental in instituting various awards. In addition to the National Foresters Grove, he was responsible for the suggestion to establish the M.R. Jacobs Oration which is presented at IFA conferences. He organised awards for the ACT Forester of the year and raised funds for student prizes in silviculture.

* This obituary was first published in the *Commonwealth Forestry Association Newsletter*, no. 90, September 2020 (https://issuu.com/cfa_newsletter/docs/cfa_newsletter_september_2020). It is reprinted with the permission of the author. Bob was a member of the AFHS.

He became a great supporter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) and joined the CFA in 1977. He attended many Commonwealth Forestry Conferences (Vancouver 1985, Rotorua 1989, Kuala Lumpur 1993, Perth 2001, and Colombo 2005). In 1988 he was elected Vice Chairman of the Governing Council and served as Chairman from 1990-1993, subsequently continuing on the Governing Council as a Vice President. In 1996 on the 75th anniversary of the CFA, Bob had the honour of presenting H.M. The Queen with an Australian parquetry piece depicting a eucalypt. Bob was involved in the instigation of the Queen's Award for Forestry and arranged its first presentation to John Turnbull in 1998 in Melbourne. The CFA Regional Medal awarded for excellence in the S.E. Asia and Pacific Region was proposed by Bob and has been implemented regularly since 1998.

Recognition of his service to forestry and the community culminated in his being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the January 2006 Australia Day Honours. *

Outside of forestry, rugby football was his sport. He excelled in this during his youth, was an ardent follower of rugby throughout his life and was a keen member of the Canberra male voice Rugby Choir. He also enjoyed blues music and folk songs. He is survived by his wife Janet, a son, a daughter, step children and grandchildren.

Bob was a cheerful supportive colleague and an encourager and mentor to many. He was inclusive and gave employment to many forestry students and new graduates. He understood all facets of forestry, utilisation and marketing, and had an appreciation of the value of networks and influence. Movers and shakers like Bob are sometimes not without their critics, but he leaves many enduring legacies which pay tribute to his efforts and as a result, the profession and the forest industry is clearly the better for them.



WAS GREEN GOLD FEVER A FOLLY?

By Ion Staunton

About 6k after leaving Mossman in Far North Queensland, heading toward the Daintree, I passed a tiny plantation of trees on the right. I wondered why they'd been planted.



Another couple of k or so further on the left, there was another plantation.



* **Editor's note:** The citation states "For service to forestry through administrative roles in industry organisations and as an educator and author, and to the community." See <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/1131824>.



More trees, different species, same wonderment: why?

They did not serve as a windbreak (no nearby houses). They had been planted a precise 2 metres apart within the rows; not 6 feet ... or 8 feet as was the supposed measurement between the radiata pines I planted with a team of about twenty others in Sunny Corner State Forest between Lithgow and Bathurst in 1954. The two metres indicated they were planted since decimal measurements came in during the late 1960s, just over 50 years ago and, although the first stand were much healthier, they hardly looked like thriving, fast-growing trees. The second stand could have been struggling for 50 years and will probably look much the same in another 10-20 years if a cyclone doesn't get them.

I deduced they must have been planted to harvest for timber.

Which started me reminiscing.

I was one of a 3-man survey team dividing up 200 acre plots (pre metrication) into about 15-20 acres by a series of roads specifically for removing logs ... projected in about 30 years. (And they were.) The tree-planting I mentioned happened in the blocks surveyed the previous year and then, after clear-felling and burning, the roads were formed by old D6 'dozers. If my survey boss was away reporting or getting directions from the District Forester based in Blackheath, us two survey hands joined the planting gang.

Planting was always scheduled for winter and often the frost had frozen the ground to a depth of 50mm which meant everyone stood around a fire until the foreman almost ceremoniously rose, took a spade a couple of steps off the road, lifted it vertically so the handle was about head high then drove it hard downwards. If it penetrated the grass and an inch or so of soil, the top, folded-over edge of the blade was stood on then pressed further into the soil using one or both feet as you would with a pogo stick as the blade was rocked backwards and forwards. When most of the blade had penetrated and been removed, there is a slot into which a *Pinus radiata* seedling could be inserted. The slot is resealed by stamping either side of the seedling. The foreman never actually planted a seedling but a successful breaking of the frost meant that the rest of us would leave the fire, find a spade, a wet hessian roll of seedlings and then line out about 10 feet apart ready to begin the planting "rhumba". Keeping your distance and walking an imagined straight line, it was two BIG steps, stop, raise the spade, drive it down, mount it and sway, dismount, take a seedling, place in the slot and a couple of lunges using your preferred foot ... one pine planted. Two BIG steps, stop, raise the spade ... you get the idea.

Good fun, however learning surveying was more fun.

One lunchtime the three of us, Noel McAllister, Robbie Howe and I, discussed the possibilities of buying a couple of hundred acres of land that was for sale adjoining the forestry land. We reckoned we could certainly survey it (out of Forestry hours of course). We could probably sub-contract Bert, the local grader driver

to scratch in some roads, there were no, or not many trees to fall. We reckoned we could sort out a deal with Ken, another local from near Kirkconnell who rode/drove an old Indian motorbike and sidecar to work at the Forestry seedling nursery ... he could grow us some seedlings at his place. It was a piece of cake! We wouldn't have to look after the growing pines except for the first half decade as branches needed trimming. And the Forestry Commission, God bless them, would ensure that fires would not get into *our* pines simply because they were adjoining, just over a wire fence from, all *their* pines.

We would be rich!

I can't remember discussion going beyond that lunchtime, but a couple of years later I remember hearing radio advertising and then, after the 1956 Olympic Games when television started, I saw advertisements seeking investors to buy into schemes to grow pine trees in various places ... I think north of Newcastle and up in Queensland on the Sunshine Coast. The visuals and the voice-overs promised wealth and security ... couldn't fail!

More recently, say 20-30 years ago I remember hearing calls to invest in *Paulownia* trees ... the "fastest growing tree in the world introduced from China. Straight grain, easily worked, a boon to builders. Fast-growing equates to quick return on your investment ... buy in now!!!!"

Travelling through the Orara Way between Grafton and Coffs Harbour somewhere near Glenreagh, the road skirts around a stand of *Paulownia* that certainly looks better than the photos of the struggling FNQ trees in the photos ... but they don't look all that flash.

Here's a request for some reader who has actually been involved from the inside or as an interested observer to write a better, more definitive article for this journal on the history of the Green Gold movement. All I've done is suggest the Green Gold projects were a folly ... I could be wrong ... but how wrong? Or right?

AFHS NEWSLETTER – THE ISLANDS ISSUE: A CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

By Fintán Ó Laighin

We are planning an issue of the newsletter with "Islands" as its theme. An article on Fraser Island in Queensland has already been received, and two members have promised separate articles on Norfolk Island and we will also have one on Lord Howe Island.

There are other islands in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere which have a forest and/or forestry history – Kangaroo Island in South Australia, for instance, has a place called Timber Creek that flows into Murray Lagoon. The name suggests a forestry history of some sort.

All members are invited to contribute to this issue. It will probably be published in mid-2021.

LOG AND TIMBER READY RECKONERS – FOLLOW-UP

by Fintán Ó Laighin

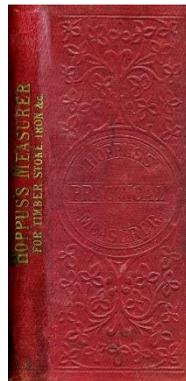
The article on "Log and Timber Ready Reckoners" in the July 2020 issue elicited some follow-up e-mails.

John Dargavel got things rolling with an e-mail saying that it reminded him of his time at the University of Georgia in 1969-70:

I had to do some gentle lecturing for my keep. One topic that was what was called "Log Rules". Scribner's, Doyle's and many others used in different parts of the USA. All were approximations. Forestry students had to know them, because log-buyers would use one sort of rule for the big logs and another for the small logs to reduce their payments. We had just got rid of the Hoppus (quarter-girth) system in Australia when we converted to metric (although the sawmilling industry lobbied for "metric Hoppus"), so the USA's multiple log rules was an eye-opener. Luckily, I convinced my colleagues that I was completely incompetent to teach their log rules.

And talking of Hoppus, this was the subject of an e-mail from Peter Evans:

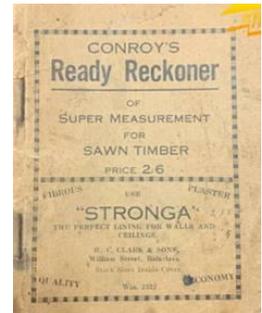
The attached images of *Hoppus's Measurer for Timber, Stone, Iron &c* may be of interest for your log measurement collection. The original was published in 1736 with a second edition in 1739. My copy carries no date, but is likely from one of the three editions published in 1860, 1863 or 1880.



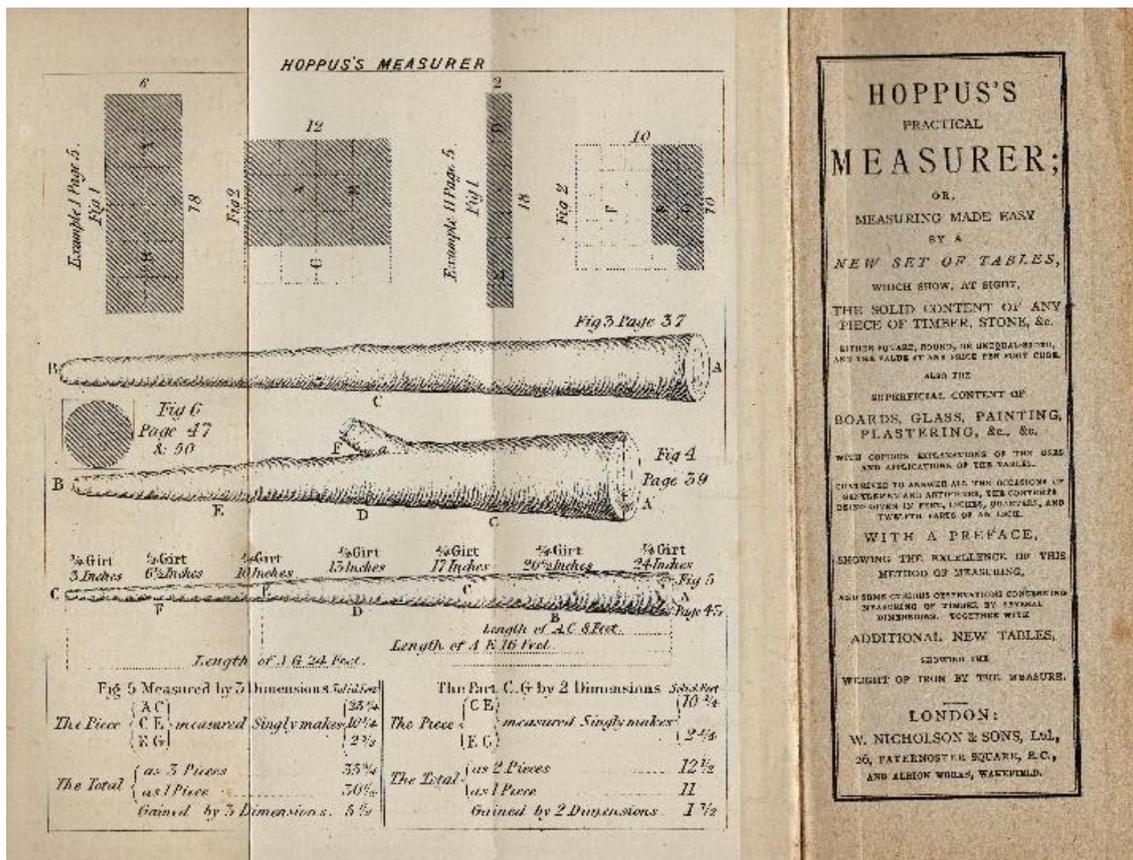
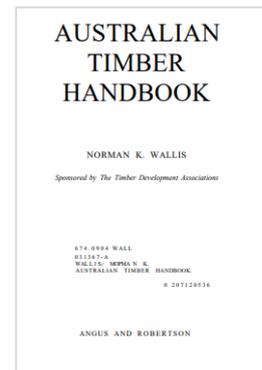
As I said to Peter, describing it as my "log measurement collection" is probably overstating things, but I did enjoy researching that article. I had intended to include slide rules as well, but this plan got swamped by the number of ready reckoners that I found. Slide rules will be the subject of an article in a future issue.

My article made no claims for completeness, which is just as well because shortly after it was published, I came across two more.

The first is *Conroy's Ready Reckoner of Super Measurement for Sawn Timber*, published by W.C. Clark & Sons of Balaclava (Melbourne). A copy of it is held by Deakin University Library which estimates its publication date as between 1900 and 1999. Given that the price is 2/6, this date range could probably be narrowed a bit.



The second is *Australian Timber Handbook* by Norman K. Wallis and published by Angus & Robertson in 1956 (with revised editions in 1963 and 1970) and sponsored by the Timber Development Associations of Australia. While not strictly a ready reckoner, it does include a chapter on "Systems of Measurement".



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY NETWORK – ON-LINE CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2020

Our July 2020 issue included a Call for Papers for this online conference that was held in October. The final program is at <http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2020/10/reminder-anzehn-conference>.

The ANZEHN has advised that presentations would be posted on its website website.

One of the presentations was by Janine Kitson on "Why Wirrimbirra matters". Wirrimbirra Sanctuary is a heritage-listed fauna sanctuary, native plant nursery, education centre and flora sanctuary located near Bargo to the south-west of Sydney. The listing on the NSW Heritage website records that it was where Europeans made the first sightings of koala and lyrebird (<https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5051261>).

PRIVATE FORESTS TASMANIA – MARKING 25 YEARS

We are a little bit late in acknowledging this, but Tasmanian Government agency Private Forests Tasmania marked 25 years of operation in 2019. It was established by the *Private Forests Act 1994* (Tas.) which received Royal Assent on 10 May 1994, and which generally took effect on 1 July that year.

The agency, however, can trace its origin back to 1977 when the Private Forestry Division of the Forestry Commission of Tasmania was established as a result of the *Forestry Act 1977* ("An Act relating to private forestry development and certain other forestry matters"). This Act amended the *Forestry Act 1920*.

The *Forestry Act 1977* also established the Private Forestry Council to provide advice to both the Forestry Commission and the minister. The composition of the council reflected the links between forestry and agriculture and the forest industries, with members appointed to represent private forest owners, associations involved in marketing timber sourced from private forests, sawmilling and pulp/woodchips. Two ex officio members were appointed – the Assistant Commissioner (Private Forests) (a position established by the 1977 Act) and the Director of Agriculture or his (sic) nominee.

The amendments to the *Forestry Act 1920* were in response to recommendations of the 1977 Board of Inquiry into Private Forest Development in Tasmania.



PRIVATE FORESTS
TASMANIA



AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Thanks to Libby Robin for this information.



The Australian Garden History Society celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2020. The society promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.

Its journal, *Australian Garden History*, has been digitised and all back issues (up to 2018) are freely available online at the Biodiversity Heritage Library: www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/125516.

THE CEDAR-GETTERS OF COASTAL NSW

Leith Davis reports that she is working on a paper for a conference in early 2021 on perceptions of the 19th century cedar-getters based on limited contemporary observations. She says that it was a very interesting rabbit burrow arising from her doctoral thesis research. The abstract is below:

Red cedar (*Toona ciliata*) grew in the coastal rainforests of the Australian east coast; the cedar-getters followed the cedar up the coast of New South Wales over the nineteenth century. The colony of Sydney at the time was riven by class struggles between the Exclusives and the Emancipists, the freeborn and the ex-convicts. There is limited archival material, and there has been very little historical research, but the stories of the cedar-getters, "a strange, wild set", have become the stuff of legends. The few contemporary accounts that survive were written by educated members of the Exclusive class and reflect the class hostility of the time between the free settlers and the emancipists, also identified by Russel Ward between pastoral employers and employees. My paper will critically examine these accounts and use the historical, newspaper, and regional history records to construct an account of the cedar-getters unfiltered by class.

ABC RADIO NATIONAL: THE ANCIENT TRAILS OF THE SOUTH EAST FORESTS OF NSW

On the "Conversations" program of 20 August 2020, Sarah Kanowski interviewed John Blay, a writer and naturalist who has spent the last four decades walking through the forests of Australia's south east. He spends months at a time in the bush, clambering up mountains, wading through streams and listening to lyrebirds. He first spent time in these forest alongside a mule named Zachary. And he also got to know the people whose ancestors had been walking in these forests for many thousands of years. He became friends with Aboriginal guides who showed him ancient trails including the Bundian Way, a pathway connecting the High Country around Mount Kosciuszko to the coast. Some years ago, John discovered a pocket of rare acacias which he realised had not been yet named by science.

www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/john-blav/12556816

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

1. The Whim

Jack Bradshaw is trying to find out where and when the whim was invented and sought information on forest history societies in Europe. He says that the whim was used at least in the Netherlands (a mallejan) and France (a trinqueballe) and it is still used in demonstrations of log hauling. There are probably more preserved in Europe than in Western Australia.

John Dargavel suggested two sources for Jack to pursue:

- Through the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO) www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/international-consortium-environmental-history-organizations-iceho although he cautioned that small national organisations may not be members.
- Through museums – there were many forest-focussed museums in Europe and in 1988 the Forest History Society (US) (<https://foresthistor.org>) published a world survey of them under the title *Forest History Museums of the World*, compiled by Kathryn A. Fahl.

Wikipedia does not have a page on "whim" but says that a "mallejan" is a type of cart "that was used in forestry to transport logs and other long objects (and which consists of an axle with often oversized wheels" while a "trinqueballe" is described as "a logging machine, of the dumpster type, which is used to transport tree trunks, usually shortly after their felling during skidding". *



2. Senegal and achona

Sybil Jack is seeking information on the following image which she says appears in various places and is said to be from Senegal.



Sybil says that the image kept coming up online from a variety of sources when she was working on a paper for John Dargavel's book on John Evelyn (see p19). However, there were very few details, apart from a reference to Senegal and achona (which she thinks is the name of the tree).

She hopes that someone with a wider knowledge of trees might be able to tell her what it is. She thinks the image might have originally been one of the illustrations in a French book published by Jean Robin in various forms and dates in the 16th century. However, the illustrations in that book were pinched (Sybil's word) by other publishers for other books on aspects of plants, medicine and gardens. While it isn't possible to say where the reproductions are coming from, she thinks one can be certain it was to do with medicine.

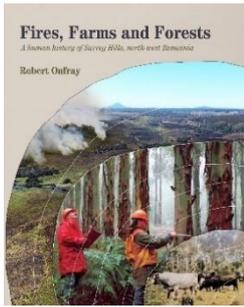
She was collecting a list of trees which were used in one way or another for medicines and noticed that the French think that Jean Robin's son Vespasien planted a chichona tree in the early 17th century which, if true, would shift the argument about quinine.

Sybil's paper for the book on John Evelyn links Evelyn with some important French "botanists" and to the many plants brought into Europe at that time from elsewhere in the globe.

Note: Responses to either query can be sent to me at Fintan.OLaighin@awe.gov.au and I'll forward them to Jack and Sybil.

* <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triqueballe> and <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallejan>. Translated from French and Dutch respectively by Google Translate.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



Robert Onfray, 2020. *Fires, Farms and Forests. A human history of Surrey Hills, north-west Tasmania.* Forty South, Lindisfarne, Tasmania. \$55 + pp. ISBN 9780648675822. www.robertonfray.com and <https://tasmania-40-south.myshopify.com>

A new book titled *Fires, Farms and Forests* by AFHS member, Robert Onfray provides a detailed environmental and cultural history of Surrey Hills and surrounding lands in north-west Tasmania. Members who attended the 2010 Lismore and 2015 Mount Gambier conferences would recall presentations Onfray gave on this particular area.

Van Diemen's Land was first settled in the south around Hobart in the early nineteenth century. The country supported open, grassy woodlands attractive to sheep farming. In the 1820s, one of two "private colonies" were established in Australia. The Van Diemen's Land Company (VDL Co.) was granted 500,000 acres by an Act of Parliament in England. The grant had to be outside the established, settled areas in the north-west "beyond the ramparts".

Surrey and Hampshire Hills were first named by the VDL Co's Henry Hellyer in 1827 when he discovered native grasslands in a sea of rainforest. His sole purpose was to find suitable land to run Merino sheep to produce fine wool for the English market. The country he explored was different from the settled districts in the southern and eastern parts of the state. He had to bash his way through dense rainforests and horizontal scrub. When he stumbled onto Hampshire and Surrey Hills, he came across a broad plateau supporting large patches of open country, and he described the grasslands he saw as those resembling "a neglected old park in England" with tall, straight trees "a hundred yards apart".

Robert's book, as the title suggests, covers three broad themes. The first theme on fires in the landscape recognises land management practices adopted by the original inhabitants of Tasmania. Robert worked at Surrey Hills for over 14 years as a professional forester. The diverse plant communities he encountered enthralled him. Initially, he struggled to understand why there was such botanical diversity in such a uniform landscape. Surrey Hills is situated on a broad, flat basaltic plateau. He soon realised that humans created the arbitrary boundaries of tall forests, rainforests, grassy woodlands, shrublands, native grasslands and moorlands. The landscape Hellyer discovered at Surrey Hills was, in fact, a cultural artefact – created by Aborigines through the use of fire.

There has been recent coverage of Aboriginal management of the environment in the media (see <https://theconversation.com/this-rainforest-was-once-a-grassland-savanna-maintained-by-aboriginal-people-until-colonisation-138289>). This article referred to a study

which focussed on Surrey Hills and provided evidence of changes in the landscape that have occurred after the removal of Aborigines. In his book, Robert provides a fascinating account of the pre-European occupation of Surrey Hills drawing on ecological, botanical and archaeological studies in western and southern Tasmania. He eloquently provides a fascinating environmental history of the indigenous occupation from the last ice-age.

The farming theme focusses on the VDL Co. ownership of Surrey Hills. Robert spent 20 years reading copious folios of hand-written correspondence at the Burnie and Hobart libraries. The letters between the VDL Co.'s Court of Directors in London and the Chief Agents in Tasmania spanned over a hundred years. The European farming model introduced by the VDL Co. was immediately unsuccessful. The VDL Co. failed to establish Merino sheep farms on Surrey and Hampshire Hills. Not a lot, however, is known about how they managed the land over the ensuing 100 years.

His meticulous research outlines how the VDL Co. managed their grants, particularly at Surrey Hills, despite limited resources. The VDL Co. tried to attract farmers through a tenant system, even though there was limited access to Surrey Hills and no infrastructure apart from a few basic huts. Their only option was to lease the land to the Field brothers, from near Deloraine, under a very strained relationship that remarkably lasted over 60 years. The Fields ran wild mobs of wild cattle looked after by bushmen living in the ramshackle huts initially built by the VDL Co. They did not "improve" the land in any way. They leased adjoining Crown land and didn't require fences to control the cattle. The Fields paid a pittance for their runs, and despite several attempts by the VDL Co. to seek better terms, they couldn't attract interest from other parties and were stuck with Fields who were flagrantly late with their payments. The Fields even managed to reduce their lease rates.

Despite constant calls on capital, a lack of dividends, and moves to wind up the company in the early 1850s, the VDL Co. managed to trade in timber and transport tin ore for the world's largest tin mine, which kept the company economically viable.

December 1871 was significant in many ways for Tasmania. James "Philosopher" Smith discovered the world's largest tin lode at Mount Bischoff which changed the fortunes of Tasmania and opened the way for further mineral discoveries in western Tasmania. In a cruel twist of fate, the discovery was located just outside the western boundary of Surrey Hills when the VDL Co. was desperate for other forms of revenue to keep afloat. The directors in London were keen to discover minerals on their land and employed prospectors to search their properties. Unfortunately, these prospectors lacked the temperament and bush skills of Smith. They were more prone to drinking than finding minerals of any worth.

William Robert Bell discovered silver on Hampshire Hills in 1875, and the VDL Co. desperately tried to mine the silver. The VDL Co. were cruelly led on by experienced geologists and miners who inspected the mine. Their

reports were apocryphal, or at least not validated. After four unsuccessful attempts to discover an economical lode, the mine was abandoned in 1913. It is believed to be the oldest intact silver workings in Australia.

The Mount Bischoff discovery inspired the VDL Co. to build a wooden tramway through their Surrey and Hampshire Hills, and Emu Bay estates. They shipped the tin from the Emu Bay (Burnie) port and thus made their land at Emu Bay more valuable as the settlement expanded. The tramway was not cheap, and there were difficulties attracting labour for its construction. The tramway was finally completed in early 1878 covering a distance of 72 kilometres. Robert claims this is the longest wooden tramway built in the world. Remarkably, there has never been any recognition for its construction. The book's detailed account of the creation of the tramway ensures this vital legacy is not forgotten, particularly as the tramway only lasted seven years before conversion to a railway.

The third theme on forests covers the exploitation of timber assets by the VDL Co. and subsequent owners. Surrey Hills supported large areas of *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forests and myrtle rainforest which was exploited by the VDL Co. to provide a diverse stream of income. The Tasmanian timbers were highly valued in London, particularly blackwood for casks, joinery and general building purposes, but was in limited supply on their lands close to the Burnie port. The establishment of a sawmill in Burnie led to the transport of myrtle and *E. delegatensis* via rail from Surrey Hills. A subsidiary company was established to harvest the timber in the extensive myrtle rainforest on the northern section of Surrey Hills, called Ringwood, before clearing for improved pasture to sell to farmers.

The establishment of the Burnie pulp and paper mill in the mid-1930s is closely related to Surrey Hills. Gerald Mussen purchased Surrey Hills in 1924, to take advantage of the plentiful forests, water and deep port. It is an exciting story of one man's perseverance to obtain funding for this significant industrial project during the Great Depression. Eventually, it led to the establishment of a world-class, and Australia's most significant, eucalypt plantation estate. Robert covers the boardroom machinations, and political power plays that led to the formation of the Tasmanian pulp and paper industry and Associated Pulp and Paper Mills (APPM).

The book is dedicated to APPM's first forester, Reg Needham, who played a significant role in the development of professional land management on Surrey Hills. Needham introduced many state-of-the-art and innovative forestry techniques. Because of a severe native forest regeneration problem, APPM began some experiments to trial the establishment of eucalypt plantations. A relatively small company had to discover what tree species could successfully survive on Surrey Hills and also how to grow them commercially on a large scale. Robert provides a persuasive argument that Surrey Hills is the birth-place of industrial-scale eucalypt plantations in Australia.

Surrey Hills contains several plant and animal species of high conservation value. The book provides a fascinating and first-hand account of the management of these values, including the active use of fire to manage the native grasslands and moorlands. Robert doesn't gloss over some of the failings and learnings experienced for this cutting-edge management. The management of various environmental values is covered. These include the broader grasslands and moorlands, a rare orchid and butterfly species and attempts to control a destructive invader, the European wasp, and ground-breaking cancer research on the Tasmanian devil. He describes a translocation project to try and save the rare butterfly. Because of its unique environmental values, Surrey Hills has attracted the attention of paleoecologists, ecologists, and epidemiologists, all keen to study the dynamic processes in this unique landscape.

One exciting chapter is about Guildford Junction, the only enduring settlement on Surrey Hills. Low pressure systems, which develop at any time of the year in the Southern Ocean, travel uninterrupted until they reach the west coast of Tasmania. They provide plenty of cold and wet weather. These lows penetrate inland as far as the peneplain at Surrey Hills which receives up to 2.2 metres of rainfall, 240 days of precipitation, and 120 frost events annually. It is a cold and harsh place to visit, let alone live. Guildford started as a railway camp in 1897 when the railway was extended to the west coast. Despite its short history of 87 years, the town supported some very industrious and capable people who had to forge a life in a settlement so remote, that for most of its life, was only accessible by train. Fettlers, itinerant farmers and hunters, as well as timber workers, all with their families, lived at Guildford. At its height in the 1950s, the town supported over 80 residents. Apart from the houses, there was a primary school, a hall, a railway platform with a refreshment room and a licensed bar, and not much else. It certainly was a lonely life for a housewife left at home while her husband worked in the cold, wet weather and the children attended school. It is now a forgotten ghost town.

One other little-known forest practice described in the book was snaring for animal fur to supply a worldwide market. During the first half of last century, runs were leased on Surrey Hills and experienced bushmen would spend up to three months in winter, during the open season, camped in rudimentary huts setting snares to catch wallabies and possums. Winter furs from the highlands and montane areas of Tasmania were highly prized. It led to the development of a unique system of drying the furs in a wet and cold environment, and there is an example of a drying hut on Surrey Hills.

Robert has brought to life the rich past of Surrey Hills by taking the reader on a journey of discovery. For anyone interested in human history and land management, it is well worth a read.

You can also view his blog site that provides additional stories not covered in any detail in the book – see www.robertonfray.com.



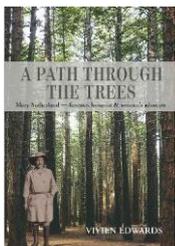
John Dargavel and Ben Wilkie (eds), 2020. *Restoring Forests in Times of Contagion. Papers to celebrate John Evelyn on the occasion of his 400th birthday.*

Australian & New Zealand Environment History Network.
www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/insights/restoring-forests-times-of-contagion

This online collection of essays was published to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of John Evelyn on 31 October 1620. The call for papers issued earlier this year advised that contributions "should reflect on the ways Australia and New Zealand have encouraged tree planting since the 1870s and more recently for revegetation, development offsets and carbon capture to combat global warming" (see the April 2020 issue of the newsletter).

The resulting collection of 16 essays is divided into four themes: I. Evelyn and *Sylva*; II. Gardens; III. Restoration; and IV. Plantations and Policy. AFHS members past and present are among the contributors:

- John Dargavel, A Salute to John Evelyn
- Michael Roche, John Evelyn's *Sylva* in New Zealand
- Sybil Jack Evelyn's Garden of Paradise
- André Brett "Some of the Choicest Specimens of Plant Life": Tree-Planting by Government Railways in Australasia pre-WWI
- Libby Robin, On the Verge of Isolation
- John Taylor and Jane Lennon *Sylva* Anew: A Discourse of Forest-Trees and the Propagation of Timber in the Bottle Creek Estate
- John Dargavel, Are Plantations the Answer?



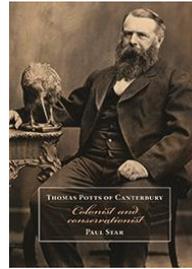
Vivien Edwards, 2020. *A Path Through the Trees: Mary Sutherland – forester, botanist & women's advocate.* Writes Hill Press, Wellington, NZ. NZ\$45 + pp. ISBN 9780994149442.

www.bookpublishing.co.nz/path-through-the-trees.php

From the publisher's notes.

In 1916 Mary Sutherland became the first woman forestry graduate in the world, graduating from the University College of North Wales (now Bangor University). It was daring to take up a male-only career in a time when women's contributions were generally disregarded, and her job prospects were affected by two world wars and economic depressions in England and New Zealand. She emigrated to New Zealand in 1923 where the State Forest Service employed her until she was retrenched in the 1930s.

The skills she developed as a forester enabled her to move into botany at the Dominion Museum and farm forestry with the Department of Agriculture. She also championed women's right to higher education and was active in the Federation of University Women. *A Path Through the Trees* tells the professional and personal story of this remarkable woman.



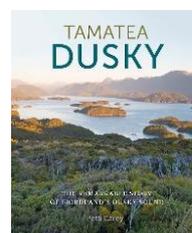
Paul Star, 2020. *Thomas Potts of Canterbury. Colonist and Conservationist.* University of Otago Press. NZ\$39.95 + pp, 342pp. ISBN 9781988592428.
www.otago.ac.nz/press/books/otago742893.html.

From the publisher's notes.

In 1858 Canterbury settler Thomas Potts protested against the destruction of tōtara on the Port Hills near Christchurch. A decade later, as a Member of Parliament, he made forest conservation a national issue. Through his writing he raised the then novel idea of protecting native birds on island reserves, and proposed the creation of national "domains" or parks. As a pioneering colonist, acclimatist and runholder, however, Potts' own actions threatened the very environments he sought to maintain. This makes him a fascinating subject as we confront present-day problems in balancing development and conservation.

This book is about, and partly by, Potts, and through him about New Zealand and the course and consequences of colonisation. It describes and interprets his life, from his early years in England through to his 34 years in New Zealand. Excerpts from Potts' vivid 1850s diary, written from close to the edge of European settlement, are published here for the first time. *Thomas Potts of Canterbury* also reproduces 11 long-forgotten essays by him from the 1880s, in which he reflected on the 1850s and what had happened since – both to New Zealand's natural environment and to Māori and Pākehā. Sixteen pages of contemporary images supplement the text.

Thomas Potts of Canterbury will appeal to anyone interested in the early history of Canterbury, in environmental change, and in early efforts in New Zealand towards conservation. It is a story of conflicting goals, magnificently exemplified in the life and writings of a man who strove, 150 years ago, to be both colonist and conservationist.

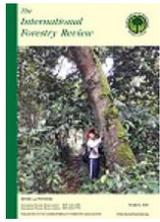


Peta Carey, 2020. *Tamatea Dusky: The remarkable story of Fiordland's Dusky Sound.* Potton & Burton, Nelson, NZ. NZ\$69.99. ISBN 9781988550190.

www.pottonandburton.co.nz/product/tamatea-dusky-sound

From the publisher's notes.

The remarkable story of conservation and history in Fiordland's Tamatea/Dusky Sound, by Peta Carey. With a fascinating history, both Maori and European, it is the place where Captain Cook arrived in 1773. It is also where nature conservation began in New Zealand over 120 years ago, and where ground-breaking work in predator control and species conservation has taken place over the last 50 years.



PJ Kanowski, 2020. "Multilateral forestry research and tertiary forestry education for development: reflections on progress since the 1970s." *International Forestry Review*, Vol. 22, Supplement 1, June 2020, pp.113-128. Commonwealth Forestry Association.

<https://doi.org/10.1505/146554820829523961>

Summary: The contemporary institutional landscapes for multilateral forestry research and tertiary forestry education for development were shaped largely in the last three decades of the 20th century. Some limitations of largely post-colonial arrangements in the 1970s for forestry research for development were addressed by the establishment of CIFOR and incorporation of ICRAF into the CGIAR system in the early 1990s, following international processes in which FAO, IUFRO and the World Bank played central roles. Contemporaneously, tertiary forestry education evolved and internationalised in conjunction with that sector more generally. Institutional arrangements for multilateral forestry research are now undergoing another phase of change, as key actors seek more impact without more investment. Traditional models of tertiary forestry education for development are similarly challenged by ongoing changes in higher education systems. Both forestry research and education need now to address the profound challenges and potential opportunities associated with major forces such as ongoing forest loss and degradation, climate change, economic globalisation, and social and demographic change. In parallel, the value of evidence-based policy and practice, and of multilateralism, are being challenged by resurgent political populism and nationalism. Together, these contexts suggest that those engaged in forestry research and education for development will need to be politically and institutionally astute, and proactive and strategic, in catalysing and pursuing opportunities; and that various collaborative models, both nationally and internationally, will remain important vehicles for sharing resources, commanding the attention of decision-makers, and realising development impacts.

Editor's note: This paper cites the following article which is included in a special issue of *Environment and History* which included a selection of papers from the AFHS conference in Christchurch in January/February 2007:

Roche, M.M. and Dargavel, J. 2008. Imperial Ethos, Dominions Reality: Forestry Education in New Zealand and Australia, 1910-1965. *Environment and History* 14: 523-543.

The journal can be accessed at www.whpress.co.uk/EH/EH14.html and the abstract is at www.whpress.co.uk/EH/EH1421.html.

Light Railways: Australia's Magazine of Industrial & Narrow Gauge Railways, August 2020 (LR274), October 2020 (LR275), and December 2020 (LR276). Light Railway Research Society of Australia. ISSN 0727 8101. www.lrrsa.org.au.

Three issues of *Light Railways* have been published since our last newsletter. The **August 2020** issue does not have much that is forest-related but does include a feature article by AFHS committee member Peter Evans on the mines and tramways of Coopers Creek in Gippsland. One company mentioned is the White Rock Lime Company which operated a firewood tramway in the 1920s. The article notes the tramway in the same vicinity operated by Monarch Sawmills (pp31-32) and concludes with a photo of the path of the firewood tramline (p34).

Talking of Peter Evans, the Editorial (p2) notes that his 1994 book *Rails to Rubicon* has been updated and republished (see AFHS newsletter no. 78, December 2019). The letters page includes one that responds to an earlier letter about a locomotive built for Australian Paper Manufacturers at Maryvale (pp42-43).

The **October 2020** issue includes an excerpt (p13) submitted by Norm Houghton (also well known to readers of the AFHS newsletter) in which he provides a contemporary account of a ride undertaken by the Education Inspector on his way to the mill town at Forrest in the early 1920s. The excerpt is illustrated by a photo showing a locomotive at No. 1 Mill.

There is also a review on p29 of a Helene Cronin's new book *Timber Trains Turmoil: A History of Buderim and its Tramway* which the reviewer describes as a "magnificent publication". The line now operates as the Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Railway (www.buderim.com/tramway) of which Cronin is the president. The line operated from 1914 to 1935 and serviced the needs of the farmers and residents of Buderim and district, enabling farm produce, fruit, and timber to access Brisbane via the main line at Palmwoods.

The **December 2020** issue includes a review of Mike McCarthy's book *In the Shadow of the Prom: Early South Gippsland Times, Tales and Tramlines* (pp41-42). While not specifically about timber tramways, it does mention the lines that were built to service the sawmills, including the wooden-railed horse tramways that extended inland.

