

## **Trans-Tasman Forest History: History, Culture and Management**

Seventh Conference of the Australian Forest History Society  
29 January to 2 February 2007  
Christchurch, New Zealand

followed by West Coast Study Trip  
3 to 5 February 2007

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### **Invitation**

We invite you to Trans-Tasman Forest History, the seventh conference of the Australian Forest History Society and the first to take place in New Zealand. The AFHS conference will be held in University Hall, a residential college of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, with additional facilities provided by the University's School of Forestry. The Hall has a conference room, accommodation in single rooms, and provision for meals. For those preferring to make their own arrangements, a list of nearby motels will be available.

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand. As one of the least forested parts of New Zealand at the time of European settlement, Canterbury Province became an early centre both for indigenous conservation and for exotic afforestation. The conference includes a short field trip to nearby Riccarton Bush, the best local remnant of lowland forest, and a part day trip by coach exploring the landscape, history and environment of Banks Peninsula.

In line with previous conferences, the New Zealand conference welcomes papers and presentations on every aspect of Australian forest history, and will have a strong attendance from Australia. As the first Society conference in NZ, however, there will also be a major contribution from New Zealanders, with greater than usual emphasis on NZ environmental and forest history.

The conference has been described as a Trans-Tasman Forest History Conference to encourage participants to consider links and comparisons between NZ and Australia's environmental experience. The sub-title, History, Culture and Management, is indicative of the range of themes to be considered. One session will relate to the eightieth anniversary of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry, while another will look at indigenous people and the forest. Many

papers will look beyond New Zealand to Australia and elsewhere, and some papers will look beyond forests to other environmental histories. Historical outlooks on both indigenous and exotic forestry and forests, as well as some papers on other environments, are welcome and will be included.

For New Zealanders interested in their past and present forests, this is a unique opportunity to assess their country's experience and to place it in an international context. Those from beyond the Tasman, however far, are also encouraged to attend and share their knowledge and perspectives.

The conference runs from the evening of Monday 29 January and ends on Friday 2 February 2007. It will include two and a half days of papers, the field trips, a barbecue and a conference dinner.

A volume of selected conference papers will be assembled and published after the conference and distributed to delegates as part of their registration entitlement. Other papers will be available on the Internet and/or on CD.

An optional study tour by coach to the West Coast will follow immediately after the conference, from 3 to 5 February. The forestry school and university geography department, the Department of Conservation and professional foresters are participating. It will include visits both to the remarkable native beech and mixed podocarp forests of the Southern Alps and West Coast and to the long-established exotic forest at Hanmer Springs.

Australian Forest History Society conferences aim to be inclusive and sociable. They attract people from many different disciplines, occupations and walks of life. They provide a venue for the exchange of knowledge and outlook between foresters, activists, local people, and historians, geographers, biologists and other academics. Everyone is welcome.

The Australian Forest History Society was formed in 1988 and has members in Australia, New Zealand and other countries. The aim of the Society is to advance historical understanding of human interactions with the environment. While the Society's main emphasis has been on Australian forest and woodland environments, previous conferences have also included contributions on forest environments in New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific, and on ecosystems other than forests. The Society does not provide a forum for advocacy of environmental or forest policy, but welcomes different perspectives. The Society operates without sponsorship. New members are welcome, but

membership is not a condition for conference attendance.

For more information on the Australian Forest History Society Inc. and the latest information on the New Zealand conference, see the AFHS website:

<http://www.foresthistory.org.au/>

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## **Provisional programme**

Please note: Some details may change

Monday 29 January 2007: Registration at University Hall, Maidstone Road, Ilam, from 4 pm; barbecue and welcome in the evening

Tuesday 30 January: Papers until mid-afternoon; short trip to Riccarton Bush

Wednesday 31 January: Papers all day; conference dinner in the evening at University Staff Club

Thursday 1 February: Papers until mid-morning; part day trip to Banks Peninsula

Friday 2 February: Papers all day; end of conference

Saturday 3 February

Start of post-conference study tour: Christchurch via Hanmer Springs and Lewis Pass to Westport

Sunday 4 February

Westport via Greymouth to Hokitika

Monday 5 February

Hokitika via Arthur's Pass to Christchurch; end of study tour

## **Conference committee**

Paul Star, Department of History, University of Otago.

Judy Bennett, Department of History, University of Otago.

Ron O'Reilly, School of Forestry, University of Canterbury.

Eric Pawson, Department of Geography, University of Canterbury.

Mike Roche, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University.

Brett Stubbs, School of Environmental Science and Management, Southern Cross University.

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If you are interested, but have not already sent in your details, please fill out and forward the Expression of Interest form, below.

In addition, if you would like to give a paper, please respond to the Call for Papers. Note that abstracts should be sent in by 30 September 2006.

Email: [starmulq@es.co.nz](mailto:starmulq@es.co.nz)

Or post : Paul Star, AFHS, History Department, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

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## Expression of Interest Form

Please record my interest in the seventh AFHS conference 2007 and send me further details when they are available.

Title..... First Name .....

Surname .....

Address.....

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.....Post Code .....

Telephone .....

E-mail .....

I am interested in attending.....

I would like offer a paper .....

For accommodation I would prefer:

Single room in University Hall.....

Self-book in nearby motel.....

Make own arrangements .....

I am also interested in joining the West Coast Study trip.....

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## Call for Papers

Title..... First Name .....

Surname .....

Address.....

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Post Code .....

E-mail .....

Title of proposed paper .....

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Please include an abstract (250 words or less) and email or send to Paul Star no later than 30 September 2006. Thirty minutes including discussion will be devoted to each paper.

Paul Star, on behalf of the conference committee  
May 2006