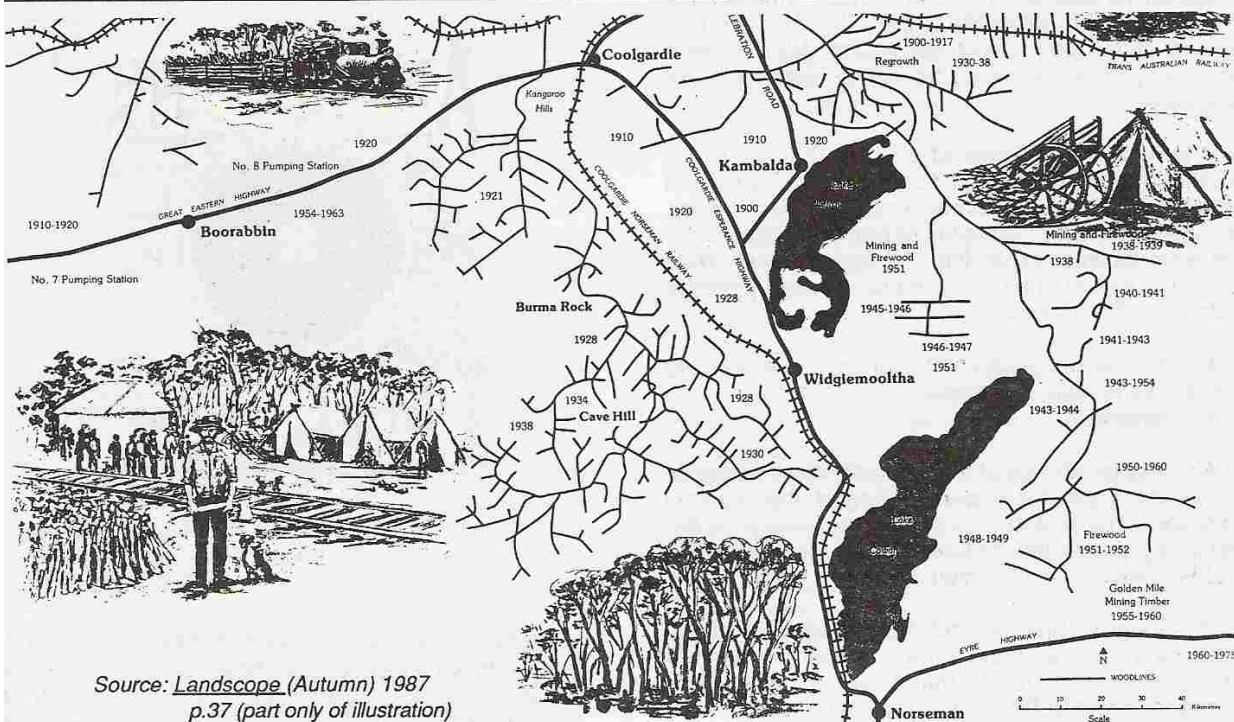


AUSTRALIAN FOREST HISTORY

SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 2
1989

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



Source: *Landscape* (Autumn) 1987
p.37 (part only of illustration)

The Australian Forest History Society now has 210 names on the mailing list including a range of libraries. A number of people forwarded items following Newsletter No 1 and their assistance is acknowledged herein. Please keep the material flowing in. We are short on information from some states but this will be corrected in time. Some reports on the interesting projects listed on members' application forms would be particularly welcome. Contributions on sources for forest history would also be useful - relate your experiences in researching forest history and your knowledge of sources.

'Woodlines' south of Coolgardie Western Australia
(see Kealley, *Work in Progress*)

Proceedings of the First National Conference on Australian Forest History (May 1988) are about to go to the printer while the proceedings of the IUFRO Tropical Forest History Conference which followed the Australian conference are now available (details inside).



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE STATES

TASMANIA

Anne McConnell (Archaeological Research Officer, Tasmanian Forestry Commission) reports that Summer 1988/89 has seen considerable research undertaken in forest history in Tasmania. Major research includes:

- * Completion of the excavation of Bone Cave Aboriginal site, in the Southern Forests, by La Trobe University (Jim Allen).

- * Survey for Aboriginal sites in the Lake Timk area, a limestone region below Mt. Anne. Only one site was located (La Trobe University - Jim Allen, Richard Cosgrove). Pollen samples have also been taken for analysis.

- * A survey for Aboriginal sites in the Denison River, South West Heritage area (Dept Lands, Parks and Wildlife (DLPW). Steve Brown and Angie McGowan). Seven sites, mainly cave sites of probable Pleistocene age were located, expanding the area of South West Tasmania known to be occupied by Aboriginal people during the Pleistocene.

- * A survey of Aboriginal chert quarries and associated sites for the Forestry Commission (Ian Thomas) in North West Tasmania.

- * A survey for Aboriginal sites in North West Tasmania to provide a greater understanding of the regional prehistory. The project is focussing particularly on the previously poorly investigated inland forested areas (DLPW - Ingereth MacFarlane).

- * A survey of historic and Aboriginal sites in the Teepookana area, Macquarie Harbour to provide information for land management (Forestry Commission and DLPW - David Bannear).

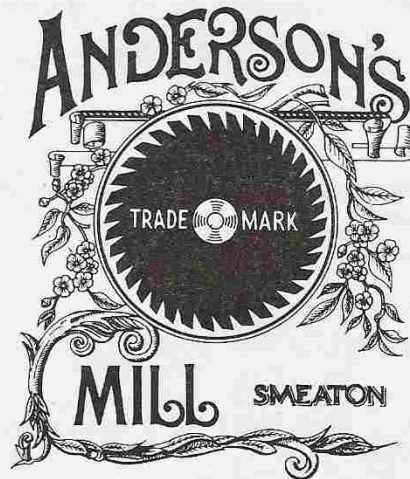
- * The Tasmanian Archaeology Society commenced the recording of the 1840's Long Marsh Dam Site in the Eastern Tiers forests, a partly completed dam built mainly with convict labour and an associated probation station. The recording will be completed next summer.

- * A Forestry Commission project funded by the Tasmanian Forest Research Council to investigate the Aboriginal use and occupation of shelter sites in East Tasmanian forests has recently commenced (Betty Ross). The data will be used primarily for management.

- * DLPW is compiling an inventory of historic structures in Tasmanian World Heritage areas (Richard Morrison).

Research into post-contact forest history has been somewhat limited, however, recent funding through the National Estate Grants Programme will enable the Forestry Commission to compile an inventory of historic sites, and regional historic overviews for the forested areas of NW and NE Tasmania. A similar inventory for the SE region will be completed in 1990/91. Additional data on historic sites in the Central Plateau (mainly grazing and trapping and snaring sites) and sawmilling sites will also be obtained (Tim Jetson and Wayne Chynnoweth).

VICTORIA



The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands has produced a brochure on Anderson's Mill, Smeaton (near Creswick) purchased by the Victorian Government in 1987. This was a water-powered flourmill (c. 1962) operated by the Anderson brothers who in the mid - 1860s were the biggest sawmillers in the Bullarook Forest with mills at Dean, Adekate Creek and Barkstead. The mill is open to the public on Sunday afternoons. For more information:

- * Dept Conservation, Forests and Lands
State Public Offices
Ballarat 3350
Tel: (053) 370689
- * CFL Historic Places Section
Tel: (03) 4124526
- * Anderson's Mill
Tel: (053) 456406

QUEENSLAND

Peter Holzworth reports that twenty-four people throughout the state have taken on the task of being 'bush recorders' and material is now coming in for his register of historical items. Craig Gubby of Head Office (Mary Street, Brisbane) is researching the history of the Schlick Medal - issued annually to the best graduate from the Forestry School, Australian National University, Canberra. Attention is being given to recipients of the medal as well as details of the medal itself.

The Department has produced self adhesive 'preservation stickers' (with 'warning red' lettering for attaching to files etc).



PUBLICATIONS

Changing Tropical Forests : Historical Perspectives on Today's Challenges in Asia, Australasia and Oceania Eds J. Dargavel, K. Dixon, N. Semple (1988) (IUFRO/CRES, ANU, Canberra).

This newly published volume is the proceedings of a conference held at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Australian National University in May 1988 (following the Australian Forest History conference). The conference was held under the auspices of the IUFRO Tropical Forest History Working Group (s.6.07.01). Sections of the book deal with : Long transitions in the use of tropical forests; Change and impacts in southeast Asia and Australia; Colonialism and forest policy; Ecology and conservation; Land use and forest management; Recent exploitation and trade.

The editors describe the publication in the following way :

This book describes the way in which changes to tropical forests can be understood through historical studies. Major changes include those due to biological impacts and catastrophes, shortening cycles of slash and burn agriculture, clearing for permanent agriculture and for urban and industrial development, exploitation of timber resources, the rise of government forestry, the

advent of community-based forestry and the reservation of national parks.

The changes affect not only the structure or even the continuation of the forest cover but the material, economic and sometimes spiritual life of local and national societies. The historical studies presented in this book deepen understanding of the complex changes and effects occurring in the region.

Available from:

Publications Section
Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies
GPO Box 4
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia \$24.95 + \$5 p. & p.

Forest and Timber is an annual publication of the Forestry Commission of New South Wales. Letters and literary contributions are welcome and should be addressed to -

The Editor
"Forest and Timber"
Forestry Commission of New South Wales
GPO Box 2667
Sydney 2001

The latest issue Vol 24 (1988) includes articles on forestry and timber use in Australia; native forests in New South Wales: past and future; Australian papermaking; and planting notes on red cedar.

The publication is issued **free in Australia** and requests to be placed on the mailing list should be sent to the editor at the above address giving full mailing details including postcode.

Overseas subscribers can obtain the publication for \$6 per issue (Australian currency) or \$18 for the next three issues. Remittances to be forwarded with full address details to :

Subscriptions
Government Printing Office
PO Box 75
Pyrmont NSW 2009
Australia

Local History in Timber Districts

The Bicentennial year saw the support of local history projects across the country. Peter Holzworth reports the following publications from the Maryborough district which is one of the earliest timber getting areas in Queensland.

Pioneers and Progress: a History of Division One, Shire of Woocoo, Queensland by Len Harvey. Published by the Woocoo Historical Society

Inc., Brooweena, Qld as an Australian Bicentennial Project 1988.

Chapter 10: The Timber Industry (20 pages) contains material on early sawmills, objections to timber imports, teamsters and motor transport, local firms, sleeper cutters etc.

Also from south-east Queensland:

Where Two Rivers Run by Dulcie Logan, Published by the Kilkivan Shire Council.

This 492 page hardcover production was commissioned by Kilkivan Shire council as a Bicentennial project and to commemorate the centenary of the Shire. It covers a range of subjects, beginning with the Aboriginal tribes of the Wide Bay-Burnett, and their customs and lifestyle, through sections on the European explorers, pastoral runs, minerals, selectors, railways, local government, close-settlement, the timber industry, rural development, education, religion, recreational activities and post-war development.

The Glebe Park Story: the evolution of Canberra's main inner city park from Canberry glebe by John Gray. 32 pages. Published in 1989 by the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation (ACT Region), POBox 102, Dickson, ACT, 2602. (\$8.00 incl. postage). Available also in Canberra bookshops.

This short history of a small city park has been carefully researched by John Gray and elegantly produced by the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation. It tells the story of a piece of land that became part of Canberra's city centre. It starts in 1840 when the Sydney merchant, Robert Campbell, sold 102 acres of his station to the Church of England for a church, cemetery and 'glebe' - a glebe being a piece of land, the income from which would help support a clergyman. It ends in 1989 when a small part of the original glebe was opened as a delightful tree-filled park in the centre of Canberra.

John Gray traces how the land was used, how St John's Church was built (1845) and a parsonage added (1873). Fortunately the first rector to occupy the parsonage, Reverend Pierce Galliard Smith - a Scot - was a keen tree planter. When the Commonwealth compulsorily acquired the land in 1912 to establish the national capital, his pines, poplars, elms and hawthorns stood bravely on bare Limestone Plains.

As Canberra was built, the old glebe was cut by roads and partly flooded, the rectory was pulled down, but luckily much of the original plantings survived. In 1981 development interests proposed turning what remained into an amusement park but vigorous local opposition saved the area for a public park.

John Gray, the Landscape Architect for the National Capital Development Commission, gave very practical expression to his historical studies in his design which

reflects the character of a traditional English park. Galliard Smith would I feel, enjoy it.

The publication is beautifully produced with maps and photographs and adds much to the enjoyment of visiting the park itself. The only sad note for me is that all the generations of people who used the land before Robert Campbell are never mentioned.

John Dargavel.

If you are aware of forest history publications in other parts of the country, send in details for the newsletter - preferably with details of price and availability. Review copies are also welcome.

JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS ETC

TASMANIA

Allen, J., Cosgrove, R. and Brown, S. 1988 New archaeological data from the southern forests region, Tasmania: a preliminary statement, Australian Archaeology 27: 75-88.

Harris, S., Ranson, D. and Brown, S. 1988 Maxwell River archaeological survey 1986, Australian Archaeology 27: 89-97.

NEW ZEALAND

Bassett, C., 1987 Role of the Forest Service in the Conservation of Native State Forests, New Zealand Forestry 32 (2): 15-18.

Poole, A.L., 1988 Kaingaroa: Deep in the Forest, New Zealand Forestry 33(2):4-7.

Reid, J.S., 1987 Genesis of the Commercial Division, New Zealand Forest Service, New Zealand Forestry 32 (2):13-14.

Store, R.C.J., 1987 Sinister Auckland Business Cliques 1840-1940, New Zealand Journal of History 21 (1) : 29-45.

Sutton, W.R.J., 1987 The New Zealand Forest Service Contribution to Plantation Forestry, New Zealand Forestry 32 (1): 24-27.

Trotman, I.G. & Thomson, A.P. 1988 65 Years of State Forest Recreation Part I, New Zealand Forestry 32 (4): 9-12.

Trotman, I.G. & Thomson, A.P., 1988 65 Years of State Forest Recreation Part II. New Zealand Forestry 33 (1): 13-15.

AUSTRALIA

Two recent books, one authored, the other edited, by Australian historical geographers contain sections of interest for forest history. They are:

(i) **An Historical Geography of Modern Australia: The restive fringe**, J.M. Powell (Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge), 1988.

Contains much on rural policy, conservation and development and a section 'wood, trees and vision' dealing with forest administration in the first half of this century.

(ii) **The Australian Experience: Essays in Australian Land Settlement and Resource Management**, R.L. Heathcote (ed.) (Longman Cheshire, Melbourne), 1988.

See in particular:

Ch. 9: The Clearing of the Woods
(M. Williams)

Ch. 14: The Australian Conservation Movement
(G. Mosley)

CONFERENCES

1. **PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRALIAN PLANTATIONS**, 21-24 August 1989, Australian National University.

Further information from:

Mrs Gail Hawke
Capital Conferences Pty. Ltd.
PO Box E 345
Queen Victoria Terrace
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: (062) 852048
Fax: (062) 852334

2. **IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS**, 5-11 August 1990, Montreal.

The Forest History Group has been allotted a total of 8 hours during 3 days for presentation of papers and a business session. There are 3 classes of presentations: invited papers, voluntary papers, and poster sessions. Please send notice of your interest in participating either by presenting a paper or poster session, and ideas for themes. The congress theme

concerns forest science, and probably at least one of our sessions should focus on science and technology.

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3. **LATIN AMERICAN FOREST HISTORY CONFERENCE** (IUFRO Tropical Forest History Working Group), 17-23 February 1991, San Jose, Costa Rica.

This conference will include three days of sessions and a two day field trip, overnighing at the office of Tropical Studies in northern Costa Rica.

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4. **PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS** May-June 1991 (tentative), Hawaii.

A meeting of the Tropical Forest History Working Group is being planned to coincide with this congress. This will focus on changes in the Pacific Basin timber economy, with a significant interest in the implications of changing capital structures.

Further details on the last 3 conferences can be obtained from:

Dr H.K. Steen
Forest History Society
701 Vickers Avenue
Durham N.C. 27701 USA

SOURCES FOR FOREST HISTORY

THE MAP COLLECTION AT THE ARCHIVES OF BUSINESS AND LABOUR AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY: AN UNTAPPED RESEARCH RESOURCE

A catalogue at ABL can be used to identify maps in the various collections held. The term 'maps' here includes plans, blueprints, rough sketches, accurate hand drawn and published maps, tracings and land auction posters. The catalogue also indicates if ancillary documentation exists. With the exception of building plans most of the 'maps' we hold come from pastoral collections. Goldsbrough Mort Ltd, the New Zealand and Australian Land Coy, Dalgety's and AML&F feature prominently and it is likely one could trace the whole regional development of the Australian Agricultural Coy through its extensive map collection, without reference to other sources.

Often the maps serve to illuminate facts well documented elsewhere. They can complete parts of a puzzle, and sometimes they are all that remains to record the nature of a region long since changed.

A random search for nineteenth century maps in our catalogue gives some indication of the potential of this resource.

In December 1898 an Auction poster was published to sell 12,000 acres of 'Splendid Agricultural Land, Subdivided into 36 Farms, varying in area from 207 Acres to 433 Acres.' These farms were on the estate of the Peel River Land and Mineral Coy Ltd near Tamworth, New South Wales. The poster identifies each subdivision. Pencilled annotations offer further detail about the blocks, which ones were gravelly or of no use for grazing, which had open black soil plains or good flat arable land, where saplings were thick etc. This poster seems to be the earliest of a series offering land in the area until c.1922 (Loc No 121/25/3). From the same collection a very large hand drawn map shows a subdivision on the Peel River in November 1884 with descriptive details of the type of trees, the density, where dead timber existed and open forest areas (Loc No A481).

One series of fine detailed maps in the Australian Agricultural Company Limited's collection illuminates the region around the Karuah river from Sawyers Point to Booral NSW. Drawn by J. Armstrong in 1828 the countryside is described in detail. We find 'salt marshes, swamps, inferior country, open country, to thick brush and open forest hills' as each small section is identified. Such maps presumably sought to locate sheep grazing land and the terminology reflects that purpose. 'Beautiful sheep hills' are found as is 'forest oak in quantity' (Loc Nos A28,A42 etc). Another Armstrong map for the same region in 1826 notes the sites of aboriginal settlements (Loc No A30).

From the Goldsbrough Mort collection four sketches and plans of Coan Downs holding in the land district of Hillston NSW show the progress of ringbarking in 1888. Copies of documents of Permission to Ringbark under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 are included. Sketches identify the areas approved and the documents (of which the originals are no doubt in government archives) describe the type of trees which can be destroyed, note any special conditions, the useless scrubs and what must not be ringbarked. In one case the latter are listed as 'Runajong, Mulga, Wilga, Sheoak and Edible Scrubs - Borum, Milgia, Ury.' (Loc No 2/859/76).

A common find among our holdings are Lands Department maps. Often these are annotated to show changes to an area. One such map for the Parish of Killawarra in the Land District of Taree, Eastern Division NSW is in good condition. It shows for July 1893 lot divisions, numbers, owners names, sizes, rivers, roads, the Gloucester Goldfield and the Manning and Dingo Rivers (Loc No B54).

Two interesting early tracings, (exact dates unknown) were found showing properties on the Maranoa holding, Parish of Youngarignia in the County of Irrara NSW. Former and current owners are listed as are wells, buildings, rivers, travelling stock routes, and acreage. (Loc No C74). One map features dot patterns to show the density of the vegetation on these 7 properties. It is, or was, very dense mulga and box in

some parts and budda? bush, with other parts open mulga terrain (Loc No C73)

For the 1860s three plans were found for the original site of Melrose Station, a large area in the land districts of Condobolin and Parkes, NSW (Loc No 2/7). The usual identification of paddock size, dams, buildings, wells, tanks, ranges, rivers and fences are made on cotton sheets by Surveyor A W Campbell. In addition he has drawn in areas of mallee growth and listed the major trees in existence. Along the paddock boundaries are the phrases 'Box on 4 sides, Yarren on 4 sides, Ironbark on 4 sides' etc. Some skill is required to interpret these maps but they seem to offer the potential to reconstruct a picture of the region as it was a century ago.

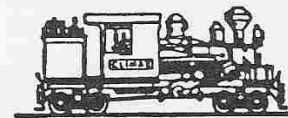
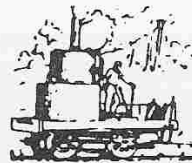
Maureen Purtell
Senior Archivist
Archives of Business & Labour

All inquiries about maps and other collections should be directed to the

Archives Officer
ANU Archives of Business & Labour
GPO Box 4
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FEATURE ARTICLES

THE LIGHT RAILWAY RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



The Light Railway Research Society of Australia specializes in researching historical and contemporary light railways in such diversified industries as manufacturing, rural, mining and timber. Society researchers are encouraged to consider the social, economic and industrial context within which each light railway operated, and the people and personalities working around it. The society publishes researched articles in its quarterly bulletin **Light Railways**. Large and well researched articles are published in book form.

A considerable body of historical information has been compiled on those Australian forests where the early timber industry depended upon light railways for log extraction and transportation of timber products. The majority of this research has concentrated on the

southern forests of Victoria, but increasing attention is now being paid to the other states. While these timber tramways represent an era of exploitative forestry that would be unacceptable today, they are nonetheless an integral part of forest history. As such, forest history researchers may be interested to contact the Society for information relevant to their research topics. Inquiries should be addressed to:

Light Railway Research Society of Australia
PO Box 21
Surrey Hills
VIC 3127

(Supplied by Ian McNeil, Metford, NSW, see **Work in Progress**)

A list of Society publications can be obtained from L.R.R.S.A. Sales at 2239 Princes Hwy, Mulgrave, Victoria, 3170.

Examples include:

Bellbrakes, Bullocks & Bushmen Sawmilling and tramway operations in the Gembrook area from 1885 to 1985. Hard cover A4 size, 106 pages. \$23.95

Timber Mountain A history of sawmilling in the Murrindindi Forest (Healesville - Buxton - Yea - Toolangi area) from 1885 to 1950. \$11.95

Rocky Bluff to Denmark Includes "Hume Reservoir Construction tramways", Elphinstone timber Tramway, Stannary Hills (north Qld) Mining Railways, and Millar's Denmark Railway (southern WA) \$7.45

Powelltown A history of its timber mills and associated tramways, including Bump Incline & tunnel. High Lead Incline, Ada valley mills. Soft cover, A4 size and 152 photographs. \$18.85

Sawdust & Steam Sawmilling in Victoria's eastern Otway Ranges. \$11.05

Timber and Gold Sawmills and tramways of the Wombat State Forest (Daylesford - Trentham area) \$9.25

Tall Timber & Tramlines A pictorial introduction to Victorian timber tramways. \$6.00

All prices include packing and postage.

OLD TIMBER BRIDGES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Roads (Journal of the Main Roads Department of Western Australia) Vol 13 (3) October 1988 carries an illustrated article on old timber bridges in the state written by L.Margetts (Engineer, Bridge Section). Such structures are not only of interest to forest historians but are part of the industrial archaeology of Australia, linking the nation's settlement and development to the products and technical advances of the industrial revolution.

Western Australian bridges have demonstrated the strength and longevity of wandoo and jarrah hardwood timbers. Near Perth the 1872 timber tramway bridge over Munday Brook at Orange Grove may be the oldest surviving all timber bridge in Australia and is the subject of a restoration program.

The following extract is the conclusion to the article:

' The older surviving timber bridges have a surprising number of functions in addition to their obvious historical aesthetic values. A number still carry traffic, and all serve as excellent on-going research subjects for the various aspects of timber engineering and detailing. For instance, routine inspection of many of the older bridges has shown the great gains in durability available through careful control of the degree of moisture exposure of the timber (particularly the end-grain)

Those bridges to be preserved or restored will be of particular technical value, because the ingenious solutions which often accompany such work will advance the maintenance technology available for more recent bridges. For the restoration of the Munday Brook bridge at Orange Grove, for example, it is planned to use a high-pressure water jet for the first time to remove serious decay from critical timber areas and to reinstate those areas with structural epoxy filler. The older bridges are also expected to serve as test-beds for the development of applications for the new generation of diffusible fungicides which are showing great potential for extending the service life of all 1500 timber bridges in our road network.

Finally, where the retention of a bridge is not justified, structural members and other features may be salvaged and reused.

The bridges mentioned here are now old by any of the yardsticks which could be applied to exposed timber structures, and minor structural failures are an increasingly common feature of their operation. It is therefore timely that a plan should be developed to manage this important part of our transport heritage.

A register of WA's surviving old timber bridges is being drawn up for the information of those interested members of the general public, and also to allow an informed decision to be made when the future of such a structure must be determined. It is intended that a short list of the more significant bridges will be circulated for comment and then submitted through

Professor O'Connor to the National Trust for listing on appropriate Heritage registers.'

(Issue of **Western Roads** supplied by Cam Kneen, Forest Products Association)

THE FIRST SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

It has been generally accepted that J. Ednie Brown, appointed in September 1878 was the first South Australian Conservator of Forests. However, special Projects Officer in the SA Woods and Forests Department, Bob Lyons has looked into this more closely and found that a conservator was first appointed in January 1876.

The following article by Bob Lyons is extracted from **Timber News** (quarterly journal of the SA Woods and Forests Dept) December 1988.

The Forgotten Conservator

'The first official mention of the need for a Conservator of Forests appears to have been in a report on Forest Reserves which the Surveyor General, G.W. Goyder, made to the Commissioner of Crown Lands on 28 September 1873.

Goyder pointed out that an officer, thoroughly and practically acquainted with forest culture was needed as Conservator to advise the Commissioner on all matters relating to forest culture.

With the establishment of a Forest Board in 1875, the appointment of a Conservator was one of the first matters to be discussed and advertisements were placed in local and interstate newspapers.

At least four persons are known to have applied. These were W Murray and J Curnow (later appointed as nurseryman at Bundaleer Springs) from South Australia and Messrs Meredith and Hyndman from Victoria.

On 17 December 1875, Goyder (a member of the Forest Board) wrote to the Commissioner stating that the Board has set apart the names of Mr Murray of South Australia and Messrs Meredith and Hyndman of Victoria as suitable for the post of Conservator, and that all things equal the Board considered that preference should be given to the resident in South Australia.

On 31 December 1875, the Chief Secretary recorded in Cabinet "as Mr Murray is well known in South Australia to have the necessary qualifications, Cabinet appoint him to the office of Conservator."

Murray was notified by letter on 7 January 1876.

William Murray was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in 1819 and came to South Australia in the ship 'City of Adelaide' in September 1841. He was a professional gardener and nurseryman.

Murray duly presented himself to the Forest Board on 12 January 1876 and was instructed to inspect the northern reserves at Wirrabara and Bundaleer Springs. Among other things he was asked to report on the

"nature and extent of the growing timber, seedlings, young trees, matured trees and dead timber on the ground, the suitability of the bore (springs) for nurseries..."

Murray reported back to the Board on 2 February 1876, when he was further instructed to see Mr Curnow regarding an appointment as nurseryman at Bundaleer Springs.

There is little in the minutes of the Board to suggest the nature of its relationship with Murray as Conservator, but even at an early stage things do not appear to have proceeded smoothly.

The minutes of the meeting on 1 March 1876, record that the Chairman was authorised by the Board to issue instructions re: working of Bundaler and Wirrabara, although they go on to say that the Conservator was consulted re: planting out of stock already raised and that the Conservator's suggestions were adopted.

Goyder dominated the early period of the Forest Board with his definite ideas regarding the creation of Forest Reserves.

On 1 August 1876, Murray's report and diary for July were considered by the Board. Murray appears to have been reprimanded and asked why he had not complied with the instruction that trees should be planted 16 feet apart. He was also asked to explain why he had returned to Town before carrying out his instructions which had previously been given to him.

Murray was instructed to return to Bundaleer Springs and carry out his previous instructions. His claim for travelling expenses was disallowed.

The following week Murray submitted an explanation to the Board. This was accepted. The Board, however, reaffirmed its decision not to allow him expenses while in Town and once again instructed that trees were to be planted 16 feet apart.

Further trouble over travelling expenses ensued. The Board sought returns of the Conservator's refund of travelling expenses on 29 August 1876. Again the Board reaffirmed its decision that travelling expenses would only be allowed to him when actually travelling on duty.

With an apparently deteriorating relationship between Murray and the Board, Goyder and fellow Board members, Col. Barber and Mr McEwin, visited Bundaleer in October 1876 and a major row erupted. On 16 October 1876, Goyder presented a report of the visit and a special meeting was arranged for 24 October 1876.

At this meeting after the report was read it was resolved that "Mr Murray having proved himself totally unfit for the post of Conservator that the Government be recommended to dispense with his services".

The report by the Board was to be embodied with this recommendation and Murray to be advised - "So as to give him an opportunity of resigning should he desire to do so".

Murray's letter of resignation was read to a meeting of the Board on 13 November and forwarded to the Government on 27 November 1876.

Murray returned to his nursery business and became an active member of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society. He was later elected a life

member. The bamboo system of planting, often credited to nurseryman J. Curnow, was probably introduced by Murray at Bundaleer during his time as Conservator. Murray also contributed articles to the "Farm and Garden" and was active in the Glen Osmond community.

A member of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, Murray had a family of six sons and three daughters, all of whom were still living in 1890. Murray died in October 1901, aged 82.

For the next few months following Murray's resignation, there appeared to be some uncertainty among Board members as to the best method of recruiting a new Conservator.

In January 1877 McEwin suggested that Dr Brown of Stirling, Scotland, should be approached. McEwin was politely thanked for this suggestion but the minutes state "the Board prefers a Conservator with colonial experience".

However McEwin formally moved on 19 June 1877 to write a letter to Dr Brown of Stirling stating the Board's position with reference to a Conservator possessing colonial experience and if he can advise a person of practical and theoretical knowledge for the post.

The Board resolved to write to Dr Brown and call for applications for the post of Conservator in the Gazette.

By 27 August 1877 the Board had not received any applications so it was decided to appoint an inspector until the post of Conservator was filled.

On 4 October 1877, the minutes refer to applications received from Mr Samuel Le Brun and Mr Alfred Smith. The Board informed these two applicants that it would defer making an appointment until a communication had been received from Dr Brown.

In January 1878 a reply was received from Dr Brown offering his son's service as Conservator. At a meeting on 11 February the Board accepted Dr Brown's offer and on 4 March 1878 wrote to the Commissioner of Crown Lands recommending the appointment of Mr J E Brown as Conservator.

J Ednie Brown arrived from England on 15 September 1878, on the steamer 'Garonne'. A special meeting was held on 19 September 1878 for Board members to meet the newly appointed Conservator.

This account of the early activities of the Forest Board immediately raises a number of questions. Firstly, was Murray's name simply forgotten with the passage of time or was there some attempt to suppress his occupancy of the position of Conservator.

The Board makes no mention of the position of Conservator in its first report for 1876-77, although various other employees are mentioned by name and position. In contrast, the second report for 1877-78 prominently mentions that the Board has secured the services of Mr J E Brown to undertake duties of Conservator.

The two issues over which there was clear disagreement between Murray and the Board were travelling expenses and the planting of trees 16 feet apart. The final matter, which led to Murray's downfall was Goyder's visit to the northern reserves. It is possible that Murray had continued to plant at a different interval despite his formal instructions.

Unfortunately, most records of the Forest Board, which would have shed light on these and many other questions have apparently failed to survive.'

NEW ZEALAND FOREST HISTORY IN THE MAKING

New Zealand has witnessed wholesale changes during the 1980s which have resulted in a reworking of fundamental underlying relationships between state and private sector forestry. This reshaping apparently culminated in April 1987 with the disestablishment of the Department of Lands and Survey, the New Zealand Forest Service and several other branches of Government and the creation instead of a Department of Conservation, a Forestry Corporation and a Ministry of Forestry. However the Labour Government as part of a programme of state asset sales has announced that it will now proceed with the sale of the Forestry Corporation, a decision that will offer new opportunities for forestry companies in New Zealand and perhaps from overseas, and spells a new reduced direct presence for the Government in the sector.

The 1987 restructuring was the outcome of decade long pressure on the Forest Service from a number of sources, some obvious but perhaps in the longer term not as influential in shaping the format and function of the three new organizations as was popularly imagined. Various environmental groups, for example, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society but primarily the Native Forests Action Council had exerted unrelenting pressure on Forest Service management of remaining indigenous forests since the Beech Scheme proposals were announced in the early 1970s. In essence the Forest Service was pursuing a multiple use forestry policy whereas the environmentalists were seeking the inviolable preservation of the remaining indigenous forests.

Throughout its three terms in opposition from 1975 to 1984 the Labour Party gradually added to its election manifesto, pledged to meet environmentalists' concerns by agreeing to preserve indigenous forests, and offered to rework environmental administration, particularly in the role of the Commission for the Environment responsible for auditing environmental impact reports on development projects. This was the overt move for reform made possible with Labour's election victory in 1984.

The less obvious pressures on Forest Service administration came from within Government and increasingly in the 1980s from departments such as Treasury. As early as 1978 the Auditor-General drew attention to the inadequacies of public service accounting procedures for the task of monitoring the performance of Forest Service sawmills and wood sales. This matter was taken further by a Subcommittee of Parliament's Public Expenditure Committee which produced what was known as the McLean Report in 1980. This document went beyond suggesting

accounting reform to recommend the actual reorganization of the Forest Service into separate commercial and non-commercial agencies.

The important point is that 'more market' type pressures were being brought to bear on the forest Service before the election of the Labour Government in 1984 and the dramatic moves to deregulate the New Zealand economy which followed thereafter. There is also the suggestion that some Labour cabinet Ministers had approached the question of the reform only in terms of environmental administration as it affected national parks, sanctuaries and forest preservation. This left open the precise form and commercial functions of the new organisations. Various configurations were suggested in 1985 before the separate commercial and statutory-regulatory organizations were settled upon. The outcome was a Department of Conservation charged with the preservation of the indigenous flora and fauna; a Ministry of Forests with statutory and regulatory responsibilities as well as control of the Forest Research Institute; and the Forestry Corporation which was charged with managing the production forests (comprised almost entirely of exotic plantations) and former Forest Service sawmills on fully commercial lines. It was argued by Treasury presumably with Finance Minister Roger Douglas' support that a clear separation of timber growing and sawmilling from forest recreation and protection would lead to greater accountability and efficiency and this line of reasoning prevailed over a rear-guard action from the Forest Service defending a broad based government forests department.

The decision to sell the forest assets of the Forestry Corporation, amounting to some 540,000 ha of forests, about 50 per cent of the exotic plantation estate comprised principally of *Pinus radiata* is a momentous one. It is still unclear whether the deregulatory position which questions the need for the State to even be involved in growing trees, or the need to generate revenue to reduce the government's debt was the major influencing factor leading to this decision. It is however a move consistent with the position of the Douglas-Prebble faction of Cabinet favouring deregulation as a means to improved efficiency and enhanced economic performance. Whether the recent fall of both those Ministers will cause a rethinking of the asset sales programme and re-examination of the Forest Corporation sales proposals remains to be seen. Assuming it does not, which seems likely, some new possibilities now exist for New Zealand forestry companies such as Fletcher Challenge and Carter Holt Harvey (which since 1982 have expanded considerably as far afield as Brazil, Chile, and Canada in attempt to transform themselves into international companies competing on a global market) to further extend their local operations. Indeed Fletcher Challenge indicated in October 1988 that it was interested in making an offer for the Forestry Corporation plantations and sawmills at Waipa and Conical Hill. Although the Commerce Commission has declined initial clearance to acquire Forestry Corporation assets, this will only slow and not halt the

sale of forest assets. There remains also the possibility of some extension of Australian corporate interest via the Elders controlled New Zealand Forest Products. This is described as recently as 1982 as the 'quintessential New Zealand Company' but passed from New Zealand control with the collapse of Rada Corporation in the aftermath of the stock market crash. Thirdly, the maturing wood resources of New Zealand may attract attention from Pacific rim forestry interests, perhaps from North America and accordingly become much more closely integrated into the world wood markets perhaps to the detriment of New Zealand's requirements. Whether joint ventures will be a preferred option remains to be seen, while the question of how much local processing would be undertaken remains open. However, with energy and labour costs in New Zealand being higher than in some other locations this could be minimal. All that is certain is that dramatic and probably painful adjustment on the New Zealand forestry scene will continue for the immediate future.

M. M. Roche
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Palmerston North
New Zealand

FOREST HISTORY WORK IN PROGRESS

Ian J. McNeil
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Metford NSW 2323

Research:

Researching the histories of sawmills, mill communities and timber tramways within the Stroud/Buladelah, districts NSW. Current research topic is the mill village of SIMSVILLE (1911-1947) with its large "Jarrah" sawmill, extensive network of logging tramways into the Myall River State Forest, and its own private railway to transport timber products down to the Karuah River. Interested to interview retired timber workers for further oral history input, and to locate additional archival records covering early 1900's forestry operations and defunct timber companies.

Publications:

McNeil, I.J., 1988 "Logging tramways of the Dorrigo Plateau", *Light Railways* Vol. 100, May 1988. \$5.00 from LRRSA Sales, 2239 Princes Highway, Mulgrave, VIC 3170.

A history of the seven identified logging tramways and their associated sawmills which operated on the Dorrigo Plateau circa 1911 to 1944. Emphasis is on the role and operations of the tramways, though significant attention is given to the industry they served as well as

their social and geographical setting. Oral sources have been drawn on to illustrate aspects of life in the Dorrig timber industry during those times.

* * * * *

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Kalgoorlie WA 6430

Interest in forest and forestry history in the goldfields (Kalgoorlie - Coolgardie) region of Western Australia including conservation, tree planting and utilization (eg woodlines [bush railways],sandalwood trade). Author and contributor to several articles on the history of the woodlines, sandalwood and tree planting,e.g.

Kealley,I., 1986 Twin Towns' Trees A Foresters' Legacy,*Calm News* Vol 2.

Winifred,C., 1987 Gimlets and Gold - The story of Kalgoorlie's woodlines, *Landscape* (Autumn) 1987: 35-40.

Kealley,I., 1987 Management of Inland and Semi-Arid Woodland Forest of Western Australia, Proc. 1987 Conf. Inst. of Foresters of Australia, Perth,W. Aust, Sept-Oct 1987: 361-72.

(Note: the latter two items contain a detailed map of woodlines and cutting areas in the goldfields 1900-1975 - see cover of this newsletter [ed.]).

* * * * *

Peter McIntosh
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Cobden
Greymouth
Westland NEW ZEALAND

Currently writing an MA thesis (History) on the history of the timber industry on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand (1900-1945) - the province and land district of Westland.

From the first export of rimu (red pine) from Westland to Melbourne in 1870 until the Second World War, considerable quantities of timber were shipped from this region to Australia. The bulk of this trade was conducted by the West Coast Sawmillers' Association from 1896. The main timbers exported were rimu, used predominantly for flooring and furniture (according to the records of the West Coast Sawmillers' Association, the whole of the upper floor in Don Bradman's house was built in rimu); and kahikatea (white pine), used in the manufacture of butter boxes and cheese crates.

I would be most grateful if any of your correspondents could provide me with any information regarding the timber merchants and agencies with which the West Coast Sawmillers' Association dealt, and the impact of the trade from the Australian perspective. West Coast Sawmillers' Association agents were:

Adelaide - Australian Timbers Ltd.
Elder Smith and Co. Ltd.
Gunnerson, Le Messurier Ltd.

Melbourne - Kauri Timber Co.

Sydney (& Newcastle) - R.S. Lamb and Co.
F.A. Sargent
H. Bleakley

These firms had to deal exclusively with members of the Sydney Timber Merchants' Association and Messrs. Hudson Ltd. on behalf of the West Coast Sawmillers' Association.

Brisbane - Wardrop and Co. Timber Merchants

* * * * *

Other New Zealand Work in Progress includes:

Galbreath,R.A. Sir Walter Buller and the emergence of ideas of fauna conservation in New Zealand (for D. Phil, University of Waikato).

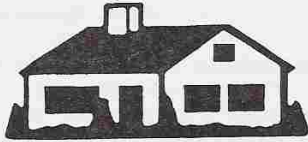
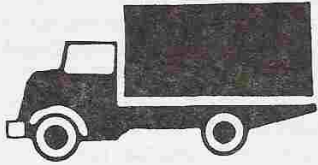
A completed dissertation by K. Sergeant (School of Forestry, University of Canterbury) entitled 'The History of Forestry in Canterbury- a comprehensive analysis 1850-1950' is held in the Engineering/Forestry library of the University of Canterbury.

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AUSTRALIA'S EVER CHANGING FORESTS: PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUSTRALIAN FOREST HISTORY

As advised in Newsletter No 1 the proceedings of the May 1988 Australian Forest History conference are being prepared for publication in the Department of Geography and Oceanography, Australian Defence force Academy, Canberra. The publication is soon to go to press. When printing is completed all those on the Australian Forest History Society mailing list will be advised.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Help us keep our membership list up to date by notifying change of address or incorrect details in the current mailing label.

Contributions are needed for Newsletter No 3. Please send news of publications, copies of books for review, articles on research projects, any other items of relevance to forest history. The Newsletter is produced on a Macintosh SE computer. Contributions may be sent on 3.5 inch disks preferably using Microsoft Word software (Macwrite also acceptable).

PRODUCTION: THANKS TO JULIE KESBY (WORD PROCESSING AND LAYOUT), PAUL BALLARD (DESIGN AND LAYOUT).

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