

AUSTRALIAN
FOREST HISTORY

SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 6
1990
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'... to advance historical understanding of human interactions with
Australian forest and woodland environments.'

THE SOCIETY

Our thanks to Kevin Frawley

The Australian Forest History Society was formed in 1988 at the conclusion of the first national conference held in Canberra. The papers to that conference were edited by Kevin Frawley and Noel Semple and published under the title of *Australia's Ever Changing Forests* by the Department of Geography and Oceanography, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy. Kevin went on to edit the first five issues of this *Newsletter* with considerable assistance from Julie Kesby, Paul Ballard and others at ADFA.

Kevin has now moved to a position in the Environmental Planning Section of the National Capital Planning Authority. Although he will maintain his interest and membership of the society, he can no longer continue as Newsletter editor.

We are all most appreciative of Kevin's hard work, thank him sincerely and wish him every success in his new endeavours.

Newsletter subscription reminder

To cover newsletter printing and mailing costs, members were asked to contribute \$5 for 1991. Please send your subscription in if you have not already done so.

New Zealand Members

Geoff Wilson (Department of Geography, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, N.Z.) writes to say that he is finishing his PhD and is looking for an academic job. If anybody knows of a lectureship or post-doctoral

fellowship becoming available, could they please let him know. His interests are in the clearing of native forest on farmland - obviously a topic of world-wide relevance, especially in the tropics.

Colin Michael Hall has left Lismore for the Department of Management System in Massey University in Palmerston North, N.Z.

Conference questionnaire

A questionnaire was sent out with the last Newsletter asking for members views on holding a second forest history conference.

Response 25 members responded and all were in favour of a second conference.

Time

1991	Winter-Spring	4
1991/92	Summer	6
	Autumn-Winter	2
1992/93	Summer	3
1993		1

It seems that summer is generally preferred to winter. Given that it takes at least a year to plan a good conference, solicit and write papers etc, the most suitable time would seem to be late November 1992.

Participation

	Yes	Maybe	Difficult	No
Attend?		23		3
Present papers?	11	6	1	6
Purchase proceedings?	21	2		



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Topics

Members suggested 30 different topics! Too many to list them all here. Because of such wide-ranging interests and the relatively small number of people interested or working in forest history, it seems that a second conference should cover a wide range.

Three people recommended an archeological topic. In view of the rising interest in finding, recording and managing both Aboriginal and industrial sites, it seems that a specific session on this would be very desirable.

Cost

It would have been hard for any member not to answer 'yes' to the question 'Do you support a conference structure that keeps registration charges low?' However comments attached indicated that we should keep costs as low as possible, particularly for students and people not supported by their employers.

Assistance

8 members said they would assist in organising a conference, depending on where it was held.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

The Tasmanian Scene Updated

The study of the history of the Tasmanian forests is alive and well and about to flourish further. In summary -

. *Historic Sites Inventory Project (Forestry Commission - NEGP funded)* - This project is being carried out on a regional basis. The aim is to compile an inventory of historic sites in Tasmania with a focus on wood production forests, and to provide an overview history for each region which gives the historic context. This information is being compiled primarily for management but is also identifying sites and areas needing or deserving of more detailed archaeological and historical research. The northwest and northeast regional studies are now completed. The results of the northeast study (Scripps 1990) was reported in the last AFHS Newsletter. The results of the northwest study are also now out (Goughwin 1991). The southeast regional study is underway and is due for completion in August/September. This regional study is being conducted by David Parham.

To date some 900 sites have been entered in the inventory. These are predominantly mining sites and timber industry sites, although a wide range of themes are listed. The results indicate that there are quite distinct regional patterns and differences, and that there are many interesting types of sites eg pack tracks and trappers and snarers sites which have not previously been given the recognition they deserve.

. *The Archaeology and Physical History of Tasmania's Timber Industry (Forestry Commission - Tasmanian Forest Research Council funded)*. This project commenced in March with Parry Kostoglou as Project Officer. The project is funded initially for one year but it is estimated that it will require 3-5 years to fully complete. The project is aimed at recording and fully documenting historic sites relating to the Tasmanian timber industry, and primarily located in current production forests. The approach is to study the state by historically, industrially discrete regions, and some 15 have been identified. Each regional study will stand on its own. The initial study, conducted as a pilot project, has been carried out in the Weilangta area.

. *Archaeological surveys for Aboriginal sites, Mersey and Forth River Valleys (Dept. Parks, Wildlife & Heritage)* - These surveys were carried out in 1990 to gain a better understanding of the archaeological resources of areas recently added to the World Heritage Area. The work has been reported by (Kee 1990).

. *Aboriginal archaeological site surveys, Surrey Hills Area, NW Tasmania (LaTrobe University/APPM - TERC funded)* - A systematic survey was recently carried out in the Surrey Hills area of NW Tasmania, and resulted in the location of over 100 Aboriginal archaeological sites. The site patterning has caused some review of existing theories about the prehistoric occupation of the area and the degree to which occupation/land use patterns were similar around the State. A preliminary report (Pickering 1991) has been produced.

. *Other studies located in forests or partly forested areas -*

. Southwest Tasmania has been the subject of a number of recent studies focussed on locating and studying cave sites occupied by the Aborigines. This research is primarily being undertaken by the Department Archaeology, LaTrobe University and by the Archaeology Section, Department Parks, Wildlife & Heritage, Tasmania. The studies have located a number of new sites. Excavation data from a number of these sites are still being analysed.

. The King River Valley has also been intensively researched last summer, prior to the imminent flooding by the Hydro Electric Authority. Aboriginal site surveys and excavations were conducted by 2 teams (LaTrobe University, and Centre for Prehistory, University of W.A.). Studies of the historical archaeology, primarily related to the smelting town of Crotty, were carried out by a team led by Justin McCarthy.

. Last year research into the Aboriginal and historic archaeology of the Savage-Pieman area was undertaken through the Tasmanian Conservation Trust on NEGF funding. The Aboriginal archaeological research was carried out by Tom Richards (consultant) and the

historic archaeological research by Hilary du Cros (consultant).

. A study of historic sites within the Tasmania World Heritage Area is being undertaken. The aim is to produce an inventory of sites for management purposes. The study has been initiated by the WHA Archaeologist, Department Parks, Wildlife & Heritage.

. David Bannear has recently completed an oral history project documenting the lives of the inhabitants of the Central Plateau area, much of which is forested and supported industries such as grazing, trapping and snaring, hydro-development and recreation.

There are a number of research projects which consider forest history, which have just received funding approval, and it is hoped will be underway soon. These include -

. North Regional (central north coast) Aboriginal Sites Survey - joint FC/DPWH.

. Cultural Landscape Study of the Lisle-Dennison Goldfields - joint FC/Queen Victoria Museum.

. Conservation planning of NE Registered sites in State Forest (FC).

If any one would like more information about, or copies of reports of, any of the above studies then they should contact the relevant organisation, or Anne McConnell (Tasmanian contact -ph (002) 307727 (W)).

Although considerable research is being undertaken in the State, there is still much more to be done! If you are interested in carrying out research in Tasmania we would be delighted to discuss proposals, make suggestions on all the exciting things that can be done, and to otherwise help where possible. Again, contact the State representative, Anne McConnell.

Queensland

Peter Holzworth has moved to the Brisbane Head Office of the Queensland Forest Service, Manager, Land Use and Information, and is continuing to search for source material to be conserved in the Forest Service Library. He put out the following notice in the Service's house magazine, *Between the Leaves*.

Calling all retirees and history-lovers

I'm still on the lookout, on behalf of QFS, for forest history documents (files, reports, books, theses, diaries, personal accounts, extracts), photos, maps etc which record the early history of forests in Queensland.

Forestry history doesn't mean just forestry, timber-getting and sawmilling.

It also includes:

- . *Aboriginal use of forests*
- . *Government regulations, forest services, silviculture*
- . *Environmental effects related to forest use*
- . *Plantation histories*
- . *employment in forestry/industry*
- . *Forest conservation history*
- . *Forest evolution*

If you have something you'd like to donate, lend or allow me to copy, take notes from, or just register the whereabouts of, I'd be grateful.

With the generous help of some forestry colleagues, a modest collection (okay, very small!) of history bits and pieces is starting to form. I want to build up a data base of:

- . *forest history sources-registers and lists of relevant libraries, historical societies, etc*
- . *forest history documents, maps and photos.*

When time permits, the information will be sifted, catalogued and stored in the QFS library.

Your contribution will help conserve our past.

REVIEWS

Michael Roche

HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND FORESTRY (New Zealand Forestry Corporation in association with GP Books, New Zealand), 466 pp.
ISBN 0-477-00004-5 (Hard Cover).

Readers of this newsletter will be familiar with the writing of Michael Roche who has been New Zealand correspondent since the first issue. In 1985 he was commissioned by the New Zealand Forest Service to write an historical account of the timber industry, state forests and industrial forestry in New Zealand. Two years later the Forest Service was 'disestablished' in a major restructuring of the NZ public sector and replaced by a Department of Conservation, a Ministry of Forestry and a Forestry Corporation. All three agencies contributed to the completion of the manuscript with the Corporation sponsoring its publication as sesquicentenary project in 1990. The result is an impressive hard bound 466 page volume which all those interested in New Zealand forest history should have on their shelf.

Forestry history books generally fall into two main types: those dealing with the development of state forest agencies and those focused on the timber industry. This volume combines both: the origins and growth of the timber industry from the 1790s and the role of the State in the industry. There is also attention to international influences and pressures as the confines of the nation-state are often too narrow for a full analysis.

The book begins with a consideration of the first fifty years of timber exploitation until the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. The prime focus during this period was on spar timber for the Royal Navy with contracts through merchants based in Sydney (Australia). This trade resulted in considerable interaction between Europeans and Maori. The second period 1840-80 saw the expansion of regional timber economies in New Zealand and the beginnings of rudimentary administrative controls over forest use. Timber-getters and merchants found out something about the native species, new technologies especially in sawmilling began to make an impact, and the State lurched towards some control over forest utilisation, beginning with Vogel's Forest Act of 1874 (made ineffective two years later when no money was voted for forestry).

Chapter 3 details the development of the kauri timber industry in the period 1890-1920. This industry peaked in 1905 and then declined in the face of a depleted resource. This was also the period of intense land settlement activity when much of the timber industry operated on the forests at the expanding farm boundary. By the end of the period, the State re-asserted its role in forestry with the reestablishment of a Forestry Department. The grounds for State intervention were to ensure a future supply of home grown timber, based on fears that the country faced a timber famine.

The following period until the end of World War two is described by Roche as a time of transition in the timber industry and a pivotal time for State involvement. It also brought the entry of commercial interests via large scale private re-forestation schemes. The first Director of Forests, L McIntosh Ellis initially devised an orthodox forest policy based on the native forest but soon redirected efforts towards exotic afforestation. Ellis proposed a 300 000 acre plantation estate by 1935 to ensure that New Zealand would be self-sufficient in timber after 1965. As in Australia the period was one in which professional forestry became progressively established.

The fifteen years after World War Two saw the development of large scale industrial forestry enterprises and increasing focus on pulp and paper. As in Australia, post-war reconstruction needs placed considerable demands upon the forest and attempts to implement 'wise use' conservation ideals to the indigenous forest were set back.

During the 1960s, forestry became synonymous with radiata pine plantations - a view encouraged by the second planting boom of the time. Unlike the first planting boom, this was based not on a concern for the home market, but on the potential to supply an export market. By the 1980s, the involvement of industrial processing forms had brought a restructured forest industry which was poised to expand offshore. At the same time the New Zealand Forest Service had the rationale for its existence challenged and in 1987 it was replaced by the three single purpose organisations mentioned previously.

Especially from the 1970s, forestry in New Zealand came under environmental pressure. However, there was an earlier legacy, in particular the campaign to preserve the Waipoua kauri forest of northland. In the 1970s it was the utilisation proposals for South Island Beech forests that brought forest conservation into the public spotlight.

The exotic forest resources of New Zealand are now part of the expanding plantation forests of the Pacific Rim and the industry operates nationally within many structures set internationally. Forestry in New Zealand in the late 1980s has been acutely impacted by a combination of economic and political philosophy, an internationalised industrial framework, and environmental pressure.

Roche has managed in this book to successfully combine the industry and public forestry perspectives, while setting the specific details of the New Zealand experience in a wider context. It is a very comprehensive treatment. This has been achieved at a cost - the book is not for light reading and the huge supporting list of references and bibliography show how much has had to be compressed into the volume. Each chapter has a large number of notes and references and at the end there is a massive bibliography which should prove useful to other forest history researchers, as well as an index. Roche is to be congratulated for his research and the quality of this work, and likewise the Forest Service and Forestry Corporation for their role in sponsoring the publication.

Kevin Frawley
National Capital Planning Authority, Canberra

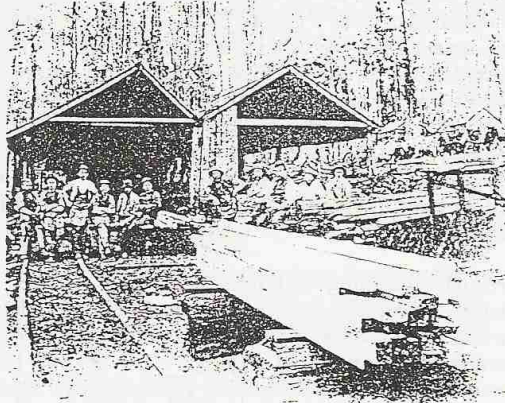
PUBLICATIONS

Underwood, R. (editor)

Echoes from the forest : stories from the lives of Australian foresters, 1990.

This is a sequel to *Leaves from the forest* that Roger Underwood edited in 1987. It is a second collection of forester's stories, but some gathered from beyond Western Australia.

Light Railways



Sargeant's Carbethon Sawmill near Warragul, Vic. c.1885. From: M.J. McCarthy. Early tramways of Dronin, Warragul and Nilma Districts. *Light Railways* 75. Jan 1982.

The Light Railway Research Society of Australia continues to publish articles on timber tramways in its journal, *Light Railways*. The most recent issue contains an article on the Marienberg Sawmill in PNG. The editor of *Light Railways*, Bob McKillop, advises that relevant back numbers still available from LRRSA Sales (21 Temple Road, Belgrave South, Vic 3160) are:

No.		
110	1991	Marienberg Timber Tramway, PNG
107	1990	Mill railways at Claymore and Dellerton, WA (\$4.50)
104	1989	Mungar Timber Tramways, Qld McKenzie's Frazer Is. Tramway, Qld (\$4.50)
102	1988	Gould-Moondarra Mills and Tramways, Vic (\$4.50)
100	1988	Logging tramways of the Dorrigo Plateau, NSW (\$5.00)
98	1987	Timber tramways of Lowden, WA Mills and tramways of the Allembee District, Vic Carson's Timber operations in the Olney State Forest, NSW (\$3.50)
85	1984	W. Richards & Sons Tramway, Warburton, Vic \$3.50)

79 1982 Trestle bridges and tramways: the timber industry of Erica District, 1910-1905 \$4.50)

Costs shown include postage.

Grant, T.C.

History of Forestry in New South Wales 1788 to 1988. Available from Forestry Commission of NSW, PO Box 100, Beecroft, NSW, 2119. 320pp. \$39.00 plus \$5.00 post and packing.

The author, Thomas Charles Grant, was born in Cowra, New South Wales on 6 April 1913. He joined the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in 1937 working as a field forester and in Head Office until retirement in 1978. He then devoted his time to writing this "History of Forestry in New South Wales" until his death in 1985. Historian, Denis Grant also undertook the task of updating this book to 1988 before it was published.

The book contains 10 chapters covering: administration, licensing, land tenure, resources, management, plantations, bushfires, industries, logging and conservation.

Les Carron, in reviewing this book for *Australian Forestry*, noted the considerable value of this study.

O'Bryan, Denis

Pioneering East Gippsland

(Published by the author, Newham, Vic)

This 61 page booklet is a history of East Gippsland to 1939. Following a brief introduction to the former Aboriginal people of the area, the European history is arranged chronologically by specific years.

Available from the author, RMB 3152, Newham, Vic 3442, \$5 incl. post and packing.

Queensland, Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Management and Use of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region.

Final discussion paper, volume III : Issues Brisbane : Government Printer. 1990.

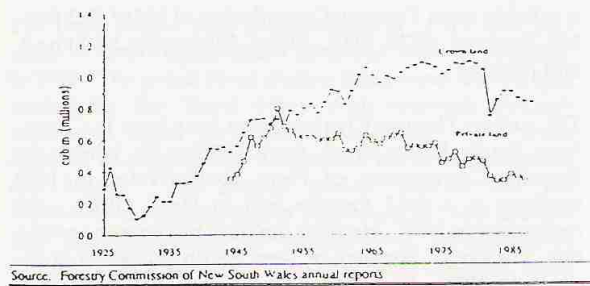
Australia, Resource Assessment Commission, Forest and Timber Inquiry.

Draft report. Volume 1 Canberra, AGPS. 1991.

Government inquiries into forests often contain substantial historical descriptions as backgrounds in their reports. The Fitzgerald inquiry into Fraser Island in its third volume contains historical sections relating to Aboriginal law and to tourism/recreation. The RAC's Forest and Timber Inquiry has included a long chapter on the use of Australia's forests. It includes figures

displaying the long-term trends in the removal of sawlogs and pulpwood that will provide a factual basis for discussion on the extent of, and reasons for, past overcutting of the native forests.

Figure 2.21 Total hardwood sawlog removals from crown and private lands: New South Wales, 1925-89



WORK IN PROGRESS

Historic Sites Inventory Project: North-West Tasmania

The North West Historic Sites Inventory Project compiled a catalogue of the historic cultural resource in the forests of the region and produced an inventory of historic archaeological sites as a basis for management and future research.

The area is west of the Forth River and north of Macquarie Harbour. The inventory emphasised wood-production forests, particularly State Forests.

A summary history of the region was produced as part of the final report, which also includes a description of the research strategy followed, a list of sources consulted and general recommendations for future management.

From published material, archival resources and personal communication, an inventory of 215 sites was compiled. Details of up to another thirty sites are expected to be added in the immediate future.

Of the 215 sites listed to date, 114 are in State Forest or Reserves administered by the Forestry Commission. The most common type of site in both State Forest and non-State Forest areas was related to the forestry and timber industries. Of the 94 sites in this category, 43 were in State Forest and included sawmills, logging ramps, arboretums and forestry camps. Most of these sites date from the first four decades of this century.

The next most common type of site were those related to the mining industry - 38 out of the 60 recorded were in State Forest. Sites relating to transport included tracks, roads and tramways, were also well represented, with 19 out of 26 sites recorded being in State Forest.

Old farm sites which have been taken over for plantations accounted for 14 entries in the inventory. Those which occurred in the APPM Concession Area are for the most part, VDL Company sites dating back to the 1830s whilst those in State Forest generally date from this century.

Other types of site were much less common in the forested areas.

Recommendations have been made for further research at a number of sites. These have been graded using criteria developed by J.S. Kerr. However these gradings are intended only as a guide. So little research has been done on such sites in other parts of the state or in non-forested areas in the North-West that comparisons are difficult. Although some sawmill sites have been seen as significant in relation to other sites included in the inventory, they may not be so significant if compared to sites in other parts of the state for example. There is a need for a comprehensive history of sawmilling that will enable this type of site to be seen in its proper context.

Particular recommendations have been made for detailed recording and preservation of the Haines Sawmill near the Lemonthyme Power Station and the Corinna Hydraulic Gold Mine. These appear to be particularly well preserved and representative sites of their type. The sawpits at Brickmakers Bay and the Winterbrook Mill are also important, the first because of its antiquity and associational value, the second for its relation to a larger logging complex. The concept of cultural landscape has also been introduced to cover areas where a large number of sites may be found. The term has been applied to the North Pieman Goldfield, the Middlesex Mining Field and logging sites in the State Forest to the east of Trowutta. Both archival and on-site research have been recommended for these sites. A first report has been published by the Forestry Commission, Tasmania.

BIG TREES AND LOGS

Peter Sims sent a clipping from the *Burnie Advocate* dated 15 March 1967:

Tree toppled for pressmen

A giant of the forest, which took 500 years to grow to 150 ft. and 27 ft. in girth, was felled in a little more than 40 minutes yesterday in a demonstration to Pressmen.

The operation was one of the highlights of the Circular Head section of the three-day Tasmanian Timber Association Press tour.

The brown top stringy bark monster, worth about \$325 on the skidway to Kauri Timber Co. (Tas.) Pty. Ltd., was felled in dense forest country near the Arthur River.

He comments: 'we have lost more than \$325 as where could we find a 500 year old eucalypt in Northwest Tasmania today?'

John Dargavel collected some information about large logs in various places. Now that the era of logging in old-growth forest is almost over, such records of size provide a view of the forests of the past. The *Newsletter* will publish them from time to time.

Blackbutt log (*Eucalyptus pilularis*)

Length	13.4 metres
Diameter	184 centimetres
Pipe	132 centimetres
Gross volume	35.631 cubic metres
Net volume	12.283 cubic metres

Kempsey District, NSW

Compartment 51, Yessabah State Forest in the headwaters of Dungay Creek, a tributary of the Macleay River. The tree was felled in December 1984.

Information from C.S. Stapley, District Forester, 9 May 1985.

Mana Gum log (*Eucalyptus viminalis*)

Length	9.2 metres
Centre diameter	226 centimetres
Gross volume	36.10 cubic metres
Allowance	4.31 cubic metres
(Pipe 99x99x30,	0.6 length allowance)
Net volume	31.79 cubic metres

Total logs from tree 80.1 cubic metres

Errinundra Plateau, Victoria

Coupe 511.06, West Errinundra Block

Tree felled 20 February 1985

Contractor: W. Koebecke, Orbost

Carter: W. Box, Orbost

Information from Ruth Ryan, Department of Conservation Forests and Lands, Benalla.

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS

16 - 18 October 1991
Station Resort, Jindabyne



Symposium aims

The Australian Alps have a rich heritage of human use spanning thousands of years.

Much of Australia's high mountain country lies within the Australian Alps National Parks, which are now cooperatively managed under the Australian Alps National Parks Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This Symposium is being organised by the Cultural Resources Working Group of the Alps MOU Liaison Committee.

The Symposium will provide an opportunity for people active in the field of cultural heritage research and management to discuss and publish current knowledge of the cultural heritage of the Australian Alps.

Further Information

For further information, please contact any member of the Cultural Resources Working Group:

John Feint	ACT PCS	(06) 246 8601
Sue Feary	NSW NPWS	(06) 297 6144
Jane Lennon	Vic DCE	(03) 412 4522
Georgianna Fien	ANPWS	(06) 250 0350

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

The National Museum is one of the important museums for forest historians. It is building a collection of relevant materials and is doing its best with travelling exhibitions, like the one for the Murray-Darling Basin discussed in the last issue. However it faces huge problems in getting established and a current proposal to change its site to the Old Parliament House is highly unsatisfactory - particularly to those interested in forest history. A copy of a newsletter put out by the Friends of the National Museum is included for the interest of members.

INTERNATIONAL

The International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) has the following conference report:

Forest and Environmental History of Latin America

San Jose, Costa Rica, 18-22 February 1991. Organizers: R. Tucker and H. Steen. There were 30 papers on Central and South America. Proceedings will be available in November 1991.

The History of the Forest Economy of the Pacific Basin

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 28-29 May 1991. Organizers: R. Tucker and J. Dargavel. There were 16 papers on the history of forest products trade, economy, and impacts on social institutions. Proceedings are planned.

History of Small-Scale Forestry/History of Peasant Forestry

Freiburg, Germany, 2-7 September 1991. Contact: Dr H. Brandl/Forstliche Versuchs and Forschungsanstalt/Baden-Wuerttemberg/Wonnhaldestrasse 4/D-7800 Freiburg i.BR.

IUFRO Centennial Congress

Berlin, Germany, 1-5 September 1992. S6.07 Forest History Group has been allotted 16 invited papers. Theme: History of Sustained Yield. Tropical forest history will receive special attention. Wanted are four papers from different regions of the tropics. Also under consideration are presentations by former colonial foresters. Organizers: H. Rubner and E. Johann; Organizers for tropical sessions: J. Dargavel and A. Ingerson.

Forest and Environmental History of Tropical Africa

1994 (tentative). Preliminary plans suggest choosing between forestry conference held in a western location or a wildlife theme at an eastern site. Funding to support travel for African nationals is under consideration. Also under review is a conference in Boston (USA) as part of the African Studies Association's annual meeting in 1993. Contact: J. Dargavel.

Contributions are needed for Newsletter No 7. 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 Microsoft Word 5. Contributions may be sent on 5 inch disks preferably using Microsoft Word software.

PRODUCTION: THANKS TO WENDY CHAN

AUSTRALIAN FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME

(TITLE) (FIRST NAME) (SURNAME)

ORGANISATION

(IF ANY)

ADDRESS

FIELD OF INTEREST IN FOREST HISTORY

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