



AUSTRALIAN Forest History SOCIETY

Newsletter no. 16

August 1997

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

ORGANISING OUR SOCIETY

The General Meeting of the Society, held at Jervis Bay in November 1996 during our national conference, considered that we needed to be more formally organised. To recap, when the Society was founded in 1988 we were particularly anxious not to become involved in the acrimonious debates about forest use and management. We decided then that we would operate as an informal network which would be unable to take an advocacy position. At the start, we relied on the office facilities generously provided by the Australian Defence Force Academy and subsequently by the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University. The little money we had was kept in the local Credit Union.

Our situation changed. As we started to run conferences we found ourselves handling considerable amounts of money—we spent almost \$8800 to run the last conference—which meant that we needed to open a bank account and keep proper accounts which could be audited. Moreover, as the Society is now firmly established, we might wish to engage in publishing, research or other activities in collaboration with other bodies. Clearly a more formally responsible and accountable structure is needed.

A small Working Group—consisting of Kevin Frawley, John Dargavel, Ruth Lane, Terry Birtles and Sue Feary—was formed at the General Meeting to investigate how this might be done and report to members. Kevin has now made very substantial progress in preparing a draft document that would contain the provisions which might enable us to apply for various tax exemptions. It is envisaged that the Working Group would be able to put a case to a General Meeting of the Society before the end of 1997. Full information and ways for members to participate in person or by post will be announced in the next Newsletter.

We currently have 74 fully paid-up members and have recently mailed out subscription reminders to some 70 other people many of whom were placed on the mailing list since the Society's inception as a way of making the Society better known. It is intended to reduce the future mail out of the Newsletter to financial members and to a free list covering 30 libraries and other institutions. Additional copies are readily available for making the Society better known and for recruiting new members.

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Arboriculture

Mimute by the Most Noble the
MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE, K.G., *Governor*
General of India, dated 20th February, 1851.

Extracts from *Select Papers of the Agri-Horticultural*
Society of the Punjab. Lahore 1868.

(Kindly provided by *Richard Grove*).

1.—During the last season and the present, I have traversed the plains of the Punjab ...

2.—There is one characteristic of this wide tract which could not fail to strike the least observant traveller ... I refer to the almost total absence of forest trees and even of fruit trees, and of bushes; leaving the whole territory one continuous stretch of unrelieved plain, neither adorned with the foliage which is its natural ornament, nor stocked with timber requisite for a thousand purposes in the every-day life of the people who dwell in it.

5.—While nature appears to me to offer no obstacles on her part to the future supply of this great deficiency, it is in my judgement of much importance that the Government should devise some means to that end and should bring them into operation without delay.

6.—The deficiency of timber is already severely felt, not only in the large public works about to be undertaken, and in the provision of cover for European troops; but in the hardship which it imposes on private individuals ...

7.—Passing by the consideration of the additional enjoyment, which will be given to life by the creation of shady spots near to villages and wells ... I feel strongly the urgent duty to give this country a clothing of forest trees ...

8.—The question of fuel ... ought not to be left out of our view.

10.—It would be manifestly impracticable for the Government to conduct a general measure of planting trees in the Punjab exclusively by the agency of its own officers. To commence with good hope of success, and with the prospect of making satisfactory progress at the first, it will be necessary that we should have the feelings of the people going with the Government in its undertaking, and should enlist their aid by convincing them of the advantages which the measure will afford the people themselves.

11.—I conceive that the Government ... should have recourse to the heads of the village communities, through which an already organised machinery, the

selection of certain portions of land for planting, the setting of plants, and the slight culture which will be requisite for a short time, together with the protection of them afterwards, may be generally and simultaneously conducted.

15.—The Government on their part, in their several public works be labouring to the same end. ... On the great lines of road the same may be done by Executive Officers with good effect: and wherever a Dak Bungalow or public building, or a chokee is erected, there, unless space be wanting, trees should be planted.

17.—If I had not already had abundant proofs of the vigor, the perseverance and public spirit of the Board of Administration, I should feel some hesitation in proposing of such wide extent, whose advantages are all more or less prospective,—and whose full results must certainly be remote. ...

None of us can live to see the complete result of that which we now propose to commence; few of us will gather fruit where we now plant. But if we succeed in framing this designed, and advance it in some degree towards completion, we may at least enjoy the satisfaction of feeling, that we shall leave behind us an heritage for which posterity will be grateful.

(Signed) DALHOUSIE.

On tree planting in the District of Lahore, by J.
Wedderburn, Esq., 5th November 1853 [Extract].

In 1851, when orders of the Government on the subject were first promulgated, every means were taken to carry out the measure to its fullest extent. ... Trees were first planted along the main roads. ... Up to 15th June, 1853, no less than 174 plantations containing 31,425 trees, besides 5,101 trees planted at the police stations, &c.

News of members

Members will be sad to learn that *Ted Trautman*, a foundation member of the Society, died in May 1991. Ted and Jean drove over from WA to Canberra in 1988 and attended the first national forest history conference. Those members who met him then will remember his love of the forest, the timber industry and its people gained from a lifetime working in it. Nowhere was that better expressed than in the short history, *Jinkers and Jarrah Jerkers*, which he and Jean wrote about Lewis and Reid's No.2 mill, its settlement and people. We remember him warmly.

Caroline Scowcroft, our redoubtable assistant editor, has moved to Horsham, Victoria, where she is setting up an editorial service and contemplating further

study. Contact: Tel. (03) 5382 2515 or emails to scowcrof@comcirc.com.au

Congratulations to *Elaine van Kempen* who has been selected by the Library Council of New South Wales, from a field of over 60 entries, to be the State Library of NSW Keesing Fellow for 1997. Elaine will be working on the social and political movements in Australia of which New Theatres in Sydney, Melbourne and later Newcastle were a manifestation.

Welcome to new members

Geoffrey Bolton is supervising postgraduate students working on WA forest history topics at Edith Cowan University. His 1981 *Spoils and Spoilers: Australians make their environment 1788-1980* is one of the few works to take a continental scale and to look at both urban and rural environmental history.

Graeme Butler from Alphington in Victoria is interested in heritage studies.

Marlène Buchy has been appointed as Lecturer in Social and Community Forestry in the Department of Forestry at ANU. She is very involved in forest history, especially in India and Vietnam. Her book, *Teak and Arecanut: Colonial State, Forest and People in the Western Ghats (South India) 1800-1947*, was published in 1996. We welcome her to Australia.

Tramping along the Corduroy Track

(while others surf the Super-highway)

Australia's Forest on-line service.

Don Glasco at ERIN has let us know of new electronic publications:

'The Coming of Age: Forest Age and Heritage Values: Report of the Concepts of Forest Age Seminar held at Jervis Bay in November 1996'. John Dargavel (ed). Its address, or url (universal resource locator) is http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forests/documents/forest_age/contents.html

Many of the reports for the Tasmanian Comprehensive Regional Assessment and RFA processes are at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/land/forests/cra/tas/>

How can you find it again?

A frequently asked question is how can you read contributions to a discussion list sometime later. Most lists archive their postings so that they can be retrieved. Some index them by 'thread', usually based on the subject line of the message. The Australian and New Zealand history list, H-ANZAU, has updated its

thread system which can be found at: <http://h-net2.msu.edu/~anzau/threads/>

Web service at the British Library

OPAC 97 is a new service, launched in May 1997, which provides free access via the World Wide Web to the main catalogues of the British Library. Its url is: <http://opac97.bl.uk/>

What's in the Archives?

The Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM), was launched by the National Library of Australia on the World Wide Web in July at url: <http://www.nla.gov.au/raam/>

RAAM is a cooperative venture and contains information contributed by libraries, archives, museums and historical societies on their holdings of personal papers and records of non-government organisations. While it does not provide detailed descriptions of the collections, it alerts researchers to the existence of collections and enables them to pursue further enquiries either on-line or through direct contact with repositories. It can be searched by name, occupation or any other indexed term. Any repository that has contributed to RAAM can also be browsed by name, or by State or Territory location, to find information on their holdings. RAAM also includes a link to the World Wide Web edition of the Directory of Archives in Australia which lists repositories throughout Australia with contact details and collection scope information. The link supplies information about particular archives' repositories.

Much of the information now contained in RAAM was previously only available by searching a number of separate databases, catalogues and printed finding aids. Records are included from over 100 repositories including the National Library, the La Trobe Library, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (ANU), major university archives and the Australian War Memorial. Personal papers held by the Australian Archives will also be included. RAAM is a successor to the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia*, which was published by the National Library from 1965 to 1995. New records have been added to the existing 6000 records from the Guide and to manuscript items selected from the Australian National Bibliographic Network (ABN), to create a database of over 20,000 records. Contact: Paula Waring at the Manuscript Section, National Library (raam@nla.gov.au).

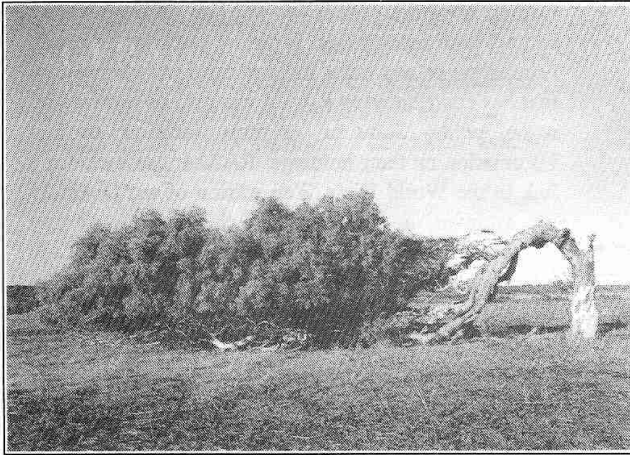
Great Trees of Australia

The proposal to prepare a book on the 'great' trees of Australia, mentioned in *Newsletter 15*, has stimulated many ideas about what might be included.

Anne McConnell emails from Tasmania with details of a tree which is clearly a candidate for any volume of non-native trees:

I am now an orchardist not a forester, but have maintained the tree theme! I am doing a project on the history and heritage of the Tasmanian Apple Industry; lots of fun. I came across a tree recently that is an apple tree reputed to have been planted in 1821! A healthy little number, and I suspect possibly the oldest apple tree in Australia. It may even be the oldest fruit tree? Is it the oldest surviving planted tree in Australia?

Jean Trautman sent this interesting picture and wrote from Bluff Point, in the Geraldton area of WA:



The Great Trees project could be a timely addition to historical tourism and education. Throughout the Greenough Valley, south of Geraldton, a species of eucalypt (*E. camaldulensis*?) is fast disappearing. Its height is restricted by the constant southerly winds. Thus the branches and foliage of these ancient trees grow horizontally in a northerly direction. They are a favourite tourist attraction for photographers.

Can any Western Australian member confirm the species?

Norman Endacott sent a valuable lead to Victorian tall trees. The late Ken Simpfendorfer collated a file of information in 1981 in response to a request from a retired forester in British Columbia, A.C. Carder, who was preparing a book on the world's tallest trees.

Robert Onfray advised that State Forests of NSW does have an outstanding tree register (although it may not have been maintained since the restructure in 1992). He writes: The register essentially provides details on the largest individuals of species in NSW. Most of the records would already have photographs, if not they should be accessible. A lot probably require remeasurement and the opportunity to do this, along with taking photos should be encouraged. While I was working with State Forests on the north coast, I updated our register. We had the record of a large Red Cedar, measured as 50 metres tall which makes it the largest on record in NSW and Australia. It is located in Ingalba SF in the Nambucca Valley.

Barrington Tops study

Robert Onfray is currently involved in the management of Barrington Tops National Park in New South Wales. He writes:

As Fire Management Officer, I will be preparing a Fire Management Plan within two years. To assist me in writing this Plan, I need to gather a lot of resource information, including floristic vegetation surveys, fauna surveys etc. Important factors to note are: (i) although the area does not appear to be prone to regular fires, large fires have occurred infrequently since settlement; (ii) a majority of the area has recently been declared a 'Wilderness'; and (iii) the Fire Plan needs to consider the use of fire for ecological reasons. Therefore I want to gather some information on the pre-European fire regime to answer the following: Are infrequent large fires good for the ecology? Has the vegetation changed since settlement? If so, do we want to (or can we) try and recreate the past fire regime? If we plan for 'natural' or large infrequent fires, is the ecology currently in a 'natural' state to allow this? Was this area ever a 'wilderness' or was it manipulated by Aboriginal presence? What impact will Scotch Broom have on the plateau if a large fire occurs? Will it outcompete the regenerating Snow Gum and create an ecological disaster?

We have already sought funding for a comprehensive Aboriginal Archaeological (and Anthropological) Survey in the area to see if there is a link in the vegetation patterns from pollen samples with Aborigines. What I would like is someone to provide advice on how to obtain the fire history information (eg fire scars, dendrochronology, tree age, etc.), and just as importantly are there any Masters Students willing to do this work?

Any members or students interested in this work or who know of studies of this nature already done in Barrington Tops are asked to contact him at: National Parks and Wildlife Service - Hunter District, PO Box 270, Raymond Terrace, NSW 2324; phone (049) 873108, fax (049) 831031, or send by email to: robert.onfray@npws.nsw.gov.au

Forest films study

Darren Jones writes from the History Department, University of Adelaide.

email: dmjones@chomsky.arts.adelaide.edu.au

My PhD thesis concerns the presentation of forest and nuclear/mining issues in (mainly) Australian audiovisual productions from the 1920s to 1995. I aim to look at how the ideas presented in such sources have changed and the unique problems and opportunities that film and video have presented. This work is a progression from my honours thesis which looked at environmental ideas in several feature films and television series.

There is quite a large amount of material available through the National Film and Sound Archive, the National Library and the various university libraries, though the time spent ordering the material etc., limits the amount of material that one can view.

As part of my methodology I aim to get responses from as many of the people involved in the making of the films as possible. I would greatly appreciate any help.

The People's Forest—to music

The People's Forest project has been granted \$35,250 by the Commonwealth Government's Visions Touring program to develop the exhibition which will open at the National Folk Festival in Canberra over Easter, 1998. In addition to the exhibition, the four-day festival will feature concerts, workshops and living heritage displays based on The People's Forest theme. The exhibition will then tour to the Port Fairy (Victoria), Woodford (Queensland) and Cygnet (Tasmania) Folk Festivals as well as the 1998 Brisbane Winter Solstice Festival.

Invitations were mailed in early July to 52 of Australia's best rock and folk musicians to participate in The People's Forest CD which will bring together traditional and more contemporary songs about Australia's forests. The CD is scheduled for release at the National Folk Festival next Easter.

Gregg Borschmann

Contributions to the *Newsletter* always welcome!

IUFRO Forest History Meeting

Firenze (Florence), 18-23 May 1998

The IUFRO Forest History Group and the Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali are organising this conference on forest history and socio-economic development. Dr Mauro Agnoletti has sent some further information:

Let me tell you that I'm very interested in having Australian participation in Florence, since we know quite little about your country, even if your problems can be different from ours.

The call for papers is also concentrated also on the methods. There are many different approaches to forest history: historians, foresters, ecologist etc. each one with his own view. The important thing is to make these studies useful to understand what really happened in a territory, for this we need that all level of research can work together. We also want to make forest history useful not only to understand the evolution of the forest vegetation, but also in forest policies, especially when we decide how to manage a territory and we must understand the relationship between society and forest.

I'm involved in a project where we are planning to manage a territory on the basis of historical research, combining economic aspect and conservation. This is in the area of Gargonza, a castle built around the 13th century where we will spend one day during the conference. Registration fee will be quite low, I believe about 100 U.S. dollars or less.

Mauro Agnoletti

There are two aspects to this meeting which might be of particular interest to Australian forest historians. One is the contrast between Europe, where the forests are integrated into the agricultural landscapes and are largely privately owned, and Australia, where 'forestry' has been identified with state forests. The other is the experience that we are building up in the CRA processes in integrating cultural and natural values. Can we make up an Australian contingent?

History of private forests

I hope to go to the IUFRO meeting in Florence and would like to present a paper on our private forests which went beyond the history of deforestation and die-back. There are still very large tree-covered areas. What is their history? How have they survived? Have they been cared for? How can I find some relevant material in time? I would be most grateful for any leads and particularly to histories of particular properties.

John Dargavel

Publications noted

Richard Grove 1997. *Ecology, climate and Empire: Colonialism and Global Environmental History 1400-1940*. Oxford University Press. 205pp. \$A38.

Only just released in the UK and copies have yet to arrive in Australian bookshops. Our increasing recognition of the synchronous effects of climatic cycles in different countries should make this an important book in Australia.

Traces of the past. CD-ROM Designed and developed by the Centre for Western Australian History and the Developmental Unit for Instructional Technology at the University of Western Australia. Cost \$29.95.

This exciting project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education and the Foundation for Australian Cultural Development, has just been completed by a team of historians, programmers and designers at the University of Western Australia. It is likely to be of special interest to all those interested in heritage. *Traces of the past* is an interactive database of text and pictures about heritage places in Western Australia—including over 1000 in Perth. It provides a guide to all buildings and structures classified by the National Trust in Western Australia. Properties on the disc can be accessed according to their location, age, use, building materials or architect.

(Perhaps an AFHS member in WA could look at this and let this *Newsletter* know if it contains information of interest to forest historians or whether the technology would be useful for forest sites —Ed.)

Light Railways 137, July 1997

The latest issue contains a short article about the timber tramways in the area between Warburton and Powelltown in Victoria. It also carries an unfavourable review of *Bush Tramways and Private Railways of Tasmania 1850-1960* by J. Branagan (Launceston: Regal Publications) which 'purports to be an overview of all the non-government railways and tramways in Tasmania'.

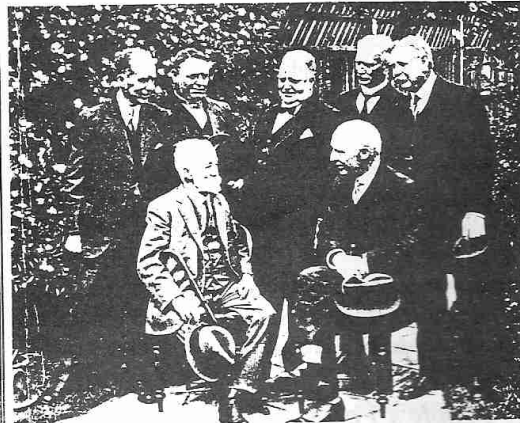
Museums and their forest history collections

An overall guide to the museum collections of material relevant to Australian forest history is badly needed. There are some specialist museums devoted to the sector and a great number of regional museums with relevant material.

The (US) Forest History Society published a guide to the major forest museums throughout the world which, from memory, included the Gympie and Wauchope sites in Australia. However, a more detailed and comprehensive guide is needed here. Some new centres have been opened and there are many small centres which should be included.

Perhaps we could make a start in building up information if members could send brief details of any museums, centres or displays that they know of to the Newsletter.

'... when public finances give less anxiety than they do at the present it may be possible ...'



Farewell to J.H Maiden (seated on left), NSW Government Botanist, 2 October 1924.

J.H Maiden, *The Forest Flora of New South Wales*. Sydney: Government Printer, 1903-1923.

CONCLUSION

This Part (LXXVII) completes, or rather rounds off, the work. ... In all, about 304 trees have been dealt with. ... When we contemplate that New South Wales has about 600 indigenous trees ..., it will be seen that the work is far from complete ...

My official career is drawing to a close, and perhaps when public finances give less anxiety than they do at the present time, it may be found possible to give in some form or other an account of some more of our trees and their timbers.

Call for submissions: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Act*

Parliamentary Joint Committee
on Native Title and the Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Land Fund.

On 26th March 1997 the Senate agreed to a motion referring the following matter to the Committee for inquiry and report on or before the last day of sitting in 1997: The urgent need for amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* 1984, consistent with the report of the review of that Act by Justice Elizabeth Evatt, in order to avoid or minimise the repetition of any further

incidents, such as the Hindmarsh Bridge situation, in which the spiritual and cultural beliefs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not able to be properly considered under existing legislative arrangements. The Committee now invites persons and organisations to express views on any aspects of this matter. Initial inquiries should be directed to the Committee Secretary by telephone on (02) 6277 3598 or by facsimile on (02) 6277 5706. The Secretary will provide notes to assist in the preparation of written submissions. Hearings are being held around Australia and will continue until October.

Can you identify some of these people?



Visit of the Botany School of Melbourne University to Wallaby Creek Catchment about 1947. From left to right:

Back row: Norm Endacott (Botany III student and now AFHS member), John D. Brookes (Botany III student, later General Manager, AFM Forests Pty Ltd, and Director, Victorian National Parks), John Fitzpatrick (Botany III student), ???? Foreman, MMBW.

Middle row: Jack Newey (Botany III student), ???? member of Botany School staff, Prof. J.S. Turner (Head of Botany Dept), ???? postgraduate student, ???? member of Botany School staff., Prof. Ethel McLelland (Head of Mycology Section).

Front row: Bob Oldham (Head Forester, MMBW), Kingsley ???? (postgraduate or staff member?)

Photo taken by E.J. Hartung, Professor of Chemistry.

Australia's Ever-changing Forests IV
Gympie and Fraser Island, Queensland, April 1999

Planning has started for our fourth national conference on Australia's forest history which will be held in the Forestry Training Centre in Gympie with a two-day excursion to Fraser Island. The Centre has good conference facilities, affordable accommodation and the Wood Works Museum. Fraser Island has a long indigenous history, a century of logging and forestry history, and parks history. A tentative plan is to travel to Gympie on a Sunday—there are trains and buses ex Brisbane—have papers on the Monday and Tuesday, spend Wednesday and Thursday on Fraser Island and allow Friday for return to Brisbane.

Contact: Margaret Kowald, 9 Bowaga St, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068 (07) 3371 7670 (h) or (07) 3227 8988 (w)
John Dargavel, 20 Laidley Place, Florey, ACT 2615 (02) 6258 9102 (h) or (02) 6249 2118 (ANU)

Australian Conferences

The River

AHA Regional Conference

Newcastle, NSW, 28-30 November 1997

1997 is the Bicentenary of the naming of the Hunter River. Topics include the environment, public and applied history. Contact: Dr Nancy Cushing, Dept. History, Univ. Newcastle, Callaghan NSW 2308

Celebrating Parks:

a symposium on parks history

Mt Buffalo Chalet, Vic. 17-19 April 1998

1998 is the Centenary of founding Wilsons Promontory and Mt. Buffalo National Parks. Papers are called for on all aspects of parks history including city parks. Contact: Elery Hamilton-Smith, PO Box 36, Carlton South, Vic. 3053. Tel: 03 9489 7785 Fax: 03 9841 2439 email: elery@melb.alexia.net.au

The People's Forest

at the National Folk Festival

Canberra, Easter 1998

An exhibition, concerts and release of music CD.

Contact: Gregg Borschmann,
PO Box 227, Blackheath, NSW 2785

International Conferences

International, multicultural, interdisciplinary:

public history policy and practice

Austin, Texas - 15-19 April 1998

Contact: Carl Phagan and Kris Mitchell, Batelle Pantex, P.O. Box 30020, Amarillo, Texas 79120-0020 USA email: kcmitch@pantex.com

History and Forest Resources

Florence, 18-23 May 1998

IUFRO Forest History Group and Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali have called for papers on forest history and socio-economic development with attention to scale of investigation.

Contact: Dr Mauro Agnoletti, Istituto di Assetamento e Tecnologia Forestale, Università di Firenze, Via San Bonaventura 13, 50145 Firenze, Italy. email: agnoletti@cesitl.unifi.it
See p.5 for further details.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1997

The Australian Forest History Society is open to all who support its objective which is '... to advance historical understanding of human interactions with Australian forest and woodland environments.' New members will be welcomed and existing members are asked to make the Society known to all who might be interested. Subscriptions are for calendar years.

Name:

Organisation (if any):

Address:

.....(State)(Postcode)

Tel: Fax: email:

Field of interest in forest history:

Please mail cheque or money order (made payable to the 'Australian Forest History Society') to:
20 Laidley Place, Florey, ACT 2615 with \$15 cheque or postal order (Overseas \$A20).



