AUSTRALIAN

Forest History

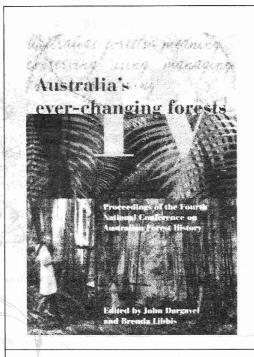
SOCIETY Inc.

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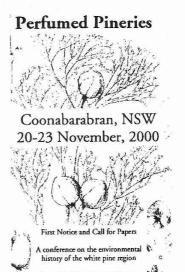
February 2000

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



Invitation

Professor Bob Wasson invites members of the Australian Forest History Society to the launch by Professor Peter Kanowski of "Australia's Ever-changing Forests IV". 4 p.m., Thursday, 17 February 2000 Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, 5th Floor, W.K. Hancock Building, The Australian National University RSVP: Sandra Mitchell Tel: 02 6249 3598



Call for Papers

Australian National Univer-

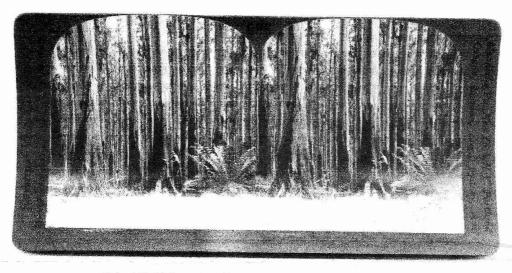
We aim to bring historical and scientific studies together with local knowledge and investigation. Papers, posters are sought and there will time for personal experience to be shared.

Contact: Pineries Conference, Department of Forestry, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200. Tel: John Dargavel 02 6249 3565 or 02 6258 9102 (h) Email: Pineries@anu.edu.au

Editors:

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586—15987 Giant Eucalyptus or Gum Trees 400 feet High. Victoria, Australia Keystone View Company Meadville, Pa., New York., Portland Oregon, London, Eng., Sydney, Aus

GIANT EUCALYPTUS TREES, VICTORIA Lat. 38°S.; Long. 145°.E.

Americans are so used to thinking of the big trees of California as the largest trees in the world, that they are surprised to learn about the forests of Australia where eucalyptus (üká-lip'tüs) trees four hundred feet high are reported as rather frequent. The eucalyptus trees are native to Australia and Tasmania and are found nowhere else. That entire leathery leaves which contain a good deal of volatile oil. The leaves are so placed on the stem that they present their edges to the sun rather than their broad surfaces. This protects the tree from excessive transpiration which would take place in that hot climate. They grow very rapidly. Specimens planted in southern France reached a height of fifty feet in eight years. There are more than a hundred species of eucalyptus trees. The ones shown here, known as "blue gum", are among the largest.

The timber is equal to the best oak or ash. It is extensively used for telegraph poles, railway ties, and for outdoor carpentry. The jarrah (jär'à) wood, another variety, is especially adapted to wharf and shipbuilding. Its wood is very heavy and hard and able to resist the attacks of the shipworm and other borers.

Eucalyptus trees were planted in the Roman Campagna and other places infested with malaria. The results have been beneficial. This has been attributed to the volatile substances given off by the leaves but is probably due to the fact that in their very rapid growth they take up enormous quantities of water which is given off to the air. Their beneficial influence, then, is due to their drying the soil rather than to the medicinal properties of the trees themselves. The gum is used in medicine.

Elery Hamilton-Smith kindly sent this pair of stereo photos. They are reproduced here at the same size. They have a slight curve along the horizontal axis. Does anyone have a suitable viewer with which to see them?

William Blake

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.

The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, 1793.

A tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way. Some see Nature as all ridicule and deformity, and by these I shall not regulate my proportions; and some

see Nature scarce at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, Nature is Imagination itself. As a man is, so he sees.

Letter to Dr Tushler, 23 August 1799.

News of members

Eric Rolls and Tom Griffiths gave a lecture which concluded the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology's programme which celebrated 50 years of its research. Eric dealt with attempts to recreate Australia as a timbered country which are confusing history and with damaging attempts to restore the open grasslands so essential to most native animals. Tom dealt with the pioneering work of Francis Ratcliffe whose *Flying fox and drifting sands* is widely known. (A first edition of this book was spotted in a Melbourne bookshop recently for \$45).

Sybil Jack has been visiting forests in Portugal and sent a delightful card of Australian tree ferns growing in the gardens of Bussaco.

Hilary Smith writes: "It was unfortunate that I was not here for the Gympie conference, but 9 months travelling overseas was wonderful. We actually visited a variety of Forestry Centres in India, the UK and the USA. My interest in forestry in India comes from my Grandfather (a UK Forester) who spent quite some time there on various occasions throughout his life and was heavily involved in aerial photograph interpretation of forested areas in India and Burma during the Second World War. I have a wonderful collection of stereoscopic photo pairs from that era.

We also visited an excellent 'Forest history' trail in California. It took us 4 hours and it covered virtually everything from indigenous forest uses through different eras of silviculture to the present. I was very impressed."

Peter Holzworth produced not one, but two books at the end of 1999. One is the history of hoop pine, Monarchs of the woods, noted later; the other is Brisbane from a balcony: a selection of poetry by Peter Holzworth and Thea Biesherval (Brisbane: CopyRight Publishing).

John Dargavel has been appointed a Visiting Fellow jointly in the Department of Forestry and the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies in The Australian National University.

Questions...

Tasmanian logging photos

Mark and Angela Fry (47 Bridges Road, Gerringong, NSW 2534, Tel: 02 4234 1236) are collecting historical photographs of Tasmanian logging operations for a book they are preparing on the transport systems and social conditions of the sawmilling industry there.

Supreme Court roof

Paula Byrne (6/26 Mowatt St, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620) is trying to find out where the timbers were cut for the Old Supreme Court in Sydney built in 1826. Eleven samples taken in 1977 were identified by the Forestry Commission's Wood Technology Lab:

Roof trusses: blackbutt, tallowood Ceiling joists: Sydney blue gum Laths: blackbutt Ceiling lining: redwood

...and Answers

Picabeen or Piccabeen? Brett Stubbs replies:

In response to your query on the origin of the name 'piccabeen' or 'picabeen', it is my understanding that it is the Bundjalung aboriginal name for the palm, Archontophoenix cunninghamiana. This is given as 'bigibin' by Margaret Sharpe in her 'Dictionary of Western Bundjalung' (2nd ed., 1995, University of New England, Armidale). A further variant of the name is 'Piggabeen' which is the name of a locality in the Tweed Valley, NSW. The spelling 'pickibean' has also been used.

Bundjalung is the Aboriginal language spoken from the Clarence River in northern NSW to Beenleigh and Beaudesert in southern Queensland, and west to Tenterfield and Warwick. A number of rainforest trees in the north-eastern NSW and south-eastern Queensland area are still known, at least informally, by what I assume to be their Bundjalung names. Some of these names have been given, in turn, to district localities. For example: the durobby (or coolamon, Syzygium moorei) gives its name to Duroby Creek in the Tweed, and to Dorrobbee Grass in the Richmond (although this has been anglicised to Dorroughby); binna burra (the Antarctic beech, Nothofagus moorei, also after Charles Moore) gives its name to Binna Burra in the Richmond and also to Binna Burra in the Macpherson Range, southern Queensland; booyong (Argyrodendron trifoliolatum), gives its name to the locality of that name in the Richmond River district; the quandong (the blue fig, Elaeocarpus grandis) gives its name to the town of Condong on the Tweed River and to Condong Grass in the Richmond. Cooloon, another aboriginal name for Elaeocarpus grandis, is the original official name of the town of Tweed Heads. There are undoubtedly other examples.

Interestingly, the alternative name for the piccabeen palm has been given to the village of Bangalow, near Byron Bay, in the Richmond River district. Having said this, I would like to pose a question myself. Does anyone know the origin of the name Bangalow?

Publications noted

Peter Holzworth. 1999. Monarchs of the woods: the story of hoop pine from settlement to the present. Brisbane: Queensland Department of Primary Industry. ix+110 pp. ISBN 0 7345 0056 4. \$19.95.

This well illustrated and attractively designed book contains a wealth of information in a very readable form. The first part deals with the hundred years to the 1920s and covers European discovery, the start of the hoop pine timber industry and early silviculture. The second part deals with a period of great change, the two World Wars and the Great Depression, and the first plantations being established. The final part deals with the last fifty years in which both plantation and industrial techniques were fully developed.

Salmon, J.T. 1999. Exotic Trees, The Trees of New Zealand. Auckland: Reed, ISBN 07900 0640 5

This is the long awaited successor volume to Salmon's much acclaimed Native Trees of New Zealand. Now deceased, the author was prominent in drawing government and public attention to nature conservation issues in New Zealand in the late 1950s.

Ryburn, W. 1999. Tall Spars, Steamers & Gum. Aukland: Kaipara Publications. ISBN 0-473-06176-7

A detailed and splendidly illustrated history of early European settlement in the Kaipara Harbour and environs 1854 to 1947. Based on the author's MA thesis the book provides an account of one of the early centres of the kauri timber trade. The kauri gum trade is also discussed and some useful summary statistics are included as appendices.

Recent journals

News of Forest History, 28, September 1999 This publication of IUFRO's Forest History Group is produced in collaboration with the Austrian Forest Association. This issue provides a general survey of the forest history of Romania. There are four papers

Environment and History

in German with abstracts in English.

Environment and History was started by Richard Grove in 1995 when he was in The Australian National University. Editorial management has now passed to a group in the new Centre for Environmental History and Policy which has been set up as a

collaborative venture between Stirling and St Andrews Universities in Scotland. Although an increased emphasis on Europe is expected, the journal aims to maintain and develop established contacts in the Southern hemisphere. We look forward to the journal continuing to provide an outlet for Australian papers of international standard and interest.

Alexandra Timber and Tramway Museum

The Museum was successful in winning a \$20,000 grant for a visitor centre under the Federal Government's Federation Grants Scheme. The centre will house an education area consisting of displays and interpretative material outlining all facets of life at a bush sawmill in the Rubicon Forest. It is expected that this will include the fine Ernie Le Brun models currently displayed in cramped surroundings. In addition, there will be an archival storage and research centre where the Museum's documentary and photographic records can be safely housed and conserved. Electronic databases relating to forest history records, sawmill boiler records and historic sites will be developed around the theme of forestrelated sawmilling. The visitor centre will make its resources available to schools and researchers.

Timberline 49/50 reprinted in Light Railways 150, December 1999.

Australian Council of National Trusts

Dr Susan Marsden, National Conservation Manager, Australian Council of National Trusts Ph (02) 6247 6766; Fax (02) 6249 1395 Internet: www.austnattrust.com.au

Email: acnt@spirit.com.au

1. Website Our extended website includes information on the National Trust (and links to the 8 state/territory trusts), NT properties and events (eg, the International National Trust Conference the ACNT is organising for August 2000 in Alice Springs); Endangered Places 1998 and 1999 (highlighting heritage places under threat, nominated by groups from around Australia), and a list of all NT conservation policies and guidelines eg conservation of cemeteries; industrial and defence heritage; managing museum collections; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage; and, cultural landscapes.

2. Heritage books We are publishing, with Australian Heritage Commission support, 3 key reports. Contact me (preferably by email, with your postal address and/or that of your organisation) for

copies. They'll be free, or for the cost of postage & handling. They should be available by late 1999.

Eric Martin, Improving access to heritage buildings: a practical guide to meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining heritage places assessment manual* (guidelines to assist non-specialists in the recording, analysis and heritage of Australia's mining heritage places).

Susan Marsden, Historical identification and assessment of main themes associated with the development of Australia's capital city centres since World War Two (includes a summary history of Australian capital cities, a thematic history of the city centres since WWII, and a thematic framework to assist in identifying places of heritage significance).

3. National List Since 1996 the Commonwealth government has been reforming national environment and heritage legislation: of the proposed three new Acts, Environment has been passed, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection is not yet passed and the replacement for the Australian Heritage Commission Act will appear in 2000. There will be a new 'National List' of heritage places (as mentioned in Senator Hill's National Strategy for Australia's Heritage Places Consultation Paper, April 1999). We're uncertain about what a National List will be and who'll assume financial responsibility, but one thing has been made very clear: compared with the Register of the National Estate (12,000 items) the new list will be very short, perhaps 500-1000 natural and cultural heritage places. How, then, will it be selected? The AHC presented a theme-based preferred option at a workshop last week but surely Australian historians generally should be discussing the subject as it will affect the historical understanding of millions of Australians. Our next chance to comment awaits the new legislation. Please email me if you would like to contribute to the ACNT's analysis and lobbying about the list and the heritage legislation as a whole. We're also considering as a preemptive strike compiling a national list of our own. Any suggestions?

New List on the Digitalisation of Historical Material

From Dr Paul S. Ell, Director, The Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis, School of Sociology and Social Policy The Queen's University of Belfast p.ell@qub.ac.uk>.

A new electronic discussion list has been established under mailbase. The list, history-digitisation, is concerned with the digitisation, whether as an image or a fully machine-readable document, of historical material. Particular emphasis will be placed on the application of Optical Character Recognition technology to 'difficult' material.

Increasingly, there are efforts to add content to the World Wide Web. The UK government, through the New Opportunities Fund, has recently announced a \$A350,000,000 initiative to create digital resources. Much of this material will be of a historical nature. This poses unique problems - the material may be of poor quality and hence difficult to capture, it may be rare and fragile. This list aims to bring together experts in the field of digitising historical material and academics who have projects in mind.

To join history-digitisation go to http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/history-digitisation/
or, send an e-mail to <mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk>
with the following text in the BODY of the message
join history-digitisation <FIRSTNAME>
<LASTNAME

Australian Forestry School reunion

The Australian Forestry School was founded by the Commonwealth in 1926 as a national institution for training foresters, although the Victorian School of Forestry, which had opened in 1910, continued to train foresters for that State. The Australian Forestry School started in the University of Adelaide before moving to its new buildings in Canberra in 1927.

Most students came as cadets sponsored by State forest services. They undertook two years of science in their State universities before coming to Canberra for their final two years. They graduated with a BSc from their State universities and a Diploma in Forestry.

In 1964 the Department of Forestry was founded in The Australian National University and the Australian Forestry School was closed. During its 39 year life, 581 people were enrolled, including many from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and other countries.

A reunion to be held in April will be attended by a large proportion of the surviving graduates. Les Carron is preparing a history of the School.

IUFRO Forest History Group 6.07

The Group will hold a session during the World Congress in Malaysia in August with six invited papers. The session is organized with the object of comparing the current evolution of the tropical forests of Africa, Asia and Latin America with the historical evolution of forests in Central Europe. A number of poster papers will also be displayed.

The Group has four working parties. The one on Social and Economic History, chaired by Mauro Agnoletti, is busy finalising the production of two volumes of proceedings arising from its 1998 conference in Florence. This is being done in collaboration with the (US) Forest History Society.

Charles Watkins in the University of Nottingham, UK, has taken over the leadership of the Ecological History Working Party.

Memorial avenues at Laurieton...

Following John Dargavel's paper on the Avenues of Honour and Remembrance at our last conference, Elaine van Kempen kindly sent the following information about the Avenue of Honour at Laurieton in New South Wales from the *Daily Telegraph*, 2 Nov 1917. Interestingly, it was planted in 1916, ten months *before* the avenue at Ballarat.

'LAURIETON'S TRIBUTE TO HER SOLDIERS'.

In August, last year, 157 assorted trees (mostly pines and laurels) were planted in the streets of Laurieton in honor of men who had enlisted from this town, Kendall, Kew, Lorne and some were planted in honor of men who were related to townspeople, even though they did not enlist from here.

Laurieton can claim to be the first town in the Commonwealth to have planted trees in the streets as living memorials of the men who were at the front.

Nearly every eligible single man has enlisted in the Camden Haven district.

Altogether about 40 have gone from Laurieton; eight if these have paid the supreme sacrifice, and many of the others have been wounded. Only about 6 remain in action.

'As you walk through the streets of the township Of Laurieton, on either side May be seen rows of trees, neatly planted Which are to the people, a pride.

One asks, who so well are they guarded? Why they're cared for and tended so well? Why the townspeople truly revere them? What purpose they serve, can you tell.

Each tree in the town is a symbol, It represents some soldier brave; And to friends of each man who has fallen Is symbolic of that soldier's grave.

To men without any encumbrance, Some trees which they pass in the town Seem to clearly though silently whisper: "Take the place of my man who is down."

Since the trees have been planted, a number (Perhaps about twenty - or more)
Of the heroes thus here represented,
As heroes have died, as of yore.

Their young lives were quite willingly offered And their loss caused much anguish and pain. But their deeds will for ever in memory Be fresh while these emblems remain.

Could there be to us better memorials
Of the men who have given their best
When the honor of Britain was challenged
And the world by the foemen so pressed?

Thus we honor the men who have died And we welcome the men who remain. And with mothers of those still in action For their soldiers' home-coming we yearn.'

J. H. A. Roberts, Laurieton, 3rd Nov., 1917

...and at Rappville

Brett Stubbs also kindly reported information about the war memorial avenue of camphor laurel trees in the village of Rappville, between Grafton and Casino. There are 15 camphor laurels and one flame tree, reputedly for a soldier who died shortly after returning from World War I. The trees originally had enamelled plaques, but these have long since gone, perhaps stolen or perhaps overgrown.

The local council has a policy of removing camphor laurels from public land so that they may soon be replaced by native trees. Does the same fate await the laurels at Laurieton, we wonder?

Foresters as Bright Sparks

A number of foresters are included in the Australian Science and Technology Centre's *Bright Sparks* list of some 3000 Australian scientists for whom the source of some biographical/archival information is known. *Bright Sparks* gives details of where the information

can be found and has short biographical notes about some of the people. The site can be searched for other categories of scientists. The web site is at: //www.asap.unimelb.edu.au

Carron, William	1821-1876
Carter, CharlesErnest	1885-1976
Dadswell, Herbert Eric	1903-????
deBeuzeville, Wilfred Alexander Watt	1884-1954
Fitzgerald, William Vincent	1870-1929
Ingram, K.W.	????-????
Jacobs, Maxwell Ralph	1905-1979
Jolly, Norman William	1882-1954
Kessell, Stephen Lackey	1897-1979
Lane-Poole, Charles Edward	1885-1970
Luke, R.H.(Harry)	1910-????
McArthur, Alan G.	????-????
Millett, Mervyn Richard Oke	1910-1988
Perrin, George Samuel	1846-1900
Swain, Edward Harold Fulcher	1883-1970

There are other sources of biographical information on foresters such as *The Australian Dictionary of Biography, The Foresters*, published by the Institute of Foresters, obituaries, articles and notes in newsletters. Dick Curtain recently drew attention to 'Silvicultural Notes' put out at one time by George Bauer in the NSW Forestry Commission. It had some valuable insights into deBeuzeville.

Members might like to let the Newsletter know of appropriate information they become aware of.

Annual General Meeting

Second Annual General Meeting was held on 19 November 1999 in the Forestry Department, Australian National University, Canberra. Five members were present.

The first AGM delegated to the Committee the task of nominating a body to receive the funds of the AFHS Inc. should the Society be wound up. The Australian Academy of Science has agreed to be the recipient.

The audited financial statement covering the period from 2 November 1998 to 30 June 1999 was adopted. John Gray, who had audited the accounts, suggested that a professional auditor be engaged for 1999-2000. Callaghans accountants of Belconnen, ACT estimated a fee of \$200 to \$400 for the task depending on its complexity. The meeting noted that it would be relatively simple in non-conference years. The meeting resolved to appoint Callaghans to audit the 1999/2000 financial statement.

It was decided to keep the subscription at its current level of \$25 and \$15 for students.

Current office bearers elected in April 1999 had agreed to stand again and Margaret Kowald had kindly agreed to be nominated as Secretary. The following office bearers were therefore re elected:

President	John Dargavel (ACT)
V-President	Denise Gaughwin (TAS)
Secretary	Margaret Kowald (QLD)
Treasurer	John Banks (ACT)
Committee	Jenny Mills (WA)
Committee	Ken Jackson (NZ)
Committee	Sybil Jack (NSW)
Committee	Stephen Legg (VIC)
Committee	Kevin Frawley (ACT)
Public Officer	Kevin Frawley (ACT)

Annual Reports

Kevin Frawley has kindly finalised the annual reports which have to be submitted to the ACT Registrar after the AGM.

Accounts

Subsequent to the AGM, Callaghans have advised that the way the books are being kept is satisfactory for auditing purposes. They recommended quarterly reconciliations and this will be done. They noted that there are some advantages to using the MYOB software package. However, this has not been adopted, as it would not necessarily be adaptable to change between computer systems when the Committee membership changes.

Current Financial Situation

The Society is in a healthy financial situation having paid its share of publishing the proceedings and with a bank balance of \$3421 as at 31 Dec 1999.

Things to be done!

Volunteers are always needed! Let the Committee know if you have time and would like to be involved. Some of the things we need to do are:

- Think about what we need on a web page, prepare material or design it
- Help Task Force on forest records
- Help Task Force on forest museums
- Help re heritage of arboreta and trial plots
- Send the Editors news of research in progress, new publications, conferences and meetings.

Calendar

Australia

- 28-30 April 2000, Canberra. Australian Forestry School Reunion. Contact: Secretary, AFS Reunion 2000 Committee, PO Box 57, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614
- 5-9 July 2000, Adelaide. Futures in the past. Australian Historical Association. Papers are being called for. Katharine Massam Email: aha@adelaide.edu.au
 http://arts.adelaide.edu.au/arts-web/News/AHAConf/
- 20-23 November 2000, Coonabarabran, NSW. The Perfumed Pineries: Histories of the Callitris forests of New South Wales and Queensland. Jointly by The Australian National University, Macquarie University and the Australian Forest History Society. Contact: John Dargavel, Tel: (02) 6258 9102 or Di Hart, Tel: (02) 9869 2516 Email: Pineries@anu.edu.au

International

- 16-19 March 2000, Tacoma, State of Washington, USA. Into the next Millenium: the past and promise of environmental history. American Society of Environmental History. Contact: Mart Stewart, Dept. of History, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, USA 98225-9056. Email: smar4@cc.wwu.edu
- 29-30 July 2000, Wellington, New Zealand. Public History Meanings, Ownership, Practice. PHANZA (the Professional Historians Association of NZ/Aotearoa). Contact: gavin.mclean@dia.govt.nz or bronwyn.dalley@dia.govt.nz or PHANZA, Box 1904, Wellington, New Zealand
- 7-12 August 2000, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Forests and Society: the Role of Research. XXI IUFRO World Congress

Contact for Conference details and registration: IUFRO 2000 Congress Secretariat Forest Research Institute, Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Fax: +6 03 6365687 Email: iufroxxi@frim.gov.my http://frim/gov/my/iufro/html

Contact for Forest History Group sessions: Dr Elisabeth Johann, Wlassakstrasse 56, 1130 Wein, Austria. Email: elis.johann@Carinthia.com

APPLICATION/RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2000

The Australian Forest History Society changed its subscription period from calendar years to financial years. The change was effected by making a transitional subscription period of 18 months from 1 January 1999 to 30 June 2000. Members who were financial in the period 1 January 1999 to 30 June 1999 will remain financial until 30 June 2000.

The subscription for the year to 30 June 2000 has been set at \$25 (overseas \$30 Australian) with a discounted rate for students of \$15.

Name:	
Address:	
= T	(State)(Postcode)
	Email:

Please mail cheque or money order for \$25 or \$15 for students (Overseas \$30 in Australian currency) payable to: Australian Forest History Society Inc., 20 Laidley Place, Florey, ACT 2615

