

AUSTRALIAN

# Forest History

SOCIETY Inc.

**Newsletter No. 39**  
**December 2004**

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

## **AFHS Annual General meeting elects new President**

At the AGM of the Australian Forest History Society held at Augusta WA as part of the conference there, Brett Stubbs was elected President of the Society. Brett replaces John Dargavel, who has been President since the Society was incorporated and who acted in a similar unofficial position from the formation of the Society in 1988. John was elected an Honorary Life member at the same meeting. A vote of thanks to John for all his work for the Society was carried at the meeting.

Other office bearers remain unchanged: Jenny Mills (Vice-President), Fintan O'Laighin (Treasurer), Kevin Frawley (Secretary). Committee members are John Dargavel (ACT), Andrew Wilson (Tasmania), Peter Davies (Victoria), Paul Star (New Zealand), John Huth (Qld). Robert Boden (ACT) is the Public Officer. Sue Feary is the overall newsletter editor supervising the production by guest editors. Peter Kanowski (Snr) will be involved, on the Society's behalf, with aspects of the organization of the 2005 IUFRO Conference in Brisbane. Financially the Society operated for the year with a small surplus. Fintan was successful in engaging a retired Chartered Accountant Stephen Bailey to audit the accounts without charge, saving \$660 in auditing fees. (The Executive agreed to an honorarium of a bottle of red wine for Stephen!)

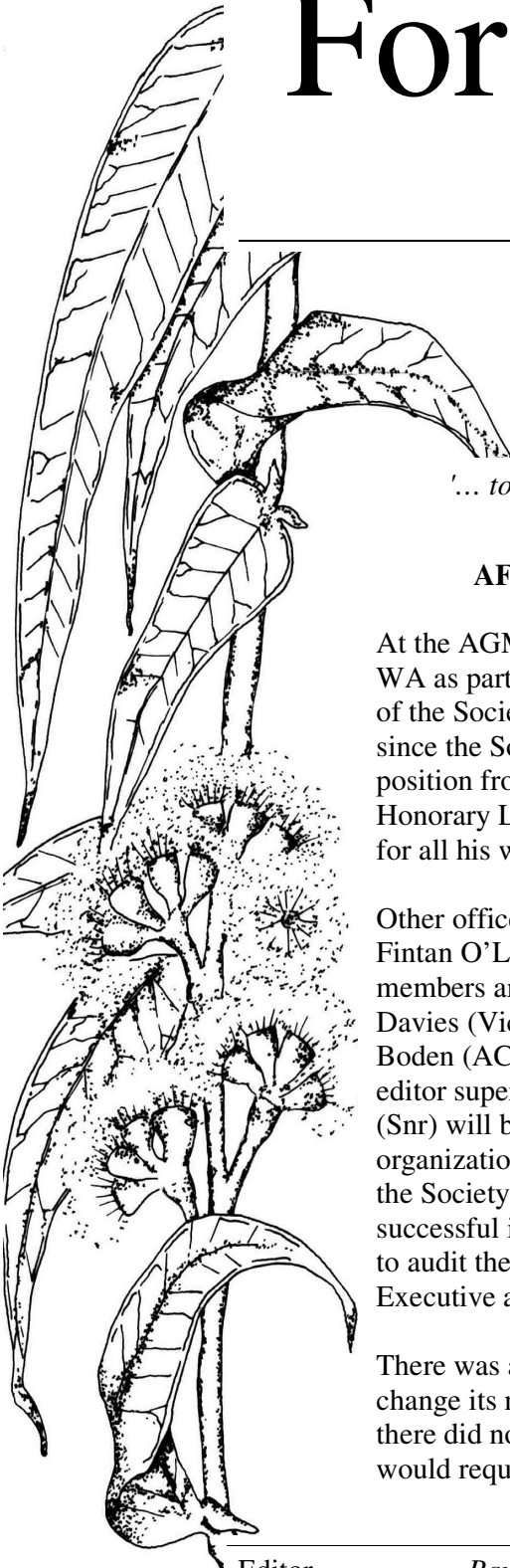
There was a discussion at the AGM about whether the Society should change its name to incorporate New Zealand and/or the region. Overall there did not appear to be much impetus for such a change, which would require formal change to the Society's constitution.

Kevin Frawley

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**Reflections on the Augusta AFHS  
Conference, Augusta WA,  
12-17 September 2004**

**1**

Augusta was an inspired choice for the site of the 6th National Conference of the Australian Forest History Society. Its location adjoining the Blackwood River estuary allowed delegates to glimpse dolphins in the river and whales in the Southern Ocean, see the sun set over the Indian Ocean from Cape Leeuwin, admire an 'old growth' re-growth karri forest at Boranup, and sample famous Margaret River products at the wineries.

Thanks to the conference committee of Professor Geoff Bolton, Associate Professor Mike Calver, Associate Professor Pierre Horwitz, Jenny Mills, and Janie Binet, the conference itself was most successful. Over one hundred delegates attended, the majority from Western Australia, but with twenty-five or so from the eastern states, six from New Zealand, two from the USA, and one from each of Canada, Nepal, and Korea. As well, ten accompanying guests enjoyed the social functions.

The conference theme, 'A Forest Conscienceness', a quote from C. E. Lane Poole's paper to the 1920 Empire Forestry Conference, was sufficiently vague to allow for wide variety in the sixty-seven papers presented. As one would expect, over half of the papers dealt with Western Australian subjects, ranging from Augusta's first botanist, Georgiana Molloy, through the history of jarrah and karri logging from the heady days of export of these timbers, to the present-day field foresters' laments about Head Office and the practical necessity to thin jarrah re-growth in water catchments, and to a blue-print of ways to stop logging of old-growth stands. The keynote address by Professor George Seddon, "Boab", was informative and amusing.

Papers from the easterners covered topics such as children in a Victorian sawmill settlement, old and new battles over the use of Victoria's forests, changing management in

the scenic rim forests of northern New South Wales, the significance of the partnership between Binna Burra Lodge and Lamington National Park, and the re-vegetation of fire-ravaged Blundell's Flat in the Australian Capital Territory. Two of the papers from New Zealand gave a new meaning to forest history, dealing with the tree-ring analysis of Late Holocene swamp kauri, and the dendroecological reconstruction of forest windthrow, while the two papers from the USA showed the great similarities—and some differences—between recent forest debates in the USA and Australia. Finally, a paper outlining the unfortunate history of community forests in Nepal was well presented, as indeed were all of the sixty-seven papers; and all the session chairs did an excellent job in keeping speakers to time.

The conference dinner, ably chaired by Kevin Frawley, featured topical poems by Geoff Bolton and perennial conference poet Mark Allen, and awards by our new president Brett Stubbs to presenters and committee members—a fine end to a friendly conference.

Peter Kanowski, Snr.

**2**

This was the first AFHS Conference I had attended for rather longer than I would like to recall. In terms of lasting impressions there are a number and these extend beyond the serenity of the setting and the efficiency of the organisers. I am reminded that my own entry point into forest history 25 years ago was very much via the earlier US inspired environmental history of Roderick Nash and his contemporaries with its attention on wilderness and the genesis of state conservation as well as the history of the timber industry. While the role of state forest services (or allied organisations) and regional timber industries throughout Australia received some attention, the conference took a much broader view on what constituted forest history to draw in the literary, the botanical, the archaeological, the biographical as well as dendro-chronology to name a few. Relatively the bush railways have received more

attention in Australia than New Zealand where they were also important. Any visit to Australia for a New Zealand observer always introduces the State as a distinctive container and layer in the analysis.

But if there were differences there is also common ground, and sometimes overt trans-Tasman connections explicitly tackled in the case of James Beattie's paper on Alfred Sharp, and implicit in John Dargavel's presentation on Lane Poole, in that the latter's mentor Sir David Hutchins after preparing his report on *Forestry in Australia* published in 1916 was approached by the New Zealand government to report on forest in New Zealand. This was work that occupied Hutchins till his death in Wellington in 1920.

A further impression was of some similar sorts of political issues regarding choices about the future in terms of utilitarian conservation or preservation of native forests in Australia running at different speeds on each side of the Tasman. Whereas the Plumwood and Routley volume *Fight for the Forests* (1973) predates the equivalent issue in New Zealand exemplified by Seale's *Fight for the Forests* in 1975 the government in 2002 decided that the state would have no role in managing indigenous forest for production purposes. Current developments in corporate forestry in the New Zealand media also point to a forest history in the making in which US multinationals now have a significant place. Carter Holt Harvey, the origins of which extend back to F. J. Carter's sawmilling activities in the 1890s, was in the early 1990s acquired by International Paper in the aftermath of the sale of exotic state forests. CHH now plan to sell off a third of its forest estate, 107 000 ha valued at \$NZ400 m. Along with many of the conference attendees I probably have more interest in natural rather than exotic plantation forests, but it is timely to reflect that these are also worthy of attention from forest historians.

This conference was something of a tonic in that it brought me back to some research that I undertook 25 years ago. It is interesting both to contemplate ways in which environmental history makes particular and not always

comfortable bedfellows with forest history and at a more personal level to look at where some of my earlier work stands up and falls down in the light of more recent inquiry.

Michael Roche

#### **Fourteen books introducing forest history in New Zealand**

A personal list of 14 books that provide some insights into the forest history of New Zealand and the changing ways in which forest history in New Zealand has been written.

Best, E. 1977 *Forest lore of the Maori*, Wellington, Government Printer.

Birchfield, R. and Grant, I. F. (eds) 1993 *Out of the Woods; Restructuring and sale of New Zealand's state forests*, Wellington, GP Publications.

Healy, B. 1982 *A. hundred million trees: the story of N.Z. Forest Products Ltd*, Hodder and Stoughton, Auckland.

Kirkland, A. & Berg, P. 1997 *A century of state-honed enterprise: 100 years of state plantation forestry in New Zealand*, Auckland, Profile Books.

McKelvey, P. 1995 *Steepland forests: a historical perspective of protection forestry in New Zealand*, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Nightingale, T. & Dingwall, P. 2003 *Our picturesque heritage : 100 years of scenery preservation in New Zealand*, Wellington, Science & Research Unit, Department of Conservation,

Park, G 1995 *The groves of life - Nga uruora: ecology and history in a New Zealand landscape*, Victoria University Press, Wellington.

Pawson, E. and Brooking, T. (eds) 2002 *Environmental histories of New Zealand*. Auckland, Oxford University Press.



Poole, A. L. 1969 *Forestry in New Zealand; the shaping of policy*, Auckland, Hodder & Stoughton in association with the English Universities Press, London.

Reed, A. H. 1967. *New Zealand's forest king: the kauri*, Reed, Wellington, 1967.

Roche, M. 1987 *Forest policy in New Zealand: an historical geography 1840-1919*, Dunmore Press, Palmerston North.

Roche, M. 1990 *History of New Zealand forestry*, New Zealand Forestry Corp Ltd in association with GP Books, Wellington.

Simpson, T. 1973 *Kauri to Radiata, Origin and Expansion of the New Zealand Timber Industry*, Hodder & Stoughton, Auckland.

Young, D. 2004 *Our islands, our selves: a history of conservation in New Zealand*, Dunedin, University of Otago Press.

This list was compiled by Michael Roche, with two additions (guess which!) from Paul Star. Mike also notes a new publication:

Orwin, J. 2004 *Kauri, witness to a nation's history*, New Holland Publishers, Auckland. ISBN 1 86966 037 4

### **E. O. Teale (formerly Thiele)**

My query in Newsletter no. 37 (May 2004) about E. O. Teale (who published an article entitled 'Soil survey and forest physiography of Kuitpo, South Australia' in the Department of Forestry, University of Adelaide, Bulletin No. 6, in 1918) has led to some interesting discoveries.

Bob McIntosh, Senior Librarian in Edinburgh of the British Geological Survey replied that an Australian E. O. Teale worked in East Africa from 1908 to 1936 mostly on geological surveys. Their archive includes a typescript autobiography, extensive diaries, testimonials and photographs. The British Geological Survey intends to write a

biography of this famous geologist in the near future. Considerable information on the family history of Edmund Oswald Thiele (1874-1971) of Doncaster, Victoria, was provided by Walter Struve of the State Library of Victoria.

The Victorian-born geologist E. O. Thiele left for Tanganyika in 1908, but was forced to return to Australia in 1916 after the occupation of this German colony during the First World War. Helen Bruce, archivist of the University of Adelaide, found that E. O. Thiele was employed as a temporary lecturer in geology (University of Adelaide) to replace Sir Douglas Mawson who was seconded to the war effort in Britain in 1916. It was during this time that Thiele undertook the 'Soil survey and forest physiography of Kuitpo' where Horace Hugh Corbin of the University Forestry Department was developing a 'Working plan of the forest of Kuitpo' (Bulletin No. 4, 1917).

Between 1917 and 1918, E.O. Teale (who changed his name in 1917) found employment in the Geology Dept of the University of Melbourne as a research fellow studying pottery clays and the geology of the Howqua River, near Mansfield.

After the First World War, Teale returned to the geological survey of East Africa where he was employed until 1936, becoming Sir Edmund Oswald Teale, Kt.Bach., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., M.Inst.M.M. He died in England in 1971, aged 97 years.

Ray Specht

### **Our Islands, Our Selves**

The first comprehensive history of conservation in New Zealand has just been published and is recommended (details opposite). While Lake Pedder was inundated, Manapouri was saved; Franklin Dam wasn't built, but the Clyde Dam was. Although there is little reference to such Australian parallels, Australian readers will find plenty of them!



## **The Augusta Conference – in Verse** **By Mark Allen**

### **Sunday:**

Where oceans meet, so do we  
To talk of forest history.  
Registration, conference kick-off  
With welcome from a uni. prof.  
Said he – your papers, right or wrong,  
Simply MUST NOT be too long!

### **Monday:**

Presso John sets show on road  
With “consciencenes” – a moral code.

Ian Abbott’s pretty snaps,  
Augmented with some early maps,  
Show border forests wax and wane,  
Then revitalized again.

Painter Sharpe wants all to see  
That “Only God can make a tree.”

Joint management, says Jane, cuts townies’  
flack,  
Saves snarer’s hut and packhorse track.

Bill Bunbury records... some really good lines  
From South-West forest and Goldfield wood  
lines.

Liana proposes – A real blunder  
To lose environment of wonder.

Now the story of Charles Lane Poole –  
Seems like half the world’s his school!  
In Sierra Leone a forester’s life  
Was too demanding to bring his wife.

Cultural landscapes interest Jane:  
Let’s look at “wilderness” again.

At Henry’s Mill a cramped school life  
Saw infectious diseases rife.

Michael talks of surveyor Turner:  
Of botany and trees a very keen learner.  
Starts true forestry in the Shaky Isles  
And reports re Japan he also compiles.

“Spirituality, belonging and a sense of place”  
Are concepts which David tries to face.

How important are forests? It seems to appear  
That loss of attachment’s a genuine fear.

More about Lane Poole – independent,  
disarming,  
Big man, big ideas, but real Prince Charming!

Then river, wines and a lighthouse soon  
Took us through the afternoon.

### **Tuesday:**

Georgiana Molloy, with non-conformist  
strictures,  
Nearer to God in her garden, saw Nature fitting  
pictures.  
Moved to South-West, where new plants she’d  
amass.  
And sent specimens back from Augusta and  
Vasse.

Prof. Seddon shows his lecture skills,  
Tolling of boabs ‘midst “ruins of hills.”  
Adansonia; succulent; a gibbous tree;  
Tally-marked; Madagascan? – to a T!  
Better equipped than Parker-King  
Were French a threat? A near thing.

Next Robert and others take a look  
A National Park where tuart’s crook.  
Here one major cause, it seems,  
Is changing of the fire regimes.

May Holman, timber workers’ friend,  
Brought better conditions – in the end.  
Novelist Katharine – a bit less clear;  
The militants to her heart more dear.

Depression workers – conditions tough;  
But what they did still clear enough.

Pat, the timber worker, recalled old days:  
M.C. Davies built jetties in the bays.  
Wood, saw, axe and whim  
Says Pat, were all familiar to him.

Beth (for Jenny) reveals social history through  
letters,  
Of Karridale, company town, once few were  
debtors.

Roger Heady looks closely, very closely, at bits  
of plant and wood.  
Microscopic pictures are now extremely good.



Logging machinery has come a long way  
Since pines were first felled in W.A.  
Yearly they tried equipment new,  
With greater production, and safer too.

Fire in forests – watch those matches!  
Preference now is to burn in patches.

More letters next, those of Bill Smart,  
With words to say about miller's art.  
A more thoughtful approach he felt was  
needed,  
But rather believed his words weren't heeded.  
Response from David covered a lot;  
We want to stop feelings running too hot.

Jarrah dieback causing worry –  
Parliament was urged to hurry.  
Must wash down wheels on way home...I  
Think its Phytophthora cinnamomi.

Foresters, with eye to dollar, see  
Problems with their policy.  
CALM brings changes : different group;  
But "wisdom", "insight" – flown the coop!

Rivers, homesteads, men of fame  
May all reveal what's in a name.

Road reserves have trees, shrubs, weeds,  
But maybe reflect old survey needs.

Now Jim began as most would end:  
His trick to ensure our ears we'd lend.

National forests largely lost –  
Japan's gain at Korea's cost.

Forest protestors get more vocal  
In 1970s; and not just local.  
Woodchips triggered legal pleas:  
Lost – but kept defending trees;  
Occupied a mining site,  
And doing this, they won the fight!

Mahogany – a favoured wood,  
So Yanks decided that they should  
Try a "big boy" show of force  
To acquire Nicaragua's resource.

Book promoter Lunney, Dan  
Tells of logging debate over quite a span.  
Lots and lots of newspaper clips –

They must've needed tonnes of chips.

Anitra gets round a few long names  
To talk about conflicting claims.  
Should industry win, then who, oh who  
Will look after the long-footed potoroo?

Satrio's model – something's amiss;  
I couldn't work out rhymes for this!

David Worth checks locals out:  
They're getting smarter, there's no doubt;  
Spiritual attachments are with trees,  
Not Catholics, Uniting or C of E's.

### **Wednesday:**

RACs the subject of citizen Baird:  
Australia and USA compared.

The Aussies and New Zealanders would  
correspond a lot  
On whether trees aid health, save soils, bring  
rain or not.

Big fire, new look, now shows us that  
A lot went on at Blundell's Flat.

O'Shannassy's Catchment: Great Wall of  
China –  
An odd geographical one-liner?  
Big timbered area closed to mills,  
So they sought supplies from adjacent hills.

Myths and legends hand in hand  
As graziers adapt to strange new land.  
But early farmers their produce supply  
To hinterland loggers by and by.

Managing forests (and farms) important tasks;  
So what's been the science, Libby asks.

Our field trip then, and, despite some doubt,  
It didn't rain; the sun stayed out.  
The whole excursion, it was fine,  
With jetty, old mill, forest, wine.

The AGM – for Brett big stride  
As John Dargavel steps aside.

### **Thursday:**

Peter Lane sad tale recounts  
Of State forestry accounts.



Murray Johnson – sorrow intense:  
Quick-grown timber’s not so dense.  
Wants wood for craft picked off the ground,  
But pollies give him the run-around.

Big pile of maps may open door a  
Bit to tell of early flora.  
And aid to management it brings,  
As well as lots of other things!

Robert Hagan, cultural heritage his game,  
Produces policy with very long name.  
Job to locate remains of the past;  
Recording needed, and needed fast.

To silviculture – forester’s art—a  
History for marginata.

Elsewhere in world, high, closer to Heaven,  
With nationalization in fifty-seven,  
Community forestry in Nepal  
Misses equality for all.

Christine, MLC for Greens,  
Talks of “industry model” and what it means  
To her. There are too many flaws  
In existing forest laws.

To some, perhaps, an unusual thought:  
A National Park including resort!  
But Brett suggests idea’s been sound;  
It’s encouraged folk to look around.

Catchment management – really oughter  
Consider influence on water.

Cut it out then grow plantations:  
Similar story in different nations.  
Pretty close in many ways,  
Though jarrah still has future days.

Kauri’s huge, some now buried,  
But great to match the tree rings serried.  
Analysis now brings to light  
That farmers’ theory may be right.

We gather from Joe there’s lots more learning  
To do about Aboriginal burning.  
Habitat changes he has found  
From bones and charcoal underground.

Lachlan McCaw had a bit to say

About mapping fires in WA –  
The use they could be in care of the bush.  
Might stop the whole lot going...whoosh!

“Scrub”, “brush”, “forest”, “wood” –  
Certain problems in how we should  
Determine what was really meant  
By the men from England sent.

Disturbance history’s what we see  
In Tim’s research for PhD.  
In fact, to seek a clue ’e  
Goes to WHAKAPAPANUI.

Kay sees landscape as new creation  
Of “revisionist regeneration”!

Near Invercargill land all cleared:  
Instead of trees, green grass appeared.  
A quite dramatic loss of wood,  
And Europeans thought this good!

Sarah Lumley next, on forest valuation –  
A tangible and intangible accumulation.  
Truth is, I’m not really shook  
On economic gobbledegook;  
But those intangibles must be assessed  
For end result to be the best.

Available sawlogs no longer abundant;  
Mills close and workers redundant.  
Assistance needed for their new role;  
Try to keep them off the dole.

According to Marisa, and she’s got the skill,  
If the skeeters don’t get you, then the ’gaters  
will!

But whether you’re six or eighty-two,  
Hugging a tree could be good for you.

What is “natural”? Hard to know;  
Defining “health” may be the go.

Involving people; knowledge; trust –  
Each of these a real must  
For proper management today  
Of public forests in the USA.

To Martin, too, participation  
Is best for forests of our nation.  
But are the people really heard?  
Policy changes still deferred.



And he was last cab off the rank;  
It only remains, for me to thank  
The organizers, one and all:  
It was great, we had a ball!

**The Apotheosis of Charles Lane Poole**  
by Geoffrey Bolton

St Peter met with Beelzebub  
In the intergalactic eternal pub  
Where they meet to settle the bits of strife  
Which ruffle the calm of the after-life.  
And the Devil complained: 'There's a  
dreadful row  
Disturbing the underworld neighbourhood  
now,  
Cacophony day and night emergin'  
From the old-growth forests we used to call  
virgin.  
That piece of earth has grown appalling  
With quarrelling, growling, yelling, brawling.  
It may be all right in Kingdom Come,  
But for us it beats Pandemonium'.

St Peter replied: Take it easy mate,  
It's what they describe as the forests debate,  
It's always been willing and left me  
dismayed.  
But it's worse since they started the woodchip  
trade.

For there's always demand for paper galore,  
And the Asian markets cry out for more,  
And without it the Japanese population  
Would suffer the trauma of constipation;  
But many have earnestly disagreed  
That marri and jarrah should serve that need,  
And forests should fall to fill the quotas,  
And that's an issue that stirs the voters.

Beset on both sides, the politicians  
Contort themselves into odd positions.  
For reasons that nobody understands  
They'll trade the tuart for mineral sands.  
They make reserves where logging's  
prevented,  
But find the Greens still discontented.  
While timberworkers lacking a living  
Confront the future with misgiving.  
To sort things out, I'll send to Earth  
An expert of celestial worth.  
Lucid, experienced, nobody's fool:

Find me the spirit of Charles Lane Poole.

So he summoned his trusty messenger  
Michael  
Who came on his jet-propelled motor-cycle.  
'Michael', said Peter, 'don't stand like a  
dunce

But go and bring us Lane Poole at once.  
He may be in heaven with Willie Yeats,  
Drinking with Protestant Irish mates,  
He may be in Hell and suffering a blast  
From biographers raking over his past,  
But if I'm correct in recalling the story,  
He's probably chained up in Purgatory,  
With heat on his forehead and ice on his arse,  
Cheek by jowl with the working class'.

Lane Poole was glad to take the mission  
And gain promotion from perdition.  
Though Purgatory had made him moan  
It wasn't a patch on Sierra Leone.  
And he said he'd go to Australia again  
As long as he didn't meet up with Swain.  
'No', said Peter, 'I want you to travel  
And waft your spirit o'er John Dargavel,  
By alchemy which seems a mystery,  
He's got them keen on forest history.  
Fly down on the next Southerly buster  
And see what's happening at Augusta'.

Lane Poole discerned a motley crew  
Who covered every point of view,  
Some were timbermen, some were Green  
And most were something in between.  
But all could argue with propriety,  
All felt at home in that society,  
They liked their food, they liked their  
drinking,  
But they did lots of lively thinking.  
They only had one small complaint:  
They hadn't got a patron saint.  
So Lane Poole took their mild petition  
That he should serve in that position.

St Peter thought it only fair  
To grant the forest historians' prayer,  
So Lane Poole passed the Pearly Gates  
And talks of trees to William Yeats.



### Recent Publications

John Dargavel, 2004. The Fight for the Forests in Retrospect and Prospect.

*Australasian Journal of Environmental Management* 11(3), pp.237-244.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the *Fight for the Forests* by Richard and Val Routley (now Val Plumwood) in 1983 was marked at the Australian National University by a symposium whose papers are available at: <http://cres.anu.edu.au/fffweb/>. In this paper, John Dargavel has drawn his own assessment of the book's importance and meaning.

John Fedtkiwi, Douglas W. MacCleery, V. Alaric Sample and Hal Salwasser. 2004. *Pathway to Sustainability*. Durham, N.C. USA: Forest History Society, pp. 64.

The US based Forest History Society has published four papers first presented in a conference panel 'The pathway hypothesis: a historical context for sustainability'. The book makes a progressive claim to view the history of forest management as one of successive adaptations to changing conditions, expectations and advances in scientific knowledge. It is beautifully produced with photographs and graphs of historical statistics. Trends to increasing standing volumes per hectare and increasing numbers of game animals paint a rosy picture. One wonders how a critical American environmentalist might write on such a topic.

*Environment and History* 'The Nature of G.P. Marsh: Tradition and Historical Judgement' May 2004, vol. 10(2).

This issue is devoted to Marsh and his influence, most notably through his book, *Man and Nature* (1864). Six papers examine his work in different areas and with different

perspectives. Donald Hughes prefaces them with Marsh's views on environmental decline in ancient Rome. Michael Williams writes on the way knowledge is constructed in a history of ideas. Two papers are of our particular Antipodean interest. Graeme Wynn writes of Marsh in New Zealand, connecting him to Nova Scotia, while Ian Tyrell provides an Australian perspective. Tyrell shows that Marsh was "interpreted in Australia and in California within a discourse supportive of acclimatisation, environmental 'improvement' and renovation". acclimatisation and environmental renovation".

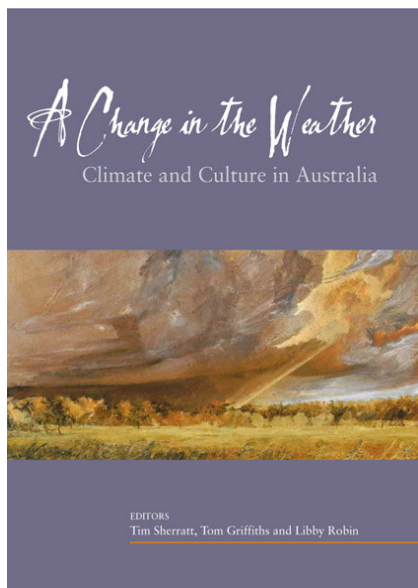
*Environment and History* August 2004 vol. 10(3).

Warwick Frost has a paper in this issue titled, 'Australia Unlimited? Environmental debate in the age of catastrophe, 1910-1939'. Frost shows that the commonly accepted view that environmental debate was stifled by grandiose development schemes needs to be re-examined. While critics were certainly attacked, there were 'a wide range of interests pushing for conservation, the development of National Parks and limits on these development schemes'.

*Environmental History* July 2004, vol. 9(3)

War is no respecter of man or tree. J.R. McNeill has provided a world history perspective on 'woods and warfare' in a paper that ranges over thirty centuries and many countries from 'New Zealand and Japan to Britain and Brazil'. It treats a number of themes: forests as a source of war material, forests in war-fighting, the impact of combat on forests, and the impact on forests of preparing for war. All this sets a valuable framework for much of the current research work on the environmental impact of war.

Contributed by John Dargavel



## A Change in the Weather: Climate and Culture in Australia

Tim Sherratt, Tom Griffiths and Libby Robin (editors)

*A Change in the Weather* is an interdisciplinary 'weather report' that draws together perspectives from the social sciences, the humanities, science and engineering to deepen our understanding of the relationship between climate and culture in Australia.

With essays by: Bill Bunbury, Daniel Connell, Tom Griffiths, Richard Grove, Clive Hamilton, R.W. Home, Ian Lowe, Janet McCalman, Tony McMichael, Neville Nicholls, Libby Robin, Deborah Rose, Janis Sheldrick, Tim Sherratt, Mike Smith and David Walker

**\$49.95, 224 pages, 245mm x 175mm, Hardback with dustcover; colour illustrations throughout. ISBN 1876944 28 5, published by National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra.**

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### Timber by Jinkers

One of the features of the Augusta Conference was the scale model of a bullock drawn log hauler, locally termed a 'dis'. Timber industry technology has never been my strong suit but I recalled the New Zealand name for a similar device was a 'logging arch'. T. Simpson (*Kauri*

*to Radiata*, 1973, 154-55) provides an account of the use of these in New Zealand. He suggests that the first use of a logging arch in indigenous forest in New Zealand can be tracked back to the Egmont Box Company in the southern King Country in 1935. The Egmont Box Company founded in 1906 by a number of Taranaki based dairy co-operatives was unusual in the New



Zealand context in that it was specifically set up to mill Kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydiodes*) for a timber known as 'White Pine' for butter boxes and cheese crates (M Wright and M Roche 1987 *The Egmont Box Company: A Study of Company Evolution in the Context of the White Pine Trade*, New Zealand Forest Service, Working Paper 87/3).

These logging arches would appear to be towed by engine rather than animal power. J Speirs (1957 *The History and Development of Logging Tractors NZ Timber Journal* 3 (7): 32-36) points to their earlier history in discussing the development of logging tractors and refers to two systems of elevating the log to decrease ground resistance. These were the 'log over the axle' or 'log under the axle' systems. The latter came to predominate. Although principally concerned with the motorised towing of logs he does suggest that these were 'similar to that which had been used in horse logging days'.

Closer perusal of Simpson suggests the alternative term of a 'timber-wheel.' This was where the log was towed by oxen or horses by 'timber-wheels to the axle of which one end of the logs was secured, were often used' (Simpson, 1973, 229). Simpson's source is Kirk's report on the New Zealand timber industry (1886 *Native Forests and the State of the Timber Trade. Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives (AJHR)* C3A). Thomas Kirk, a botanist by training, was appointed to the position of the Chief Conservator of State Forests but the position was short lived. Reporting on the timber industry in Taranaki, he noted, 'timber-wheels are often employed to bring the timber to loading-places on the tramways, and in one instance I found that logs were hauled in this way for nearly three-quarters of a mile, the wheels being drawn by six pairs of oxen' (AJHR, 1886, CA, 7). Simpson also notes the use of horse drawn timber-wheels in Canterbury.

However, Harry Orsman's *Oxford Dictionary of New Zealand English* (1997) provides some additional terms. Devices similar to the Augusta model and Kirk's 'timber-wheel' were termed 'Janker's' [sometimes 'Junkers' and 'Jenkers'] and later 'Jinkers' in New Zealand.

The use of the term Jinker has been traced back to 1885. The dictionary also notes that although the device worked well on flat land it was unpopular on steeper land because the log could overrun the bullock team. Interestingly neither Kirk nor Simpson made any reference to the term 'Jinker'.

I have no doubt that this barely scratches the surface and would be interested in what other AFHS members have to add. Michael Roche

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The sixth National AFHS conference was, perhaps, our most international and diverse yet. Here, enjoying the local stories at the old Karri Sawmill on one of our excursions from Augusta, are: (front row, from the left): Conference organiser **Janie Binet** (with the list of delegates in her hand), **Jeremy Mouat** (Canada), **Philippa O'Brien** (Western Australian writer), **James Beattie** (New Zealand – with compatriot, **Paul Star**, obscured by his right shoulder) and **Satrio Utomo** (Indonesia). Behind, sharp eyes will spot **John Taylor** (Queensland), **Fintan O'Laighin** (ACT) and many others... [Photo: Libby Robin]



**John Dargavel** (retiring President) and **Jenny Mills** (Vice-President, and member of the local organising team) meet to talk AFHS business over the time-honoured glass (or two) of red at the Augusta Hotel. [Photo: Libby Robin]