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AUSTRALIAN

# Forest History

SOCIETY Inc.

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**Newsletter No. 46**  
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*"... to advance historical understanding of human interactions with Australian forest and woodland environments."*



*Lewis Pass, New Zealand. A View from the Trans-Tasman Forest  
Conference Field Trip, February 2007. Photo by Sue Feary.*

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## POST-TRANS-TASMAN CONFERENCE THOUGHTS

*From Paul Star*

Trans-Tasman Forest History, the seventh full AFHS conference, was held at Christchurch in New Zealand from 29 January to 2 February 2007. I'm not sure quite how one judges whether a conference is successful. I do know that, after Trans-Tasman Forest History, most people (quite possibly everyone) went away feeling they'd had a good time. The numbers weren't great as regards magnitude but, perhaps more importantly, they were right in terms of friendliness and the chance to get to know everybody. For the record, 42 people attended the conference (24 from Australia), along with 6 guests and 2 guest speakers, while 24 attended the West Coast study tour. I was a bit disappointed that we didn't get more New Zealanders along, but it was more than AFHS conferences usually muster and encourages me to think that more New Zealanders will participate in the Society in future.

The conference was also, of course, informative, with 32 papers presented, nearly all of which have been collected onto a CD that we are distributing to conference-goers. Papers by Benedict Taylor (on penal forestry in New South Wales) and Matthew Hatvany (on the role of time and place in wetland transformation) were voted the two most appreciated. We were also treated to a keynote address from Geoff Park on early timber-getting in northern New Zealand and its consequences for both Maori and Pakeha. Two guest speakers, ecologist Brian Molloy and palaeobotanist Matt McGlone, provided great introductions prior to our field trips to Riccarton Bush and Banks Peninsula respectively. Those who fought off exhaustion to attend an evening session at the forestry school were rewarded with a highly entertaining slide show from heritage conservationist Paul Mahoney, combining tall timber with tall stories. There was also a tall story or two at the conference dinner at the University Staff Club the following evening.

In addition to all this, the post-conference study tour to the forests of the West Coast was pretty special, with Eric Pawson providing the best commentary for an event of this kind that I have ever heard. No one got lost (though Max Bourke attempted this in Hanmer Springs). Everyone learnt a great deal, and most of us ate too much (Punakaiki's packed lunch being particularly memorable). There is certainly scope for another New Zealand conference - maybe to somewhere in the North Island next time, so the Aussie contingent can take a look at our incredible kauri forests. In the meanwhile, we can congratulate ourselves on having held a very worthwhile conference in Canterbury, which will have done much to bring the level of knowledge and networking on New Zealand closer to the level already attained for Australian forest history.

## THOUGHTS ON THE POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP BY TWO TRAVELLERS

*From Sue Feary*

After decades of living in an ancient Australian landscape flattened by erosion I had forgotten just how hilly and geologically young NZ is. The post-conference field trip gave us many opportunities to experience this amazing landscape and its human history. For three all-too-short days 24 of us travelled by bus from the elegant city of Christchurch, across rugged mountain ranges and along the west coast of the South Island, ably led by Eric Pawson whose intimate knowledge of environmental history gave us special insights into the land and its people.

We set off early on Saturday morning and drove through the agricultural and plantation landscapes of the east coast plains and foothills to Hanmer Springs, which was notable for its hot springs, day-trippers escaping the city and excellent coffee. We did a pleasant walk through Hanmer Forest and then drove along the Waiau Valley where we crossed the first of the many massive gravel bed rivers and their scary one lane bridges! We wound slowly up to the top of Lewis Pass at 864 metres and stopped for lunch in the crisp mountain air. There was time to walk through the beech forests and take in the strangely beautiful trees with their coats of hanging lichen. Added to this were the many-coloured mosses on the ground and the clear waters of the tarn, giving the whole place a magical quality.

We continued down the western side of the mountain range to the small town of Reefton. I for one am very glad that this area, once destined for woodchipping, is now protected. Here we experienced some very recent forest history, when a local timber worker gave us a practical demonstration of his knowledge of the features and uses of local timbers. He had lost his job as a result of decisions to stop logging native forests and he and his wife now run a lavender farm and serve wonderful home cooked fare to passers by like ourselves. Michael Orchard, a local forester gave us a very informative talk about forestry issues, amid the mossy ground cover and beech trees of the Perseverance Block. Then it was on to Westport, located on the west coast, crossing the mighty Buller River on the way.

The next day started off with a sightseeing flavour as we headed off to Cape Foulwind, and Tauranga Bay to see the seal colony and take in the wild beauty of the west coast. The facilities at the seal colony were excellent, with well maintained walking tracks and lookouts and although we had been told that there might be lots of rain and cold weather, we had neither. Non-NZers were excited to see wekas, a flightless native bird commonly found around tourist places where they have adapted well to human presence now that they are a protected species. South of Westport at Constant Bay, a Department of Conservation representative gave us an interesting talk on management of Paparoa National Park, which was gazetted following debates over logging native forests. A walk along the Truman track in the



national park took us through mixed podocarp forests dominated by some very large rimu and attractive nikau palms to the wild looking ocean and some amazingly water-sculptured rock formations. As if this wasn't enough, lunch was at the Punakaiki Rocks with its blowholes and magnificent limestone bluffs, again boasting high quality visitor facilities.

After a quick stop in Runanga to photograph the Miners Hall, we met Ross Jackson from Timberlands West Coast Ltd in Greymouth, who gave us a talk on the social consequences of changes in forest use and inspected a number of Timberlands' pine plantations growing on deep peat soils near Greymouth. The remainder of the day was spent wandering through wonderfully dense, dark forests with abundant archaeological evidence of cobbled roads, stone culverts and mining adits. We pulled into the small coastal town of Hokitika for the night; a place I will remember for the awe inspiring backdrop of Mount Cook and an interesting display of local talent in driftwood architecture on the beach.

Day three started with a trip to tranquil Lake Kanieri and a walk led by Michael Orchard through the fringing kahikatea and rimu forest. Then it was back up over the mountain range via Arthur's Pass, where the engineering marvel of the Otira viaduct competed with the splendour of the native forests and mountain landscape for the most memorable vista. On leaving the high country the bus took us through the Canterbury Plains and back to Christchurch.

The field trip was a successful combination of excellent organisation, a very knowledgeable tour guide, fabulous scenery, great camaraderie, and oh yes, lots of forest history. It will be a hard act to follow.

*From Sybil Jack*

After the conference Eric Pawson led a three-day tour of South Island forests that took us over to the West Coast after a detour to look at the exotic forest plantation at Hanmer Springs. We had a splendid driver - essential given the roads - and a real camaraderie developed amongst the participants.

The "forest" in Lewis pass was not quite the standard idea of a forest as the bog pines and mountain toatoa were stunted. A walk across a glacial moraine showed us how the plants were altering the environment round the tarn (mountain pool) in an area that gets more than 3,500 millimetres of rain a year! When we were there it was fine and sunny and the sundew plants were sparkling and the old man's beard lichen looked like mist. We learned (but I am rapidly forgetting) how to distinguish the four species of southern beech (*Nothofagus*) from one another and from their habitats. On the coast road, where the railway is still important for freight and where nearly all the bridges are one way only, there are a couple of bridges where road and rail run on the same narrow track. Advice if a train is coming seems to be "duck" as it has a 100% chance of winning an encounter.

The West Coast is lonely and a haven for wildlife and rare birds. Eric was a fount of information about all

things geographical and geological. Apparently the glaciers here are growing because they are in a unique situation. The West Coast is where the plate that Australia sits on is going under the Pacific plate that New Zealand sits on so that the mountains are rising at quite a rate (for geology anyway) and because the glaciers are so close to the sea (and once came right down to it) they get a lot of snow and so are growing despite global warming. We were taken to places where you are standing on (straddling maybe) the points at which the intersecting plates are pushing up - a fault line of immeasurable consequences for us all and very eerie.

We had a really great little book to tell us about the trees we were looking at. Andrew Crowe's *Which Native Tree* told me all the things I wanted to know but which one usually has to dredge together from different sources, especially the uses of the tree - bark, fruit, leaves, timber - and especially what the Maoris used it for (medicinally) and what the basis for that use was. Evidently in many cases it was sensible and the species are now used as the active ingredient in germicides and so on. The old Arthur's Pass route we used on the return trip crossed a horrifying shifting mountainside - because of the tectonic activity and the uprising, falls are frequent and unpredictable and the Rangers' centres have warning indicators of the likelihood of falls rather like fire danger clocks. Even with the new viaduct that by-passes the ever-shifting scree slopes that the old road crossed, driving the road requires concentration. The speed signs drop from 55 kph to 45 on the next bend, 35 on the next, 25 on the next ... but the locals of course beep ignorant outsiders who pay attention to this advice.

Eric Pawson who was our guide for the field trip was a mine of information about the changes that are taking place in "High Places" with West Coast agriculture and the problems of Crown pastoral leases as the Department of Conservation develops its plans for protecting "inherent values". On the way back we were shown some remnant native forest near Rotokohu (near Reefton) by Alan Adair who was once a forester and who showed us a lot of forester's lore.

## Reference

Pawson, E. 2007 *Australian Forest History Society. Post-conference field trip, 3-5 February 2007*. Department of Geography, University of Canterbury, NZ.

## MARK ALLEN'S VIEW

Mark Allen's summaries of the presentations are a clever and amusing highlight of our Forest History Conferences. His summary of the 2007 conference, the first part of which was delivered at the Conference dinner, is included on pages 7 and 8.

**Post-Conference Update:** Draft conference papers will soon be available on CD and photos from the conference and field trips have been posted on the AFHS website at [www.foresthistory.org.au](http://www.foresthistory.org.au).

## BOOK REVIEWS

Rowland D. Burdon and William J. Libby, 2007.  
*Genetically modified forests: from stone age to modern biotechnology.*  
Durham, NC, USA: Forest History Society.

The (US) Forest History Society has produced the seventh in its series of short, authoritative and readable overviews. The series is aimed at communicating to "people with education, management, policy or legislative responsibilities who will benefit from a deepened understanding". The previous volumes have covered "American forests", "Forest pharmacy", "Newsprint", "America's fires", "Forest sustainability" and "Canada's forests".

The Forest History Society manages to walk the tightrope across these timely but often contentious topics with surety by securing eminent authors to prepare the texts; Stephen Pyne wrote the issue on fire, and Bill Libby, the grand old man of American tree breeding, is co-author of this one with Rowland Burdon from New Zealand.

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Libby Robin, 2007. *How a continent created a nation.* Sydney: University of NSW Press. RRP \$39.95. Available from: [www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/0868408913.htm](http://www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/0868408913.htm).

Many Australian readers will have already seen reviews of Libby Robin's new book, so this is just a brief note to remind people to look out for it in the bookshop. Robin draws on some of her work that she introduced us to in our conferences. In this book she mounts a substantial argument that Australia's biogeography is a - perhaps even *the* - most important factor in creating Australian identity. It is a welcome dose of reality to put alongside more conventional social factors.

Wattles, deserts, arid lands, grasslands, acclimatisation, Royal Societies, museums, expeditions, northern development and a host of other topics appear through the story, which is richly peopled with characters and not a few birds. It is "the outback" themes that she sees as creating Australians' sense of their place in the world. Forests do not appear much, nor do seas, but in such a rich account there is not space for everything.

Robin weaves a highly readable story that carries you along from the late nineteenth century to the present. Her central argument emerges, it seems almost effortlessly, as one reads from chapter to chapter. It is only on looking back that you realise how many pieces she has placed to make the pattern.

## BOOK NOTICE

### Australia

Steve Mullins, Mike Danaher & Barbara Webster (eds.)  
*Community, Environment & History: Keppel Bay Case Studies*,  
CQU Press, 2006.

This book explores the natural formation of Keppel Bay in Central Queensland; early Aboriginal occupation of the area; modification of the coastline and Fitzroy River by early and recent settlers; community identity; port,

resort and tourism development; ethnic diversity; challenges to local parks and wildlife; the problem of introduced plant and animal pests; and the provision of essential services of fresh water and sewerage to the local towns. The book cultivates a deeper and more textured appreciation of place.

The book retails for \$35.95 plus \$5 postage and handling, and can be ordered from  
[www.outbackbooks.com/index.php?authors\\_id=69](http://www.outbackbooks.com/index.php?authors_id=69).

### New Zealand

Maclaren, P. 2005. *The Leading Edge, The originating history of MDF in New Zealand*, NZIF. ISBN 0 473 1018 1.

Cottrell, W. 2006. *Furniture of the New Zealand Colonial Era: An illustrated History 1830-1900*, Reed, Auckland.

Eagle, A. 2006. *Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*, Te Papa Press, Wellington.

Harvey, B. & T. (eds.) 2006. *Waitakere Ranges: ranges of inspiration: nature, history, culture*. Waitakere City, Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.

Levack, H., Poole L. and Beatson, J. 2006. *The Great Wood Robbery? Political bumbling ruined New Zealand forestry*, Beatson Publishing, Wellington ISBN 0 958 248621.

Park, G. 2006. *Theatre Country: essays on landscape and whenua*. Wellington: Victoria University Press.

## RECENT JOURNALS

### Australia

Coltheart, L. (2007). Democratic arts. *National Library of Australia News* 17(7) (April 2007), 3-7. An article on Ruth Lane Poole, interior designer and wife of the former forestry chief.

Longworth, J. (2007). The jetty and sawmill tramways of Woolgoolah. *Australian Railway History: Bulletin of the Australian Railway Historical Society* 58(832) (Feb 2007), 58-76.

### Gippsland Heritage Journal (GHJ)

*From Libby Robin*

The latest issue of GHJ (No 30, 2006) is a great one for forest historians. If you have not come across GHJ before, I recommend the other 29 issues as well! This one celebrates 20 years of publication. The GHJ has the unusual distinction of 20 years of continuous production by the same editorial team. Dr Meredith Fletcher, from the Centre for Gippsland Studies (Monash University), is the editor, and her work is complemented by Debra Squires (who also often contributes beautiful maps) and Linda Barraclough, who together create a journal that is both local and professional, and sets a high benchmark for public history productions internationally.

The social history of forests is, of course, central to the local and international identity of Gippsland. Each issue has a series of papers, richly illustrated with historical photographs and other images. In addition there are other features including a "Photograph Folio" section,



booknotes, notes on sources and other material useful to historians in allied fields such as Forest History. The opening paper compiled by Debra Squires is about Anne Dreyer, the voice of kindergarten of the air. It is a gem - and includes a diary of travelling for a fortnight with the Infant Welfare van in 1943 across Omeo, Tambo and Orbost shires. Not exactly forest history - but full of insights into family life and difficulties in small remote forest settlements. The "Photograph Folio" - Jean Caldwell's family photos - is outstanding in this way too - capturing generations of a family carving a home, Ibroxholme, out of the forest near Briagolong. The photos of life from the 1870s onwards are beautifully reproduced - and include one of clearing a windfall (a tree blown over) that shows how all the family was involved. T.J. Washbourne's photography is clear enough to see what sort of axe was being swung by the younger of two men in the image. The other five people are women, dressed in long skirts that would have been awkward in the rough country. There is also a splendid photo by the same photographer of wood cutters on the Upper Dargo, and of the Gray and Scott hop kiln, built out of rough split timber near Ibroxholme, as well as images of the town of Briagolong and horse and cart crossings of local creeks.

The final treat in this issue is a splendid fold-out map of the East Gippsland section of the Map of Victoria (revised to 1930, it comes from a 1938 reprint of the 1917 map). The map shows all pre-emptive rights taken out for squatting runs.

This journal is available by subscription - at the modest cost of \$12 p.a. Back issues are also available. Contact PO Box 420, Maffra Vic 3860, or visit <http://kapana.customer.netspace.net.au/GJournal.html>.

### E-Journals

Latest issue of the National Museum of Australia's journal *reCollections* may be of interest:

[http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol\\_2\\_no\\_1/papers](http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol_2_no_1/papers)

[http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol\\_2\\_no\\_1/notes\\_and\\_comments](http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol_2_no_1/notes_and_comments)

### New Zealand

Hinkle, A. 2004. The distribution of a male sterile form of *ti* (*Cordyline fruticosa*) in Polynesia: A case of human selection? *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 113: 263-290.

Leach, H. and Stowe, C. 2005. Oceanic arboriculture at the margins - the case of Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) in Aotearoa. *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 114: 7-28.

Beattie, J. 2007. "Tropical Asia and Temperate New Zealand: Health and Conservation Connections, 1840-1920", in Brian Moloughney and Henry Johnson, (eds.), *Asia in the Making of New Zealand*, Auckland, pp.36-57.

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### DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY PAPERS, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AND H.H. CORBIN IN NEW ZEALAND

In Issue 41 (2005) Emeritus Prof Ray Specht provided a brief summary statement on the University Forestry Department and its archives highlighting the potential of these materials for researchers. One of the early appointees to the Adelaide School, H.H. Corbin, was subsequently Professor of Forestry at the short lived Auckland University College School of Forestry in the 1920s. Subsequently he worked as an advisor to Whakatane Pulp and Paper Company. Some of Corbin's papers survive in Archives New Zealand in Auckland and Wellington, mainly relating to correspondence with the State Forest Service over university forestry education. They also include a subsequent narrowly avoided libel case with the Director of Forests, A. D. McGavock, who took issue over Corbin continuing to use the honorific Professor in his association with the bond selling afforestation company, New Zealand Perpetual Forests.

Files include: H. H. Corbin Libel Charge 1932 F1 45/118 (Wellington); H. Hugh Corbin Correspondence regarding Rotowaro eucalyptus plantation 1945-1950 BC/V 18598 A17 18 (Auckland); Ellis to Corbin F 1 45/9/1A (Wellington); and Probate Horace Hugh Corbin 1950 BAE 1570 Box 986 1916/1950 (Auckland).

### IN OUR CONTEMPORARIES

*Forest History Today* Spring/Fall 2005

This publication goes from strength to strength. It is presented in magazine format with short articles that are easy to read, quite wonderful photographs and elegant presentation. Don't be deceived by its magazine looks; its articles may be short and mercifully free of academic jargon, but they come from scholarly research. This 80-page issue marks the formation of the US Forest Service a hundred years ago with a dozen articles on some its founding fathers and influences. There are two articles likely to be of most interest to Australian readers. One is on George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) whose *Man and Nature*, published in 1864, had an influence far beyond his native Vermont. After a couple of pages describing his life, there are another couple with extracts from the book. The other introduces and reprints an 1897 letter from Dietrich Brandis to Gifford Pinchot on how to set up a forest service. It provides a classic statement of the imperial ideal of forestry.

*Light Railways* No. 192, December 2006

This issue has an article by our old friends, Peter Evans, Colin Harvey and Mike McCarthy, describing a visit that they made to Erica in Victoria a few months after the major bushfire in January 2006. What had happened to the old timber tramway and mill sites in the area? Had the tramway remains been burnt? What had happened to the mill artifacts? They report a mixed story of artifacts that had disappeared and a site that is now a park, but also being able to find a log tramway previously hidden by the bush.





Ian Bevege, a retired forester, has a short account of the Bawley Point - Termeil forest tramways in New South Wales that had attracted the interest of Michael Tracey in a paper in our 1997 *Australia's Ever-changing Forests III* proceedings.

*Environment and History* vol. 12(4), November 2006

We have been waiting for the second part of Vandergeest and Pelluso's paper, "Empires of Forestry: Professional Forestry and State Power in Southeast Asia", ever since the first part appeared in issue 1 at the start of 2006. These are important papers because they show how diverse the course of forestry has been. The story of the diffusion of forestry from its European origins to colonies and lands such as Australia and New Zealand has been told often enough. These papers encourage us to look at the complexities. The first part stressed differences between places up to the 1940s and this part looks at the more recent period in which the authors characterise FAO as an "Empire". It is a catchy concept that others will doubtless pick up and examine.

*Environment and History* vol. 13(1), February 2007

Georgina Endfield has taken over the role of Editor of this broad-ranging journal. Although I sometimes find papers immediately related to my current projects, the greatest value of the journal to me is that it jerks me back into thinking about categories and concepts. In this issue, for example are papers about the environmental history of the Pyrenees and water rights in South Italy, locations of only cursory interest. However, they deal with the thorny issues of property rights, moral economy, political ecology and modernity; all relevant and universal.

*Environmental History* vol 12 (1), January 2007

This issue contains a demanding paper by Sverker Sörlin and Paule Warde (from Stockholm and Cambridge respectively) on "The problem of the problem of environmental history: a re-reading of the field". They argue that environmental historians' concerns are "potentially much closer to mainstream thought in the social sciences and humanities than they might have expected". They see environmental history containing "knowledge regimes" that are congruent to the familiar "resource regimes" (shades of the unfashionable notions of base and superstructure?).

## CONFERENCES

### Furniture History Symposium

*From John Dargavel*

The Inaugural Australian National Furniture History Symposium was held in the National Museum in Canberra, 24-25 March 2007. It was organised by the Australian Furniture History Society in association with the Friends of the National Museum. About 100 people attended and fourteen papers were presented, ranging from the history of particular pieces of colonial furniture to the principles and practices of furniture conservation. One paper by Susan Mary Withycombe discussed the furniture designed by Ruth Lane Poole, wife of the Commonwealth's first forester. The symposium included

an excursion to view the Australian Forestry School building and some of the original furniture she designed.

The organisers approached the Australian Forest History Society, as they wanted to include a paper that would cover forestry and the use of cabinet timbers. As it is too large a topic for a single paper, it was decided to hold a panel discussion with John Dargavel, Peter Kanowski Snr and Chris McElhinny as the discussants. The session and subsequent individual discussions during the conference showed that many of the furniture historians have a lively interest in the history of cabinet timbers, but perhaps little knowledge of their production. Conversely, preparing for the discussion showed that forest historians have written little about the production of cabinet timbers and perhaps know little about how they are used in furniture. It would seem to offer a field for fruitful collaboration between the two AFHSs. Details about the other "AFHS" can be found on its web site: [www.furniturehistory.org.au](http://www.furniturehistory.org.au).

### SAVE THE FORESTS CAMPAIGN, 1930S-1960s

Hayley Hollis is currently studying her Honours year at Latrobe University in Bendigo. Her research project is about the relationships between the Australian community and fire in the 1930s-1960s. In particular she will be looking at the "save the forests campaign" which was an initiative that came out of the Stretton Report into the 1939 fires. Holly says that she has "hit a bit of a brick wall in trying to find out how the campaign was accepted in Victoria and whether it worked, why it fizzled out in the 1950s and what it actually achieved. If anyone could help me with any of this stuff it would be so fantastic." Holly can be contacted on [«hehollis@students.latrobe.edu.au»](mailto:hehollis@students.latrobe.edu.au).

**Membership of the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) Inc** is \$25 a year, or \$15 a year for students. For overseas addressees, it is \$30 (**in Australian currency please**). These prices do not include GST as the AFHS is not registered for paying or claiming GST. Membership expires on 30th June each year. Payment can be made by cheque or money order, or through Electronic Funds Transfer. Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to the AFHS and sent to:

Australian Forest History Society Inc.  
PO Box 5128, Kingston ACT 2604

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**AFHS Conference, Christchurch NZ,  
January-February 2007**

*From Mark Allen*

***Part I (with minor addition and revision)***

At Uni Hall they cared for all  
Who stayed for forest history.  
Though we must admit: which key to fit  
Was something of a mystery.

***Monday evening - barbecue -***

A time to meet old friends and new,  
And, of course, to "have a few".

***Tuesday -***

The first New Zealanders could boast  
Of mighty trees right to the coast;  
But forests of kauri and kahikatea  
Became a landscape much more drear,  
Natives persuaded to lend a hand,  
But treatment by agents was far from grand.  
Muskets proved especially good  
To barter with Maoris in exchange for wood.  
Geoff's keynote address was conference starter  
About those timbers great for shipping;  
Now forestry's based on radiata  
But I reckon it's best used for chipping!

Sue Feary: ambivalent about her nationality,  
Talks of settler societies' commonality.  
The locals' "engagements with forests" were themes;  
Australia and New Zealand a bit different it seems.  
Though belatedly there's some convergence  
With Aboriginal rights resurgence.

Americans use Philippines as handy place to test  
Ideas about forestry - what was best.  
Policy of utilitarian conservation  
Transferred too to mainland nation.

James Beattie was the following talker,  
Telling of Spooner and Campbell Walker.  
New Zealand's forestry influenced by India?  
Some interesting links we find 'ere.  
Millers want pines from Tassie land,  
And wartime OK saw loggers to hand  
Then later claims of landscape scarring  
Saw Government departments sparring.

Ilam campus was once pretty bare,  
With not a lot of greenery there.  
From '57 when building began  
"Brutalist" styles were in the van.  
In spite of the many structures listed  
Building and farming co-existed.  
This extraordinary building spree  
Ended in nineteen seventy-three;  
And the site's now softened, do be assured,  
With shrubs and trees, and lawns well manicured.

Riccarton Bush in native trees and moths abounds  
Despite its distinctly ..... suburban surrounds.  
In remnant forest once donated by the Deans  
Hard work by Trust has helped create fine scenes.

Workers' lives not ones of ease  
As millers strove to claim best trees.  
This was but one important theme  
Of slides about the days of steam,  
When timber getters' ingenuity  
Evoked over genuine incredulity!

Paul has job to check remains  
Of sawmill sites and logging trains;  
And sees the funny side, I think,  
Of engines ending in the drink!

***Wednesday -***

And James proceeds along a second line:-  
To avoid miasma, Eucalypts were fine,  
As were parks "to purify stale city air,"  
So all New Zealanders good health could share.

Stories of plant introductions was the work  
Presented to us by researcher Bourke.

It was really good to meet a  
Man who insists they're aboreta!  
Several states he took us through,  
And told of von Mueller, Weston and Griffin too.

Experimental sites - they're there of course,  
An historical, scientific and archaeological resource.  
John has looked at plenty of these,  
Noting species and layout of planted trees.

Displaying the bush really ain't a  
Special problem to a painter.  
But busy sawmills, rarely petty  
Proved interesting to artist Betty  
She painted real life at the mills,  
And tried to save some workers' spills.

Uriarra forest - changing uses in a new nation:  
Moths; grazing and fruit; then research and education.  
Plantation forestry rather changed the scene,  
Upon which greens and trippers vented spleen.  
Massive fires destroyed the major parts,  
And now we're back to where the story starts!

Arbor Day New Zealand way was something pretty good  
With playful ease kids planted trees, as of course they should,  
And garden work, a happy lurk, saved 3Rs overkill;  
But leaving schools they took up tools to clear the bush at will!

Tim Long begins and tells that we're  
About to learn about Mount Kiera,  
Lots of paintings, by white for white;  
But Freddie Timms wants to set this right,  
For settlers' activities rather shoddy,  
According to the Waddi Waddi.

Some Aborigines in the Otways  
Altered landscape in rather hot ways  
But actually we find that most  
Preferred to dine along the coast,  
As forests really rather thick  
To change with simple fire stick.

The first surveyors of the nation  
Used method of triangulation.  
Then many were needed to measure land  
And create a landscape neatly planned.  
Using their sketches and field books  
Drafted plans show country's looks.

On discourse and network theory  
I must admit I'm rather bleary;  
Though Peggy reveals how Forest League  
Engaged in policy intrigue.  
An unusual mix of ideologies  
Encouraged forest production and ecologies.

John and Michael's dual act  
Clearly, I hope, revealed the fact



That, contrary to belief of Kiwis,  
Aussie foresters do know trees.  
But AFS had shaky start;  
By state jealousies near torn apart.  
Across the ditch, two schools a failure,  
So they send some students to Australia.

Rudolph Hohneck, forester unique,  
Did not want kauri "up the creek".  
Taking part in big Waipoua debates,  
His letters gained him enemies and mates.  
He decided to show that regeneration  
Could be proved to even a sceptical nation.

At conference dinner Paul set things hopping  
By insisting on some partner swapping!  
After that we're regaled ere long  
By Mark with verse and by Roger with song.

## **Part II**

### **Thursday -**

Herbivores were introduced for food  
Or fur, and later on for sport.  
Needless to say, some got away  
And could not all be caught.  
Possums, deer, and moose and stoats,  
Wallabies, rabbits and lots of goats.  
Act introduced to help destroy them,  
But people actually quite enjoy them!

On Banks Peninsular trees were burnt  
And cocksfoot grown with ease;  
For seed there was a strong demand  
At home and overseas.  
But labour costs their profits bled,  
So farmers turned to sheep instead.

Matt says pollens are something that last,  
Telling history of forests from long distant past.  
Podocarps once, then beech in their stead  
In the Canterbury district of southern NZ;  
Maori clearing, bracken, then at last you're  
Into the era of improved pasture.

Next we board a bus to go a-  
- cross the hills to Akaroa.  
And it was a perfect day  
For walks and talks along the way.  
At erstwhile tram stop - view so pretty  
Of river, hills and Christchurch city.  
Reboard, dismount, to see and hear  
Of harbour, loess, Lake Ellesmere.  
Little River railway station  
Has ice creams and tourist information.  
Once forest covered steep terrain,  
Now only a few scraps remain.  
Then on to learn of Maori pa,  
And race by colonists from afar.

### **Friday -**

Old letter books bring Jane to grips  
With trans-Tasman trade by wooden ships.  
Sheep from Port Albert, and cattle as well,  
Make Gippsland merchants' profits swell.

Paul tells first how to pick key sites;  
He's especially keen on distinctive factors.  
Then shows super snaps of inclines, locos,  
Haulers, bridges, dams and railway tractors.

Though keen to save the scene biotic  
Potts also suggested plants exotic.

He proposed coniferous trees  
That originated overseas!  
For examples next we should look toward  
The Canterbury Plantation Board.  
At length the State became a starter,  
But not at first with radiata!

City crims were quite a worry,  
So set to planting at Tuncurry.  
But conditions really not too good  
For pines to flourish as they should.  
Some prisoners, discharged, stood up strong,  
Though the forest itself didn't last too long!

Graziers in west of the Cabbage Patch  
Had innovative plan to hatch.  
The Scots' plantations there we find  
Left the government way behind.

Fishermen liked to catch fish,  
To make a quid was their wish;  
But lifestyle no longer secure  
As fish became fewer and fewer.  
Their views were largely neglected,  
Despite the wisdom collected.

Lots of relics very fine  
Remain along a tramway line  
Built not so long ago in fact;  
So proclaimed under recent Act  
As site reserved for us to be  
Engaged with archaeology.

The push to convert was scarcely contained,  
And few cared if wetlands were sustained.  
To achieve restoration it's probably best  
If historical attitudes first assessed.

Roger, as is known to all,  
Looks at things that are very small.  
In his talk he considered ways  
We identified wood in earlier days.  
Colour, texture, odour and SG,  
Even clever chemistry!  
Burning splinters can still be handy,  
But microscopy - well it's just dandy!  
To sort the features, key or card  
Nowadays seem pretty hard;  
With modern methods, few dispute a  
Quick selection by computer.

Talking to loggers face to face  
Reveals sense of community and place,  
Tessa studies things like these,  
Both in Australia and overseas.  
Lost, ignored, misunderstood,  
Amid the politics of wood,  
We tend to forget the workers' call,  
And interviews alone won't tell it all.

Australia and New Zealand both were sources  
Of export timber of somewhat limited resources.  
Aussies' need for butter boxes quite emphatic,  
But Kiwis' softwood supply was problematic;  
While hardwoods shipped east became so depleted  
That attempts were made to see the trade deleted.

Yes, every conference has some clown  
Who'll lift you up or put you down,  
But I will say "thanks" from the Aussie crowd  
To you from the Land of the Long White Cloud.