

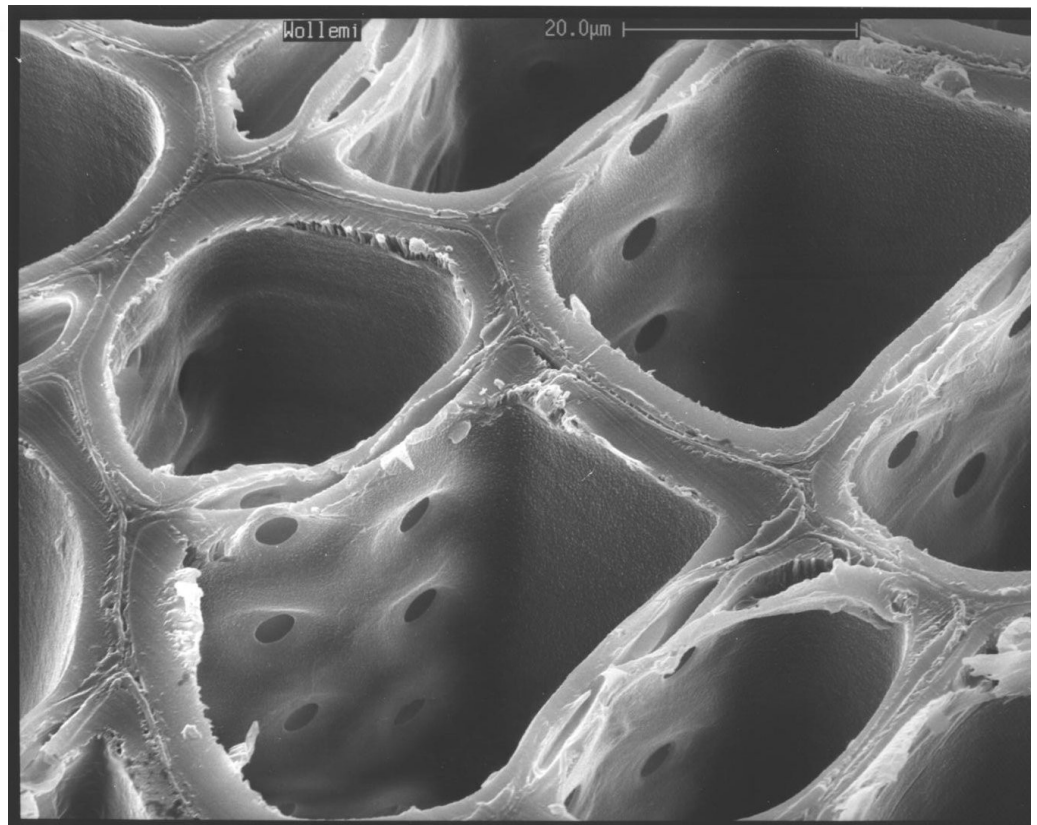
AUSTRALIAN

Forest History

SOCIETY Inc.

Newsletter No. 61
September 2013

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



The Wollemi Pine

Vale Roger Heady

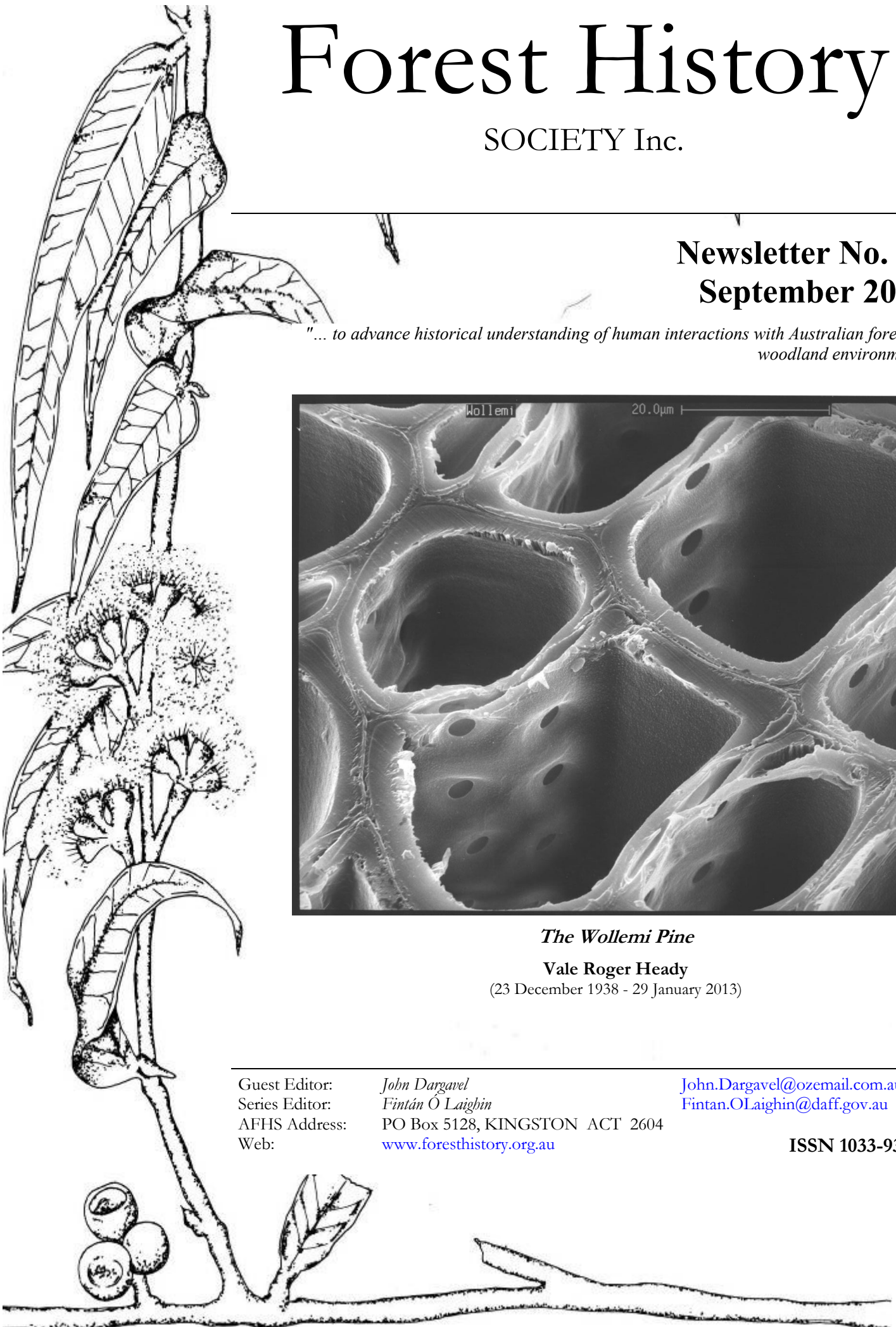
(23 December 1938 - 29 January 2013)

Guest Editor:
Series Editor:
AFHS Address:
Web:

John Dargavel
Fintán Ó Laighin
PO Box 5128, KINGSTON ACT 2604
www.foresthistory.org.au

John.Dargavel@ozemail.com.au
Fintan.OLaighin@daff.gov.au

ISSN 1033-937 X



VALE ROGER HEADY (1938-2013)

By John Dargavel

We have put this glorious picture taken by Roger Heady on the cover of this issue as our celebration of a life that brought wood science, advanced technology and an aesthetic sensibility together in a way that enriched our understanding and our delight in the natural world. Roger was a long-standing member of the society who presented his beautifully illustrated papers to our conferences in Coonabarabran (2001), Hobart (2002), Augusta (2005), Christchurch (2007) and Lismore (2010). At these, he was always accompanied by his wife, Yolanda.

Roger came to Australia as a boy when his father took up a small farm in Margaret River region of Western Australia. He trained as a technical officer the RAAF, before taking up positions with the satellite tracking stations south of Canberra and the scanning electron microscopy unit at ANU. He was rapt in what he saw there and specialised in wood and trees. This led to his 1997 PhD on the anatomy of cypress pine.

In retirement, his artistic side came to the fore in his 2010 book, *Exploring the Natural World with a Scanning Electron Microscope* that accompanied an exhibition of his photographs in the ANU School of Art. He leaves behind a nearly completed book to celebrate the trees of Canberra in the year of its centenary. Work is underway to make sure that it is published before the year ends.

Roger Heady will be missed by many forest historians around Australia and New Zealand, as I do.

A PROMISE OF DESTINY! FROM HAROLD SWAIN

The following is an excerpt from an address "Forests and Regionalism in the Clarence River Region of NSW" given by E.H.F. Swain, NSW Commissioner for Forestry in the Town Hall, Grafton on 4th August 1944 under the auspices of the Grafton Chamber of Commerce (mimeo, courtesy of Bob Allen):

"I have made no promises to you - I am not a statesman! I am not offering you easy money, nor making easy promises of quick riches. Instead I am asking you to give something. It is not much - just a new way of thinking, to realise that we have to face up to truth and honesty and thereby seek new fields of living. If thereby that change of which we have need, as demonstrated by our present sense of frustration; if we generate that new attitude, the collective result will be changed in the way we ought to go; and that way is towards the abolition of Beveridge's* Giant Evils, to the fulfilment of the ideal of full employment, to gaining not merely the four freedoms, and to finally gaining, if not for ourselves, for our children, the fulfilment of living. It is merely the question of "revolutionary" thinking; or a change of attitude, to giving instead of asking. There is a responsibility upon each of us to make that personal regional contribution to what we hope will be a new age."

* William Beveridge was a British economist and social reformer whose five Giant Evils were Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Greg Barton

My report at the 2012 Annual General Meeting focused on the big issues that the society has tackled, and the very healthy debates that have ensued. This includes, primarily, the expansion of the name and mission



of the AFHS to include environmental history and New Zealand. The first would keep forest history as a key mission of the society but add broader concerns of investigation, and the second would engage the many foresters, historians and interested participants from our closest neighbor. The discussion has been useful, because it forces us to examine our core mission and project into the future our vision for growth and change. The arguments in favour of change were persuasive to most: the need to bring in new members by broadening the appeal of the society, the need to explore the interaction between forestry and soil conservation, biodiversity, agriculture, air pollution, and climate change. The November 2012 Annual General Meeting concentrated discussion on how, with such a change in name and scope, an upcoming conference would look. We broadly and informally agreed that a theme exploring the interconnections between forestry and environmental themes would launch the society with its new name change to the "Environmental and Forest History Society of Australia and New Zealand Incorporated".

The AFHS, however, had incorporated as a legal entity (under ACT legislation) and as Kevin Frawley, our Secretary has pointed out, we did not attain the 75% vote required. The name change therefore has not happened. The question remains, where do we go from here? I have wholeheartedly supported the name change and laid out an agenda for a conference, media contacts, and other activities that would build membership to fit the mission. With the failure of this vote I think two questions face the society: 1) How can we build membership, and interest, while focusing on Australia and on forest history only? 2) How helpful is membership as an incorporated organization to a society with only 47 paid members? Do we need more flexibility to change and grow?

In the meantime, discussions are underway for another conference, and a reassessment of what that conference would look like. The society has, under present rules, decided to keep with its core mission and name. I respect that decision. It may very well be one that this decision will preserve the unique contributions of the AFHS that has already been accomplished, and keep that contribution defined and recognizable in the future.

TIMBER TRAMWAYS OF THE SOUTH COAST

By Ian Barnes and Ian Bevege

Note: This article originally appeared in the June 2013 issue of The Forester (Vol. 56 No. 2, pp25-27), a quarterly newsletter published by the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) The newsletter is available on-line at www.forestry.org.au/kefinder/upload/files/Forester%20June%2013%20web.pdf (pp25-27). While we have reproduced the text in full, the original article contains some different photographs. It is reprinted with the kind permission of the IFA. Both Ian Barnes and Ian Bevege are members of both the IFA and the AFHS.

The NSW Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia hosted a joint field weekend with the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) and the Light Rail Research Society of Australia (LRSSA) on 22-24 March at Batemans Bay. This was a field excursion with a difference; its purpose was to examine some of the archaeological remnants of two of the five known horse drawn log and timber tramways that operated variously in the mixed eucalypt forests between Batemans Bay and Bawley Point from the 1890s into the 1920s (and in one case possibly up to the early 1950s, but this has yet to be confirmed by further investigation).

The history and remains of these tramways have been under investigation and documentation over the last several years by retired foresters Ian Barnes and Ian Bevege, both of whom happen to be members of all three of the aforesaid organizations. The field day provided an opportunity to share their findings to date with some 23 fellow tramway enthusiasts and forest historians drawn from as far afield as Albury, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Eden, Maitland and Sydney. A number of participants hailed from two or even all three associations. Hence there was a strong community of interest in the subject matter and vigorous discussion ensued not only of the tramways but also of the forests in which they operated. The outing promoted cross fertilisation of experiences and ideas around this tramway theme, with valuable contacts being made that hopefully will facilitate cooperation on timber tramways research into the future.

The subject forests, for those unfamiliar with the south coast of NSW, comprise well developed mixed eucalypt forests in what have historically been the Brooman, Kioloa and Benandarah State Forests immediately to the north of Batemans Bay and extending almost to Ulladulla. Parts of these State Forests have been converted to National Park tenure within the last 10 years or so, after many decades of forest management by the then NSW Forestry Commission and State Forests NSW. The forests are dominated by spotted gum, blackbutt, Sydney blue gum and turpentine (the latter restricted to the northern sector) along with lesser representation of grey and red ironbark, white and yellow stringybark, red mahogany and Sydney peppermint.

These forests provided the resource catchment for several mills, which in turn were served by horse drawn tramways constructed and operated by the mills to transport logs from forest to mill and sawn timber from mill to loading

points for the coastal steamers of the Illawarra & South Coast Steam Navigation Company (the old Pig & Whistle Line) at Pebbly Beach, Bawley Point, Kioloa and Cullendulla. At this time there was no coast road south of the Shoalhaven so sea transport was the mode apart from packhorse. The mills of most significance in the context of these tramways were Guy's then Ellis's at Bawley Point (1891-1922); Goodlet & Smith then Hepburn Mackenzie at Kioloa (1884-1926); McMillan's at Durras Lake; Ryan's at Cullendulla (1907) and then Durras Lake (1922-1950s). The Cockwhy log tramway served Guy's Bawley Point Mill, the Kioloa log tramway Mackenzie's Kioloa mill and the Cullendulla timber tramway hauled sawn timber from Ryan's Durras Lake mill to the Cullendulla Creek terminus where barges were loaded for transit across the Clyde estuary to Batemans Bay for loading on to steamers en route for Sydney. At this point the chronology of building and use of the Cullendulla tramway, and mode of log haulage to the Durras Lake and Cullendulla mills of Michael Ryan are subject to further investigation.

Following an icebreaker on Friday night, the field day on Saturday was blessed with perfect autumn weather. Points of interest were inspected on the Cockwhy and Cullendulla tramways. Participants were provided with comprehensive notes prepared by the two Ians and maps based on the earlier field surveys. The ground locations of these tramways, which have been traced for many kilometres with GPS, have been accurately transferred to NSW Department of Lands 1:25000 cadastral/topomaps via digital GPS conversion and plotting routines. Grateful acknowledgement is made to Ken Boer, forester Batemans Bay, for his expert assistance in this regard.

The morning started with inspection of the remains of one of the timber bridges spanning Cockwhy Creek followed by a walk along the tramline formation to examine the "zigzag" which was built to overcome the break of slope where the Cockwhy tramway climbed out of Stephens Creek onto the saddle leading to the fall into Termeil. Such zigzags are very rare on timber tramways and this is the only one known on the south coast. The tramway at this location still has the remains of wooden rails in situ together with the handmade eight inch (20cm) nails crafted by the mill's blacksmiths for fixing rails to the half round timber sleepers.

A well-earned lunch, excellently catered for under the care of Josh Driscoll, was partaken at "Old Blotchy" the largest known extant spotted gum in these forests and arguably in NSW, with a girth of 10.76m and height 59m. This tree, now in Murrumbidgee National Park, is in a small preserve originally set aside by the Forestry Commission when the area was Kioloa State Forest; this area, which contained first class milling timber of spotted gum, turpentine, Sydney blue gum and grey ironbark, was by passed by the early cutters even though the tramway passed less than 500m away. One can only speculate as to their motivation for doing so apart from the obvious aesthetic quality of the forest at this point.

Post-lunch inspections were made of the Cullendulla tramway based on Benandarah State Forest. Much of this

tramway in its southern section is now under the Princes Highway – the road surveyors evidently deciding those old timbermen knew a thing or two when it came to picking the best grade lines. Highlights were the box cut where the tramway surmounted the ridge between Benandarah and Cullendulla Creeks (a monumental piece of work when it is recalled that this was probably constructed with hand tools and horse scoops), and the terminus in the mangroves on the banks of Cullendulla Creek where timber was transferred from the tramway to barges.

Saturday night was the occasion for an informal four-course scrumptious dinner at The Coachhouse, accompanied by a display prepared by Ian Barnes of model tramway and railway timber wagons and steam locomotives, timber industry history books. He also showed some historic black and white movies featuring timber tramways. A quick quiz of questions over a wide range of subjects from Ken Boer had many stumped and a winner (or "least loser") earned a well-deserved prize.

Sunday saw some further swapping of notes with LRRSA member Ian McNeil who is noted for his excellent and detailed work reconstructing the Langley brothers' Langley Vale horse drawn timber tramways in Lansdowne State Forest near Coopernook and published in the journal *Light Rail* in 2012; these tramways (1897-1933) were contemporaneous with the tramways on the south coast subject of this note.



End of the line - the unloading area at Cullendulla Creek (top),
and the remains of a wheel found in the mud (bottom).
(Photographs: Fintán Ó Laighin)

FOREST HUMANITIES CONTACT AND DISCUSSION LIST

Amy Cutler, a PhD candidate at Royal Holloway, University of London, has started a contact and discussion list for forest research in the humanities. Charles Watkins observes, in *European Woods and Forests: Studies in Cultural History* (1998), that "the complexity of forest history has been disguised" by its treatment within particular definitions and disciplines, and that broader work is needed on the cultural meanings of woods and forests. Sylvie Nail, in *Forest Policies and Social Change in England* (2008), observes that the rise of new academic disciplines such as landscape ecology and environmental psychology has added to the copious discourse around forests. This includes analysis of history, politics, aesthetics, cultural meanings, and social and economic power structures: "more often than not, however, such aspects are dealt with in isolation, cut off from one another".

The list is for sharing announcements of events, publications, and ongoing research in the culture of trees and forests. It brings together academics and researchers from different institutions and fields, including environmental history, anthropology, art history, law, literature, and geography. It aims to provide a communication network for the large breadth of research in forest humanities, history, politics, and culture.

For more information, see

<http://amycutler.wordpress.com/2013/02/15/forest-humanities-jiscmail>. To join the mailing list, FOREST-HUMANITIES@JISCMAIL.AC.UK.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Central Coast NSW - Walker Bros Sawmills: Pamela Williams is after information on the Walker family sawmills for a family history. She is looking for records to help determine the exact locations of the sawmills, dates of licences issued at Ourimbah, Mangrove Creek and Gosford, including details of where the Gosford mill gathered its timber from May 1939. She knows that the Ourimbah mill was bought from Mr Thomas C. White in 1933. The mill was as at the end of Ourimbah Creek Road, Palm Grove, and the Mangrove Creek mill was in the McPherson State Forest. Pamela can be contacted at brianpamw@optusnet.com.au.

South East Queensland - Timber and Sawmills in the Allora and Goomburra / Cunningham Range Forest Area: The President of the Allora and District Historical Society, Allan Darr, is looking for information about timber and sawmills in the Allora and Goomburra / Cunningham Range Forest area in the late 1800s. The society is putting together a Display and Demonstration Day with the focus on timber and sawmills in the area. Allan mentioned that he had seen a book on forests and timber in south east Queensland and northern NSW. It told the story about these mills and who owned them and where they were situated. Allan can be contacted at darr40@bigpond.com. The society's website is at www.allora-and-district-historical-society-inc.com.



WHO WERE THE WOOD COLLECTORS?

In 1928 a remarkable endeavour was started to collect wood specimens of Australian trees to build up national xylaria. The largest is now held by CSIRO and the second largest, started by the Forestry and Timber Bureau, is now held at ANU. According to an old card index, some specimens were sent in by forest departments, CSIRO, and special collectors such as R.A. (Dick) Perry in the 1950s, but in the early years many were sent in by individuals? Who were they? Some were identified as "For" which presumably stands for "Forester". Can anyone identify them? I would be most grateful for any help. Please contact John Dargavel, 20 Laidley Place, Florey ACT 2615. (02) 6258 9102.

John.Dargavel@ozemail.com.au.

No.	Family	Name	Address and Date	Origin	Our Number	No. of Bottle
1		<i>E. longifolia</i>	B. Moore Wyong 1/19	ST-291 NSW	1	
2		"	K.P. & R. 1/19	Mallacoota	208	
3		"	B. Piggott 1/19	Eden	NSW 601	
4		"	"	Merimbula	NSW 602	
5		"	"	First Creek / near Eden	NSW 603	
6		"	19.7.1911	near Eden	NSW 1310	
7		"	1/19	Eden	NSW 1311	
8		"	6.8.1911	Eden	NSW 1312	

Example of index card for *Eucalyptus longifolia*

New South Wales

F.M. Bailey	Queendike
A.H./For Bowden	Braidwood, Talaganda
For/M. Boyd	Tumbarumba, S. Coast
Gordon Bummer	Narrabri
P.J. Cooke	Taree
H.E. Crumpton	Glen Innes
B. Farrell	Laurel Hill
For Freeman	Armidale
For Hadley	Candoblin
B./Ben Harris	Barradine
For Hay	Gilgandra
J. Brett & Son	Kuvarak/Kiwarak
N. Jolly (Commissioner)	Mt Farm, S of Bombala
W. Lindsay	Oberon
C./C.O. Love	Nambucca, Kempsey
For Cdt/For Q.R. Luther	Jenolan, Bathurst, etc
A.E. Mattyson	Harry Rock
L.I. McCormick	Biddapaloola
P.J. McCormick	Carabost, Talbingo, Tumut, etc.
J. McDonald	Myrtle
For McIvor	Nr Tuncurry
F.G./F.J. McPherson	Taree
J. McSkimming	Dorrigo, Briggavale
D. Moir	Wyong
B. Moore	Wyong
B. Piggott	den
G.E. Rummery	Casino
W.T. Rummery	Whin Whin
A.H. Rutley	Baradine
A.W.C. Smith	Tenterfield
N. Stewart	Glen Innes
H.W. Stirling	Warradarry
R. Vickery	Mt Toppers
F. Wilson	Wabagan
G.A. Withers	Gilgandra, Bidean, Eura

Queensland

E. Regan
B. Farrell
J./T. Ryley
L. Pryor (AFS/F&TB)

Mt Mee, Monto
Imbil, Brakala
Beerwah
Gympie

South Australia

P.L./P.J. Cooke
For Durward
C. Kay
For Ormond

Mt Loft, Koonamore
Wirrabara
Penola
Wirrabara/Kuitpo

Tasmania

J.M. Gilbert
A. Helms
E. Johnston
F.J. Malhinma
F.S. McKimmins
S. Steane (Conservator)
A.S. Thomas
J. Thomas

Hampshire Plains

Victoria

A. Anderson
For T.W. Bailey
F. Bailey
J.H. Barling
A.L. Benallock
L. Bertram
F.H. Brown
J.B. Cann
C.E. Casey
R. Cromb
E. Cummington
For C.W. Elsey
J. Firth
F.G./H.G. Gerraty
A. Grainger
J.M. Haig
T. Hayden/Haydew
T. Heskin
W. Hevey
J. Higgins
W.J. Hill
F.S. Incoll
R. Ingle
D.F.O. Kerr
T. Maguire
W.H. McMahon
K. McRae
O'Donaghue
J.S. Patterson
C.H. Pavey
W./H.J. Perry
A.S. Rankin
R. Seaton
W. Simmons
P.R. Sims
R.L. Staton
W.H. Trainor
A.C. Ure
Wardle
W.J. Warren
J. Watson
F.G. White
C.V. Wylie
A.J. Young
W.J. Zimmer

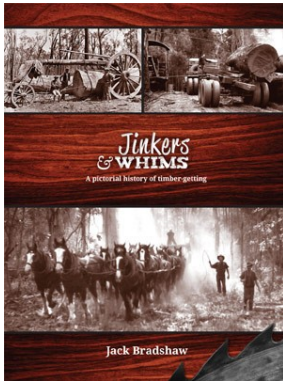
You Yangs
Beaufort
Styx R
Korumburra
Neerim S
Rushworth
St Arnaud
Wail
Mt Donna Buang
Tarragalla
Briagalong
Milgrove
Colquhoun
Niagaroon, Rubicon
Neerim
Bruthen
Yarram
Dunolly
Scarsdale
Trentham
Stawell
Macedon, Croajingalong
Chiltern
Bruthen
Forrest, Wye R.
Nowa Nowa
Mallacoota
Beenak, Narre Warren
Melb
Bright
Tallangatta
Heathcote
Gunbower
Bright
Orbost
Bendigo
Bealba, Briagalong
Erica, Watson Ck, Otway
Ballarat
Barmah
Maryborough
Cohuna
Delatite
Beechworth
Beech Forest, Mildura

Western Australia

For Sharp

Coolgardie/Kalgoorlie

BOOK REVIEW



Jack Bradshaw 2012. *Jinkers & Whims: A Pictorial History of Timber-Getting*. Fremantle, Vivid Publishing. ISBN 9781922022806 (hardback). 110 pp, A4. \$34.90 + \$10 shipping and handling.
www.vividpublishing.com.au/jinkersandwhims.

Reviewed by John Dargavel

What makes a good forest history book, one that we

want to read? First, it has to have substance. There has to be solid research; we don't have time or interest for flim-flam. But diligent research is not enough, there has to be enthusiasm for the topic to carry us along. Usually it is implicit; rarely is it explicit, but it is the spark that lights our interest. Third and closely related to the second, is insight; something that is drawn out of the research and stimulates our minds to understand something we had not realised before. Fourth, it has to be well presented. We have to trudge through unattractive books at times, but good design, clear layout and illustrations make us *want* to read a good book and help us enjoy it. To extend Lynne Truss's comment about punctuation, editing and design are the courtesies that the author and publisher pay to the reader, and I am sufficiently ancient to prefer to sit in my armchair with a pleasant book in my hand, rather than read it on a Kindle in jet plane. The importance of these various factors varies between genres, and I will return to this later.

Jack Bradshaw's *Jinkers and Whims* is a good forest history book on all counts. When you open it, you *want* to read it. The first thing you see is the picture of a man with a large circular saw blade; it is of Bradshaw's great-grandfather, John Hughan (1830-1908), a Scottish sawyer bound for Victoria when he was shipwrecked near where we held our forest history conference in Augusta. He survived, continued his journey, but returned to Western Australia in the 1870s to set up the first saws in Jarrahdale. Many of his descendants worked in the timber industry and Jack Bradshaw became a forester. Having grown up in Western Australian timber towns in the 1940s and 1950s, he knows the sounds, the smells, the daily rhythm of the industry from its days of steam and horses and bullocks and large workforces; he knows its busyness and its business. He brings the sort of intimacy that Edward and Jean Trautman brought to their *Jinkers and Jarrah Jerkers* (Fremantle: Gannet Press, 1980). The context of the Western Australian industry has to be born in mind: its mills were larger than elsewhere in Australia, and being isolated, developed larger, self-sufficient company villages. Bradshaw notes that of the over one hundred distinct mill communities that once existed, there is only one left today. He has seen a great transition in the native forest industry during the course of his life. As he writes in his concluding sentence: "the skill and innovation of the engineers, tradesmen and bushmen of an earlier era who

contributed so much to the development of Western Australia should not be forgotten". Bradshaw's enthusiasm to understand and celebrate it provides the spark that lights the reader's interest.

The core of the book is organised in two parts: the era of horse power and steam, and era of WWII and after. There are also short sections on early settlement, the advent of sawmills, handling logs in the mills, and a concluding rueful page. The strength of the book is in its core, organised by twenty-one operational processes and equipment. There isn't space in a review to deal with all of them, but I have selected three for mention here.

First is the four-wheeled arch or log-carriage. Although pictures and descriptions of "whims" - arches with two giant spoked wheels that were used to carry large logs through the bush - are emblematic of WA forest history and Bradshaw describes with them thoroughly, it was his inclusion of their predecessor that caught my attention. He gives the four-wheeler just one page with two paragraphs and a single photograph, yet he shows how they were constructed, how fifteen-tonne logs were raised, and then hauled through the bush by four horses. He includes a chronology of their use in WA, roughly the 1870s to the 1910s and notes their earlier use in Scotland. To the reader, his account appears so simple, yet it could only have been written by someone who had not just done the research, but who could understand such processes intimately: it is masterful.

Second is the steam hauler. Steam haulers provided a means of replacing whims and teams of animals bringing logs from the stump to the timber tramways that were being extended through the forests. They consisted of a steam engine that drove a winch, all mounted on a railway truck and were used from the 1910s to the 1940s. It was probably the easier terrain and larger enterprises in WA that made so many railway-mounted machines possible in that state. As in other states, there were steam-driven winches used for loading logs onto rail trucks. Were railway-mounted haulers used in other states? Were the chronologies of use similar or different? Like any good researcher, Bradshaw stimulates us to think of new questions and approaches in forest history. For example, with substantial studies also published in Victoria and some other states, the possibilities for comparative studies are opened up.

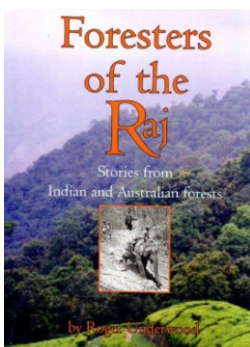
Third is the process of loading logs in the forest on to road trucks in the post WWII era. Bradshaw's focus is primarily on loading large logs in the native forests and he discusses doing so with diesel winches, with bulldozers on conventional landings, and using excavators fitted with a grapple, rather than a bucket. He also discusses forwarders and rubber-tyred loaders of more recent times. He mentions that forwarders were used to thin karri forests where "the trees are not too large". This is a more important issue than Bradshaw covers, or perhaps could cover in a book of this length. The trees being cut in today's forests are smaller than those in the past. How much smaller? That is another question we are stimulated to ask.

I suggest that in future work, it might be useful to split the post-WWII era into two periods: the first concerned with harvesting large trees in the native forests, the second with harvesting smaller trees from regrowth in the native forests and from plantations. The distinction could capture the changes in the structure of the industry and the end of the localism and individualism that had characterised the old timber industry. Today's automated, computerised and imported harvesting machines are far removed from equipment made in the local blacksmith's shop, and the men and women operating them have different skills from those of their ancestors.

Jinkers and Whims is a pictorial history in a genre where pictures tell much of the story. Their quality and reproduction are critical to the success of the book. Vivid Publishing, an imprint of Fontaine Press in Fremantle, has laid out the book and presented the available photographs attractively. Their quality varies. Many of the surviving images of forest topics taken in the nineteenth and early twentieth century were taken by professional photographers for large companies or government agencies. Many are of a high quality and some with a high impact. By contrast, many of the images of logging operations in the second half of the book are less crisp and have less impact. As an aside, the outstanding photographs of forests that we see now celebrate their natural beauty, but not people. The book is nicely balanced as the images and Bradshaw's text complement each other. In all, it is a good book, done well.

Finally, I encourage everyone to look at the web site (URL above). It leads to a video on YouTube that shows felling, sleeper cutting and hauling logs with a horse-drawn whim in the 1920s and 1930s.

BOOK NOTICES

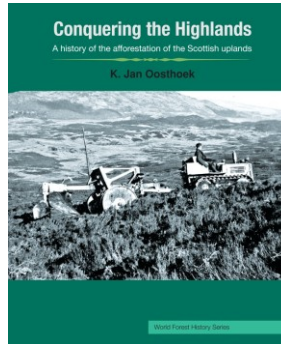


Roger Underwood 2013. *Foresters of the Raj: Stories from Indian and Australian Forests*. Palmyra, White Horse Press. ISBN 9780646595054 (paperback). \$40 + \$10 postage.

yorkgum@westnet.com.au.

In this book Roger Underwood considers 19th century India, the cradle of the forest conservation policies and

management practices that were later adopted in Australia and many other countries. It has portraits of the heroes of international forestry such as Dietrich Brandis and William Schlich, and their protégés: the fathers of Australian forestry including Norman Jolly and Charles Lane-Poole. It allows the first Indian foresters to recount their own stories and adventures, as they grappled with the challenges of conserving and protecting India's forests and wildlife, establishing plantations, and unravelling the mysteries of unusual tree species such as teak and sandalwood. As they did so they had to survive man-eating tigers, bushfires, rogue elephants, a harsh climate and the diverse and fascinating Indian people.



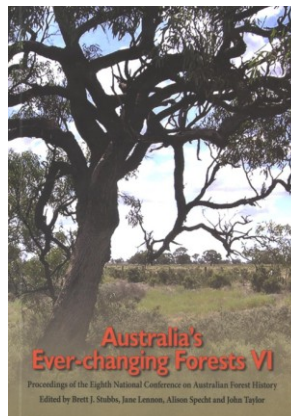
K. Jan Oosthoek 2013.

Conquering the Highlands: A history of the afforestation of the Scottish uplands. Canberra, ANU E Press. ISBN 9781922144782 (paperback) / ISBN 9781922144799 (online). 191pp. \$24.95 (GST inclusive) or free download from epress.anu.edu.au?p=223441.

Deforestation of Scotland began millennia ago and by the early 20th century woodland cover was down to about 6 per cent of the total land area. A century later woodland cover had tripled. Most of the newly established forestry plantations were created on elevated land with wet peaty soils and high wind exposure, not exactly the condition in which forests naturally thrive. Jan Oosthoek tells in this book the story of how 20th century foresters devised ways to successfully reforest the poor Scottish uplands, land that was regarded as unplatable, to fulfil the mandate they had received from the government and wider society to create a timber reserve. He raises the question whether the adopted forestry practice was the only viable means to create forests in the Scottish Highlands by examining debates within the forestry community about the appearance of the forests and their long term ecological prospects. Finally, the book argues that the long held ecological convictions among foresters and pressure from environmentalists came together in the late 20th century to create more environmentally sensitive forestry.

Conquering the Highlands is the first volume to appear in the planned new book series World Environmental History being edited by AFHS President Greg Barton in the ANU Centre for Environmental History. They are all to be published by ANU E Press and can either be read on-line for free or purchased.

AFHS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

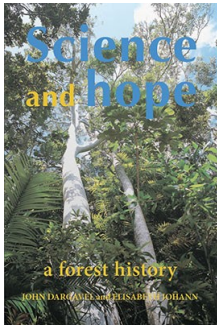


Brett J. Stubbs, Jane Lennon, Alison Specht and John Taylor (eds) 2012. *Australia's Ever-changing Forests VI: Proceedings of the Eighth National Conference on Australian Forest History*. Lismore, Australian Forest History Society. ISBN 9780975790625 (paperback). 376pp.

www.foresthistory.org.au/conferences.html.

Copies have been sent to all people who went to our 2010 conference in Lismore. It is available for download from the AFHS website.

Note: We hope to publish a review of this book in the next issue.



John Dargavel and Elisabeth Johann 2013. *Science and Hope: A Forest History*. Cambridge, White Horse Press. ISBN 978187426737 (hardback). 200pp. £57 / \$77 / €62. www.whpress.co.uk/Dargavel.html.

This book tells the story of the hopeful science and trusting art of forestry. It is a story about the hopes of foresters and other

scientists to understand the forests more deeply, and about their unspoken trust that their knowledge could ensure an enduring sylvan future. Much has been written on the origins and development of modern forestry in various countries, and on the people and institutions involved, but there is little in the forest history literature that explains what the science actually is. Forest knowledge has an ancient history documented since classical times and applied within the intricate social and legal systems of medieval Europe. This volume is concerned with the modern form of forest science, founded in Europe early in the nineteenth century, when regimes for managing the forests that could be traced to the ancient world and had flourished in the Middle Ages were disrupted. New ways had to be found.

Foresters have tried to know their forests scientifically for over three centuries and have hoped to apply their knowledge to good effect, even though they could not live to see the futures they envisioned. How far did their scientific understanding enable a sylvan future? What, over the three centuries discussed in this book, were their successes and failures? And now what might the future hold for forest science and its application?

This is no tale of triumph: the outlook for the world's forests is too bleak for that. While many forests are flourishing, the climate is changing, tropical forests are disappearing, others are degrading, species are being lost, governments dither, international conferences fail. This is another, longer story - one of inquiry, of science and persistent endeavour to find a better future for the forests.

Note: The above description is taken from the publisher's website, and was inserted by the newsletter's series editor, and not John Dargavel. We hope to publish a review of this book in the next issue.

NEXT ISSUE

It's been a while since our last issue, but we're hoping to get the next one out much quicker and meet our target of three newsletters a year. (Noting that it was the series editor, not the guest editor, who is to blame for the delay in the current issue.) Contributions can be e-mailed to Fintán Ó Laighin at Fintan.OLaighin@daff.gov.au.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Changing Landscapes, Changing People: Australia's Southern Mallee Lands, 1830-2012

Katie Holmes from La Trobe University and Andrea Gaynor from the University of Western Australia are leading this ARC-funded project to explore the complex relationships between people and land in the mallee lands of southern Australia, from 1830 to the present. It stretches over an ecologically defined area and across generations and will study how people adapt relations to climates and lands. At the time of writing, the project is in the process of recruiting two PhD students. We can look back to Libby Robin's work on the Victorian mallee and look forward to hearing how this project is developing.

Fire History in the Kruger National Park

Australian environmental and forest historians range far and wide, from the Tom Griffiths in the Antarctic to Greg Barton and Brett Bennett in South Africa's Kruger National Park. They are working with our AFHS friend and colleague, Jane Carruthers, recently retired from the University of South Africa, on a fire history of the park. We hope that they can induce Jane to visit Australia again and we look forward to such collaborative studies in fire history.

Membership of the Australian Forest History

Society (AFHS) Inc is \$25 a year, or \$15 a year for students and for overseas addresses 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 made payable to:

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

Electronic Funds Transfer can be paid into:

Commonwealth Savings Bank
BSB 062-911, Account No.: 1010 1753

(Please also return this form if you pay by EFT.)

Name & Address	
E-mail	
	Please mark the box if you would like a receipt - otherwise an acknowledgment will be sent by e-mail.