

Australian Forest History Society

Newsletter No. 69
September 2016

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



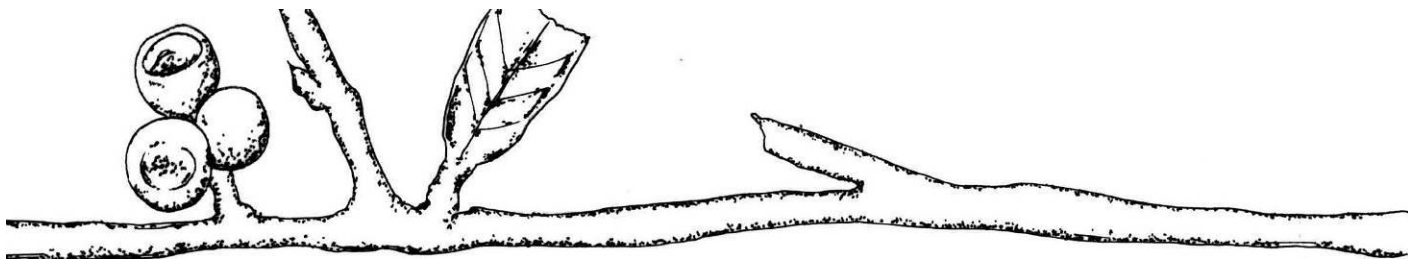
Centenary of Tasmanian
National Parks, 1916-2016

See pp4-5.

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) Inc is A\$25 a year for Australian and New Zealand addressees or A\$15 a year for students. For other overseas addressees, it is A\$30.

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

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 or send an e-mail to the Treasurer advising that you have joined/ renewed - Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au.

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NEXT ISSUE

The newsletter is published three times a year, in April, August * and December.

Input is always welcome.

Contributions can be sent to
Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au.

* This issue is a bit late - apologies.

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australian Forest History Society Inc will be held in Canberra on **Friday 25th November 2016**, starting at 5:30PM. The meeting will be held in Room 2 of the Forestry Building, Linnaeus Way, Australian National University.

The meeting agenda is below and will be included in the meeting papers provided to members, along with proxy voting and committee nomination forms. If you don't receive your copies and would like them, please send an e-mail to Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October 2015
3. Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda
4. President's report
5. Audited financial report for the year to 30th June 2016 (Treasurer)
6. Set amount of annual subscription
7. Election of Office Bearers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) and up to five Committee Members
8. Nomination of Public Officer (who may be an Office Bearer or Committee Member)
9. Appointment of Auditor for 2016-17 (who may not be an Office Bearer or Committee Member)
10. Any other business for which notice has been given:
 - (a) Newsletter production 2016-17
 - (b) Society website
 - (c) 2015 conference
 - (d) Society projects

Notes

1. The present committee consists of President (Sue Feary); Vice-President (Jane Lennon); Secretary (Kevin Frawley); Treasurer (Fintán Ó Laighin); Committee (Leith Davis, Peter Evans, Robert Onfray and Rob Robinson).

Nominations for committee positions are called for. For members unable to attend the AGM, a nomination form is available from

Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au. *

2. The Public Officer is Juliana Lazzari.
3. Members unable to attend the AGM may appoint a proxy (for a copy of the form, contact Fintan.OLaighin@agriculture.gov.au). *

* Forms and meeting papers will be sent to members.



AFHS FIELD TRIP TO THE HAWKE'S BAY REGION OF NEW ZEALAND 2017 - SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The April 2016 issue of the AFHS newsletter sought initial expressions of interest in a 7-day field trip around Hawke's Bay in September/October 2017 to be hosted by Ewan McGregor and Sue Feary.

That newsletter contained more information on what the field trip is likely to include, but to recap the main points:

- ✦ The itinerary will include farm forestry, historic homestead gardens, botanic gardens, a visit to the PanPac pulp mill and associated radiata pine forestry, several arboretums, as well as the famous Art Deco Napier (www.artdeconapier.com).
- ✦ Five to seven days based in the Hawke's Bay region, including travel to and from Auckland and visiting places such as Lake Taupo on the way.
- ✦ We would hire a self-drive minibus, with a maximum of twelve passengers including the driver, with some members sharing the driving.
- ✦ Accommodation around 3-star, in ensuite cabins in caravan parks, at several different (fabulous) locations.



✦ Mix of self-catering and combined dinners and/or lunches. We would probably have a "kitty" for shared food, such as picnic lunches while out in the field.

✦ The cost will be around \$1000-\$1200 for bus hire and accommodation (share), excluding airfares and any activities with a fee (such as visiting a museum or going on a commercial tour, etc).

✦ If there are many more than twelve seriously interested, we could get a larger bus with a driver, or two smaller self-drive buses; each would add to the cost but not that much.

Partners are welcome, but society members will have first priority. However, if we end up with two 12-seater buses, there should be plenty of room for all.

As we will commence planning for this fairly soon, we need to have some indication of likely numbers. If you are interested please contact Sue Feary on (02) 4441 5996 or 0428 342 758 or suefeary@hotmail.net.au without delay.

The excerpt below describes one of Ewan McGregor's many land restoration projects in New Zealand.
For more information see www.overthefence.org.nz.

"Project Ti Kouka" is aimed at rejuvenating the iconic cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), but most especially at ensuring that it remains a characteristic feature over open farmland and around wetlands across the New Zealand landscape. Cabbage trees over New Zealand's rural landscapes are usually well over a hundred years old as they initially survived the fires of early graziers and subsequent grazing has prevented the establishment of new trees. Today those old survivors are increasingly showing the effects of age through decline and death.

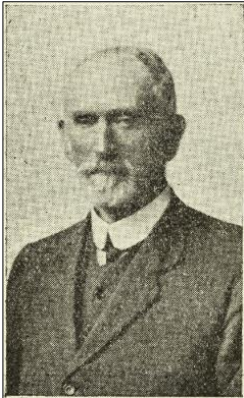


CENTENARY OF TASMANIA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARKS

By Fintán Ó Laighin

This year marks the centenary of Tasmania's first two national parks, Mount Field and Freycinet, which were reserved for the first time on 29th August 1916.

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service has set up a centenary page at www.parks.tas.gov.au/centenary. It includes a link to a timeline that starts in 1863 with the "First Tasmanian land set aside for scenic purposes under the *Wastelands Act*".



The page has links to "Mount Field Tales" and "Freycinet Tales"; of the two, the Mount Field page is more extensive, with a number of short articles, including one on William Crooke (pictured), conservationist and school teacher, described as the "Father of Mount Field National Park".

The article reports that he "formed the National Parks

Association in 1912" and that he "was a founding member of the National Park Board in 1917 but tourism was only part of his dream for Mount Field. His passion was more focussed on preservation: to enable future Tasmanians to see what primeval Tasmania was like, conserving native flora and fauna, and providing a recreation area for the people of Tasmania."

An obelisk has been erected at Mount Field National Park stating that it is "In memory of William Crooke, 1846-1920, mainly through whose efforts this park was reserved for the people of Tasmania."

Other "Mount Field Tales" include one on the formal opening of the park on 17th October 1917, one on park nomenclature, a visit by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1960 and one on the Marriott family who opened Russell Falls House in 1910 to cater for the increasing number of tourists.

The selection of "Freycinet Tales" is much shorter, but includes an interesting one on the field naturalists' club camps of the early 1900s and one on Freycinet nomenclature.



I should also mention two papers presented at our fifth national conference in Hobart in February 2002 that pertain to Tasmania's national park history:

- * Debbie Quarmby, "Old forests and Tasmania's early national parks movement"; and
- * Kevin Kiernan, "Conservation, timber and perceived values at Mt Field, Tasmania".

Proceedings of all AFHS conference are available from www.foresthistory.org.au/conferences.html.

Not Just Tasmania

It's not just national parks in Tasmania that are marking an anniversary - 2016 also marks the centennial of the National Park Service in the USA (www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial) and the ninetieth anniversary of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.



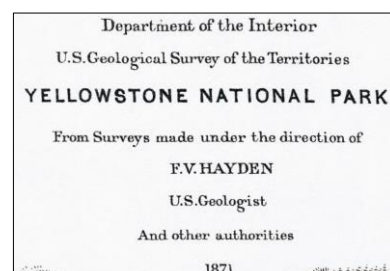
THE IDEA OF "NATIONAL PARK"

By Fintán Ó Laighin

There has been a debate over the years about which was the world's first national park. The usual contenders are Yellowstone National Park in the USA (proclaimed in March 1872) and the Royal National Park in Sydney (proclaimed in April 1879).

The debate in part stems from the fact that despite being a few years older, the Act that established Yellowstone did not designate it as a national park but rather as "a public park or pleasuring ground". While the Act is known as the "Yellowstone National Park Protection Act" this was not its formal title. Instead, it was called "An Act to set apart a certain tract of land lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River as a public park". Nonetheless, before passing the Bill, the US Congress considered a report from the Committee on the Public Lands which recommended the area be set "apart as a great national park or pleasure-ground".

The designation "Yellowstone National Park" was certainly in use before the park was declared. An 1871 map prepared by the US Geological Survey of the Territories, for example, refers to "Yellowstone National Park":



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yellowstone_1871b.jpg

In addition, a letter of 10th May 1872 sent by the Acting US Secretary of the Interior, BR Cowan, to Nathaniel Pitt Langford appointing him as Yellowstone's first superintendent, specifically states that the "reservation so set apart is to be known as the 'Yellowstone National Park' ". A copy of this letter is contained in the superintendent's 1872 annual report which was presented to Congress in February 1873 (<https://archive.org/stream/annualreports18721880#page/2/mode/2up>, p8). As an aside, Langford acquired the nickname "National Park" because of the initials "NP" in his name.

There is a useful and interesting repository of documents relating to the history of Yellowstone at www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/yellowstone.html.

The first park to formally be designated "national park" upon establishment was not the Royal, but was Mackinac National Park in the US State of Michigan. The Bill to establish the park was introduced in January 1873 by Michigan Senator Thomas Ferry who was from Mackinac Island. The Bill was signed into law in March 1875 by President Ulysses S. Grant.

A BILL

To set apart a certain portion of the island of Mackinac, in the Straits of Mackinac, within the State of Michigan, as a national park.

Source: *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875*, www.memory.loc.gov/ll/sb/042/3800/38810000.tif.

Mackinac continued under this name until 1895 when responsibility was transferred to the Government of Michigan and it was renamed Mackinac Island State Park, the name by which it is still known.

In 1931, the US National Park Service established a "Park History Program" to preserve and protect America's cultural and natural resources by conducting research on national parks, national historic landmarks, park planning and special history studies, oral histories, and interpretive and management plans. It also helps evaluate proposals for new national parks. Information on the program is available at www.nps.gov/parkhistory.

In 2009, the US Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) screened a 6-part/12-hour series called "The National Parks: America's Best Idea". The series aired in Australia on SBS although was divided into 12 one-hour parts. The PBS website on the series - www.pbs.org/nationalparks - contains an extensive range of articles, photographs and videos, including the full series plus excerpts and deleted scenes.



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES 130 YEARS

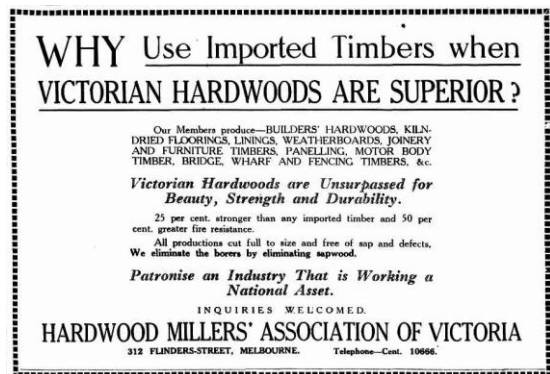
By Fintán Ó Laighin



The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) is celebrating 130 years of industry representation this year. While VAFI was formed in 1989, it traces its origins to 1886 when the Hardwood Millers' Association of Victoria was formed at a meeting

held at the Orient Hotel in Melbourne. Along the way, it became (or possibly merged with) the Sawmillers Association, the Victorian Sawmillers Association (1945), and finally VAFI.

VAFI has developed a commemorative logo that it is using on all its material throughout 2016. As noted in its media release of April 2016 (www.vafi.org.au/130-years-strong), this branding incorporates VAFI's many faces.



Source: *The Age* (Melbourne), 13th Sep 1929, "Special Industrial Supplement" p7 (courtesy Trove, www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/18956108).

The Noel Butlin Archives at the Australian National University in Canberra holds some records of the Victorian Sawmillers Association and the Hardwood Millers' Association in its collection - see <http://archivescollection.anu.edu.au/index.php/victorian-sawmillers-association-deposit>. The holdings include minute books, rules and constitution, subject files, papers relating to Tariff Board inquiries (timber), reports, conference papers, financial records and publications.

The Australian Trade Union Archive (ATUA) at www.atua.org.au/bib/Lpub00108.htm also has information on Australian timber employer groups, both national and state, including the Victorian Sawmillers Association and VAFI. Its records on the Victorian Sawmillers Association start in 1957 which is when it became a party to the award.

The ATUA website has a chart of "Federally Registered Employers & Employer Associations" covering "Forestry & Services" at www.atua.org.au/ptta/052.html. The chart is taken from a 1994 book edited by Raj Jadeja, published by the Noel Butlin Archives, titled *Parties to the Award: A Guide to the pedigrees and archival resources of Federally registered trade unions, employer associations and their peak councils in Australia 1904-1994*.

FORESTRY SURVEY CAMPS

By Ian Bevege and Fintán Ó Laighin

The April 2016 issue of the AFHS newsletter included Margaret Kowald's review of a recent book edited by Peter Holzworth, *The Voice of Women of Forestry: their stories*, focussing on forestry in Queensland. She wrote that:

"With no thought to their own careers (women were forced to resign on marriage), some began their married life in tents in survey camps with their newly graduated (from ANU) forester husbands. They describe the challenges of raising children in very basic accommodation. Yet they recall fondly the "forestry family" in those bush towns, and of the camaraderie that was difficult to replicate when husbands were transferred to head office in Brisbane."

This elicited a response from Ian Bevege who sent me a photo of him and his then wife, Carole Bristow, in one of the camp houses (or "married rig" he calls it), taken in 1962 in Kullogum State Forest, between Maryborough and Childers. He said that:

"We lived in comparative luxury here for nearly 12 months - wood floor and tin roof, kero fridge, tilly lights, galley stove, bucket shower, a Furphy for water supply and a proper thunderbox toilet; even had a cat and a garden, what more could one want?"



I asked Ian a few questions about this, including about the cat on the lawn under the gate, what they grew in the garden, the size of the camps given the no. 38 on the gate post, and if he knew how much work had been done on their history.

In response, Ian wrote that he and Carole were married in December 1961, straight after he finished at the Australian Forestry School (AFS). He continues:

We set up the survey camp on the Kullogum Forest Station, about 15 km south of Childers, in February 1962. The timber frame for the rig was already there from a previous camp but we had to hose it out with the fire truck and set up the tents and flies and make it habitable, get a stove, fridge, copper, Furphy etc. The cat's name was Satan - a black stray tom that adopted us (I suspect he was dumped on us by one of the Childers locals) that used to scrap with the local possums: appropriate name. He used to sleep between the tent and the fly over the kitchen area where it was warm

(Kullogum was more than a bit frosty in the winter) or alternatively inside the bottom of the cook's bed over in the gang's camp. The "house number 38" is not actually such - this was a Queensland Government Railways (QGR) mileage cast iron plaque that we salvaged off the old Dallarnil railway line and which we put on the rig because it was the street number of the family house in Brisbane and provided a bit of panache. The garden was pretty basic, just a few hardy things to add a bit of colour and homeliness plus the odd bush orchid. It was not cow proof however and we were eaten out from time to time by stock that was on the reserve under grazing lease.

The Queensland Forest Service (QFS) used survey camps for many purposes - road surveys, freeholding and forest inventory. The size and duration of camp depended on the task. It was departmental policy that foresters graduating from the AFS spent their first year in charge of a Forest Inventory Survey (FIS) camp, usually in native forest or sometimes plantations. The camps moved from state forest to state forest as the particular survey task was completed, and camp O/Cs changed over each year or thereabouts.

Camps were usually tent camps with a bush galley kitchen, although sometimes they were lucky enough to be housed in barracks at forest stations. I have attached a couple of pics of David Cameron's FIS camp at Durah on Barakula State Forest when I was with him in 1957:



There were more camps than new foresters so some camps were run by survey rangers or overseers. Individual camps were responsible to the relevant district forester (in my case Andy Anderson D/F Maryborough at the time), and the whole system was coordinated and managed by a senior officer from head office whose job it was to work up the inventory data into growing stock and increment estimates that fed into sustained yield calculations for harvesting purposes. The FIS was based on a systematic mensuration sampling of the forest in a series of one acre (1 x 10 chain in cypress or 2 x 5 chain in coastal hardwood) permanent plots on a 30 chain grid,

so the task was to establish new plots on a forest or re-measure on another. On new forests there was also the task of forest typing (i.e. tree species associations) by strip survey aided by aerial photo interpretation. In extensive patches of poorer quality forest of low timber commercial value, permanent plots were replaced with continuous strip survey for half a chain on either side of the strip line.

In my time, the FIS system was headed up by Tim Yorkston with Bob Neilsen and Syd Curtis as his offiders.

As mentioned, I was with David Cameron in 1957. His FIS was remeasuring both cypress pine and mixed hardwood (spotted gum/ironbark) forest. I also spent a couple of months during my field year in Ted Mannion's FIS camp at Sunday Creek on Conondale State Forest in the wet sclerophyll forests of the Blackall Range behind Kilcoy. It was notable for its continuous cold rain and fog, leeches, constantly wet clothes and bedding, mud and more mud. Weekends we escaped to dry sunny Brisbane in Ted's trusty VW beetle to allow our webbed feet to return to normal. Brian Winkel, from a still continuing long line of champion axemen on the Australian agricultural show circuit, was a labourer in this camp and spent his lunch breaks practising cutting board notches in useless trees and honing his wood-chop skills.

The FIS team usually comprised a forester or a ranger/overseer in charge, a survey overseer, leading hand, and a gang of about half a dozen workmen experienced in chaining, compass work and tree measurement. Any new bloke was trained on the job. Then there was usually a cadet forester for a few weeks training during his field year; QFS cadets spent a field year sandwiched between their two undergraduate years at the University of Queensland and the final two years at the AFS. Much of this field year was spent in survey camps of one kind or another; I had Terry Johnston and David Gough during their field years in my FIS camp on Kullogum in 1962, where we were establishing and measuring permanent plots in the predominantly spotted gum/iron bark forests. My gang included several canecutters who worked in the forest in the off season. Depending on numbers in camp, the department also employed a full time cook; these blokes had variable skills - in one camp I know of all he could cook was corned beef and bacon and eggs. Other bush cooks could hold their own in a restaurant. Compo Bob (draw your own conclusions as to the nickname) was the best camp cook I came across out in the cypress country in David Cameron's FIS camp during my field year in 1959; he turned out a great fruit cake for pack lunches and his jam roly-poly was a delight.

One day the FIS story, full of incident and anecdote, will be told but many of those involved are moving or have moved on to that great forest in the sky and their tales are going with them.

Editor's note: Our next issue will include a summary of the Queensland forestry oral history project in which AFHS members were involved and which includes some stories on the camps.

THE CLOSURE OF DEANMILL

By Jack Bradshaw

Deanmill near Manjimup, WA has closed after 103 years. Deanmill was opened in 1913 by the government-owned State Building Supplies (SBS) as the No. 1 State Sawmill. Commonly known as Dean's Mill in earlier times it was named after A. Dean, the engineer responsible for construction, the first manager and later superintendent of State Sawmills.

Deanmill and Pemberton mills were built to supply sleepers for the Transcontinental Railway after Millars, the largest sawmill conglomerate in WA, in a bid to control the price, declined to tender for the 2.5 million sleepers required. The building of the "Trans" railway was critically important to WA and was a major issue in its decision to join the Commonwealth.

Both jarrah and karri sleepers were cut at Deanmill. Karri required Powellising, a treatment consisting of boiling in molasses and arsenic, to make them termite resistant. The use of karri was not without controversy involving much acrimonious debate in the Federal Parliament and resulted in a Royal Commission in 1914.

Following the completion of the sleeper orders, the State mills entered the normal timber market, cutting a full range of products from both karri and jarrah depending on the markets. An extensive system of bush railway lines was built stretching 30 km from the mill in a south-west and north-west direction. Loco hauling from the bush ceased in 1955 but it was still used until 1966 to haul sawn timber to the government railhead at Manjimup. Since the 1970s, Deanmill cut mainly jarrah, with karri going to Pemberton.

The mill has been rebuilt or refurbished several times in its life and it has had several owners. Ownership changed to SBS in 1957 when the State Sawmills amalgamated with the State Brickworks. SBS was then sold to Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies in 1961, to Bunnings in 1970 (becoming Sotico in 2000), to Gunns in 2004 and to Auswest in 2011.

At its peak in the 1950s, the primary school catered for 96 students but closed in 1999, by which time all students were bussed into schools in Manjimup.

The WA government's Old Growth Policy that resulted in the reservation of all old growth forest impacted heavily on the resource available within reasonable distance of Deanmill. The operations of Deanmill have been transferred to Greenbushes mill which had been closed since 2013. Greenbushes is closer to the jarrah resource now available and is designed to cut smaller logs.

The closure represents the end of an era. Deanmill was one of the largest mills in the state and was the last survivor of the one hundred mill towns that once existed. It is unclear what will become of the town itself which is awaiting State Heritage assessment.

SYDNEY TIMBER MERCHANTS ON THE SOUTH COAST OF NSW, 1860-1920

By Leith Davis

This is an edited version of a paper that I presented at the Australian Historical Association 2016 conference at Ballarat in July. The theme of the conference was "Boom and Bust", so I thought it was appropriate to study the history of three sawmilling enterprises on the coast of New South Wales in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, at Redhead, Kioloa and South Durras.

A Little Bit of Scene Setting

In 1965 the south coast was described as "A billabong beside the stream of progress", "the poor, hill-billy neighbour of industrial Wollongong, opulent Canberra and the Snowy Mountains".¹ It is a narrow strip of land, in places only 5 km wide, between the dividing range and the ocean, with a single highway running down its length and only four passes up into the interior from its 300 km length. It has very few harbours or rivers, and little arable land, except around Nowra, Milton and Moruya.

It does grow fine trees, but not the likes of the Victorian tall mountain ash forests, or the lush north coast moist sclerophyll forests. These coastal forests are classed as dry sclerophyll mixed eucalypt; the main commercial species are spotted gum, blackbutt, stringybark, ironbark, turpentine and bloodwood.

Land transport has been very difficult for most of the history of the region. The Princes Highway is the only arterial route through the region. In 1910, the Department of Main Roads could only describe it as "generally trafficable".² A track for bullock drays between Braidwood and the port of Nelligen on the Clyde River was cut in 1856, to take supplies to the gold mines. The railway only extends to Bomaderry, north of the Shoalhaven River, and was completed in 1893. Coastal shipping was all important for freight and communication. As late as 1919 the *Sydney Morning Herald* commented that "All townships and districts south of Nowra are absolutely dependent upon the coastal steamers for their means of communication".³

Goodlet and Smith Mills at Redhead and Kioloa

George Dent established a sawmill and shipbuilding yard at Currumbene Creek, Jervis Bay in 1861, one of the earliest past the Shoalhaven. By 1864 a Pyrmont, Sydney timber firm, Goodlet and Smith, were also established at Currumbene Creek, and were shipping logs and flitches to their works in Erskine Street.

In 1877, the firm had heard of a "magnificent belt of timber" near Redhead (now the small township of Bendalong), some miles south of Jervis Bay, and decided to construct their own sawmill there.⁴

The mill started operations in early August 1878. At the time of its establishment, it was expected to turn out around 25,000 super feet each week and, at this rate, it was thought that it would take 10 years to exhaust all the timber within 10 miles of the mill.

In 1883, 4½ years later, it was reported that a small township had sprung up around the mill, which was employing around 30 men, turning out an average 40,000 super feet each week, and cutting principally blackbutt, the choicest of the south coast species.

The estimate of a 10 year life was optimistic: when the photo of Redhead mill was published, the mill was already no more, it had been moved in February 1885, machinery, buildings and school and all, to Kioloa further down the coast.

In 1918, Kirton and Earnshaw, another Sydney firm of sawmillers and shipowners, built another mill on the Redhead site, but it too was a shortlived venture. In mid-1926 they leased it out, and in November 1926 it burned down, with a damage bill of £3000 - a huge amount at that time. It was never rebuilt.

Kioloa Mill

As mentioned, in 1885 Goodlet and Smith transferred men, machinery and plant, all buildings and the school (with its furniture) to leased land at Kioloa.⁵ Those of you with connections to the ANU will know this area as the ANU Coastal Campus.

In 1890, Goodlet and Smith floated their company. A *Sydney Morning Herald* advertisement/prospectus listed all the assets of the company, including the Kioloa sawmill and the horse-drawn tramline which was used to bring logs into the mill.⁶ Bullock teams snigged logs out of the bush to the tramline where they were loaded onto the trucks and hauled by horse teams into the mill. By early 1893 they were bringing logs in by tram from nine miles away.⁷

In 1893, Goodlet & Smith Ltd were badly affected by the depression and bank crash. These financial woes were only exacerbated by the wreck of their schooner *Samoa* on the beach at Kioloa in early July,⁸ and later in the year when one of the tubes in the boiler burst. This seems to have been the final straw; Goodlet & Smith closed the mill down and left it idle until 1900 when they dismantled it and disposed of it locally or removed some machinery and plant to Sydney. Much of the machinery, including the damaged boiler, they threw over the headland into the ocean, to be documented by Michael Tracey's amazing marine archaeology honours thesis in 1994.⁹

¹ KB Ryan, 1965. *Towns and settlement of the South Coast, New South Wales* [microform]. (PhD), Australian National University, Canberra.

² Department of Main Roads, 1951 #189.

³ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 October 1919, p10.

⁴ *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 31 May 1913, p5.

⁵ Alex McAndrew 1990. *Tales out of school in the Milton-Ulladulla district from Conjola to Kioloa*. A. McAndrew, Epping NSW.

⁶ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 June 1890, p6.

⁷ *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 18 February 1893, p7.

⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 July 1927, p17.

⁹ MA Tracey, 1994. *When the Timber Cut Out - Archaeological Aspects of Timber Extraction Procedures and Shipbuilding in the Murrumbidgee District, New South Wales*. Thesis submitted as partial fulfilment for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Australian National University.

Hepburn McKenzie, a sawmiller and timber merchant of Glebe Island in Sydney was taking occasional shipments of logs from Kioloa. In 1910 he purchased land there, and began construction of a new sawmill on the Kioloa site.¹⁰

By November 1912, the new mill was operating, and praised by local newspaper reports as "one of the most up-to-date sawmills in the State"¹¹ and the largest outside Sydney,¹² cutting 120,000 super feet per week. Six or seven cottages had been erected for the men's quarters, and the firm was constructing a new tramway of two to three miles in length, with steel rails and a steam motor. Fifteen bullock teams were supplying the mill with logs, and in October brought in 361,000 super feet. That is the equivalent of 32 modern truckloads a month, more than enough to keep most small mills, with automated equipment and saws, operating today.

The mill was closed early in 1916 after a fire. It did reopen, with occasional periods of working half time, but it closed again for some time in 1919 due to the seamen's strike which stopped them shipping their timber out to Sydney.

In the 1920s, 72 men were employed at the mill, 19 bullock teams and 42 horses,¹³ but in 1922 the mill closed, and all the men were put out of work. In 1921 there had been a slump in employment and a dramatic fall in prices in the United States. As a result the price of US oregon in Sydney fell from 65/- to 45/-, and the slump spread to the Australian industry.

Eventually McKenzie moved the machinery to Coramba on the north coast, where it operated for another 30 years.¹⁴ Edith London bought the land that became the Edith and Joy London Foundation, and the workers' cottages have been restored and now provide accommodation for researchers at the ANU Coastal Campus.



Kioloa Horse Team

The McMillans at Durras

While I was researching the story of Kioloa in the 1860s and 1870s, there were intriguing occasional references to travellers to and from McMillans at Durras. I knew of McMillans as one of the old and very influential families in the region's timber industry so I followed up the McMillan Durras connection - a serendipitous discovery.

In 1853 James McMillan, who had migrated to Australia in 1839 with his wife and five children, purchased land at Durras, and was settled there by 1859.¹⁵ He established a sawmill there in 1870, which later passed to his son John. In 1893, the depths of the depression, a traveller published an account of his visit to Durras.¹⁶ After an arduous trek over Durras Mountain and along the beach, his group were surprised to find a sawmill and small village in the bush. They were welcomed and enjoyed the hospitality of the McMillans, where "music and dancing made the evening pass right merrily". The next morning they toured the sawmill, which also had a band-saw cutting felloes, a highly specialised value-adding product that required the highest quality timber, "wheelwright timber".

There were 24 men employed at the mill (probably more than half of those in the logging operations), and most of them were long-term employees. The mill sent around 112,000 super feet of timber to Sydney by sea every month. This mill continued in operation until 1930.

John McMillan and his wife had 17 children, and three of his sons followed him into the family business. In 1912 the three sons James, John and Robert, and William Riley of Ulladulla, registered the business of Clyde Sawmilling and Shipping Company. By this time they owned at least four mills, at Durras, Ulladulla, Corunna just south of Narooma, and Bega and the company went on to buy and sell 20 or more mills along the coast. In the first half of the 20th century they were the dominant players in the south coast timber industry. Clyde Sawmilling sold its last sawmill, at Bermagui, in 1977, after at least four generations of McMillan family control and involvement.

Conclusion

The story of the McMillans at South Durras is a sharp contrast to those of the Sydney firms at Redhead and Kioloa. Goodlet and Smith, and McKenzie, were opportunistic exploiters of the forest and of their labour force, with little regard for the welfare of either. Michael Tracey called his honours thesis "When the Timber Cut Out". Neither firm "cut out" the timber, they simply cut the eyes out of it, took the low hanging fruit, and moved on, within at most, a decade.

McMillan's sawmill at Durras operated for sixty years, with resident owners and managers, and a stable workforce. When the firm expanded in the early 20th century, they developed a chain of small to medium mills whose scale of operations suited the technology and resources of the time.

¹⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 Aug 1911, p13.

¹¹ *South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus*, 15 Nov 1912, p21.

¹² B. Hamon, 1994. *They Came to Murrumbidgee: A History of Murrumbidgee, Kioloa and Bawley Point* (2nd edition, 2015, edited by Feary and Greig).

¹³ Hamon, p66; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 Mar 1922, p1.

¹⁴ Hamon, p66.

¹⁵ Hamon, p78.

¹⁶ *Ulladulla and Milton Times*, 25 Feb 1893, p5.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, JULY 2016

By Leith Davis



The annual conference of the Australian Historical Association (AHA) was held this year at Ballarat, from 4th-8th July, organised by Federation University's Collaborative Research Centre in

Australian History (CRAH). The venues were superb, the weather bracing.

For the first time, the conference included an environmental history stream that was very successful. It attracted over 40 papers, presented in parallel sessions across three days of the conference that, in most cases, overflowed the allotted venues. The papers covered a broad range of topics from urban environmental history to tourism, fishing, and the environmental history of the Australian defence estate (a very interesting paper).

There was only one session identified as "Forests" with two papers presented: André Brett (University of Melbourne) on the history of railway sleeper hewing in Victoria, and my own, on late 19th century sawmilling on the south coast of NSW (a summary of that paper appears elsewhere in the newsletter - see pp8-9). André is hoping for a research grant to extend his study more broadly across NSW and Western Australia.

Another interesting paper was that of Grace Karskens (University of NSW), who presented her work on reconstructing the Aboriginal landscapes of the river flat forests (now gone) of the Nepean/Hawkesbury River district. Her book, *People of the River*, will be published shortly by Allen & Unwin.

On the first day of the environmental history stream, a meeting decided that environmental history would continue as a grouping within the AHA, and a committee would look at options for building on and developing existing networks such as the Environmental History Network.

AHA Conference, July 2017

The 2017 conference will be held in Newcastle, NSW from 3rd-7th July under the theme "Entangled Histories". The call for papers is at www.newcastle.edu.au/newsroom/faculty-of-education-and-arts/call-for-papers-australian-historical-association-annual-conference-2017.

For the "Green Stream" of the Environmental History Network, the AHA is inviting:

submissions of papers and panels in what has become a broad interdisciplinary field since Roderick Nash coined the term in 1972. We welcome submissions across a wide range of research topics as well as in environmental historiography. We are especially interested in looking at the intersection of histories of technology and the environment. For inquiries contact: Dr Nancy Cushing (Nancy.Cushing@newcastle.edu.au).

AHA ANNUAL PRIZES AND AWARDS

The winners of the AHA's annual prizes and awards were also announced during its 2016 conference. These included the **Allan Martin Award** which is a research fellowship to assist early career historians further their research in Australian history. The 2016 winner is Ruth Morgan for her work, "Australindia: Australia, India and the Ecologies of Empire, 1788-1901". In the view of the judges:

This sophisticated research proposal, to study botanical exchanges between India, the British metropole and the Australian colonies sits at the cutting edge of imperial historiography. Morgan persuasively demonstrates how she proposes to knit together environmental history, intellectual history, political history and biography by mining the records of botanical collectors. These networks of exchange were personal as well as horticultural, she argues, and the records she proposes to examine in the U.K. will illuminate the significance of governors and other decision-makers involved in the transmission of specimens and knowledge. This project promises to highlight the importance (of) the Australian colonies as testing grounds for environmental experimentation in the context of empire. Bridging imaginatively from her PhD thesis, Morgan's plans for the dissemination of her findings range from public seminars, symposia, an interactive website, and a finding aid for the State Library of NSW.

For more information on the awards, see www.theaha.org.au/2016-winners-of-aha-prizes-and-awards and for information on the AHA, see www.theaha.org.au.

THE MAX DAY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Applications for the **Max Day Environmental Science Fellowship Award** are open until 12th December 2016. This is an annual award of up to \$20,000 per awardee to assist PhD students or early career researchers in their research. It provides funding support toward the costs of travel, courses or research, or to supplement PhD scholarships with necessary top-up funding.

The award is named in honour of Dr Maxwell Frank Cooper Day AO FAA who is the longest serving Fellow of the Academy and who has spent a lifetime championing entomology, conservation and forestry, and helping other scientists. Dr Day and his family are funding this Fellowship to support scientists early in their careers, acknowledging the support that Dr Day himself received as a young researcher to travel overseas to gain his PhD at Harvard.

See www.science.org.au/opportunities/research-funding/max-day-environmental-science-fellowship-award.

Note: While this award is not for forest history, our newsletter of December 2015 included a review of a book by John C. Day titled "All in a Day's Work ... Memoirs, stories, articles and images of Dr Max Day AO FAA compiled to celebrate Max's 100th birthday, 21 December 2015".

IN ALL MANNA OF GUM, BY GUM, AND A EUCALYPT PARADOX

By Ian Bevege

The April 2016 issue of the AFHS newsletter (no. 68) carried interesting articles by Peter Evans and Peter Holzworth respectively on the early exploitation of Grasstree Gum (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) in Heytesbury Forest Victoria, and Kauri Gum (*Agathis robusta*) in North Queensland. Despite the common appellation of "gum", both Peters recognised these particular extractives as resins.

Grasstrees produce two kinds of resin - a red resin typified by *X. australis* and a yellow resin e.g. from *X. resinifera*. These are acaroid resins somewhat similar to balsamic resins and found use in varnishes, wood stains and in paper finishing. In World War I, the red resin from the WA species, *X. preissii*, was investigated as a source of picric acid for explosives (*Western Mail* 1921) and indeed there are reports that resin exported to Germany for varnish use before the war was diverted to munitions manufacture. During World War II, red resins yielding high levels of picric acid were used in Australia for munitions manufacture, while the rarer yellow resin has been used in medicine and glue (Chisholm, in White 1990; Langenheim 2003). Kauris produce copal resins used in very hard varnishes. *Agathis australis* gum mining was a colourful and lucrative industry in New Zealand throughout the 19th century, well described by Alfred ("A.H.") Reed in 1953.

Gum and resin: These are terms which have tended to be used interchangeably for any sticky plant exudate be they gums, resins, mucilages, oils, waxes or latex (Langenheim 2003); indeed Jean Langenheim quotes Ted Hillis, that doyen of Australian wood technologists, as referring to the use of these names as "haphazard". Gums and resins are quite distinct chemically, the former comprising complex chains of hydrophilic polysaccharides, the latter lipid-soluble mixtures of terpenoid and/or phenolic compounds (Langenheim 2003); eucalypt wood kino found in "gum veins" is a type of gum that contains polyphenols including tannins. The epithet "gum tree" was applied very early to eucalypts recognising the presence of kino in the wood of many species; kino forms usually as a reaction to tissue trauma e.g. fire. "Kino" is a West African word, that region historically being the major source of kino into the European market.

Manna: A further interesting exudate is manna, which is produced in copious quantities by several tree species including eucalypts e.g. brittle gum (*Eucalyptus mannifera*), manna gum (*E. viminalis*) and shining gum (*E. nitens*); it is more commonly produced by temperate eucalypts rather than by those further north. Manna is produced as a response to insect attack e.g. the leaf beetle (*Chrysophtharta* spp), coried bug (*Amorbus* spp) and cicada (*Psaltoda* spp) and is thought to be a defensive reaction because manna is toxic to the early instars of some insects (Elliott et al 1998). Manna is mainly a complex mixture of sugars and sugar alcohols admixed with other compounds derived from the phloem sap stream, one of

the major components being mannitol. Thomson (1838) provides one of the earliest accounts of its chemical composition and indicates that the manna from *E. mannifera* has the same chemical composition as that of *Fraxinus ornus* (manna ash or south European flowering ash), the major source of manna in southern Europe.

Roger Underwood (2013) has an engaging essay on manna in his *Foresters of the Raj*. Related to manna is lerp, a gummy substance containing starch and sugars that forms the spectacularly sculptured protective coverings secreted by sap-sucking psyllids (*Cardiaspina* spp) feeding on eucalypts. Tim Low (2014) provides an in depth discussion on the ecology of birds, manna and lerp; he indicates that lerp is an indigenous word from the Victorian mallee and that Aborigines as well as birds feasted on it.

Manna was also recognised by the early settlers as having economic potential. Samples were sent for analysis to England in 1815; unfortunately the source species was not recorded apart from the location being a "wooded plain" in New South Wales. This manna, although still a sugar complex, had a somewhat different composition to *E. mannifera* manna. By the 1830s, manna was being imported for medicinal purposes (Thomson 1838). Today it is an anthropic bush curiosity but remains an important food source for native fauna.

Various extractives from native trees also have attracted attention for potential commercial exploitation since the early days of the First Settlement at Sydney Cove from 1788. This note will now focus on just two - grasstree "yellow gum" (Botany Bay gum) and "red gum" (kino), the former a resin, the latter a phenolic gum. It is unavoidable not to stray into the botanical goings on associated with these as a contextual framework, and I pay tribute to Norman Hall (1978) for enabling ready access to the lives of the pioneer botanists who played a role in this colonial saga.

Yellow gum tree: We are indebted to Governor Arthur Phillip (Stockdale 1789) and Surgeon General John White (1790) for recording the extraction and use of the yellow resin from the grasstree now known as *Xanthorrhoea resinifera*. The path to this name has been tortuous; Daniel Solander during Cook's voyage in 1770, named the grasstree as *Acoroides resinifera* / *Xanthorrhoea* this being the first use of *Xanthorrhoea* as a genus name. Solander's original material remains extant in the Natural History Museum in London. The species passed through a number of name changes including *X. resinosa* and *X. hostile* until restored to *X. resinifera* in 1993 by Charles Nelson and David Benson; they provide a fascinating history of *Xanthorrhoea*, which at one point was at risk of being replaced by *Acoroides* under the international rules for botanical nomenclature.

Governor Phillip describes both the grass tree and its resin thus: "The yellow gum as it is called, is strictly a resin, not being at all soluble in water; ... the plant that produces it is low and small, with long grassy leaves; but the fructification of it shoots out in a singular manner from the centre of the leaves, on a single straight stem, to

the height of twelve or fourteen feet. Of this stem, which is strong and light, like some of the reed class, the natives usually make their spears; sometimes pointing them with a piece of the same substance made sharp, but more frequently with bone. The resin is generally dug up out of the soil under the tree, not collected from it, and may perhaps be that which Tasman calls gum lac of the ground". Tasman's "gum lac" is actually New Zealand kauri gum, which was also mined from the soil under kauri (*Agathis australis*) stands (Reed loc. cit.). John White describes the resin as "not unlike the balsam Tolu in smell and effect ... being of a clear yellow, which exudes from the tree. This however is not to be met with in such quantities as the red gum before mentioned, nor do I think that its medicinal virtues are by any means so powerful." James Smith's notes in White merely paraphrase and embellish, with some inaccuracy, both Phillip's and White's texts, but he comments that the "varnish it makes with either spirit of wine [alcohol] or turpentine is very weak and of little use."

Notwithstanding this, George Caley (1770-1829) sent samples to Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) in London for testing (Caley 1966); Banks wrote Caley in April 1804 "I have received also the gum you have sent me at two different times. It proves fit and proper for the calico printers' use and is worth about five pounds a hundredweight. If the getting could be managed by the natives, it would be an object of importation, as the price of 100 pounds a ton would easily pay even for the long freight home." The resin maintained its interest and featured in various technical and pharmacological treatises into the mid-19th century e.g. Thomson (1838) who cited Phillip's journal and described detailed chemical analyses. The late 19th century interest in exploitation of *X. australis* in Victoria (Evans 2016) was possibly stimulated as much by the ongoing fascination with gums and resins by Victorian era chemists and pharmacists as by the potential of the grasstree lands for agricultural development. Although the resin, despite its balsamic aroma, has little or no pharmacological value, it found a use for the manufacture of picric acid for munitions and pyrotechnics (Chisholm, in White 1790).

Red gum tree (kino): Surgeon General John White's account of the First Settlement was published in 1790 and reissued in 1962, edited by Alec Chisholm; it contains the botanical notes by Dr James Smith (1759-1828) on material sent to London by White. White well described the poor quality of local eucalypt timbers for building and its associated gum: "... when cut down, they are scarcely convertible to any use whatever. At the heart they are full of veins through which an amazing quantity of an astringent red gum issues. This gum I found very serviceable in an obstinate dysentery that raged at our first landing, and still continues to do so, though with less obstinacy and violence. ... When the trees are sawed, and in any way exposed to the sun, the gum melts, or gets very brittle, so that the wood falls to pieces, and it appears the pieces had been joined together with this substance." Alec Chisholm in his footnote to this work refers to the "red resinous juice ... a liquid kino, which soon hardens on exposure to air [and] employed

medicinally by early colonists for diarrhoea, relaxed throat, or as a styptic, also as a staining medium and a source of ink." Captain Watkin Tench of the marines also describes the general poor quality of the trees for building purposes and records their yielding "a profusion of thick red gum which is found serviceable in medicine, particularly in dysenteric complaints, where it has sometimes succeeded, when all other preparations have failed. To blunt its acrid qualities, it is usual to combine it with opiates." (Tench 1789). Governor Arthur Phillip (in Stockdale 1789) also writes "In the dysentery, the red gum of the tree which principally abounds on this coast, was found a very powerful remedy." The red gum was exported to England as Botany Bay Kino for medicinal purposes (Low 2014).

There is still ambiguity surrounding the identity of this "red gum tree". The plate in White (1790) shows a segment of smooth bark, plus an umbel of buds. These buds are undoubtedly *Eucalyptus* and are described in detail by James Smith in his note on "The Red Gum Tree"; he ascribes them to *E. resinifera* (now the epithet for red mahogany). However red mahogany has rough bark, not the smooth bark illustrated; this might be either *E. tereticornis* (forest red gum) or *Angophora costata* (Sydney red gum): again, the buds as illustrated might just as easily be ascribed to *E. tereticornis* and in fact Fitzhardinge, in his notes to Tench (1789) considers this to be so. I think it entirely possible that material sent to Smith as "red gum" was actually *E. tereticornis*; Smith in fact formally described this species from material sent by John White in 1793. To add further to the confusion there is a passing comment by Nelson and Bedford (1993) that AT Lee (1966) was mistaken in saying that the "red resinous juice" used by White to treat diarrhoea came from *E. piperita* (Sydney peppermint); neither John White nor James Smith nor Alec Chisholm (in White 1790) made any such reference; Smith in his notes to White includes a description of *E. piperita* distinct from that he prepared for *E. resinifera*. As late as 1826 the "red gum tree" was still being ascribed to *E. resinifera* as evidenced by the table from the *Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* reproduced by Sybil Jack (2015). *Eucalyptus resinifera* (red mahogany) as we currently understand it was not formally described until 1859 by Ferdinand Mueller (1825-96) from a Brisbane River occurrence as *E. hemilampra*; his lectotype was accepted for *E. resinifera* in 1972 as annotated on the NSW Herbarium specimen sheet by Lawrie Johnson (1925-97) and erected as *E. resinifera* Smith subspecies *hemilampra* (F. Mueller) by Johnson and Hill in 1990; the central NSW red mahogany was designated subspecies *resinifera*. It is paradoxical that there is no type specimen for the "red gum tree" *E. resinifera* (Smith 1790, in White), and its validity is apparently based solely on James Smith's description of a single orphan umbel of eucalypt buds sent by White from Sydney, that cannot be linked to any tree, other plant material or supporting documentation. This "red gum tree" surely must be the phantom of all eucalypts.

Governor Phillip (Stockdale 1789) also decried the quality of the timber of "the gum tree", noted its copious

red gum (kino) and described the leaves as "long and narrow, not unlike those of a willow"; this fits *Angophora* much more closely than either *E. tereticornis* or *E. resinifera*. Alec Chisholm in his notes to White (1790) suggests White's "worst wood that any country or climate produced" was *A. costata*. The early taxonomy of *A. costata* is somewhat shady to say the least; Joseph Gaertner (1732-91) named it *Metrosideros costata* in 1788, but no type specimen has been located. The species was formally described as *A. lanceolata* in 1797 by Antonio Cavanilles (1745-1804) who erected the genus *Angophora*; it was not named *A. costata* until 1916 by James Britten (1846-1925). Clearly from these historical text descriptions this "red gum" is neither *E. resinifera* nor *E. tereticornis* as both of these species are notable for providing quality construction timbers and are not excessive kino producers. I conclude that the source of the frustration of the early settlers with red gum timber and excessive kino, which latter they put to advantage, was actually the Sydney red gum, *A. costata*, which grew abundantly around Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay.

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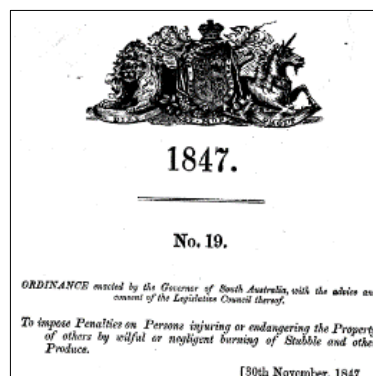
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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BUSHFIRE ACT

By Fintán Ó Laighin

This comes under the heading of forest history can pop up anywhere. I was at a work-related meeting earlier this year and it was mentioned that Australia's first bushfire Act was passed in 1847 in South Australia. I thought I'd chase this up.

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) calls it the "Stubble Burning Act", although it's actually an Ordinance without (seemingly) a formal title. Its purpose is "To impose Penalties on Persons injuring or endangering the Property of others by wilful or negligent burning of Stubble and other Produce."



It states:

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Governor of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof-

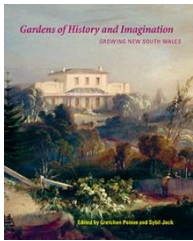
That whosoever shall, by the setting on fire or burning of timber, grain, straw, stubble, hay, grass, or other produce or material, growing, lying, or being in any place whatsoever, wilfully or negligently destroy, injure, or endanger the property of any other person shall, on conviction for every such offence, forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than Five Pounds, nor exceeding Twenty Pounds.

www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/num_act/sba19a10a11v1847266

I mentioned this to AFHS committee member Rob Robinson, who is based in South Australia, who noted that Wirrabara in South Australia claims to have instigated the country's first country fire-fighting brigade.

Thanks to Robin Hicks (Bureau of Meteorology) for drawing my attention to this Act.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



Gretchen Poiner & Sybil Jack (eds), 2016. *Gardens of History and Imagination: Growing New South Wales*. Sydney University Press. ISBN: 9781743324561. \$60.

From the publisher's notes.

Whether on the ground or in the mind gardens carry meaning. They reflect social and aesthetic values and may express hope, anticipation or grief. Throughout history they have provided a means of physical survival. In creating and maintaining gardens people construe and construct a relationship with their environment. But there is no single meaning carried in the word "garden": as idea and practice it reflects cultural differences in beliefs, values and social organisation. It embodies personal, community even national ways of seeing and being in the world.

There are ten essays in this book, each of which examines the role of gardens and gardening in the settlement of New South Wales and in growing a colony and a state. They explore the significance of gardens for the health of the colony, for its economy, for the construction of social order and moral worth. No less do they reveal the significance of forming and reforming personal identities in this process.

For the immigrants gardening was an act of settlement; it was also a statement of possession for individuals and for Britain. For a long time it was with memories of "home", often selective and idealised, that settlers made gardens but as the colony developed its own character so did gardening possibilities and practices.

<http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781743324561>



CFA Newsletter, No. 74, September 2016. ISSN: 1750-6417.

This publication from the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) includes at least a couple of articles of interest to forest history. The lead article from Canada's Steve D'Eon is titled "What's beer got to do with

sustainable forestry?" Quite a bit according to the author. He writes that "German beer purity laws, *Reinheitsgebots*, interestingly originated in the same area of the world where sustainable forestry emerged as a concept. Morgenstern (2007) noted the concept of sustainability, *Nachhaltigkeit*, emerged first as regulations for forest inspections and volume estimates in Bavaria by the 16th century. The principle of sustainable management followed and was incorporated in all Austrian and German states by the 19th century. These forerunners developing our modern sustainability concepts were perhaps influenced in their pure thinking by drinking pure beer as regulated by the Bavaria beer purity law of 1516."

The second article of interest is titled "A window on the past: the diary of a delegate at the 1952 Commonwealth

Forestry Conference" which draws on extracts from the diary of Bryan Latham who at the time was an official representative of the UK Timber Trade Federation. The 1952 conference was hosted by India, which will also host the 19th conference to be held in April 2017 at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun in the north of the country.



https://issuu.com/cfa_newsletter/docs/cfa_newsletter_september_2016



International Review of Environmental History, Vol. 2, 2016.

ISSN: 2205-3204.

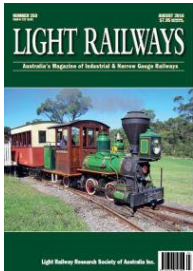
This edition includes an article by Stephen Legg on "Political agitation for forest conservation: Victoria, 1860-1960". The abstract is reproduced below.

Victoria has a remarkably long history of agitation to gain political influence over forest management. With much of the region being forested on the eve of European colonisation in the mid-1830s, more than a century ensued of government support for forest clearance and the exploitation of forest products. From the early 1860s, however, various interest groups engaged in lobbying, petitions, public protest meetings, strategy planning conferences, press campaigns, circularising, and deputations to pressure Victoria's parliament during, and between, elections to conserve the forests. By international standards, these campaigns came relatively early, were diverse, persistent and well coordinated, but at least initially met with little success. Furthermore, as was the case throughout Australasia and much of the British Empire, most of Victoria's forests were publicly owned and managed (as Crown land reserves) for various public purposes, but were predominantly exploited by private industry.

The role of key parliamentarians, public servants and institutions governing the development and application of forest legislation is gradually being detailed. However, there is a need to consolidate and develop the varied research that has been done on the contribution of the various non-government organisations and individuals. In particular, the influence of the popular press and the mining lobby has hitherto been seriously understated, while some modern environmentalists have tended to undervalue the long history of struggle, and dismiss its utilitarian emphasis.

Using a broadly chronological narrative, this paper outlines the purpose, methods, organisation and impact of lobbyists involved in three landmark disputes over forest conservation. It traces changing attitudes to, and major policies governing, Victoria's forests, focusing particularly on perceptions of the role of public forestry. In so doing, it demonstrates the length, breadth and complexity of the forest conservation campaigns.

<http://press.anu.edu.au/publications/international-review-environmental-history-volume-2-2016>



Light Railways: Australia's Magazine of Industrial & Narrow Gauge Railways, August 2016. Light Railway Research Society of Australia. ISSN 0 727 8101.

Review by Fintán Ó Laighin.

As always, the LRSSA magazine includes plenty of reading for those with an interest in timber tramways

and railways associated with the forest industry.

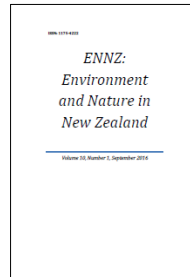
First up is an article (pp3-7) by Colin Harvey titled "No one was to blame: Death and injury in Victoria's Plenty Ranges in the tramway era". The article starts with an account of a 1926 derailment which resulted in the death of a sawmill worker, and moves on to a discussion of forestry in the ranges, including the sawmills located there from the 1850s till 1941 and the opening of the railway to Seymour in 1872. Well-illustrated with a colour map, colour photos and a list of "Sawmilling-related accidents - Mt Disappointment 1884-1926".

Rod Milne's article on "The wood trains of 17 Mile Camp and Gindalbie: Wood for the gold mines" (pp24-27) takes readers north-east of Kalgoorlie WA and has as its backdrop the massive consumption of firewood and the "vast areas of native bushland exploited to supply gold mining industries" in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Stories such as this were common across Australia. Milne focuses on the activities of the Westralian Timber and Firewood Company which opened in December 1897, noting that "By the time the system closed in 1908, the little wood trains were going a long way to get their wood." Just how far they were going, and how many wood lines there were, is shown on an accompanying map.

A one-page article on p28 discusses "Richard's Incline 1908, Warburton, Victoria". Written by Mike McCarthy, it takes an image from the Rev. John Flynn lantern slide collection held by the National Library of Australia. The slide shows the "poles and timber brought down from the sawmill in its early months of operation".

Also included is Ian McNeil's review of Scott Clennett's new book, *Engaging the Giants: A History of Sawmills and Tramways of Tasmania's Southern Forests* (published by the LRRSA), field survey reports, by Jeff Austin and Norman Houghton respectively, of Yarloop WA undertaken after the fires of January 2016, and Hitt's Tramway in Gellibrand, VIC.

Information on the LRRSA, including how to order its publications, is on its website at www.lrrsa.org.au.



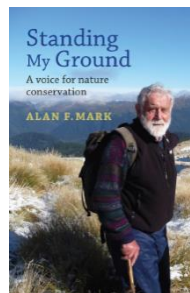
ENNZ: Environment and Nature New Zealand, Vol. 10, No. 1, September 2016. ISSN: 1175-4222.

<http://environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ENNZ-Sep-2016.pdf>

A new issue of *ENNZ: Environment and Nature in New Zealand* is now out,

edited by Vaughan Wood who spoke at our 2007 conference in Christchurch. One article of interest to forest historians is AFHS member Paul Star's review of Alan F. Mark's autobiography, *Standing My Ground: A Voice for Nature Conservation*, published in 2015 by Otago University Press.

As Paul notes, the book's title "emphasises the personal nature of the volume, yet the text is often anything but autobiographical. For the most part, it is not nearly so much about Mark as about the cause to which he has devoted his life: his words about 'his' ground, rather than about himself."



Alan F. Mark 2016. *Standing My Ground: A Voice for Nature Conservation*, Otago University Press. ISBN 978-1-927322-04-8. NZ\$45.

From the publisher's notes.

For more than five decades, Alan Mark has been a voice for conservation in New Zealand. From his call in the 1960s for the

establishment of tussock-grassland reserves in the South Island high country to his involvement in the 2011-13 campaign to save the Denniston Plateau from mining, he has been a passionate and effective advocate for the preservation of areas of ecological importance.

Alan's conservation activities have paralleled - and are informed by - a distinguished academic career as a botanist and ecologist. A member of Otago University's Botany Department from 1955 until his retirement as Professor and Head of Department in 1998, he has run and participated in numerous research projects, taught and mentored thousands of students and published 200 academic papers.

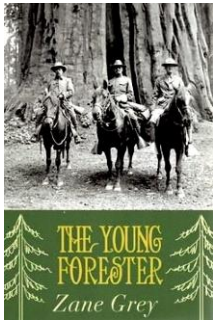
In *Standing My Ground*, Alan describes the challenges and achievements, the frustrations and successes that have made up his remarkable life, now in its ninth decade. A revered figure in the conservation movement, rewarded for his contribution by a knighthood in 2009, he has also endured his share of criticism and insult, which he has weathered with the support of Otago University and his family.

As well as providing an important record of New Zealand's conservation battles and documenting the life of an outstanding New Zealander, *Standing My Ground* is an inspiring reminder of the power of individuals to make a difference.

www.otago.ac.nz/press/otago107700.pdf

THE YOUNG FORESTER: REFLECTIONS ON ZANE GREY'S 1910 NOVEL

By Roger Underwood



It is surprising how few times over the years I have encountered a forester in a work of fiction. Our work, or perhaps our personalities, just don't seem to appeal to novelists. Woodcutters, yes. They crop up in nearly every fairy story I read to my grandchildren, and they are usually violent people with a tendency to use their axes for beheading purposes, or are seen

taking small children into the forest and leaving them there. But of foresters, scarcely a mention. I can remember the forester Gisborne in one of Kipling's stories, and there is a forestry officer (an unpleasant and bombastic man) in one of the H.R.F. Keating's *Inspector Ghote* police novels, but otherwise the cupboard is very bare.

But just as I was reflecting on this injustice, Gary Bacon drew my attention to a little book by the famous writer of westerns, Zane Grey, entitled *The Young Forester*. I immediately sent off for a copy and sat down to read it the moment it arrived. It took about an hour and a half.

The publication date is significant: 1910. This is just around the time the US Forest Service was being established (February 1905) and the first National Forests created - and the media was full of propaganda from Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot (well-supported by Theodore Roosevelt, US President from 1901-09). The argy-bargy surrounding all this provides a backdrop to the story.

It is a dramatic tale. An 18-year old, Ken, has just finished school and has a great love for hunting and the outdoors. The lad has absorbed the Pinchot forestry message and determines that he will become a forester.

Ken knows a surprising amount about the subject, so when his brother Hal asks "... whoever heard of forestry as a profession?" Ken answers:

It's just this way, Hal. The natural resources have got to be conserved, and the Government is trying to enlist intelligent young men in the work - particularly in the department of forestry. I'm not exaggerating when I say the prosperity of this country depends upon forestry ... the lumbermen are wiping out all the timber and never thinking of the future. They are in such a hurry to get rich that they'll leave their grandchildren only a desert. They cut and slash in every direction, and then fires come and the country is ruined. Our rivers depend upon the forests for water. The trees draw the rain; the leaves break it up and let it fall in mists and drippings; it seeps into the ground, and is held by the roots. If the trees are destroyed the rain rushes off on the surface and floods the rivers. The forests store up water, and they do good in other ways.

"We've got to have wood and lumber," said Hal.

"Of course we have. But there won't be any unless we go in for forestry. It's been practiced in Germany for three hundred years."

Ken also has a remarkable grasp of silviculture, expounding to his father on the way the family's mixed hardwoods should be managed to maximise their value, health and beauty. Ken's father is impressed, but has set his heart on Ken becoming a doctor. In the end he agrees to arrange for Ken to spend the coming summer in Penetier, one of the newly declared (in this case fictional) National Forests in Arizona.

Out in the glorious virgin ponderosa forest, overlooked by snow-capped peaks, it is just one alarming and amazing adventure after another. Ken stumbles upon an illegal "slash and burn" logging operation and a sawmill and timber town that nobody knows about, and reports it to the authorities. He gets mixed up with the bad guys who are running this operation and they are soon out for revenge. Shots are fired, horses stolen, people are locked up in cabins in remote canyons, and Ken (and his faithful horse Target) get lost in the forest, but he is brave and resourceful.

The highlight of the book, however is the enormous bushfire set by the bad guys and which threatens to engulf the entire forest. Sensing trouble, Ken climbs one of the high peaks in the forest and looks down:

As I looked I shouted in surprise. It seemed that the whole of Penetier was under my feet. The green slope disappeared in murky clouds of smoke. There were great pillars and huge banks of yellow and long streaks of black, and here and there, underneath, moving splashes of red. The thing did not stay still one instant. It changed so that I could not tell what it did look like. There were life and movement in it, and something terribly sinister. I tried to calculate how far distant the fire was and how fast it was coming, but that, in my state of mind, I could not do. The whole sweep of forest below me was burning. I felt the strong breeze and smelled the burnt wood.

Puffs of white smoke ran out ahead of the main clouds, and I saw three of them widely separated. What they meant puzzled me. But all of a sudden I saw in front of the nearest a flickering gleam of red. Then I knew those white streams of smoke rose where the fire was being sucked up the canyons. They leaped along with amazing speed ... For a moment I felt faint, but I fought it off. I had to think of myself. It was every one for himself, and perhaps there was many a man caught on Penetier with only a slender chance for life.

Ken, of course, is equal to the job in hand. With a box or two of matches he works his way up a stream running across the line of the headfire, lighting a backburn. As far as I could tell, conditions were not favourable for such an operation:

... it was hard to breathe. A white tumbling column of smoke hid sky and sun. All about me was like a blue twilight. The appalling roar held me spellbound. Under the shifting cloud, flashes of red followed by waves of fire [as it raced] through the tree tops ... along the ground was a dull furnace glow ...

Nevertheless, undaunted, Ken gets on with the job:

Match after match I struck, and when the box was empty I must have been a mile, two miles, maybe more, from the starting-point. I was wringing-wet, and there was a piercing pain in my side. I plunged across the brook, and in as deep water as I could find knelt down to cover all but my face. Then, with laboring breaths that bubbled the water near my mouth, I kept still and watched.

The back-fire which I had started swept up over the slope and down the brook like a charge of red lancers. Spears of flame led the advance. The flame licked up the dry surface-grass and brush, and, meeting the pines, circled them in a whirlwind of fire, like lightning flashing upward. Then came prolonged reports, and after that a long, blistering roar in the tree-tops. Even as I gazed, appalled in the certainty of a horrible fate, I thrilled at the grand spectacle. Fire had always fascinated me. The clang of the engines and the call of "Fire!" would tear me from any task or play. But I had never known what fire was. I knew now. Storms of air and sea were nothing compared to this. It was the greatest force in nature. It was fire. On one hand, I seemed cool and calculated the chances; on the other, I had flashes in my brain, and kept crying out crazily, in a voice like a whisper: "Fire! Fire! Fire!"

But presently the wall of fire rolled by and took the roar with it. Dense billows of smoke followed, and hid everything in opaque darkness. I heard the hiss of failing sparks and the crackle of burning wood, and occasionally the crash of a failing branch. It was intolerably hot, but I could stand the heat better than the air. I coughed and strangled. I could not get my breath. My eyes smarted and burned. Crawling close under the bank, I leaned against it and waited.

... [hours passed] ... then the yellow fog lightened, and blew across the brook and lifted and split. The parts of the canyon-slope that I could see were seared and blackened. The pines were columns of living coals. The fire was eating into their hearts. Presently they would snap at the trunk, crash down, and burn to ashes. Wreathes of murky smoke circled them, and drifted aloft to join the overhanging clouds.

Ken survives OK and the fire dies away, thanks to the success of the backburn. The bad guys are caught and punished. Ken is a hero, and is introduced to the Chief of the Forest Service who promises him a job as a forester as soon as he finishes his degree. We last see the brave young lad on the train puffing its way back east from Arizona, his mind full of dreams of his future life in the forest.

I have to confess that I am not a Zane Grey fan. I have read only one other of his books, *Riders of the Purple Sage*, which I took out from the library a few years ago to see why it was regarded as a classic. After I read it I still didn't know.

But Grey was a remarkable man, writing hugely popular western novels. The humorous American writer Bill Bryson has examined Grey and quotes one critic as saying: "he invented, or at the very least cornered the market in, many of the conventions of the [western] genre - the black-hearted villain, the bullied rancher and his chaste, pretty daughter, the strong, silent cowboy whose heart "belongs to no female save his warm-nosed mare". Bryson also says that Grey "produced some ninety-five books altogether, and left so many manuscripts when he died, suddenly of a heart attack in 1939, that Harper & Brothers was still publishing new Zane Grey books fourteen years later."

The Young Forester was one of Grey's early novels, and to be honest, I didn't think it was very good. The plotting is weak and melodramatic, the dialogue corny, and Ken is implausible. On the other hand, I have long thought that foresters would have benefitted if their work had been better known and had forestry been better understood, or more attractively portrayed. I imagine a series of books about a fictional and heroic District Forester, tall and lithe, with a crooked smile but straight teeth, Lord of All He Surveyed, a crack shot and a way with women, fighting the timber barons on the one hand and single-handedly suppressing forest fires on the other. It would, I fancy, have turned the tables in those dark days in the 1970s and 80s when our profession was being cruelly shot to pieces by the greens.

By way of a postscript, I would like to mention one other book about the early days of forestry in the USA. This is *A Job with Room & Board. Memories of an Early Montana Forester* by John B. Taylor, a copy of which was recently sent to me by an old friend in Washington. This is the author's account of his experiences in the mountain forests of western Montana around about the same time young Ken was doing his fictional thing down in Arizona. Taylor's book is well-written and illustrated, full of interesting and humorous anecdotes, and thoroughly enjoyable. How I would have loved to explore, as he did on survey and assessment work, those glorious coniferous forests and beautiful mountain landscapes in the days when they were still largely untouched. Taylor provides a nice counterpoint to Zane Grey, his accounts of his adventures being understated and realistic. A genuine forester's book.

References:

- Bill Bryson, 2013. *One Summer, America 1927*. Doubleday.
- Zane Grey, 1910. *The Young Forester*.
- John B. Taylor, 2015. *A Job with Room & Board. Memories of an Early Montana Forester*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana.

ABORIGINAL USE OF PITURI (NATIVE TOBACCO)

By Peter Holzworth

The plant *Duboisia* has played a small but significant role in the medical history of Australia from the ancient times of the Aborigines to the present. Paradoxically, the genus *Duboisia* is both poisonous and therapeutic to mankind, depending on the levels of its alkaloids. The plant's leaves are a valuable source of drugs used in ophthalmic and other treatments.

Taxonomy

The genus *Duboisia* resides in the Solanaceae family along with other genera and species such as capsicum, paprika, potato, tomato and eggplant. The family also includes tobacco, the narcotic mandrake and the poisonous species of deadly nightshade, henbane and thornapple. Some of these have also been used as "witches' salves" and in connection with religious practices.

There are three species of the genus *Duboisia* in Australia. The species of interest in this article is *D. hopwoodii*, the one used by the early Aborigines.



Duboisia hopwoodii

Aboriginal Use of Pituri

It is called "Pituri", among other names. Aborigines used the sap to make an intoxicating drink. They also chewed the leaves, which acted as a narcotic and helped them stave off hunger pains during lean times. Leaves from the plant were used to treat colds and allergies.

The comment below is from a traveller in 1887 in inland Australia:

Pituri is a bush, which the natives chop up into small pieces and then chew. They then take a small green bush, called "gee gee", and after burning it to ashes, which are placed in a hollowed out piece of wood, the pituri is removed from the mouth and rolled in these ashes. This disgusting compound is then rolled in the shape of a cigar.

It is a widely distributed and common plant found in the arid regions of Australia, growing on freely drained, sandy or gravelly soils. Pituri is a medium to tall shrub with brownish-yellow to purple corky bark and slender branches with drooping tips. The leaves are highly toxic to stock and inland camels.

In *The Encyclopedia of Australian Plants* (Lothian Books, 1989), W. Rodger Elliot and David L. Jones write that "The name 'Pituri' was used by the Aborigines of the Mulligan River in western Queensland for the chewing concoction and this name was then widely adopted by the early white settlers, who also chewed plugs of the material. The plant was of importance to the Aborigines,

and it was used as an article of trade. Also, small waterholes were infused with leaves and branches of the plant, to stupefy and disorient emus, making them easy prey for hunters."

WA HERITAGE AWARDS 2016 - DONNELLY RIVER

The winners of the 2016 Western Australian Heritage Awards were announced in March, with 15 individuals and outstanding heritage projects honoured, resulting in nine winners and six commendations.

Among the winners was Donnelly River Village in Weaton, the site of a timber industry village which closed in 1978 and is now a tourism site offering accommodation in the workers' cottages and which respects the timber industry heritage of the site.

The judges' citation reads:

This community of dedicated owners worked together to conserve Donnelly River Mill and Townsite Precinct, which now operates as a successful tourist and holiday destination. An innovative ownership model, with owners directly involved and guided by a conservation plan, it is an exemplar of good heritage management of a fragile site.

The awards website advises:

Wheatley Village Pty Ltd is a community of 35 unitholders and their families who purchased the Donnelly River Village (Wheatley) in February 2010. The Wheatley town site was established in 1949 to provide housing for the timber workers at Bunning Bros Donnelly Mill which is situated next to the village.

The Wheatley community has carefully renovated the workers cottages and they are now offered as holiday accommodation. The village's conservation plan is central to all planning and business decisions and each owner has responsibility for maintaining a particular cottage with their own funds.

This passionate group of owners have taken a very rundown village set in the middle of the majestic Karri forest between Nannup, Bridgetown and Manjimup, and restored it to a pleasant holiday destination that celebrates its cultural heritage as a former timber town and gives guests and visitors an insight into life in simpler times.

www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/about-us/education-research-events/heritage-awards/past-heritage-awards-winners/2016-wa-heritage-award-winners



The village website is at www.donnellyriver.com.au.

Thanks to Rob Robinson for drawing attention to this award.

OBITUARY: ALAN JOHN THREADER 1922-2016

By Ian Ferguson, Peter Greig and Rob Youl

Leader who saw the rise and fall of State forestry ¹

Alan Threader, who was the last chairman of Forests Commission Victoria to retire, died in Melbourne at 93. His life-span overlapped the rise of State forestry, which began when the *Forests Act* (1918) created the Commission to manage State forests sustainably, and the Commission's demise in 1983. For many years, Victorians had been alarmed that forests were being felled for timber but not regenerated. The Commission was designed to keep the commercial forestry business at arm's length from government - as with electricity, water, and railways - a governance system that led the world at that time. Revenue from royalties would give the Commission a degree of autonomy from Treasury.

Alan was born in Melbourne on 12 November 1922 - the oldest of Victor and Cecily Threader's three children. As dux of Box Hill Boys High School in 1938, Alan won a scholarship to the Victorian School of Forestry at Creswick. His field career began in 1942 in the aftermath of the 1939 bushfires that killed 71 people, and destroyed 1000 homes, and over 100,000 hectares of mountain ash forests.

Alan was first posted to Taggerty in 1942, one of 52 district offices across the state. Taggerty was a big district and the work was hard. Salvage logging in the dead (and by then naturally regenerating) mountain ash forests required new roads, new machinery, and new foresters to supervise fallers and logging contractors, who carted huge quantities of timber. Indeed, for the first several months of his career, Alan drove and serviced a timber truck, delivering sawlogs continuously to Melbourne sawmills, almost living in the cabin.

After two other postings, Alan was posted to Cohuna in 1949, allowing him to meet the love of his life, Mabel, whom he soon married and they subsequently had two boys, John in 1954 and Neville in 1957. Like all forester families, they had a number of postings to different forest districts. At times there was no electricity or sewerage and water was supplied from tanks but they enjoyed all the postings and experiences they brought to their life as a family. However, there were times over summer when they would rarely see their father as he would be off in the bush directing fire-fighting operations. In 1959, Alan was appointed to head the marketing and sales division of the Commission and bought a house in Balwyn, the family home until late 2014.

As the post-war boom in housing continued apace, Alan oversaw the introduction of a royalty system designed to set equitable log prices for the sawmills relocating to forests further east. By the 1960s, however, conservation of forests for their own sake - and not for their products - became the catchcry. Conservation had become

mainstream, and it was the start of major changes to State commercial forestry and for Alan.

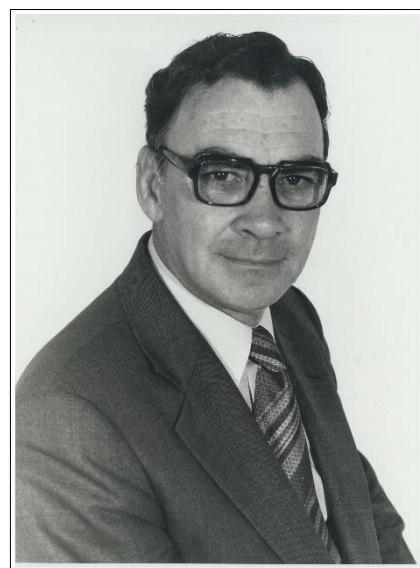
During this period of major change, Alan was appointed as a Commissioner in 1969 and to the role of Chairman of the Forests Commission in 1978. He guided many changes in forest policy and practices: ceasing clearing of native forest for plantations; introducing a successful safety program; increasing the number of women in forestry roles; and successfully steering the merger of the Victorian School of Forestry and University of Melbourne Faculty of Agriculture in 1973 - a milestone in forestry education. He also strongly supported a campaign to halt the decline of trees on farms, a precursor to Landcare.

When the government changed hands in 1982 after 27 years of conservative rule, it was inevitable that radical revision of the Forests Commission was imminent. State commercial forestry was not alone in being swept aside; most of the State-owned commercial entities (electricity, water, railways, gas) were similarly treated on the basis of the new political and economic thinking.

Alan recognised these challenges but chose to resign as Chairman in 1983 when Mabel became ill, caring for her over the next 17 years. He was a strong and intelligent leader who took great pride in his Forests Commission achievements but was very humble in acknowledging them publicly.

He contributed greatly to the welfare of the elderly through his efforts to form BassCare, an independent not-for-profit organisation providing services for the elderly of Boroondara and was an active member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne and the Port Phillip Probus Club.

He is survived by his two sons, one grandson, and two great grandchildren, in all of whom he took great delight. They remained close-knit and mutually supporting to the end.



¹ **Editor's note:** This obituary was published in *The Age* (Melbourne) on Thursday 19th May 2016, under the title "When Victorians finally realised the value of their native forests, he led the rescue mission". It is reprinted in the AFHS newsletter with the permission of Ian Ferguson and Rob Youl.

WOODFORD SAWMILLS RESEARCH - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Donna Grigor from the Woodford Historical Society in Queensland is researching the sawmills that have operated in the Woodford/Durundur areas - these include D'Aguilar, Delaneys Creek, Neurum, Villeneuve, Bellthorpe, Stanmore and Woodford.

There is minimal information available from the early years, i.e. the late 1800s, and what exists is mostly in publications that the Woodford Historical Society has printed in the past. She has found some stories relating to the sawmills on the Trove website of the National Library of Australia. The society has added stories about Bullocky's as there are some family members who have some stories and photos to contribute. The society will be publishing *Sawmills of Durundur* on a web site which it hopes to have up and running by the end of the year.

The society has received a grant from Queensland's Regional Arts Development Fund to conduct the research.

If you can help Woodford Historical Society, Donna can be contacted at grigorearthmoving@bigpond.com or by phone at 0429 899 115. The society's Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/woodfordhistoricalsociety.



THE BROTHERS TRIST

We received recently an interesting e-mail from Michael Andrassy in Canada who wrote:

My maternal grandfather was Alan Robert Trist, and it has just come to my attention that in 2006, a Mr. Peter Holzworth, who I believe is a member of your Society, wrote a book about him and his brother, Clarence: *The Brothers Trist, Champions of Forestry*; Peter Holzworth, 2006.

I would very much like a copy of this book - even a photocopy or PDF if it is out of print - and would appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping me locate one. I have searched the catalogue of the National Library of Australia, Amazon.com, and of course, Google, to no avail.

The e-mail was forwarded to Peter Holworth who replied:

Yes I did write a 28 page booklet on the brothers Trist in 2006. I haven't offered it to the State or National Library but I probably will soon. I'd be more than happy to provide a copy of the booklet to Michael Andrassy.

Michael also provided a link to a photo of the Memorial Entrance Gate at Warrie National Park, Springbrook, which he found on the Monument Australia website:



<http://monumentaustalia.org.au/themes/people/government---state/display/100226-clarence-john-trist>

Memorial entrance gate commemorates Clarence John Trist who was Secretary of (the) Forestry Department from 1919 to 1953. Clarence Trist was instrumental in preserving National Parks.

Clarence (Clarry) John Melrose Trist, was in charge of administration rather than the scientific side of Forestry. He was also given the task of managing National Parks in Queensland and overseeing legislation in relation to rural fire matters and sandalwood harvesting. He was a well-loved family man with many interests outside forestry. Clarry Trist was the brother of Alan Trist who was the permanent head of the Forestry Department from 1964 to 1970.

Source: *The Brothers Trist, Champions of Forestry*, Peter Holzworth 2006.