



# Australian Forest History Society

Newsletter No. 85

April 2022

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

## Eucalypts in New Zealand



*Eucalypts for shelter on Massey University farm, 2009  
(Photo: Michael Roche)*

*See pp5-8*



### 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 30 June each year.**

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### NEXT ISSUE

The newsletter is normally published three times a year, with the occasional special issue (such as this one). The next issue should be out in August 2022.

**Input is always welcome.**

Contributions can be sent to  
[fintan\\_olaighin@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fintan_olaighin@yahoo.com.au).

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

*By Fintán Ó Laighin*

This issue brings the sad news of the death in late April of one of our founding members, Jenny Mills. She was a great contributor to the society over the years, presenting papers at many of our conferences, being a member of the committee, and being one of the main organisers of our Sixth National Conference in Augusta, Western Australia, in September 2004. A short note is on the next page, with John Dargavel's obituary to be published in the next issue.

I've probably made this observation before, but one thing I like about the AFHS is the diversity of subject matters that our members are involved in. This is again demonstrated, with a lead article taking us to New Zealand, concerns about the redevelopment of the Australian Forestry School site in Canberra, an article on forestry in WW2 (our contribution to Anzac Day), a digression to the south Pacific, Robert Onfray's always entertaining blogs, and John Dargavel's short article on Ukrainian foresters.

We also note the awarding of the JLN Southern Award to Peter Evans for the best article published in the Light Railway Research Society of Australia magazine *Light Railways* during 2020. Peter is a frequent contributor to our own newsletter, both as a writer and editor, and has been a member of our committee for a few years. His articles are always well-research and well-written and it is an award that is well-deserved.

We also have a lengthy review of a book written by another of our members, John Huth, who has published a book on forestry in Queensland. Ian Bevege's review is on pp15-16.

Finally, this issue has news of our 2021 Annual General Meeting held last November. Normally, this would be in the December issue, but that was the special issue on "The Islands". While in recent years, we have almost had three issues a year (sometimes four), the publication has been a bit erratic. I am trying to get a bit more discipline into the production schedule – April, August and December.

## VALE JENNY MILLS

By John Dargavel and Fintán Ó Laighin

We have received the sad news that one of the founding members of the AFHS, Jenny Mills, died on 21 April 2022. Notice of her death was published in *The West Australian*:

**MILLS JENNY** Passed away peacefully at Hollywood Hospital on 21 April. Beloved mother of Jane, Julian and Sarah, wife of David (dec), mother-in-law of Paul, Jane and Dave, and grandmother to Emily, Rory, Toby, Oliver, Sophie, Charlie, Jasper and Lucy. Artist, historian, writer and story teller who loved her family, life, and her many friends. Will be missed by all.

Jenny and her husband David attended most of our conferences, with Jenny the main organiser of the one held in Augusta (WA) in 2004. She presented papers at six of our nine conferences, including at our first in 1988:

1988 "The 'Teddy Bears': A History of the South West Timber Hewers Co-operative Society, Western Australia"

1992 "Tracking the KTC from Kauri to Karri to Chatlee" (co-written with Michael Roche and John Dargavel)

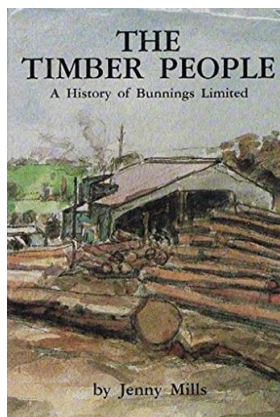
1996 Old regrowth of the Boranup karri forest

2002 Kim Kessell: a first class sensible bloke

2007 Elizabeth Blair Barber (1909-2001): The Western Australian timber industry—An artist's impression 1933-1980

2010 Weir Valley Farm, Mundaring, Western Australia: land in transition

In 1986, her book *The Timber People: A History of Bunnings Limited* was published. She was also an accomplished artist and, from memory, she also did the watercolour (?) used for the book's cover.



John Dargavel is preparing an obituary which we will publish in our next issue.

## VALE PETE STEEN (1935–2022)

By John Dargavel

Foundation members of our society will remember Harold "Pete" Steen who came from the USA to speak at our first meeting in 1988. He was the director of the Forest History Society there and brought its best wishes. Pete was a good friend to the AFHS and its members.

Pete brought a unique understanding to forest history, having first graduated as a forester and worked for several years for the US Forest Service before undertaking his PhD in history. His *The US Forest Service: A History* (1976, with revised Centennial edition 2004) is a classic text in forest history, but it is for his international reach that he is best known in Australia. Working through the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), he convened a major symposium on the *History of Sustained-Yield Forestry* in 20 countries and published the papers in 1984. He contributed to many international meetings of IUFRO's forest history group, including publishing with Richard Tucker, *Changing Tropical Forests: Historical Perspectives in Central and South America* in 1992.

Pete and his first wife, Gail became my good friends from their visit to Australia, and at international meetings, and through numerous emails and cards over the years. Memorably, we once shared a cramped apartment in Venice. Pete cared for Gail in her last years and later found happiness with Margaret.

Remembered with respect and affection.



Photo: Courtesy, Forest History Society



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 2021

By Juliana Lazzari

It has been another quiet year due to COVID-19 restrictions but technology has enabled our three annual newsletters to continue to be produced. Significant thanks to the efforts of our newsletter editors Fintán Ó Laighin and Peter Evans allowing its continued production. Thanks also to the many contributors that continues to generate interesting and high-quality articles on the vast array of topics that is forest history.

Our website manager, Jan Oosthoek, has this past year been working towards upgrading our website. Jan has upgraded our hosting plan and that will allow us to implement Wordpress on the site. The transfer of the current AFHS website to Wordpress will occur in the second half of December 2021 taking a couple of days where during this time, the website will be off-line for a day or so. Jan will be handing over the reins to me (thankfully with written instructions!) to manage the website after advising his intention to step down as website manager. I am still encouraging a member or two to volunteer as website buddies to share the load for managing our website after Jan steps down. I very much welcome anyone interested to please contact me.

My optimism for an increasingly active society this upcoming year will hopefully result in a repeat of the first Callitris conference held in November 2000 in Coonabarabran, NSW. One of our members, Stuart Pearson, had proposed this excellent idea of having a 20-year anniversary since the first conference. Although this was thwarted by COVID-19, the upside is that a 22 year anniversary provides two additional years of articles, research, and knowledge to share!

In my continued tenure as president, I remain committed to encouraging members to contribute to the society and welcome all ideas and newsletter contributions, no matter how big or small. The society is for everyone who has spent any time working or been involved in forests. The vast range of articles in our newsletter attest to the relevance and importance of forest history, both locally and globally.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 2021

By Fintán Ó Laighin

The financial situation of the society continues its slow decline, mainly attributable to our "business model" (for want of a better term) which has been based on profits made from the conferences funding the activities of the society for the following few years. However, this has fallen away somewhat, with our most recent national conference held in 2015 and before that 2010.

Our biggest expense by far is the printing and posting of the newsletter and changing to a digital-only version is something that the society will need to consider. Some members are not set up to handle digital-only, so any change will need to provide for them. While it would be preferable to maintain printed copies of the newsletter as a standard, I suspect the days are numbered.

While this sounds a bit grim, the newsletter remains the most active element of the society, with three issues published during 2020-21 - July, December and April. As we say in every issue, guest editors are always welcome.

I would also thank Graeme Wood for reviewing the financial statements before they were presented at the AGM. This is the second year he has one this. As with Stephen Bailey who reviewed our accounts for many years, Graeme is not a member of the AFHS and does this on a voluntary basis. His contribution is greatly appreciated.

## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE 2022 COMMITTEE

The society's Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on Thursday 26 November 2021. The following committee was elected:

<b>President:</b>	Juliana Lazzari
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kevin Frawley
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Fintán Ó Laighin
<b>Committee:</b>	Peter Evans, Stuart Pearson
<b>Public Officer:</b>	John Gray

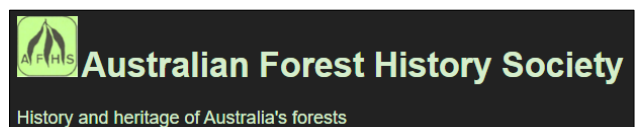
## THE NEW AFHS WEBSITE

As mentioned in previous newsletters and by our president, Juliana Lazzari, in her report to the 2021 AGM, our webmaster for the past few years – Jan Oosthoek –has decided to step down. However, his parting gift has been a revamped website – [www.foresthistory.org.au](http://www.foresthistory.org.au) – subtitled "History and heritage of Australia's forests".

Juliana has offered to look after the website in the interim, but she is looking for someone to take it over. She can be contacted at [Juliana.Lazzari@anu.edu.au](mailto:Juliana.Lazzari@anu.edu.au).

The redesigned site looks great, and Jan has done a great job. Thanks muchly to Jan for his work over the previous few years.

Previous versions of our URL, going back to June 2006, have been captured by the Wayback Machine – <https://web.archive.org>. Before then, our site was hosted by the ANU's Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies and web captures from July 2001 and October 2001 are at <http://cres.anu.edu.au/envirohist/fh.html> and <http://cres.anu.edu.au/envirohist/afhsociety.html>. To find these pages, enter the addresses into the search field on the Wayback Machine home page.



## EUCALYPTS IN NEW ZEALAND

By Michael Roche

### Introduction

Having from time-to-time spoken about New Zealand indigenous tree species at Australian Forest History Society conferences or written about them in the newsletter, at the back of my mind was also lurking the question of when were Eucalypts first grown in New Zealand? Along with Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*) known just as "Macrocarpa", numerous "Blue Gums" were a feature of the Canterbury landscapes of my childhood. Farmers planted both species for shelter and firewood. But answering some elementary questions about what species, and when and where Eucalypts were first introduced to New Zealand has proven surprisingly fraught. What follows is provisional and indicative rather than definitive. Perhaps it will trigger some more comprehensive research?

### Eucalypts Today

*Pinus radiata* from the 1920s began to dominate state and company afforestation efforts. Prior to this, from 1897 to 1919, many other species were trialed by the Forestry Branch of the Lands Department including some Eucalypts. Informal private experimentation, stretched back further into the mid-19th century. Eucalypts were never a major part of private sector or state afforestation efforts and by 2012 amounted to a mere 23,000 ha of a 1.72 million ha plantation estate. Larger plantings dated only from the 1980s driven by the needs of pulp and paper companies (Poole et al., 2017). Fry (1983) tracks this growth from 184 acres [74 ha] in state plantations in 1910 and 63 acres [25 ha] of private plantations in 1915 with a slow expansion of area after the 1970s. New Zealand's colder climates, durability, growth rates, and potential end uses all retarded interest in Eucalypts at a time when a range of *Pinus* species seemed to offer more

promising results (and there was increasing demand for softwoods). Above average "disease and pest risks" served as an additional impediment (Fry, 1983, 399).

### First Cultivation in New Zealand

Poole, et al., (2017, 6) note that, "the first plantings of eucalypts were attributed to goldminers coming from Australia in the 1860s". Similar claims are sometimes made for the arrival of *Pinus radiata* in New Zealand. In looking further afield, I chanced on the New Zealand Forest Service's *Exotic Forest Trees in New Zealand* prepared for the British Commonwealth Forestry Conference held in Australia and New Zealand in 1957. Here Weston (1957, 11) noted, "at least 113 species of eucalypts are known to have been introduced and tried in New Zealand". Faced with this daunting number as well as confusion over species, changes to botanical nomenclature, and some stands of hybrid types, he decided to focus on 17. These represented three groups: (1) widespread species though not necessarily of timber value; (2) those likely to be of value in the future; and (3) little planted species with good timber producing potential.<sup>1</sup>

Weston also provided some information about the timing and location of the first known plantings (Table 1). These push back the first arrival of Eucalypt species to the 1850s and to other regions beyond Canterbury and Otago in the 1860s. Except for *Eucalyptus muelleriana*, all the seed was brought in by private landowners. The earliest record that Weston cites is for *E. globulus* and coincides with the settlement of Canterbury in 1850. Other species according to Weston are recorded from the 1860s to the 1890s and can, broadly speaking, be related to the spread of the agricultural and pastoral frontier in New Zealand. Adding to the overall puzzle, Weston is mindful that early record keeping more often than not, was poor and that species were not always properly identified.

Table 1: First known cultivation of Eucalypts in New Zealand

Species	Introduced	Region	Other
<i>E. botryoides</i>	@ 1890	Kamo, North Auckland	
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	Prior to 1900	Auckland	
<i>E. fastigata</i>	1884	Papakura, Auckland	Grown from seed.
<i>E. gigantea</i>	1900 (?)	Tokomaru Bay, East Coast	Introduced as <i>E. obliqua</i> ; poor durability.
<i>E. globulus</i>	Early 1850s	Otago & Canterbury	No potential value, do not plant.
<i>E. gunnii</i>	1870-72	Taita Hutt Valley Wellington	Potential for high country protection forestry.
<i>E. macarthurii</i>	1874	Cambridge, Waikato	Poor timber quality, not worth planting.
<i>E. muelleriana</i>	1905	Whakarewarewa	State forest; excellent for farm woodlots.
<i>E. obliqua</i>	1875	Parawai, Thames	Farm planting use only cool climates.
<i>E. ovata</i>	Pre 1900	Christchurch & inland Canterbury	Early state plantings given as <i>E. stuartian</i> and <i>E. acerrula</i> . Cannot be recommended for planting except on swampy soils.
<i>E. pilularis</i>	1864	Clevedon, Auckland	Valuable in poor soils especially for farm woodlots and plantations.
<i>E. regnans</i>	1860	Waitati, near Dunedin	Considered for pulpwood in cold areas.
<i>E. saligna</i>	1870-75	Silverdale & Mangapai, North Auckland	Valuable in poor soils especially for farm woodlots.
<i>E. scabra</i>	1864	Clevedon, Auckland	Good for farm woodlots and small-scale forest planting.
<i>E. sieberiana</i>	1890	Kamo, North Auckland	Little reason for planting – timber not durable.
<i>E. tereticornis</i>	1870-1880	Matakohe, North Auckland	Potentially valuable for farm woodlots on well drained sites.
<i>E. viminalis</i>	1857	Blenheim	Should not be planted – poor timber quality.

Source: Compiled from Weston (1957).

1. The taxonomic nomenclature used by Weston is retained.

A smaller but more detailed study contemporaneous to Weston was completed by New Zealand Forest Service officer, and later prominent forestry consultant, Peter Olsen in 1958 (Table 2). Olsen carefully sieved through various historical claims setting aside many as unreliable but pushes the first introductions back another decade to the early 1840s. This coincides with the beginnings of largescale organised European settlement. Based on a thorough and wide-ranging search of period publications and newspaper sources, he considered that the three earliest species to appear were *E. globulus*, *obliqua* and *viminialis*, all coincident with the establishment of the settlement of Nelson in 1842. He was also able to trace the spread of *E. globulus* in some detail from the 1840s to 1880s.

**Table 2: First introduction of Eucalypts in the South Island**

Species	Introduced	Region
<i>E. globulus</i>	1842	Nelson-Marlborough
<i>E. obliqua</i>	Early 1840s	Riverlands, Blenheim
<i>E. viminialis</i>	1857	Fairhall, Blenheim

*Source: Olsen (1958).*

While Weston and Olsen agree about the timing of the first appearance of *E. viminialis*, they differ for *E. obliqua* and *E. globulus*. The divergence over *E. obliqua* is relatively slight, and there were pastoral connections into Canterbury from Marlborough and Nelson. There were also direct links between Canterbury and NSW from 1850 in the form of sheep imports and it is easy to also envisage this also including tree seed. Olsen's tracing of the timing and spread of *E. globulus* is more exhaustive than Weston's, even allowing for their different purposes.<sup>2</sup> Forestry Lecturer C.E. Foweraker (1927, 250) recounted Blue Gum, Red Gum, and Wattle seeds being brought into the newly founded Canterbury Settlement in 1851 and gave the example of one (species unspecified) planted by Dr Barker at his home close to present day Cathedral Square. Some further detail is provided by Richard St Barbe Baker (1965) in *Famous trees of New Zealand*. Mainly concerned with indigenous species, Baker does include a short chapter on "Australia's Contributions". His listing of "very old gumtrees" includes those raised by S.C. Farr at Akaroa in 1850 and specimens planted by Hunter Brown at Double Corner Station in north Canterbury in 1852. He credits Dr Earle at Opawa in Christchurch with first planting *E. globulus* but gives no date. This is very precise information, but I would not always give Baker full marks for accuracy. Brown's tree is described elsewhere as a "White Gum" and the oldest eucalypt in Canterbury. It was cut down in 1940 (Acland, 1975, 89).

Weston, but not Olsen, refers to J.H. Simmonds' (1927) *Trees from other Lands in New Zealand – Eucalypts*. Rev. Simmonds was for many years in charge of the

Wesley Training College at Three Kings in Auckland. Here and later at Paerata, he established experimental plantations of Eucalypts and other species. Simmonds' book was intended as a guide to tree planters and the volume was dedicated to J.H. Maiden (1859-1925), the NSW botanist, who described many Eucalypt species. Simmonds listed 70 species of Eucalypts that had been planted in New Zealand. He organised them into six groups from frostless districts to those with snow and severe frosts. His purpose was to assist would-be planters of Eucalypts and not to provide a record of the first planting of various species.

Henry Matthews, a trained nurseryman, was appointed government Chief Forester in 1896 (Leach, 1993). Matthews codified his knowledge about tree planting in a single volume *Tree-Culture in New Zealand* in 1905. This included indigenous and introduced species. Chapter XX dealt with Eucalypts. The Forestry Branch had, he noted, 40 Eucalypt species in cultivation. Those from Tasmania he considered more suited to New Zealand conditions. Matthews (1905, 94) was also little concerned with matters historical, but does refer to a list of "hardy Eucalypts" created by the Superintendent of the Christchurch Botanical Gardens "twenty-two years ago". This suggests that the named species were growing by 1883 at the latest. These included *E. amygdalina*, *coriacea*, *coccifera*, *urnigera* and *obliqua*.

### Gum Trees

That early New Zealand newspapers are now available on-line, makes it comparatively easy to search for the early presence of Eucalypts in New Zealand. As early as 1850, James McBeth of Pipitea in Wellington was auctioning an assortment of plants and seeds brought in on the *Munford*. This included "Blue gum tree seed" (*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian*, 4 September 1850). Auckland auctioneers Connell & Ridings, in 1855, had what they described as, "ornamental shrubs" including "gum trees" (*Daily Southern Cross*, 3 July 1855). A competitor firm, Newman & Buckland, a few months later, was auctioning five tons of Peruvian guano and 500 Blue Gum trees from Hobart (*Daily Southern Cross*, 25 September 1855). The following year, in Dunedin, Nurseryman George Mathews, father of Henry Matthews, was offering Blue Gum trees for sale as a fast growing ornamental (*Otago Witness*, 12 April 1856). In Christchurch, local nurseryman Mr W. Wilson was advertising the sale of gum seed collected from near Hobart (*Lyttelton Times*, 4 July 1855). The *Lyttelton Times* even carried an advertisement by Wellington nurseryman Mr J. Watson comprising a lengthy list of ornamental and fruiting plants including "Blue Gums singly in pots 20 for 20 shillings" (*Lyttelton Times*, 2 June 1855). Orders to be "packed and shipped with the greatest care".

Canterbury runholder and politician John Hall, spoke in the Provincial Council Chamber of four-year old Blue Gums of astonishing growth of which 2500 might be planted per acre and of Red Gums (*Lyttelton Times*, 26 April 1856). This would put their planting at 1852. In

2. Those of us who went on the fieldtrip to Riccarton bush as part of the 2007 AFHS conference held in Christchurch may recall the large *E. globulus subsp. globulus* adjacent to Deans' cottage by the entrance to the bush – this was planted in about 1867.

Wellington the cargo of the *Harp* from Hobart was sold by Messers Bethune and Hunter. It included 400 young Blue Gum trees, 6d to 8d each and two bags of Blue Gum seed, 6d to 8d per lb (*Daily Southern Cross*, 23 September 1856). This latter notice is interesting in that it specifies both seedlings and seed. There are other sales and auctions in the late 1850s. These notices would suggest that Blue Gums were being planted earlier than Weston (1957) or Poole et al., (2017) suggest. One difficulty is with the popular description "Blue Gums", although an 1879 article in the *Otago Daily Times* specifically and correctly links "Blue Gums" with *E. globulus* (*Otago Daily Times* supplement, 1 January 1879).

I would not, however, rule out some earlier arrivals of Eucalypts, for example, as part of the mission stations with links to Samuel Marsden and NSW.

### Historic Trees Register

Another approach to identifying early Eucalypts in New Zealand is by reference to the Historic Trees Register. This has the advantage of including accurate botanical description, the estimated or known age of the trees, and their location (Table 3). On the other hand, it only includes living or recently dead trees. Even so, details in the register support Poole et al., (2017) that *E. regnans* grown from seed at Outram in Otago was brought in from the Australian goldfields by Joseph Cook in 1866. Equally clearly, Eucalypts were planted elsewhere in New Zealand prior to the Otago goldrushes.

The Register also provides further details about species grown in the North Island, in addition to that provided by Weston (1957).

Table 3: Eucalypt ages from Historic Trees Register

Identifier	Type	Species	Planted	Location
HBR/P0127	single	<i>E. globulus</i>	1860@	Havelock North, Hawkes Bay
HBR/0207	single	<i>E. sideroxylon</i>	1880@	Frimley, Napier, Hawkes Bay
MR/0348	single	<i>E. viminalis</i>	1850@	Fairhall Blenheim, Marlborough
MR/0349	single	<i>E. macarthurii</i>	1870@	Renwick, Marlborough
NNR/0359	single	<i>E. globulus</i> subsp. <i>globulus</i>	1855@	Trafalgar South Nelson
WKR/0588	single	<i>E. regnans</i>	1878@	Newstead Hamilton, Waikato
OR/0640	single	<i>E. regnans</i>	1866	Outram, Otago
NNR/0773	single	<i>E. sieberi</i>	1862	Nelson, Nelson
MR/0528	single	<i>E. obliqua</i>	1890@	Kaituna, Marlborough
WRR/G1235	group	<i>E. viminalis</i>	1860@	Wainuioru Masterton
CR/G1285	group	<i>E. globulus</i>	1860@	Purau Christchurch, Canterbury

Source: Compiled from <https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/559>.

### Global Circulation of Eucalypts

Bennett (2011a) has written of the "global history" of Australian trees particularly Acacia and Eucalypts as a palliative to Alfred Crosby's "ecological imperialism" which privileges Old World to New World transfers of plants and animals. Bennett suggests five human as opposed to biological factors explaining why Eucalypts were widely planted beyond Australia. These were: (1) the abundance or paucity of indigenous forest; (2) the power of the state, (3) the volume of scientific research into tree planting, (4) the cost of labour; and (5) the ability to utilise hardwood timbers. He included India in his original analysis and published parallel studies of Eucalypts in Thailand and South Africa (Bennett, 2010, 2011b). New Zealand with its more modest place in the "global history" of Australian trees does not feature.

### Conclusion

To come back to my original question – the provisional answer is 1842. The earliest trees were grown for shelter or ornamental purposes and not in plantations. There is

plenty of evidence of widespread sales of Blue Gum seeds and plants in New Zealand by the mid-1850s. But who were the suppliers in Hobart now emerges as an interesting subsidiary question? Likewise, the seeds versus seedlings [and how these were prepared for a sea voyage]? Also, in later decades did some seeds come not from private firms, but directly from Ferdinand von Mueller at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne or even further afield from the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew? Furthermore, when is wider use made of New Zealand seed?

Finally, the spread of Eucalypts from Australia to New Zealand may lack the scale and impact of their presence in other countries as discussed by Bennett (2010, 2011a, 2011b) but it may be worth further investigation to understand why they were relatively undervalued in New Zealand and what was the mix of human and biological factors involved herein? In this way the New Zealand experience can be evaluated as part of the "global history" of Eucalypts and not solely in terms of local conditions.





**Figure 1:**  
*E. eugenoides*  
and *E. pilularis*  
planted at Clevedon  
near Auckland in  
about 1863. The  
original tree (centre of  
photo) was 10ft DBH  
and contained an  
estimated 1500 super  
feet. The original  
illustration was  
published in *Simmonds'*  
*Trees from other Lands*  
(1927).



**Figure 2:**  
*E. amygdalina*,  
*E. risdoni*, *E. obliqua*  
planted about 1886 on  
Sir Andrew Russell's  
"Tutanui" farm in  
Hawkes Bay. Trees from  
this plantation and been  
used for electrical power  
and telegraph poles.  
During WWI as  
Major General, Russell  
commanded the  
New Zealand Division on  
the Western Front. The  
original illustration was  
also published in  
*Simmonds' Trees from*  
*other Lands* (1927).

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## THREAT TO YARRALUMLA'S FORESTRY HERITAGE

The ACT and Region Division of Forestry Australia<sup>1</sup> has expressed concern about the proposed redevelopment of the Forestry Precinct in Yarralumla in Canberra. The site was the location of the Australian Forestry School (now the Australian National University's Department of Forestry) and the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau (later the Forestry and Timber Bureau) which became CSIRO Forestry and Forestry Products.<sup>2</sup>

Kim Wells, Brian Turner and Peter Kanowski have prepared a paper, "Forestry Heritage CSIRO Precinct, Yarralumla", with Wells and Turner also having prepared a "Report on Redevelopment of CSIRO/Forestry Precinct, Yarralumla" in September 2020. The reports are available at [www.forestry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ACT-Forestry-Heritage-FINALS.pdf](http://www.forestry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ACT-Forestry-Heritage-FINALS.pdf) and [www.forestry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ACT-Forestry-Heritage-Redevelopment.pdf](http://www.forestry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ACT-Forestry-Heritage-Redevelopment.pdf).

CSIRO has heritage management plans for the Australian Forestry School and the Forestry Precinct which are available at [www.csiro.au/en/about/locations/Heritage-management/Land-and-buildings](http://www.csiro.au/en/about/locations/Heritage-management/Land-and-buildings).

The developers have established a website for the site, "Forestry Place" [www.forestryplace.com.au](http://www.forestryplace.com.au).

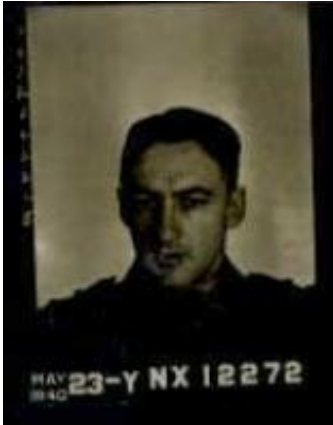
<sup>1</sup> Forestry Australia was formerly known as the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers.

<sup>2</sup> When the bureau was dismantled, its functions went to four other agencies – besides the CSIRO Division(s) of Forestry and Forest Products, policy functions went to what is now the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, the forestry statistics went to what is now the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, and the management of forests in the ACT went to what is now the ACT Government Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.



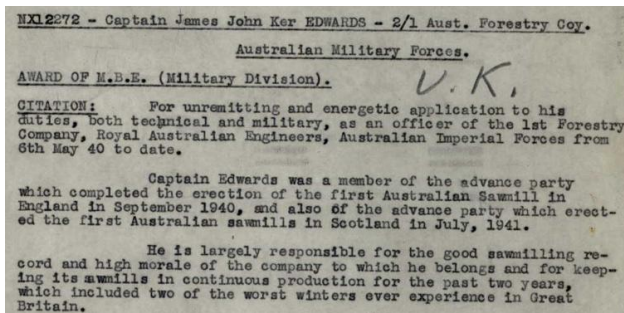
## CAPTAIN JAMES JOHN KER EDWARDS, MBE

By Graham McKenzie-Smith and Fintán Ó Laighin



In January 1943, Captain James John Ker Edwards, an officer of the 2/1 Australian Forestry Company, was awarded an MBE (Military Division) for his "unremitting and energetic application to his duties, both technical and military". The citation noted his involvement in the construction of the first

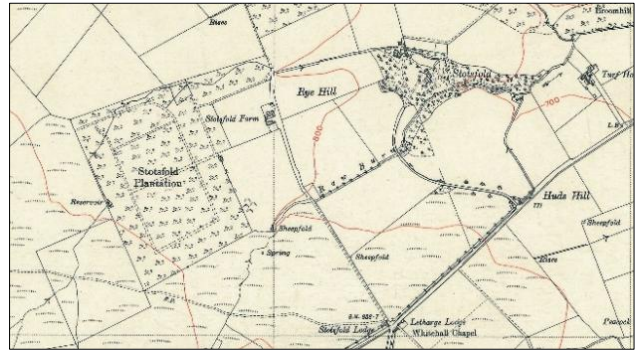
Australian sawmills in England and Scotland in September 1940 and July 1941, and for his work in keeping the sawmills going.



James Edwards was born in November 1910 and in May 1938 was single and living with his parents at Cremorne (NSW) while working as a "Timber Works Manager" with Wallis Bros P/L, a timber merchant at Annandale. At this time, he enlisted for three years in 14 Heavy Battery, a part time militia unit which was to man the coast guns defending Sydney harbour from Middle Head. He was promoted to Lance Bombardier in October 1939 but was placed on the Regimental Reserve in December.

In March 1940, Captain Cyril Cole, Chief Forester in the ACT, had recruited 1 Forestry Company which was being formed with men from Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia for service alongside the British forces in France. He chose men with a forestry, sawmilling or timber background. On 6 May, Edwards was selected for his engineering background and commissioned as a Lieutenant. Along with 2 For Coy, they sailed for England on 25 May on the "Third Convoy" which was diverted to England, arriving in July, just after the fall of France. 1 For Coy moved to Chathill in Northumberland in September to operate an existing sawmill, but Edwards was detached to the advanced party of 2 For Coy which moved to Hexham, also in Northumberland, to build a new sawmill at Stotsfold Hall (Sawmill 44).

The photo of James Edwards comes from his service record which has been digitised by the National Archives of Australia.  
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4839699>.



*A 1940s survey map showing the Stotsfold region – the features running from left to right (shown in detail on the bottom map) are Stotsfold Plantation, Stotsfold Farm, Rye Hill and Stotsfold (Forest). From the Graham McKenzie-Smith collection.*



*One of the one of the Nissan Huts put up for 2 For Coy between the main house and the stables, where the company had their workshop and saw shop. The mill was NE of the house between Stotsfold Hall and Stotsfold Farm. Stotsfold Hall was used as the company office and officers' mess. It is 8.5 km SSE of Hexham  
Photo by Graham McKenzie-Smith, 2015.*

Edwards returned to 1 For Coy at Chathill before attending the School of Military Engineering at Ripon in December 1940. In March 1941, he led an advanced party from 1 For Coy to Lockerbie, Scotland where they constructed a new sawmill at Farquhar's Wood to an Australian design. 1 For Coy moved there to operate it in July. Edwards was promoted to Captain on 5 July 1941 and was awarded an MBE in the 1943 New Year's Honours List in recognition of his work in the company. For the week of 7 to 14 July, 1 For Coy cut a total of 43,871 cubic feet (1,242m<sup>3</sup>) which was the highest weekly tally of all the military sawmills operating in Britain. 1 For Coy left to return to Australia in November 1943.

After leave and training at the RAE centre at Kapooka (NSW), the renamed 2/1 For Coy moved to Darwin in July 1944 to operate a sawmill at McMinns. Here Edwards was promoted to Major in October and given command of 2/1 For Coy. They returned from the Northern Territory in December and, after further

training at Kapooka, left for New Guinea in April 1945. They established sawmills at Yalu and Wewak which operated until the end of the war.

The State Library of South Australia has 69 photographs in its online album of "Photographs of Cyril Richard Cole", mainly of which relate to forestry. Many were taken during WWII and show the activities and members of the 1 For Coy, including at the 1942 Christmas dinner at Forestry Group H.Q. in Scotland. Major Edwards (as he was then) is on the far right of the photo, seated at the table beside Lieutenant Cole.



Christmas dinner at Forestry Group H.Q. at "Lagball", near the village of Troqueer in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Names include: Mullane, Bergin, Drinnam, Loughry, Ross, Carpenter, QX7262 Lieutenant Alfred Poole, Hayles, Turner, Walton, Pike, WX2768 Corporal George Jones, Captain H.R. Hopkins, VX11406 Lieutenant Colonel Cyril Richard Cole, and NX12272 Major James Edwards.

State Library of South Australia,

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8/36>



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State Library of South Australia – Photographs of Cyril Richard Cole [PRG 1710/8].

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+1710/8>

## SHIPS, TIMBER AND SW PACIFIC – NORMAN K. WALLIS

By Fintán Ó Laighin

Searching for information on Captain James Edwards unearthed this short article on Norman K. Wallis, published in the *Pacific Islands Monthly* of October 1954. Wallis is described as a "leading figure in the timber trade in Sydney" who, "After a University education ... joined the family firm of Wallis Bros. Pty. Ltd., timber merchants of Annandale". The article says that he was also President of the Timber Development Association.

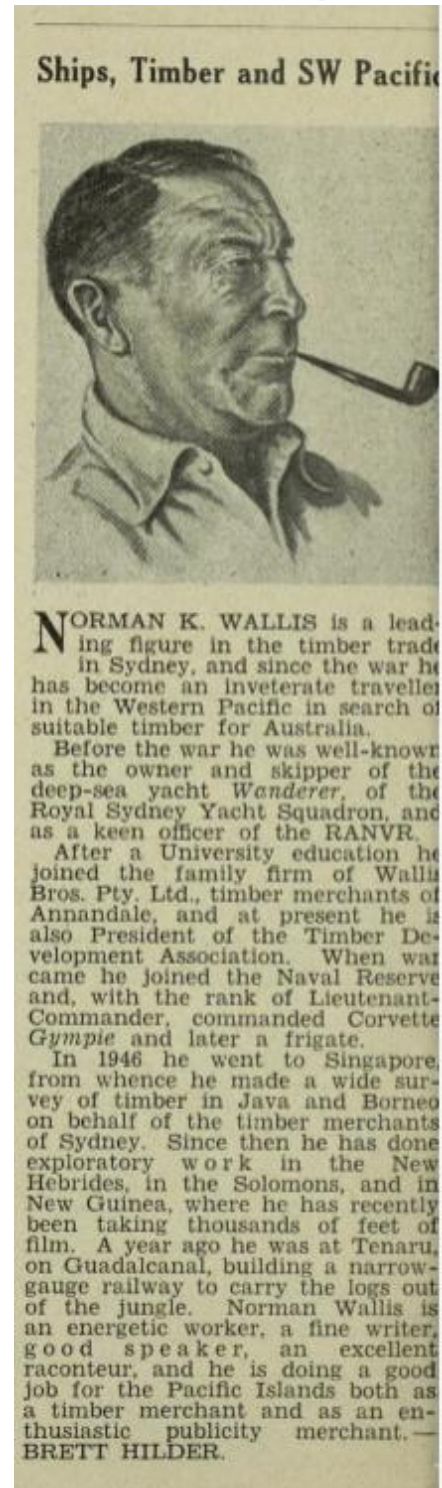


Image courtesy of the National Library of Australia, "Trove".  
*Pacific Islands Monthly*, October 1954. Collection Vol. XXV,  
No. 3, p80. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-310385031>



## ROBERT ONFRAY'S FORESTRY AND SURREY HILLS BLOGS

By Fintán Ó Laighin

Since our most recent report on Robert Onfray's Forestry Blog in the newsletter of August 2021, it has grown by 11 articles, amounting to almost 200 pages, including the photos that illustrate each, as well as the maps and diagrams that are often included. Most of them deal with forests and forestry, including some that relate to forest fire management, but he also digresses into discussion of the politics of water (mis)management, grasslands and crocodile management. All articles are available through his blogsite –

[www.robertonfray.com/category/forestry](http://www.robertonfray.com/category/forestry):

- July:** [A Charred landscape](#)
- August:** [70 years of bushfires – have the lessons learnt been ignored?](#)
- September:** [A Redwood forest](#)
- October:** [Fabricated myths and politics are causing the mismanagement of water in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- November:** [A tale of two grasses](#)
- December:** [Are Australia's deserts really deserts?](#)
- January:** [Should we cull crocodiles?](#)
- February:** [Grass rings of the outback and trees of the artificial wilderness](#)
- March:** [Cabins in the sky](#)
- April:** [Who are the real forest saviours in Western Australia?](#)
- April (bonus):** [Who was Jack Rate?](#)

As was mentioned last time, there is often cross-over with Robert's other two blogs – "Surrey Hills" (in north-west Tasmania) and "Travel". Even though the forest history connection may not be apparent from the titles, many of the blogs on the "Surrey Hills" site build on Robert's book, *Fires, Farms and Forests: A Human History of Surrey Hills, north-west Tasmania*, and discuss matters connected with Associated Forest Holdings (AFH) among other things. In the following list, there is probably only one article that doesn't touch on some aspect of forest history. The articles are available at [www.robertonfray.com/category/surrey-hills](http://www.robertonfray.com/category/surrey-hills):

- March:** [The life of a young timber cutter on Surrey Hills](#)
- April:** [The radio electronics maestro](#)
- May:** [Heading for "The Gates": memories of the old Hampshire gatehouse](#)
- June:** [Sod seeding on Surrey Hills in 1960](#)
- July:** [Nursery times – the development of new technologies and practices](#) (written by Les Baker and Ian Ravenwood)
- August:** [Unique partnerships for conservation](#) (written by Phil Collier)
- September:** [Picking the eyes out of Surrey Hills](#)
- October:** [Resistance fighter, unconventional forester, family man and mentor – the life of Dick de Boer \(1922-94\)](#)
- November:** [The unsung and all-but-forgotten exploits of stockman Donald Campbell Atkinson](#)
- December:** [A lost opportunity or a wise decision – the plans for a smelter on Surrey \(or Hampshire\) Hills](#)

- January:** [Black rabbits at Parrawe](#)
- February:** [My AFH Experience](#) (written by Leigh Titmus)
- March:** [Re-enacting Muddy Creek picnic and sports day](#)
- April:** [Insect pests and fungal pathogens of eucalypt plantations](#)

## PETER EVANS – THE JLN SOUTHERN AWARD

By Fintán Ó Laighin

Congratulations to AFHS member, frequent guest editor of the AFHS newsletter, former editor of *Light Railways* magazine, and historical research and heritage consultant, Peter Evans, who has been awarded the JLN Southern Award for the best article published in *Light Railways* magazine during 2020. The article, "Copper, Platinum, Gold and Lime: The mines and tramways of Coopers Creek, Victoria", was published in LR275 (October 2020). The announcement of the award was published in LR282 (December 2021).

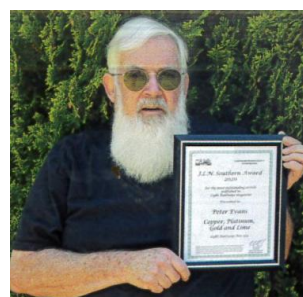
The award was established in 2001 and commemorates John (Jack) Louis Noel Southern (1914-2001) whose large collection of railway books and photographs were donated to the society for disposal, with the funds from the sales used to set up the "JLN Southern Endowment" (LR157, February 2001). Southern had a lifelong interest in railways, was a proficient and prolific photographer, and a regular contributor to the publications of both the Australian Railway Historical Society and the Light Railway Research Society of Australia. He authored many articles and books on industrial and mining railways, particularly those in the Illawarra region of NSW. A short article marking his death appears in LR162 (December 2001).

The primary criteria for the award are:

- \* A 1500 word minimum.
- \* Research is substantially original which makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge of light or industrial railways.
- \* Material is well presented and appropriately referenced.
- \* Work is of a high standard and readability and interest to the audience.
- \* An examination, if relevant, of the broader context of where, when and why the railway operated.

The secondary criteria are:

- \* The use of maps and diagrams.
- \* The use of photographs and other illustrative material.



Peter Evans with his  
JLN Southern Award.  
Photo by Mirjana Rasic.





## ABC RADIO NATIONAL – FOREST HISTORY

### *Science Friction: The Wattle War*

**Broadcast:** Sunday 6 June 2021

It's the green and gold of our sporting uniforms, the blaze of yellow wrapped around our coat of arms, and its seeds have provided bush food for millennia.

Wattle – scientific name *Acacia* – is Australia's much-loved national flower.

But across the Indian Ocean, Africa calls acacia its own too ... and their relationship with this iconic plant runs just as deep.

The incredible story of how the world's botanists went into battle over a plant, amid dramatic accusations of vote stacking and cultural imperialism.

Science matters, but at what cost to culture?

#### **Clarification:**

The name *Acacia* was formally adopted by English botanist Philip Miller in 1754. Until 2005, the type species of *Acacia* was *Mimosa scorpioides*, commonly regarded to be a synonym of *Acacia nilotica* or, after 2005, *Vachellia nilotica*.

#### **Guests:**

Bruce Maslin AM

Botanist

Honorary research associate

Western Australian Herbarium

Perth, Australia

Dr Gerry Moore

Botanist

Leader, National Plant Data Team

Natural Resources Conservation Service

US Department of Agriculture

North Carolina, United States

Dr Haripriya (Priya) Rangan

Political ecologist

Principal fellow and associate professor

School of Geography, University of Melbourne

Melbourne, Australia

Allan Schwarz

Designer

Founder

Mezimbite Forest Centre

Mafambisse, Mozambique

Dr Kevin Thiele

Botanist

Director

Taxonomy Australia

Perth, Australia

Paul van Rijckevorsel

Plant nomenclaturist

Utrecht, The Netherlands

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sciencefriction/acacia-name-africa-australia-wattle-war-botany-taxonomy/13372220>

### *The History Listen: The Fight for the Forest*

**Broadcast:** Tuesday 15 February 2022

In September 2021, in an unprecedented political move, the Western Australian state government announced an end to the logging of native forest, the first state in Australian history to do so.

The win is a testament to the WA forest campaign, which kicked off in the mid 1970s.

From bombings and vigilante groups to celebrity protestors – the battle to save these incredible forests has been long, passionate, dangerous and now, ultimately victorious.

#### **Guests:**

Dr Joanna Young, botanist

Dr Beth Schultz AO, forest protester

Jess Beckerling, WA Forest Alliance Convener

Giz Watson, former member of the WA Greens Party

Greg Smeathers, manager of South West Haulage

Emma Belfield, forest protester

Archive material sourced from the film *Wagerup Weekender* directed by David Noakes and Bryan McLellan

[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/fight-for-the-forest/13734462](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/fight-for-the-forest/13734462)

### *Rear Vision: The Greens – Politics and the environment*

**Broadcast:** Sunday 24 April 2022

In this year's election campaign, well-funded independents are arguing for a better approach to managing climate change. What might this mean for the political party that's been urging action on climate change for years – the Australian Greens?

#### **Guests:**

Professor Frank Bongiorno

Head of the School of History

Australian National University

Paddy Manning

Investigative journalist

Author of *Inside the Greens: The Origins and Future of the Party, the People and the Politics*

Dr Gene Frankland

Director of the European Studies Program

Ball State University, Indiana

Margaret Blakers

Member of the Greens and a long-time environmental activist

Dr Stewart Jackson

Department of Government and International Relations  
University of Sydney

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rearvision/the-greens%E2%80%94politics-and-the-environment/13850816>

## WORLD-FIRST RESEARCH CONFIRMS AUSTRALIA'S FORESTS BECAME CATASTROPHIC FIRE RISK AFTER BRITISH INVASION

By Michela Mariani, Michael-Shawn Fletcher and Simon Connor<sup>1</sup>

Australia's forests now carry far more flammable fuel than before British invasion, our research shows, revealing the catastrophic risk created by non-Indigenous bushfire management approaches.

Contemporary approaches to forest management in Australia are based on suppression – extinguishing bushfires once they've started, or seeking to prevent them through hazard-reduction burning.

This differs from the approach of Indigenous Australians who've developed sophisticated relationships with fire over tens of thousands of years. They minimise bushfire risk through frequent low-intensity burning – in contrast to the current scenario of random, high-intensity fires.

Our research, released today, provides what we believe is the first quantitative evidence that forests and woodlands across southeast Australia contained fewer shrubs and more grass before colonisation. This suggests Indigenous fire management holds the key to a safer, more sustainable future on our flammable continent.

### *Not just a climate story*

Globally, climate change is causing catastrophic fire weather more often. In Australia, long-term drought and high temperatures were blamed for the Black Summer bushfires in the summer of 2019-20. This event burned 18 million hectares, an area almost twice the size of England.

The unusually high fire extent in forests prompted several important questions. Could these massive fires be explained by climate change alone? Or was the way we manage forests also affecting fire behaviour?

Recent catastrophic fires in Australia and North America prompted renewed scrutiny of how the disruption and exclusion of First Nations' burning practices has affected forest fuel loads.

Fuel load refers to the amount of flammable organic matter in vegetation such as leaves, twigs, branches and trunks. Large fuel loads in the shrubby layers of vegetation enable flames to more easily reach tree canopies, causing intense and dangerous "crown" fires.

Long before British invasion of southeast Australia in 1788, Indigenous people managed Australia's flammable

vegetation with "cultural burning" practices. These involved frequent, low-intensity fires which led to a fine-grained vegetation mosaic comprising grassy areas and scattered trees.

Landscapes managed in this way were less prone to destructive fires.

But under colonial rule, Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their lands and often prevented from carrying out many important practices.

The colonisers suppressed Indigenous cultural burning – sometimes to protect fences – causing the land to become overgrown with shrubs.

Colonial vegetation management involved clear-cutting and intense intentional burning to create land on the plains for agriculture. Forests in rugged and less desirable terrain were left unmanaged or exploited through logging.

A fire-fighting mentality came to dominate fire management in Australia, in which fires are seen as a threat to be prevented, or stopped once they start. This thinking underlies mainstream fire and land management to this day.

### *Uncovering past landscapes*

Our research set out to examine vegetation change at 52 sites across much of Australia's southeast before and after colonisation in 1788. A large proportion of these are in forested areas of Victoria and New South Wales.

Scientists can develop a picture of past vegetation by extracting tiny fossilised grains of pollen from ancient sediment in wetlands and lake beds. Different plants produce pollen grains with different shapes, so by analysing them we can reconstruct past vegetation landscapes.

We also calibrated the amount of pollen to vegetation cover, to determine the past proportions of trees, shrubs, and grasses and herbs.

We did this using new modelling techniques that allow the conversion of pollen grain counts to plant cover across the landscape. These models have been widely applied in Europe, but our work represents a first in Australia.

All this meant we could then quantify vegetation changes before and after British invasion. We found forests in the southeast are now much denser, and more flammable, than before 1788.

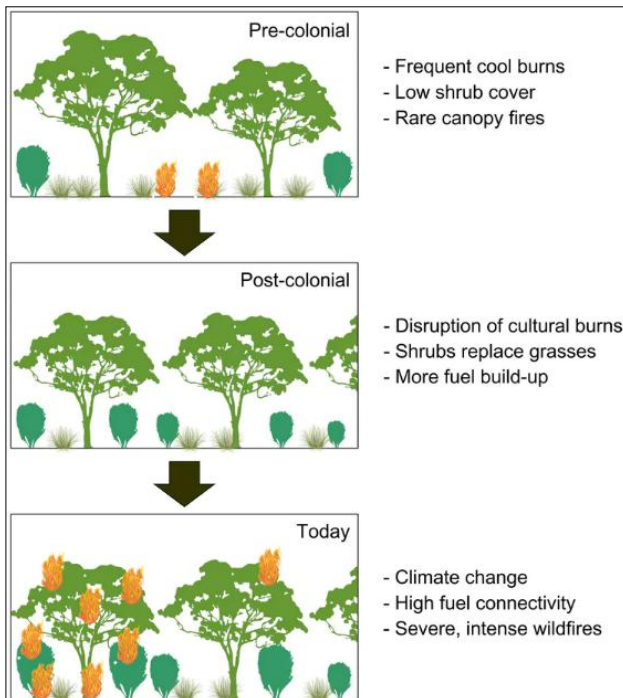
We found grass and herb vegetation dominated the pre-colonial period, accounting for about half the vegetation across all sites. Trees and shrubs covered about 15% and 34% of the landscape, respectively.

After British invasion, shrubbiness in forests and woodlands in southeast Australia increased by up to 48% (with an average increase of 12%). Shrubs replaced grassy areas, while tree cover has remained stable overall.

<sup>1</sup> Michela Mariani, Assistant Professor in Physical Geography, University of Nottingham; Michael-Shawn Fletcher, Associate Professor in Biogeography, The University of Melbourne; and Simon Connor, Fellow in Natural History, Australian National University.

This article was originally published in *The Conversation*, 16 February 2022. It is reprinted with permission under a Creative Commons licence. <https://theconversation.com/world-first-research-confirms-australias-forests-became-catastrophic-fire-risk-after-british-invasion-176563>

Considering the vast area covered by our analysis, the shrub increase represents a massive accumulation of fuel loads.



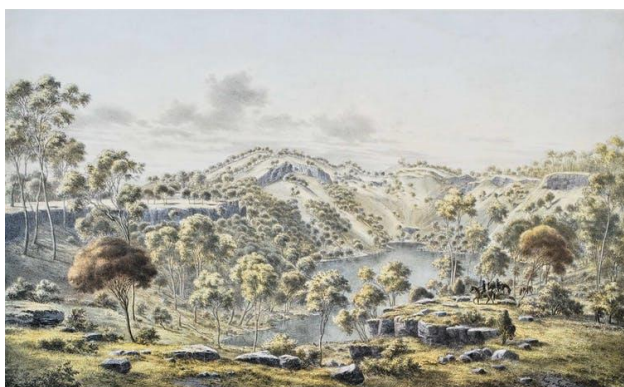
*The transition from pre- to post-colonial fuel structure in southeastern Australian forests, according to results presented in our recent publication in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (Mariani et al., 2022).*

### More than 200 years of neglect

In 1770, natural history artist Sydney Parkinson described the landscape along Australia's east coast as "free from underwood [...] like a gentleman's park".

In 2011, historian Bill Gammage published a controversial book titled *The Biggest Estate on Earth*. It contained several paintings of early colonial Australia in which the landscapes resembled a savanna, with large gaps between trees and a grassy understorey.

Nowadays, many such areas are dense forest. Our research is the first region-wide analysis that gives scientific credence to these historical accounts of a landscape very different to what we see today.



*Painting by Eugen von Guerard, Crater of Mt Eccles (Budj Bim National Park), Victoria (1858). Sourced from Gammage, 2011, *The Biggest Estate on Earth*.*

The dispossession of Indigenous Australians by British invaders has had a deep social and ecological impact. This includes neglect of the bush, the direct result of denying Aboriginal Australians the right to exercise their duty of care over Country, using fire.

Australia's forests need fire, deployed by capable Indigenous hands. Without it, increased fuel loads, coupled with climate change, will create conditions for bushfires bigger and more ferocious than we've ever seen before.

### AN IMAGE OF UKRAINE

*By John Dargavel*



*Survey team posing in front of a giant beech in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.*

*From left to right: Volodymyr Trotsiuk, Martina Hobi, Igor Cherniuk, Luca Mini and Jonas Stillbard. Photo M. Hobi.*

These are five of the Ukrainian and Swiss forestry students who spent their summer in 2010 surveying the habitat and structure of 10,000 hectares of old growth forest in Ukraine. It was a fine example of international cooperation and of field teaching.<sup>1</sup>

I ended my review of their report in 2014 by writing:

And immediately, how will the political turmoil in Ukraine affect it and our colleagues? At least we can know of their fine work and can think about how it might help our own practice.<sup>2</sup>

Now when I look at those bright faces and fear for the Ukrainians, the values of cooperation and careful work seem even more important.

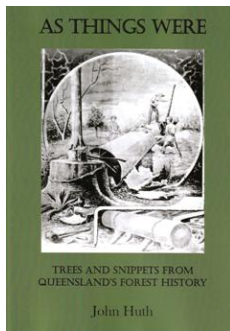


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2. Dargavel, John, 2104. 'Book Review of *Inventory of the Largest Primeval Beech Forest in Europe: A Swiss-Ukrainian Scientific Adventure*' in *Australian Forestry*, vol. 77, pp.212-13. [www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00049158.2014.949400](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00049158.2014.949400)



## NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



John Huth, 2022. *As Things Were: Trees and Snippets from Queensland's Forest History*. A4 card covers, 221pp. Self-published, Wilston QLD 4051. \$35 + pp. ISBN 9780646855523. Available from the author at [johnhuth55@gmail.com](mailto:johnhuth55@gmail.com).

Review by Ian Bevege.

John Huth's book is an important

milestone in the documentation of Australia's forest and forestry history, a history that is, sadly, superficially documented via "official and formal" publication channels. It has largely fallen to a small band of self-made (one cannot denigrate them by the term amateur) forest historians, often drawn from the forestry profession, to undertake the role of placing this history in the public record. Perhaps this is as it should be as official documentation so often borders on propaganda and polemics, satisfying the political correctness of its times. The more formal academically oriented histories are commonly written well after the events portrayed by well-meaning people usually several steps temporally as well as physically removed from the action. Such chroniclers often have even less professional understanding and experience of forests and forestry, and frequently lack any sense of the close-knit society that characterised timber getting during the pioneering stages of development or of the formally organised institutional forestry that evolved in the respective states of the Commonwealth in the closing stages of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century. Institutional professional forestry reached its zenith by late mid-century and its denouement by the early 21st century with the effective disbanding of the state forest services and the absorption of forestry administrations into larger government structures with different economic and social imperatives.

Against such a background, institutional memory is rapidly lost; not only the more technical and economic aspects of silvics and forest management but also the social history of the many men and women who made such an enormous contribution to the forestry that underpinned so much community well-being for over a century. This where the John Huths of the world play such a critical role; he joins that small band of forest historians that include the late Peter Holzworth (Queensland), the late Tom Grant (New South Wales) and the inimitable Roger Underwood (Western Australia) whose writings are as much about the people of the forest as the forestry they practised. In this regard we should also acknowledge the value to the historic record of that corpus of writing now encapsulated in the proceedings of AFHS conferences and the AFHS Newsletter.

"Trees and Snippets" accurately describes this book, as does its main title, "As Things Were", warts and all. It provides a broad ranging eclectic compilation of material

garnered by the author over many decades. As Gary Bacon writes in his Foreword to the book, "Male bower birds collect trinkets of all shapes and sizes and carefully arrange them in a way that is compelling and appealing to onlookers. John likewise has a keenly developed acquiring habit for all manner of memorabilia associated with Queensland trees and forestry."

John Huth spent nearly 47 years of his professional life with Queensland forestry in its various guises over that period – Department of Forestry, Queensland Forest Service, DPI Forestry and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – starting as a forest trainee in 1973 and retiring as Principal Forest Technician in 2019. Hence he brings to his writings direct and immediate experience of forestry as it was during that time and an ability to glean past elements of the forest story. The book's focus is south east Queensland roughly south from Bundaberg, includes Fraser Island and moves west to the Bunya Mountains; this is a relatively small area of the state but one in which forestry activities loomed large in regional economies and societies and where John Huth pursued most of his career. One hopes that eventually similar compilations will be crafted for central and north Queensland. Also there is little coverage of the history of national parks, for which the Forestry Department had formal legislative responsibility for reservation and management from 1908 when the first national park was gazetted on Mount Tamborine until the establishment of a separate National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1975; there is a history yet to be written.

The book is divided into two parts; the first "Trees", deals with little known aspects of early community forestry including the Acclimatisation Society, School Forestry Plots, Save the Trees Campaign and Arbor Day, all activities promoted and supported by the Department of Forestry. In this part also is an interesting section on Big Trees covering details and history of forest giants including of course the iconic hoop bunya and kauri pines as well as eucalypts such as the little known and underappreciated Gympie messmate.

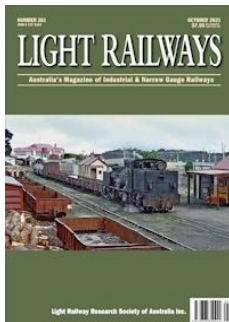
The second part, "Snippets from Queensland's forestry history", makes up two-thirds of the book. The more "conventional" district histories cover forestry activities but also importantly working and living conditions of forestry workers and their families – basic, rough and ready, often in permanent tents camps and "married rigs", conditions hardly to be tolerated under the mores of today. These district histories cover in some detail Maryborough, Fraser Island, Gympie and Yarraman (including the Yarraman timber tramways), areas in which John has greatest familiarity and therefore firsthand knowledge. Aspects of more than passing interest here include memorials to fallen servicemen (including forestry staff), forestry during World War Two including the employment of internees on forestry work, forestry units of the second AIF, American logging and sawmilling at Cooloolabin, through to post-war European refugees working in forestry in the 1950s and '60s (important additions to the field work force at a time of labour shortage).

The book is profusely illustrated with high quality photographs, many taken by John but including historical images of social relevance that readers will find fascinating particularly as many name the people involved, thus bringing a human face to the history. There is an extensive bibliography running to four pages as well as extensive footnotes citing sources. Certainly a scholarly work of the first order. Highly recommended to those with an interest in rural social history as well as the history of forestry in general; much of the experience documented here had its parallel during the development of forestry in the other states.

I must declare my interest. I have followed the gestation and birth of this book with more than passing interest, made some small contributions and assisted with the final editing.

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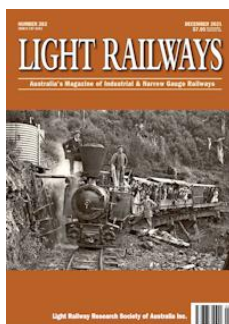
*Light Railways: Australia's Magazine of Industrial & Narrow Gauge Railways*, October 2021 (LR281), December 2021 (LR282), February 2022 (LR283) and April 2022 (LR284). Light Railway Research Society of Australia. ISSN 0727 8101. [www.lrrsa.org.au](http://www.lrrsa.org.au) and [www.facebook.com/groups/LightRailwaysAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LightRailwaysAustralia).



**LR281** contains a field report by James Shugg on the Dunkley/Wallace tramway near Zeehan in western Tasmania (p35). The author starts his account by saying how he was shown a photo of a well-preserved tramway. The person who showed him the photo hadn't taken it, and beyond being in the vicinity of Frazer's

Hut, didn't know much about it. Shugg goes on to explain his efforts to successfully identify the location, assisted by respondents to the Light Railways Facebook page. This led to him being contacted by Meg Arvier who had taken the original photo. While included in the "Field Reports" section, Shugg does admit to having "only armchair-researched this fascinating remnant of Tasmania's railway history" but he has put together a very interesting account.

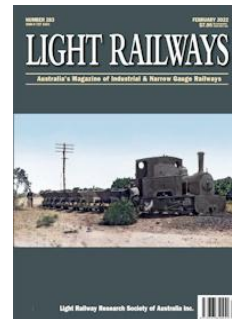
LR281 also has a brief account (p43) on the Tinbeerwah Mountain Railway in Queensland, accompanied by photos of an electric locomotive used for yard shunting and sawmill duties. This railway had previously been discussed in LR213 (June 2010).



**LR282** has a follow-up to James Shugg's field report in the form of a lengthy letter from Jim Stokes, perhaps even longer than the original article. Stokes discusses the construction of the tramline by the Dunkley brothers from about 1918 to 1920. The report of the Secretary for Works notes in his 1919-20 report that the tramline was almost complete and was intended to bring out King William pine.

Another letter in LR282 discusses an old tramway on the NSW Central Coast which the editor believes to be Carson's timber tramway located in what is now Olney State Forest. The writer, Mark Murchison, mentions that "in the 1890s, an American named Carson obtained a licence to harvest the Cedar growing in the Watagan mountains", and then includes a description of the operation and what was left of the site in 1999 when he was last there. The editor advises that the line has been discussed previously in the magazine – in LR98 in October 1987 and in LR180 in December 2004 – and suggests that it might be time for someone to make another visit. PDFs of all but the most recent issues of *Light Railways* are available on the society's website.

LR282 also carries an article announcing that Peter Evans had won the 2020 JLN Southern Award for the best article published in the magazine over 2020 – see p11 of this issue of the AFHS newsletter.

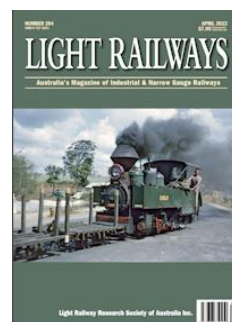


**LR283** contains a field report by David Cameron on the Hudson Brothers Narani Sawmill Tramway log landing ramp in Smiths Lake on the NSW north coast. The sawmill dates to 1873 with a 2.2km tramway built by the mid 1870s to connect the mill to the lake. The mill and tramway closed temporarily in 1894, re-opened in 1896, but closed

permanently in late 1906 or early 1907. Dr Cameron notes the absence of any detailed contemporary descriptions of the tramway and log loading ramp, and summarises his investigation of surviving archaeological features. The field report is illustrated with maps and photographs.

A letter from Terry Reid in LR283 provides more information on James Shugg's field trip report in LR281 and Jim Stokes's follow-up in LR282. The letter discussed the official nomenclature which he says is the "Confidence Saddle Tram". He supports his contention with evidence drawn from his researches in Tasmanian State Archives and some old mining company exploration maps.

The section on "Heritage & Tourist News" includes short pieces from the Timbertown Heritage Park at Wauchope in NSW and the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum at Alexandra in Victoria. The latter is accompanied by a photo of Peter Evans.



While **LR284** doesn't have much on timber tramways, it does have a letter from James Shugg thanking Jim Stokes and Terry Reid for their additional information on the Dunkley/Wallace tramway, and providing a bit of additional information himself.