



# Australian Forest History Society

Newsletter No.96  
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"... to advance historical understanding of human interactions with  
Australian forest and woodland environments."



*The Tree Lover: Journal of the Australian Forest League  
New South Wales Branch, Vol. 1 No. 2 November 1933*

See "The Tree Lover" p3.



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### EDITOR'S NOTE

I am writing this on the last day of 2025 – the first quarter of the 21st century (2001-2025) is almost over. Wow, that seemed to go quickly!

Since our last issue, we have held our annual general meeting. Reports from the president (Kevin Frawley) and treasurer (that would be me) are included on p14. Our committee is largely unchanged, except that 2024-25 committee member Sybil Jack has gone missing (if anyone can help put me in contact, please let me know) while one of our new members, Bernadette Hince, has immediately stepped up.

Talking of Bernadette, our cover story on "The Tree Lover" is her debut article. It is quite a good read; may it be the first of many. The article mentions Russell Grimwade, someone in whom (as long-term readers may recall) I have an interest.

Michael Roche has provided another article, this time on L.M. Ellis, a forester more closely associated with New Zealand forestry but who spent longer working as a forester in Australia. Occasional contributor Kim Wells has provided a great article on Paula Reid OAM, formerly the librarian at both the Australian Forestry School and the ANU Department of Forestry, and her donation of some pieces that were given to her by grateful Burmese students.

I have lifted (with permission) Steve Thomas's article on Alfred Russel Wallace from the Friends of ACT Trees newsletter. As Steve says, Wallace should be better known than he is among the general community.

The "Books and Publications" section includes news of books written by three of our members" Robert Onfray *Paradise Preserved: A History of Forestry on Fraser Island*; John Gray (co-authored with Robert Macklin) *The Man Who Planted Canberra: Charles Weston and His Three Million Trees*; and Deirdre Slattery *Kosciuszko, Alpine and Namadgi National Parks Third Edition*.

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### NEXT ISSUE

The newsletter is normally published three times a year, with the occasional special issue. The next issue should be out in April 2026.

**Input is always welcome.**

Contributions can be sent to  
[contact@foresthstory.org.au](mailto:contact@foresthstory.org.au).

Contributions may be edited.

## THE TREE LOVER

By Bernadette Hince

Long ago my sister Barbara (a bookseller) gave me a small bundle. "I think you'll like these", she said as she handed them to me. It was a dozen issues of a yellowing journal printed in austere times, *The Tree Lover*. Each issue is a modest eight pages, but those few pages hold a wonderful surprise.



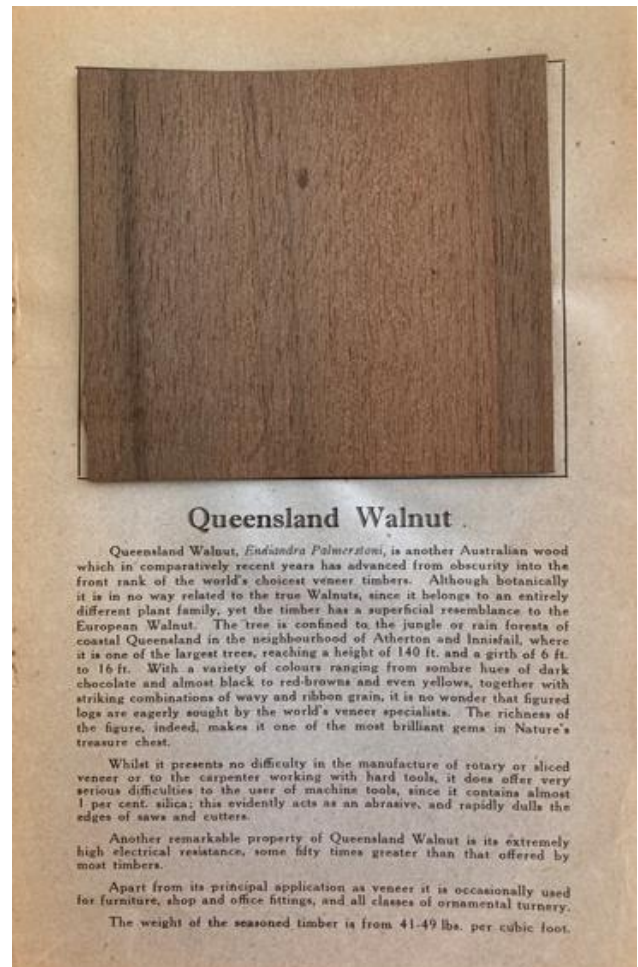
This was a short-lived journal. The first issue came out in July 1933, the year after unemployment in Australia reached its peak of almost 30% during the Great Depression. Its last issue was in July 1941. It was produced by the NSW branch of the Australian Forest League. The copies my sister gave me (1933 to 1939) are marked with the University of Sydney's library stamp on each front cover. I have never seen another copy of this journal anywhere, though Canberra's National Library has what might be a full set.<sup>1</sup>

Inside the back cover of each issue is the surprise – a veneer square of an Australia timber. This brilliant idea instantly gives you a vivid picture of the timber. Not only can you see it, but you can feel its texture. When these journals were posted out, with their timber squares freshly cut and pasted on, you would have been able to smell it, too. Nearly a hundred years after they were published, the timbers still leap out in full woody colour.

The Australian Forest League began in Melbourne in 1912. In 1922 the league's president, Russell Grimwade, wrote in the *Empire Forestry Journal* that the league's purpose was to exert a "beneficent" influence on state government forestry policies. By 1922 it had a branch in each of the six Australia states, and was active in schools, promoting Arbor Day and encouraging pupils to plant and maintain native trees in their schools and nearby streets. A school inspector writes of an astonishing 21,000 "tree wardens" in schools of the time.

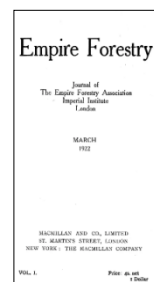
The November 1933 issue describes a visit by members of the Australian Forest League to the "William Thompson Masonic Schools" in Sydney's Baulkham Hills, where thousands of trees had been planted since the school's establishment 10 years earlier, including a memorial avenue for Masonic casualties of the Great War.

This issue features Queensland walnut (*Endiandra palmerstonii*), a strongly coloured timber with a silvery sheen. The electrical resistance of this timber, says the writer, is 50 times greater than that of most timbers. Its beauty makes it "one of the most brilliant gems in Nature's treasure chest".



I love opening these old journals. The thrill of seeing pieces of the real timbers is as exciting today as it was the first time I opened a copy.

## THE AUSTRALIAN FOREST LEAGUE



In March 1922, the first issue of *Empire Forestry: Journal of the Empire Forestry Association* published a short, 3-page article on the Australian Forest League written by its president Wilfred Russell Grimwade. The article starts by saying that the league was formed in 1912 by "a small body of enthusiasts (who) banded themselves together in Melbourne". The article is available through JSTOR at

[www.jstor.org/stable/i40096229](http://www.jstor.org/stable/i40096229).

<sup>1</sup> National Library of Australia, "The tree lover: journal of the Australian Forest League, New South (sic) Branch".  
<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/2882484>



## BUT L.M. ELLIS WAS ALSO A FORESTER IN AUSTRALIA!

By Michael Roche

The photograph below of the New Zealand State Forest Service staff and their minister was intended to accompany my article about the 300,000 acre exotic plantation forest planting boom of 1925-1934 (*AFHS Newsletter* no. 95, August 2025, pp3-6). Unfortunately, permission to reproduce it was slow in coming because of the relocation of Archives New Zealand. It can however be repurposed as a springboard for a note about a forester whose career played out on both sides of the Tasman Sea even if the shorter New Zealand portion is more well known.

The photograph is of the officers of the New Zealand State Forest Service in 1921 – not 1925 as the photo credit suggests when Heaton Rhodes was the Commissioner of State Forests, flanking their minister Sir Francis Bell. An administratively separate Forest Department had been established in 1919. L.M. Ellis, with a forestry degree from Toronto under Fernow and work experience in Canada, France in WWI, and Scotland, was hired as its first Director in 1920 producing a report which led to the formation of the

State Forest Service in 1921. Over the next seven years he placed forestry in New Zealand on a professional and scientific footing including launching a large-scale exotic afforestation programme in 1925.<sup>1</sup>

In March 1928, unhappy with salary and his three-year contract, Ellis abruptly resigned and left for Australia where he remained until his death in 1941 at the comparatively early age of 54.<sup>2</sup> The point being he was a forester in Australia for 13 years, significantly longer than the time he spent in New Zealand where he had been appointed director at the early age of 33. In Australia he worked more remuneratively, for at least a time, in the private sector without ever again achieving the prominence he once held in New Zealand. From Sydney he took up a position with Queensland finance and development company E.S. and E.C. Moulton which, among other things, promoted bond-selling afforestation companies as well as being involved in the management of their subsidiaries Queensland Forests Ltd and Amalgamated Forests (Australasia) Ltd. He also engaged the firm in developing a tung oil plantation at Johnstone River. Tung (*Alueries fordii*) had become a particular fascination of Ellis' immediately prior to leaving New Zealand.



**Back Row L to R:** A.M. Hansson, V.T. Fail, C.M. Malfory, J.W. Black,  
A.R. Entrican, A.H. Messenger, A.D. McPherson, R. McDonald, A. Gyles.

**Front Row L to R:** A.D. McGarock, W.T. Morrison, D. MacPherson, L.M. Ellis,  
Sir F.H.D. Bell, E. Phillips Turner, H.A. Goudie, R.D. Campbell, T. Douglas

Used by permission of Archives New Zealand. Photograph taken at Forest Service Annual Conference 1925  
[Archives Reference: AAQA 6506 W33471/28 M7171 (R26694051)]  
Archives New Zealand, The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiohenua.

A period of private consultancy work followed in difficult Depression conditions. Ellis undertook contract work for APM on assessing the availability of thinnings from South Australian plantations. He also provided some advice to NSW politicians on state forest administration, for which he was roundly criticised by the controversial Harold Swain.<sup>3</sup> On another occasion Charles Lane Poole also condemned him for his links to bond-selling afforestation companies.<sup>4</sup> In 1935 Ellis endeavoured to re-enter the public sector by applying unsuccessfully for the position of Forestry Commissioner for NSW left vacant after Kessell's term ended in 1932. The confidential report sought by the NSW Government from New Zealand was exceedingly lukewarm. By 1936, however, he had, secured a position with APM as Wood Procurement Officer although he continued with some private consultancy work. Details are sparse but Ellis soon played an important role in APM's Gippsland wood resources survey and was responsible for the organisation of the pulpwood contracts for the mill and later the survey of APM's fire-damaged pulp wood reserves in the aftermath of the devastating fires of January 1939.

Ellis was the most high-profile forester to move from New Zealand to Australia in the interwar period. Others included Robert Steele,<sup>5</sup> one of the three New Zealand WWI veterans and Edinburgh Forestry graduates who shifted from the State Forest Service to the Department of Agriculture in Tasmania in 1928 and Frank Hutchinson, a New Zealander who completed his forestry degree in Montana and was on the staff of the Forestry School at Canterbury University College until its closure in 1933. Ellis found employment first with Boas in the CSIRO in Melbourne and then in the NSW Forestry Commission before moving to the private sector as Timber Procurement Officer for the Masonite Corporation. He returned to New Zealand in 1950 becoming Forest Superintendent for New Zealand Forest Products Ltd at Kinleith.<sup>6</sup> This was a position once occupied by Owen Jones a former head of the Forests Commission Victoria.<sup>7</sup>

The 1921 photograph is indeed a snapshot in time. Ellis and Hansson were the only two with professional qualifications. Also included were Ellis's three successors Edward Phillips Turner (1928-1931), Alexander ("A.D.") McGavock (1932-1938), and Alex Entrican (1939-1961) along with others whose careers would take them around New Zealand in state and private sector forestry. Importantly Ellis seated centre stage to the right-hand side of the commissioner who would himself depart in 1928 to work in Australia.

### References

1. M. Roche, 1998. "McIntosh Ellis 1887-1941", *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, Vol. 4, Auckland University Press, Auckland, 157-158.
2. M. Roche, 2014. "Latter day 'imperial career': L.M. Ellis – A Canadian forester in Australia and New Zealand, 1920-1941", *Environment and Nature in New Zealand*, 4(1), 58-77. [www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2014/04/latter-day-imperial-careering-l-m-ellis-a-canadian-forester-in-australia-and-new-zealand-1920-1941](http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2014/04/latter-day-imperial-careering-l-m-ellis-a-canadian-forester-in-australia-and-new-zealand-1920-1941)

3. G.A. Barton and B.M. Bennett, 2011. "Edward Harold Fulcher Swain's Vision of Forest Modernity", *Intellectual History Review*, 21(2), 135-150. [www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17496977.2011.574340](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17496977.2011.574340)
4. J. Dargavel, 2008. *The Zealous Conservator: A Life of Charles Lane Poole*. UWA Press.
5. M. Roche, 2018. "World War I and forestry in New Zealand", *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*, 63, 31-34. <https://nzif.org.nz/nzif-journal/publications/article/22977>
6. B.M., 1982. "Obituary: Francis Edward Hutchinson", *New Zealand Journal of Forestry*, 27, 147-149. [nzif.org.nz/nzif-journal/publications/downloadfulltext/19992](http://nzif.org.nz/nzif-journal/publications/downloadfulltext/19992)
7. M. Roche, 2012. "Forestry as imperial career: New Zealand as the end and edge of empire in the 1920s-40s", *New Zealand Geographer* 68(3), 201-210. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-7939.2012.01234.x>

### ROBERT ONFRAY'S BLOGS, BOOKS AND OTHER WRITING

Robert Onfray continues to provide monthly updates on three different topics each month – stories on forestry, on Fraser Island, and on travelling around Australia. They are published on his website [www.robertonfray.com](http://www.robertonfray.com) which also includes details of how to subscribe to his e-mail list. His Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/robertonfraywriter](https://www.facebook.com/robertonfraywriter).

Links are provided below to articles published since our August issue – on forestry, forestry on Fraser Island, and on trees from the travel page (including a couple that were overlooked for the last issue).

- July:** [The good oil – from swampland to super remedy](#)
- August:** [Gregory's boab: a sentinel of history](#)
- September:** [Oh, the irony](#)
- September:** [Tide and timber: the punts and puntmen of Fraser Island](#)
- October:** [The Swan River mahogany paves an empire](#)
- October:** [A purple reign in an Australian spring](#)
- November:** [Kosciuszko's managed decline: how politics and bad science burned the high country](#)
- December:** [A case study in folly #6 – the day the sun never rose at Mallacoota](#)

Robert's 2021 book, *Fires, Farms and Forests: A Human History of Surrey Hills, north-west Tasmania*, can be ordered from his website for a cost of \$55 plus postage.

His latest book, *Paradise Preserved: A History of Forestry on Fraser Island*, has recently been published and is available from Connor Court Publishing. A review of the book, including details of how to order, is included on p17.

Robert's articles are also published by *Australian Rural & Regional News* [arr.news](http://arr.news). He also helps manage the AFHS website.

## EUCALYPTS OF THE BIBBULMUN TRACK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA – PART 1

By Fintán Ó Laighin

**Author's note:** While I have identified myself as the author of this article, I would like to acknowledge the anonymous authors of the many Wikipedia pages from which I've drawn both ideas and, in some cases, text. Links are provided to all pages. Also acknowledged are the many archives that have digitised and posted online the journals and publications in which the original taxonomic descriptions appeared. While I have presented brief descriptions of the taxonomic history of each species, I have generally avoided discussing the debates that deal with taxonomic synonyms and whether species are subspecies, variants or different genera altogether.

This history is summarised in the *Australian Plant Name Index*, described as "a tool for the botanical community that deals with plant names and their usage in the scientific literature, whether as a current name or synonym",<sup>1</sup> as well as the *Australian Plant Census (APC)* which is "a list of the accepted scientific names for the Australian vascular flora, ferns, gymnosperms, bryophytes and liverworts, both native and introduced, and includes synonyms and misapplications for these names. The APC covers all published scientific plant names used in an Australian context in the taxonomic literature, but excludes taxa known only from cultivation in Australia. The taxonomy and nomenclature adopted for the APC are endorsed by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria".<sup>2</sup>

Acknowledgements also to Google Translate which I used to translate text from Latin and other languages to English <https://translate.google.com>.

Finally, apologies for what might be considered over-referencing – 66 in a 4 page article is perhaps a lot, but I like to think that they're relevant. The article can be read without following the links.

Seventeen species of eucalypt are found along the 1000km Bibbulmun Track in south-west Western Australia, a track which stretches from the Perth Hills to Albany. Fourteen of the eucalypts are endemic to the south-west, and three are plantation species native to eastern and south-eastern Australia. One species, Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) is found in all eight sections of the track, while six occur in only one – four of them in the same section, from Woolbales Campsite to William Bay Campsite.<sup>3</sup> The two or three articles in this series will summarise the naming (and in some cases renaming) of each species, starting with Yate in 1800 to Rate's tingle in 1974, ending with the three plantation species, named from 1797 to 1891 – Sydney blue gum (*E. saligna*) (1797), Blue gum (*E. globulus*) (1800) and Yellow stringybark (*E. muelleriana*) (1891) – making two of them among the earliest eucalypts named.

Part 1 discusses the eight WA species named in the 1800s.

### 1800 Yate (*E. cornuta*)

Found in guidebook sections 7 and 8

*E. cornuta* was formally described in 1800 by Jacques Labillardière<sup>4,5,6</sup> who collected the type specimen from Observatory Island, west of Esperance, on 13 December 1792 during the Bruni d'Entrecasteaux expedition. The description was published in his book *Relation du Voyage à la Recherche de la Pérouse (Account of the Voyage in Search of La Pérouse)*.<sup>7</sup> "Cornuta" is a Latin word meaning "horned" or "bearing horns", referring to the cover of the buds. The common name "Yate" comes from the Noongar language of south-west WA.

The expedition to search for La Pérouse departed France in September 1791, three years after La Pérouse had gone missing. This mission was unsuccessful although in 1825 it was determined that his ships had been wrecked on the reefs of Vanikoro in what are now the Solomon Islands. Jean-François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse (1741-c.1788), a French naval officer, had left France in August 1785 on a scientific expedition, travelling to the Americas, east Asia and the Pacific, including Botany Bay where he arrived in January 1788, shortly after the arrival of the First Fleet under Captain Arthur Phillip.<sup>8</sup>

### 1802 Jarrah (*E. marginata*)

Found in guidebook sections 1 to 8

Jarrah is one of the iconic trees of WA and is the only one of the 17 eucalypts along the Bibbulmun Track that is found in all eight sections. The common name "Jarrah" comes from the Noongar language of south-west WA.

It was formally described by James Edward Smith, the founder of the Linnaean Society in London,<sup>9,10,11</sup> whose description was published in May 1802 in *Transactions of the Linnaean Society of London*, after having been read to the society in July 1801.<sup>12</sup> Smith's specimens were provided to him by William Aiton,<sup>13</sup> Director of the Kew Gardens where they had been grown from seed brought from Port Jackson (aka. Sydney Harbour).

<sup>4</sup> *Eucalyptus cornuta*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_cornuta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_cornuta)

<sup>5</sup> Jacques Labillardière. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques\\_Labillardiere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Labillardiere)

<sup>6</sup> ns, 1967. "Jacques-Julien Houtou de La Billardière (1755-1834)",

*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/la-billardiere-jacques-julien-houtou-de-2316>

<sup>7</sup> Jacques Labillardière, 1800. *Relation du Voyage à la Recherche de la Pérouse*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relation\\_du\\_Voyage\\_%C3%A0\\_la\\_Recherche\\_de\\_la\\_P%C3%A9rouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relation_du_Voyage_%C3%A0_la_Recherche_de_la_P%C3%A9rouse) (includes links)

<sup>8</sup> Jean-François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Fran%C3%A7ois\\_de\\_Galaup,\\_comte\\_de\\_Lap%C3%A9rouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Fran%C3%A7ois_de_Galaup,_comte_de_Lap%C3%A9rouse)

<sup>9</sup> *Eucalyptus marginata*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_marginata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_marginata)

<sup>10</sup> James Edward Smith (botanist). Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Edward\\_Smith\\_\(botanist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Edward_Smith_(botanist))

<sup>11</sup> Australian National Herbarium, 2015. "Smith, Sir James Edward (1759-1828)", Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria.

<https://anbg.gov.au/biography/smith-james-e.html>

<sup>12</sup> James Edward Smith, 1802. "Botanical Characters of four New-Holland Plants, of the Natural Order of Myrti", *Transactions of the Linnaean Society of London*, Vol. VI, pp299-302.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/13716](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/13716)

<sup>13</sup> William Aiton, Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Aiton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Aiton)

<sup>1</sup> Australian National Herbarium, "Australian Plant Name Index". [www.anbg.gov.au/apni](http://www.anbg.gov.au/apni)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Plant Census and The Australian National Species List <https://biodiversity.org.au> and <https://biodiversity.org.au/nsl>

<sup>3</sup> This article counts the sections based on the eight guidebooks published by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation which are largely determined by the campsites [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/product-category/guidebooks](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/product-category/guidebooks). However, the foundation also counts nine sections based on the towns along the track [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/track-sections](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/trip-planner/track-sections).



"Marginata" is a Latin word meaning "furnished with a border". Smith did not provide an explanation for choosing this name but did note that, compared with Swamp mahogany (*E. robusta*), "the margin (of the leaves) is more thickened".<sup>14</sup>

In his paper, Smith also refers to "Donn. Hort. Cant. ed.2. 101" which is the second edition of James Donn's *Hortus Cantabrigiensis* ("Cambridge Garden"), a list of plants in the Walkerian Botanic Garden, the forerunner of the present Botanic Garden of Cambridge University. Donn was the first curator of the garden; the first edition was published in 1796, the second in 1800 with a further 11 editions to 1845.<sup>15,16,17</sup>

Two subspecies are recognised – *E. marginata* subsp. *thalassica* (1993) and *E. marginata* subsp. *spurgeana* (2023).

"Thalassica" was put forward by Ian Brooker and Stephen Hopper in 1993, the name meaning "sea-coloured" (a reference to the leaves) with the common name being Blue-leaved jarrah.<sup>18</sup>

"Spurgeana" was named by Dean Nicolle and Malcolm French after "Ken Spurge, an apiarist from Waroona in Western Australia, who was the first to recognise the distinctiveness of the subspecies, and alerted (them) to it. Spurge not only noticed that this subspecies flowered much earlier in the season than the other subspecies of jarrah, but also found the honey to have quite different characteristics, including in colour and taste."<sup>19,20</sup>

In their 1993 paper, Brooker and Hopper also proposed two other subspecies – *elegantella* and *marginata* – but these were not accepted, and are regarded as taxonomic synonyms.

### 1831 / 1841 Marri (*E. calophylla*) 1995 Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*)

Found in guidebook section 1 and sections 3 to 7

Marri is another of WA's iconic eucalypts, the common name coming from the Noongar language of south-west WA. Wikipedia reports that the Forests Department WA promoted the use of the term "Marri" in the 1920s to avoid confusion with other species of red gum.<sup>21</sup>

The name *E. calophylla* was first published in 1831 by Robert Brown<sup>22</sup> in *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*,<sup>23</sup> after having been read to the society in November 1830. However, without a description it was deemed to be a "nomen nudum" (i.e. a scientific name published without an adequate description).<sup>24</sup>

"Calophylla" is a Greek word meaning "beautiful leaf" although Brown did not explain why he chose it. However, in 1879 Ferdinand von Mueller<sup>25,26</sup> surmised that it was "because the foliage is more beautiful than that of many other Eucalypts, and also because the venation of the leaves reminds of that of the tropical genus *Calophyllum* in the plants-order of Guttiferæ".<sup>27,28</sup>

The first formal description was published in 1841 by John Lindley<sup>29</sup> in *Edwards's Botanical Register*.<sup>30,31</sup> He noted that "The name of *E. calophylla* is current in gardens ... but I cannot discover it in books." He also noted that the seeds had been collected "by Mrs. Molloy, a lady enthusiastically fond of flowers, to whom we are indebted for many acquisitions".<sup>32</sup>

In 1884, von Mueller placed *E. calophylla* with the bloodwoods, based on characteristics of the bark.<sup>33</sup> In 1920, Joseph Maiden's *A Critical Revision of the Genus*

<sup>22</sup> Robert Brown (botanist, born 1773). Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Brown\\_\(botanist,\\_born\\_1773\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Brown_(botanist,_born_1773))

<sup>23</sup> R. Brown, 1831. "General View of the Botany of the Vicinity of Swan River", *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, Vol. 1, pp17-21. [www.jstor.org/stable/1797656](http://www.jstor.org/stable/1797656) (The cover of the journal clearly states "MDCCCXXXII" but 1831 is the accepted date of publication.)

<sup>24</sup> Nomen nudum. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomen\\_nudum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomen_nudum)

<sup>25</sup> Ferdinand von Mueller. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand\\_von\\_Mueller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_von_Mueller)

<sup>26</sup> Deirdre Morris, 1974. "Sir Ferdinand Jakob Heinrich von Mueller (1825-1896)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University.

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mueller-sir-ferdinand-jakob-heinrich-von-4266>

<sup>27</sup> *Corymbia calophylla*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_calophylla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_calophylla)

<sup>28</sup> Ferd. von Mueller, 1884. *Eucalyptographia. A Descriptive Atlas of the Eucalypts of Australia and the Adjoining Islands, Tenth Decade*, Melbourne and London, pp461-463. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/37305684](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/37305684) (Contained in Ferd. von Mueller, 1879-1884. *Eucalyptographia. A Descriptive Atlas of the Eucalypts of Australia and the Adjoining Islands, Decades I-X*, Melbourne and London.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/114766](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/114766))

<sup>29</sup> John Lindley. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Lindley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lindley)

<sup>30</sup> John Lindley (ed), 1841. "157. EUCALYPTUS *calophylla*" in "Miscellaneous Notes", *Edwards's Botanical Register: Or, Ornamental Flower-garden and Shrubbery: Consisting of Coloured Figures of Plants and Shrubs, Cultivated in British Gardens; Accompanied by their History, Best Method of Treatment in Cultivation, Propagation, &c.*, Vol. IV, London, pp72-73. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/9064](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/9064)

<sup>31</sup> The Botanical Register. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwards\\_Botanical\\_Register](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwards_Botanical_Register)

<sup>32</sup> Mrs Molloy is Georgina Molloy (1805-1843), one of the first botanical collectors in Western Australia. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgina\\_Molloy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgina_Molloy) and <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/molloy-georgiana-2467>.

<sup>33</sup> Ferd. von Mueller, 1884. *Eucalyptographia. A Descriptive Atlas of the Eucalypts of Australia and the Adjoining Islands, Tenth Decade*, Melbourne and London, pp461-463. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/37305684](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/37305684) (Contained in Ferd. von Mueller, 1879-1884. *Eucalyptographia. A Descriptive Atlas of the Eucalypts of Australia and the Adjoining Islands, Decades I-X*, Melbourne and London. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/114766](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/114766))

<sup>14</sup> *Eucalyptus marginata*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_marginata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_marginata)

<sup>15</sup> James Donn. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Donn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Donn)

<sup>16</sup> *Hortus Cantabrigiensis*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortus\\_Cantabrigiensis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortus_Cantabrigiensis)

<sup>17</sup> James Donn, 1796. *Hortus Cantabrigiensis or A Catalogue of Plants, Indigenous and Foreign Cultivated in the Walkerian Botanic Garden, Cambridge*. <https://archive.org/details/hortuscantabrig00gardgoog>

<sup>18</sup> M.I.H. Brooker and Stephen D. Hopper, 1993. "New series, subseries, species and subspecies of *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae) from Western Australia and from South Australia", *Nuytsia: The Journal of the Western Australian Herbarium*, Vol. 9(1), Perth, pp1-168. <https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/nuytsia/article/192>

<sup>19</sup> Australian Plant Name Index. *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *spurgeana* D.Nicolle & M.E.French.

<https://biodiversity.org.au/nsi/services/rest/name/apni/51765399>

<sup>20</sup> Dean Nicolle and Malcolm E. French, 2023. "New taxa and combinations in *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae) from southern Australia", *Australian Journal of Taxonomy*, No. 46, pp1-18. [www.taxonomyaustralia.org.au/ajot/papers/tltdkmat0](http://www.taxonomyaustralia.org.au/ajot/papers/tltdkmat0)

<sup>21</sup> *Corymbia calophylla*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_calophylla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_calophylla)

*Eucalyptus*, supported this arrangement.<sup>34,35,36</sup> Bloodwoods had been identified as a distinct group within the genus *Eucalyptus* in 1867.<sup>37</sup> In 1995, Ken Hill and Lawrie Johnson published a taxonomic revision of the 113 species of bloodwood, moving them from *Eucalyptus* to a new genus which they called *Corymbia*.<sup>38</sup> Until then, *Corymbia* had been a subgenus within *Eucalyptus*. In the introduction (s1.1, p186), they write that "This account presents the results of fifteen years of intensive study, including extensive field study. This followed several decades of more general acquaintance with the group by one of us (L.J.). We are both acquainted with almost all the taxa in the field." They also include a brief taxonomic history of the bloodwoods (s1.3, pp186-187), noting that "The first bloodwood named was described by Gaertner in 1788 as *Metrosideros gummifera*. The same species was described again in *Eucalyptus* by J.E. Smith in 1793 as *E. corymbosa*.<sup>39,40</sup> Several more species were described over the next 75 years, Schauer naming four in 1843, W.J. Hooker two in 1844 and 1848, and F. Mueller nine in 1859."<sup>41,42</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Joseph Maiden. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Maiden)

<sup>35</sup> Mark Lyons and C.J. Pettigrew, 1986. "Joseph Henry Maiden (1859-1925)", *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University.

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/maiden-joseph-henry-7463>

<sup>36</sup> J.H. Maiden, 1920. *A Critical Revision of the Genus Eucalyptus*, Vol. 5, CCXXXVII, Sydney, pp71-81.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100145](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100145)

<sup>37</sup> *Corymbia*. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia>

<sup>38</sup> K.D. Hill & L.A.S. Johnson, 1995. "Systematic studies in the eucalypts. 7. A revision of the bloodwoods, genus *Corymbia* (Myrtaceae)", *Telopea: Journal of Plant Systematics*, Vol. 6(2-3), pp185-504. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

<https://doi.org/10.7751/2Ftelopea19953017>

<sup>39</sup> *Metrosideros*. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metrosideros>

<sup>40</sup> *Corymbia gummifera*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_gummifera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_gummifera)

<sup>41</sup> For information on Gaertner, Schauer and Hooker, see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Gaertner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Gaertner),

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes\\_Conrad\\_Schauer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Conrad_Schauer) and

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Jackson\\_Hooker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Jackson_Hooker). Links to Smith and Mueller have been provided in previous references.

<sup>42</sup> In January 2024, a proposal was published to divide *Corymbia* and establish a new genus, *Blakella* (currently regarded as a subgenus within *Corymbia*), comprising the "paper-fruited bloodwoods" – see Crisp et al, 2024 "Perianth evolution and implications for generic delimitation in the eucalypts (Myrtaceae), including the description of the new genus, *Blakella*", *Journal of Systematics and Evolution*, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jse.13047>.

In November 2004, Dean Nicolle published a paper arguing that all the eucalypts should be re-included in the genus *Eucalyptus*, with the various genera (e.g. *Corymbia*) to be regarded as subgenera – see D. Nicolle, 2024 "Classification of the eucalypts, genus *Eucalyptus*". Version 7.1 [www.dn.com.au/Classification-Of-The-Eucalypts.pdf](http://www.dn.com.au/Classification-Of-The-Eucalypts.pdf). In doing so, he revives a proposal published in 2000 by M.I.H. Brooker, "A new classification of the genus *Eucalyptus* L'Her. (Myrtaceae)" <https://connectsci.au/sb/article-abstract/13/1/79/68072/A-new-classification-of-the-genus-Eucalyptus-L-Her>. Neither proposal seems to have been accepted by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria – the Australian Plant Name Index, for example, describes *Blakella* species as nomenclatural synonyms for *Corymbia* species. However, at least one herbarium, that of the Northern Territory, has announced that it would accept the analysis by Crisp et al – see "NT Eucalypts Changing Names" (February 2025) <https://environment.nt.gov.au/news/2025/nt-eucalypts-changing-names>.

## 1837 Flooded Gum / Moitch (*E. rudis*)

Found in guidebook sections 2 and 3

*E. rudis* was first formally described in 1837 by Stephan Endlicher<sup>43,44</sup> in *Enumeratio plantarum quas in Novae Hollandiae ora austro-occidentali ad fluvium Cygnorum et in sinu Regis Georgii collegit Carolus Liber Baro de Hügel* (*A list of plants collected on the south-western coast of New Holland by the Swan River and in the Bay of King George by Charles Baron von Hügel*)<sup>45</sup> authored by Endlicher, with contributions from Eduard Fenzl, George Bentham and Heinrich Wilhelm Schott.<sup>46,47,48</sup> The Atlas of Living Australia says that it is always found on stream banks or floodplains and that the Latin word "rudis" (rude, rough) refers "to the apparent worthlessness of the timber".<sup>49</sup> The common name "Moitch" is derived from the Noongar language of south-west WA.

A subspecies, *E. rudis* subsp. *cratyantha*, was described by Ian Brooker and Stephen Hopper in 1993. "Cratyantha" is "From the Greek word "craty" (meaning "strong") and "anthos" (meaning "flower") in reference to the flower buds being larger than those of the typical subspecies".<sup>50,51</sup>

## 1860 Bullich (*E. megacarpa*)

Found in guidebook sections 3 to 8

Bullich is a species which derives its common name from the language of the Noongar people of south-west WA. The species has two distinct forms – as a tree found mostly in wet soils in the Karri and southern Jarrah forests, and as a mallee on the mountains of the Stirling Range.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>43</sup> *Eucalyptus rudis*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_rudis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_rudis)

<sup>44</sup> Stephan Endlicher. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephan\\_Endlicher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephan_Endlicher)

<sup>45</sup> Charles von Hügel. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_von\\_H%C3%BCgel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_von_H%C3%BCgel)

<sup>46</sup> *Enumeratio plantarum quas in Novae Hollandiae ora austro-occidentali ad fluvium Cygnorum et in sinu Regis Georgii collegit Carolus Liber Baro de Hügel*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enumeratio\\_plantarum\\_quas\\_in\\_Novae\\_Hollandiae\\_ora\\_austro-occidentali\\_ad\\_fluvium\\_Cygnorum\\_et\\_in\\_sinu\\_Regis\\_Georgii\\_collegit\\_Carolus\\_Liber\\_Baro\\_de\\_H%C3%BCgel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enumeratio_plantarum_quas_in_Novae_Hollandiae_ora_austro-occidentali_ad_fluvium_Cygnorum_et_in_sinu_Regis_Georgii_collegit_Carolus_Liber_Baro_de_H%C3%BCgel)

<sup>47</sup> Stephan Endlicher, 1837. *Enumeratio plantarum quas in Novae Hollandiae ora austro-occidentali ad fluvium Cygnorum et in sinu Regis Georgii collegit Carolus Liber Baro de Hügel*, University of Vienna, p49.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=chi.64405481>

<sup>48</sup> For information on Fenzl, Bentham and Schott, see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduard\\_Fenzl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduard_Fenzl),

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Bentham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Bentham) and

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich\\_Wilhelm\\_Schott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Wilhelm_Schott).

<sup>49</sup> Atlas of Living Australia. *Eucalyptus rudis* Endl., Flooded Gum, <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2891670>

<sup>50</sup> Australian Plant Name Index. *Eucalyptus rudis* subsp. *cratyantha* Brooker & Hopper.

<https://biodiversity.org.au/nsi/services/rest/name/apni/119603>

<sup>51</sup> M.I.H. Brooker and Stephen D. Hopper, 1993. "New series, subseries, species and subspecies of *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae) from Western Australia and from South Australia", *Nuytsia: The Journal of the Western Australian Herbarium*, Vol. 9(1), Perth, pp1-168.

<https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/nuytsia/article/192>

<sup>52</sup> C.A. Gardner, 1959. "Trees of Western Australia", *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia*, Series 3: Vol. 8, No. 4, Article 14, p461 (illustration p459).

[https://library.dpiird.wa.gov.au/journal\\_agriculture3/vol8/iss4/14](https://library.dpiird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol8/iss4/14)



It was described in 1860 by Ferdinand von Mueller in his book, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* (*Fragments of Australian Phytography*).<sup>53,54</sup> when he refers to "*E. megacarpa*" during his discussion of the Blue Gum (*E. globulus*). He noted the similarity between the two species as well as one growing around Sydney called "the Blue Gum-tree" (which, he writes, may be either "a separate species or a single variety (that) future observations should reveal"). The species which he "would like to attribute the name *E. megacarpa*" – (from the Greek) referring to the large capsules<sup>55</sup> – "grows at Wilson's Inlet in the south-west of New Holland", which is near the town on the Denmark River, and through which the Bibbulmun Track passes. The specimen was collected by George Maxwell.<sup>56</sup>

### 1860 Red-flowering Gum (*E. ficifolia*)

### 1995 Red-flowering Gum (*C. ficifolia*)

Found in guidebook section 7

Red-flowering gum was first formally described in 1860 by Ferdinand von Mueller who gave it the name *E. ficifolia* (meaning "fig leaf" in Latin), arising from his observation that "The leaves resemble those of the four species of Figs from the series of *Ficus elasticae*", a rubber tree native to south and south-east Asia. He published the description in his book, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae*. The specimen he described was collected at Broken Inlet estuary in south-western WA from samples collected by George Maxwell.<sup>57,58</sup> Von Mueller also noted that the species was closely related to *E. calophylla* (Marri), an observation supported by the subsequent reclassification of both species as *Corymbia* by Hill and Johnson in 1995.<sup>59</sup>

Red-flowering gum and Marri are two of the three bloodwoods found in WA, the third being Mountain Marri (originally *E. haematoxylon*, now *C. haematoxylon*) first described by Joseph Maiden in 1914. Mountain Marri is also found in south-west WA, but generally further west than the Bibbulmun Track.<sup>60,61</sup>

### 1863 Karri (*E. diversicolor*)

Found in guidebook sections 3 to 8

Another of the iconic eucalypts of WA, *E. diversicolor* was first formally described in 1863 by Ferdinand von Mueller in *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae*.<sup>62</sup> The common name is derived from the Noongar language of south-west WA.<sup>63</sup> The type specimen was collected in 1860 by the botanist Augustus Frederick Oldfield<sup>64</sup> near Wilson's Inlet. The name "diversicolor" is taken from the Latin word "diversus" meaning to "turn apart and color" or "separate colours" and refers to the difference between the top of the leaf and its underside.

Karri is one of the six forest giants found in WA, five of which are found along the Bibbulmun Track; the other four are Marri (*C. calophylla*), Red Tingle (*E. jacksonii*), Jarrah (*E. marginata*), and Yarri (*E. patens*). The sixth forest giant is Tuart (*E. gomphocephala*) which is also found in the south-west.

### 1867 Yarri / Blackbutt (*E. patens*)

Found in guidebook sections 1 to 6

*E. patens*, commonly known as Yarri or Blackbutt, was formally described by the botanist George Bentham in 1866 in *Flora Australiensis*.<sup>65</sup> The name "Yarri" is from the Noongar language of south-west WA, while "Blackbutt" comes from the colour of the trunk which is sometimes blackened by fire. It is also known as Swan River Blackbutt or Western Australian Blackbutt to distinguish it from other eucalypts which are also known as "Blackbutt".<sup>66</sup>

The type specimens included material collected by Augustus Frederick Oldfield near the Harvey River in south-west WA sometime in 1840s. "Patens" is a Latin word meaning "spreading" or "outspread", referring to the form of the tree "standing open", although this is not a characteristic that distinguishes the species.



<sup>53</sup> *Eucalyptus megacarpa*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_megacarpa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_megacarpa)

<sup>54</sup> Ferdinandus Mueller, 1860-1861. *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae*, Vol. II, Part XII, Melbourne, p70.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7219](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7219)

<sup>55</sup> C.A. Gardner also noted that "The name "megacarpa," meaning large-fruited, is not particularly appropriate, for compared with other Western Australian species of Eucalyptus, the fruits are not large." See C.A. Gardner, Government Botanist, 1959. "Trees of Western Australia" *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia*, Series 3: Vol. 8: No. 4, Article 14, p461 (illustration p459).

[https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal\\_agriculture3/vol8/iss4/14](https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol8/iss4/14)

<sup>56</sup> George Maxwell. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Maxwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Maxwell)

<sup>57</sup> *Corymbia ficifolia*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_ficifolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_ficifolia)

<sup>58</sup> Ferdinandus Mueller, 1860-1861. *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae*, Vol. II, Part XIII, Melbourne, p85.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7219](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7219)

<sup>59</sup> K.D. Hill & L.A.S. Johnson, 1995. "Systematic studies in the eucalypts. 7. A revision of the bloodwoods, genus *Corymbia* (Myrtaceae)", *Telopea: Journal of Plant Systematics*, Vol. 6(2-3), pp185-504. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

<https://doi.org/10.7751/2Ftelopea19953017>

<sup>60</sup> *Corymbia haematoxylon*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_haematoxylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_haematoxylon)

<sup>61</sup> Atlas of Living Australia. *Corymbia haematoxylon* (Maiden) K.D. Hill & L.A.S. Johnson. Mountain Marri.

<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/taxon/apni/51785173>

<sup>62</sup> Ferdinandus Mueller, 1862-1863. *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae*, Vol III, Part XXII, Melbourne, pp131-132.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7220](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/7220)

<sup>63</sup> *Eucalyptus diversicolor*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_diversicolor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_diversicolor)

<sup>64</sup> Augustus Frederick Oldfield. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus\\_Frederick\\_Oldfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus_Frederick_Oldfield)

<sup>65</sup> George Bentham, assisted by Ferdinand Mueller, 1866. *Flora Australiensis: A Description of the Plants of the Australian Territory*, Vol. III Myrtaceae to Compositae, London, p197.

[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/41807](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/41807)

<sup>66</sup> *Eucalyptus patens*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus\\_patens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_patens)

## "OUR PAULA" IN THE ANU FORESTRY

### XYLARIUM

By Kim Wells

Paula Reid, librarian at both the Australian Forestry School (AFS), Yarralumla ACT, and at the Australian National University (ANU) Department of Forestry, and therefore well known to many Australian and overseas forestry students, surprised me with a phone call one morning early in 2025. She wanted to know whether I, or a Burmese person I might know currently studying in Australia, might like to have some of her Burmese treasures which, over the years, she received as gifts in appreciation of her friendship and help. She and I had often reminisced about our friends from Myanmar. At the age of 96(?) she had decided she would try to find good homes for her treasured items so that they would continue to give pleasure to others.

As it happened, I did know such a student, Sandi Auung Moe (former President of the ANU Myanmar Students' Association, who was able to confirm that the objects photographed on a lacquered tray do each have special significance for Burmese people:

"I would be truly honoured to receive the lacquered objects shown in the photographs. These items hold special cultural significance, and I would cherish them dearly. They would be wonderful to share during Myanmar Students' Association cultural events, helping us to showcase our arts here in Australia. I'm very grateful to Paula for her generous and thoughtful gesture. It's heartwarming to know that she has carefully preserved these Burmese treasures over the years and wants them to go to someone who will appreciate their cultural value. Please convey my sincere thanks to her."



A ceremonial handover of the items and a beautifully carved lithe figure of a woman was held at a small gathering at my home on 6 March 2025 at which longys were preferred dress; unfortunately Paula had already given hers away!

Initially I was thinking that the one remaining Burmese



treasure, titled *Burmese Solo Dancer*, might be accepted into the ANU Butlin Archive where other archival material relating to the AFS and the ANU (and now Forestry Australia) is held, but then I had a better idea! Enter Matt Brookhouse, Conservator of the ANU xylarium that is housed in the ANU Forestry Building.

I put it to Matt that, besides being a very attractive piece of marquetry, because named samples of the different timbers used in the work are attached on the back, *Burmese Solo Dancer* would make a doubly interesting addition to the xylarium collection. I added that the image could also serve as a remembrance of Paula Reid's long and devoted service to forestry and her friendship with

many foresters young and old who passed through the AFS and the ANU Forestry Department when she was librarian. Paula herself has had a lifelong love of dance and dancing!

Matt was convinced, and contrived to mount an exhibition, behind glass, in the celebrated foyer of the Forestry Building. The graceful dancer is there now surrounded by xylarium samples of timbers used in the portrait.<sup>1</sup> A prominent white card acknowledges the original giver, U Mehm Ko Ko Gyi (ANU, 1973), and says a few words about Paula Reid. The occasion of its first public showing was the opening event of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the local branch of Forestry Australia chaired by Peter Kanowski on 12 October, with "Our Paula" and Sandy Moe present.

Needless to say Paula is delighted to be remembered in such familiar surroundings and will advise U Mehm Ko Ko Gyi so in her Christmas letter.

<sup>1</sup> "The lacquer used in Burma is called thit-si (wood resin), which is the sap of the *Melanorrhoea usitata* (now *Gluta usitata*), a tree native to Southeast Asia. It differs slightly from the Chinese and Japanese species *Rhus vernicifera* (now *Toxicodendron vernicifluum*) and is completely unrelated to the shellac used in India and Europe, which is made from the resinous secretion of the insect *Coccus lacca* (now *Kerria lacca*). (Taken from 'Burmese lacquerware', <https://azibaza.com/lecture/lacquer.php> which cites Sylvia Fraser-Lu, *The Lacquer Ware*.)



## UNKNOWN Artist

### Burmese Solo Dancer

Timber marquetry

Acquired 2025

ANU xylarium

This example of marquetry was made using seven different Myanmar timbers; *Tectona grandis*, *Pinus* spp., *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Haldina cordifolia* (syn. *Adina cordifolia*), *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Magnolia champaca* (syn. *Michelia champaca*) and *Terminalia elliptica* (syn. *Terminalia tomentosa*).

The piece was a gift from U. Mehm Kyo Kyo Gyi (ANU, 1973) to Paula Reid, librarian from 1950 to 1992, first at the Australian Forestry School, Yarralumla, then at the Forestry Department, Australian National University. Paula was herself a dancer and dance teacher, is remembered by graduates for her kindness and understanding, along with library search assistance, when they were far from their homes and families. In 1994 Paula was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her long service to forestry education.

In addition to acknowledging Paula's individual contribution, the accession of *Burmese Solo Dancer* is a timely reminder of the invaluable role played by the ANU's professional staff in the lives of ANU students.

The common (Myanmar) names of the seven species are Teak, Htinya, Padauk, Hnaw, Yinma, Sagawa and Taukkyan – there are samples of each on the reverse side.



### Photo credits

- 1) *Burmese Solo Dancer* – Juliana Lazzari (thanks to Matt Brookhouse for his help in accessing the piece).
- 2) The pieces on the lacquered tray – Supplied by Kim Wells.
- 3) The accompanying plaque – Juliana Lazzari.
- 4) Matt Brookhouse, Paula Reid OAM and Sandi Auung Moe – Supplied by Kim Wells.




Australian National University  
Myanmar Students Association

## CELEBRATE JOSEPH MAIDEN'S LIFE

**Editor's note:** I came across this post while researching the article on the eucalypts of the Bibbulbum Track (see pp6-9). The event was held in November 2025, so unfortunately we've missed it, but I thought it was worth recording. It was organised by the Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc.

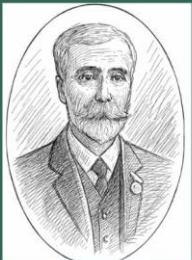




**foke**  
FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

### Celebrate Joseph Maiden's Life

Botanist Extraordinaire & Ku-ring-gai resident



1896-1925

**WEDNESDAY**

**26 November 2025**

**2.30pm & 5pm**

**St Johns Church Cemetery Gordon**

Read more at <https://www.foke.org.au/>

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Joseph Maiden's internment into the St. John's church graveyard, located behind St. John's church in Gordon, where he is buried. This event is being independently organised by botanical volunteers.

Joseph Henry Maiden was the NSW Government botanist and Director of the Sydney Botanical Gardens from 1896 to 1924. He died on 16 November 1925, aged 66 years. Joseph Maiden was inspired by Australian flora. He established the Technological Museum which is today's Powerhouse Museum. The celebration acknowledges Joseph Maiden's passion for Australian native flora and trees, including *Acacia* and *Eucalypts*.

The Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers League, that was established by Annie Wyatt in the 1920s, was a great supporter of "tree lover" Joseph Maiden (1859-1925), the Director of the Botanical Gardens, pioneer advocate for eucalyptus forests and resident of Turramurra.

Following the ceremony there will be a short tour through St John's church graveyard where you will see other prominent local pioneers guided by Dr Alex Heaney.

### More info

Find a Grave.

[www.findagrave.com/memorial/178636581/joseph\\_henry-maiden](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178636581/joseph_henry-maiden)



## ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

By Steve Thomas

This article was first published by the Friends of ACT Trees in its September 2025 newsletter (issue 74). It is reprinted with permission.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/factacanberra/news>.



Most of us, if asked, would say that Darwin first had the idea about evolution and was prompted to get on and write a book about it after a collector of shells, beetles and plants then working in the East sent him a paper outlining what Darwin had been thinking about for twenty years. A visit to the Natural History Museum in London solidifies that impression where a large statue of a seated Darwin dominates the far end of the gallery. The collector was Alfred Russel Wallace.

Alfred was born into a happy family of modest means living in a modest house in Llanbadoc near Usk in South Wales on 8 January 1823.<sup>1</sup> Even today a rural verdant place on the banks of the Usk River which begins in Bannau Brecheiniog, a mountain range of old red sandstone sculpted by glaciers.

The English family were downwardly mobile and had come to live there for economic reasons. He had fond memories of his early life in Wales but always considered himself English. In 1828 the family situation improved and they moved back to Hertford but he never forgot his early childhood and later returned to Wales for a time. When near death, he sent to people in a farm in Wales to ask for the recipe of some dishes he thought would help him overcome his illness.

Later as a surveyor his association with Wales continued when he worked with his brother to build the Neath Mechanics Institute in 1847. His interest in collecting was already a part of his life and continued until his death on 7 November 1913, just before the world changed forever.

In 1848 Wallace and his friend Henry Walter Bates, both in their twenties, set sail for South America to collect. Twenty nine days later they landed at Belem almost on the equator and SE of the 65km wide Amazon River.

After many adventures on the Amazon, sometimes following Humboldt's footsteps, and having earlier parted from Bates, he left for home on the *Helen* bound for London on 12 July 1852 with a large collection. Four weeks out the ship was set on fire by the cargo and burnt to the water line. Wallace watched his hard won collection disappear into the depths from the lifeboat. Ten arduous days later they were rescued by a ship the *Jordeson* bound for London. The horrors of the journey continued on an unseaworthy ship but they got there eventually. Fortunately the collection had been insured by his agent Daniel Stevens and he received £200.

His time in the Amazon gave him insights into the geographical distribution of species and the fact that large rivers and mountain ranges act as barriers for animals, birds and insects.

His writings and maps earned him a reputation in the Royal Geographical Society and the President, Sir Roderick Murchison, helped him with a trip to Singapore. Because of delays, he almost came to Australia but never did. I wonder what he would have made of our flora and fauna. He arrived in Singapore on 18 April 1854.

By February 1855, he had set out a paper on evolution which he sent to Daniel Stevens his agent in London along with a multitude of specimens. Stevens forwarded the paper to *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History* where it was published in the September 1855 edition.<sup>2</sup> Although not widely commented on, it prompted Sir Charles Lyell to look more closely at the topic of the Sarawak Paper as it became known.

When staying in a valley covered in grass, he wondered why the trees had not taken over. He had seen the same thing in several other places. Pondering on this during a period of illness most likely malaria he had a moment of inspiration which he recalled years later.

*Something led me to think of the positive checks described by Malthusian in his Essay on Population a work I had read several years before and which had made a deep and permanent impression on my mind. These checks were war, disease, famine and the like – must it occurred to me – act on animals as well as man. Then I thought of the enormously rapid multiplication of animals, causing these checks to be much more effective in them than in the case of man; and while pondering vaguely on this fact there suddenly flashed upon me the idea of the survival of the fittest.*<sup>3</sup>

Wallace wrote it up over the next couple of days and sent it off to Darwin.

It eventually arrived at Down House like a bolt from the blue. Darwin was in a right tizz. Fearful that someone else would publish first, he had his friends develop a strategy.

The two papers, Darwin's and Wallace's, were read at the same meeting of the Linnean Society and published in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society* of 20 August 1858.<sup>4</sup> And so a self-educated man from the middling class presented the world with an idea which

<sup>2</sup> Alfred R. Wallace, 1855. "On the Law which has regulated the Introduction of New Species", *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History including Zoology, Botany, and Geology*, 184-196.  
[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/2263944](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/2263944)

<sup>3</sup> James T. Costa, 2023. *Radical By Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace*, Princeton University Press, N.J. and Oxford, p223.  
<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691233796/radical-by-nature>

<sup>4</sup> Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace, 1858. "On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection", *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society. Zoology* Vol. 3 (1858-1859) Issue 9, 45-62.  
[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/2311239#page/127](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/2311239#page/127) and  
[www.biodiversitylibrary.org/itemdetails/19541](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/itemdetails/19541)

<sup>1</sup> Richard Elwyn Hughes, 2008. Wallace, Alfred Russel (1823-1913), naturalist and social reformer, *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. <https://biography.wales/article/s6-WALL-RUS-1823>

transformed the direction of thinking about the natural world. It says something about the personality of the man and the times that he always deferred to the upper class Darwin.

Wallace continued to work visiting many islands and thinking about the geographical distribution of species. There he set out one of his greatest insights in "On the Zoological Geography of the Malay Archipelago" in which he identified the faunal discontinuity now known as the Wallace Line. He sent it to Darwin who forwarded to the Linnean Society and was published in the Zoological Proceedings in 1860.<sup>5</sup>

Before leaving the East, he gave money and equipment to his trusty right-hand-man Ali who had nursed him during his bouts of malaria. Ali returned to Ternate and his wife. He would never see his trusty companion again but in 1907 an American travelling in Ternate met an old man who said he was Ali Wallace and sent a photograph of him to Wallace who responded to the American with a kindly letter.

At the March 1864 Linnean Society meeting, Wallace gave a paper of epic proportions – over 71 pages – "On the phenomena of variation and geographical distribution as illustrated by the Papilionidae of the Malayan region". (It, with all the wonderful paintings can be seen on the net.)<sup>6</sup>

In the same year he turned his writing to the very contentious topic of human evolution.

While all this was going on, he somewhat coincidentally met Annie Mitten. She was much younger than him but they got married on 5 April 1866. They had three children and remained together for the rest of their lives.

One, a boy, died when he was six years old from scarlet fever. A tragedy all too common before vaccinations.

Money was always a problem for Wallace. He took up marking exam papers at one time. After applying for several jobs, he was forced to seek help from Darwin but when Darwin approached Hooker he was persuaded not to get involved mainly because Wallace had taken up with spiritualism and social policy such as the nationalisation of land. In other words he had become persona non grata with the scientific establishment and the ruling landed gentry.

In 1880 he produced another seminal work to great acclaim *Island Life: Or, The Phenomena and Causes of Insular Faunas and Floras, Including a Revision and Attempted Solution of the Problem of Geological Climates*.<sup>7</sup>

He was back.

Darwin told Wallace that it was the best book he had ever produced. Hooker was also impressed even more by the dedication to:

*Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker K.C.S.I., C.B., F.R.S., &c., &c., who, more than any other writer, has advanced our knowledge of the geographical distribution of plants, and especially of insular floras.*

Darwin was not to be deterred again and marshalled his forces and obtained from Prime Minister Gladstone a state pension of £200. Not a bad present on your 58th Birthday. (The average wage was about £50 per year.)

To further supplement his income, Wallace went on a speaking tour of America. He set sail on the steam ship *Tower Hill* and arrived after a rough passage in New York on 23 October 1886. The experience put him off his original intention of coming on to Australia.

He had many ups and downs in America and left on the Vancouver on 12 August 1887 and had an uneventful crossing, meeting up with his family in London.

Wallace was committed to spiritualism, and social justice, including the rights of women, which he summarised as "Equality of opportunity". And of course evolution.

When he was young, his family seemed to move from place to place; during his travels this was also true. Later his family lived in a number of houses. He didn't seem to mind moving from place to place all his life. One wonders what his much younger wife thought of the regular uplifts and house builds.

He was given many awards including the Darwin-Wallace Gold Medal 1908, Copley Medal 1908, Royal Medal, Order of Merit 1908, Linnean Medal 1892, Founders Gold Medal 1892, Darwin Medal 1890, Gold Medal of the Société de Géographie 1870, Royal Medal 1868. He was awarded honorary degrees from the University of Dublin and the University of Oxford but refused many others.

The Order of Merit is awarded to no more than 24 living persons throughout the Empire. He refused to attend the ceremony so a King's equerry took it to him. He did wear it to his Royal Institution lecture though.

Interestingly, Darwin did not receive one award. Possibly because Wallace lived longer – survival of the fittest perhaps.

There are many organisms named in his honour but, not unsurprisingly, not many plants, *Araucarioxylon wallacei* a fossil wood named by Knowlton. *Alsophila wallacei* a fern named by Mettenius are just two plants, but there are many more animals.

He was still working when he died on 7 November 1913, aged 90. His family knew that he would not wish to be buried in Westminster Abbey so he was interred in Broadstone Cemetery with a 2.1m fossilised tree trunk as a headstone.

In 2019, Wallace's great grandson gave a speech on the web which was shown at the inauguration of the Wallace monument in Tangkoko Nature Reserve, Sulawesi, on 21 February 2019. It is a 1.5m bust on a 2.5m plinth.

<sup>5</sup> Alfred R. Wallace, 1860. "On the Zoological Geography of the Malay Archipelago", *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, Zoology, Vol. IV*, 172-184. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/35034](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/35034)

<sup>6</sup> Alfred R. Wallace, 1866. "On the phenomena of variation and geographical distribution as illustrated by the Papilionidae of the Malayan region", *Transactions of the Linnean Society, Vol. XXV*, 1-71. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/10138318](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/10138318)

<sup>7</sup> Alfred Russel Wallace, 1880. *Island Life: Or, The Phenomena and Causes of Insular Faunas and Floras, Including a Revision and Attempted Solution of the Problem of Geological Climates*, Macmillan and Co., London. [www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/229618](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/229618)

The Natural History Museum in London has a memorial to Alfred Russel Wallace, a bronze statue depicting him discovering the golden birdwing butterfly on the island of Bacan in Indonesia. The statue was unveiled in 2013, on the 100th anniversary of his death, by Sir David Attenborough. It is located on the second floor above the museum's Hintze Hall.

A monument sponsored by the Wallace Fund was unveiled by Wallace's grandson Richard, in Llanbadoc near Usk, Wales, outside the church where Wallace was baptised and close to the cottage where he was born. The monument is made from 350 million year old Carboniferous limestone with fossils on its surface, which can be best seen when the rock is wet (most of the time there).

We now know that continents drift and the mechanism by which they do, as well as the implications for the geographic distribution of plants and animals. How excited would Alfred have been if he could have known what we know today. He deserves to be better known and given a more prominent place in school curriculum.

## 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE 2026 COMMITTEE

The society's Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on Thursday 21 November 2024. The following committee was elected:

<b>President:</b>	Kevin Frawley
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Vacant
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Fintán Ó Laighin
<b>Committee:</b>	Peter Evans Bernadette Hince Juliana Lazzari
<b>Public Officer:</b>	Juliana Lazzari

### President's Report

By Kevin Frawley

The Australian Forest History Society has continued for another year, providing a focal point for a range of people undertaking forest history research, with the results of this being reported in the society's newsletter. The depth and quality of the material in the newsletter is noteworthy. Three newsletters were produced since the 2024 AGM: no. 93 December 2024; no. 94 April 2025; and no. 95 August 2025. Tributes to Dr John Dargavel and Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick were included in No. 93. Without diminishing other contributions, such as Michael Roche's regular articles on New Zealand forest history, a couple of contributions, in particular, caught my attention. One was on the former Hudson Brothers Narani Sawmill (Myall Lakes), with timbers preserved in the lake waters due to particular conditions there – all revealed by using drone technology (no. 94). Another two, related through recreation in forest environments, were the early 20th century efforts by women to participate in bushwalking (causing some male shock and outrage) (no. 93), and the history of the establishment and management of the Bibbulmun Track, a 1000km

walking track between Perth and Albany (no. 95). These contributions relate to another significant interaction between people and forests, broadly for recreation – whether this be active such as walking and cycling or passive, such as sensory engagement with a forest environment. This is probably best expressed in the concept of "Forest bathing" (*Shinrin-yoku*). A big thanks to Fintán Ó Laighin, Peter Evans and Juliana Lazzari for compiling and editing of the newsletters. Contributions are always welcome. Thanks also to Robert Onfray for maintaining the society's website and quickly uploading the newsletters.

The society's membership is relatively stable (around 30 financial members) and aided by Fintán's efforts to reduce administrative costs, the society has sufficient funds to operate. Thanks to Fintán and Juliana for their work, and a welcome to new member Bernadette Hince, who has undertaken to look into the process for records to be deposited at the Noel Butlin Archives at the Australian National University. To all members: enjoy your explorations in forest history in 2025-26 and tell other members about them through the newsletter.

### Treasurer's Report

By Fintán Ó Laighin

The financial position of the society remains stable, although we are experiencing a decline in membership which is affecting our income. This seems to be a problem facing many volunteer-run organisations across all sectors. At 30 June 2025, we had just 27 members, compared with 46 at 30 June 2024 – there will probably be a time when our membership is below the threshold to warrant continuing, but we're not at that stage yet. As noted by Kevin, our membership is about 30 financial members, as some have renewed since 30 June, including ones who not been financial in recent years. I like to interpret that as an interest in what the society does. However, the number of active members is also declining, reflected through the low number of contributors to the newsletter. It's been a constant call.

On the plus side, we did turn another profit – about \$200 – the fourth year in a row. This was driven largely by the reduction in our operating expenses arising from the decision to distribute newsletters by e-mail rather than post. This has saved a considerable amount on printing and postage, as well as a great deal of effort. The biggest expense coming up in 2025-26 will be the renewal of our internet domain, which was last renewed in 2023-24 for \$533 for three years. Our run of profits may screech to a halt.

I would again like to thank my friend Graeme Wood for reviewing our accounts. This was the sixth year he has done so, having first done it in 2019-20. Graeme is not a member of the AFHS and does this on a voluntary basis. His scrutiny is greatly appreciated. Each year, the committee offers him a bottle of wine as an appreciation of his work, but he is yet to take us up on it.



## NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN & AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY NETWORK



AUSTRALIAN & AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY NETWORK

The Australian & Aotearoa New Zealand Environmental History Network provides a means to communicate with each other and exchange information about forthcoming events and new publications in Australia and New Zealand. Its website is at [www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org](http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org).

An article by Jess Urwin (the network's convenor), published on 13 August 2025, provided a link to the round-up of articles published by network members from November 2024 to April 2025 [www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/08/check-out-our-latest-publication-round-up](http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/08/check-out-our-latest-publication-round-up). The round-up was prepared by Daniel Rothenburg and Amanda Wells and includes a number of interest to forest history, some perhaps more directly than others. (*Network members are shown in bold, some of whom are also AFHS members.*)

**Ruby Ekkel**, "Making friends with lyre-birds: Alice Manfield and settler belonging in Mount Buffalo National Park"; in: *Settler Colonial Studies* 15, no. 2 (2025) pp.238-259.

**Simon Farley**, "Their beneficial effect upon a people: settlers, songbirds and civilisation in nineteenth-century Victoria"; in: *Settler Colonial Studies*, published online 27 January 2025.

**Russell McGregor**, *Enchantment by Birds: A history of birdwatching in 22 species* (Scribe, 2024).

**Russell McGregor**, "Roger Tory Peterson Down Under: an American's influence on Australian birding field guides"; in: *Historical Records of Australian Science* 36, HR24021, published online 31 October 2024.

**Ruby Ekkel**, "Real Men Don't Kill Koalas: Gender and Conservationism in the Queensland Koala Open Season of 1927"; in: *Australian Historical Studies* 56, no. 2 (2025) pp.274-292.

**Ruby Ekkel**, "The Meaning of a Bushwalk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, 1922-45"; in: *Australian Historical Studies*, 14 October 2024.

**Benjamin J. Richardson**, "Cinematic Activism and Tasmania's Lake Pedder: How Film Shaped Environmental History"; in: *Australian Historical Studies* 56, no. 1 (2025) pp.103-125.

**Jamie Ashworth**, "Cartographic Traces of Cultural Change: Land Surveying and Environmental Imperialism in the Wairarapa, 1842-1853"; in: *New Zealand Journal of History* 59, no. 1 (2025) pp.50-78.

**Mike Roche**, "A Message on New Zealand Wood"; in: *Australian Forest History Society Newsletter* 93 (2024), pp.7-9.

**Deirdre Slattery**, *Australian Alps: Kosciuszko, Alpine and Namadgi National Parks*, 3rd revised edition (CSIRO Publishing, 2025).

**Libby Robin, Amanda Wells**, Claudia Leal, Joana Baço, Cristina Brito, Patricia Carvalho, Susanna Lidström, Tirza Meyer, Ursula Münster, **Kate Rigby**, Sandra Swart, and Nina Vieira, "Transdisciplinary Histories and the Rise of the Environmental Humanities"; in: *Global Environment* 18, no. 1 (2025) pp.138-172.

In early November, the network called for submissions for its next publications round-up for works published between April and September 2025. The due date was 25 November, so apologies if you're just reading this – [www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/11/submit-your-work-to-our-next-publication-round-up](http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/11/submit-your-work-to-our-next-publication-round-up).

Other recent articles on the AANZEHN website include news of talks, panel discussions, offers of scholarships and fellowships, awards, and calls for papers, both to journals and to be presented at conferences.

Also worth noting is the awarding by the History Council of NSW of the Max Kelly Award to PhD candidate Ruby Ekkel for her essay "'What comes of the kangaroos and the wallabies?' A gendered history of native animals and the New South Wales Bands of Mercy movement, 1884-1923". The judges' citation from the stated that the essay:

"... offers a deeply original reading of the intersections between gender, religion, and environmental thought in colonial Australia. Drawing on an impressive array of original sources, Ruby Ekkel reconstructs how Frances Levvy and her contemporaries advanced a Christian ethic of kindness towards both introduced and native Australian animals alike. By individualising kangaroos, koalas, and even Tasmanian devils as soulful beings with personalities, protectionist women made the Australian environment emotionally legible to European sensibilities, mediating their relationship with a landscape marked by dispossession and colonial violence. At once a history of women's activism and of everyday ecological ethics, Ekkel's essay reframes animal protectionism as an important, gendered strand of Australia's environmental history, showing how moral concern for animals intersected with broader anxieties about cruelty, national identity, and belonging."

Ruby also featured in the 2024 awards, when she won a commendation for the Max Kelly Award for her essay "Playing Devil's Advocate: Women's zoological expertise and the changing reputation of Tasmanian devils, 1908-1921".

More information on the 2025 awards is available at:

[www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/09/environmental-historians-recognised-in-annual-history-council-of-nsw-awards](http://www.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2025/09/environmental-historians-recognised-in-annual-history-council-of-nsw-awards)

<https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/annual-history-awards-overview/awards-and-prizes-2025/2025-awards-winners>

## THE EPBC ACT AND REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

By Fintán Ó Laighin

The AFHS shies away from political commentary but changes to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) passed by the Australian Parliament in November 2025 highlight a historical misconception that has persisted since the Act was first passed in July 1999.

Shortly before the amending Bill was passed, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Environment and Water issued a joint statement advising that a key environmental measure in the new legislation would be "Removing ... the exemption from the EPBC Act for ... regional forest agreements, so that they comply with the same rules and standards as other industries."<sup>1</sup>

Section 38(1) of the Act does indeed state that "Part 3 does not apply to an RFA forestry operation that is undertaken in accordance with an RFA."<sup>2</sup> (*Part 3 outlines "Requirements for environmental approvals"*.) This is often presented as meaning that it's open slather for forestry, but the reason for the exemption is contained in the explanatory memorandum that accompanied the *EPBC Bill 1998* when it was first presented to Parliament:

"The object of this subdivision recognises that in each RFA region a comprehensive assessment is being, or has been, undertaken to address the environmental, economic and social impacts of forestry operations. In particular, environmental assessments are being conducted in accordance with the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*. In each region, interim arrangements for the protection and management of forests are in place pending finalisation of an RFA. The objectives of the RFA scheme as a whole include the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system and the implementation of ecologically sustainable forest management. These objectives are being pursued in relation to each region. **The objects of this Act will be met through the RFA process** for each region and, accordingly, the Act does not apply to forestry operations in RFA regions."  
(*My emphasis*).<sup>3</sup>

In other words, the assessments that are already done through an RFA don't have to be redone. A similar

exemption is provided to actions taken in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The changes will come into effect in July 2027. The new legislation retains the reference to the exemption but adds the concept of a "sunset day". Section 38(1) now reads:

"Part 3 does not apply to an RFA forestry operation that:

- (a) is undertaken in accordance with an RFA; and
- (b) is completed prior to the sunset day.

Note: The effect of this subsection is that Part 3 will apply to an RFA forestry operation that commences on or after the sunset day.

**sunset day** means the day after the end of the period of 12 months beginning on 1 July 2026."<sup>4</sup>

**Author disclaimer:** From early 1989 until mid-2024, I worked in the forestry area of what is now the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (a department which had many name changes in my time), but was not involved in the development or implementation of RFAs.

## JACINDA ARDERN PRIME MINISTER



The recent documentary film on Jacinda Ardern's term as New Zealand Prime Minister (2017-2023) includes an excerpt from her maiden speech to Parliament on 16 December 2008:

"I cannot pinpoint exactly when my interest in politics began, but I know it began when I was young. I was born

in Hamilton, but in the 1980s my family relocated to Murupara, where my father took up the role of the local police sergeant. My memories of that place are vivid. I knew that a lot of people had lost their jobs, but I did not understand that it was due to the privatisation of the forestry industry and to a complete lack of central government support. I knew that there were suicides, and that the girl who used to babysit my sister and me one day turned yellow from hepatitis and could not visit us anymore. But I did not understand the linkages between these things and the poverty of the community I was living in. My passion for social justice came from what I saw; my love of politics came when I realised that it was the key to changing what I saw. And there is much to change."

A video of the speech is available on the New Zealand Parliament's Youtube channel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUkwSx5VgLO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUkwSx5VgLO) and a transcript is on the parliament's website at [www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/49HansD\\_20081216/volume-651-week-2-tuesday-16-december-2008](https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/49HansD_20081216/volume-651-week-2-tuesday-16-december-2008). (*There are slight differences between the speech as given and the transcript.*)

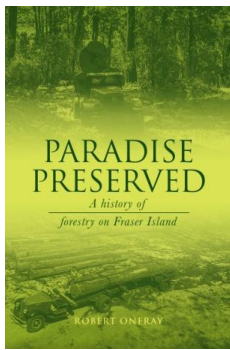
<sup>1</sup> Prime Minister and the Minister for the Environment and Water, 2025. "Albanese Government to pass historic environmental reforms" (27 Nov 2025). [www.pm.gov.au/media/albanese-government-pass-historic-environmental-reforms](https://www.pm.gov.au/media/albanese-government-pass-historic-environmental-reforms)

<sup>2</sup> *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (version in force from 31 Oct 2025 to 1 Dec 2025), Federal Register of Legislation. [www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/2025-10-31](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/2025-10-31)

<sup>3</sup> *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 1998*, Parliament of Australia. [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bId=s173](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=s173) (This page includes a link to the explanatory memorandum. The extract in the article is taken from p38 of the PDF. The Bill did not pass the 38th Parliament before Parliament rose ahead of the October 1998 election, but was passed by the 39th Parliament in June 1999, taking effect in July.)

<sup>4</sup> Future Law Compilations *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Volume 1 (s 1-266), Federal Register of Legislation. [www.legislation.gov.au/future-law-compilations](https://www.legislation.gov.au/future-law-compilations) (accessed 30 Dec 2025).

## BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS



Robert Onfray, 2025. *Paradise Preserved: A History of Forestry on Fraser Island*. Connor Court Publishing, Redlands QLD. ISBN 9781923568051. 366pp. \$39.95 +\$7 S&H.  
[www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au/Paradise-Preserved-A-History-of-Forestry-on-Fraser-Island-by-Robert-Onfray\\_p\\_662.html](http://www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au/Paradise-Preserved-A-History-of-Forestry-on-Fraser-Island-by-Robert-Onfray_p_662.html)

*From the publisher's notes.*

Fraser Island is a land of adventure, rugged beauty, and rich history. Many four-wheel drivers, anglers, and campers know its golden beaches, inland tracks, and pristine lakes. But few understand the island's deep connection to forestry and the people who worked its vast forests for over a century. This book uncovers a forgotten chapter of Fraser Island's past, challenging the common view that forestry was damaging the island.

### ***A History of Hard Work and Resourcefulness***

From the earliest timber-getters to the organised forestry operations of the 20th century, this book traces how logging shaped Fraser Island. Its towering satinay and brush box trees were prized worldwide for their durability – satinay, in particular, earning a reputation as an exceptional marine timber resistant to borers. The author makes a convincing case that forestry was not the environmental harm some claim, but a carefully managed, sustainable industry that co-existed with the island's natural beauty.

Drawing on first-hand accounts, historical records, and expert insight, the book vividly depicts the loggers, foresters, and their families who battled the elements, shifting sands, and bureaucracy to earn a living in one of Australia's most challenging landscapes.

### ***Fraser Island Before Tourism***

While Fraser Island is now known for eco-tourism, this book reminds readers it was once a working island. Forestry camps, tramways, and jetties used to dot the landscape as timber was transported to awaiting ships. The author contends that far from damaging the island, responsible forestry helped preserve its forests, shaping the lush scenery admired by visitors today.

The history of forestry practices – from early uncontrolled logging to modern silvicultural methods promoting regeneration – is well documented. Readers will value the straightforward explanations of how foresters balanced timber harvesting with conservation, a legacy often overlooked in contemporary debates about Fraser Island's management.

### ***Battles Over Land Use and Conservation***

One of the book's most engaging sections examines the political and environmental conflicts that led to the end of forestry. In the 1980s and early 1990s, preservationists campaigned successfully to stop logging and secure

World Heritage listing. The author does not shy away from criticising the misinformation and politics behind this shift. He provides strong evidence that forestry was unfairly demonised while tourism – now one of the island's biggest ecological pressures – was praised as a sustainable alternative.

This section will particularly resonate with regular visitors. It questions the idea that environmental activism always matches good land management and prompts readers to see past simple preservation slogans.

### ***A Book for Those Who Love the Island***

This isn't just a book for historians or forestry professionals – it's for anyone who loves Fraser Island and wants to learn its whole story. Whether you've driven along the sandy tracks, camped at Wathumba, or fished the Seventy-Five Mile Beach, it will strengthen your appreciation of the island and the people who've worked to look after it.

It also raises uncomfortable but necessary questions. Are today's park managers doing any better than the foresters before them? Has the shift from forestry to tourism genuinely improved the island's long-term health? These are crucial debates for anyone invested in its future.

### ***Well-Researched and Engaging***

The author's depth of knowledge and meticulous research come through in every chapter. Using archival sources, government reports, and interviews with forest workers, he creates a detailed and engaging picture of the island's timber history. Complex forestry ideas are explained clearly for general readers, and the inclusion of photos, maps, and historical documents provides helpful context.

Whether you're a weekend visitor or a long-time Fraser Island devotee, you'll find this book both informative and engaging.

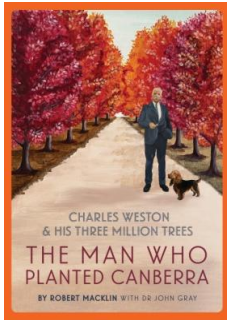
### ***A Must-Read for Fraser Island Enthusiasts***

For four-wheel drive enthusiasts, fishers, and campers, this book provides a fresh take on a cherished destination. It goes beyond the tourist leaflets to uncover the people, industries, and disputes that have shaped Fraser Island's character.

The island's story is more than shifting sands and freshwater lakes – it's about the communities and foresters who worked with, not against, the land. This book makes sure Fraser Island's forestry legacy is remembered and understood.

Whether or not you agree with the author's conclusions, one thing is certain: after reading it, you'll never view Fraser Island the same way again.





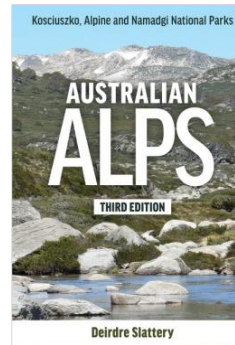
Robert Macklin with John Gray, 2025. *The Man Who Planted Canberra: Charles Weston and His Three Million Trees*. National Library of Australia Publishing, Canberra ACT. ISBN 9781922507778. 240pp. \$39.99 + S&H. <https://bookshop.nla.gov.au/p/26643384>

*From the publisher's notes.*

In 1911, English-born Charles Weston climbs Mount Ainslie to the crest of a landscape that has become the site for the Australian capital. Down on the flats, in the harsh sunlight of an April noon, occasional clumps of sheep feed into the prevailing westerly on the scant leavings of an insatiable swarm of rabbits. On the denuded, rabbit-infested Limestone plains, Charles Weston embarked on an ambitious re-greening project that would transform the region and the fledgling nation's capital. London-born Weston rose through the massive British gardening industry in the second half of the 19th century, becoming foreman of 79 gardeners at the magnificent Drumlanrig Castle on the Scottish borders. With testimonials from the most influential Head Gardener in Britain, he migrated to Australia seeking new challenges free from the British class system and reached Sydney in 1896. In the wake of Federation in 1901, he set his sights on the greatest challenge of all, the new national capital. It was here that he gave life to his "dream city", and the reforestation of its surrounds. This highly readable story of the tree planter of Canberra includes familiar characters in Home Affairs Minister King O'Malley and Walter and Marion Griffin portrayed in a surprising new light and offers readers new insight into the making of the national capital. This is also a story of three million trees and shrubs from Australia and around the world, planted to create a template garden city, less susceptible to climate change. This will be a book of interest to the great number of Canberran gardeners, garden-enthusiasts, park-goers and bushwalkers, and their interstate visitors. Lavishly illustrated with both historic and modern images that highlight the impact of Weston's plantings on the Federal Capital.

**Editor's note:** Co-author John Gray was a member of the AFHS and also our public officer for a few years. The basis for this book was John's 1999 doctoral thesis at the University of Canberra, "T.C.G. Weston (1866-1935), horticulturist and arboriculturist: A critical review of his contribution to the establishment of the landscape foundations of Australia's National Capital" <https://researchprofiles.canberra.edu.au/en/studentTheses/t-c-g-weston-1866-1935-horticulturist-and-arboriculturist-a-criti>.

Sadly, John died in November 2023 and did not see the publication of this book. Ken Taylor's obituary was published in the December 2023 edition of our newsletter [www.foresthistory.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/AFHS-2023-12-no.-90.pdf](http://www.foresthistory.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/AFHS-2023-12-no.-90.pdf) (p8).



Deirdre Slattery, 2025. *Kosciuszko, Alpine and Namadgi National Parks Third Edition*. CSIRO Publishing. ISBN 9781486318841. 328pp. \$54.99. [www.publishing.csiro.au/book/8182](http://www.publishing.csiro.au/book/8182)

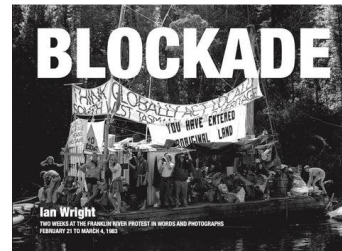
*From the publisher's notes.*

An illustrated guide to the remarkable ecology and history of the Australian Alps National Parks.

*Australian Alps* is a fascinating guide to Australia's highest mountains and the extraordinary diversity, rich heritage and precious resource of the Australian Alps National Parks.

Covering Kosciuszko, Alpine and Namadgi National Parks, author Deirdre Slattery explores the stories of the First Peoples, scientists, historians and conservationists who have worked to protect, raise awareness of and share their knowledge of this unique and important area.

This fully revised third edition details the mountains' remarkable and unique natural features; how the rocks, soils, plants and animals have evolved over time; and the dependence of many Australians on their most valuable function – water catchment. Extensively illustrated with both historic and contemporary photographs, *Australian Alps* is an essential guide for anyone visiting or interested in this spectacular region.

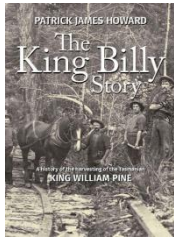


Ian Wright, 2025. *Blockade. Two Weeks at the Franklin River Protest in Words and Photographs February 21 to March 4, 1983*. Forty South Publishing, Lindisfarne TAS. ISBN 9781764145909.

124pp. 136 colour & b/w illustrations. \$59.95 + S&H. <https://shop.fortysouth.com.au/collections/new-releases/products/blockade-by-ian-wright-pb>

*From the publisher's notes.*

In 1978 the Tasmanian Hydro Electric Commission announced plans to create a hydro-electric dam on the Gordon River near its junction with the Franklin River, in South West Tasmania. The dam-building proposal ultimately led to the greatest environmental protest ever seen in Australia; a protest planned and coordinated by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. Global voices lent their support and ultimately the dam was stopped. A key element of the protest was non-violent-action to disrupt work at the dam site on the Gordon River that resulted in hundreds of protesters being arrested. A protest base was established by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society near Strahan on a property affectionately named "Greenie Acres". This book is a personal account, richly illustrated with original, never before published photographs. The stunning photographs have an immediacy that enable the reader to share in the intense experience of being part of the blockade.

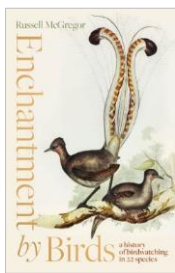


Patrick James Howard, 2023. *The King Billy Story: A history of the harvesting of the Tasmanian King William pine*. Forty South Publishing, Lindisfarne TAS. ISBN 9780645864762. 162pp. w/illustrations, facsimiles, maps. \$49.95 + S&H.

<https://shop.fortysouth.com.au/products/king-billy-story-the-a-history-of-the-harvesting-of-the-tasmanian-king-william-pine-by-patrick-howard-pb>

*From the publisher's notes.*

The west coast of Tasmania produces three pine trees – Huon Pine, Celery-top and King Billy. After the 1930s when the highly favoured Huon Pine was no longer available in any real quantity, King Billy and to a lesser degree Celery-top pine took its place. Although not quite as old or tall as the Huon pine, the King Billy pine is considered far rarer, and is now listed as threatened native vegetation by the Tasmanian government. As a specialty timber, it has been used in boats, furniture, musical instruments and sculptures. A handful of families were involved in the commercial harvesting of the King Billy Pine; among them were the Howards (the author's father and grandfather), the Lees, and the Bradshaws. This book is the story of their lives, their communities and their industry.



Russell McGregor, 2024. *Enchantment by Birds: A history of birdwatching in 22 species*. Scribe Publications. ISBN 9781761381447. 320pp. \$39.99. <https://scribepublications.com.au/books/enchantment-by-birds>

*From the publisher's notes.*

A fresh appreciation of the magic of birds and how watching them fulfils a

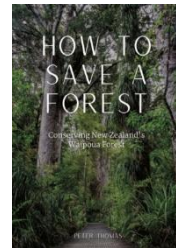
human need to connect with nature.

Enchantment by birds is commonplace. Birdwatchers merely go a step further than others and actively seek to be enchanted. This book tells why they take that extra step. It takes the reader on a series of excursions into birdwatching's past, venturing forward to the present. With an intriguing cast of characters, avian as well as human, its lively narratives explore the emotional and aesthetic impulses behind the pastime as well as its scientific and conservationist components.

Its stories of 22 Australian birds range widely: from wordy squabbles over bird names to the artistic finessing of field guides; from the Paradise Parrot's tragic fall into extinction to the everyday enjoyment of a Magpie's carol; from the evolution of citizen science to the boom in birding tourism. Interlacing them all is the insight that birdwatching is a means by which modern, urban people reach out to touch the wild. A primal desire to connect with nature lies at the heart of the pastime.

*Enchantment by Birds* not only offers a compelling exposition of what makes birders tick; it also tells us, imaginatively and informatively, why birds have a special place in our hearts.

*Thanks to Michael Roche for his advice about the New Zealand-related books included below.*



Chris Nelson, 2025. *Once a Forest Ranger*. Lonesome Pine Publishing. ISBN 9781067089405. 323pp.

*From the publisher's notes.*

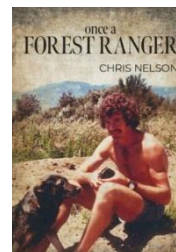
What should an outdoors-loving boy do for a job, when he leaves school? Chris Nelson wanted to be a farmer, but in the 1960s, farming

opportunities were scant. His love of the outdoors led him to forestry, and a fulfilling, exciting, lifelong career in the North Island forests of Aotearoa.

*Once a Forest Ranger* offers a fascinating insight into decades of sweeping changes in New Zealand forestry management, driven by political ideology and changing attitudes to the natural landscape. It brims with anecdotes of hunting, bush mishaps, quirky characters, hilarious reflections and quiet feats of strength and courage.

Chris's personal story is woven throughout, encompassing a fraught childhood, youthful overseas travel tales, family and health challenges. His deep love for his family shines through and Chris pays tribute to a mother who battled to raise him and his sisters well, despite their father's alcohol-fuelled transience.

*Once a Forest Ranger* is an important account of a key New Zealand industry in turbulent times. Equally it is a story of a man determined to make the best of himself in a life laden with challenges and opportunities.



Peter Thomas, 2024. *How to Save a Forest: Conserving New Zealand's Waipoua Forest*. Peter Withiel Thomas, Hamilton. ISBN 9780473666989. 203pp, + 12 unnumbered pages of plates. [www.howtosaveaforest.com](http://www.howtosaveaforest.com)

*From the publisher's notes.*

*"... probably the first successful conservation story in New Zealand."*

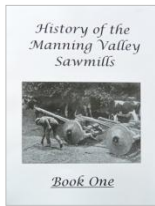
– Keith Sinclair

Waipoua Forest is located on the west coast of New Zealand's Northland. It is a Crown-owned native (indigenous) forest managed by the Department of Conservation.

On 3 July 1952, after a long public campaign, some 23,000 acres of the 39,000 acre Waipoua Forest were proclaimed a forest sanctuary. Logging of kauri in the forest sanctuary was then banned.

Retired History and Classics teacher, Peter Thomas, decided to investigate what role his father, lawyer and horticulturist Norman Russell Withiel Thomas (NRW), played in the campaign. The account does not pretend to be "the" history of the campaign but rather an account of the role NRW and others played in the struggle to save the forest.



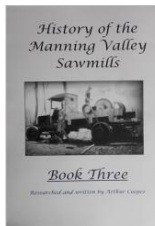
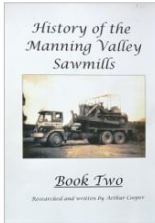


Arthur Cooper, 2015 to 2016. *History of the Manning Valley Sawmills, Books One to Five*. Manning Valley Historical Society. \$25 each.

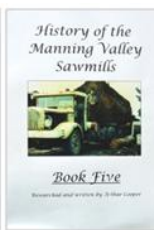
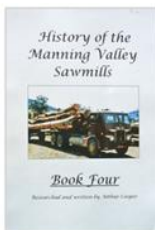
Arthur Cooper and Pam Murray, 2017. *History of the Manning Valley Sawmills, Books Six and Seven*. Manning Valley Historical Society. \$25 each.

<https://winghammuseum.com.au/book-category/sawmills>

*From the publisher's notes.*

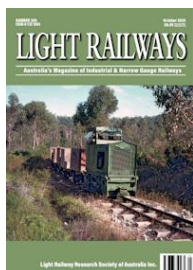


Timber getters first became interested in the Manning River catchment in north-east NSW in about 1828 when the abundance and quality of cedar became known and, later, for the enormous resources of high quality hardwood construction timbers that are milled today. This set of seven books records the history of some eighty sawmills.



*Light Railways: Australia's Magazine of Industrial & Narrow Gauge Railways*, October 2025 (LR305) and December 2025 (LR306). Light Railway Research Society of Australia. ISSN: 0727 8101. [www.lrrsa.org.au](http://www.lrrsa.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/people/lrrsa-Light-Railway-Research-Society-of-Australia-Inc/100064543968038](https://www.facebook.com/people/lrrsa-Light-Railway-Research-Society-of-Australia-Inc/100064543968038)

All back issues of *Light Railways* are available from the LRRSA's website [shop.lrrsa.org.au](http://shop.lrrsa.org.au) – the most recent 12 issues can be bought for the cover price of \$8.95 each, or as PDFs for \$5.50 each. Earlier issues are out of print, but are available as free PDF downloads from the LRRSA website.



LR305 contains two articles relating to timber tramways, the first being a review of the latest volume of *On Splintered Rails – The Era of the Tasmanian Bush-LoCo* by Mark and Angela Fry. This volume, the third in a 4-volume series, covers the logging operations of numerous sawmilling companies in the east coast, the

north-east and west coast. Over 350 pages in length and containing many photos, maps and diagrams, it has a print run of just 500 copies (300 hardback and 200 paperback) and sells for either \$150 (hardback) or \$110 (paperback), plus \$27 postage. It is available from the authors at [markfryoldina4@gmail.com](mailto:markfryoldina4@gmail.com).

The second article is an obituary of Ian MacNeil, a man who researched and wrote extensively on light railways, including many timber tramways. The obituary, written by the editor of *Light Railways*, Richard Warwick, notes that "One of his earliest articles was published in LR113 in 1991 covering the tramways at Simsville in NSW (and which formed the basis for) a book titled *Simsville and the Jarrah Mill* ... published by the LRRSA in 2015". In 2013 and 2014, he received awards for articles on the Rhodes Timber Company at Mount George and the British and Australian Timber Company at Coffs Harbour. LR will publish further articles by Ian MacNeil, including one on timber tramways.



LR306 includes news of a book by Tristan Joseph Verhoeff to be published by the LRRSA in February 2026, *Peninsular Tramways: Tramways of Tasmania's Forestier & Tasman Peninsulas 1833-1976*. "Until the 1870s these tramways were associated with the convict era and were mostly used for timber getting, quarrying, and transporting coal ... From the 1870s to the 1930s, there were many timber tramways ..." The book is on sale from the LRRSA for \$56 + \$18.30 (a discounted price applies to LRRSA members and orders placed by 25 January) <https://shop.lrrsa.org.au>.

The Letters pages include one from Peter Neve in response to Ian MacNeil's feature article in LR304 on the Burruga Copper Mine Firewood Tramway, and prints some photos that Peter took in 1973 when some of the remains of the tramway were more apparent.

The Heritage & Tourist News pages include a paragraph advising that Timbertown in Wauchope NSW is up for sale as a "Tourism and Caravan Park development opportunity". Timbertown opened in 1976 and is a re-creation of a timber settlement from 1880-1910. One of its attractions is the 2.4km Timbertown Heritage Railway, described as "typical of the kind used in the forestry industry of bygone days to transport timber and people from the outer lying forests and communities to the Sawmills and towns." For more info, see [www.timbertown.com.au/history](http://www.timbertown.com.au/history) and [www.timbertown.com.au/portfolio-view/timbertown-steam-train-experience](http://www.timbertown.com.au/portfolio-view/timbertown-steam-train-experience).

