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FORESTER TRAINING in Western Australia



REVISED JANUARY 1984

*If you are concerned about resource management — there
may be a place in forestry for you.*



FORESTRY

in Western Australia

Modern forest administration offers a wide range of interesting and challenging opportunities—interesting because of the variety of work encountered day by day—challenging because it involves the supervision of men and machines and because forestry is vital to the future development and prosperity of the state. If you have a genuine interest in the bush and enjoy the outdoor life there may be a place in forestry for you.

The Forests Department was formed in 1918 to provide for the better management and protection of forests. The forests of Western Australia occur mainly in the 600-1 500 mm rainfall zone, in the south-west corner of the state, although woodlands of value also are found in the Kimberley and Goldfields regions.

Today the Forests Department is responsible for managing nearly two million hectares of state forest and timber reserves and its activities cover a wide field including fire protection, research, reforestation, afforestation, forest conservation, fire ecology, recreation and management of water catchments.

Over the last decade, the department has undertaken an intensive programme of afforestation. This programme involves the establishment of plantations (mainly pines) and the rehabilitation of areas of unhealthy forest.

One of the most important functions is the protection of state forests from fire. Rotational prescribed burning is practiced with the object of covering the whole forest area in six to eight years. The aim is to reduce forest fuel quantities so that wildfires may be controlled when they occur during severe fire weather. A highly mechanised and efficient fire fighting organisation has been established to suppress wildfires if they do occur. The forest ecosystems of Western Australia have adapted themselves to fire over the centuries and prescribed burning does little damage to the forest. In fact, the methods in use endeavour to burn in a manner closely resembling the natural burning which occurred before European settlement. A modern development which enables more efficient prescribed burning is the dropping of incendiaries from aircraft. Aircraft are also used for detection of wildfires.



Above: Vigorous Jarrah regrowth stand measured by cadets using clinometer and diameter/girth tape.

Front cover: Cadets check fire gear before suppression exercise.

The Forests Department carries out its own research to keep abreast of the latest techniques in forest management and forest protection. Research includes such areas as fire control, plant breeding, soil nutrition, control of plant diseases, fire ecology, land use planning, hydrology, fauna management, etc.

Apart from its main duties of forest management and protection, the department is also responsible for conservation of flora and fauna in its forests.

Forests have four main functions in the community. These functions can be classified as:

<i>Productive</i>	Timber, water and other forest products.
<i>Protective</i>	Erosion and stream control, wind breaks and climate amelioration, etc.
<i>Recreational</i>	Fishing, camping, bushwalking.
<i>Social</i>	Employment in forestry, the timber industry and secondary industries using timber or other forest products.

Opportunities in Forestry

The forester staff in the Forests Department is divided into field foresters and professional foresters.

Field foresters are involved with the lower levels of administration and supervision of activities in the forest. They are responsible to the professional foresters.

Professional foresters are involved with the formulation of forest policy, the planning of forest activities and higher levels of administration.

Entry into the field forester ranks is possible for young people who have successfully completed the two years training course which involves a year of study at Bunbury Technical College followed by a year of training at the Field Cadet Schools, Dwellingup and Manjimup. Under some circumstances it may also involve a year of field work as a probationary cadet.

A newly appointed field forester upon graduation from the cadet school commences work with the department as a Forest Ranger. Elevation to the higher ranks of Assistant Forester, Forester and District Forester depends upon the young officer's performance, the passing of promotional examinations and the existence of vacancies for these positions.

Entry into the professional forester ranks is possible for young people who hold a degree in forestry from the Australian National University in Canberra or the University of Melbourne. Western Australian students are required to complete one year of study at the University of Western Australia followed by a further three years of study at the Australian National University or the University of Melbourne.

A newly appointed professional forester commences work with the department as an Assistant Divisional Forest Officer. It takes five years to become a Divisional Forest Officer and higher positions are available in both administrative and research fields depending upon experience and ability.

There are promotional opportunities for field foresters and professional foresters together with benefits such as provision of housing at most centres, superannuation and various allowances.

Field Forester Training

The Forests Department awards cadetships in field forester training. Cadetships are advertised in *The West Australian* for the first two weeks in October each year for which cadets are required.

Requirements for cadet applicants are:

- (i) The applicant should be 17-19 years of age, or have a seven-teenth birthday during the first year of training.
- (ii) The applicant must hold at least a junior achievement certificate. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed the T.A.E. at Year 12 level with good grades in English, Mathematics and Science.

Following receipt of applications and prior to the awarding of a cadetship, the applicant may be required to spend a short time at a forestry centre (e.g. Dwellingup) for a period of practical work and further assessment of suitability for the training course.

BUNBURY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

After the awarding of cadetships, all cadets will attend Bunbury Technical College for one year. They are paid fortnightly and those living away from home are eligible for an additional allowance. During term vacations cadets work at various forestry centres where they are paid the current award rates.

SYLLABUS

Forestry mapping	Cookery
Forestry calculations	Environmental science
Forestry science	Forest hydrology
Botany	Entomology
Plant pathology	Dendrology
Radio equipment and maintenance	Soil Science
Plant propagation	Vehicle equipment and maintenance
English communications	First aid

DWELLINGUP CADET SCHOOL

After successful completion of the course at Bunbury Technical College, cadets attend the Dwellingup Cadet School for one year of intensive training. Cadets live-in at the school.

SYLLABUS

Forest Administration	Forest Engineering
Wood Technology	Fire Behaviour
Silviculture	Fire Control
Mensuration	Man Management and Safety
Experimental Method	Conservation and Recreation
Utilisation of Forest Products	Forest Management and Economics

Upon completion of the two years training a successful cadet is awarded a Certificate of Forest Technology, and is then eligible for acceptance as a Forest Ranger in the Forests Department.

Professional Forester Training

Cadetships are also awarded for training as professional foresters.

Applications are called for by Public Service Board advertisement in *The West Australian* in late November each year, and application forms are returnable to the board after insertion of T.A.E. results.

To be eligible for a cadetship an applicant must have satisfied the requirements for tertiary admission at U.W.A. for Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics I or II. Biology is desirable but not obligatory.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

One year of study is undertaken at the University of Western Australia and if a student is awarded a cadetship before completing this year, a sustenance allowance will be made. Holders of cadetships are required to accumulate at least twelve weeks practical experience working for the department during university vacations. Such work is paid at normal award rates.

SYLLABUS

Botany 100
Geology 100
Chemistry 100
Mathematics 150

FINAL THREE YEARS

After successful completion of the course at the University of Western Australia, cadets attend the Australian National University, Canberra, or the University of Melbourne for three years.

SYLLABUS

Both universities concentrate on units with specific relevance to forestry. Students should check the current Handbook to confirm the units required and their pre-requisites.

Upon successful completion of the four year course the cadet is awarded a Bachelor of Science (Forestry). A graduate is eligible to enter the Forests Department as an Assistant Divisional Forest Officer.

Further details are available from the Conservator of Forests, 50 Hayman Road, Como, 6152.

Back cover: Cadets using secateurs to prune 13-years-old pinaster stand.

Bottom: Planimeter being used to measure the areas of different forest types as a stage in forest management.

