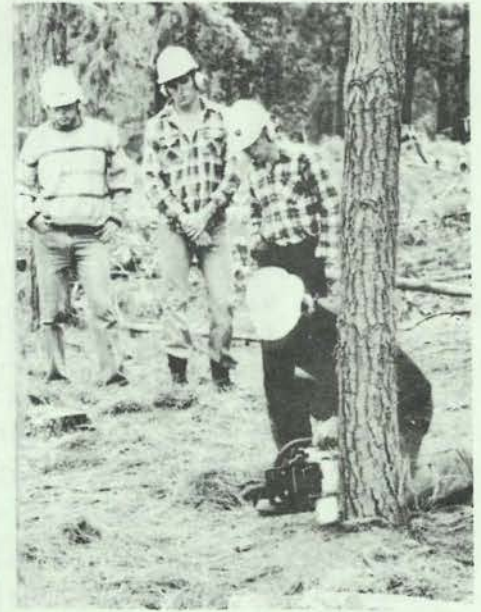




CONSERVATION LIBRARY
KEVIN STOI

IN GOOD HANDS



Paul Marsh (Yanchep) has just taken the 2nd year forestry Cadets through their chainsaw training programme, with the able assistance of Kevin Haylock (Dwellingup).

This is the third year Paul has been involved in this introductory course and he has, he says, been greatly helped by the chainsaw manufacturers.

"During a recent visit to the Eastern States, I was taken on a tour of an assembly plant" said Paul. "Over the years the major suppliers have donated saws, safety equipment, workshop manuals, and display material - and it all goes to make an interesting and comprehensive course."

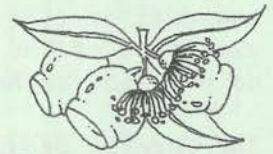
Based at the Dwellingup Cadet school, the group was split into parties for the two week's training. Each party had two day's lectures before field introductions to the saws, their safe use and maintenance.

The cadets were later examined on all aspects, before returning to further field work under everyday conditions.

I caught up with the second party; Mark Giblett, Barry Hooper, Peter Jones, Grant Lamb, Brendon Peet, Leon Price and Phil Spencer, during an early run in the Murray plantation. Top - left to right - Mark Giblett prepares the saw, and puts in the scarf. Below - left to right - Paul makes the back cut and drops the tree, Mark trims the branches, and Paul demonstrates easy handling.

Meanwhile, the earlier party; Brad Barton, John Bopp, Rory Butcher, John Carter, Steve Davis and Ivor Deas, were involved in building additional school office accommodation and cook-house renovations, under the watchful eyes of Frank Serafini and Bill Russell.

After work, the cadets made a formidable cricket combination, but Paul has decided (after last week's tantrum at the WACA) that he prefers fishing.



EDITORIAL

News of research, products and manufacturing methods which make better use of our wood resource is always encouraging.

At present, about two thirds of a mature harvested log ends up as low value sawmill residue and large quantities of logging residue are left behind in the forest. So, it makes good sense to try and utilize some of the waste by chipping, shredding or grinding for paper, particle board, hard board or other reconstituted wood products. True - that makes a lot of chips - but at least more of the final crop is being utilized and not left to rot or cause a fire hazard.

The reconstitution or reconsolidation of residue is receiving continual world-wide attention.

Here, in Australia, Repco Research Pty. Ltd., (Victoria) are presently investigating the development of the Scrimber process invented by John Coleman (CSIRO). Unlike most reconstitution processes, the aim of the project is to produce reconsolidated structural wood products, retaining the favourable properties of machining, fire resistance and compression, with the added advantages of increased utilization and the ability to take on moulded shapes.

Present development involves the compression rolling of logs from young trees to produce a flattened 'sheet', while preserving the natural fibre alignment. The sheets are dried, treated with adhesive, and combined with other sheets before being compressed in section, length and shape to order. There is no saw dust or other waste. With the exception of the initial reduction 'mill' no new wood technology is required.

The Forests Department has supplied sample quantities of jarrah, marri, karri and pinaster pine for trial by Repco Research, and preliminary reports are promising.

Last week in Perth, the State Government announced moves to ensure early action on recommendations by the Timber Utilization and Marketing Task Force, earmarking

significant funds for further research into jarrah timber seasoning and its upgraded utilization.

The Task Force has just completed a review of Western Australia's timber resource.

The new research programme will be carried out by Forests Department staff at Harvey, and will centre on the sawing and seasoning of jarrah regrowth thinnings to

produce a commercial product. Until now, degrade during drying has been the major obstacle in attempts to commercially utilize jarrah thinnings. Thinning jarrah regrowth will also promote substantial new growth on the remaining crop trees.

Mill and kiln facilities at Harvey, originally designed for pine research, will be updated and upgraded to carry out the new programme.

Hopefully, with this overall approach -

- * the positive attitude to assessment and research;
- * the intensified management of the jarrah forests;
- * and the advances in the utilization of both sawn timbers and residues;

the community at large can expect a steady improvement in the quality of our timber resources.

I. K.

'People Talk'

On 25 January, the 63 employees and officers of Pemberton Division completed 12 month's work (about 100 000 hours) without a lost time accident - congratulations.

V.I.Ps Dave Evans, Bill Stretch (MLC), Pat McNamara, Jim Edwards, Greg Herberle and Arthur Kesners joined in the general celebrations in the local R.S.L. Hall on Friday, 2 March.

Nigel Glass, the Training Manager for the Industrial Foundation of Accident Prevention, presented Pemberton Division with a Certificate of Merit.

* * *

Last week Tom Hill received a surprise package from government stores. Tom frequently comes to work unshaved, in an unnecessary attempt to promote the 'mad scientist' image, so he was visibly upset when his order for 200 blue gillette blades (for research) came back as 200 instant disposable razors (for shaving).

He has returned the parcel to the big bad wolf with a note - "not for the hair on my chinny-chin-chin".

MURPHY'S LAW

If anything can go wrong, it will.

OTOOLE'S COMMENTARY ON MURPHY'S LAW

Murphy was an optimist.

Below is an excellent contribution from Ted Haddrill.

In the unlikely event of you being caught in a fire with no means of escape, the safest place for you, as Ted states, is in your vehicle. You have practically no chance of survival if you attempt to run blindly through flame, therefore shelter in your vehicle, let the fire pass, then leave your vehicle - watch the door handles they will be hot. - P. M.

HOT SEAT

"The man was driving along the road
The trees looked tall and green
But the undergrowth looked dry and brown
As dry as he had seen.

The air was hot and hard to breathe
He felt like he would choke
And as he drove around the bend
He saw the drift of smoke.

He took no notice, at least not at first
It was nothing new to him
But the further he went, the thicker it got
Till the sun was very dim.

"What's this" he thought as he slowed
right down
For this he did not desire
Then suddenly he became aware of the
terrible thing
It was a wild Bushfire.

He stopped the car so he could see
He tried to turn around
But the smoke was thick, the road not wide
He could hardly see the ground.

His mind ran wild, as the smoke encroached
He was no schizophrenic
And thought of the things he'd read on fire
His first thought "Do not panic".

Just the thought of the word was enough
for him
He wanted to scream and yell
He wanted to get out upon the road
And run like flamin' hell.

By now the flames had reached his car
He felt like he would faint
It was hot, red hot, he could hardly
breathe
He could smell the burning paint.

"Stay in the car" he told himself
For this is what he read
"The moment you open the door of the car
You can consider yourself as dead".

The heat got worse, his mouth was dry
His lungs felt scorched and seared
Death was sitting at his door
And this is what he feared.

At last he saw the flames die down
The moment he'd waited for
When he could brace his aching lungs
And open up the door.

He opened the door and ran like mad
Stark horror on his face
He ran and ran from the burning car
To where the fire had left a space.

Time went by, the fire died down
His mind was all perplexed
For he was alive, very much alive
But his car was totally wrecked.

The trees were black, the scrub was gone
And nothing looked the same
The fire had destroyed the lot of it
Engulfed in searing flame.

The moral of this story
Or some may say a poem
Is read those books on "Safety"
And make sure they sink right home.

N. D. Haddrill

Yanchep.

'Bush Telegraph' is the staff journal of the Forests Department in Western Australia. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department and articles published should not be taken as statements by the Department or the West Australian Government.

All enquiries and comments should be directed to Ian Kay, the editor, phone Como HQ ext. 329.

New on the shelf

Research Papers 76 and 77 have just been released.

"Seed Production and Survival of Some Legumes" (76), by Peter Skinner (Manjimup), details an eight year study of selected understorey species. Leguminous species are favoured as forest understorey because of their nitrogen fixing properties and their ability to inhibit the growth of Phytophthora cinnamomi (dieback fungus).

Peter's study provides valuable information on lifecycles, and patterns of prescription burning required to promote continued growth.

"Assessment of Phytophthora disease risk at the Nannup Nursery" (No. 77), by Trevor Boughton and Colin Crane (Como), studies the implications of fungal disease in tree nurseries. Recommendations on nursery hygiene are made.

Copies of all current publications are available from Robyn at Como - Phone on extension 329.

Language - the need for change

In concluding this series of articles on why we should make an effort to not use sexist language, may I suggest some alternatives to conventional words and phrases that discriminate against women or men.

Some language is sexist because it excludes women. The first type within this general category is the use of subsuming or generic terminology - i.e. terminology which is commonly believed to include or refer to females as well as males, but in fact operates to exclude females.

Instead of:

mankind
the man in the street
manmade items
the stalls were manned

Consider:

Humanity/human beings/people
the ordinary person
synthetic/constructed items
the stalls were staffed.

Language used to describe various occupations also often excludes women.

Instead of:

salesman
foreman
caveman
fireman

Consider:

sales agent
supervisor
cave dweller
fire fighter.

Thirdly, the English language lacks a pronoun that means either he or she. This has led to the use of the masculine pronoun.

Instead of:

The average Australian drinks his tea white.

Consider:

The average Australian drinks white tea.
Most Australians drink white tea.

Finally, certain terms are used as though they applied only to adult males.

Instead of:

Settlers moved west, taking their wives and children with them.

Consider:

Settling families moved West/Men and women moved west to settle, taking their children with them.

It has been falsely said that the Greeks mistreated their wives.

It has been falsely said that Greek husbands mistreated Greek wives. It has been falsely said that, in Greek society, husbands mistreated wives.

People won't give up power, they'll give up anything else first - money, home, wife - but not power.

People won't give up power. They'll give up anything else first - money, home, spouse - but not power.

Other language usage is sexist because it gives unequal treatment to men and women. It does this in a number of ways - euphemism, trivialization, sex-linked descriptives, names and titles, and word order to name a few.

Instead of:

Mr. Adams runs the garage in partnership with his wife, a striking blond who mans the pumps.

Consider:

Mr. & Mrs. Adams run a garage. Mr. Adams, a handsome man with a full red beard and a mane of tawny hair, runs a garage in partnership with Mrs. Adams, a striking blond, who works the pumps.

Instead of:

the men and their wives
the little woman
I'll have my girl check that

Consider:

the husbands and wives
the better half
I'll have my secretary (or my assistant) check that
girl/woman (depending on age)
lawyer
nurse

Chick
Lady lawyer
male nurse

The use of gratuitous adjectives, as in 'lady lawyer' or 'male nurse', implies that lady lawyers and male nurses are not real lawyers or nurses. There is also the polarization of adjectives where generally male = positive, female = negative. You may well ask; why are lighthearted men called 'easygoing', but the same type of woman is called 'frivolous'; or why angry men are 'outraged' while angry women are 'hysterical'; or why forceful males are referred to as 'charismatic' while women are domineering.

Much more could be said on, say, the patterns of conversation or abusive language, but I hope that, through the above examples and the previous articles in this series, you can now better appreciate the importance of language justice in any society.