

1(18) Aug 1984

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

CONFERENCE HOSTS

The Western Australian Division of the Australian Institute of Cartographers has just hosted the very successful 12th International Conference and 7th General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association in Perth (ICA).

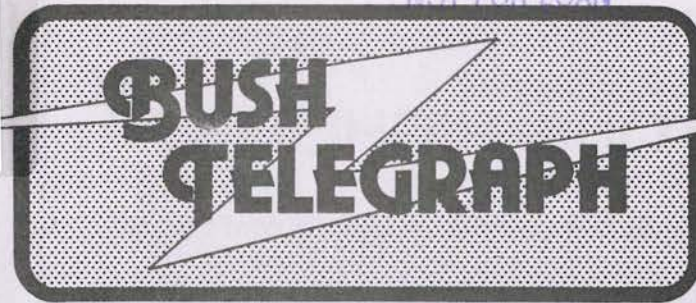
More than 850 delegates from as far afield as Japan, Israel and Canada arrived for the eight day event, combining general business, technical exhibitions and a well attended social programme.

The Australian Institute of Cartographers (AIC) comprises nine divisions and groups representing the various States of Australia.

It was founded in 1953, and now has a membership of over 1350 representing every cartographic organization throughout the Continent.

The governing body of the Institute is the Federal Council, comprising five executive officers and 24 councillors representing every part of the membership. They meet twice yearly in the various State capitals for the conduct of the Institute's business.

The Executive, headed by the Vice President, attends to the day to day affairs of the Institute and is rotated between Divisions. It has recently been domiciled in Western Australia.



Dexter Johnston (Federal President A.I.C.) and his wife Judy present His Excellency the Governor General of Australia, the Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen and Lady Stephen with a conference memento.

The Western Australian Division of the Institute is the largest of the divisions with over 330 members, amongst whom are past Federal presidents, the current Federal Hon. Secretary, Treasurer and the Secretary for ICA Affairs.

Dexter Johnston (Como) is the Federal President and many of the staff of the Mapping branch were involved with the conference organization.

The Forests Department was host for a technical tour by conference delegates on Wednesday (8 August). An excellent exhibition displaying terrain models, the use of aerial photography and the significance of mapping in modern day forest operations was mounted in the training centre.

Other technical tours included the Lands and Surveys Department, Wembley Technical College, The Department of Mines, the Metropolitan Water Authority, The Town Planning Department and other private companies.

Frank Batini explains the uses of terrain models to conference delegates.

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Listening in

With the introduction of the Noise Abatement (Hearing Conservation in Workplaces) Regulations 1983, the Forests Department has commenced a series of noise surveys in the work environment.

Safety Officer Tom Wood is pictured with the newly acquired sound level meter, recording the noise levels affecting chainsaw operators.

Once a particular noise hazard has been measured, appropriate action can be taken to make the work safer.

SAFETY CONFERENCE

At the end of last month delegates from Canberra, New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia were in Perth for the fifth meeting of Australia's Forests Department Safety Personnel.

The four-day biennial Conference serves as an exchange of ideas, avoids duplication of research and allows discussions on common problems in the broad field of "Safety in the Work Environment".

In his opening address, Pat McNamara said that he believed that if a safety programme was based on a no-blame approach in accident investigation and was concerned for the dignity of the individual worker it would be successful.

Pat also said that top management support was essential.

The three-day meeting in Perth included displays by manufacturers and was followed by a field trip to view forest operations in the South-West.

Previous meetings were held in Melbourne, Hobart, Port Macquarie and Mt. Gambier.

'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.



HELICOPTER TRIALS

A series of trials is underway using helicopters in operations designed to burn needle litter within pine plantations north of Wanneroo.

The Department is testing the suitability of helicopters for lighting the fires from the air in small areas of forest which are normally too awkward to work with conventional fixed-wing aircraft.

The results of the helicopter trials will be compared with the cost and quality of other burns lit by ground crews on adjacent areas.

Three areas within Pinaster pine stands in the Gnarara and Yanchep plantations have been selected for the trials. The sites are within zones where the litter has previously been burnt to guard against the spread of wildfires.

If these initial trials prove successful, consideration will be given to testing the helicopter system in small areas within hardwood forests. Such operations have been used successfully in the Eastern States.



TERMINAL TALK

There were no major computer failures and the Perkin-Elmer was available for 99% of attended time in June.

The problem with the data communications network and Reliance software has still not been resolved. It is caused by a fault in the Perkin-Elmer computer rather than the network. Perkin-Elmer in Perth have reported the problem to the USA headquarters and have subsequently been asked for more information. Attempts to "tune" the network in May by reducing

terminal speeds were not done correctly, and were ineffective. As a result the problem occurred a total of 80 times in June to 67 times in May. The network was tuned again on 5/7/84 and the problem will be closely monitored and adjusted each week.

Mr Peter Beveridge from Como Research is studying for the Graduate Diploma in Computing at WAIT. As a part of this course he must do a computer project and has agreed to develop a programme for the Seed Store. Two other WAIT students may be interested in writing some programme to computerize the Safety Statistics.

FROM THE FILES

PEMBERTON

MOTOR TRANSPORT

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF THE 23RD OCTOBER, IT IS THE POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT GRADUALLY TO ALLOW MORE SENIOR ASSISTANT FORESTERS TO USE 4 WHEEL VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY THOSE GETTING OLD, OR PUTTING ON WEIGHT, OR GROWING NERVOUS.

FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL INFORMATION AS A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT, SOME TIME AGO I SUBMITTED A RECOMMENDATION FOR 3 MORE JEEPS BECAUSE OF OUR INCREASING NUMBER OF ASSISTANT FORESTERS BUT THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED.

WE MUST SIMPLY DO THE BEST WE CAN WITH THE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE. WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE FOR GRADER TEAMS, ASSESSMENT MEN, PROBATIONERS AND VARIOUS TRADESMEN TO HAVE MOTOR CYCLES WE WILL HAVE TO GROUP THEM IN CAMPS IN SOME WAY AND RESERVE THE MOTOR CYCLES FOR OUR OFFICERS.

I ARRANGED AT DRYANDRA THIS WEEK FOR A PROBATIONER AND HIS ASSISTANT TO USE PUSH BICYCLES.

WE HAVE HAD A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUCKS AND MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE LAST 2 YEARS AND I HAVE MANY ON ORDER. THERE ARE 16 VEHICLES OF VARIOUS TYPES ON ORDER.

I WOULD ASK YOU TO MAKE A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE REQUIREMENTS AND THE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE IN YOUR THREE DIVISIONS AND ARRANGE TRANSFERS WHERE MOST DESIRABLE. I DO FEEL A STUDY OF THE FORMS 68A SHOULD ASSIST.

PERTH
27.10.1950.

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

Approval has been given to employ Martin Clifton for 6 months to improve the Fire Behaviour System and install the new Fire Suppression system at one division. He started this work on 13/7/84, after finishing at Research Branch.

During June, project management techniques were introduced into Computing Services. Charts showing progress on computer work will be distributed with reports to management.

Phil Rebakis continued his very successful Computer Awareness courses with two representations in SHQ and four in divisions. Research staff are now trained and all fired up to write programmes using Reliance.

The programmer vacancy in Computer Services was advertized by the PSB and interviews were held in late June.

The order for an Intergraph mapping station has finally been placed. It is expected to be installed in Mapping Branch in late September.

Some new remote printers were delivered at the end of June. These are being installed in Research Sections as teething troubles are worked out.

All systems which the Department has on the Cyber at W.A.R.C.C. were converted to run under the NOS operating system on the new Cyber 825, and all files were transferred across to the new machine. The new Cyber will be accessed through the Communications Network, plus one direct line from Como to W.A.R.C.C. There have been very few problems with the changeover to NOS. The only disappointment is the lack of the Full Screen Editor on remote terminals.

T Morgan