

THE WAY



Hand slashers were temporarily downed in the dense scrub of Manjimup Division recently. A United States designed machine which looks like a cross between a giant self-propelled lawn mower and a log skidder chewed its way through many 'gang-weeks' of manual labour in just 5 days. There wasn't a murmur of complaint about work lost as employees feel that their time can be put to better use than slashing tall wet, unforgiving scrub.

The wonder's common name is HYDRO AXE and it has been on hire to the Forests Department, ALCOA and SEC from a South Australian contractor.

In Manjimup the HYDRO AXE was used successfully scrub rolling for aerial burning preparation, slashing roadside verges and walk trails and re-opening over-grown tracks (pictured).

The HYDRO AXE reduces soil disturbance associated with bulldozer scrub rolling, saves time and money, creates safe walking conditions for hand burning and produces an aesthetically acceptable result.

(It is thought that if the HYDRO AXE could be hired again it may be used to cut through the jungle of red tape necessary to purchase a similar machine.)

Alan Hordacre
Forest Ranger

OPEN WEEKENDS

To help visitors using the facilities in the most popular forest areas adjacent to Perth, the Department has introduced weekend patrols at Jarrahdale, Mundaring, Wanneroo and in the Murray Valley (Dwellingup). At Mundaring and Kelmscott the local offices are also open during the weekends for recreation advice.

Drew Haswell (Northern Region) said that the growing interest in the environment and the increase in forest activities made it important for foresters to be more accessible to the public.

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PROGRESS AT HARVEY

Things are moving at Harvey - in timber seasoning research.

Up to June 1982, the remaining softwood mill at Harvey, although designed as a research mill, was largely preoccupied with production. The last hardwood mill at Dwellingup was in the same position until March 1982 when it was closed due to reduced commercial viability and an apparent lack of resource.

Although the key to a realistic research programme with hardwoods is the ability to conduct seasoning research, plans for the establishment of a solar-powered progressive tunnel kiln at Dwellingup fell through due to a staff shortage.

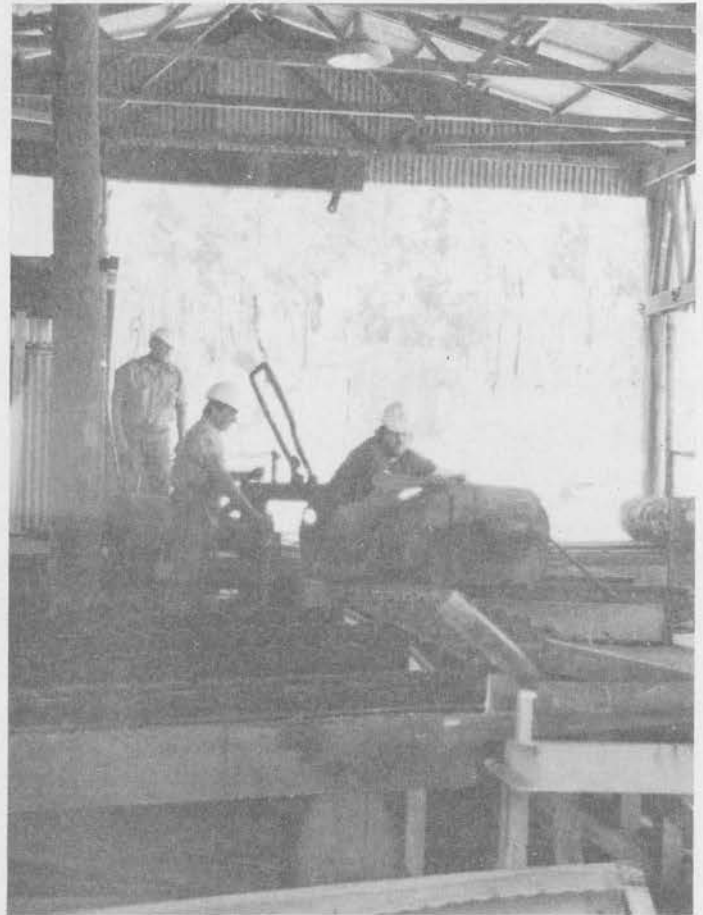
It was then decided to concentrate all aspects of the timber research programme at Harvey. Fortunately the high temperature kiln at Harvey had been completed several years prior to the cessation of production - and it was still in good condition. The kiln, being the only one of its type in W.A., enabled a seasoning research programme with jarrah to be commenced late in 1982. This programme initially was a joint venture by the Department and Millars, and is now continuing with Bunning Bros.

The move away from production and into more concentrated utilization research coincided with a direct involvement by Dr Graeme Siemon and heralded a new era of co-operative action by the Utilization and Research Sections of the Department. It is evident that the combined experience of production and research personnel, together with a closer liaison with industry, has provided an ideal medium for worthwhile utilization research.

In 1983, the Australian Timber Research Institute (ATRI) was formed, which broadened the utilization research approach to cover all the sawmill industry. Three Departmental staff have since been asked to serve on the West Australian ATRI Committee, indicating an acceptance by industry of the Department's role in utilization research.

The appointment and subsequent activities of the W.A. Timber Utilization and Marketing Task Force have provided additional impetus to the research programmes by highlighting the urgency for results.

(Next issue we'll look at the expanding facilities at Harvey.)



Des Robins, Stephen Prokopyszyn ('Proko' for short) and Keith Wallam (L-R) at work in the original section of the Harvey mill. They are cutting jarrah needed for the construction of the expanding facilities.

WEEKENDS:
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Drew went "on air" in Perth to publicize the service; the upgraded recreation sites and recently printed maps and guide books.

"We have a number of well established picnic sites such as Jacoby and Gleneagle Parks and we can direct people to less well known areas which they may like to try for a change," he said.

As part of the overall improvement in public liaison, road names, direction and forest information signs are also being improved and advice on camping is being made available.

Public response will be monitored so that a long term pattern of weekend duties can be arranged. Last year the weekend forest information services were tried for nine weeks at the height of summer. Surveys at the time showed a growing need for recreation information and recreation alternatives.



Joanna Tippett (Research) played 'mother' last week at a cake-cutting function to celebrate Tom Hill's birthday.

Tom actually decorated the beast but refused to help eat it - raising grave doubts about the substances used to colour BIG EAR'S HOUSE.

Paul van Heurck (R) stood in for NODDY and volunteered to take the first bite.

If we knew now ... what he knew then!

"We have trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganized. Later in life I was to learn that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing - and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

PETRONIUS A.D. 66

"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. 327.

TERMINAL TALK

The availability of the Forests Department computer, MIM and Reliance was changed on Monday 15 October for the commencement of the 1984/85 fire season.

From now on, MIM and Reliance will be available during the same times. They will be available at all times except the following periods used for backups:

Monday	5.15 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday	" "
Wednesday	" "
Thursday	6.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Friday	" "

Note that Reliance will now be available over weekends and in the mornings without interruption. The computer will continue to be closed down for approximately 2 hours each 3 months to allow preventive maintenance. Users will be notified of the times in advance.

Computer operators are now present from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on all weekdays. Operators are also on call, 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m., during weekends and public holidays to fix problems related to the Fire and Weather Forecasting programmes.

The backup of all computer data has been improved.

The biggest improvements to backup are for MIM files. A full dump of all disks will be done once per week (Monday or Tuesday night between 5.15 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.). All changes to MIM files will be backed up every night (between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.). Users who lose any data will be able to recover a copy of their files as at the previous night.

All changes to the Reliance Data Base will be backed up each night between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. A full copy of the data base will be taken on Wednesday night (between 5.15 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.).

Computer Services staff have reviewed the use of disk space and the security of disk files. As a result, the Reliance data base was expanded and the disk drive allocations were changed on Saturday 6 October. The WORK disk has been transferred without change to the new 300 MB disk drive. It is still called WORK and users should not see any difference in its use. The old WORK disk has been renamed DBAS and will be used for the Reliance data base. No MIM files will be allocated on this disk.

Trevor Morgan



SHOW DAYS

The Forests Department was at the Royal Show last week - along with about 373,000 other people.

Fifteen foresters shared the week long presentation, discussing forest management, recreation, and tree care, giving away stickers and selling posters.

Wayne Schmidt and Alan Burnett (pictured) were on duty on Friday night.

The display units are modular and transportable. Any enquiries concerning its future location or availability should be directed to Cliff Winfield (Como ext. 305).

Man of letters

Jack Doble (HARVEY) retired on 28 September after 10 years with the Department. Jack started on 1 April 1974 and kept the records for the Pine mill. When the mill closed, Jack took over the administration of the Hardwood Operations Control System (HOCS) with the result now that HARVEY is the most up-to-date in the Department.

Jack plans to spend more time on his favourite hobby - writing letters to the paper and bombarding State and Federal politicians with letters. His work mates presented him with a new pen and pencil set as an incentive.

Hopefully Bush Telegraph will be included on Jack's mailing list from time to time.

PEOPLE



A regular Aerobics Session is held in the Head Office Training Module between 12.30 and 1.15 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Phil Shedley recently qualified as a fitness leader under a programme organized by the D.Y.S.R. and W.A.I.T., and he usually leads the participants. Phil is looking for new people to join in. "We always cater for the beginner and encourage the fitter people to do more at their own pace," he said.

If you are interested in joining, why not poke your nose in and have a look at what goes on. You will be made welcome and there is no obligation to the group - only to yourself.

The Department has a whiz-kid in Head Office - Ian Frame won \$360 on a Perth Radio (6PM) 'double or nothing' quiz programme. When you consider Ian correctly answered six general knowledge questions before 8 am on Friday morning you can appreciate the effort - and the quality of his coach!

Martin White has taken over the front counter at Como (S.H.Q.) while Leonie Burns is on two months long service leave.