



BUSH TELEGRAPH

OVERGROWN

Something of interest always turns up when you are working in the bush, according to Phil Tomlinson (Walpole).

Recently, Phil was organizing preparations for a burning operation when he came across the remains of an earlier settler's house.

Fire scarred foundation posts, a back yard fence of chicken wire, a chopping block and a few old beer bottles from Southwark, South Australia, were the only reminders of pioneer life in the 1930's.

A sturdy yellow tingle grows through the middle of the foundations and the whole area has completely reverted to bush.

"It would have been a tough life," said Phil pointing out the stumps of the original clearing and the distance to the nearest creek.

Just off the 'front porch' of the ruins stands a 12 foot karri 'tombstone' with a four inch scarf - clearly an indication of lessons learned the hard way.

The original 'fam' houses were built with karri sapplings, jarrah slabs and second-hand iron sheets from the Fremantle



*Phil Tomlinson

wharves - the political hand-out of the day.

Phil's mother lived in similar circumstances in a neighbouring valley, so the area has a particular attraction for him.

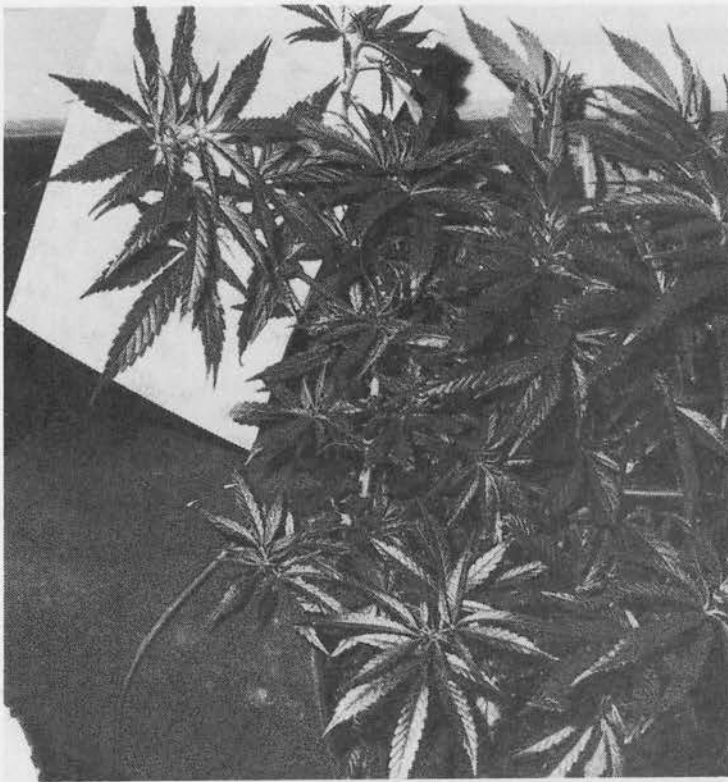
On a previous expedition to this 'family' site Phil unearthed a cast iron pot which he keeps as a family memento.

Footnote

Phil's burning plan now includes a fire break around the newly discovered ruins, in an effort to limit the damage.



*Pioneer's tombstone?



Need for care

Drug use and production is a criminal offence in Western Australia.

Forest workers will be aware that the relative isolation of forest areas, particularly disease risk areas, make them attractive to persons cultivating marijuana.

If any Department employee finds marijuana plants in the normal course of their work, the West Australian Police strongly advise that you do not touch, pull, take samples, or interfere in any way.

You should simply note the location; extent (numbers, areas); date, and time - and report it immediately to the area OIC or the Local Police.

Individuals can be assured that information offered will be treated with the utmost confidence.

Under no circumstances should anyone attempt to do anything more than this.

Due to your knowledge of the forest it is also possible that you could be approached to become involved in illegal activities. It must be understood that the Department is completely opposed to the use of any land (for which it is responsible) in this way, and it is expected that all members of the Department will be beyond reproach in this matter.

PEOPLE



Dayle Bendotti (nee Kitson) will retire on 7 December after working as clerical officer, Pemberton Division for the past eight years. (With the exception of 12 months relief work spent at I&P Manjimup).

Dayle and husband Peter are expecting their first baby in March 1985.



Carole Bone (Bunbury AP&I) and Jeff Littlefair are to marry on Saturday 15 December. They plan to live at Ludlow. Bob Selkirk (Kirup) will be the official photographer.



Kevin Helyar (Bunbury AP&I) and Sue Hall (Bunbury I&P) announced their engagement on Saturday 3 November.



Jack Dearle, (retired senior forester - 3 years) is now receiving radium treatment following a recent operation at Royal Perth Hospital. We look forward to his complete recovery.



Paul Liddlelow (Manjimup) is in St John of God Hospital, Subiaco, having further treatment for his back injury.



Hugh Chevis is the new OIC at Walpole. Hugh recently returned from a year's advanced study in England where he gained his Master of Science in Forestry and its relation to land management.

Hugh has previously worked at Busselton on pine research, and this is his first major divisional posting.



Cheryl Watters (Mapping) has gained selection to the W.A. Softball team, and will play in the National Senior Championships being held in Tasmania, 5-12 January 1985.

Cheryl plays first base for her home team, the Nedland Rookies, who are currently at the top of the A Grade ladder.

SAFETY AWARDS

Max Bending, Harry Casey, Ian Fitzgerald and Wayne Rhodes received their First Aid Certificates from Assistant Conservator Steve Quain.

In a short presentation address to the divisional personnel on Wednesday 7 November 1984, Mr Quain emphasized the Forests Department's continued commitment to creating and maintaining a safer working environment.

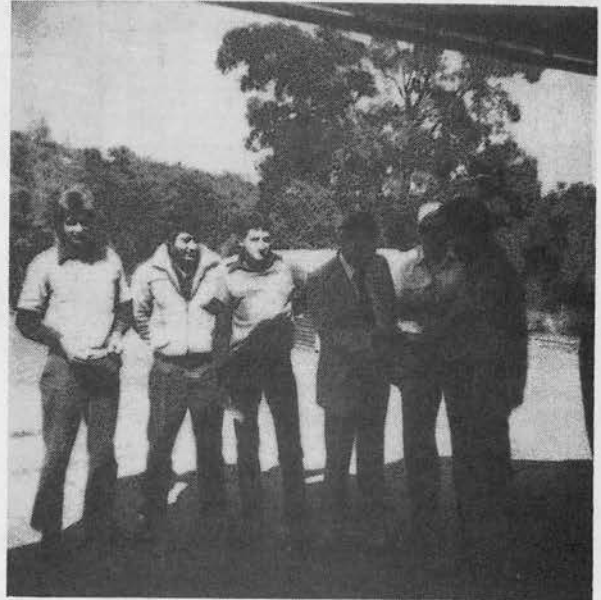
Melanie (12) lives in Esperance and enjoys trees. Tony Byrne and Klaus Tiedemann were given one of her poems about trees which we thought you might like to share.

The Whispering Oak

- When I was little my father gave me a tiny seed.
- and in my pulping hand I caressed the tiny form.
- It took me one hour and thirty-five minutes to walk down the back paddock and plant this innocent seedling. I planted it with care and watered it every day.
- I spoke to it with tender loving words and praised thee with glory.
- I always rushed up after school to see how high it had grown ...
- Now it is up to my knobbly knees and still growing. It has also got lush green leaves and little tiny spouts of new growth. I loved and cared for it with all my heart, and rain hail or shine I would come out to see it ...

Twelve years have passed now and my tree has grown into a fine, lean and healthy oak with ripe leaves for shade.

- That's where I grew up so that is where I must die - by its side ...
- Now I have a child, I gave her a tiny innocent seedling to caress in her pulping hand, to plant in one hour and thirty-five minutes down the back paddock, to praise thee with glory, to love, to die and to whisper ... to whisper ... to whisper.



MUNDARING DIVISION - NOV. 1984
I. Fitzgerald, H. Casey, W. Rhodes, M. Bending



Kimberley Division have taken off the laurels by working 12 months without a Lost Time Accident. Not as easy as it sounds, even in the sun-soaked north.

Safety Officer Arthur Kesners gave the Conservator's Individual Safety Award to each staff member on station at Kununurra and Broome, last week. Keep up the good work.



Merv Smith (Walpole) has been nominated as a member of the Tortoise Club.

Merv had moved to a seemingly safe position from a tree he had just felled, when a falling limb struck him on the helmet, face, arm, back and legs - knocking him to the ground.

It seems the branch was dislodged from a neighbouring tree, and Merv's helmet undoubtedly saved his life.



Bill Wilson has been nominated as a member of the Wise Owl Club of Australia.

Bill was working in the Manjimup workshop under a bulldozer, using an impact wrench on a bolt head. The wrench slipped off the bolt head, the revolutions of the tool increased and the socket flew off and hit the lenses of his safety spectacles in a spinning action. Both lenses were badly scratched, but they saved Bill's eyes from serious injury.

TERMINAL TALK

A number of changes were made in computer operations in early October for the start of the fire season. The operators started working shifts so that the computer is now attended from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Operators are also 'on-call' between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on weekends in case of failures.

Backups of all disks are now done each night between 5.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. In the case of disk failure, users will lose a maximum of one day's work.

The availability of Reliance was greatly increased. It is now available at all times except 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. on weekdays.

The hard work of Phil Rebakis and Martin Clifton resulted in the successful implementation of the new Fire Behaviour System at Mundaring on 20 October and at all other Divisions later in the month. There have been a number of positive responses to the changes and several locations have reported increased use of the computer system. The new system only changes the way that users run the programmes and how they enter data. The method of calculation remains largely unchanged, although the accuracy of the Red Book tables has been improved. The introduction of the Fire Suppression system at Manjimup is still scheduled for January.

Several terminals have experienced problems with 'locking', where they do not respond to any actions. Computing staff have taken steps to reduce the frequency of this occurrence.

The Intergraph computer mapping station was installed in the Mapping Branch at Como. Staff have started using it for a number of applications, including assistance for Project Aquarius at Manjimup Research.

Work commenced on the transfer of the Plant Costing system from accounting machines to the Perkin Elmer. The team of consultants from Super Software have completed the requirements and programming has commenced.

Trevor Morgan

HISTORY OF

Despite being a relatively 'new' division, the Forests Department has had a long but sporadic association with the Kimberley.

In 1921 Forests Department Botanist Mr C A Gardener accompanied the W R Easton 'Kimberley Exploration Expedition' and produced the still useful Forests Department Bulletin No. 32 - 'Botanical Notes - Kimberley Division of Western Australia'. The Easton expedition travelled extensively on foot, horseback and lugger during the dry season of 1921.

The following year Head Forester McVicar reported on the 'Alleged Cypress Pine Forests of the East Kimberley' and concluded that "the small quantity of timber and it's remoteness from port render the possibilities of economic exploration remote". McVicar estimated that his "average distance travelled each day was 20-25 miles, one horse being used from 7 am to 12 am and a fresh one from 1 pm to 5 pm. His expedition took over two months and apart from horses he utilized the S.S. Boonah (a motor launch), and a motor car.

Under instructions from T.N. Stoate - (the then Deputy Conservator of Forests) DFO Brockway travelled to the Kimberley in June 1945. He was to investigate the possibility of using Eucalyptus microtheca as a substitute for Lignum vitae, commonly used in the stern tubes of vessels. Lignum Vitae had to be imported at great expense and trials in England had shown that E. microtheca (coolibah) was a potential substitute.

Mr Brockway also had to investigate reports of illegal cutting of Cypress Pine near Derby and report on the possibility of setting up small sawmills to provide for local needs on the stations along the Fitzroy River. He flew from Maylands to Noonkanbah on an M.M.A. flight for a fare of £19-10-0 (presumably return). Today's price, Perth to Kununurra (return), is around \$700.00.

For some years Mr Brockway (Superintendent of Inland Forests) dealt with Kimberley forestry queries from Kalgoorlie. Later, as Assistant Conservator he still took an active interest in the north of the state.

From about 1953 onwards queries on trees to

KIMBERLEY

grow for shade and shelter and aesthetics began to outnumber queries on sawmilling and other forms of productive forestry.

In 1964, the Hon C W M Court (now Sir Charles) Minister for the North West, approved the appointment of a Tree Advisor whose specific task was to encourage the planting of suitable trees and shrubs. Well known Forester Jack Thompson was an early Tree Advisor who toured the north extensively, although based in the south.

Eventually the Tree Advisor's job (still in Dept of N/W) was taken over by the late Mr Fred Lullfitz. Fred remained in the area for many years, establishing a nursery at Broome and covering much of the north of the state.

During the 1970's a number of visits were made to the Kimberley by specialist officers investigating various matters. My own appointment and transfer to the region in 1979 marked the end of an era of 'forestry by remote control'.

Chris Done



SAVING THE CHICK

Last week, Steve Campbell (Wanneroo) was brought down to South Perth in a last ditch effort to save a magpie which had been hanging upside down from its nest for at least four days. The drama began sometime late last Friday when Peter Lesiter, a casual gatekeeper at the South Perth tip, noticed the bird in some distress.

On Monday, when Peter returned to find the young magpie still swinging and its parents still feeding it, he raised the alarm.

Council workman and tree lopping contractors using the tip tried in vain to free the bird. Later, calls went out to the Fire Brigade, the SPCA and on air with Graham Mabury (6PR).

Eventually a call to the SEC was redirected to the Forests Department at Como and action was under way at last. Steve

Campbell arrived with his tree bicycle and set off to climb the tree, sawing off the branches as he climbed.

When Steve reached the trapped bird's branch, about 12 metres off the ground, it too was cut and lowered gently to the side of the tree.

Steve returned to the ground after collecting the bird between victory rolls from mum and dad. Apparently the young bird had become entangled in the strings and fibres used to make the nest and was helpless when it fell over the edge.

Apart from rope burns to the leg, which the South Perth Council have had attended by a vet, the young bird was little the worse for wear and Steve returned to Wanneroo the quiet hero of the hour.

HARVEY SCENE IS SET

The official opening of the Wood Utilization Research Centre (W.U.R.C.) takes place in Harvey on Friday, 30 November.

In previous issues of Bush Telegraph we have followed the centre's development and the progress of research into the seasoning and utilization of mature jarrah.

Other research projects in progress include

Sheoak seasoning: This is a joint project with sawmiller Mr G Saunders of Collie and furniture manufacturer, Inglewood Products Group of Malaga. It is designed to test the utilization and marketing of sheoak trees below the current commercial standards, with a view to increasing the resource available for high value furniture for export.

Two piece dowelled railway sleepers: This is a joint project with Westrail, the Forest Products Association and Koppers. Dowelled sections of pinaster pine, radiata pine and jarrah are being tested as replacements for one piece sleepers. The two piece sleepers can be produced from small and knotty trees below present commercial standards and the resultant sleeper has superior strength properties to the one piece sleepers of the same species. The trial includes some sleepers seasoned in the high temperature kiln at Harvey.

Freeze drying: A small company, Colonial Drumsticks, is producing one piece jarrah shells for drums. The Department is giving advice and assistance in developing freeze drying techniques for these high value articles. In return, an examination of freeze drying applications in other areas is being conducted on the company equipment.

End point moisture content determination: A comparison of microwave and conventional oven drying of kiln samples is being conducted in an attempt to speed up the determination of the end point of drying.

And another joint project with Bunning Bros; testing the variability of preservative retention in the sapwood, heartwood and transition wood of jarrah.

Projects already completed include pinaster strength tests; high temperature seasoning of radiata and of pinaster pine; water

spray storage of pine logs; the determination of fibre saturation point moisture content in jarrah; and a number of industry surveys.

Further details and full reports are available from Phil Shedley - ext. 219, Como.

MENTORS WANTED

A "Mentor programme" is being organized by the Education Department to provide for the special needs of gifted students - needs that cannot be met in the context of the regular curriculum.

The idea is to establish a register of people willing to participate. These people are then "matched" with a student interested in the mentor's area of expertise.

The mentor is not a surrogate teacher who has to record and report but evaluation and goal setting are important sections of the programme. The mentor acts as an advisor, consultant, specialist and critic until the student has fulfilled their goal. The working relationship lasts for about nine weeks and most meetings are held in the student's time, after hours and on weekends.

If you are interested in becoming councillor and participating in this programme for 1985 please contact:

Ms Lyn Genoni
Convenor, Mentor Programme
Academic Extension Branch
Education Department
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6000
Phone 420 4521

"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.

INDUSTRIAL ARRANGEMENTS

An Industrial Arrangements Working Group has been formed to examine industrial problems and anomalies that will require attention prior to and after the proposed amalgamation of the National Park, the Wildlife and the Forests Departments.

The Working Group consists of:

Mr C J Edwards, Forests Department (Convenor)
Mr G Quinn, National Parks Authority
Mr D Mell, Fisheries and Wildlife
Mr B Boylan, Public Service Board
Mr D Coghlan, Office of Industrial Relations

and will be assisted by Mr B Brody, Forests Department.

The functions of the Working Group will be:

1. Establish an industrial goal, or ideal, for the new Department. This will involve definition of the categories of staff to be employed, the number and scope of Agreements and Awards and the training and qualifications desirable.
2. Define industrial working arrangements to apply on Day One of the new Department and ensure these are well understood by the various groups involved.
3. Identify industrial anomalies and problems arising from the amalgamation and develop options for their solution.
4. Prepare a draft report for detailed discussion with all respondents, associations and unions etc., leading to a proposed solution for approval by the groups concerned.

The Working Group will start with the understanding that, after amalgamation, no group should be left in a disadvantageous position relative to that held before; and that during the amalgamation process, everybody should be kept as well informed as possible and have ready access to the Working Group.

The Working Group is eager to hear from people who wish to contribute or bring up points for consideration by the group.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Industrial Arrangements Working Group, care of Mr B Brody, Forests Department.



Jim Dolman at the top of the Diamond Tree Lookout Tower.

DIAMOND POLISHED



The Diamond Tree Forest Lookout Tower, 10 kilometres south of Manjimup has recently undergone repairs and maintenance.

A local tourist attraction, the lookout stands at 51 metres and gives views south-west to the Yeagerup Dunes.

Though the public are no longer permitted to climb the tree, Forest Officers Neil Hamilton and Jim Dolman from Bunbury carried out the work to extend the life of the historic tree.

Both Neil and Jim completed a rigging course in 1981 and are well trained for the task.

The Lookout cabin's roofing iron which had lifted was replaced and re-nailed and the cabin's floorboards were re-oiled for protection against the elements. Dangerous and dead limbs were removed from the tree.

The Diamond Tree tower was built in 1941 and was used regularly as a fire lookout until 1974. There were originally five major tree towers in the Karri forests, the Gloucester, Gardner, Diamond, Beard and Boorara. Only the Gloucester is still climbed regularly.

YOUR HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Some weeks ago we discussed physical fitness and the need to maintain our body in good shape and condition in order to get the most out of life.

This raised the question for many of us - how fit am I? The following assessment method has been taken from a report by John Schindler (Harvey).

"The best way to determine your level of fitness (aerobic power) is to measure the amount of oxygen used for a particular activity. The most commonly used machine for this test is the treadmill and equipment for measuring oxygen uptake.

This equipment is not always available so a step test may be used.

The Harvard Step Test - this is one of the simplest ways to evaluate cardiovascular fitness. It requires you to step up and down on a bench for a few minutes, then see how quickly your heart recovers from the effort.

- (1) Get a sturdy bench.
 - 300 mm high if you are under 152 cm tall.
 - 355 mm high if you are between 152 and 160 cm tall.
 - 405 mm high if you are between 160 and 175 cm tall.
 - 455 mm high if you are between 175 and 183 cm tall.
 - 510 mm high if you are over 183 cm tall.

Step from the floor onto the bench and down again 30 times a minute for 4 minutes while having someone to time you with the second hand of a watch. If you get too tired to go on you can stop earlier, but it will lower your score.

- (2) As soon as you finish, sit quietly and take your pulse, or have someone else take it, for 30 seconds one minute after you finish, another 30 seconds two minutes after you finish, and another 30 seconds three minutes after you finish.

- (3) Compute your recovery index (RI) using this formula:

$$RI = \frac{\text{Duration of Exercise in seconds} \times 100}{\text{Sum of Pulse Counts} \times 2}$$

If your RI is 60 or less, your rating is poor;
Between 61 and 70, Fair;
Between 71 and 80, Good;
Between 81 and 90, Very Good;
91 or more, Excellent.

The test itself is quite strenuous if you are badly out of shape, so use caution and stop if you have any adverse symptoms such as chest pain or extreme difficulty in breathing."

Busselton office sent in the following newspaper story perhaps by way of an explanation for their 'no-show' at the indoor cricket.

FORESTRY HAND-OUT THRASHING TO BUSH PIGS

"Busselton: Members of the B grade indoor hockey team, Forestry, should be brimming over with confidence about their prospects this year after thrashing Bushpigs 15-1 in the first match of the season last week.

"Big score margins, particularly in the B grade competition, were the feature of the opening night of indoor hockey.

"Forestry's experienced guards, Rob Hingston and Peter Jenkins, set up many forward thrusts for their teammates.

"These were not wasted either, with Ted Reilly scoring six of the goals himself.

"It was a dismal start on the other hand for Bushpigs."

The nodding-off rate among people attending conferences is surpassed only by the number who indulge in sexual fantasies to ease the boredom, according to the managing director of one of Sydney's leading conference speaker booking agencies.

"We know that a male speaker has about 27 seconds to grab his audience's attention before they decided whether to turn off or not," Christine Maher said.

"A women speaker has a bit longer, about 55 to 60 seconds."