

A SIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Frank Serafini is never the man to leave the improvable unimproved.

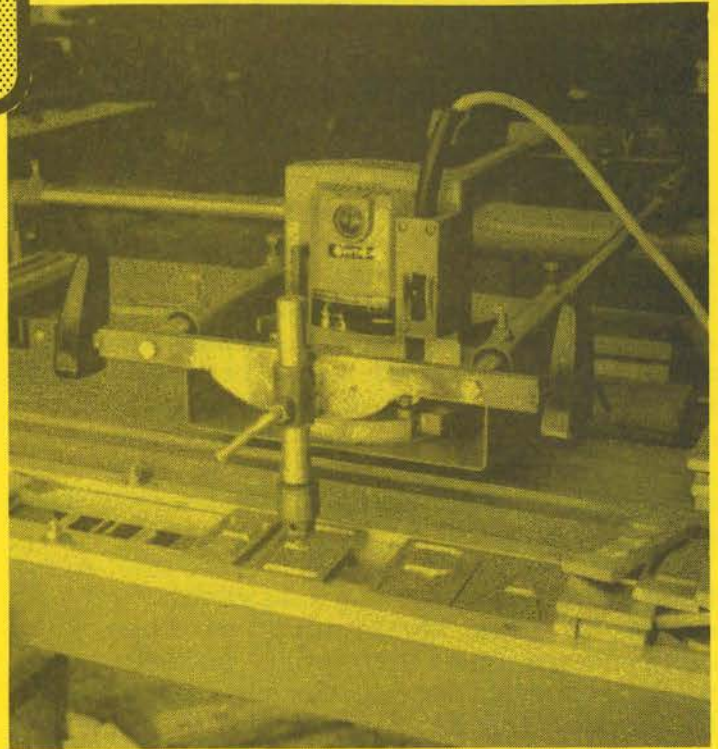
A gleaming new piece of machinery in the Department's Recreation armoury arrived recently in the shape of the Gametime Cut-a-Letter 1200 sign routing machine.

Workshop trials soon discovered that the steel stylus which traces the letter templates tended to catch, creating a rough finish on the routed message. So Frank welded a new stylus fixture, and locked in a teflon "needle" - the result - perfect.

The Cut-a-Letter was purchased to improve the rate of sign production, but it also offers other advantages: A variety of typestyles are available; the machine can cut a message in less than quarter the time usually taken; letters between 5 cm and 15 cm tall are possible; and the spacing is simple to adjust. But, perhaps most of all, the entire operation can be performed easily by one person, who simply locks the templates and wooden board into position on the machine, then steers the router effortlessly over the work using two pistol-grip handles.

Time is also saved by creating PVC "Masters" of oft-repeated messages such as "FORESTS DEPARTMENT". The inscribed PVC can then be used as a template for the entire message, instead of the individual letters supplied.

The new machine is headed for Pemberton Division, for its first field work, and a demonstration will be held on Friday, February 1st, 1985. Those interested in attending should contact Eugene Herbert on ext. 311 at S.H.Q. Como.



▲
The Cut-letter 1200 with Frank's improved stylus bit.

A Familiar Ring

Against plantations

"..... Several charges are made: that they deplete soil nutrients; that they lower the water table because of their heavy water consumption; that because they are often grown as 'monocultures' - tracts of a single species - they are vulnerable to a sudden wipe-out by a new pest or disease; they produce 'ecological deserts', with little fauna, notably birds, and that they fail to provide fuel and fodder, the products most needed by the poor. Some ecologists also worry that chemicals from the fallen leaves and bark of certain species may render the ground inhospitable for other crops in the future."

Not against pines, mind you, but against *Eucalyptus* spp. in the U.S. and U.K. etc.

Extract from "Fuelwood: the energy crisis that won't go away" by E.K. Eckholm et al. (1984) Earthscan. London and Washington D.C.

FAREWELL- DICK 'PLENTIMONEY'

The recent I, & P Staff meeting was the scene of a "surprise" farewell for Dick Speldewinde of the K&LmScott I, & P Section. Dick officially retired on 4th January, 1985 and on many occasions had made it well known that he had no intentions of having any sort of farewell. However, on Thursday 20th December he was in the middle of a farewell that he could not escape.

Superintendent Jim Williamson deviated from the agenda of the conference when he spoke briefly on Dick's contribution to the Forests Department and presented him with a turned sandalwood goblet and an engraved pen.

Jim described Dick as a "Forester's Forester", and reflected the history of Dick and his father in the Malayan Forest Service. Dick was a most efficient forester and his services rendered to the Security Forces were of great value to the Malaysian Government in the fight against Communist Terrorism. In 1953 he was awarded an M.B.E. for his services to the Crown.

Dick was on the Communist hit list from 1948 and survived 17 attempts on his life until 1957 when he came to Western Australia. As Malaysia became independent he was required to forfeit his British Citizenship to be allowed to stay in Malaysia. Rather than do this he decided to come to live in Western Australia.

Dick performed various odd jobs around Perth before a vacancy came up in the Manjimup Working Plans Office. He was interviewed for the job by A.D.F.O. McNamara and worked in Manjimup with Ian Ferguson who is now Professor of the School of Forestry at Melbourne University.

In 1962 Dick left for Darwin to explore tropical forestry in Australia. He spent some time on Melville Island where some of the native population affectionately knew him as "Dick Plentimoney" because of his generosity toward them.

According to Dick the conditions in I, & P today are no different to those in the Working Plans Office 17 years ago. "The figures provided were never good enough and they were always wanted immediately". It was touching to hear that of all the forests Dick has experienced, he thought that the Karri trees in his country of adoption were the most beautiful. To end his short speech Dick thanked the I, & P Section for their co-operation over the years, and said it was with great pride that he has worked for the Forests Department of Western Australia for nearly 19 years.

Farewell Dick! We wish you and your wife all the best in your retirement.

Robert Germantse

UNNATURAL LAWS

SEGAL'S LAW

A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure.

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ZYMURGY'S FIRST LAW OF EVOLVING SYSTEMS DYNAMICS

Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can.

• • •

ETORRE'S OBSERVATION

The other line moves faster.

• • •

BOREN'S FIRST LAW

When in doubt, mumble.

Cliff shoots it straight

Cliff Winfield, Information Branch, won a prize in the National Trust Silver Jubilee Photographic Competition exhibited last week for his colour entry "Hamersley Gorge".

Over 300 entries in all categories were received, and the winners were displayed by the W.A. Museum. Congratulations Cliff, - Don't spend all the prize money in the Gentlemen's Club at Cue.



INSPECTOR PARADOX

The soon-to-be amalgamation of Departments has had us all running round in circles at one time or another, however, some are more circular than others

A story doing the rounds of Research at the moment tells of the hard-working Inspector who bombarded his immediate superior with demands for more money, staff, equipment,.... etc. at every possible moment, particularly the least convenient.

A temporary secondment to higher places left the senior position vacant, at which time Inspector Paradox, as we shall call him, received an invitation to act for his superior. No sooner had he warmed the scarcely-cooled seat of authority, than he discovered beneath a mass of desk detritus (forestry fuel ...) his very own, carefully penned requests ... A HA!; The chance of a lifetime ... With great dexterity, and considerable animal cunning, he swiftly set about approving all his own demands, initialing them, and sending them back to himself, at his home region is this where it all ends?



CUTTING TRIALS IN SOUTHERN FORESTS

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has approved the commencement of trials to assess the impact of reducing the width of forest reserves along main roads, rivers and streams in the South West.

The untouched 'buffer' strips have been left at the edges of some cutting operations to maintain water quality and scenic values.

As a consequence of the State Governments' 1983 decision to reserve the Shannon Basin from logging, while yet needing to maintain the volume of timber cut, it is necessary for the Government to look elsewhere in the southern forests for supplies of Karri and Jarrah.

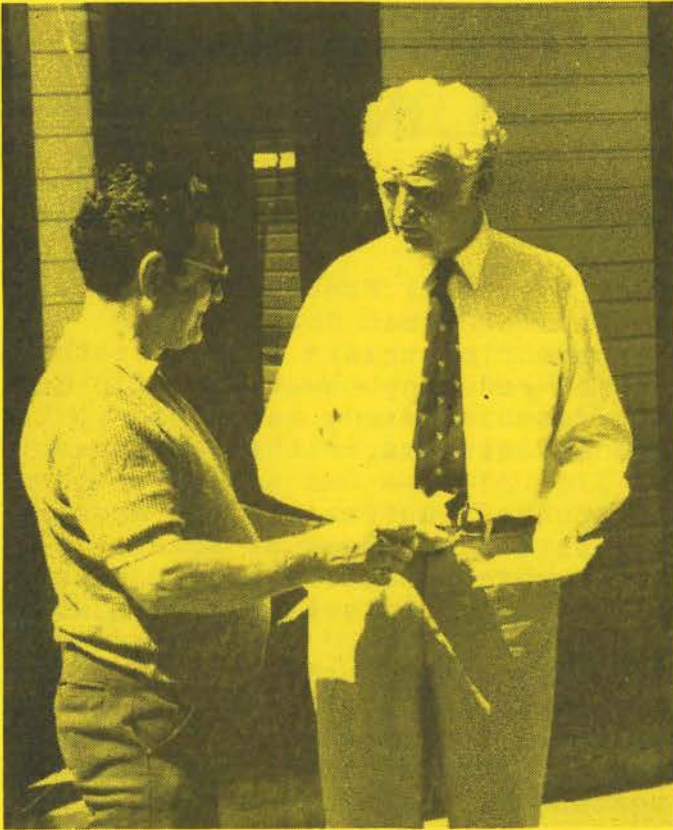
One way to obtain the volume would be to reduce the width of some of the uncut forest 'buffer' strips, and the Premier has approved that the Forests Department be responsible for a number of trials in Manjimup Pemberton and Walpole.

In order to maintain the effectiveness of the buffer strips the Public Works Department will assist the Forests Department with the monitoring of stream flows and water quality.

Guidelines and prescriptions have been developed jointly and Forest Department Landscape architects have redesigned some road reserves.

Shire Councils in each area have also been fully informed, and will continue to take part in regular inspections of cuttings.

The results of operations in twelve trial areas will be reported to the EPA and members of the public will be able to inspect completed areas before the Government makes a final decision on a standard procedure.



▲
'Wacka' Wilson collects his 'Wise Owl' award from Hon. Dave Evans at Manjimup.

'WACKA' WISES UP

Safety decals were presented to about 120 Manjimup Forests Department employees at a pre-Christmas safety presentation.

Special mention was made of the efforts by ten employees who had achieved a total of 246 years between them, without a lost time accident.

They were Clarrie Benson 32 years, Alan Miles, Harry Winfield 31, Tony Annels 29, Marty Deadman, Jack Bradshaw, Don Keene 21, Brian Miles, Peter Radomiljac and Bill Buchanan 20.

Minister for Agriculture and Minister assisting the Minister of Forests, Hon. H.D. Evans made the presentations.

Mr. Evans also presented a special "Wise Owl" award to "Wacka" Wilson; the fourth Forests Department employee to ever receive this award. "Wacka" was wearing safety glasses which prevented a piece of spinning metal penetrating his eye

Officer in Charge of the Manjimup Division, Chris Muller said that the Forests Department had shown a lead throughout Australia with its safety performance.

"This is not surprising as we are good at what we do, and part and parcel of doing a job well is to do it safely."

Kim Allen

VICTORIAN STATE FOREST

12_000_KM_PER_HECTARE

That's right, a total of 12 000 km per hectare. This figure was not dreamed up in a dull moment; it is the measured length of all roots in the top metre of soil in a six-year-old plantation of *Eucalyptus grandis* at Mildura. Irrigation of the plantation with wastewater was largely responsible for the mean DBHOB of 13.8 cm, and dominant height of 17.3 m.

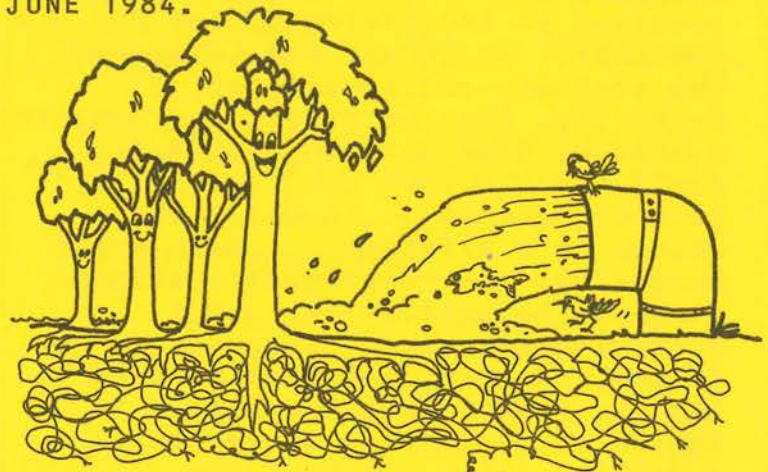
Roots less than 1 mm diameter contribute 86% of total length and roots greater than 5 mm diameter only 2%, though the latter were 87% of total dry weight. The data were obtained by extracting roots from a 2.8 m x 2.8 m x 1 m pit (with a little help from explosives).

HUGH STEWART

PETER BALDWIN

Research Branch

Victorian State Foresters Newsletter
JUNE 1984.



Ed: Which also raises a question for Perth - Why do we pump our waste water further west? Surely it would do more good east of the Darling Range.

RURAL ADVICE



ON THE SHELF

Agroforestry trials have been established in Esperance by the Forests Department and local landowners, in an effort to determine the influence windbreaks have on pasture and crop yields, as well as stock protection.

During a recent study tour of the trials, the Department's Rural Advisory Officers met Mr. Klaus Teidemann, the new Esperance officer. Several farms were visited and discussions were held with the Department of Agriculture concerning the problems of tree establishment on the Esperance Plains.

In the higher rainfall areas (500mm and above) there appears to be potential for selecting some 'windbreak' pines for future milling. These specific trees would have to be pruned from an early age to reduce knots in the timber and would provide income about twenty years after planting. The particular details of this project will be looked at during another field day in early 1985.

Direct seeding of eucalypts has proved to be a practical way of getting trees back into the environment, especially on virgin or recently cleared land. However, there are still problems in direct seeding ground that has been cleared for several years because of weed and insect build up.

The use of trees is now seen as part of the total farm plan, taking into account the rainfall, wind speed and direction, the soil types and the desired farm produce.

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A Season for Hitching

Congratulations to John McGrath, Research Officer, Como and Irene Waters on their entry to the State of Matrimonial bliss. Maybe this will stop John pining away in the sunklands for a while?

AT last! Bulletin 71 'Safety in Forest Fire Control' has arrived. Compiled by Rick Sneeuwjagt and Nick Bukelis, this edition supercedes the old 'Safety in Prescribed Burning'. Additional information on safety and survival during dangerous fire situations, avoiding and treating heat stress on the fire front, and the correct use of chemicals in fire control is now included. Copies are available from Protection Branch at Como.

Two more Technical papers have recently been released by the Department : Technical Paper No. 10 'An Economic Study of Agroforestry in the Manjimup Region, Western Australia.' by George Malacjuk, D. Morrison, J. Havel, G. Anderson, and R. Moore gives the low-down on the financial viability of agroforestry vs that of straight timber production, or straight agriculture.

Technical Paper No. 11 'A Survey of Timber Used In Timber Manufacturing, W.A. 1983.' by J. Glass and P. Shedley should be of interest to those interested in end product usage on the local market.

Two pamphlets for popular consumption are also available: 'PINES for farms;: is an easy to read version of Tech. Paper 10. 'Camping in State Forests' : is the latest word on a departmental camping policy.

Contact Robyn on ext. 329, S.H.Q. Como, if you need copies of any of these publications.

Drew Griffiths - the demon defacer of Bush Telegraphs - has also tied the knot, with Jenny. His recreation may never be the same again!



Congratulations to Ian Wheeler ex Mundaring Division, now heading for Manjimup, on his engagement to Jane Sutcliffe.

Mundaring has the well developed Fred Jacoby Tree Park; Manjimup is having a Famous Tree Grove planned by the Institute of Foresters (WA).

Somewhere in between is the

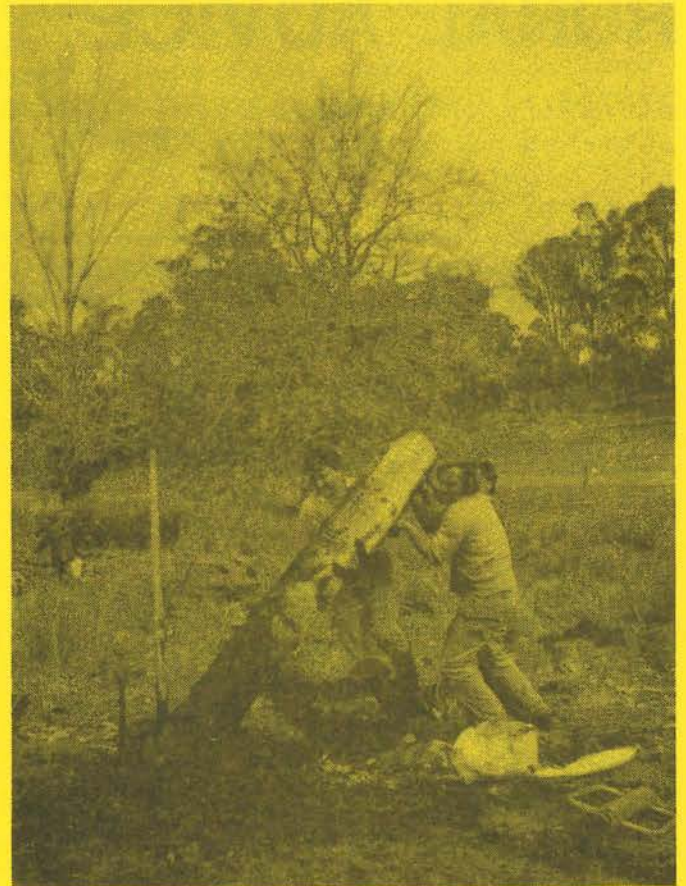
GOLDEN VALLEY

It can get so frosty in Balingup that dams ice over and young native trees wither. In fact one wonders that if the steep Blackwood country had not been isolated in a genetic ocean of sclerophyllic vegetation, whether a more 'European' vegetation might not have evolved here. Certainly the cold winters and the rich dark loams make it the best area in the State for growing many cold and continental climate trees. It is these local characteristics which form the foundations for Golden Valley Tree Park.

As if guessing the ultimate fate of their little valley, the first settlers at Golden Valley chose the name in honour of the plentitude of flowering wattles in the Spring. Then they proceeded to clear almost every vestige of the native vegetation to make way for oaks, planes, cedars and more. These original exotic plantings are now up to eighty years old and they form a beautiful backbone to the landscape.

Five years ago, it was this unusually rich collection of established exotic trees which saved Golden Valley from the general pine planting being undertaken in other areas of the Blackwood.

At a meeting of the Shire Council, Minister and Conservator of Forests, Balingup Progress Association and Kirup area forestry representatives in mid 1980, the concept of an Arboretum or Tree Park was put forward - to be managed jointly by the Forests Department and the Balingup Community.



▲ Community Working Bee at the Golden Valley - New Fencing.

For the Forests Department a Tree Park in the area was a new concept, the first time that trees were to be planted as a major arboretum for recreation and education. More than anything else, the Park is primarily a place for people to enjoy trees.

The aim is to collect as wide a range of trees as possible, to clearly label each species and to let people wander in a beautiful landscaped setting. Since the park was officially opened in 1982 many hundreds of young trees have been established. These plantings are divided into two areas. One area of 25 hectares is devoted to native species and the other of 35ha to exotic species. For each of these areas the aim is the same - to provide diversity, beauty and information.

The project gets much practical support from the local Balingup community - all the trees are planted by volunteers and every year several community busy-bees are organized at the Park. The Balingup Progress Association runs a tree sponsorship scheme for tree loving locals and visitors, and this provides funds for the acquisition of more trees. Increasingly the search for interesting Australian and exotic specimens take the Tree Committee to Eastern States sources and to overseas seed merchants.

Golden Valley has a beautiful picnic spot and walk trails are being established to help the visitor to discover as much as possible on their visit. So if your fancy is spring foliage, hill top views or spectacular autumn colours, take the time one day to enjoy Balingup's Golden (tree) Valley.

Christine Sharp.

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An old forest, filled with over-mature trees, consumes as much oxygen as it creates and contributes no nett gain in wood fibre.

In contrast an average hectare of vigorous growing young trees in a production forest consumes 1250 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, gives off 10 tonnes of oxygen and produces 10 tonnes of new wood.

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"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 Computer Section welcomed Jeff Main back at the beginning of November after 7 months in Europe. Rumour has it that he is back to get a suntan.

After the excellent performance of the Perkin Elmer computer for the last 2 months, the availability of 96.5% while Operators were in attendance in November was very disappointing. This low figure was caused by 7 failures lasting a total of 10 hours during the month. Two of these were to increase the speed of lines to Pemberton and Walpole, one was a faulty disc motor which has been replaced and one was an operator error. These 4 problems should not recur. The remaining 3 problems have been reported to Perkin Elmer and one modification received as a result. The situation seemed to improve in early December, but will be closely monitored.

The new Fire Behaviour system had many problems during November. The new system is being used much more than the old one and is showing up some difficulties. Some of the problems are "bugs" in the old programmes that have been there all the time, and many are related to equipment use. Protection Branch are now logging all reported problems for follow-up action. Training of staff is also being attended to by Gerry van Didden who is visiting many of the Divisions experiencing problems. Every effort is being made to improve the reliability in this important area.

The performance of the data communications network and computer terminals has continued to cause a lot of concern. The increased use of the Fire Behaviour systems seems to have highlighted these problems.

Terminal Talk continued page 8

Terminal Talk continued

Computing staff have visited many divisions and found problems that have not been reported, making it difficult to provide a good service. It is important for Divisional staff to report computing problems; especially faulty equipment, to the computer operators so that the problems can be fixed.

The consultants from Super Software have completed the programming to convert the Plant Costing system from the Data Saab accounting machines to the Perkin Elmer computer. Mark Goodman and Aubrey Fretz from Accounts Branch are now putting the programs through their paces. It is planned to introduce the new system in January.

Phil Rebakis has nearly completed a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis for the proposed Records Management System (RMS). Funds for the project were set aside in the Government Trust Fund, and so a special submission is required to go ahead. The system will bring many benefits and is expected to pay for itself in 2 years. During the feasibility study a computer program called Status was installed on the Perkin Elmer on a trial basis. This program stores and retrieves text information and is at the centre of RMS. The trial used some Research journal references and was very successful. Computing staff were concerned that the Perkin Elmer computer would not be able to cope with RMS, but planned improvements to the computer memory should overcome all the problems.

A submission for Word Processing equipment for the department was prepared and sent in November to the Department of Computing and Information Technology for approval. So far a response from that Department has not been received.

Trevor Morgan



▲ Four foresters from Dwellingup - WOMBAT, DAZBY, POLE and the OLD BLOKE - have been exploring 'UP NORTH'.

One of their 'finds' was this faithful ex-forestry work horse and its driver, Nelson. Both were working hard on a coastal station about 400 kilometres north of Derby.

ACCIDENT REPORT

LOST TIME INJURY ACCIDENTS
PER MILLION HOURS WORKED
FOR 12 MONTHS TO 26 DEC.'84.

NARROGIN	0
KIRUP	0
BUNBURY	0
CADETS	0
KIMBERLEYS	0
KALGOORLIE	0
PILBARA	0
HEAD OFFICE	7
PEMBERTON	10
WALPOLE	16
MANJIMUP	16
MUNDARING	18
DWELLINGUP	21
JARRAHDAL	23
BUSSELTON	30
NANNUP	34
HARVEY	42
WANNEROO	57
COLLIE	67