

20 SEP 1982

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1982

1) MEETING

The Royal Society of W.A. are meeting at Mineral House on Monday 20/9/82 at 8.00pm to hear Dr. Syd Shea talk on "An update on latest dieback Research".

I.F.A. members have been invited to attend.

2) I.F.A. Land Use Study Tour Family Weekend at Mt. Gibson Station

The I.F.A. is planning a camp at Mt. Gibson Station in the Murchison over the October Long Weekend (Oct. 2nd - 4th) to which all members and their families are invited.

Mt. Gibson is the closest pastoral country to Perth (about 300 kms or the same as Perth-Pemberton or Margaret River) and is of special interest to Foresters due to:-

- a wide range of woodland, salt lake (Lake Moore) and sand plain ecosystems
- an active sandalwood industry
- old and current mining activity
- land use conflicts

In addition the wildflowers are superb.

The proposed arrangements are:-

- 1) Meet at Wubin on Saturday morning and convoy in to the Station homestead and set up camp.
- 2) Saturday pm "nature walks" through woodland and study of local Eucalypt communities and their regeneration and management in the pastoral situation.
- 3) Saturday night - barbecue dinner and "bush dance" in the Shearing Shed
- 4) Sunday - Visit salt lake, sandalwood operations and old minesites. Picnic lunch in the bush.
- 5) Monday - return home via areas proposed for alienation for agriculture.

Participants will be expected to arrive completely self sufficient in terms of camp, food and petrol.

If you are interested in attending please ring Roger Underwood as soon as possible as final numbers are required by 20/9/82.

3) I.F.A. INDUCTION BOOKLET

Jim Williamson and Helen Bradbury have generously volunteered to put together an Induction Book for new IFA members. Anyone with suggestions or help should contact them, hopefully an initial draft will be circulated for discussion.

4) PUBLICATIONS

Eric Hopkins has drawn our attention to three excellent papers published by the "Challenge to Australia Committee". The papers, by Sir Barton Pope, Sir McFarlane Burnett and Sir Mark Oliphant address themselves to the problems and issues they believe Australia will face in the next 100 years. It is interesting to see that the need for extensive reforestation has been listed. The booklet containing the three papers and a summary by Justice, Michael Kirby can be purchased for \$1 from Australian Jaycees National Secretariat, P.O. Box 41, Curtin A.C.T. 2605.

5) NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY QUESTIONNAIRE

All Divisions of the I.F.A. have been asked to comment on the proposed "National Conservation Strategy". Copies are available at Bunbury (I. Kealley) and Como (J. Williamson). A sheet from the W.A. Environment Centre is enclosed with this Newsletter to give you an idea of the questions being asked within the Conservation movement. Please complete the questionnaire and return to Jim Williamson at Como by September 10th. Jim will use your comments in preparing our response and will also forward the sheets to the Environment Centre as it is likely that foresters will respond differently than the conservation groups.

6) INSTITUTE ANNUAL DINNER

The Institute Dinner at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club proved to be a most enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Bevan Campbell for arranging the venue etc. Next year we would like to see a larger number of younger members attend. Please let us know of any ideas etc. which would encourage you to attend.

7) PANEL DISCUSSION BUNBURY - REPORT

The meeting was well attended and a success by all reports. Speakers comments were generally well received, certainly prompted discussion and hopefully stimulated members thoughts about how others see us.

We have had a transcript of the meeting typed which will be available to members on request after some editing. We will endeavour to summarize the transcript for future newsletters.

8) EXTENSION COURSE BUNBURY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The lectures were well attended and we thank the lecturers for an excellent job. There will be a field trip for course participants and other interested people on Sunday 19th September to the Busselton area. Anyone wishing to attend, contact Ian Kealley before 6/9/82.

9) SOUTHERN BRANCH NOTES (By Rick Sneeuwjagt)

A. I.F.A./ROTARY CLUB YEAR OF THE TREE PROJECT - MANJIMUP

The Southern Branch of the IFA developed a landscape plan for a particularly ugly part of Manjimup. This area sited on both sides of the railway line at the northern entrance to town has long been an eyesore with its expanse of barren clay and gravel surface, occasionally broken by bracken fern and tall, rank grasses or watsonias. Being at the entrance to town, it was a poor introduction to the town that is meant to be the gateway to the southern tall forests.

The IFA plan was to plant a range of ornamental eucalypts and shrub species in clumps throughout the area. This plan was enthusiastically endorsed by the Manjimup Shire and Westrail Department. The Manjimup Rotary Club, which had carried out the initial planting of the row of trees along the Southwest Highway side of this reserve became very interested in implementing the plan.

The preparation work, which involved levelling, drainage works and deep ripping was a co-operative effort by the Forests Department and the Manjimup Shire. Some 400 trees and shrub seedlings were also provided by the Department. Planting and fertilizing was completed by the Rotary Club on 11 July.

Future work planned includes rotary hoeing between the trees to gain weed control and level the soil surface in readiness for establishment of a grass cover during the spring months. The creation of picnic facilities, barriers and signs is also planned for the coming summer.

The project has been well timed to coincide with the Year of the Tree. As the area develops it will heighten the public's awareness of the value and beauty of trees in the town landscape.

B. The Southern Branch of the I.F.A. has approached several schools in the Manjimup area with the suggestion for establishment of a "School Plantation" during 1982/83 as a Year of the Tree project. A positive response came from the Manjimup Senior High School who allocated 1ha of the adjacent "school farm" area for planting. Two ½ ha plots were fenced off and prepared by ripping and grass control. The planting objectives were jointly:

1. Woodlot planting as a long term source of revenue to the school, from sale of sawlogs or poles.
2. Intermediate thinnings to be available for on-farm use - fencing, shed poles etc.
3. Shelterbelt for protection of stock.
4. Educational opportunity by involvement of the school children.

Eucalyptus muelleriana (yellow stringy bark) was chosen for planting because of its excellent performance on similar soils in the area and its outstanding potential for early returns from poles and sawlogs.

On 11th June (Day of Trees) Alan Walker addressed the school assembly and then co-ordinated the planting arrangements during which almost every student was included in the planting project over the course of the day.

A very worthwhile project.

10) VALUED TREES

Members could consider nominating trees of particular significance worthy of preservation in line with the newspaper article copied below.

Most of the really outstanding trees in W.A. have probably been noticed by a forester at one time or another during their travels. For this reason we felt the current list of 8 could be improved upon. If you have any in mind let us know and we will make a combined submission.

FIGHT FOR TREE RIGHTS RENEWED

THE WA Tree Society has renewed its campaign to have tree preservation legally recognised in WA.

It has been trying for many years to have the Local Government Act and the Town Planning and Development Act amended to allow local councils to declare tree preservation orders.

Each submission has been rejected because no by-law in WA says that trees can be preserved.

In June 1979 the society put forward a proposed set of by-laws to the Minister for Local Government, Mrs Craig, concerning subdivision or development applications.

It said that when such a development occurred, details should be submitted of any proposed alterations to the

natural contour of the land and of all trees taller than four metres.

It suggested that a statement be made if it was intended to renew any trees and that the positions of shrubs, trees and other plants be protected in the proposed development.

The society also proposed that no person should lop, cut, prune, fell, ring-bark or remove any tree before various means of saving it had been investigated.

It sought a by-law stipulating that where a tree was threatened by overhead wires or the construction of roads, mains or buildings, a council should investigate its possible relocation.

Several councils—including Kalamunda and Wanneroo—have tried to introduce by-laws preserving trees through the

Local Government Association but have been defeated on each attempt.

Geraldton has a tree preservation order in its town-planning scheme but its legality could be questioned.

Tree preservation orders are legal in New South Wales and Victoria.

Members of the tree society and interested people have been asked to submit to the National Trust lists of trees that are significant because of their age, historical and botanical interest. About eight trees have already been submitted.

They included a marri tree situated north of William Street, a group of black-boys north of Bindoon, a cork tree in the Supreme Court gardens and a Moreton Bay fig tree in Thompson Road, Bassendean.

11) FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters have been well received although articles and contributions by members are still scarce. The August Newsletter was absent through lack of contributions so find time to put pen to paper and help keep members well informed.

Ian Kealley

IAN KEALLEY
Secretary.

20th August, 1982.

The aims of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) are:

- to maintain essential ecological processes and ecosystems on which human survival and development depend.
- to preserve as many varieties of species as possible and prevent their extinction, and
- to ensure sustainable use of species and ecosystems, such as fish and wildlife, forests and grazing lands.

The strategy stresses that conservation is important for continued development, and lists priority needs (see below) for sustainable development. Please assess the relevance of those priority needs to Western Australia and/or Australia, complete the following checklist (using the scale 0 - 5, with 0 being the lowest and 5 the highest rating for each priority need), and return it to the Environment Centre, 537 Wellington Street, Perth W.A. 6000.

Overall findings from the questionnaire will be brought to the attention of the Task Force, and will also be reported in the next edition of Environment WA.

(Cut along Line)

Name of Respondent _____

Address _____

Number of Respondents (if more than one) _____ Telephone _____

Organisation or Group (if relevant) _____

ASSESSMENT OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE WCS PRIORITY NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA (0 = lowest and 5 = highest rating).

<u>WCS PRIORITY NEEDS</u>	<u>Relevance to Western Australia</u>	<u>Relevance to Australia</u>
a. reserve prime quality cropland for crops;		
b. adopt management practices to maintain the productivity of cropland, grazing land and forests;		
c. to prevent soil degradation and restore land where soils are degraded.		
d. Protect watersheds, especially upper catchment areas;		
e. maintain fisheries ecosystems;		
f. control pollution;		
g. prevent species extinction;		
h. preserve as many varieties as possible of domesticated and other economic or useful plants, animals and micro organisms and their native relatives;		
i. establish a comprehensive network of protected areas to secure habitats of threatened, unique and other important species, unique ecosystems and representing samples of ecosystem types;		
j. regulate the utilisation of living resources so that it is sustainable;		
k. reduce incidental take e.g. taking non-commercial and undersize species in fisheries operations.		
l. maintain habitats of utilised species; and		
m. carefully allocate and manage timber		