

The Institute of Foresters of Australia Inc.

(W.A. Division)

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Chairman: D. Spriggins
Secretary: Ian Kealley
Committee: Peter Hewett
Jim Williamson

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

1) NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

Members will have noticed that the article by Chris Done on Arbor Day in the Kimberlys found its way into the September issue of the Australian I.F.A. Newsletter.

Our newsletter is circulated to all W.A. members, the editor of the Australian Newsletter as W.A. Division News and on Proxy Council Dr. R. Curtin in Sydney. Contributions from members on any topics of interest are still required and can be sent to the Secretary.

2) NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Institute will be held at the Institute of Forest Protection Como

Date - Friday 12th November.
Time - 5.00pm
Speaker - J.B. Sclater
Topic - Forestry in Nepal

3) MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Please forward your questionnaire to Queensland if you have not already done so. Qld Division hope to process the results by early December, but to do so they need your replies.

4) ARTICLES FOR AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY & NEWSLETTER

Contributions to recent issues by West Australian authors has been, to say the least, very limited. The article in the last issue of Australian Forestry by W.E. Hillis on forest products and people in U.S.S.R., China and Japan was excellent. This type of article is the type which interests a wide audience. If you have delivered or prepared some paper such as this recently, then send it to the Editor of Australian Forestry, Leon Pederick. He would be pleased to hear from you.

5) DARLING RANGE STUDY GROUP REPORT

A copy of the report has been given to the Institute. Currently it is at Bunbury where it is being read by Several members. It is a very useful report and discusses in some detail many of the topics which were raised at the recent panel discussions at both Bunbury and Como, eg. public involvement in land use planning. We recommend you read it.

6) FORESTRY POLICIES

The recent change of Government in Victoria appears to be leading towards a marked change in approach towards forestry in that State. Many of the changes must be of concern to the forestry profession there.

Traditionally, the Institute as a professional organisation has always concentrated its efforts on areas within its own area of expertise. Advice or comment we have given has always aimed to be objective and rational. Whilst not suggesting that we depart from this approach the experience in Victoria suggests that at least we should become better informed on the

forestry policies being put forward by the various parties. As a first step in this direction we have recently written to all the political parties in W.A. asking for a copy of their written policies on forestry.

7) MT. GIBSON STUDY TOUR - R.J. Underwood

A very successful study tour of Mr. Gibson Station (near Paynes Find 350km N/E of Perth) was held on the October long weekend.

Fifteen I.F.A. members and their families attended for a total of nearly 50 people. The group inspected major vegetation types, pastoral management, historical and anthropological sites and areas being considered for release for agricultural development.

Special thanks go to the station owner Peter Wilson and his family and to those who provided technical and social expertise, Dexter Johnson, Peter Richmond, Ian Rotherham and Tammie Reid.

8) FUTURE INSTITUTE TRIPS

Following the success of the Mt. Gibson Tour for which we would like to thank Roger Underwood for organizing, we would like to assess members feelings about similar weekends.

Could all members please fill out the questionnaire at the end of the newsletter regarding a future trip. We are especially keen to involve younger members. This is your chance to indicate the types of activities that would appeal to you.

9) A.B.C. SCIENCE SHOW

After the July 10th broadcast of the A.B.C. Science Show several members complained to us about the tone and content of the program. All were annoyed at the imputations that members of the forestry profession in W.A. were dishonest.

We discussed the matter of taking Institute action against the A.B.C. but after contact with the Forests Dept. decided to wait until the outcome of action already in train by the Department was known.

We were pleased to see that the Chairman of the A.B.C. Leonie Kraner, who obviously investigated the complaints personally, has had the decency to apologise in writing for the contents of the program. To quote her words in her letter to The Conservator of Forests, "While I am satisfied that there was no deliberate intention to malign you, your Department, the W.A. Division of the Australian Institute of Foresters or the W.A. Forestry Field Officers Association, you are each entitled, nevertheless, to an apology, which I offer unreservedly on behalf of the Commission".

We commend the Conservator for pursuing the obtaining of an apology so vigorously. It is of concern though that the A.B.C. Journalists have recorded their strong dissent with the granting of an apology by the Chairman of the A.B.C. Perhaps we haven't heard the last of this?

10) JOHN MEACHEM

Members will be pleased to hear that after undergoing a major operation and several weeks of intensive hospital care, John is now on the road to recovery. We wish him well. Whilst he is recuperating, Frank Batini is chairing the Committee on tree decline etc.

11) INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE

This popular evening will be held at Como on Saturday, December 4th. This year some younger members of the Institute will be organizing the evening, more details in the next Newsletter. In the meantime set the date aside.

12) NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY QUESTIONNAIRE

In response to the replies from members regarding the questionnaire in the last Newsletter, the following letter was sent to the Environment Centre by Jim Williamson.

Dear Sir,

We liked the idea of the questionnaire about the World Conservation Strategy which was included in the recent issue of Environment W.A., and sent a copy to our members. There was considerable interest but the problem of different ways of interpreting the questionnaire arose. Some people with similar ideas rated them with relatively different priorities. So we thought it best to say:-

- (i) what a good thing it is to seek people's opinions on important matters such as conservation;
- (ii) how difficult it is to frame a questionnaire that is simple enough to read and respond to, but still covers the main points, and is not able to be misinterpreted;
- (iii) and to say that while all the 13 points listed in the questionnaire are important, the most important priorities for Western Australia seem to us to be:

Priority 1: To prevent soil degradation and restore land where soils are degraded.

Priority 2: Adopt management practices to maintain the productivity of cropland, grazing land, and forests.

Priority 3: Protect watersheds, especially upper catchment areas.

Priority 4: Prevent species extinction.

Priority 5: Regulate the utilization of living resources so that it is sustainable.

The Institute of Foresters would welcome any opportunity in the future to provide a point of view on conservation issues in Western Australia, and we commend you for providing the questionnaire and hope that you find our comments of value.

.....
IAN KEALLEY,
Secretary.
12th October, 1982.

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I.F.A. MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Could members please fill out this questionnaire regarding future activities of the W.A. Division of the Institute and return it to the Secretary, Ian Kealley, as soon as possible.

The W.A. Division now has 140 members and the committee wishes to involve members in more activities.

This questionnaire is your chance to direct activities by informing us of your requests.

NAME _____

FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS

It is proposed to hold another study tour this summer following the success of the Mt. Gibson Tour. The tour could take place either a weekend in February or the long weekend in March.

Several areas and types of towns have been proposed, please indicate preferred area and type of tour.

AREA

PREFERENCE

- 1) South Coast - covering proposed South Coast N.P. and Karri issues _____
- 2) Boranup and Leeuwin-Naturaliste Area _____
- 3) Dryandra Forest _____
- 4) Proposed land release in the Mallee zone _____

TYPE OF TOUR

PREFERENCE & COMMENTS

- 1) Camping trip, fully self contained, bush camping _____
- 2) Camping trip, fully self contained - caravan parks, community recreation camps _____
- 3) Institute members only _____
- 4) Members families and friends etc. _____
- 5) Maximum numbers for tour - 20 _____
- 40 _____
- 60 _____
- Other _____

- 6) Transport - Bus _____
- Cars _____

Other comments, suggestions or other areas/issues that could be covered:

OTHER INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES

Please make comments on the following points:-

- 1) Institute meetings

Are they frequent enough _____

What is the preferred structure/type of meeting (eg. dinner meetings, talks, formal) _____

What is the preferred location and time for meetings _____

Other comments _____

- 2) I.F.A. Dinners and functions. Please comment on venue, timing *of*.

Annual Dinner - comments _____

Christmas BBQ - comments _____

- 3) Can you offer any suggestions for other functions/activities that would interest you or should be introduced _____

