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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

1. NEXT MEETING

Will be at Bunbury on Thursday, February 17th.

Venue: Forests Dept, Regional Headquarters
Nth. Boyanup Road,
BUNBURY.

Time: 5.00pm

Speaker: Cliff Winfield

Topic: Rainforests.

2. MAD HATTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are lucky to have so many members willing to contribute to running of the Division whether this be commenting on a report, attending an inquiry, speaking to a meeting or organizing a social function. The Mad Hatters Party was a great example of this for which we thank Denise Allen and her band of helpers for the tremendous evening they organized. This is how one member (who shall remain forever nameless) saw the event.

"THE 1982 OUTDOOR HEADGEAR PENNANT"

Formerly referred to as the Como I.F.A. Madhatters' Christmas party.

The big yellow moon gave the finishing touch to the carefully prepared evening. The weather was excellent and the court looked a treat. The organisers of this, the premiere of the pennant, had worked hard all day.

Patrons began to gather and the flavour of the event became visionary. Turkey replicas, sombreros, toppers without bottoms, there was even one tall, well known forester wearing a chamberpot? As many had suspected, the Shannon Basin had gone to his head. The bookies murmured something about a one horse race. Was the inaugural pennant to be a wash-out?

John Murch finally finding use for years of chainsaw schools, proceeded to delicately slice the succulent spit roast as backyard tautologists and day to day budgie trainers accepted the transformations of their Institute fellows. The scene was set.

The judges called for a conga line. The snake wound its way tortuously

through the tables led by Mr. Plod, Phil Barrett. The finalists were selected - a murmur of amazement wafted through the crowd - the man with the chamberpot wasn't there. The "Chip off the old block" seemed to have usurped him. Calling on the crowd to signal their approval for individual finalists, the chief judge introduced Karen Turkey, The Chip, the McArthur gave a general's speech only to be booed down.

Murmurs had turned into mantra on the south-eastern court. The old queens blew a fuse. A thunderous chant "We want Jenki, we want Jenki, we want Jenki". Had justice prevailed? Or was this a Northern Region mafia deal? As the old Woolloomooloo Queen strode forward the chief judge threw her dummy in the dirt, threw the prize at the resplendent queen, his mousey locks glistening, and instead of the planned formal presentation, ended the ceremony with an ill-timed "sit in it!"

Amid cries of misappropriation and fraud, someone was heard to accuse that neither Grace, J.B. or Jenki had actually dressed up but had only worn their true colours. Well, the event was an uproar. The premiere pennant may well have caused enough bad feeling to have scotched any thought of an annual event.

Proposed dancing competitions paled against the main event. The serving of strawberries and cream eased confused tempers until finally the automatic sprinklers came on and the eastern court was swamped. A slight oversight by the pitch preparers or was it a ploy to put cold water on the event?

The man with the chamberpot stopped the Time Warp to introduce the much feared El Spriggo. Under a sombrero the size of a Fergi tractor tyre the famous Bunbury gringo rightfully eulogised the Chief Organiser Denise Allen, who subsequently eulogised her able assistance Penni Hewett, Karen (Turkey) Schmidt and others.

In the carpark some said "Geez, that was better than last year" and some old queens just grinned, obviously looking forward to next year's defence."

3. ANZASS

As mentioned in the December 1982, I.F.A. Newsletter, the 53rd Session of ANZASS will be held in Perth from 16 - 20 May 1983. Section 13, Agriculture, Forestry & Horticulture has a wide range of symposia topics which will be of interest to foresters. In addition there are three field tours. On the evening of Wednesday 18th it is planned to hold a social evening following the Presidential address. The W.A. Branches of the Institute of Ag. Science, Institute of Foresters and Water Resources Division of the Institute of Engineers are organizing the evening. Please keep the date free.

ANZASS is held rarely in W.A. (The last was in 1973) and the organizers are hopeful of obtaining a good attendance. Details of each days program are now available and can be forwarded on request, you may care to attend all or some of the sessions.

4. PANEL DISCUSSION

In the last Newsletter we reported on how W.A. members involved in last years panel discussions, saw the profession. In August we invited three outside speakers to give us their views on the profession. We told them to be controversial if they so wished. The first of the speakers was Dr. Bennett a Research Scientist from C.S.I.R.O.

The major points he made were:-

1. Compared to many other professional institutes (eg. Institute of Agricultural Science) the IFA has a very high rate of membership from these eligible.
 2. Unlike some other institutes, the IFA appears to have no "union" interests.
 3. The similarity between the views of the IFA in W.A. and W.A. Forests Dept. appears to be striking.
 4. There appear to be no members of the IFA within the radical conservation movement in W.A. (but there are members of the Institute of Agricultural Science). The congruence of views between the Forests Dept. and the profession in W.A. is regarded with suspicion by some other professional people.
 5. Foresters give the impression that they are reluctant to accept outside views. This was claimed to have retarded dieback research for many years. Foresters are also unable, or unwilling to seek kudos where it could be taken - for example Alcoa have successfully claimed the kudos for the very successful mining rehabilitation work in the jarrah forest for which foresters were largely responsible.
 6. The experience of both the Institute of Agriculture and the Institution of Engineers in basing their Secretariats' in Canberra had been rather disastrous.
5. MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The December meeting in Sydney examined the results of the recent membership questionnaire. These will appear in the Newsletter in due course, meanwhile a few findings will be of interest.

1. Lack of public knowledge about forestry and the forestry profession was rated by members in all States as the most important forest policy issue. The need for land use planning and rural tree decline followed next in importance.
2. There was general agreement that the Institute should increase their activities at both a Divisional and National levels including a full time Secretariat. Replies to the next question on how much extra, members would be agreeable to pay in subscriptions, were not very encouraging.

ARTICLES FOR "AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY" OR "THE NEWSLETTER"

Now is the time to complete and forward to either of the two I.F.A. publications that article you have been thinking of writing. Either Editor will be pleased to hear from you. It seems the problem of getting foresters to write is about the same in 1983 as it was almost 50 years ago.

An extract from an article, written in 1936 by J. O'Donnell the W.A. based Editor of "Australian Forestry" illustrates the problems all Editors face.

" NON NOBIS SOLUM
THE EDITOR IS RELUCTANTLY COMPELLED TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL FOR GREATER
SUPPORT FOR THE JOURNAL

During recent years the number of articles submitted has shown a gradual decline and the Editorial Committee, whose services are voluntarily given, has not found it easy to gather sufficient material for continuous issues of the Journal. Indeed, this has been possible only as the result of personal canvass of a limited number of members whose support has been generously given and keenly appreciated. The Council has persevered so far with its early intention of publishing twice a year, but this assumes that well-trained men, actively engaged on interesting work in the field, will have valuable information to impart and will readily make it available to fellow-foresters in the form of intelligent and well-written articles in the Journal of their profession.

A certain skill is required on the part of an author to express his thoughts clearly and concisely and although this presents little difficulty to the majority of members, there are a number, particularly among the junior foresters, whose experience in these matters is comparatively limited. It should be recognised that the way to learn to write is to write, and to write again, and members who have refrained from submitting manuscripts because of fancied inability, are particularly enjoined to set about preparing material for the next issue.

This should not be looked upon as a simple task, of course, for many hours are spent by all authors in revising and checking manuscripts prior to presentation, and a well-written, successful paper may be regarded as the very satisfying result of much studied application".

I. Kealley, per. h.p.
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IAN KEALLEY,
Hon. Secretary.
19th January, 1983.