

The Institute of Foresters of Australia Inc.

(W.A. Division)

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Chairman: D. Spriggins
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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1983

1) MEETING

The Royal Society of W.A. has invited I.F.A. Members to a meeting.

Speaker - Phil Cheney - C.S.I.R.O.
Topic - "Project Aquarius"
Date - Monday 14th March
Time - 8.00pm
Place - Kings Park Board Room.

2) FERNDALE SHEPERDS HUT RESTORATION - WORKING BEE

The next phase of restoration is about to begin. A working bee on Sunday 20th March commencing at 10.00am aims to:

- clean up the inside, outside and surrounds
- remove internal plaster in preparation for re-rendering.

Come prepared with hammers, putty knives and a BYO BBQ lunch. Contact Wayne Schmidt or Jim Williamson for additional details.

3) ANZASS

As mentioned in the December 1982, I.F.A. Newsletter, the 53 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) MEMBERSHIP

The W.A. Division welcomes new members Richard Moore and Grant Wardell-Johnson. We congratulate John Meacham, Jim Williamson and Eric Hopkins on their recent election to Fellows of the I.F.A.

5) FOREST ECOLOGY SEMINARS - 1983

Please note the following seminars at Murdoch University.

- Location : Biological Sciences Lecture Theatre EAI1
Time : 3.30pm
Friday, March 11 : The recent Forests Department dieback review.
Joe Havel, Forests Department.
Friday, April 8 : Insects affecting the jarrah forest with particular
reference to borers.
Steve Curry, Department of Agriculture.
Friday, May 6 : Mycorrhizas of jarrah and other forest trees.
Nick Malajczuk, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Forest
Research
Friday, June 10 : The effect of Phytophthora cinnamomi and waterlogging
on the growth of jarrah.
Elaine Davison, Department of Conservation and
Environment.
Friday, July 8 : Research priorities in the jarrah forest.
Roger Underwood, Forests Department.

Further seminars on September, 16, October 14 and November 11 to be arranged.

6) "WILDFLOWER AUSTIS" BUNBURY - OCTOBER 27th 1983

The 1983 Australian Timber Industry Stabilization Conference (Austis) will be held in Bunbury 2-7th October, 1983.

The Conference is a forum for forest products industries and forest managers throughout Australia and New Guinea. The theme is "Intergration", i.e. the interrelationship of all forest activities from grower to end user.

The Conference covers three aspects, technical, social and marketing. Speakers from the Conservation lobby, trade unions, forestry and industry will present views on changing attitudes to marketing as a lead up to syndicate sessions.

Further details can be obtained from:

Public Relations Officer, Austis '83
P.O. Box 254,
WEST PERTH. W.A. 6005

7) WORLD FORESTRY DAY - 21ST MARCH

March 21st is World Forestry Day and the I.F.A. is hoping to publicise the day throughout Australia.

Suggested activities are:

- contacting the local press.
- talks to service clubs and schools emphasizing the role of forests, forestry and foresters.

Any activities by members would be appreciated.

8) RURAL TREE DECLINE STUDY (I. KEALLEY)

A trial to investigate the suitability of air photos for assessing rural tree decline has commenced.

Tony Kuniutis, working voluntarily, has interpreted areas near Williams and Narrogin using 1943, 1972 and 1981 air photos.

Cleared (farmland) on all photos was stratified into roadsides, creeks, gullies ridges and other areas (paddocks) The number of mature (big) trees in 1943 was used as a base figure.

The results for two areas show some interesting trends in the rate of tree decline.

	1943				1972				1981			
	Area 1		Area 2		Area 1		Area 2		Area 1		Area 2	
	No. of trees	% decl-ine	No. of trees	% decl-ine	No. of Trees	% decl-ine	No. of Trees	% decl-ine	No. of Trees	% decl-ine	No. of trees	% decl-ine
Roadsides	235	-	538	-	151	36%	421	22%	139	41%	341	37%
Creeks & Gullies	459	-	129	-	301	34%	68	47%	226	42%	54	58%
Ridges	30	-	30	-	14	53%	25	17%	10	67%	23	23%
Other (Paddocks)	226	-	217	-	164	27%	141	35%	157	30%	118	46%
TOTAL	950	-	914	-	630	34%	655	28%	527	40%	536	41%
Rate of Decline(% per annum)					1.2%pa.		1.0%pa.		1.0%pa.		1.0%pa.	

Area 1 (800ha) adjoins Dryandra forest.
Area 2 (630ha) in South of Narrogin townsite.

Interpretation of further areas east of Narrogin and investigation of other methods is continuing. If you require additional information, have any suggestions and wish to assist, contact Ian Kealley.

9) RURAL TREES AND HORSES

Our attention has been drawn to areas where horses are emerging as a major threat to unprotected paddock trees. Problem areas reported are:

- semi rural areas around Perth and major towns where "hobby farms" are expanding.
- the Byford-Pinjarra area where stud farms are expanding
- the Kojonup-Williams area where polo ponies are popular.

Is there a need to publicise the problem in an effort to protect valuable paddock trees? We welcome comments or suggestions on what action could be taken.

10) PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The last newsletter included comments by Dr. Bennett at last years panel discussions. The main points made by the second speaker Miss Penny Hussey were:

1. Today's public is better educated, more articulate, more urban and less "British" than in the past. These people feel that public forests belong to them, they don't think they are being well managed at the moment and they want a change.
2. In other countries there is a credo, a sort of hippocratic oath that foresters take to have sustained yield in the forest. This has not been achieved in W.A. and the forestry profession is seen to be at fault. The W.A. public think you are treating the forest like a mine - to be ripped off and abandoned.
3. Forests are very complex ecosystems and if tampered with, there will be deleterious effects. The IFA should press for more money for research, for levies on forest clearances and for the purchase of land for forest.
4. Most of the public agree with sawmilling but not to using trees for chips and pulp. The timber industry is seen as very wasteful, and so, by implication, on foresters.
5. There is a great demand for firewood in metropolitan Perth and the I.F.A. should be planning to overcome this.
6. Foresters are like agriculturalists - they always seem to be trying to simplify the ecosystem. If you continue to do this you may be sorry in later years.
7. Foresters only create wildlife reserves when an area has had all the timber harvested from it. Foresters should not be involved at all in wildlife management. The public does not accept that they have the right image.
8. A forest is like a Cathedral: it represents the glory and beauty of God. When you destroy this Cathedral, don't expect people to love you.

As with some of the points made by Dr. Bennett, most foresters would probably disagree with these views. Nevertheless they highlight the limited level of public understanding of forestry practices and the need for the profession to try to improve this.

11) S.A. & VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES:

From all reports foresters in W.A. contributed generously to the appeal for victims of these fires. In S.A. one Institute member had his house and all possession destroyed. Another lost a car. Close relatives of one member died when trapped in one of the fires.

In January 1983, N.S.W. lost about 6000ha of pine plantation in one wildfire. This record was surpassed in S.A. in February when approximately 20,000 ha of plantations were destroyed.

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I. KEALLEY
Secretary.
4th March 1983.