

# Foresters Wood

The Famous Trees  
of  
Commerce, Culture,  
Legend and Literature



# *Foresters Wood*

**Manjimup  
Western Australia**

*The beginnings*



**INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

**WA DIVISION**

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## Introduction

*Foresters Wood* is an arboretum of trees dedicated to the famous trees of commerce, culture, legend and literature. The *Wood* was established near Manjimup, Western Australia in 1985 by the Institute of Foresters of Australia to promote an understanding and appreciation of the importance of trees and forests for a whole range of values.

This program outlines the vision, the history and proposed developments for *Foresters Wood*.

## The Vision

Throughout the world and in every culture, trees have played an important part in every aspect of human life. They have been used for shelter and shade, for making tools and musical instruments; they have been enjoyed for their beauty and revered as sacred symbols.

Although every species has its own unique place in the scheme of things, some trees have a special place in our minds. Because of their special contribution to civilisation they are trees that everyone has heard of, but perhaps have never seen. *Foresters Wood* is a place for these trees, a place to become acquainted with *the famous trees of commerce, culture, legend and literature* and the stories they have to tell.

*Foresters Wood* is not just an arboretum of different species, nor is it intended to be just a park of attractive trees. The key criterion for inclusion in the *Wood* is that each of the species has a story to tell, and is special for one reason or another. Every forest has a different feel – from the eerie, mystical feel of an oak forest in winter to the cathedral of a sequoia forest - and the aim is to grow them in a way that captures some of that atmosphere. Forest species will be grown in dense stands to encourage their tall clean form; woodland species with space for their spreading crowns; and those that have been cultivated for centuries will be grown in a more formal, regulated setting. The overall landscape design is based on the ‘golf course’ concept with groves of trees and long open spaces to maintain and enframe the magnificent vistas that the site has to offer.

Of course not all of the trees of interest can be grown here. But the *Wood* contains a wide range of sites and within the limits of climate, many species will grow well. About 80 species make up the present list, but this is by no means an end, and more will be added as their stories unfold.

A publication, telling the stories of the trees and their significance, will supplement the *Wood*. In time, when the trees in the *Wood* have developed further, a visitor centre will be established.

The whimsical theme of the *Wood* has been chosen to encourage people to think of forests from a whole range of perspectives. Whether one has an interest in conservation, or botany, or history, or landscaping, there is something here for everyone. Visitors to the *Wood* would be encouraged to walk among the trees, learn their stories, soak up the atmosphere and relax; and go away with a greater awareness and appreciation of the importance of trees to Commerce, Culture, Legend and Literature.

Typical of the trees to be included in the *Wood* are:

Apple	- the tree that provided temptation for Adam, a target for William Tell and inspiration for Isaac Newton.
Coolabah	- the tree of Waltzing Matilda
Willow	- where would the Empire have been without cricket bats?
Lodge Pole Pine	- takes its name from the its use in building Indian tepees.
Lime	- the fruit from this humble tree made possible the great ocean explorations of the world; and lent its name to a race of people.
Salmon Gum	- without the Salmon Gum to fuel steam engines and distil water, the gold that established Western Australia would not have been won.
English Oak	- used to build great navies, it helped to shape the political fortunes of the world. The Oak forests provided charcoal for smelting, casks for fine wine, hunting for Kings and a refuge for Robin Hood.

The centrepiece of the *Wood* is grove of trees with four species, planted in the form of the spokes of a wheel, representing the theme of the *Wood*.

Commerce	- English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )
Culture	- Cedar of Lebanon ( <i>Cedrus libani</i> )
Legend	- Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )
Literature	- Laurel ( <i>Lauris nobilis</i> )

Manjimup is an appropriate site for the *Wood* because it owes its development to the famous karri. A condition of WA's entry to the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901 was the building of a railway to link WA to the rest of Australia. A decade later sawmills were established in the karri forest to produce sleepers for the Transcontinental Railway, and Manjimup became a centre of sawmilling for the next 90 years.

But the karri forest is also appreciated for its beauty, and visitors who come to enjoy the karri forest will also be able to see in the *Wood* how famous trees have helped to shape the fortunes of other places and cultures.

*Foresters Wood* is a long term project with some of the trees taking hundreds of years to mature. It will never be finished but as a living, dynamic forest it will go on changing from season to season, and from year to year.

*Wherever we turn, there is something to fascinate us. If we were not even to travel on in the forest, but to look back at the very places we had just left, we would find new interest merely because time had passed, and not only had the forest changed but so had we.*

M. Bram

## The *Wood* beginnings

*Foresters Wood* was established by the WA Branch of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and opened in 1985 by Brian Burke, MLA, the then Premier of WA, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute. The opening was attended by about 200 people - invited guests, representatives of all the schools in the area and Institute members. The first plantings at the opening ceremony were made by guests and school children.

The *Wood* is located about 20 km west of Manjimup in the Glenoran valley at its junction with the Donnelly River. The land (Nelson locations 465 and 5971) is owned by the Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Conservation and was leased to the Institute of Foresters until recently. The lease has an area of 84 hectares, including 45 hectares of native vegetation.

The block was originally taken up in 1913 by Mr H.J. Voller and in 1934 was purchased by the Michaelides family who grew tobacco on the property. It was for a time the centre of their tobacco operations and apart from the family home, there were staff quarters and large drying kilns. The block changed hands again and was eventually sold to the Forests Department to establish a pine plantation. However it was later considered too small and it was never planted.

The block was leased to the Institute of Foresters of Australia by the Forests Department (Forest Lease 1558) in 1985 for the purpose of creating and maintaining the *Wood*. See Map 1. The original lease was for twenty years with an understanding that further renewals would be required to fulfil the long-term nature of the project.

## Physical features

The *Wood* is approached via Glenoran Road through the beautiful Glenoran valley. The road terminates on the eastern boundary. The Donnelly River and the Bibbulmun track run along the western boundary. One Tree Bridge is about 2 km to the north and the Four Aces a further kilometre. The *Wood* is therefore in the heart of major tourist attraction of the area.

A permanent creek runs the length of the *Wood* from east to west. Much of the *Wood* is steep with spectacular vistas from several points. The northern slope is 1:5 and the southern slope about 1:10. There are a variety of soil types including deep red sandy loam, shallow laterite and some waterlogged sites.

The southwest corner of the lease and the area to the northwest consists of even aged and two-tiered karri regrowth dating from 1937. There is a patch of mixed jarrah/marri/blackbutt forest in the centre of the *Wood*. This is fringed by several red flowering gums (*Corymbia ficifolia* and *C. ficifolia* x *C. calophylla*). The northern side contains an area of 1975 karri regrowth, formerly a seed orchard. The south east corner consists of uneven-aged jarrah/ marri forest.

Several groves of exotic trees planted by the original owners still remain, including olives, walnuts and chestnuts.

The creek has been dammed and a 150 mm pipe runs from the dam to the top of the hill on the southern boundary. The pipe is complete except for one section and it has take-off points at regular intervals.



The concrete walls of the cellar which formed part of the foundations for the original house remain, together with some garden paths and steps. The embankment of the entrance road is stoned.

A Western Power power line runs through the *Wood* from west to east and a connection point is available near the old cellar.

## **Progress so far.**

Since the opening of *Foresters Wood*, the following work has been undertaken, primarily by members of the WA Branch of the Institute of Foresters in a voluntary capacity, with some assistance from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and with some heavy machinery work provided by WA Chip and Pulp.

- Soil and contour surveys
- Landscape design
- A detailed car park design.
- Development of a database of about 80 selected species.
- Strengthening of the wall and enlarging the dam to twice its original area.
- Excavating two soaks.
- Construction of 7.5 km of internal trafficable trails.
- External fencing of the cleared portion of the lease.
- Internal fixed and electric fencing for stock control (now partly removed).
- Installation of a partially submerged tank on the southern hill.
- Planting of approximately 3000 trees of 50 species, covering 9 ha, between 1987 and 1993.
- Erosion control, rabbit control, blackberry control, weed control, pruning, fire control and management of grazing.

An architectural competition for students of Curtin University was run to design a building for the *Wood*. The original concept was for a building to provide accommodation for voluntary workers at the *Wood* but ideas have changed and building was deferred.

The *Wood* was nominated for a John Tonkin Tree Award in 1990.

In addition to providing several thousand hours of voluntary labour, members have made cash contributions for the purchase of tools, plants and general management costs. For several years volunteers collected and sold chestnuts from the trees on site to raise money for the *Wood*. This was discontinued when commercial chestnuts became more readily available in the market.

For several years grazing was used to control grass as a fire control measure and this entailed a major fencing program for stock control because of the scattered nature of the planting. However there has been difficulty in attracting a leasee for grazing because of the considerable area excluded from grazing while trees developed and the generally poor quality of the pasture in the

remainder. A high population of emus provides a constant source of new blackberry seedlings requiring regular control with herbicide. The rabbit population is now much smaller than in previous years.

Intensive maintenance of the *Wood* has reduced over the last five years as the planted trees have been allowed to develop. All species have now developed to the stage where they will withstand grazing, especially from sheep. Other areas where progressive planting will take place now represent a much smaller proportion of the area. Grazing is an important means of reducing fire hazard and maintaining a neat and attractive appearance in the *Wood*.

The *Wood* is open for public access and it has been used for many years to access the Donnelly River.

## **The future**

The downturn in the timber industry resulted in a significant reduction in the number of local members of the Institute of Foresters with the result that the Wood could no longer be adequately developed and maintained by the Institute. In 2011 the Department of Environment and Conservation assumed control of the Wood. A Munda Biddi camp was established on the site, and plans for the future of the Wood are currently being developed. It is expected that the theme of the Wood will be maintained and further planting will be undertaken while encouraging further recreational and educational opportunities at the site.

Appendix 1. Foresters Wood species list

**Patch Loc" Species Common name Reason for inclusion**  
**Australia**

27	I7	Acacia acuminata	Raspberry Jam	Fence posts, smell, sandalwood host
27	I6	<b>Acacia aneura</b>	<b>Mulga</b>	<b>Mulga Bill, Mulga country</b>
		Acacia pendula	Myall, Borree	Borree log, firewood
		Acacia peuce	Waddy Wood	Aboriginal legend (cf Ash)
18	D3	Araucaria bidwillii	Bunya Pine	Timber, Aboriginal food
18	D3	<b>Arau. cunninghamii</b>	<b>Hoop Pine</b>	<b>Timber, Mosquito bomber</b>
18	D3	<b>Araucaria heterophylla</b>	<b>Norfolk Island Pine</b>	<b>Masts</b>
		Athrotaxis selaginoides	King Billy Pine	King of Tasmania
33	J8	<b>Brachychiton populneus</b>	<b>Kurrajong</b>	<b>Reedy Lagoon', 'Man from Snowy River'</b>
33	JK8	<b>Callitris huegii</b>	<b>Cypress Pine</b>	<b>Flooring.</b>
19	G4	<b>Corymbia citriodora</b>	<b>Lemon Scented Gum</b>	<b>Timber, Citronell</b>
21	G4	<b>Corymbia maculata</b>	<b>Spotted Gum</b>	<b>Timber, honey</b>
	G2	Dacrydium franklini	Huon Pine	Boat building, convicts, Sarah Is.
		Dysoxylum fraserianum	Rosewood	Furniture
20	G4	<b>Euc camuldulensis</b>	<b>Murray R. Red Gum</b>	<b>Hans Heyson, Aust. symbol</b>
6	MN2	<b>Euc delegatensis</b>	<b>Alpine Ash</b>	<b>Timber</b>
6	M2	<b>Euc globulus</b>	<b>Tasmanian Bluegum</b>	<b>Bunyip Bluegum, Magic pudding</b>
6	M2	<b>Euc gunnii</b>	<b>Cider Gum</b>	<b>Aboriginal</b>
33	K8	<b>Euc melliodora</b>	<b>Yellow Box</b>	<b>Timber, Honey</b>
20	G4	<b>Euc microtheca</b>	<b>Coolabah</b>	<b>Waltzing matilda</b>
6	MN2	<b>Euc obliqua</b>	<b>Messmate</b>	<b>Timber</b>
27		<b>Euc papuana</b>	<b>Ghost Gum</b>	<b>Albert Namatijira</b>
6	M2	<b>Euc radiata</b>	<b>Grey Peppermint</b>	<b>Timber, appearanace</b>
6	MN3	<b>Euc regnans</b>	<b>Mountain Ash</b>	<b>Man from Snowy River, Largest Hardwood</b>
	I6	Euc salmonophloia	Salmon Gum	Goldfields
33	JK8	<b>Euc sideroxylon</b>	<b>Red Ironbark</b>	<b>Man from Iron Bark</b>
6	LM2	<b>Euc sieberi</b>	<b>Silver Top Ash</b>	<b>Timber</b>
6	N2	<b>Euc viminalis</b>	<b>Ribbon Gum</b>	<b>Timber</b>
17	F3	<b>Ficus macrophylla</b>	<b>Moreton Bay Fig</b>	<b>Convicts, Homesteads</b>
18	D3	<b>Grevillea robusta</b>	<b>Silky Oak</b>	<b>Cabinet timber</b>
		Livistona australis	Cabbage Tree Palm	Cabbage Tree Hat
		<b>Melaleuca leucodendron</b>	<b>Long Leaved P,bark</b>	
27	I7	<b>Santalum spicatum</b>	<b>Sandalwood</b>	<b>Josh Sticks, W.A. development</b>
18	D3	<b>Toona australis</b>	<b>Red Cedar</b>	<b>Cabinet timber, Cedar Getters</b>
18	D3	<b>Tristania conferta</b>	<b>Brush Box</b>	<b>Timber, beams in Forestry House</b>

**Cool Temperate Deciduous**

		Malus pumila	Apple	William Tell, Newton, Adam
28	J6	<b>Morus alba</b>	<b>White Mulberry</b>	<b>Silk</b>
		Morus nigra	Black Mulberry	Legend
		Paulownia fortunei	Powton Tree	Chinese legend, dowry
		Prunus speciosa	Cherry	Japanese Culture, George Washington

**Bold type – planting complete. Shaded- more planting required**



**Patch Loc<sup>n</sup> Species Common name Reason for inclusion**  
**European Deciduous**

5	K3	<b>Acer pseudoplatanus</b>	<b>Sycamore</b>	<b>Violins</b>
		Carpinus betulus	European Hornbeam	Railways, Jack and Jill
		Corylus avellana	Hazel	Fencing, nuts, shoes, truffles
		Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Furniture, Carving
11	K4	Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Nordic legend
14	J4	<b>Platanus orientalis</b>	<b>Plane</b>	<b>Handel's "Friendly Tree", Roman shade</b>
34,15	LM4	Populus nigra 'italica'	Lombardy poplar	Matches
		Quercus petraea	Oak	Ships, Casks, Building
12, 11	JK4	<b>Quercus robur</b>	<b>English Oak</b>	<b>Ships, Casks, Building, Smelting, the Empire!</b>
		Sambucus nigra	Elder	Judas Tree, Pharmacy, Wine
		Sorbus aucuparia	Rowen, Mt. Ash	Crucifix, Witches
		Taxus baccata	Yew	Long Bow, Symbol of Life
		Tilea europaea	Lime	Carving, furniture, ships, Linnaeus
5	K3	<b>Ulmus procera</b>	<b>Elm</b>	<b>Wheels, pipes, coffins, folklore</b>

**Mediterranean**

9	N5	<b>Castanea sativa</b>	<b>Sweet Chestnut</b>	<b>Nuts</b>
28	J6	<b>Cercis siliquastrum</b>	<b>Judas Tree</b>	<b>Judas (see Alder)</b>
16,28	H3,J6	Ceretonia siliqua	St. John's Bread	Religion
31	K7	<b>Cup. dupreziana</b>	<b>Saharan cypress</b>	<b>Rare</b>
31	K7	<b>Cup. sempervirons</b>	<b>Cypress</b>	<b>Noah's Ark</b>
10	L4	Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Religion
13	J4	Juglans regia	Walnut	Wood, Nuts
11	L4	<b>Lauris nobilis</b>	<b>Laurel</b>	<b>Literature, symbol of honour</b>
28,10	L4	<b>Olea europaea</b>	<b>Olive</b>	<b>Peace, Oil, Religion</b>
		Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm	Dates
		Pinus brutea	Allepo Pine	Lone pine of Gallipoli
30	K6,7	<b>Pinus pinea</b>	<b>Stone pine</b>	<b>Nuts</b>
29	JK29	<b>Quercus suber</b>	<b>Cork Oak</b>	<b>Cork</b>
		Tamarix mannifera	Tamarisk	Manna

**Miscellaneous**

		Boswellia sacra	Frankincense	Religion
		Eugenia carophyllus	Cloves	Spice, Medicinal(tooth decay)
32	JK7	<b>Pinus patula</b>	<b>Mexican Pine</b>	<b>Naval stores</b>

**Monsoon**

		Commiphora myrrha	Myrrh	Religion (see Frankincense)
		Sclerocarya birrea subs caffra	Marula	African food, culture, poison arrows

**Patch Loc" Species Common name Reason for inclusion**

**Montane**

		Abies grandis	Grand fir	Deal, Trojan horse, St.Peter's (A.alba)
11	K4	Cedrus libani	Cedar of Lebanon	Solomon's temple
		Larix decidua	Larch	Medicine, Timber, turpentine
	KL3	Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce	Timber, scurvy, turpentine
		Pinus longaeva	Bristlecone Pine	Oldest living thing
26	M5,6	Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	Masts, Broad Arrow
1	J2	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	Timber
3	JK2	Sequoia gigantea	Big Tree	Largest tree
4	IJ3	Sequoia sempervirens	Redwood	Timber, tallest tree
2	I2	Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar	Timber, Totem Poles, Shingles
		Tsuga heterophylla	Western Hemlock	Timber

**North America**

		Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	Maple syrup
25	M5	Carya illinoensis	Hickory, Pecan	Pecan, Shafts, Wheels, Tool Handles, Aircraft
22	K22	Catalpa bignonioides	Bean Tree	Escape of the Fenians from W.A.
		Diosporos virginiana	Ebony, Persimmons	Piano keys, Fruit
		Juglans nigra	Walnut	Wood
24	L5	Juniperus communis	Juniper	Oil, pharmacy, gin
		Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine	Nurse crop
23	L5	Quercus alba	American White Oak	Furniture, Cooperage, Moonshine
22	K5	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	Brilliant colour

**Sub Tropical Rain Forest**

		Citrus aurantifolia	Lime	Scurvy
		Species ?	Bamboo	Building, furniture, pulp, food, irrigation, ships

**Taiga / Boreal**

		Betula alba	Silver Birch	See Paper Birch
		Betula papyrifera	Paper Birch	Indian canoes, roofing.
8	N3	Pinus contorta	Lodge pole pine	Indian tepees
7	M3	Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	Timber
		Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Religion, Crucifix

**Tropical Rain Forest**

		Cinchona sp	Quinine	Malaria
		Hevia brasiliensis	Rubber	Rubber
		Myristica fragrans	Nutmeg	Spice

**Wet Sites**

		Salix alba v.coerulea	Willow	Cricket Bats, Aspirin
		Taxodium distichum	Swamp Cypress	Everglades

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