

C.E. LANE POOLE MEMORIAL TRUST

LANE POOLE AWARD
STUDY TOURS 1983 - 1994



A HISTORY OF THE TRUST

by

THE TRUSTEES

September 1994

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The Lane Poole Memorial Trust was established to commemorate the work of Charles Edward Lane Poole, and, in particular, the connection between the former Conservator of Forests and the late Thomas Cullity.

Lane Poole was appointed Inspector-General of the Woods and Forests Department in Western Australia in 1916, and was responsible for establishing the legal framework on which the State's forestry operations have since been carried out.

That legal framework was the 1918 Forests Act. Before the Act was introduced there was no legislation to control the amount of timber cut, the place and manner of cutting, or to regenerate the forest after cutting.

Lane Poole and Professor Tomlinson, the first Professor of Engineering at the University of Western Australia were friends, and Lane Poole pointed out to Tomlinson in 1917 that the Americans had developed a new concept for the accelerated drying of timber - the origins of modern kiln drying. America had entered the war and they had a shortage of dry black walnut for the manufacture of rifle butts. Tiemann in Mid West USA had developed the idea of blowing hot air through timber stacked in a chamber and Lane Poole suggested that this would be a good project for a final year engineering student. Tomlinson agreed, an experimental kiln was built on the Crawley Campus at the back of Shenton House and Thomas Cullity, a final year engineering student, agreed to operate the kiln and detail his experiments in a final year thesis.

When Cullity graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1918, Lane Poole offered him the newly created position of Utilisation Officer in the Forests Department, which he held for one year before leaving to start up Millars' new commercial kilns at Yarloop.

Thomas Cullity maintained an interest in forestry and timber for the rest of his life and founded Cullity Timbers in 1928 and Westralian Plywoods in 1943. From these companies WESFI was formed.

The Trust was initiated by Conservator of Forests Bruce Beggs and WESFI Chairman Denis Cullity in 1981, and was developed by a Board of Trustees representing the former Forests Department and WESFI.

The current Chairman of the Board is the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dr Syd Shea.

The WESFI connection resulted from a belief held by Lane Poole that forestry needed an interdisciplinary approach to cater for the needs of society.

The Trust provides financial assistance to officers of the Department of Conservation and Land Management to participate in courses of study that are relevant to their employment. The Award, which covers the cost of travel, tuition and accommodation enables the recipient to study anywhere in Australia and New Zealand for up to six weeks, depending on the project.

WINNERS OF THE C.E. LANE POOLE AWARD

1983	Paul Marsh, Ray Fremlin
1984	Graeme Hutchinson
1986	Gerard van Didden, Tony Brandis
1987	Peter Keppel
1989	Greg Voigt
1990	André Rynasewycz
1991	Greg Mair
1992	Mervyn Smith, Derek Winters
1993	Alan Hordacre
1994	Michael Cully



Photograph taken at the C.E. Lane Poole Award function at Crawley on 29 June 1994.

From left to right: Derek Winters, Tom Wood, Merv Smith, Denis Cullity, Alan Hordacre, Mike Cully and Dr Syd Shea.

Photo: Greg Wood

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INTRODUCTION

Since its introduction in 1983, thirteen staff of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the former Forests Department have received the C.E. Lane Poole Award.

This document presents a brief history of C.E. Lane Poole and the C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust would not exist and neither would the study tour opportunities provided by the Trust, if it were not for the generosity of the donors.

Westralian Forests Industries (WESFI) and in particular Chairman of Directors Denis Cullity made the initial contribution which enabled the Trust to be set up in 1981 and allowed the first study tours to be taken in 1983.

WESFI has contributed some 90% of the donations received by the Trust. Other donors have included Alcoa of Australia Limited, the Australian Sandalwood Company Limited and the Institute of Foresters of Australia Incorporated. The Trustees express their sincere appreciation to all donors.

THE IDEA AND THE NAME FOR THE TRUST

There are a number of awards potentially available for study or travel purposes for foresters.

These include:

- The Allan R Henderson Bequest
- The NW Jolly Medal
- The Hedges Prize
- The Institute of Foresters of Australia Travel Award
- Gottstein Fellowships
- Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Awards

A number of professional foresters from Western Australia have been recipients of some of the above awards but the eligibility criteria for most of them would exclude many government employed foresters in this State. In addition, most of the above awards are not well publicised, so few West Australian foresters apply for them.

Conservator of Forests Bruce Beggs appreciated that the field staff of the Forests Department did not get the same opportunities for educational travel as graduate foresters and decided to remedy the situation. After consultation with members of his staff and retired forester Dick Perry, the idea was further developed, during 1981. It was decided that if a new study tour award system could be set up, it would be named after Charles Edward Lane Poole, the first Conservator of Forests under the Forests Act of 1918. Lane Poole was an outstanding forester, who recognised that appropriate training and development of staff and employees was essential for good management of Australia's forests.

It was decided that it would be appropriate for the proposed awards to be jointly funded by the Department and the forest industry. The Department was prepared to pay for the administration of the awards and the salary costs of the recipients. Outside funding was needed for travel, accommodation and tuition costs. Bruce Beggs then contacted Denis Cullity, the Chairman of Westralian Forest Industries Ltd to ask whether WESFI would be interested in contributing to a scholarship fund to commemorate the achievements of the State's first Conservator under the Forests Act, Charles Edward Lane Poole. Bruce Beggs and Denis Cullity discussed the original connection between Denis' father, the late Thomas Cullity and Lane Poole and Denis Cullity offered, on behalf of WESFI, to fund the award. This led to the establishment of the C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust.

C.E. LANE POOLE - THE MAN

Charles Edward Lane Poole was born in Sussex, England on 16 August, 1885. An interesting essay on the story of his life is presented by Athol Meyer (1985) in 'The Foresters', written and edited on behalf of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. Further details are available from his Obituary in the Commonwealth Forestry Review (1971).

Lane Poole received his early education in Dublin, Ireland and forestry training at the French Forestry School at Nancy in France. He lost the lower half of his left arm in an accident when he was 19 and replaced it with a steel hook. He attended the South African Forest School in 1906 to 1907 and then worked as a forests officer in Transvaal until 1910 before becoming Conservator of Forests in Sierra Leone and a member of the Legislative Council. In Africa he carried out extensive forest surveys and whilst engaged on this work evidently lived quite dangerously at times. He acquired a reputation for swimming crocodile infested rivers, embarking on lone lion hunting expeditions and capturing deadly snakes alive. He was an expert horseman.

In 1916 Lane Poole was appointed as Inspector-General of the Woods and Forests Department in Western Australia. He had been recommended for the position by Sir David Hutchins, who at that time occupied a senior forestry post in the Union of South Africa and who had prepared government reports on forestry in Western Australia and Australia. The Woods and Forests Department had been set up some 20 years earlier as part of the Lands Department. By the time Lane Poole took the job, the Department had lapsed into little more than a revenue collecting agency. At that time, Australian forestry was regarded in many quarters as little more than a mining operation. Lane Poole played a prominent role in formulation of sound forest policies. He was responsible for establishing the legal framework on which the State's forestry operations have since been based. That legal framework was the 1918 Forests Act. Before the Act was introduced, there was no legislation to control the amount of timber cut, the place and manner of cutting, or to regenerate the forest after cutting.

When he arrived in Western Australia in 1916, Lane Poole saw the consequences of 70 years of uncontrolled felling in the State's hardwood forests and realised that without regulation the forests would be devastated within a short time.

Lane Poole formulated forest management regulations that would reduce the amount of timber cut to a level the forest could sustain. Part of his plans included dedicating all the remaining forest as State forest by an Act of Parliament, and the appointment of forest officers who had legal powers to enforce the management regulations. Against opposition from sawmilling and commercial interests, Lane Poole was successful in getting the necessary legislation through Parliament to lay the foundations for forest management aimed at conserving rather than exploiting the forest.

Whilst Lane Poole was Conservator, much was achieved in addition to drawing up the Forests Act and Regulations. Timber royalties were increased 50 per cent and sleeper hewers were required to pay an annual fee. New regulations were introduced to control the lighting of fires in the forest and cleaning up after tree falling. Through numerous newspaper and magazine articles, and official bulletins, the Conservator tried to change peoples attitudes to forestry. Advances were made in forest products research, with Lane Poole being largely responsible for the installation of a timber seasoning kiln at the University of Western Australia and the start of research into pulp and paper manufacture from karri and jarrah at the Perth Technical School. There was also considerable progress in classification and stocktaking in the forests. This work revealed that the earlier estimates had grossly exaggerated the extent of the State's forest resources, thus making it even more urgent for the retention and proper management of the remaining forest. Lane Poole established a training school for forest apprentices at Ludlow. He was also a leading advocate for the establishment of an Australian school for training professional foresters.

Lane Poole was an uncommonly tough character whose non-appeasing attitudes to principles he believed in at times brought him into conflict with higher authority. Inevitably he suffered severe setbacks, but he never abandoned the goals he had set himself, and which in the end he generally achieved. He had many clashes with timber industry leaders and politicians and resigned as Conservator of Forests on 22 October 1921, after a Government decision, taken against his advice and the provisions of the Forests Act, to extend concessions and leases held by a large timber company. In the years 1922 to 1924 he compiled a report for the Commonwealth Government on Papua New Guinea's forest resources. In 1925 he returned to Australia as a forest adviser to the Government and was instrumental in the setting up of the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau in Canberra with a forestry school as one of its branches. The Australian Forestry School opened in Canberra in April 1927, with Lane Poole now holding the title of Inspector-General of Forests, as acting Principal, and a lecturing staff of three. Lane Poole was Principal until 1944 and Inspector-General until February 1945. During the depression and war years Lane Poole had to battle to keep the school open but closure was averted. Over a hundred students graduated whilst he was in charge and many of his students occupied senior positions in Australian forest services until the mid 1980s.

Lane Poole was the author of more than 50 papers and articles covering both scientific and more general aspects of forestry. Following his retirement from official forestry in 1945, Lane Poole was active for many years as a forestry consultant in Sydney. He died on 22 November 1970, at the age of 85.

THE WESFI CONNECTION

The Lane Poole Memorial Trust was established to commemorate the work of Charles Edward Lane Poole, and, in particular, the connection between former Conservator of Forests and the late Thomas Cullity.

The Trust was initiated by Conservator of Forests Bruce Beggs and WESFI Chairman Denis Cullity, and developed by a Board of Trustees representing the former Forests Department and WESFI. The current Chairman of the Board is the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dr Syd Shea.

The WESFI connection resulted from a belief held by Lane Poole that forestry needed to be inter-disciplinary to cater for the needs of society of society. In 1917 he argued with the Commonwealth Government that research into forest products be developed in Western Australia. As a result of his efforts, investigations into pulp and paper manufacture from eucalypts began at the Perth Technical School where a small laboratory paper machine purchased with funding provided by four local newspapers was used to make paper from jarrah, karri, marri and other species (Anon, 1969). In 1920 the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry decided to establish a forest products laboratory in Western Australia. This was the forerunner of the Division of Forests Products, CSIRO now located in Melbourne. This work by Isaac Boas was fundamental to the birth of the pulp and paper industry in Australia. Mr Boas went on to become the first Chief of the Division of Forest Products with the CSIRO.

A timber seasoning kiln was also installed at the School of Engineering at the University of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Forests Department and with the full support of Professor Tomlinson, the first Head of the School of Engineering. Professor Tomlinson persuaded a young final year engineering student, Thomas Cullity, to run the kiln and to use his investigations as a basis for his degree thesis in civil engineering.

Thomas Cullity was the first student through the door when enrolments for the University of Western Australia opened in 1913. In the first year there were only 182 students in three facilities; Arts, Science and Engineering. Lectures were delivered in a collection of buildings in the Irwin Street area in the middle of Perth for some years. It was not until the late 1920s that the University was operational at the present site in Crawley. A generous bequest from Sir Winthrop Hackett, the University's first Chancellor, financed the construction of the new university. Hackett was the Editor in Chief of the 'West Australian' newspaper and worked tirelessly for the establishment of a 'University for everyone'. The University was the first free university in the then British Commonwealth and remained so until 1960. Funds for the University resulted from the bequest left by Hackett when he died in 1916. The estate, when executed in 1926, comprised the 'West Australian' newspaper which was sold, with most of the proceeds going to the University.

When Cullity graduated in 1918, Lane Poole offered him the newly created position of Utilisation Officer in the Forests Department, which he held for one year before leaving to start up Millars' new commercial kilns at Yarloop. Thomas Cullity maintained an interest in forestry and timber for the rest of his life and founded Cullity Timbers in 1928 and Westralian Plywoods in 1943. From these companies WESFI was formed. It is of interest to note that Mr Cullity was succeeded as Utilisation Officer at the Forests Department by his life-long friend, Stanley Clarke, who later became the second Chief of the CSIRO Division of Forests Products and in whose honour the Stanley A Clarke Medal has been established by the Institute of Wood Science.

THE C.E. LANE POOLE MEMORIAL TRUST

At the official opening of the Forests Department's State Headquarters at Como on 30 October 1981, the Premier Sir Charles Court announced the establishment of the C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust.

The Trust was initiated by Conservator of Forests Bruce Beggs, with initial funding by Westralian Forest Industries Limited Chairman of Directors Denis Cullity, who agreed to make an annual donation of \$4,000 to enable staff of the Department to travel within Australia or New Zealand to broaden their knowledge of forests and forestry for the good of the State.

The objectives of the Trust and the conditions under which it operates were formalised in a Deed of Settlement signed on 4 February 1985 by the Trustees, Denis Cullity; Pat McNamara, Acting Conservator of Forests and Tom Wood, President of the Forests Department Field Officers Association.

Providing that sufficient funds are available, applications for Lane Poole award study grants are called for each year, from officers employed under the Public Service Act engaged in forestry management activities. Initially applications were advertised within the Forests Department. As provided for in the Trust Deed, applications are now called for from within the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

The original intent of the award was to provide travel opportunities for Forests Act field staff (typically non-university trained) who had limited opportunities for interstate travel on duty. Following the creation of the Department of CALM on 22 March 1985 and the incorporation of the field staff in the public service in 1991, the eligibility criteria were broadened to include all CALM Public Service Act staff engaged in forest management activities.

In selecting the successful applicant, the Trustees give preference to practising foresters of at least four years' experience, who are under 45 years at the time of the award. If there are no suitable applications, no award is made. Awardees must take up the award within twelve months of the date of notification of the award. Recipients are required to submit a 1,500 word report on their studies, within six months of returning from their tour. The award covers the cost of travel, tuition and accommodation and enables the recipient to study anywhere in Australia and New Zealand, typically for two to six weeks. The Department meets the salary cost of staff selected for the grant.

Funds are accepted from individuals and organisations and are usually solicited by circular letter once a year. Westralian Forest Industries Limited is the main donor, having contributed some 90% of the donations received to date. Other donors have included Alcoa of Australia Limited, Australian Sandalwood Company Limited and the Institute of Foresters of Australia Incorporated.

The Trust funds are currently held in a Private Trust Account of the Department of Conservation and Land Management at Treasury. An annual statement of receipts and payments is made in the Department of CALM's annual report. Interest on the Trust funds has typically been of the order of \$500 per year, insufficient to fund annual awards, which have been paid for from the annual donations. Under the conditions of the Trust Deed, the Trustees are required to meet at least once a year and maintain written records of all meetings. An honour roll of Awardees is maintained by the Trustees at the Department of CALM's Headquarters at Crawley. The Trust receives clerical and administrative support from the Department with a Departmental officer nominated as part-time Secretary of the Trust.

The C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust Trustees have been as follows:

1981 - 1983	Bruce Beggs, Conservator of Forests
1981 - present	Denis Cullity, Chairman of WESFI
1983 - 1985	Pat McNamara, Acting Conservator of Forests
1985 - present	Tom Wood, representing the Field Officer Association
1985 - present	Syd Shea, Executive Director of CALM

The Secretaries of the C.E. Lane Poole Memorial Trust have been as follows:

1981 - 1986	Peter Hewett assisted by Brian Brody
1986 - 1989	Paul Jones
1989 - 1990	Alan Briggs
1990 - 1991	Rick Sneeuwjagt
1991 - 1993	Drew Haswell
1993 - present	Greg Heberle

THE AWARDEES AND THEIR REPORTS

The initial call for applications for Lane Poole Awards was dated 6 August 1982. Applicants were asked to demonstrate a clearly defined purpose for their proposed travel award of up to three weeks or study (course) award of up to six weeks. The award was to be used to extend the knowledge and experience of the officer on a subject of value to the Department. A proposed itinerary showing details of places to be visited, persons to be contacted etc and estimated costs, was required. The application form also required comments from the applicants' Officer in charge.

The initial Awardees were Paul Marsh and Ray Fremlin who took their awards in 1983. Study tour reports received from Awardees are edited and published by the Trust in a standard format, with assistance from CALM's Corporate Relations Division. Typically some 50 to 70 copies of each report are distributed to CALM Regional and District Offices and some Branches. Copies are also provided to the Trustees and CALM Libraries. Copies of all reports are held by the Secretary of the Trust at CALM's Corporate Headquarters and can be provided on request.

To 1994, 13 staff of the Department of CALM and the former Forests Department have received the C.E. Lane Poole Award. All Awardees become fellows of the Trust and are presented with a certificate.

The Awardees and their study tour topics have been as follows:

1983 Paul Marsh

Attended a three week chainsaw training course in Mt Gambier, South Australia.

1983 Ray Fremlin

Studied softwood plantation establishment and silvicultural operations including nurseries, in the south-west South Australia and south-east Queensland.

1985 Graeme Hutchinson

Investigated the radio communication systems and facilities used by other forests and fire services in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. Also visited radio equipment manufacturing companies Philips, AWA and Codan.

1987 Tony Brandis

Visited Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney to discuss human resource management activities in forest services and parks and wildlife services.

1987 Gerard Van Didden

Described the helicopter mounted firelighting device used by the Tasmanian Forests Commission for prescribed burning operations.

1988 Peter Keppel

Visited a wide range of plantation and native forest management operations in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

1989 Greg Voigt

Attended the Institute of Foresters of Australia's 13th Biannual Conference 'Forest planning for people' and visited the Australian Capital Territory to look at recreation management.

1990 André Rynasewycz

Visited South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales to investigate the way they plan and implement timber harvesting procedures.

1991 Greg Mair

Inspected aspects of fire management for exotic plantations in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

1992 Merv Smith and Derek Winters

Jointly studied computerised forest planning systems in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania.

1993 Alan Hordacre

Looked at aspects of landscape management including that related to timber harvesting in Tasmania and Victoria.

1994 Michael Cully

To study pine and bluegum breeding in New Zealand, Queensland, Melbourne, South Australia and Tasmania.

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