

# Lane Poole Award goes to Birmingham

**STUDYING** major eucalyptus oil management and harvesting operations in Victoria and New South Wales is how Tim Birmingham plans to use his C E Lane Poole Memorial Trust Award.

Tim is a senior technical officer with the Plantations Group (formerly known as VATPAS) and 1995 winner of the study tour award, announced recently by CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, who is also Chairman of Trustees of the C E Lane Poole Memorial Trust.

The award will allow Tim to observe operations that may be usefully applied to the Western Australian oil mallee project, currently being undertaken by CALM.

Tim will also visit melaleuca oil operations in New South Wales, which may provide considerable insights for local development.

He will also visit sugar cane harvesting and extraction operations in southern Queensland, as many aspects of this industry may have an application to eucalyptus oil production in this State.

Tim said that for eucalyptus oil production in Western Australia to be competitive on the international market, the industry must be developed by incorporating only the best ideas and technology.

"We must develop these ideas and technologies by evaluation of all related operations to which we can gain access," Tim said.

Principal research scientist John Bartle said that the project, which had attracted strong support among Wheatbelt farmers, aimed to develop a large-scale eucalyptus oil industry, based on mallee spe-

cies grown as dual purpose landcare and commercial tree crops by Wheatbelt farmers.

"The aim is to develop new low-priced outlets for the oil in industrial solvent markets, and to do this profitably it will be necessary to modernise technologies and operate on a large scale," John said.

Tim recently developed an oil mallee harvester, by modifying an old wheat header. (See April-May 1995 CALM NEWS).

The harvester has been used to cut many hundreds of mallee trees for the recent field days and to produce initial samples of oil for market development.

Work is now required to develop the optimum harvester design.

Factors to be considered include mobility, tolerance of ground surface conditions, width of cut, height of cut, type of cutting mechanism, transport of cut material, and effect of damage to leaf material, that is, the option of a clean-cut versus a mulch-type cut.

Work is also required with respect to planting design in relation to harvest, including plant spacing and hedge design, mallee root development and stability, and coppice growth after harvest.

Tim is hoping to gain useful information on all these aspects, while on his Lane Poole study tour.

He will compile a report on his findings within six months of his return from the tour.

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



*Pictured after the C E Lane Poole Award presentation ceremony for Tim Birmingham are Wesfi Chairman Denis Cullity, Tim, Don Keene and Principal Health and Safety Officer Tom Wood. Photo by Verna Costello*

The Trustees are Dr Shea, Denis Cullity, Chairman of Wesfi, and CALM principal health and safety officer Tom Wood.

The Trust provides financial assistance to CALM officers to participate in study tours that are relevant to their employment.

The Trust is funded by private donations, with Westralian Forest Industries

Limited the main donor.

Other donors have included Alcoa of Australia Limited, Australian Sandalwood Company Limited and the Institute of Foresters of Australia Incorporated.

The original intent of the award was to provide travel opportunities for Forest Act field staff, who had limited opportunities for interstate travel on duty.

Following the creation of CALM and the incorporation of the field staff in the public service, the eligibility criteria were broadened to include all CALM Public Service Act staff engaged in forest management activities.

Since 1981, fourteen CALM staff have received these awards to cover airfares and accommodation in the eastern states and New Zealand. In recent years,

the awards have been worth \$5 000 each.

The recipients produce reports on their findings, which are distributed within CALM and to a few organisations outside CALM.

Mike Cully was the 1994 award winner and visited the eastern states and New Zealand in March this year to look at pine and blue gum breeding operations.



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