

HOW ACCURATE ARE ANY OF OUR MEASUREMENTS?

by W.R. Wallace.

Interesting figures on the measurements of the King Jarrah at Nanga Brook are given above by Frank Quicke and Jim Williamson. A close study of these sets of figures shows some marked variations which ultimately give a volume figure suggesting a loss of 1.2 loads (approximately 2.8%) over 3 years.

Now this large tree apparently suffered heavily in the January 1961 Dwellingup fire which according to Mr. Williamson's article "Girth reduction due to fire" could have caused some shrinkage apart from actual girth loss by bark removal. This draws attention to the amazing shrinkage in bole length of 5 feet over the period. Whether this was due to the severity of the recent fire is not stated, but whatever the cause it is without doubt the reason for the $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ reduction in volume.

In both calculations a form factor of 0.6 has been used and, in view of Mr. Quain's comment on the use of this factor for Karri, it would be of interest to know if the same margin of error obtains with Jarrah. Which all means -
" could some one please measure this tree correctly".
