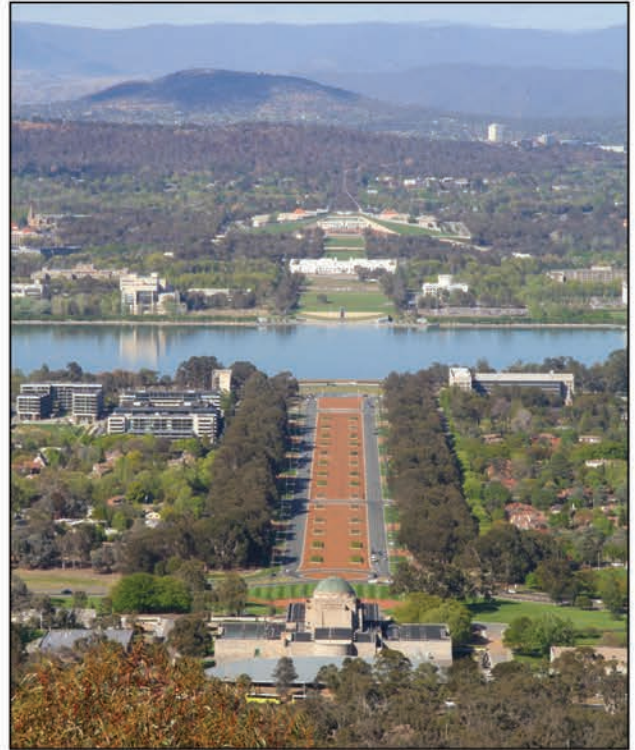
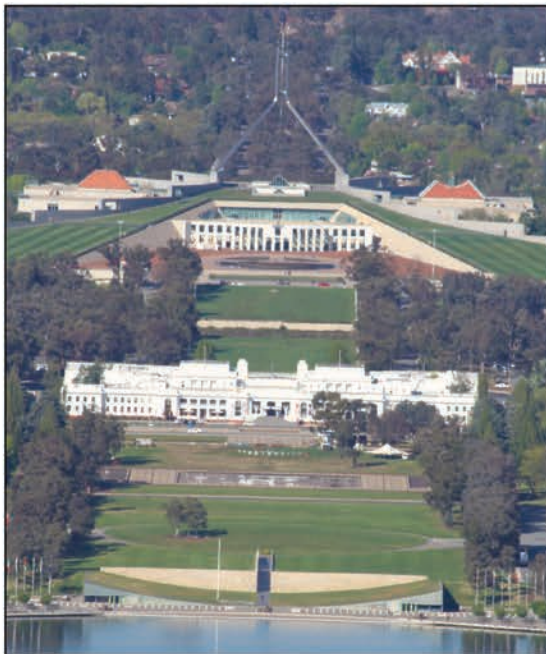


Highlights of the 2019 Canberra Meeting

- by Morris Lake #764

Monday 14 October saw 44 IWCS members gather in the Canberra Ibis Styles Eaglehawk Conference Room poised for the first day of the Australasian Annual Conference, the first ever to be held in the National Capital of this Colonial Nation. What a coincidence that Canberra should be celebrating “A Century of Australian Forestry” in their city renowned as ‘The City of Trees’, more comments about that later. *What a ‘mob’ we were!* — with representatives from all but two Australian states (the Northern Territory and New South Wales) — plus our illustrious IWCS President, Gary Green, and partner Christine Fischer, all the way from Indiana, USA. We also enjoyed the company of Graham and Judith Trost, from New Zealand. What a remarkable bunch of Aussies and others. As we gathered, the frenzied banter was so loud you could hardly hear yourself think, let alone get a word in until we were ‘brought to order’ by our conference organiser and Australasian Trustee, John Lyons. John warmly welcomed everybody, and very quickly set in motion a well organised, thought-through and well-presented program of historic and relevant information and entertainment which took us through the entire week. Following his welcome and introduction to the conference, John spent some time on the history of Canberra which gave us the opportunity to reflect. John’s insight brought to reality aspects of Australian culture and direction



Views from Mount Ainslie at an elevation of 843 m (~2866 ft.) across Lake Walter Burley Griffin to the Parliament House (photos on this page)

as a nation — including many things that we don’t often do, or even associate with as being responsible for our ‘Aussie Culture’ — if that’s not too fine a point to put on the way we Aussies think and act. As John relayed to us — *“Despite the tough early-going of two world wars and the great depression, Canberra is now the thriving centre of our democracy”* and suggested that our theme for the conference might well be subtitled: *“Canberra Heroes, Icons and Emblems”*. We thank John for his very interesting introduction and the program of activities for the week which embellished and very successfully demonstrated that objective.

Thanks John.

Additional speakers included:

- * New member Robin Cromer who discussed his father’s contribution to forestry research in Canberra.
- * Gordon Dadswell’s discussion on his father and mother’s research work in wood anatomy.
- * Steve Thomas reviewed the contribution of Lindsay Pryor as the second great superintendent of parks and gardens in Canberra, and then as foundation Professor of Botany at the Australian National University (ANU).
- * Ian Kealley spoke about his beginnings in forestry at the ANU and continuing in Kalgoorlie.
- * Dr. Matthew Brookhouse discussed the current status of forestry education at ANU.

States and Territories — Tree Emblems

Eugene Dimitriadis then announced the results of the State and Territories Tree Emblems Project which is based on the state responses received.

The results were:

West Australia — salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*)
South Australia — river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
Tasmania — Huon pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*)
Victoria — mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*)
New South Wales — Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*)
Australian Capital Territory — yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
Queensland — Queensland kauri (*Agathis robusta*)

Northern Territory — ghost gum (*Corymbia aparrerinja*).

An interesting point about these selections is that of the eight species selected, five are Angiosperms (or hardwoods) from the Myrtaceae family (four in the genus *Eucalyptus*, which evolved around 35 million years ago, just after Australia parted from Antarctica, and one is from the genus *Corymbia* — a recent botanical split from the eucalypts). The remaining three are Gymnosperms — our most ancient softwoods which evolved around 240 million years ago, one being from the Podocarpaceae family and two from the Araucariaceae family.

The list therefore represents a broad range of Australia's most ancient species, and indeed is a representation of the world's most ancient species — which I feel is highly significant — and can be woven into a magnificent story, placing the continent of Australia high on the world's most significant tree species still surviving. Eugene expressed the hope that members from each state will now make displays of their state selections in the form of wood samples, turned or carved items, seed pods and posters, as a way to attract media interest for continuing the project. The next phase of the project will be the selection of a National Tree.



Looking up to Black Mountain Telstra Tower

Canberra's Street Trees

On our way to Black Mountain, we met up with Sam Ning, Tree Protection Officer, ACT Government, to hear about aspects of street tree planting in Canberra. The most obvious feature being the extensive planting of street trees — and there are now 760,000 trees in the city, all of which are on a Tree Register and each has a legislated 5 m protection zone around it. All trimmings and cut trees are mulched, and approval is needed to remove a tree if it is still alive. Street plantings are generally a single species planting and over the years, 80-90 species have been planted and generally between 800 and 1,000 trees are planted each year. It is planned to increase this number by 20-30% in the future. The vast majority of the plantings are not Australian species.



Members attentive to Sam's talk. Note the tree-lined verge is between the main bitumen and the footpath and gutter.



Looking across from Telstra Tower to the city area of Canberra

We then proceeded to the Black Mountain Tower for morning tea, and from where we were able to view across at the vast area used in tree planting trials, which were established in the early years of forestry research. These trials were specifically for species which could be used in the future for the production of millable building timber and included mostly pine species. From the Telstra Tower we met up with Duncan MacLennan, Urban Tree Manager at the National Capital Authority, for a tour of the Lindsay Prior Memorial, a trial area of 610 ha (~1507 acres), containing 18,000 trees in total and 2,000 trees in the Arboretum. The Arboretum was started in 1954 and planting was completed in the 1960s. The purpose was to test trees for use in the city streets and parks, and none were irrigated.

The plantings were grouped into areas containing deciduous oaks and conifers, poplars, English elms, maple and cork oak. Trees were planted at various spacings as tree spacing is highly significant to the final tree form. The eucalypts included: southern blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), brittle gum (*E. mannifera*), red box (*E. polyanthemos*), and yellow box (*E. melliodora*).

Duncan told us: “As the trees are not watered and as we are experiencing the hottest temperatures accompanied by drought — so, at planting we are now dusting the roots with mycorrhizae which have a symbiotic association with [...] the plant and plays an important role in plant nutrition, soil biology and soil chemistry”. *Trichoderma* is a genus of fungi which is in the family Hypocreaceae, and is present in all soils, and they are the most prevalent culturable mycorrhizae fungi. Many species in this genus can be used to improve the growth of many tree species.



A view of the National Arboretum showing Griffin's rectangular cork oak plantation (*Quercus suber*) in the middle and his Himalayan cedars (*Cedrus deodora*) the triangular plantation to the left

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The National Arboretum

We then moved on to the visitor centre at the National Arboretum situated in the National Botanic Gardens, and once in the door, we were struck by a display called the Tree Rings and comprising a circular floor inlay of Australian native timbers.

BUT, more importantly, this major project was designed by Esther Dennis, and her local Wood Group. The Tree Ring is crafted from 17 salvaged Australian timbers, including: spotted gum, tallowwood, cypress pine, jarrah, silvertop ash, mountain ash, Sydney blue gum, brush box, red mahogany, messmate, narrow-leaved ironbark, grey ironbark, red stringybark, blackbutt, red box, river red gum, and white mahogany. Doesn't it really set the tone for all to witness the stunning beauty of Australia's timber species — which is at most times the missing link to a better appreciation of Australian natural beauty? Good on ya Esther!



Esther Dennis's spectacular circular parketry floor, laid in the entrance of the National Arboretum. Sorry about the photographic effect of the strong sunlight on the shot, however, in real life it's just amazing.



A group shot taken while we walked through the Lindsay Pryor Walk in the grounds of the Australian National University during our visit there (See Xylarium photo on the next page!)

To finish off the Tuesday program we paid a visit to the Fenner School of Environment and Society and spent time in their Xylarium with Dr. Matthew Brookhouse who spoke about the origin of the collection which contains 8,400 wood specimens. However, wood science teaching ended in 2009. But it is hoped that sometime soon it will start again. Unfortunately, this is the sort of story you tend to hear everywhere you go today in relation to wood technology. In the meantime, the collection is at serious risk of being lost. We can only hope that is not the eventual outcome.



Dr. Brookhouse (immediate front, in black shirt) addresses members, crammed into the Xylarium holding the collection, and discusses the extent of collections of this size and their importance in the future.

Guided Tour of the Old Parliament House

On Wednesday, we set off for an exciting visit to Old Parliament House which included time in both the Senate and Upper Houses. We were also entertained by WA IWCS member, Mick Cotter, Member of the Upper House of Representatives for the seat of Kalgoorlie 1975-80. Mick was able to share some of his experiences during his time there. Thanks Mick.

We also had time to examine most of the wood species used within the Foyer, Chambers and Ministers Offices.

We finished the day with a drive to Bungendore to visit David MacLaren's famous Bungendore Wood Gallery, where we were also treated to a delicious dinner in the gallery's adjoining Restaurant.



I'm not sure why John wanted to be pardoned from the Senate Gallery?

Old Parliament House



We are about to be shown through the Prime Minister's Suite and Cabinet Room.



Visit to the House of Representatives. We were all ‘present and correct’ as we were entertained by our Guides, during our visit to the old Upper House of Parliament — Just as Mick Cotter did when he was a Member of the House and he was there with us to celebrate that time.

Interior, Forestry School, Westbourne Woods, and Canberra



Members gathered around the Hall floor which is made from *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), tallow wood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), and mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*).



The wall panels are of *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) and the seat is of highly figured *Endiandra palmerstonii* (Queensland walnut) — a very rare find today.

Summary of the Annual General Meeting

The Agenda for Thursday was allocated to the Annual General Meeting in the morning, with the Wood Auction to follow. I will attempt in this report to give a brief summary of the proceedings for the day, however a full 8-page report, containing matters, such as the State and Territories reports plus, a full layout of the Financial Statements is available. This full report was handed out on the day. If you have not received a copy of that report or would like a copy, then can I advise you to contact the newly elected Australasian Regional Trustee and I assure you that you will be able to receive a copy if you are a registered IWCS member.

The meeting was chaired by David Munzberg who announced apologies from Charles and Lalleen Broadbent, Peter and Jan Simpson, Marcia Tommerup and David Greve, Laurie and Lil Keyhoe, Anne Leslie and Doug Malsem. David especially acknowledged IWCS International Trustee Gary Green and Christine Fischer, as well as six Past Australasian Trustees; and the following Australian members attending the meeting for the first time: Arnold Black, Merelyn Briton, Merilyn Kunde, Roz Akers and Carl Lutz.

Canberra Wood Auction 2019

If you have never experienced a ***Wood Auction***, then you have never lived. Well, I guess that is one way you could describe it, but the auction really is something that sends shivers up my spine.

A ground-breaking feature of the auction was Shirley Schubert joining David as auctioneer to work the group for a very successful outcome. Shirley is most likely the first woman to take on this role at an IWCS Annual Auction anywhere in the world. Congratulations Shirley.

Later, it was reported by David Munzberg that all the auction money had been collected and the total came to A\$4,674 — plus the returns from the Silent Auction of A\$998, making a grand total for the 2019 Canberra Wood Auction of A\$5,672. Well done everyone, and a huge vote of thanks to all the members who so generously donated their 'spare' wood in the first place.

This auction represents the spirit of sharing our 'finds' with other members of the group, so that we all will be 'richer' by our membership of this very 'caring' group.

Minutes of the 2018 Kalgoorlie WA meeting were moved and accepted as a true record and it was reported that the Third Edition of Australian Trees and Shrubs - Common and Scientific Names has been printed and is now available. All members will be eligible for a free copy and members of the public can obtain a copy for A\$20.

Reports from the individual State Reps were accepted and John Lyons presented his report.

Membership Secretary Jim Schubert then reported that in the last financial year we had signed up 7 new members, but that we had 10 non-renewals, so the Australian Membership numbers are now 113 with 82 partners. The report was accepted.

The Australasian Trustee then reported on our financial position with the result that we are in a sound position with total funds available allowing for normal expenditure in 2019-2020 of A\$4,475. This is after having paid for the Reprint of Australian Trees and Shrubs of A\$5,995 and before taking into account profits from this meeting.

Visit to the Woodcrafters Guild ACT

On Friday, we went by bus to the Woodcrafters Guild at Kambah for demonstrations, where Robin Cromer and fellow members of the guild generously shared their club rooms and facilities, including giving Keith Towe a chance to show off his blacksmithing skills by making a wrought iron gum leaf pendant which was presented to Christine Fischer. We also took the opportunity to buy some significant bits of wood, such as pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), which originated from a tree planted by Eleanor Roosevelt at the US Legation in 1943, and off-cuts from the long pine at the War memorial (*Pinus halepensis*).

Forestry School, Yarralumla

In the afternoon, we visited the beautiful 1927 Forestry School building in Yarralumla, a showcase exclusively featuring Australian timber, shown on the previous page.

Later we were given a guided tour of Westbourne Woods Arboretum, and were guided by Steve Thomas. This arboretum was established in 1914 by Charles Weston as a test area and nursery.



Garry Green presenting incoming Trustee, Ian Heffernan with the Aussie Gavel



Former Aussie Trustee David Munzberg presents Christine and Gary with a small, male kangaroo scrotum purse as a meeting souvenir

Line-up of former Australasian Trustees: Harry Dennis, Keith Towe, John Lyon, David Munzberg, Ron Allen, Eugene Dimitriadis and Morris Lake.



Overview

The 2019 Canberra meeting represented a 'Celebration of Australian Woods'. It took place in the National Centre of Australia - Canberra, and I am sure that every IWCS member and their respective partners took from this meeting a feeling of gratification and joy to have been part of a truly friendly meeting. All who participated were welcomed and made to feel included through their membership of IWCS, a friendly and caring organisation. We particularly give our thanks for the attendance of our International President, Gary Green and his partner, Christine, and wish you all the best for the remainder of their term. "We were honoured to have you with us for this very memorable meeting".

