

Forestry Heritage

CSIRO Precinct, Yarralumla

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Changes are imminent for this site. In 1926 the campus of the Australian Forestry School was deliberately located in Westbourne Woods to take advantage of dendrology, mensuration, surveying and soils instruction that could take place among different tree species planted there in the ten year period 1914-24 by British forester Charles Weston. In 1965, forestry education was transferred to the Australian National University but the Commonwealth Forestry & Timber Bureau and its new research arm, the Forest Research Institute stayed on until CSIRO took over the site in 1975. The CSIRO Division of Forest Research and related divisions were headquartered there until CSIRO withdrew from forest research around 2008.

The lease on the precinct, now reduced to 11 ha, was sold in 2002 under an arrangement that allowed CSIRO to sub-lease the site for another 20 years, i.e. until 2022, with the option for a further extension after that. Westridge House, formerly the AFS Principals' residence, was the subject of a separate sale around the same time. In the expectation that CSIRO will not renew their sub-lease the lesee has begun the process of re-developing the property.

The Institute of Foresters (IFA), now merged with Australian Forest Growers (AFG), wishes to see that the important forestry history of this place, represented by the heritage buildings in their Westbourne Woods setting, is respected in planning changes to the site, so is engaging with the Developer and their team as well as providing the Yarralumla Residents Association with as much heritage information as possible.

Institute of Foresters of Australia

The Institute of Foresters of Australia is the professional association of foresters, with around 1000 members. It advocates and provides professional development to ensure balanced, integrated forested land use, and sustainable forest management that meets community and environmental needs.

The Institute was founded in 1935. A note by Max Jacobs in *IFA Newsletter* vol 2, no 8 of September 1960 recalls that from 1929 to 1933 Charles Lane-Poole had founded and maintained an *Australian Forestry School Association of Foresters*. In 1933 W D Muir, then President of that Association, proposed a *Society of Australian Foresters*. Considerable discussion and negotiation followed but on December 10 1935 the *Institute of Foresters of Australia* was granted a Certificate of Incorporation. S L Kessell was its first President.

The Institute was headquartered in Canberra for much of its life, including for nearly fifteen years in the Australian Forestry School building. Its offices are now in Melbourne. In 2018, the Institute merged with Australian Forest Growers. With Divisions in each state and territory, IFA/AFG holds biennial conferences, every second conference an ANZIF conference in conjunction with the Institute of Foresters of New Zealand.

The IFA scientific journal, *Australian Forestry*, has international standing; the *Newsletter* (since 2000 called *The Forester*), founded in 1951, these days supplemented by a weekly or fortnightly *e-Bulletin*, provides members with the latest news and an opportunity to interact in print.

IFA/AFG concerns for the site

The Institute's core interests in the site are in terms of its historical significance for forestry education and research for Australia and other countries. The Australian Forestry School--one of the earliest institutions in the new capital--gave young men from around Australia, and from many other countries of the world including New Zealand, Burma, New Guinea, Thailand, Philippines, India, Sarawak, Ethiopia, Malaya, North Borneo, United States of America, Indonesia and Nigeria, training in various aspects of forestry. The Forestry & Timber Bureau, Forest Research Institute and CSIRO, which shared the site,

were responsible for research outcomes that had wide ramifications, not just in Australia but around the world.

For most of the alumni of the Australian Forestry School, the overall precinct and particularly the old campus centred on the School, Forestry House and the oval, have deep emotional and spiritual significance that can readily be revived by revisits to the site. In that place lasting memories were forged: of fellow students, of inspirational tutors, of sporting achievements and of happy social engagements. Imbued with the spirit of enterprise and scholarship generated there, most of the graduates of the AFS went on to achieve notable careers, many outstanding.

For these reasons and others, such as architecture of buildings and early plantings of trees as part of Westbourne Woods that are recognized in successful heritage citations (see later), the IFA/AFG will work towards seeing that any re-development planning fully respects the site's history and significance.

Specifically the Forestry School building, the Museum, the Printery and Forestry House and their settings should be preserved. The oval, constructed for and with the assistance of students, and elements of the original Westbourne Woods are integral in these settings, for maintaining landscapes and streetscapes, as well as contributing greatly to the open space appeal of the site.

An excerpt from Boden's 2006 report reads:

Possibly the greatest asset of the Yarralumla site, and the one in greatest need of protection, is its landscape setting. One needs only to look at the Australian National University Campus to realise how the spaces between buildings have been filled over the past ten years seriously reducing the landscape appearance. These spaces will never be recovered. Every endeavour must be made to guard the trees and spaces at Yarralumla with vigilance to avoid opportunistic development.

Foresters would welcome adaptive re-use of existing buildings and on site facilities, allowing preservation of landscape, including the oval, rather than infill building that would inevitably lead to major disruption to landscape of the precinct generally and the settings of individual buildings. The generally sound state of the buildings and other already in-place infrastructure would seem to make this an alternative to closer development worth carefully exploring.

Westbourne Woods

Forester Charles Weston was charged with selecting trees suitable for planting in the new capital being built on the exposed and windswept Canberra Plains

(Ngambri¹). He trialled different species, mostly planted in copses of nine trees, over the years 1914-1924 in an area that became known as Westbourne Woods. The history of Westbourne Woods is set out admirably in a book of that name published by Friends of ACT Arboreta (now Friends of ACT Trees – FACTT). In 1925 a site was selected inside the eastern edge of the Woods for the Australian Forestry School. This was to take advantage of the opportunities offered for dendrology, mensuration and other forestry exercises by the many different tree species established there. Young foresters then were free to roam over the full extent of the Woods but in 1962 the Royal Canberra Golf Club moved there from their soon-to-be-flooded course situated on the Molonglo River flats. By 1964 Lake Burley Griffin was full.

While moving the golf course to Westbourne Woods and the negotiated access to water from the new lake was a happy arrangement for the Club, it also benefited trees in the arboretum, which had suffered neglect and poor growth during dry spells. As early as 1949, Lindsay Pryor, a forestry graduate of the Australian Forestry School who had been appointed Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, had taken advantage of a succession of higher rainfall year to begin developing fairways and planting new trees to complement existing ones.

There was however the question of the public being allowed access to what was legally public land developed for public purposes but now under the control of a private body – the RCGC. In 1980, one year before Westbourne Woods was placed on the interim Register of the National Estate, the Westbourne Woods Action Society was formed, which resulted in monthly public walks being permitted on the second Sunday of every month. Another outcome was the book *Westbourne Woods* by Tony Rout and Ken Eldridge (1983) on which the 2011 book of the same name is based.

The most recent edition has detailed maps clearly showing the location of different tree species planted in the Woods. Many of the trees are now over one hundred years old and many—mainly those planted under the supervision of Pryor—are more than fifty years old. There are also younger trees—the result of replanting where original trees have died, or new planting by the Golf Club. Practically all the trees in the part of Westbourne Woods occupied by the CSIRO/Forestry Precinct are shown on Sheet 7 on page 38 of the 2011 book.

¹ Tony Wright, Sydney Morning Herald, November 17, 2012

Figure 9.8, page 87 in FWPA (2008) *History of ACT Arboreta* shows many of the trees on the campus labelled with their species name. Robert Boden assessed the health of trees within the CSIRO Forestry Precinct in 2006, building on the comprehensive survey carried out for the 2001 Heritage Management Plan prepared by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd². Appendix G in the 2008 Heritage Management Plan, Vol 1 of 3, contains updated recommendations for tree management on the site.

The heritage value of Westbourne Woods was recognized by its full listing on the Register of the National Estate in 1987 and shortly afterwards (1989) by being entered on the National Trust list of Heritage ACT places. In 2011 Westbourne Woods was listed as ACT Heritage³.

Australian Forestry School

Australian Forestry School

THE AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY SCHOOL CIRCA 1918 Source: Noel Butlin Archives Collection / Australian National University Archives

This was the main building of the Australian Forestry School established by the Commonwealth of Australia after lengthy negotiations. A national forestry school was proposed at the first Interstate Forestry Conference in 1911, and accepted at a Premiers' conference in 1920. Federal Cabinet approved the school in 1925, and agreed with Charles Lane-Poole, then Inspector-General of the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, that it should be established on the edge of Westbourne Woods arboretum, to take advantage of diverse tree species, especially conifers, planted there by Chief Afforestation Officer Charles Weston and his team.

Already in use from 11 April 1927, the building was formally opened on 24 November of that year by the then Governor-General, Lord Stonehaven. The first students were 16 second year students from the University of Adelaide where forestry training had commenced in 1911, plus five new students.

The building was designed in Stripped Classical style by J. H. Kirkpatrick assisted by H. M. Rolland of the Federal Capital Commission. Central to the main building is a magnificent domed octagonal hall featuring timber donated by Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Between 1926 and 1966 a total of 584 Australian, New Zealand and Asian students were enrolled at the school studying for the Diploma of Forestry. All were imbued with a commitment to the future as embodied in the school's motto *Mihi Cura Futuri* displayed over the front door. The school's flag was flown on occasions from a pole above the motto.

The building comprised:

- two lecture theatres
- a teaching laboratory
- library
- museum
- Principal's office
- Lecturers' office
- administrative offices

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INTERSTATE SECTION**

² This report was accompanied by a contoured map (0.5 m intervals) of tree species clumps at a scale of 1:1000 compiled by J. Easthope and Associates. (ACAD ref:2001/358/400 tree survey.DWG)

³This did not extend to that part of WW on the former AFS campus for reason of different tenure.

The Australian Forestry School was officially opened in November 1927 by Governor General, Lord Stonehaven. Norman Jolly had run the School from the University of Adelaide in 1926 while its more permanent premises were being built at Yarralumla, but from April 1927 Charles Lane-Poole had to act as Principal operating the School in the still-unfinished *Stripped Classical* style building designed by the Department of Works for the site at the end of Schlich Street. Fig. 7 on page 3, and Fig. 12 on page 7 of *Westbourne Woods* (FACTA, 2011) are aerial photos of the Forestry School located on the eastern edge of the Woods. The cubicles used to accommodate students at the school can be seen in the 1951 photo (lower left), while some ‘cubes’ are still there in the 1961 photo.

Lane-Poole had hoped to find a Principal for the School among the delegates to the Empire Forestry Conference that met in the new building in 1928, but they were all too senior in rank so he continued as Acting Principal—a role he filled until his retirement in 1944.

To overcome the bickering between the states and the Federal government over support for the Yarralumla-based Forestry School that saw it almost close when student numbers were seriously low in 1936, a meeting of the Board of Higher Forestry Education held in 1939 included Heads of State forest services. From then on decisions affecting the School were made by this Board, not by the Inspector-General alone.

Enrolments remained low until the end of WWII but in 1948 they reached 35 and they were above 30 in 1949 (38), 1950 (41), 1956 (32), 1961 (32) and 1963 (36), and nearly reached that number in the last intake before ANU took over forestry education in 1965. In 1948 the school enrolled its first student from overseas—U Maung Gale from Burma. More students from overseas followed including many from New Zealand. Overseas students also came from New Guinea, Thailand, Philippines, India, Sarawak, Ethiopia, Malaya, North Borneo, United States of America, Indonesia and Nigeria. As graduates, these men played important roles in their own countries, with many reaching senior positions⁴. In total, between 1926 and 1965, 584 persons studied at the school (Carron, 2000).

A meteorological station was located near the tennis courts behind the School. It was the only meterological station in Canberra from 1927 to 1939. The

⁴ Sixteen Burmese were trained in forestry at the AFS. Very brief notes on their achievements in forestry are reported in a booklet by Wells & Myint, 2018 *Myanmar Foresters in Australia*, available from the authors.

outdoor plot had a rain gauge, Stevenson screen, and a pit to house thermohygrographs for recording ground and air temperature and humidity, a glass hours-of-sunshine ball, an anemometer to measure wind speed and direction and an evaporation pan. A wind vane and anemometer were also mounted on a mast above the school and a barometer located just outside the Principal's office. Weather recordings were taken every day at 09:00 and 15:00 from 1927 to 1981. Environmental conditions at a second station on a tall wooden tower within a radiata pine plot (Tower Plot), also with a pit, were monitored for many years.

Lists of Australian forestry graduates up to 1965 are provided in IFA Newsletters 7, 3, 24-31 (U. Adelaide and AFS) and 7, 4, 29-32 (U. Melbourne). A list of all AFS graduates can also be found in Carron (2000).

The Australian Forestry School was incorporated into the Australian National University, Department of Forestry, in 1965. The Department operated initially at the Yarralumla site, transferring to the ANU Acton campus in 1968. ANU students continued their connection to the site through collaboration with CSIRO scientists during the period that CSIRO forest researchers were based there.

Westridge House

Westridge House



CHARLES LANE-POOLE



RUTH LANE-POOLE



MAX JACOBS

Westridge House is an important example of early 20th century residential architecture by the architect Harold Desbrowe Annear. The building displays an eclectic transitional style reflecting the Arts and Crafts ideals but with a simplified interpretation. It is finely proportioned with creative detailing such as built-in cupboards and windows sliding into wall cavities.

The four-bedroom house was built in 1927 when government departments and institutions were first being relocated to Canberra, as the residence for principals of the Australian Forestry School. The building is strongly associated with Charles Lane-Poole (1927-1944) and Dr Max Jacobs (1944-1961), both of whom made notable contributions to developing the Federal Forestry Bureau as well as to forester training.

After 1961, when Dr Jacobs was appointed Director General of the Commonwealth Forestry and Timber Bureau and moved out of Westridge House, Westridge House was used as offices by staff of that organisation.

When CSIRO acquired the site in 1975, the building became headquarters for the National Bushfire Research Unit for the next 12 years. It was subsequently renovated and refurbished for use as a residence again, this time for Chief Executive Officers of CSIRO.

In 2011 the lease was purchased by a private individual, allowing Westridge House to be used as his dwelling with the proviso that no additional dwellings be allowed on the site. Since then sympathetic and unobtrusive renovations have kept the building and grounds in good order.

WESTRIDGE HOUSE IN EARLY 1928

WESTRIDGE HOUSE 2010

Westridge House remains a distinctive and picturesque feature of the suburb once known as Westridge (now Yarralumla) as well as being a prominent part of an historically important forestry precinct.

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This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program

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Designed to be the Principal's residence by Melbourne architect, Desbrowe-Annear, probably with Ruth Lane-Poole's help, this imposing Tudor style two-storey building on spacious grounds adjacent to the Forestry School was occupied by the Lane-Poole family towards the end of 1928. After Lane-Poole's retirement in 1944 they made way for the new Principal, Dr Max Jacobs who lived there with his family until he was appointed Director-General of the Forestry & Timber Bureau in 1959. Westridge House then became offices for, among others, the CSIRO Bushfire Research Unit, F&TB staff, and the Secretariat of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA). In 2001, after major renovation, it became the residence of the Head of CSIRO for a short while before the lease of the building, with a large grounds, was sold in 2002 for use as a private residence with the proviso that the land was not to be subdivided and only a single residence was allowed. After some sympathetic modifications Westridge House has since been sold again by benefactors of the deceased estate with the same single residence caveat.

Forestry House

Forestry House

Opened in 1952, some 25 years after the Australian Forestry School (AFS) itself opened, this building provided comfortable accommodation for students of the school for 17 years. It was centrally heated and far superior to the 'temporary digs' in Solander Place across Banks Street that had served as student accommodation since the opening of the AFS. Accommodation in those days consisted of three converted houses, rows of lined spruce cubicles, and an old army hut popularly referred to as 'The Waldorf'.

Forestry House comprised 42 single bedrooms with hand-basins, communal bathrooms, dining room and kitchen, lounge, reading room and separate billiard room. There was also a suite for visiting lecturers. The spacious lounge room with its exposed timber roof trusses and attractive wood-panelled ceiling was ideal for balls that were once a highlight of Canberra's social calendar.

'The Waldorf' continued to be used at times of high student numbers, but from 1961 to 2011 a nurses' quarters building, relocated from Canberra Hospital, housed the overflow and also served as offices for several forestry-associated non-government organisations and companies.

SPRUCE CUBICLES IN EARLY WESTRIDGE (NOW YARRALUMLA)



LOUNGE ROOM EARLY 1960s



Following transfer of the functions of the AFS to the Department of Forestry of the Australian National University in 1965, students continued to take classes and be accommodated at Yarralumla until 1968. From that time the bedroom wing was used as office space, first by the Forestry & Timber Bureau and then by CSIRO, which leased the site in 1975. Forestry House was also previously used as a conference centre.

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ACT HERITAGE TRAIL

 **IFA**
INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS OF AUSTRALIA

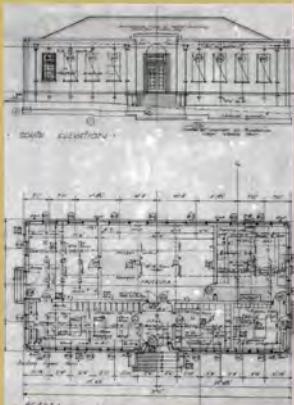
Contrast the ‘temporary’ student accommodation provided in the spruce cubicles pictured in the heritage sign above with the splendid new and spacious accommodation provided in Forestry House. The ‘cubes’ were in use from 1928 until 1952 when the new accommodation was ready for occupation. It contained 42 bed/study rooms and communal facilities including a commercial kitchen (with cook!), dining room, large lounge that doubled as a ballroom when the carpet was rolled up, games room and seminar room.

While not on the Commonwealth Heritage List, Forestry House has been ranked as highly significant in the 2018 Heritage Management Plan so, if ever the land on which it stands is removed from Commonwealth control, it is likely that nomination for it to be on the ACT Heritage Register would be successful. Buildings already recognized as Heritage, such as the Australian Forestry School and the Museum, would automatically be referred for ACT Heritage registration (ACT Heritage Council - pers comm).

Forestry Bureau

Museum Building

FORESTRY & TIMBER BUREAU HEADQUARTERS



BUILDING PLANS

Completed in 1938, this building originally housed a museum in the centre, carpenter's workshop, soils room, seeds room, papers room, and wood samples room. Although built much later, it was designed to match the inter-war Stripped Classical style of the nearby Australian Forestry School where museum exhibits were housed after the Forestry and Timber Bureau made this building its headquarters in 1946.

When the research functions of the Bureau were taken over by CSIRO in 1975, this and other buildings in the precinct were leased and maintained by that organisation. Others, including Australian Marine Science and Technology (AMSAT) and science editors Biotech, also had offices in the building.

Listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1987, the former Museum building was entered on the Commonwealth Heritage List in 2004.



**EXHIBITS IN THE AFS BUILDING
ORIGINALLY LOCATED IN THE MUSEUM BUILDING**



This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program




It wasn't until June 1930 that the Bill to establish the Federal Forestry Bureau was finally passed by Parliament. It was the onset of the Great Depression so only one researcher was appointed—Max Jacobs, who was to become the Principal of the Forestry School after Lane-Poole's retirement fourteen years later. In 1931 there was just sufficient money to employ another forester, Baldur Byles, who had returned from study at Oxford University. Later, Byles was one of the trustees who worked for the establishment of the Kosciucsko National Park. Jacobs later became Director-General of the Forestry & Timber Bureau, the name of the, by then, greatly expanded Forestry Bureau.

The first Forestry Bureau research station to be set up in the states was at Mt Burr in 1938 with the co-operation of South Australia's Commissioner of Forests, G.J. Rodger, who would succeed Lane-Poole as Inspector-General. Other research stations followed in Hobart, Tasmania in 1941, and postwar in Western Australia and Darwin, Northern Territory.

Forest Research Institute and CSIRO

Forest Research Building



Dr Neil Cromer

Built in 1967 for the Forest Research Institute. From 1975-2009 this was the headquarters of the CSIRO Division of Forest Research.

The Forest Research Institute was formed in 1961 by the amalgamation of two research divisions of the Forestry and Timber Bureau. It also brought together the co-operative research stations which functioned in several states and the Northern Territory. The new building, the long-held dream of its first Director, Dr D.A.N. (Neil) Cromer, to house the Institute, was opened in May 1967. It provided offices and laboratories, an administration area and space for a theatrette, exhibits and workshops. The Library level was added in 1975-76 to complete the facility. The building was designed to allow internal alterations to be easily carried out and there were a number of small changes over the years.



Forest Research Building nearing completion 1967

In June 1975 the research functions of the Forest Research Institute were transferred to CSIRO and a new Division of Forest Research was formed. Its headquarters were located in this building. A major refurbishment was carried out in 1996. Forest research activities on this site ended in 2009.

In April, 1961 the Minister for the Interior announced that a new Forest Research Institute was to be established under the Forestry & Timber Bureau with Dr Neil Cromer as Director. Their new laboratories, built in the grounds of

the Australian Forestry School, were ready for occupation in 1967. A Library level was added in 1975-76 to complete the facility. The Institute managed research stations in several states and the Northern Territory.

When Dr Jacobs retired as Director-General of F&TB in 1970, Dr Cromer succeeded him in the position and notable bushfire researcher A.G. McArthur was appointed Director of FRI. Five years later CSIRO took over responsibility for Federal forestry research using those FRI facilities and adding more. A major refurbishment was carried out in 1996. Research there ended in 2009 when the Division of Forest Research was disbanded after which the facilities were used by other CSIRO Divisions and private companies, but since 2018 these substantial laboratories and ancillary facilities have stood empty.

Radiata Pine Cuttings Trials

Improvement of *Pinus radiata* has been an issue for foresters in Australia and New Zealand since the species was identified as the best for softwood production over south eastern Australia and much of New Zealand.

The Forestry and Timber Bureau and the Forest Research Institute here in Yarralumla were instrumental in achieving improvement through growing trees from cuttings. The advantages of capturing genetic gain by such clonal techniques have been recognised for centuries in horticulture and remain attractive to this day. The problem is that cuttings will not strike from mature trees.

J.M. (Jack) Fielding worked on this in Yarralumla and produced many papers on the topic, for example Forestry and Timber Bureau Bulletin No. 45 (1969), 'Factors affecting the rooting and growth of *Pinus radiata* cuttings in the open nursery'. Among other things, he established that cuttings taken from trees less than 4 years of age will strike well.

In 1983, C.J. Borough obtained seed selected using the following criteria: seed should come from controlled pollination between parents that showed superior characteristics for straightness, branching habit and growth rate; and seed should be from the highest ranking families in the tree breeding programs of CSIRO, NSW Forestry Commission, Victorian Forestry Commission, Southern Tree Breeding Association, and the New Zealand Forest Research Institute.

Twenty seeds of each family were planted out to produce ortets. From these carefully labelled seedlings he took cuttings and multiplied up ramet beds. Those that rooted well were selected for field trials and from this material he grew sufficient plants to establish a number of trials in Victoria and New South Wales. A trial on a property near Captains Flat contained randomly replicated plots of 49 individual clones planted at 4 x 4 metre spacing.

DR J.M. FIELDING

Variation can still be quite large between families and between sites.

Industry has not taken up clonal forestry as one might have expected in the 1980s, choosing instead to improve growing stock by other means.

CLONAL TREES

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This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program

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ALL HUMAN STORIES TRAVELED

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The panel above highlights one major outcome from forestry research on the site, namely genetic improvement of the important plantation softwood, *Pinus radiata*.

Recognized Heritage

1984 – RAIA Register of significant twentieth century architecture - Forestry School

1987 – Register of National Estate - Forestry School and Westbourne Woods

1999 – Register of National Estate - Westridge House and CSIRO Forestry Precinct

2004 – RAIA Register of significant buildings - Westridge House

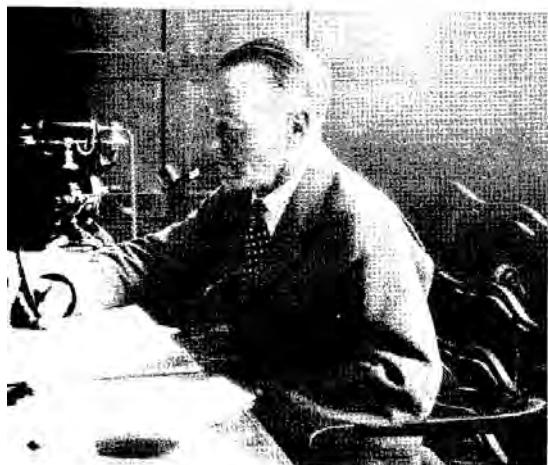
2004 – Commonwealth Heritage List - Forestry School, Museum, Printery, Westridge House, and the Yarralumla CSIRO/Forestry Precinct

2011 – ACT Heritage Council - Listing covers that part of Westbourne Woods on the adjacent Royal Canberra Golf Course but does not cover that part of the Woods on the former AFS campus for reasons of tenure

2018 – Heritage Management Plan - lists heritage significance of Forestry House as 'high' along with the Forestry School and Museum buildings. The 'Store' (or Printery) and tennis courts are given 'moderate' heritage significance rankings

Appendix A. Principals of The Australian Forestry School⁵

Charles Lane-Poole and Norman Jolly



Charles Lane-Poole in his office at the Australian Forestry School, c. 1930. (Courtesy of the State Library of Western Australia)

While Conservator of Forests in WA, and a staunch supporter of a professional training school for foresters, Charles Lane-Poole attended the first meeting of an Australian Forestry School Council in February 1921. Laurel Hill, near Batlow, was suggested as a site by NSW Government, however Victoria decided not to join the scheme so the idea languished. Frustrated by his perceived lack of success in

promoting proper forestry in WA, Lane-Poole resigned, and was eventually offered assessment work in Papua and New Guinea.

In late 1924, after two and a half years in the tropics, Lane-Poole returned to his wife and family in Melbourne and set about making his mark in Australian forestry as forestry adviser to the Federal Government. In May 1925 his recommendation to establish a forestry school located in Westbourne Woods at Westridge (now Yarralumla) was approved by Cabinet, which also accepted his recommendation that a Federal Forestry Bureau should be created ‘to assist and advise State Governments’. At the end of 1926 Lane-Poole’s appointment as Inspector-General of Forests and head of the Forestry Bureau was confirmed.

Lane-Poole appointed **Norman Jolly** as Principal of the new Australian Forestry School in 1926 just after he had finished ‘a stormy term’ as Commissioner of Forests in NSW. After only one year as Principal, Jolly was re-appointed Commissioner in NSW, leaving the School without a Principal. Charles Lane-Poole reluctantly acted as Principal from the time the Forestry School opened in Canberra in 1927 until he retired as Inspector-General of the Forestry Bureau in November 1944. He and his wife, Ruth, moved to Sydney where he undertook numerous consultancies until his death in November, 1970 aged 85.

⁵ Information in this section is largely from Dargavel, J (2008) and obituaries

Ruth Lane-Poole, as well as supporting Charles and bringing up their three children, was a respected designer in her own right. She was still living in Melbourne while the Principal's house was being built when she was commissioned to attend to the furnishing of both the Prime Minister's residence, *The Lodge*, and the Governor-General's residence, *Yarralumla*. She also helped design some of the furniture for the new Forestry School such as the 'ladder back' chair seen in the photo of Charles sitting in his office (above).

Principals who followed Lane-Poole were **Max Jacobs** and **Kelvin McGrath**.

Max Jacobs (1905-1979)

Maxwell Ralph Jacobs (Max or Jake) was born and grew up in Adelaide receiving BSc and MSc degrees from Adelaide University in 1925 and 1936 respectively. In 1926 he was appointed forest assessor in the Federal Capital Territory, becoming chief forester in 1928. A Commonwealth Scholarship took him to Oxford for a Diploma of Forestry in 1931, and to the Royal Forestry School in Tharandt, Germany, for a Doctorate in Forest Science (D. Ing.) in 1932.

Returning to Canberra, Jacobs was appointed a research officer with the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau where he conducted original research on the effect of wind sway on trees and the silviculture of eucalypts. In 1939 he studied at Yale University from where he received a PhD in 1941. He consolidated much of his research in "Growth Habits of the Eucalypts" (1955) used as a textbook by a generation of foresters.

On returning to Australia, he was mobilised in the Militia and served in Australia and PNG. In 1944 he was appointed as Principal and Lecturer in Silviculture at the Australian Forestry School in Canberra. He, his wife and two daughters (he had married in 1933) lived appreciatively for most of the next 15 years in Westridge House, leaving reluctantly when he ceased being Principal. In that time, 'the Doc' lectured to more than 300 forestry students from all states of Australia and from New Zealand, Asia and Africa. He was a foundation member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and was active in both it and the Commonwealth Forestry Association. He was awarded the IFA's N.W. Jolly Medal in 1962. He was also an active Rotarian in Canberra.

In 1959 Jacobs joined the Commonwealth Forestry and Timber Bureau and became its Director-General in 1961. For the next decade he was highly

influential in establishing forestry as a science and industry throughout Australia. After he retired in 1970 he consulted widely internationally on matters of forest policy and the propagation of eucalypts. He continued publishing papers and playing golf until he died in Canberra in 1979.

Kelvin McGrath (1908-1979)

Kel McGrath was born in Hobart and was educated at St Joseph's Christian Brothers College, Brisbane, the University of Queensland and the Australian Forestry School, Canberra. After graduating he served with the Queensland Forestry Department then, in June 1944, joined Hyne and Son, Maryborough, Queensland's biggest sawmilling company, as logging manager.

He became a lecturer in Forest Engineering and Utilisation at the Australian Forestry School in 1947. He was appointed Deputy Principal of the school in 1955 and served as Acting Principal from 1959 to 1965 when the school was transferred to the Australian National University. He was appointed Associate Director of the Department of Forestry there until he retired in 1968.

McGrath attended Yale University as a lecturer and student, earning a Master of Forestry degree there in 1955. During his career he took part in five Food and Agriculture Organisation and Colombo Plan technical assistance missions in South America and South-East Asia. In recognition of his work he was awarded the Medal of the Marshall Rondon Order of Brazil in 1972.

Kel McGrath was at various times Chairman of the IFA ACT Division, Secretary to the Council, and was a member of the organising committee for the second general conference of the Institute in 1958. In 1959 he led an historic delegation from the Institute to then Prime Minister Menzies, which assisted in creating a favourable political climate for important forestry developments during the sixties and seventies. The Institute recognised his contribution in 1966 by awarding him the N. W. Jolly Medal, their highest honour.

He was also a council member of the Royal Society of Australia and foundation member of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

After his retirement from the ANU he became a consultant to the Savoy group of companies and chairman of the group from 1971 to 1974. He was also a

director of Northern Woodchips and consultant to the Bond Corporation and its subsidiaries.

McGrath was active in general community affairs in Canberra, especially in sport. As a young man he represented the ACT in rugby league, playing against a touring English side.

In recognition of a lifetime's contribution to forestry and conservation he was honoured, in January 1979, by appointment as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Appendix B. References and further reading

B. from books (or theses, reports)

B.1 Aust Forestry School

- Boden, R.W (1993) Elegant Testimony to Native Timbers, Canberra Times 13 January
- Carron, L.T., 2000. A Brief History of the AFS (written for AFS Reunion 2000; compiled by John Gray)
- Carron, L.T. 1985. A History of Forestry in Australia
- IFA (ACT) 2010 The Forestry Anniversary Celebrations
- Wells, K. and Myint, A. 2018. Myanmar Foresters in Australia
- Wells, K 2018. Growing Stock – Biographical and career notes of some Myanmar foresters who studied in Australia (numerous class issues of 'Growing Stock' were produced for AFS Reunion 2000)

B.2 Weston

- Gray, J, 2014? Charles Weston (thesis)

B.3 Lane-Poole

- Dargavel, J, 2008. The Zealous Conservator

B.4 Westbourne Woods

- Friends of ACT Arboreta, 2011. Westbourne Woods
- Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA), 2008 A History of Australian Capital Territory Arboreta
- Boden 2016 Tree Management, CSIRO Forestry Precinct and Westridge House

B.5 Heritage Plan

- E.R.M., 2018. CSIRO Yarralumla Heritage Management Plan
- Wells, K., 2020. AFS, F&TB, FRI, CSIRO, Westridge House, IFA on Yarralumla Site - Chronology