

Trans-Tasman Forest History: First Announcement

**Seventh Conference of the
Australian Forest History Society
29 January to 2 February 2007
Christchurch, New Zealand**

Where? For the first time, there is to be a forest history conference in New Zealand! The AFHS conference will be held in University Hall, a residential college of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, with additional facilities provided by the University's forestry school. The Hall has a conference room, accommodation in single rooms, and provision for meals. For those preferring other accommodation, a list of nearby motels will be provided in mid-2006 with the registration brochure.

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand, with direct flight links to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, and elsewhere. As one of the least forested parts of New Zealand at the time of European settlement, Canterbury Province became an early centre both for indigenous conservation and for exotic afforestation.

Visitors to Christchurch who wish to experience native forest in its fullest glory, both nothofagus and mixed podocarp, need only travel via Arthur's Pass to the West Coast.

What? In line with the six previous conferences, the New Zealand conference welcomes papers and presentations on every aspect of Australian forest history, and it is anticipated that there will be a strong

attendance from Australia. As the first Society conference in NZ, however, there will undoubtedly also be a major contribution from New Zealanders, with greater than usual emphasis on NZ environmental and forest history.

The conference has been described as a Trans-Tasman Forest History Conference to encourage participants to consider links and comparisons between NZ and Australia's environmental experience. Historical outlooks on both indigenous and exotic forestry and forests, as well as some papers on other environments, will be included.

For New Zealanders interested in their past and present forests, this is a unique opportunity to assess their country's experience and to place it in an international context. Those from beyond the Tasman are also encouraged to attend and share their knowledge and perspectives.

When? The conference will run from the evening of Monday 29 January through to the end of Friday 2 February 2007 and will include two full days and one half-day of papers, one afternoon and one full-day field trip, and a conference dinner. Field trips will be at least to Riccarton Bush and Banks' Peninsula, with other possibilities further from Christchurch.

Who? Australian Forest History Society conferences aim to be inclusive and sociable. They attract people from many different disciplines, occupations and walks of life. They provide a venue for the exchange of knowledge and outlook between foresters, activists, local people, and historians, geographers, biologists and other academics. Everyone is welcome.

The Australian Forest History Society

was formed in 1988 and has members in Australia, New Zealand and other countries. It has held six earlier national conferences, in ACT, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia. Earlier conference proceedings have been published, most of them in association with the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies in the Australian National University, Canberra, ACT. The Society produces a regular newsletter and maintains contact with similar organizations devoted to environmental and forest history in other countries.

The aim of the Society is to advance historical understanding of human interactions with the environment. While the Society's main emphasis has been on Australian forest and woodland environments, previous conferences have also included contributions on forest environments in New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific, and on ecosystems other than forests. The Society does not provide a forum for advocacy of environmental or forest policy, but welcomes different perspectives. The Society operates without sponsorship. New members are welcome, but membership is not a condition for conference attendance.

For more information on the Australian Forest History Society Inc. and the latest information on the New Zealand conference, see the AFHS website:

<http://cres.anu.edu.au/envirohist/afhsociety.html>

Please e-mail the following details to

starmulq@es.co.nz

or mail them to Paul Star/Australian Forest History Society, History Department,

University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Expression of Interest Form

Please record my interest in the seventh AFHS conference 2007 and send me further details when they are available.

Title..... First Name
Surname
Address.....
.....
.....Post Code
Telephone
E-mail
I am interested in attending.....
I would like to offer a paper on
.....
For accommodation I would prefer:
Single room in University Hall.....
Self-book in nearby motel.....
Make own arrangements