

Forestry manual fit for Waterloo cricketer



BY ROBERT DYASON

Farm Forestry – A Technical and Business Handbook edited by Neil, Davidson *et al*, University of Tasmania, 2006.

This accomplished and wise tome edited by five leading Tasmanian forest professionals throws down the gauntlet to the five states and two territories of the north island of Australia. Which state other than Tasmania can muster 27 experienced and lucid forestry professionals from within the state and get them to agree and cooperate for long enough to write a book like this? For my money, the answer is 'none' and in New South Wales I don't think there's a chance of it happening in my lifetime, which I hope is for a goodish while yet. What's more, the book is easy to read.

Therefore, this book says volumes about the health, profitability and longevity of forestry and its downstream processing sector in Tasmania and conversely a bit about the cohesion and level of public-private unanimity of forestry policy and purpose in the rest of the country. While this circumstance might give us occasional pause for reflection, it is an unintended consequence of its publication, and does not bear on the quality of *Farm Forestry* or its usefulness for Tasmanian farm forestry or indeed the rest of the country. Happily, I rate that level of usefulness as very substantial for the southern states and it may well prove to be a page-turner in the deep north, except for those particularly Tasmanocentric chapters, of which there really aren't too many. Perhaps a cricket tragic amongst us might even make a gift of a copy of *Farm Forestry* to Andrew Flintoff before he is sent into lifetime exile on the island of St. Helena.

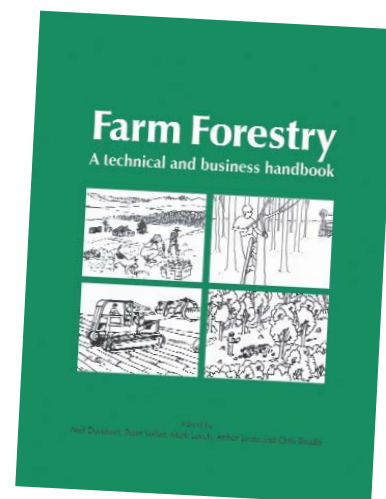
The book is divided into three roughly equal parts. The first deals with planning and business aspects of farm forestry and offers a primer on the Tasmanian forest practices system, the (again Tasmanian) private reserve system, tax, estate planning with a forestry twist and several chapters on marketing and product quality aspects. Discounting as a financial forecasting tool is mentioned and explained in two chapters in this section. Having myself attempted to explain discounting to a forestry audience, I enjoy reading other people's efforts to do so and given the variation in approach between the two authors in this book, what otherwise might have been condensed into one chapter is

probably best left as two separate and entertaining disquisitions.

The second part consists of 15 chapters on management of native forests on farms. Subjects covered comprehensively are conservation, specialty timbers and forest health and predation, with one shortish chapter on the use of fire in farm forestry. There is one nine page chapter on silviculture, which I regard as being distinctly on the thin side for such an absorbing and complex subject area. Additionally, unlike the fire chapter (also shortish), the chapter on silviculture offers only one reference for further reading.

I would have liked to have seen separate chapters on the silviculture of several forest types, and would have sat up in bed and absorbed them all.

The third part of the book is about plantation forestry and provides a workmanlike treatment of the usual plantation subjects. Of particular note is Chapter 32, Matching species to site. Happily, the Tasmanian plantation sector is so well-established that the arcana of site-species selection are relatively demystified and we have on offer a short but pithy statement based on the tempering effects of personal experience. Treeplanters from New South Wales and Queensland, read this and weep. We can do little but stare with envy at the simplicities of Tasmanian site-species matching.



Farm Forestry – A Technical and Business Handbook retails for \$35 plus \$10 postage and is available from the **School of Plant Science, University of Tasmania – ph: 03 6226 7603; fax: 03 6226 2698.**

Reviewer Rob Dyason is a northern NSW farm forester and AFG Vice-President.



www.pentarch.biz



Pentarch Forestry Services is the procurement arm of Pentarch Forest Products who are Australia's largest softwood exporter. PFS has access to port facilities in - NSW QLD SA VIC TAS and WA, plus road and rail connections.

PFS offers a total forest management program including:

- Softwood and hardwood purchases
- Sawn timber sales
- Chipwood marketing
- PFS harvesting system
- Management reporting invoicing and payment
- Marketing to domestic users

For further information contact:

Matthew Deretic - National Resource Manager	Mob: 0402 271 822
Stephen Allan - Regional Manager Geelong & Eden	Mob: 0402 270 612
Des Jeffree - Regional Manager Portland	Mob: 0412 234 548
Rayna Brown - Regional Manager WA	Mob: 0402 067 664
Jason Fitzgerald - Regional Manager QLD	Mob: 0412 396 312

Pentarch Forestry Services

Level 1 Kings Garden Estate
99 Coventry St. South Melbourne Vic 3205 Ph: 03 9681 6755 Fax: 03 9682 9533