

**Batini, Frank Edward** (based mainly on Roger Underwood (1987) "Old Growth Foresters. The lives and times of West Australian Foresters" and *The Forester* June 2013 and April 2015.



Graduated from Australian Forestry School in 1962. Worked in Forests Department Harvey in 1963, Tallanalla for 6 months, then Harvey Working Plans Office 1964-68. Research officer in Dwellingup, Kelmscott and Como after that. Completed a Masters Degree at Oxford in 1972. Was then Regional planner for Northern Region. Was seconded to the Darling Range Study Group for 2 years, 1979-81. Manager of CALM's Environmental Protection Branch for 15 years, based in Como. Retired 2001.

### **News item in *The Forester* June 2013**

Western Australia

*WA honours Frank Batini*

Foresters and partners celebrated International Day of Forests 2013 at the Mount Henry Tavern in Perth. The 35 people present enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon as several old friends renewed acquaintances.

Meritorious service certificates were presented to Karl Kelers, Peter Kimber and John Robley. Alex Hart, who was unable to attend, was also honoured with a certificate.

Frank Batini was a popular recipient of the WA Forester of the Year (2012) award, a curly-grained jarrah jewellery box, suitably engraved. Frank is a highly regarded WA forester and noted for his intelligence, scholarship, courtesy and charm. Graduating from the Australian Forestry School in 1962 with the Schlich medal as top student, Frank enjoyed a successful career with the WA Forests Department, culminating in management of the department's Protection Branch for many years. Since leaving government employment in 2001, Frank has worked as a land and environmental consultant, including some pivotal work in jarrah forest catchments near Perth. Over the past few years Frank was the consulting forester for the Water Corporation's Wungong catchment project which has proven the value of thinning for forest health and water yields.

### **News item in *The Forester* April 2015**

We congratulate the five people who have been recently awarded Fellow membership

### **NOMINATION OF FRANK BATINI TO BE INVITED TO BECOME A FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS OF AUSTRALIA**

Frank Batini is one of Australia's longest-serving members of the Institute of Foresters and one of Australia's most notable foresters.

#### ***Education***

Frank Batini graduated with a BSc (Forestry) from the University of WA in 1964, with a Diploma of Forestry (with Honours) from the Australian Forestry School in 1962, where he shared the Schlich Medal with John Wardle, as the most outstanding students in the class. He was also awarded an MSc from Oxford University when he studied at the Commonwealth Forestry Institute at Oxford in the early 1970s. He has travelled widely, studying forestry in Europe and North America.

#### ***Professional career***

Following graduation from the Australian Forestry School, Frank Batini was appointed as a forester to the professional staff of the WA Forests Department. He worked as a research officer, undertaking important research into the management of jarrah dieback disease (in association with Dr Frank Podger of FRI), and then in forest inventory, where for a number of years he was Officer in Charge of the department's Working Plans Branch at Harvey.

After his return from Oxford, Frank Batini was seconded to the Darling Range Study Group (DRSG), an interdisciplinary research and

planning group (reporting to the Premier) developing a land use framework for the northern jarrah forest. At that time there were emerging conflicts between catchment management, bauxite mining, dieback protection, forestry and agriculture in this area and no mechanism for integrated planning. It was Frank Batini's job to represent forestry interests on the study team, but because he was also experienced in all aspects of disease and bushfire management, catchment protection and outdoor recreation, he was a prime contributor to the study. The final report of the DRSG was considered a milestone in multiple use integrated planning in WA. When the WA Forests Department was incorporated into the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), Frank Batini was appointed Manager of the Department's Environmental Protection Branch. In this position he oversaw interactions with a wide range of agencies and industries, including the pastoral, mining and tourism industries, across the whole state. It was significant that he was able to bring to bear forestry and land use planning principles in this work. Throughout he ensured he presented a positive image of foresters, a profession where practical solutions to land management and environmental problems could be developed without sacrificing good science.

During the period in which he worked for CALM he was seconded on a number of occasions to advise other agencies, including the WA Environmental Protection Agency.

Following retirement, Frank Batini has worked as a consultant to government agencies and mining companies on catchment protection, land management, restoration ecology and land use planning. Most notably he developed the Wungong Catchment studies to demonstrate the value of forest thinning and fire management to water production and forest conservation.

He also acted in a voluntary capacity as an Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University where he helped and mentored graduate students working on forestry-related research projects, and lectured in environmental management undergraduates. For several years (before it became defunct) he Chaired the University's Centre for Excellence in Forest Health, and was active in encouraging participants to take forestry principles and history into account in their research.

#### **IFA**

Frank Batini joined the IFA in 1963 and has been a member since, including serving on the State Committee. He is a responsible and active member, attending meetings and field trips, organising field trips, drafting submissions and letters and putting forward comments on forestry issues.

He has attended interstate IFA and ANZIF conferences where he has presented papers and contributed to seminars, and has published papers in the Journal and articles in *The Forester*.

#### **Personal**

Frank Batini is an exemplary representative of the forestry profession. Throughout his career he has been recognised for his quiet and serious demeanour, for his preference to argue on the basis of science rather than emotion, and on his courteous relations with others.

He is held in the highest regard by his peers in the fields of forestry, environmental protection and catchment management, not just in WA but across Australia. He is proud of his profession and of his membership of the Institute. We recommend that he be invited to become a Fellow of the Institute.

*Submitted by Roger Underwood and Jack Bradshaw  
October 2014*