

## Underwood, Roger John



Roger Underwood is a forester, writer and historian. Born in Perth and educated at The University of Western Australia, Roger worked for nearly fifty years in forest conservation, research and bushfire management. At Australian Forestry school 1961-62, OIC of the cadet (or 'Trainee') graduates in Dwellingup 1963/65. After the course finished and the trainees dispersed, Underwood took study leave and spent the following two years at the University of Washington in the USA. Thesis "A study of the effect of pruning on the longitudinal distribution of radial growth in Douglas-fir" Master of Forestry, 1967. On his return he was appointed Divisional Forests Officer at Mundaring, but shortly after was transferred to Pemberton, the start of a 20-year period in the karri forest as a DFO and in the Southern Forests Region. Took redundancy from CALM in 1994.

He has published >6 books on forestry and bushfire history, a history of botanical science in Western Australia and numerous papers and popular articles. His latest project is the story of forestry in India during the British Raj and its subsequent influence on forest conservation throughout the world.

Roger self-publishes. He says his books are too narrowly focused to interest a commercial publisher, and that he enjoys maintaining personal control over the final product. He opts to work always with the same editor, Jan Knight, and graphic designer, Louise Burch, because of the satisfying professional rapport that has grown up between the three.

Books published by York Gum Publishing include *Leaves from the forest*, *Echoes from the forest*, *Tall trees and tall tales* (with John Morris), *Tree Climber*, *Old Growth Foresters*, *Tempered by fire*, *A botanical journey* and *Foresters of the Raj* (in press).

Roger Underwood has been a professional forester with a career in forest and bushfire management. He has been Chair and founder of the Bushfire Front, an organising dedicated to best practice in bushfire management in Australia; a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia; and a writer, having published five books on forestry and forest history.

Books include:

- Report on overseas education investigation, April-May 1985 / Roger Underwood (1985)
- *Leaves from the forest* : stories from the lives of West Australian foresters / Roger Underwood (editor) (1987)
- *Echoes from the forest* : stories from the lives of Australian foresters / Roger Underwood, editor (1990)
- *Forests for the future* / by Syd Shea and Roger Underwood (1990)
- *Forestry and the media* / Roger Underwood (1990)
- *Managing in tough times* : a paper for the 1990 managers meeting / Roger Underwood (1990)
- *Tall trees and tall tales* : stories of old Pemberton / by John Morris and Roger Underwood (1992)
- *Rebuilding the cathedral* by Roger Underwood (1998)
- *Conservation and use of Western Australian forests* : the perspectives of WA foresters / Roger Underwood and Jack Bradshaw (editors) (2000)
- *Conservation in the karri forest* / by Barney White and Roger Underwood (2000)
- *Tree climber* : the education of a forester / Roger Underwood (2003)
- *Old growth foresters* : the lives and times of West Australian foresters : a personal account / by Roger Underwood (2006)
- *A botanical journey* : the story of the Western Australian Herbarium / by Roger Underwood (2011)
- *Foresters of the Raj* : stories from Indian and Australian forests / Roger Underwood (2013)