

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 183 dated March/April 2016

### Observations Swan WEWS January 2016

Joe Clark introduced **Ian Keilly** who is the Manager of the Parks, Forest and Wildlife in the Goldfields.

Ian advised that he had held this position for 37 years and he then went about delivering an excellent talk of the diversity of the timber species throughout the Goldfields Region.

Ian advised that the region had huge varieties of wood which were dense, very hard and were ideal for wood turning and furniture making.

He went on to explain how in the early pioneering days of the Goldfields wood was extremely important for industry. Huge amounts of timber had to be used to drive the steam engines which were necessary in nearly every part of the region. Ian explained how much of the timber was difficult to work with given how hard it was yet if one was prepared to work at it fantastic results could be achieved.



Ian advised that at least 100 different species of Eucalypt were present in the area as well as a vast amount of Mulga. He used maps to divide the area into several regions and went through each region explaining the type of wood that was found in each one.

He explained that the Great Victoria Desert was in fact wrongly described as a desert given the vast amount of Mallee Trees that could be found there. He reminded us that the Nullarbor Plain translated to no trees

however this was also not entirely correct given the large range of timbers that could be found there. Ian brought along with him several hundred pieces of timber which were found in the Goldfields Region.

He advised that much of it was regrowth area given that between 1936 and 1972 some 30 million tonnes of timber which equates to 1200 tonnes of timber a day, were brought into Kalgoorlie alone.

Lastly Ian advised how his group had supported many wood turning, furniture making and musical instrument making groups with expeditions into the region to collect different species of timber. He advised how the timber parts of bag pipes were especially sought after by makers of the instruments.

All in all, a very interesting presentation on the timber available in the Goldfields.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 196 dated May/June 2018

### **Observations Wandii WEWS March 2018**

After lunch, **Ian Keilly** from Kalgoorlie presented a very informative talk on native tree species. His special area of interest is arid region timbers, but his work has covered other areas of the southwest. Ian had brought with him an amazingly comprehensive display of wood samples from mostly native trees. He talked about wood characteristics supported with visuals in a slide show. Ian explained the features and function of the various parts of a tree, e.g., bark, sapwood, heartwood. He also described the growth stresses in a tree and how they might affect the way the grain develops in both trunk and branches. Heartwood colour is a result of the extractive functions of the cells, the actual colour being dependent on the minerals being extracted from the ground where the tree is growing. His talk also covered moisture in wood with regard to seasoning and shrinkage but noted that the air-dried density of wood is the usual standard by which the density of a species is measured. Throughout the presentation, Ian was taking and answering questions and proved to be an amazing source of information. Thank you, Ian, your passion for native timbers really shines through