WAITE ARBORETUM SEAT FACT SHEET: Dr. D. T. BLACKBURN 1951 - 2015

(Arboretum seats, memorial seats, history features)

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Dr. DAVID T. BLACKBURN 1951 – 2015



Photo: Terry Langham (June 2016)

1. NAME - DOB - DOD: Dr David Thomas BLACKBURN 29 February 1951 - 8 May 2015

- Occupation: .Palaeobotanist and businessman (CHAN, 2016)
- **Seat location:** enter the 2nd gate on the right hand side of Walter Young Drive from Fullarton Road and walk south towards Elm Avenue. The seat is facing the east.
- **Nearby tree species:** #811, D7 *Koelreuteria paniculata* Golden-rain Tree, Pride of India SAPINDACEAE China., Korea. 1930





Photos: Terry Langham

"A passionate researcher and advocate for environmental awareness and protection"







Photos: Terry Langham. #811, D7 Koelreuteria paniculata Golden-rain Tree, Pride of India, winter 2016 ground leaf litter, foliage and bark



2. QUALIFICATIONS: Dr. David Thomas Blackburn

3. AREA OF RESEARCH: Palaeobotany

4. RESEARCH SPECIALITY: Palaeobotany

5. FURTHER INFORMATION - SOME WORDS OF HUMOUR, INTERESTING FACTS, ETC:

The David Greenwood article *Miocene wood from the LaTrobe Valley coal measures, Victoria, Australia* reference list includes Dr D. T. Blackburn

"An initial study of a collection of fossil conifer wood is reported from the late early Miocene Yallourn Clays, an interseam unit intergrading into the base of the early to middle Miocene Yallourn seam of the LaTrobe Valley, Victoria in south eastern Australia. The fossil wood shares characteristics with the modern genera Dacrycarpus and Dacrydium. On the basis of contiguous, uniseriate tracheid pitting and 1-2 podocarpoid cross field pits, it is placed in the form genus Podocarpoxylon, and the new species P. latrobensis. The wood is compared with extant Podocarpaceae and other Australian fossil woods. Its ring anatomy is consistent with low temperature or rainfall seasonality in the early Miocene" (Greenwood, 2005).

David Greenwood Acknowledgement of D. T. Blackburn in his *Miocene wood from the LaTrobe Valley coal measures*, *Victoria*, *Australia* article.

Acknowledgements

The collection and original analysis of the fossil wood was made while based (1981) in the former Botany Department, University of Adelaide, and was funded under a State Electricity Commission of Victoria research grant to D.T. Blackburn and D.C. Christophel. I would like to acknowledge the support afforded to me by the Botany

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D. T. BLACKBURN & I. R. K. SLUITER

This chapter presents the results of the authors' separate and conjoint studies of the palaeobotany, stratigraphy and palaeoecology of the Latrobe Valley Coal Measures, a thick sequence of coal seams and interseam clastics in the Gippsland region of southeastern Australia (Figure 14.1).

The Latrobe Valley Coal Measures are of Middle Eocene-Middle Miocene age and were deposited after the separation of Australia from

a palaeogeographical, ecological and evolutionary viewpoint. Baragwanath & Kiss (1964), Partridge (1971) and Stover & Partridge (1973) were more concerned with establishing stratigraphic relationships with the microfossils. The last of these studies, of pollen and marine microfossils, developed a long-accepted biostratigraphy for the basin.

Recently the biostratigraphy has been revised

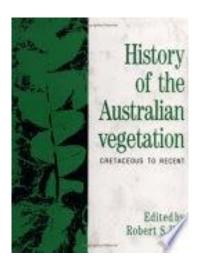
The conclusion from BLACKBURN, D.T. & SLUITER, I.R.K., 1994. The Oligo-Miocene coal floras of south eastern Australia, 328 – 367 article in the *History of the Australian Vegetation Cretaceous to Recent*, R.S. Hill, ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Oligo-Miocene coal floras of SE Australia

359

CONCLUSION

This combined macro- and microfossil study of the Latrobe Valley coal floras demonstrates conclusively the value of such an approach when appropriate sediments are available. The correlation between the two approaches, which has often been considered notoriously unreliable, is shown here to have real value in interpreting several aspects of past environmental conditions. The complexity of the floral associations through time and space are now being unravelled and offer an unparalleled opportunity to examine the evolution of the Australian flora during a critical phase in climatic and edaphic transition. Future studies will sharpen the current picture, and should be encouraged as a major opportunity to examine the effect of long-term environmental change on species and community evolution.



History of the Australian Vegetation Cretaceous to Recent, R.S. Hill, ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

IOP

NEWSLETTER 3

APRIL 15, 1977

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY

SUBSECTION FOR PALAFOBOTANY, INTERNATIONAL UNION BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
PRESIDENT JAMES M. SCHOFF...COLLYMBUS, OHIO USA VICE PRESIDENT E. BOUREAU...PARIS, FRANCE
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"EDITOR'S" NOTE

Dear Friends:

I have written several statements intended to preface this issue of the Newsletter. For one reason or another all have

proceedings, describe regional bibliographies and how to obtain them, as well as other pertinent information of wide interest.

b. Collaboration with officers responsible for programs of international botanical congresses to ensure the inclusion of items of paleobotanical interest in the program.

Visits from overseas palaeobotanists and a successful PB section at the 2nd Australian Geological Convention of February 1977 have helped maintain an upsurge of interest in the discipline in Australia.

Francis Hueber from Washington, D.C. (USA) spent a month in Melbourne working on Lower Devonian fructifications and consulted with Jacquelin Tims, currently completing her Baragwanathia Ph.D. Sid Ash (Utah) and Ruth Stockey (Ohio) attended the Convention. Later Sid went collecting with Rod Gould (Armdale, New South Wales), Jack Douglas and Paul Bolger (Geological Survey, Melbourne). Any wild stories about Sid being forced to climb enormous mountains to the point of exhaustion should be ignored!

The Palaeobotany Section at the Convention was a triumph for the convener, Rod Gould, who may have abstracts if anyone is interested.

The main topic was Angiosperm evolution.

John Rigby Pre-Cretaceous evidence
Jack Douglas Mesozoic beginnings
Mary Dettman Cretaceous palynological story
Helene Martin Tertiary palynological story
Dirk Hos Tertiary Palm Pollens
Dave Christophel & Dave Blackburn South Australian
Eocene flora

Peter Kershaw North Eastern Australian Quaternary vegetation.

Mike Garratt also contributed on the topic of the age of the oldest Baragwanathia beds and there was further discussion during a post-session dinner.

during a post-session dinner.

"Geological" palaeobotanists were informed of the forthcoming 1981 IBC at Sydney and aid was sought for excursions and programming.

Jack Douglas

Page 1 (title page section) and a part of page 3 of IOP International Organisation of Palaeobotany 15 April 1977

Research:

BLACKBURN, D.T., 1980.

Floristic control on lithotype

banding within the Yallourn Seam, Yallourn Open

Cut; evidence from macrofossil assemblages. S.E.C. Victoria, Palaeobotany Project, Major Report 2 (unpublished).

BLACKBURN, D.T., 1985.

Palaeobotany of the Yallourn and Morwell Coal Seams.

S.E.C. Victoria, Palaeobotanical Project, Report 3 (unpublished), 121pp, 53 plates.

6. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

7. PHOTOS:

8. REFERENCES:

GREENWOOD, D. R., 30.9.2005. Miocene wood from the LaTrobe Valley coal measures, Victoria, Australia. *Alcheringa* 29, 351-363. ISSN 0311 5518.

History of the Australian Vegetation Cretaceous to Recent, R.S. Hill, ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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