



# **Lieut. Theodore Norman Stoate**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: B grade (1914-15) A Grade (1915)**

**Degree: BSc. (Forestry – 1918)**

**Diploma of Forestry (Oxon, 1931)**

**MSc. (1934), DSc. (1953)**

## ***Background***

***Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.***

***On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.***

***The following documentation relates to the life of Theodore Norman Stoate. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## The AIF Project

<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=289324>




### Theodore Norman STOATE

Regimental number	11110
Place of birth	Adelaide South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	Prospect Road, Prospect, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs B. Stoate, same address
Enlistment date	20 December 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	7 January 1916
Rank on enlistment	Driver
Unit name	S.T25.16.3C25
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A19 <i>Afric</i> on 9 June 1916
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	35th Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 10 September 1917

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## Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8089792>

<b>OFFICER</b> <b>W 1788</b>		<b>MILITARY FORCES.</b>
<b>AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.</b>		
<b>ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD</b>		
No. <u>2346</u> <u>11,110</u>	Name <u>STOATE</u> <u>Herndon Norman</u>	Unit <u>B. Coy</u> <u>2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.</u> <u>25 A.S.C.</u>
Joined on <u>20.12.15</u>		<u>7-1-16</u>

<b>Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.</b>	
1. What is your Name? ...	1. <u>Herndon Norman Stoate</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of <u>Adelaide</u> in the County of <u>South Australia</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...	3. <u>NB</u>
4. What is your age? ...	4. <u>20 1/2</u>
5. What is your trade or calling? ...	5. <u>University Student (Forestry)</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married? ...	7. <u>No</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...	8. <u>Mother, Mrs Bessie Stoate</u> <u>Prospect Rd Prospect</u> <u>South Australia</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy?	10. <u>No</u>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ...	11. <u>2 yrs in Naval Cadets, 2 yrs in Cadets, 2 1/2</u> <u>20th A.S.C. still serving</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...	13. <u>No</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day? ...	14. <u>Yes</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ...	15. <u>Yes</u>

I, Herndon Norman Stoate do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children

Date DEC 2 1915 J. N. Stoate  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

## ***Australian Dictionary of Biography***

**Biography - Theodore Norman (Bill) Stoate**  
by Jenny Mills



***Theodore Stoate***  
***Date Unknown***  
***Photo supplied by Murray Stoate***

Theodore Norman Stoate (1895-1979), forester, was born on 13 January 1895 at Stepney, Adelaide, son of Alfred Thorne Stoate, draper, and his wife Bessie, née Haskins. 'Bill', as he was nicknamed, attended the Collegiate School of St Peter and studied forestry at the University of Adelaide (B.Sc., 1918; M.Sc., 1934; D.Sc., 1953). On 20 December 1915 he suspended his course and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. In March 1917 he was commissioned and posted to the 35th Battalion on the Western Front. He was gassed at Messines, Belgium, in June and invalided home; at this time his hair turned prematurely white. Lieutenant Stoate's A.I.F. appointment terminated in Adelaide on 14 January 1918.

After graduating, Stoate joined the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in 1919. Three years later he was seconded to the Forests Department, Western Australia, for six months. He was to stay there for thirty-one years. In 1923 he was appointed assistant working plans officer; by 1927 he was assistant conservator to S. L. Kessell. On 7 July 1924 at St Mary's Church of England, Busselton, he had married Marion Frances Josephine Brockman; they had two sons before she died in 1930. Awarded a (Sir) Russell Grimwade scholarship that year, he sailed for England and entered the University of Oxford (Dip.For., 1931).

Back in Western Australia, Stoate investigated suspected nutrient deficiencies in *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus pinaster* plantations. When he observed trees near a wire fence thriving more than others, he deduced that they did so because zinc from the fence had leached into the soil. He subsequently found that 'irregular and abnormal' growth

was due to a lack of superphosphate and minor elements. In 1939-40 he was seconded to the Woods and Forests Department, South Australia. Returning to Perth, he served as deputy-conservator (1941-45) and conservator (1946-53).

A solitary, academic widower, Stoate disliked the hurly-burly of political manoeuvring and detested what he called 'pannikin bosses'. He was happiest in the bush. Even there he always wore a neat suit and polished boots. Once, after a day's work, he helped to fight a karri wildfire. Removing his jacket and braces, and using his tie as a belt, he borrowed a shovel and toiled all night beside a bulldozer to build a fire-line. He returned to his office early in the morning. The bulldozer driver later asked: 'who was that old bugger swamping for me last night—he wasn't bad!'

The royal commission into forestry and timber matters reported in 1952 that 'the forest policy of the State is considered to be sound in principle, and soundly administered'. Nevertheless, after pressure from some timber merchants and a change of government, the new Labor minister and former forests department draftsman H. E. Graham did not renew Stoate's appointment in 1953.

Stoate became an international forestry consultant. Between 1963 and 1971 he held a series of research positions at the college of forestry, University of Washington, Seattle, United States of America. He encouraged young Australian foresters to undertake postgraduate study at the university, helped many with their research, and often treated them to a hearty steak and a pint. In Perth and at Seattle he lived in a sparse hotel room. At the age of 70 he still bounded joyfully up four flights of stairs to his office. Survived by one son, he died on 12 April 1979 at Busselton, Western Australia, and was buried in Karrakatta cemetery, Perth. *Eucalyptus stoatei* was named after him.

#### Citation details

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## Additional Biography

As the biography above and the obituary at the end of this document give many details of Bill's life and work, the profile below will mainly add some details of Bill's early life, time at Adelaide University plus relevant newspaper articles and photographs.

### Early Life

Theodore Norman Stoate (Bill) was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1895 the son of Alfred Thorne Stoate and Bessie Haskins, at Stepney, Adelaide. He was baptised at All Souls', St. Peters, SA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1895. His siblings were Reginald Thorne (1888), Amy Lilian (1888) and Veda (1897). Bill's father was a draper.

### Schooling

Bill attended North Adelaide Public School where he passed his Primary Examinations in 1908. He then attended St Peter's College, Adelaide in 1909 and 1910, passing his Junior Examinations in 1909 and Senior Examinations in 1910. He spent two years in the Junior Naval Cadets and two years in the Senior Cadets.

### University

Bill commenced studying toward a Bachelor of Science in forestry at Adelaide University in 1912. He suspended his studies in December 1915 to enlist in WWI.

## University Sport

### Football

Bill played football for Adelaide University in the B Grade in both 1914 and 1915. He was a member of the B Grade team, which won the Adelaide Students' Association Premiership in 1914. In 1915 Bill also played some games for the A grade in the Amateur League.

#### 1914 – Adelaide University B Grade - Adelaide Students' Association Premiers



#### *T.N. Stoate – Back Row – 2nd from Left (of those in guernseys)*

(Note back row has 10 names for 12 people - Identification of Stoate is based in part on the known position of Harry Pomroy – the shortest member of the back row)

In late July 1915 Bill kicked 17 goals from 17 shots playing for the 'Varsity B's. (Still an AUFC all grades record - equal with Tony "The Ox" Ravesi in the 1960s)

#### General Notes.

C. Sharpe (Sturt) had his back badly bruised by an opponent in last Saturday's match, and is now in a private hospital.  
Stoate, for 'Varsity B, kicked 17 goals in 17 shots in a match last Saturday—something like a record.

## World War I

Bill enlisted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1916 (SN 11110) and listed his mother Bessie Stoate of Prospect Road, Prospect, as his next-of-kin. He was a month short of 21 years, 5' 9½", 148 lbs, with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and fair hair. He enlisted as a Private but by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1916, he was a Driver in the No 4 Coy Div Train. He embarked onboard the *HMAT A19 Afric* on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1916 and arrived at Southampton on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1916. He joined No 4 Officer Cadet Battalion at Oxford and was appointed a Second Lieutenant on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1917.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1917, Bill proceeded overseas to Etaples, France from Tidsworth, UK and was taken on the strength of the 9th Infantry Brigade. 'On the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1917, in company with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. S.G.B.



Wigginton and Sergt. D. Short, he entered the enemy trenches and remained 20 minutes during which time German literature was placed in conspicuous position.' The G.O.C. 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde congratulated Bill by having the quoted "Laudatory" placed on his service record.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1917 Bill was wounded but remained on duty. On the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1917 Bill was wounded (gassed), however he remained on duty until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1917. He was sent back to England on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1917. In the cable reporting that Bill was wounded he is noted as being with the 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion (late 25<sup>th</sup> Army Service Corps). He had myalgia, mild. On 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1917 he was appointed a Lieutenant.

STOATE (9)

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
4-17.	G.O.C. 9th Bde	LAUDATORY. The G.O.C. 9th Inf Bde desires to congratulate this Officer. On the night of 31st March 1917, in company with 2nd Lieut S.G.B. Wigginton & Sergt. D. Short, he entered the enemy trenches and remained 20 minutes, during which time German literature was placed in conspicuous position. (Extract from 9th Inf Bde R.O. 254)			
2/6/17	3 <sup>rd</sup> Div HQ	Wounded still at duty	Field	1/6/17	AK 130/14
6/6/17	DAA6. Lt 2	Wounded still at duty	"	1/6/17	AK 130/14
8/6/17	G.O. 35 <sup>th</sup> Bn	Wounded still at duty	"	1/6/17	AK 130/14
23/6/17	O/c 24 Gen Hosp.	Adm. - myalgia	Etaples	23/6/17	AK 130/14
23/6/17	O/c 77 A.F. Amb.	Adm. sent to C.C. Lt. P.U.O.	Field	21/6/17	AK 130/14
22/6/17	O/c 35 Bn.	Sick to hospital	"	21/6/17	AK 130/14
23/6/17	O/c 2 C.C. Lt.	Adm. myalgia	"	21/6/17	AK 130/14
4/7/17	O/c 24 Gen Hosp.	To England	Etaples	21/6/17	AK 130/14
4-7-17	C.B. Hosp.	2nd Lt. Adm 3rd Gen Hosp.	Windsor	6-7-17	AK 130/14
6-7-17	A. 24 Gen Hosp.	Promoted direct	"	25-6-17	AK 130/14
		Returned to Australia per A. 38.	England	10-9-17	AK 130/14
		P.A.H. after P.U.O.	"	21-6-17	AK 130/14
		Invalided placed on	"	21-6-17	AK 130/14
		seconded list	"	21-6-17	AK 130/14

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455. STOATE THEODORE NORMAN

Mr. A. T. Stoate, of Prospect, has been notified that his son, Second-Lieut. T. N. Stoate, has been wounded in France.

Bill, having been declared medically unfit for further active service was repatriated back to Australia on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1917 onboard the HMAT A38 Ulysses and arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1917. Bill was placed on the Reserve of Officers and granted a half-pension of £2 per fortnight from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1918 for six months.

### Career and Family Life

Bill returned to his studies at Adelaide University in 1918 and graduated B.Sc. (Forestry) in December 1918. He then joined the New South Wales Forestry Department, staying there until 1922 when he was 'lent' to the Western Australian department for six months.

Bill remained in WA and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1924, at St Mary's Church of England, Busselton, he married Marion Frances Josephine Brockman. The couple lived at 13 Regent Street, Mt Lawley and had two sons, Hugh Thorne Stoate



(b 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1927) and John Thorne Stoate (b May 1930). Tragically Bill's wife passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1930 at Perth, WA aged just 33 years.

**LATE MARION FRANCES  
JOSEPHINE STOATE.**

It was with sincere regret that Busselton and district residents learned of the death of Mrs. Theodore N. Stoate, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Brockman, of "Westlawn," Busselton, the sad event having occurred in Perth on Monday last. The deceased, who was only 33 years of age, was well known locally, having lived for some years in Busselton prior to her marriage. She leaves a husband and two small children, the youngest a month old.

The remains were laid to rest in the Church of England portion of the Karrakatta cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

In June 1930 Bill was awarded the Russell Grimwade scholarship. He travelled to Melbourne on the Western Express on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1930 but was back in Adelaide before the 31<sup>st</sup> of August when he left on the 'Esperance Bay' for Perth (4<sup>th</sup> Sep) and then for London. He studied at the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford, UK and was to travel in Germany, France, Spain, Portugal and Mediterranean ports. Bill's two young sons would have remained in Australia with extended family as they were not on the passenger list of the 'Ionic' for Bill's return to Australia in December 1931.

**FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP.**



Mr. T. N. Stoate, Senior Assistant Conservator in the West Australian Forestry Department, has been awarded a scholarship entitling him to a post-graduate course at the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford.

**FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP**

**Mr. T. N. Stoate Selected**

The successful applicant for the travelling scholarship in forestry founded last year by an endowment of £5,000 from Mr. Russell Grimwade, of Melbourne, is Mr. T. N. Stoate (senior assistant conservator in the Western Australian Forest Service). An announcement to that effect was made by Mr. A. Blakeley (Minister of Home Affairs).

Mr. Stoate, who is 35 years of age, is a South Australian. He began his forestry training at Adelaide University in 1912, and gained the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1918 when invalided home after having served for three years at the war with the Australian Imperial Forces.

He has had an extensive and practical experience in forestry, obtained in New South Wales, Western Australia, and South Australia. In 1923 he was appointed working plans officer in Western Australia, and four years later secured his present position.

Candidates for the scholarship were required to hold the diploma of the Australian Forestry School, or the Adelaide forestry degree, and to have completed by June 1, 1930, not less than two years' practice in the forestry service of the Commonwealth or in one of the State services.

The scholarship, which amounts to about £500, is tenable for a year. Mr. Stoate will be required to leave for England in August to begin his post-graduate course at the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford in October.

# FORESTRY RESEARCH.

## Perth Student in Europe.

After an absence of nearly 18 months abroad, Mr. T. N. Stoate, Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests in this State, returned to Perth last week. Mr. Stoate was the holder of the first Russell Grimwade travelling scholarship awarded in 1930, and has been engaged upon silvicultural research under the direction of the Imperial Forestry Institute. He gained the diploma in forestry of the University of Oxford.

Speaking of his work at Oxford, Mr. Stoate said that the Imperial Forestry Institute had been established at Oxford as a central institution of the Empire for the higher training of forest officers, for training in research, and for the conduct of research into forest production. The range of forestry knowledge had increased enormously in the last 20 years, and particularly in the last decade. While formerly a single teacher of forestry might have been able to impart to students all that was required by them, no longer could one or two men deal effectively with all the subjects. As specialisation developed the position became more complex. The institute aimed to relieve ordinary forest schools of the more specialised training and of those branches of instruction which it was most difficult for them to provide.

The Institute, Mr. Stoate said, provided a means of giving practical instruction in the latest systems of forest management as practised in Europe, to men trained in those parts of the Empire where there was no direct means of giving this instruction. The Oxford School of Forestry, to which the Institute was attached, had regular conducted tours of short duration in France, Switzerland, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, which was attended by men attached to the Institute. The normal work, however, necessitated that the greater part of the period of study under the aegis of the Imperial Forestry Institute, must be spent in the field. It was customary for this field work to be done in France, Germany, or Switzerland, the main reason being that it was easier to secure in those countries forests which had long been under systematic management. The processes had, therefore, reached some degree of stability, and, generally, the forests presented more complete examples of the normal forest than could be obtained elsewhere.

Forestry in Great Britain was an artificial forestry based on the artificial establishment of new forests, and in that practice Great Britain had outdistanced any other European country. Establishment experimentation, race studies, and sample plot work in growth measurement had been developed to a greater extent there than elsewhere in Europe. The Forestry Commission of Great Britain was using the field experiment methods in agriculture, involving plot replication, and statistical assessment in the analysis of results, developed at Rothamsted Experimental Station, though those methods had not, as yet, proved so valuable in practice as had been expected.

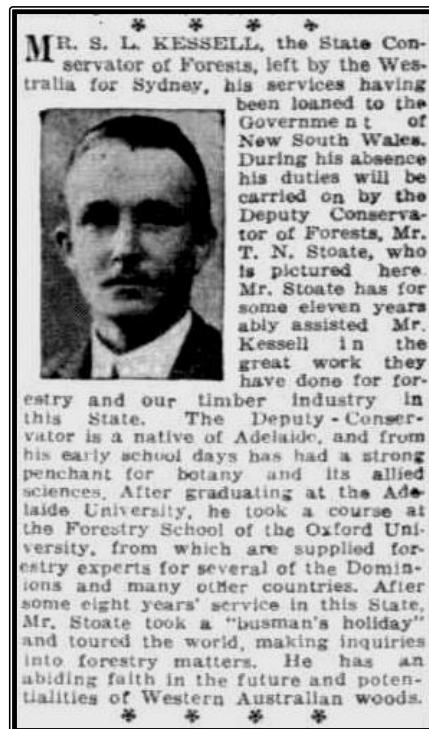
In the field of forest ecology, Mr. Stoate said, the importance of which had secured only tardy recognition, a tremendous amount of private work had been carried out in England, and this, particularly in its association with aerial reconnaissance, was ahead of any Continental work.

## Work in Australia.

Foresters in Australia had been engaged in improving the forests under their care. They all had the same aims, namely, to convert the wild, unattended forest to one which was nearer normality—to one which would yield a continuous supply of timber. The silvicultural system and the method of management adopted were, of course, based on European practice, the technique being developed to suit the peculiar local conditions of our eucalypt forests. A West Australian forester in Europe could not but be struck by the fact that the technique of our rather extensive forestry compared very favourably with that developed in the densely populated and older European countries, where proper forest management had so long been practised.

The forester in Western Australia was fortunate in having such excellent material to work on in a valuable belt of hard woods carrying a high volume and with a shorter regeneration period and growing more rapidly than European forests. The remarkable growth of Australian soft-wood plantations seemed well known, but the comparatively rapid growth of Australian hard woods was not so generally recognised, Mr. Stoate said. Forestry in Western Australia had a similarity with that in most European countries, in that it was not a matter of trial and experiment, but of sound management of an existing industry.

In April 1933, Bill was living at 13 Regent Street, Mt Lawley and was driving a De Soto car. He became acting State Conservator of Forests in December 1933 when Mr. S. L. Kessell left for Sydney on loan to the NSW Government.



Bill completed a thesis on pine establishment experimentation in Western Australia and was awarded his Master of Science from Adelaide University in December 1934. He was acting Conservator of Forests again in 1936 when Mr. S. L. Kessell was on loan again, this time to New Zealand for two months. By 1937, Bill was living at Busselton, WA and was driving a Pontiac.

Bill enlisted as a Private (SN W82137) at Bunbury, WA on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1942. His WWII record is not yet open to the public. His 15-year-old son, Hugh Stoate, was listed as his next-of-kin.

In January 1944 Bill was elected president of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and in January 1946, he was appointed Conservator of Forests for WA.

Bill was selected to represent WA at the fifth British Empire Forest Conference in England in June 1947.



*T.N. Stoate – At Left*

July 1947

## EMPIRE FORESTRY CONFERENCE

### Mr. Stoa's Comments

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, June 30.—The West Australian Conservator of Forests (Mr. T. N. Stoa) has left for Scotland for an extended field inspection of Scottish pine plantations in connection with the forestry conference now sitting in Britain. He will return to London on July 7, and the conference will end on July 19. Mr. Stoa and other delegates will later visit Europe to study forestry there.

"This conference is proving immensely valuable," said Mr. Stoa. "There are 95 delegates and associate delegates from all parts of the British Commonwealth, and we are able to pool our problems and solutions. Most timber problems are common problems throughout the Empire. Canada, for example, is the only Dominion without a timber shortage.

"While it is unlikely there will be an early solution of the problem, we are working towards more intensive culture and the bringing of trees to maturity earlier. I am sure we will obtain valuable leads in developing pine plantations. By visiting Scotland and Europe we will be able to see the results of work started 200 and even 300 years ago, and so obtain a complete picture of what our efforts are likely to lead to."

In 1949, a series of articles about forestry were written by Bill and published in the 'Western Mail' and later that year he hosted the interstate forestry conference in Perth.

### December 1949 - Forestry Conference - Perth



Delegates to the interstate forestry conference which began in Perth last week discussing matters of importance before the opening. Left to right: Messrs. J. Brown (N.S.W.), F. G. Gerraty (Victoria), B. H. Bednall (S.A.), V. Greening (Queensland), P. Unwin (Tasmania) and T. N. Stoa (W.A.) seated.

*T.N. Stoa – Seated*

In May 1951, Bill gave evidence before Geoffrey J. Rodger, the Royal Commissioner on Western Australian Forests and Timber and a fellow Adelaide University graduate in forestry.

**May 1951**



*T.N. Stoate and G.J. Rodger*

In September 1952 Bill hosted and international forestry conference in WA with delegates coming from 18 countries to study the WA eucalypt.

**September 1952**



*T.N. Stoate – Second from Left*



Bill was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science from Adelaide University in April 1953. In October 1953 he was succeeded as Conservator of Forests by A.C. Harris, B.Sc.



Bill became an international forestry consultant. Between 1963 and 1971, he held a series of research positions at the College of Forestry, University of Washington, Seattle, United States of America.

Sadly, Bill's elder son Hugh passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1966, aged only 39 years.

## Death

Theodore Norman Stoate died at Busselton (Western Australia) on 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1979, in his eighty-fifth year.

The obituary below was published in *Australian Forestry* 1979 Vol. 42 No 2, pp. 61–62.



## Obituary

### Theodore Norman Stoate

Theodore Norman Stoate (Bill to his many friends) died at Busselton (Western Australia) on 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1979, in his eighty-fifth year.

His passing will be felt, not only by those of his contemporaries who are scattered throughout Australia, but also by younger foresters, whom he taught in New South Wales and in Western Australia, and of whom many held important positions in Australian forestry.

Although a somewhat diffident, or perhaps merely shy man, Stoate had an uncanny knack of encouraging and inspiring his colleagues and also those who served under him.

Forestry was his life and he never spared himself in its cause.

He was born in South Australia in 1895, and his early background commenced, after a period of secondary education at St. Peter's College in Adelaide, when he started his forestry training at the University of Adelaide in 1912.

Like all his contemporaries in the forestry course (six in all), he interrupted his studies in order to enlist in the A.I.F. in 1915. After gaining his commission, he was wounded in France and invalided home in 1917.

His University degree completed in 1918, he joined the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in 1919 and was appointed lecturer-in-charge of the newly formed forestry school for sub-professional staff at Narara. The school closed in 1921 and in 1922 he was loaned by the New South Wales Government to Western Australia for six months to conduct the forest guards' school at Ludlow in that State.

He accepted an appointment as Assistant Working Plans Officer in the Forest Department of Western Australia in 1923, and in 1930, by which time he had risen to the position of Senior Assistant Conservator, he won the first Russell Grimwade Scholarship for study at Oxford and in European forests, and later was awarded his Diploma of Forestry (Oxon.).

Back in Western Australia, he continued his forestry career with tremendous enthusiasm, coupled with a gift for really enjoying very long hours and comparatively hard work in order to further the forestry interests of the State, finally being appointed Conservator of Forests for the statutory period of seven years.

In the meantime (1938), he had found the time and energy to submit a successful thesis for the degree of Master of Science of the University of Adelaide. As to be expected, this was not to be the end of the academic road for the indefatigable Stoate, as, shortly before he relinquished office as Conservator of Forests, he was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science in the University of Adelaide (1953).

In 1947 he represented Western Australia at the Fifth Empire Forestry Conference in England. In 1950 he was one of a three-member team forming the Australian Sirex Commission working in Australia and New Zealand and the following year he accepted an invitation to participate with a Canadian firm in a survey of the utilization of their pine plantation in Kaingaroa in New Zealand. Since then, he continued his almost kaleidoscopic forestry career in a private capacity which involved assignments dealing with varying forestry and range management topics in every continent in the world, with possibly most of his time spent in Canada and the United States. Following some years as Research Officer for two very large firms (MacMillan Bloedel of Canada and the Simpson Redwood Co. of California), in 1962 he was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, U.S.A., and also lecturer in range management. Subsequently he was appointed as Research Professor.

His publications are legion, commencing in 1920 (*Australian Forestry Journal*), and his latest was published in the United States, fifty-five years later. His articles can be found in forestry journals in Australia, Canada, United States and England.

His enduring passion was to find out what made things tick, particularly in the field of plant nutrition. South Australia, and almost certainly other countries also, have reason to be grateful to him for the research work that enabled him to find that zinc deficiency was responsible for the crippling "die-back" disease in young plantations. Without this knowledge, South Australia could never have reached the pre-eminent position in plantation forestry that she held for so many years. Other States of Australia are similarly reaping benefits. This is merely one instance of his intense application towards the successful solution of many forest problems.

In his private life, Stoate owned a cattle ranch (as he always called it), known as Reinscourt, for many years and it was here, at infrequent intervals owing to his other commitments, that he carried out much experimentation and research in the field of pasture management. Vale, Dr. Stoate, a brilliant forester and agriculturist, and always a man's man.

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***Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee***

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