Foresters of the Raj
Stories from Indian and Australian forests
by Roger Underwood
FORESTERS OF THE RAJ is the sixth book on forests, botany and forestry history by Western Australian forester and writer Roger Underwood. Here, he turns to 19th century India, the cradle of the forest conservation policies and management practices that were later adopted in Australia and many other countries.

The book contains intriguing portraits of the heroes of international forestry such as Dietrich Brandis and William Schlich, and their protégés: the fathers of Australian forestry including Norman Jolly and Charles Lane-Poole. And it allows the first Indian foresters to recount their own stories and adventures, as they grappled with the challenges of conserving and protecting India’s forests and wildlife, establishing plantations, and unravelling the mysteries of unusual tree species such as teak and sandalwood. As they did so they had to survive man-eating tigers, bushfires, rogue elephants, a harsh climate and the diverse and fascinating Indian people.

The historical sources for the stories are described with professional insight and humour, reflecting the author’s fifty years experience as an Australian forester.

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