

# **Preliminary Report Bankwest *Landscape* Conservation Visa Card funded project**

## ***Undertake monitoring of the lancelin island skink***

**By Gina Broun**

Between the 23 – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004, much needed monitoring of the only known persistent population of the rare Lancelin Island Skink; *Ctenotus lancelini* was undertaken with the assistance of a Landscape Visa card grant of up to \$1,755. Due to a lack of resources, no monitoring had been undertaken since the 1996 study.

The trust funding provided the basic operational materials and some travel costs incurred by CALM staff undertaking the monitoring. A total of \$1664.45 of grant funds was spent on the monitoring trip (Table 1). CALM Moora District and Science Division provided the time of the staff themselves and Barbara Jones volunteered several days towards the monitoring, contributing significantly to the success of the project.

The establishment of traps and trapping was conducted by Dr David Pearson (Principal Research Scientist, CALM Woodvale), Gina Broun (Moora District Conservation Officer) and Barbara Jones (volunteer). Trapping and monitoring protocol was established based on the previous 1996 study by Barbara Jones<sup>1</sup>.

At various locations across the island, 72 traps were installed and a total of 97 lizards were captured over four days. Of this number, 26 were Lancelin Island Skinks and these were caught, measured, toe-clipped for marking and released. No fatalities or trap injuries were recorded.

Most of the females encountered were gravid, carrying 3-5 eggs. They were captured on grids across the Island indicating the population appears stable and well distributed.

The monitoring trip has confirmed the persistence of a breeding population of the rare Lancelin Island Skink on its island home, for the first time in 8 years. Whereas statistical analysis and comparison to the census in 1996 has not yet been completed, the monitoring trip has provided CALM with valuable information on the population and can certainly be regarded as a success.

Dr Dave Pearson will undertake a comparison between the results of the 2004 trip and those of 1996 over the next few months. Details of the monitoring trip will also be included in the *Lancelin Island Recovery Team Annual Report 2004*.

Photos of the trip are included in Appendix 1)

Description of purchases	Amount excluding GST
Materials (Pit traps, covers, hardware sundries)	785.04
Meals and accommodation	458.26
Vehicle and vessel running	421.15
Total	1664.45

*Table 1) Expenditure detailing the use of grant funds*

Appendix 1) Photographs of the monitoring trip 23 – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005

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<sup>1</sup> Jones, Barbara (1996) *Report: A Field Study of the Lancelin Island Skink Ctenotus lancelini*. For the Department of Conservation and Land Management. CALM, Bentley, Western Australia



Image 1) Dr Dave Pearson processing one of the Lancelin Island Skinks



Image 2) Adult *Ctenotus lanceolini*