



NOT FOR
CALM LIBRARY

EDITORIAL

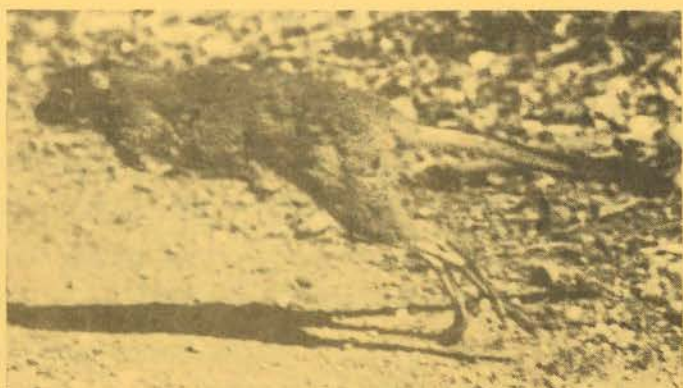


● Meet Tom Leftwich (left) and Mike Cully, on the job near Perup.

Mike was assisting Tom with the assessment of a Woylie population reintroduced to the area some twelve months previously. The study is a small part of the Manjimup research programme, and is aimed at re-establishing native fauna in areas which have become depleted.

After an overnight stop in one of Tom's wire 'motels', with a 'breakfast' of peanut butter, the Woylies were checked over - weight, ear tags and teeth - before release.

Judging by the number of joeys in tow, the new families seemed to be well settled in the new district.



● Another Woylie hits the road after his first annual check-up.

It is not surprising that the Forests Department logo, designed in 1922, put 'Production' at the top and 'Conservation' at the bottom.

Australians, then, were few and far between and many forests were seen to be 'in the way of progress'.

But times have changed and policies and practices, though modified, are in urgent need of new direction. People are under considerably more stress and much of the environment is in danger from outdated management, pollution and disease.

Though presently bogged in committees and hindered by tape, the general concepts of the proposed Land Management Division do give balanced weight to the values of recreation and conservation, so long promoted by people with foresight.

At last, 'greenies' are gaining respectability

Their role has been one of education - mass education - and it has been a battle. Some have been upset by their tactics, many have been inconvenienced, but their sole aim has been to make people think. To think for themselves, about life on earth and what can be done to improve it.

No one was ever given a harder job - certainly few governments encourage it.

You may love them or leave them, but any person (group) who can slow the acquired momentum of government (big business) long enough to change its direction deserves respect.

I. K.

Last year, almost half of all lost time accidents in the Forests Department resulted in injured backs. As our contribution to the reduction of these injuries this year - The Year of the Back - we reprint the following article by Dr. Edwin Knight.

Think of yourself in a mini skirt

Unfortunately our backs are liable to injury, not only from heavy lifting, but also from just bending.

The discs which separate the vertebral bodies of the spine undergo degeneration from age 20.

To avoid damage to the discs and also to the other elements of the spine, such as ligaments and joints, you should learn how to lift and bend correctly.

Most emphasis is on correct lifting and people may then remember to lift correctly, but feel they can bend the wrong way without any risk.

The back should always be straight. It need not be vertical but you should avoid bending at the waist.

When the mini skirt first became popular some years ago, the number of back injuries in young office girls dropped considerably.

This was because the girl had to be careful how she bent down to get to a filing cabinet or to pick up something from the floor.

Bending from the waist and keeping the knees straight only hoisted up the skirt and she could no longer retain her modesty.

When you bend, you should always keep the back straight. If you learn correct lifting and bending techniques, you should be able to keep working in your manual job until you are ready to retire.

But if you use incorrect techniques you may do yourself an injury at any age. Older backs do not stand up to the abuse of wrong lifting as well as younger ones.

Putting you and your workmates into mini skirts might not go down too well in a tough timber town, but I guarantee this would reduce the number of bad backs.

If your back aches, then your doctor can arrange for you to learn exercises so as to keep the back mobile.



When you earn your living from the strength of your back, you should look after it.

Next time you bend, imagine yourself in a mini skirt.

NOTICEBOARD

'Publications' are looking for coloured photographic material suitable for the promotion of all forest values - particularly wildlife - in poster form.

If you have a favourite 35 mm "tran'y" or postcard, please forward an 8 x 10 colour print for their careful consideration.



Viva! Discovery Holidays have organized 'Wildfire '84', an educational tour of California to study fire fighting techniques in the U.S.A.

Tours (departing monthly April - September '84) will be escorted by Wayne Lawrence, group captain with the City of Wollongong Bush Fire Brigade. Wayne has been associated with the Bush Fire Brigade movement for the past 23 years, in Western Australia, South Australia and N.S.W.

For further details contact a Traveland Agency.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

As a woman forest worker, I would like to register my offence at your printing the joke (?) on p.4 (Bush Telegraph Vol.1, No.1) which had been seen "on a notice board at Manjimup". I think it completely trivialises the very real struggle of women against the use of sexist language, as well as displaying a complete misunderstanding of the issues involved. Your choice to print it can only serve to condone and, thereby, further re-inforce such misguided attitudes.

If this is your idea of engendering "team spirit", then I can only conclude that the team will be an all-male one.

Anon., Manjimup.

Editor: The extract, taken from the amended notice board memo, was published to further publicize the need for change and some of the delightful idiosyncrasies of the English language.

No "team" effort is required to realize that a closed female mind is as bad as a closed male mind. - I.K.

★ RESEARCH PAPER PUBLISHED !!

Have you read Research Paper 73? Out now, and available from Publications Section. This fascinating treatise on the effect of zinc application on the growth of *Pinus radiata* on sands of the swan coastal plain, by Hugh Chevis, has implications for all involved in pine growing. Be up to date and well-informed. Fill those awkward pauses in conversation, and amaze your friends with your breadth of knowledge. You might even find practical solutions to your work problems.

Ring Robyn on ext. 325, Como for your copy, today!

'Bush Telegraph' is the staff journal of the Forests Department in Western Australia. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department and articles published should not be taken as statements by the Department or the West Australian Government.

All enquiries and comments should be directed to Ian Kay, the editor, phone Como HQ ext. 329.

The Morning After

Fred was telling us at morning tea (first day back at work), about "children and the Christmas Spirit."

With his wife and Santa, Fred celebrated long after their son had been persuaded to go to bed, and it was late when the last of the wrapping was done.

No sooner in the sack, and a cry from junior heralded a change of naps - it was Fred's turn.

A bit of a struggle, but he went through the motions (not a pun) and returned to bed having barely opened his eyes.

With first dawning came stirrings from down the hall -

Shuffle, Shuffle, thump - pause - grunt --
Shuffle, Shuffle, thump - pause - grunt -
Shuffle, Shuffle - - -

It needed investigation but Fred and wife, not quite with it, rolled over and slept on as the sun rose higher.

At last a tug on Dad's whiskers jerked him to life and pleasant surprise at the late hour of Christmas morning.

"Merry Christmas son", he said, thankfully. "You're up late."

"No", said his son with a forlorn shake of his head, and he pointed to his feet both coming from the same leg of his pyjamas.

Magic of the Tree ☆☆☆

Trees provide much more than a welcome and shady respite from the hot summer sun.

Indeed, forests are acknowledged as the world's principal air conditioner.

The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is estimated to be equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

And, the temperature may be as much as 10 degrees cooler under the forest canopy.

It is now widely accepted that the combined cooling and humidifying activity of a forest is roughly the same as that generated by an equal area of ocean.

The process a tree uses to pour moisture through its leaves or needles into the surrounding air is called transpiration.

At Dwellingup Research Station, John Bartle and a team of technical assistants (including Kim Whitford and Rick Giles) have been studying the transpiration from young jarrah trees.

In particular, they have set out to relate rates of transpiration to conditions such as humidity and the heat of the sun.

The experimental site looks like something out of Doctor Who. Huge 10-storey scaffolding towers support all enclosing tents which can be hoisted to cover a complete tree some 26 m tall.

Wires, cables and guy ropes rush off in all directions and a family of motors whirl and hum at the touch of a finger. Only during an experiment is the plastic tent lifted into place.

At the base of the tent, long steel ducts introduce a smooth flow of air up the trunk to be accurately measured for increased moisture content at the top.

The new information is recorded on site.

John points out that jarrah's use of water is exceptional (some 10 litre/hour on a mild day), because the species has developed a superior root collection system, rather than control water loss through the leaf surface.

This of course leads to particular problems on sites where dieback fungus attacks the main roots and cuts off the supply.

But, as John says, understanding the problem is more than half way towards learning to cope with it - and that's what his research is all about.



The whole idea of Bush Telegraph is to hold a two way conversation with you. Sit down and put pen to paper, or give us a call. Let us know

What you are thinking ...
What we should be doing ...
Any ideas or comments ???

Contributions (limited to about 400 words), original cartoons, letters, photographs with captions, minutes from meetings, notices of meetings, club talk and staff gossip ... all welcome.

Address to : Ian Kay
The Editor
Bush Telegraph
Forests Department
COMO W A 6152

or phone HQ extension 329 for further information.