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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE



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NOT FOR LOAN

## Stars of the East

Some of the Department's most interesting projects are well away from mainstream forestry. In places near Narrogin and Kalgoorlie, trees are more important for survival than production.

In Narrogin, Steve Gorton runs a very tidy nursery operation, aimed at supplying settlers in the southern wheatbelt with trees suitable for amenity planting, crop and stock shelter, and control of salinity and erosion. Steve and his crew also keep an eye on the adjacent Numbat and Wandoo of the Dryandra, and any spare time goes into upgrading recreation facilities and the formation of walking trails. They also collect local seed for processing at Como.



Bob McAlinden and Paddy Kirby, at work on the new benches at Narrogin. Bob started at the nursery in 1955 - so he knows his 'babies' well.

Last November the nursery seeded some 120 thousand jiffy pots and brought in another 90 thousand from Hamil. About 60 varieties of seedlings are raised under shade until the end of February, and are sold to farmers and local councils in May. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is the most popular though *E. sargentii* is more salt tolerant.

Recent developments at Narrogin include the raising of the nursery beds and the installation of a vacuum seeder. *Eucalypt*

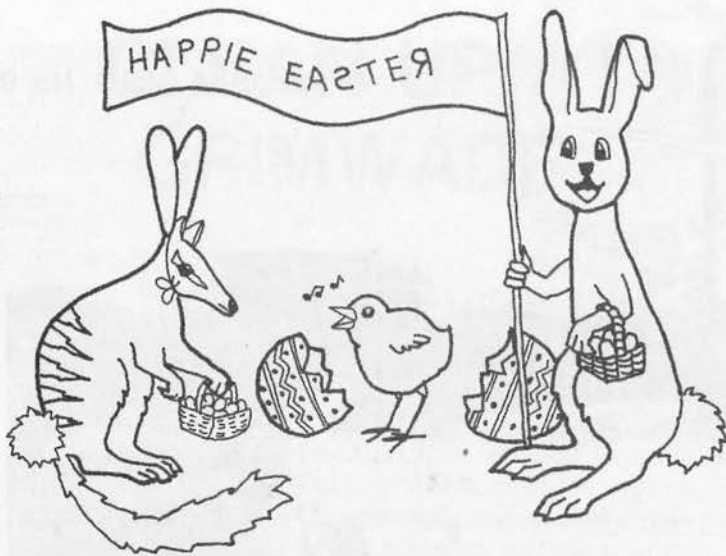


Norm Caphorn shows the difference a fence can make in controlling stock feeding. The area on the left (near Kalgoorlie) has been over-grazed by sheep.

seeds are so small, they are now planted using a flat vacuum plate with tiny holes to match the spacing of the jiffy pots. The plate is placed in a tray of seed, and the vacuum sucks a seed to each hole. The plate is then placed over the pots and the vacuum released; one seed per pot is the theory. "We were disappointed with results this year", said Steve. "Having raised the beds to make work easier and to help control disease, we got caught with local water problems. The dam was contaminated with 'Vorox' in runoff from the local cemetery and a lot of our seedlings were wiped out. That put us three months behind. Fortunately, the Wellington catchment has improved with reafforestation and we can go back to scheme water without worrying about salt."

Kalgoorlie's water comes from Mundaring - over 500 km of water pipe and it takes a lot of pumping. Early on, that meant wood - lots of it - for the steam driven pumps. And the gold fields, the only reason anybody needed the water, also used a lot of wood as mine props. Urgent little railways ran all over the countryside bringing in the supplies.

"In their heyday", said Ian Kealley (now in Bill Brennan's shoes) "there was more wood coming off the gold fields every year than has ever been taken for 'chips' in the south. The remarkable thing is, considering the area's low rainfall, how well the different species have regenerated".



OF COURSE YOU CAN JOIN IN -  
IT'S A GREAT P.R. JOB FOR FAUNA

## ON THE SHELF

Two pamphlets released by the Department this week highlight Western Australia's unusual fauna and flora.

One introduces the NUMBAT (the first in a new fauna series), and the other concerns the BOAB trees of the North West. Chris Done (Kununurra) and Cliff Winfield (Como) put together the story and photographs of the Boabs, while Karren Maisey (Manjimup) and Louise Burch (Como) are responsible for the text and illustrations of the Numbat.

If you require copies of these pamphlets, phone Robyn at Como on ext. 329.

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There is an interesting book in the library - 'Citizens involved: handle with care'..... a forest industry guide to working with the public, by American author Jean Mater

As Jean says, "The public no longer accepts forest industry decisions made solely on the traditional basis of lumber produced, profits made, jobs provided, and taxes paid to the community. Today many people cherish other values and effective "activitsts" are quick to battle the forest industry to protect these values."

This is a How-To book for foresters, with solutions to the problems raised by public participation. It is replete with practical step by step suggestions on how to help the public understand complex concepts, procedures and guidelines for earning public support, planning for public hearings and serves as a handbook of techniques for effective action for everybody concerned with public involvement.

It will be required reading for modern foresters.

## STARS (CONTINUED)

From the Kalgoorlie office Ian, Norm Caphorn and Mike Tagliaferri police the extraction of sandalwood, encourage suitable tree planting and oversee mine-wood logging over a vast patch of ground, stretching in a crescent shape from Murchison (N) to Esperance (S), and east to the boarder with South Australia. Their work often requires them to be weeks away, camping from the back of four wheel-drives.

"With the new emphasis on agro-forestry in the south, we are quite relieved to be getting a permanent new officer stationed in Esperance," said Ian.

"Our biggest task now is encouraging people to plant trees and look after them," he said. "Sandalwood extraction is slowly winding down, and the mine-wood logging is basically a thinning operation to reduce stocking for drought relief."

"We are involved with the Gold Fields Dust Abatement, ringing the gold towns with a green belt and amenity planting, and there is a lot of work to be done on the rehabilitation of mine sites and their slime dumps. We also encourage the graziers to keep stocking to reasonable levels and to repair their environment, where necessary. It's more land management than straight forestry, but it is a worthwhile task and we enjoy it."

## WORD SLEUTH

As promised: Stella's clues for last issue's wordsleuth.

fire	creek	bush
Jarrah	forest	Radiata
Dieback	Karri	Sandalwood
Phytophthora	sawlog	Eucalyptus
flora	logging	Sunklands
regeneration	harvest	Numbat
catchments	utilization	dam
timber	regrowth	Woylie
conservation	Wandoo	Possum
sapling	Pinaster	Blackwood
Pine	fauna	sawmill
Collie	pruning	marron

How did you make out?

"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. 327.



## Busy Minister

It has been a busy time for Dave Evans (Asst. Minister of Forests), but he has still managed to be on hand for presentations.

On the left he is flanked by Alan Seymour (L). (Kirup) and Arthur Kesners (Como) at the Kirup safety awards. Brian Fitzgerald is on the receiving end. On the right, Dave is with Paul Marsh (L) and Ray Fremlin at the Lane-Poole Awards.

Dave made some interesting comments at Kirup, on savings made through safe working practices. "The direct savings in workers' compensation premiums in 1982/83, as compared to the Department's safety performance in 1966/67 - the year when the safety programme started - is well in excess of \$½ million. The savings in indirect costs, such as production losses, damage to equipment, vehicles, replacement

## THREE AWAY

Three West Australians have been invited to address a major national conference on Research for Forest Management, in Canberra in May.

They are Roger Underwood, who will discuss forest fire operations, Frank Batini, who will discuss water catchment management and Joanna Tippett, who will discuss management of pests and diseases.

The team will join 15 other speakers from Australia and New Zealand to examine basic and operational research needs in all major aspects of forest management.

The conference has been organized by the C.S.I.R.O.

costs and other factors, conservatively estimated to be at a 4 to 1 ratio to the direct costs, would increase the gross savings to over \$2 million. This in effect, has provided finance to employ more people in the Department."

## 50 YEARS

It is now 50 years since the Forestry Field Officers Association was formed, and many members feel that a celebration is required.

A small committee has been formed to put together a suitable function, in order to make this day one to remember.

Please keep Saturday 29 September clear so that you can come along and enjoy yourself, make new friends and renew old friendships.

The days programme is yet to be finalized but may go something like this:-

0930 hrs Annual General Meeting F.F.O.A. at Bunbury Regional H/Q. Meeting to be completed by 1200 hours. Wives to be given the cheque book and morning free, to shop with the kids in Bunbury City.

1300 hrs Meet the family at the Italian Club for drinks and a slap up dinner, followed by more drinks and fellowship.

Transport will be available for retired members and their wives.

Child minding and entertainment will be provided for the kids in the afternoon.

Watch this space for further details, as the time draws nearer.

# CLEAN UP AT GRIMWADE

Grimwade logging contractors, working in dirty, hazardous conditions, have just completed a \$½ million salvage operation. They were recovering pine timber from mature forest, burnt in the recent plantation fire.

In a planning review, during mop-up operations on 6 March, Utilization Officers Jon Murch and Neil Phelps decided to concentrate the area's logging operations and salvage the valuable timber still standing. Many of the large trees had been killed by the fierce heat, but were not seriously damaged. The large butt logs of mature pines are highly prized for plywood and veneer production.

Teams of fallers and their equipment were relocated, transport organized and mill orders re-scheduled. The logs needed to be felled, cut to size, transported and processed before fungal stain downgraded the timber. Stock piled timber is kept wet under sprinklers until it can be processed.

Within the four week deadline required to complete the salvage operation 4800 cubic metres were shipped to Dardanup and the new Wharncliffe mill site, and 1400 cubic metres were moved to the Wesfi Plant in Victoria Park. The logging trucks worked double shifts each day to keep pace with the eight fallers working in the bush.

Last week, Jon Murch expressed complete satisfaction with the progress of the contractors, Pine Hauliers Ltd. "The fallers were working in extremely hazardous conditions", he said, "and they have done a fantastic job".

"The ground was still hot under foot when they started. We were putting out spot fires in stumps three weeks after the main fire, and it is very difficult to extract good timber from between other burnt trees."

Denis Black, a faller from Donnybrook, was badly injured by the top of a dead spike, snapped off by a crashing tree. He is still recovering in hospital.

The fire started in old logging debris on 2 March and swept through 50 ha. of adjacent Radiata Pine and Black Butt regrowth. At the height of the fire, flames 70 metres high engulfed sections of the 50 year old plantation, but the fire was brought under control within 6 hours.



Howard Manning oversees the clean-up at Grimwade.

Clean-up operations will now concentrate on the extraction of sawmill logs from the crowns of the felled trees. Grimwade, 25 kilometres south-east of Donnybrook, has its own mill, but some sawlogs will also go to mills at Mundijong and Margaret River. Later, the burnt area will be cleared and replanted.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Recently I found this recipe in an old forestry publication. It is for an emulsion repellent, mainly for use against ticks.

Half pint of Dibutyl Pthalate  
One gallon of water  
5 oz soap

Cut soap in small pieces and boil in half gallon of water until soap is melted. Add the other half gallon water and the half pint of Dibutyl Pthalate.

Clothes which have been washed clean should be dipped in this emulsion, wrung out and dried.

The emulsion can be kept for further use. One treatment is sufficient for a further four washings.

Dibutyl Pthalate can also be used on exposed skin and direct to trousers and socks. Apply sparingly with fingers.

Can any reader please advise if this recipe actually works? Does it damage clothing, is it inflammable, and does one reek of a foul smell which is likely to hang around long after the ticks go? Would be interested to hear comments.

H J Warren  
Dullin