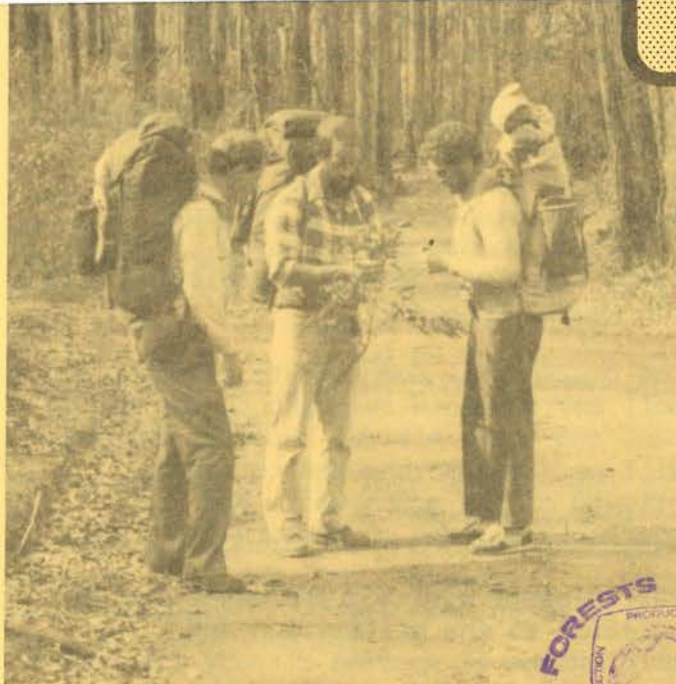




BUSH TELEGRAPH



INTREPID LEADERS



Sixteen foresters were recently involved as leaders of an expedition skills training course.

The courses are organized by the Outdoor Education branch of the Education Department, and foresters have been involved since they began four years ago.

One course is directed at 3rd year Physical Education students from the University of W.A. The other is aimed at teachers who intend to take students on camping trips.

Aspects covered in the Expedition Skills Course were: roping skills, map interpretation and navigation, route planning, tents and equipment displays, meal planning and nutrition, and packing of rucksacks. Foresters were asked to relate their experiences of previous expeditions, talk about the type of work they perform or some aspect of forest management.

A following three day walk provided an opportunity for practising the skills taught and for discussions about the forest environment and forest management.

◀ Drew Griffiths (L) and Wayne Schmidt (Como) help school teacher Gary Bochenek with the identification of a shrub.

▲ Kerry Mather Youth Education Officer, masters the art of ascending a rope.



From this course, the participants have a good basis for developing their skills for leadership of future expeditions. They also have a greater awareness of the requirements for minimizing the impact on the environment as a result of these activities.

For the Forests Department, the benefits of the course include:

- * its high value as a public relations and education exercise (future teachers through their contact with the foresters at the course, have a much greater understanding of the scope and complexities of forest management);

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EDITORIAL

There seems to be general acceptance among people of our need to maintain a balanced life-style

- * The media pounds us daily with exhaustive details on this healthy diet or that - balanced with 'full-page' commercials for junk food.
- * New Age Thinking prepares us nicely for head-on battles with the bigots and the knockers.
- * The Department's comprehensive safety programme keeps our minds on the job and our bodies in one piece - yet we often risk our necks by driving home with one too many.
- * We work hard for our money and give most of it to the taxman and the grocer. that's it - the 'balanced' life-style.

Many may think it's better than balanced. We do get back to work in one piece; eat reasonable food; beat the odd bigot and even save for a holiday - but life, like money, suffers with time. Your body needs a bigger investment every year to ward off the ravages of inflation (whether it shows or not).

A recent survey of 100 'westernized' countries ranked Australians an appalling 96th in the fitness stakes - What a triumph for NORM! How many of us can honestly say we are in better shape now than we were two years ago? Yet it is possible, and others prove it everyday.

If you are going to keep moving up, and enjoying it, you need your fitness and health. And they need constant attention.

Overseas, governments and employers have long realized the benefits of raising the awareness of the need for good health, and many subsidize their own employee programmes. It may well happen here, eventually.

On the other hand, it is your body and it should have pride of place in your life.

There are already local programmes available to assess physical fitness and plan ways to future health. Now is time to find out where you stand.

I. K.

STUDY TOUR

Eighteen overseas scientists from Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan and Syria are presently undertaking a twelve week study of West Australian trees and shrubs.

The course is sponsored by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, and organized by WAIT-AID Ltd. More than a dozen Forests Department officers are involved, conducting lectures, leading field trips and generally assisting with the course management.

The course will demonstrate climatic and soil environments relevant to the Middle East and North Africa. Special emphasis will be given to the Mediterranean climate of the south-west, and the semi-arid regions of Western Australia.

Participants will acquire expertise in relation to the utilization and maintenance of species already introduced overseas, and will examine other species which may be adapted to their region. The emphasis will be on seed production, procurement and seedling establishment.

The success of Australian Acacia, Casuarina and Eucalyptus species in dry regions is well known. It is anticipated that the course, by giving principles related to ecology, selection and utilization, will lead to a higher success rate, and other benefits to the participating countries.

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- * the additional experience and skills as leaders and trainers for the participating officers, and
- * the interaction with forest user-groups, which provides a better understanding of user-needs for future forest management.

In summing up the course, the Education Department spokes person thanked the Forests Department for providing the officer time and stated that the course organizers were very impressed with the "professional approach displayed by the Forests Department Officers".

Peter Hanly, Bunbury

Sheep meet requirements

Tests carried out by Geoff Anderson (CSIRO) show that pine needles and bark are very palatable to sheep.

Mr Anderson reported this to the Farming and Pines Seminar held at Manjimup on July 11.

He said tests carried out during summer at Wanneroo and Floreat Park Laboratories had found that each sheep could eat up to 200 gm of needles per day. Subsequent tests on wool fibres, following a diet of pine needles and bark, showed no difference in the fibres when compared with sheep feeding on a conventional diet.

Mr Anderson also said that sheep clean up much of the pruning and thinning debris in established plantation areas, considerably reducing the fire risk. However, bark-stripping of young trees could be a problem if not checked.

A question posed during the seminar as to whether or not the meat would be tainted as a result of a pine needle diet has yet to be tested.



WALKER MAKES IT

We had a note this week from Charlotte Astbury (via the Pemberton Office) asking us to let everybody know she was safe and well, and thanking everybody for their help.

Charlotte called into the Pemberton Office on 5 July, after completing the Bibbulmun Walk from Collie (25 June). The Kirup Department got a special mention in her note.

"Tough - but worthwhile", was Charlotte's description of the trip.

The Bibbulmun Track is a long distance walking track which now stretches, in stages, from Kalamunda to Boorara Tree, south-east of Northcliffe.

Approximately 505km long the track is named after aboriginal inhabitants of the area through which it passes. The track name is derived from this distinct aboriginal language group known as the "Bibbulmun", who gave names to the places which have "-up" (water) as their suffix - Dwellingup, Boyanup, Nannup, etc. These people often travelled long distances for tribal meetings and corroborees.

The Forests Department maintains much of the track and provides guide books for the growing number of people seeking exercise and the chance to appreciate forest vegetation and wildlife.

APPOINTMENT

Dr Eric Hopkins (Como) has been installed as the new president of the W. A. Royal Society (1984-85).

His appointment on 16 July maintains a traditional association of the Forests Department with the Society.

W. R. Wallace (Conservator 1969-72) and A. Hatch (Principal Research Scientist) have both held Presidential office and A. Shedley and D. Stewart have served as councillors.

Alan Hatch was also made an Honorary Member of the Society on 16 July.

The Royal Society aims to promote and assist all branches of scientific endeavour.

"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.



NORTH-WEST YOUNG MAN

Peter Ryan (Como) recently ventured to the North West, busy with the Department's Internal Audit. Managing the Audit went well, but Peter's first trip north also included.....

- Getting out of bed an hour earlier (0400 in the middle of winter) on the morning of departure to have breakfast, and then being served breakfast on the plane.
- Carrying copious quantities of fishing gear around the Kimberley and Pilbara regions for a week without getting a single piece of fishing line wet.
- Trading a \$15.00 fishing line with an astute Kununurra public servant for a mango tree available at the Broome Nursery for about \$4.00 (and then losing the mango tree at Port Hedland - more on that later).
- Being propositioned in a Kununurra cafe by a middle-aged and extremely intoxicated Aboriginal lady (perhaps she recognized Peter to be in similar condition).
- Arranging a vehicle from the Broome Nursery for transport only to find it to be a Toyota tip-truck (at least it was easy to get the baggage off the back at the Continental Hotel).
- Managing to get the said Toyota bogged outside of Broome with the plane out awaiting landing instructions.
- Inspecting every tourist shop in every town.
- Collecting more plants for his Kallaroo garden than exists in Kings Park and the Hamel Nursery combined.
- Leaving a box of plants at the Port Hedland Airport.

Submitted in the interests of honesty by a former colleague of Peter's no longer on the payroll.

PEOPLE



Organizers of the 12th International Cartographic Conference have issued an open invitation to other Forests Department staff interested in an Excursion on the Hotham Valley Steam train.

The W.A. division of the Australian Institute of Cartographers Institute is host for the 600 delegates expected to attend the conference.

An extensive social programme has been arranged and Peter Bowen (Mapping) says the day trip to Dwellingup by rail will be a highlight.

There will be demonstrations of log chopping, rounding up of sheep by sheep dogs and the timber mill will be especially opened.

Tickets (Adults \$30, Children 5-15 inclusive \$18) for the Sunday 12 August trip include lunch with a wine and cheese tasting, the rail fare and the demonstrations. Buy them for your family and friends from Peter Bowen.



The newly elected committee of the Forests Department Social Club (Como) is:

Drew Griffiths (President),
Cheryl Watters (Secretary),
Debbie Greaves (Treasurer),
Stella Bickmore, Ian Frame, Gary Robinson,
Phil Davies and Ian Kay.

As a first move towards streamlining operations and improving benefits, the new Committee plans to provide each member with a 'card'. A competition to design a 'friendship' logo for the club card carries a first prize of \$20. Art work for entries, in black and white and at least 10cm square, must be in by 10 August.

First outing with the new club committee is to an evening of COMEDY DINNER THEATRE - featuring the Broadway smash hit "ANY WEDNESDAY" - on Friday 31 August.

Tickets (\$7 member single, \$30 member double, \$46 non-member double) include a four course meal with beer, wine and soft drink, and the show. Bookings need to be in by 23 August.

