

LIBRARY

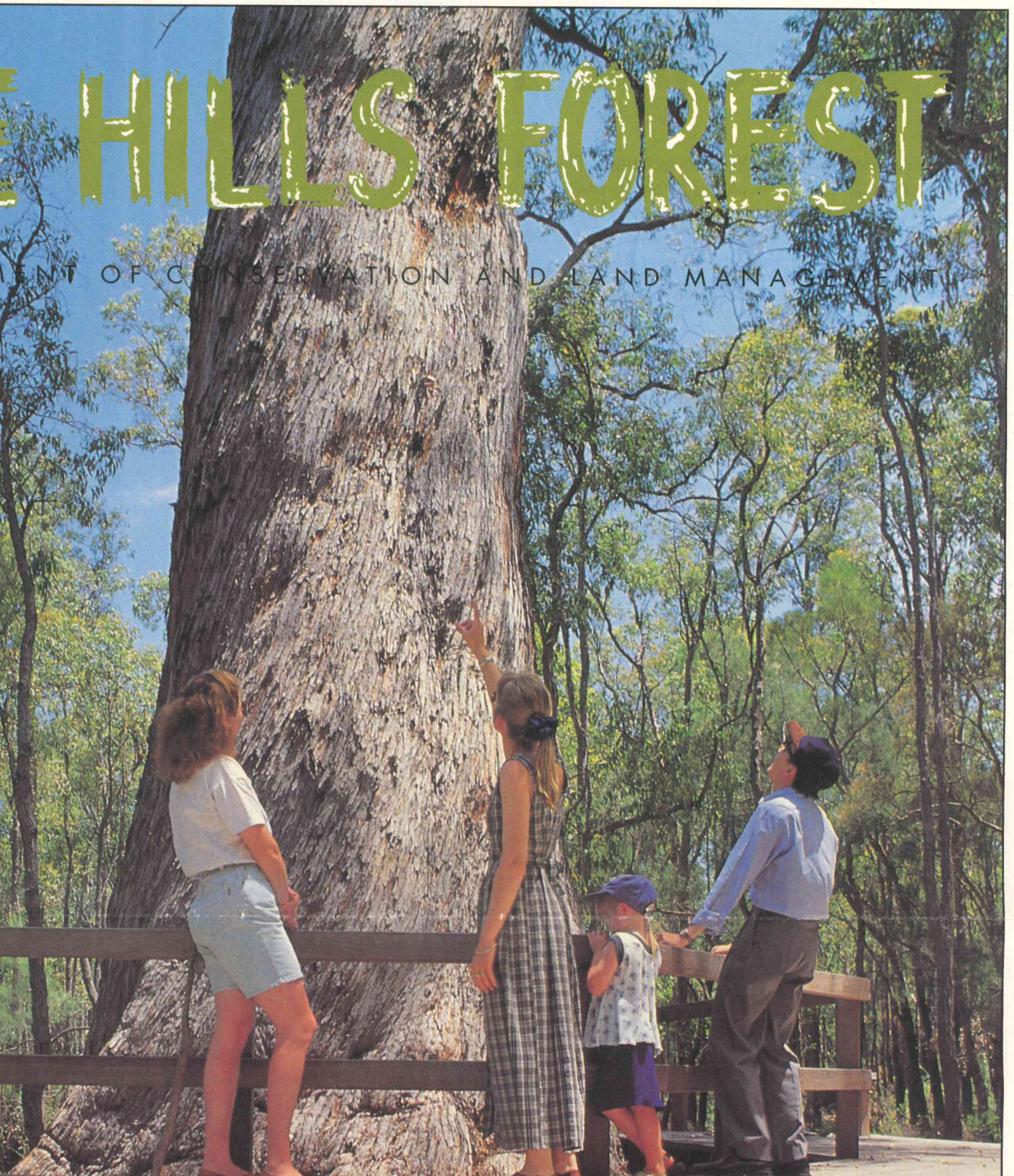
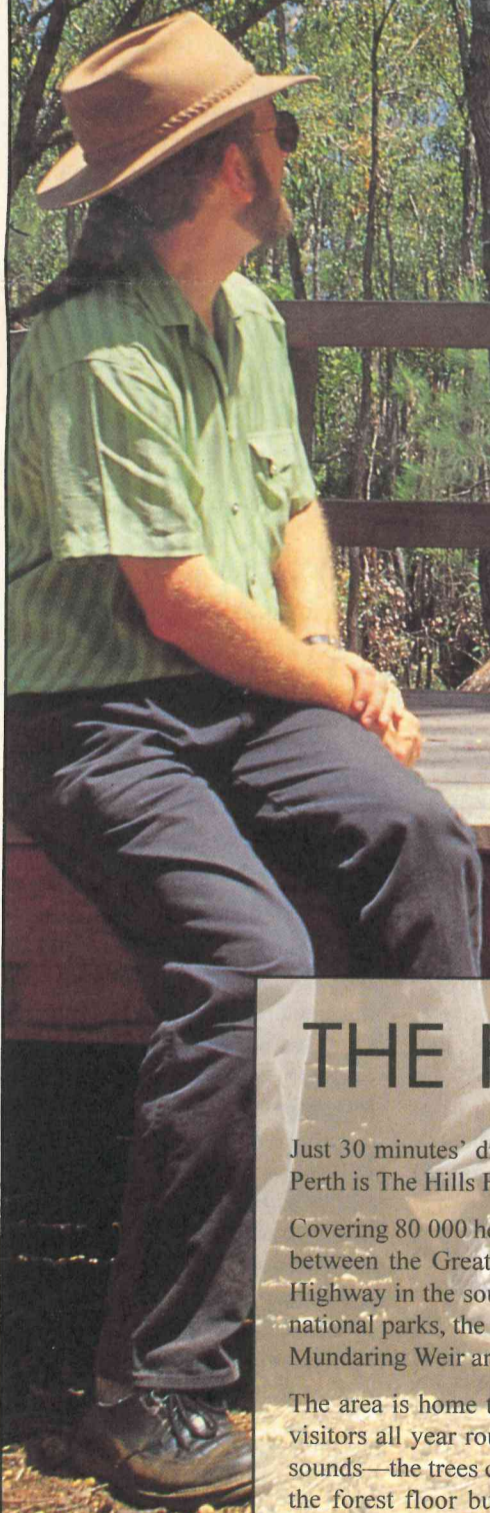
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

THE HILLS FOREST



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



THE HILLS FOREST—a bush adventure

Just 30 minutes' drive east of the hustle and bustle of downtown Perth is The Hills Forest—a myriad of activities and adventure.

Covering 80 000 hectares in the rolling hills of the Darling Ranges between the Great Eastern Highway in the north and Brookton Highway in the south, The Hills Forest includes State forest, five national parks, the Mt Dale conservation park and the picturesque Mundaring Weir area.

The area is home to many native animals and plants that delight visitors all year round. Spring heralds a cacophony of sights and sounds—the trees come alive with the sounds of nesting birds and the forest floor bursts into prolific and spectacular displays of

wildflowers. Summer offers warm nights under a blanket of stars and winter sees fast-flowing creeks, waterfalls and streams that wind down the hillsides and gullies. Western grey kangaroos can be seen grazing in the early hour of the morning or late afternoon, while reptiles sun themselves on granite outcrops during the heat of the day. At night, small and medium-sized mammals scuttle among the leaves and fallen branches in search of food.

The Hills Forest Activity Centre (off Mundaring Weir Road) is a focal point for an extensive program of inexpensive activities. There's always something new to see and do. Just 'phone the forest' on (09) 295 2244 to find out what's on now.

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE HILLS FOREST—IT'S A REAL BUSH ADVENTURE.

The Hills Forest Office
Weir Road
MUNDARING 6073
Ph (09) 295 2244

Mundaring District Office
Weir Road
MUNDARING 6073
Ph (09) 295 1955

Head Office
50 Hayman Road
COMO 6152
Ph (09) 334 0333

The 'King Jurrall' tree

Welcome to The Hills Forest

On the ancient plateau of the Darling Range, The Hills Forest features a landscape of rolling hills, steep gullies, river valleys, rock-covered hilltops and outcrops of granite, in fact some of the oldest rocks on Earth, that have eroded over eons to form magnificent grey boulders.

The area, now known simply as 'the hills', was once a hive of activity with numerous sawmills dotted throughout the bush to supply Perth and Fremantle with timber, one of the colony's first exports. Jarrah was used as railway sleepers in countries all around the world and for cobbled streets in some parts of London.

However, the Forests Act of 1919 helped protect the forest around Mundaring as the catchment for the Goldfields water supply pipeline and dam, designed and built by the famous engineer C.Y. O'Connor at the turn of the century.

Today, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) manages the forest for all its uses—wildlife conservation, water catchment protection, tourism and recreation, education and research, and the production of a range of commodities including timber, honey, wildflowers and minerals.

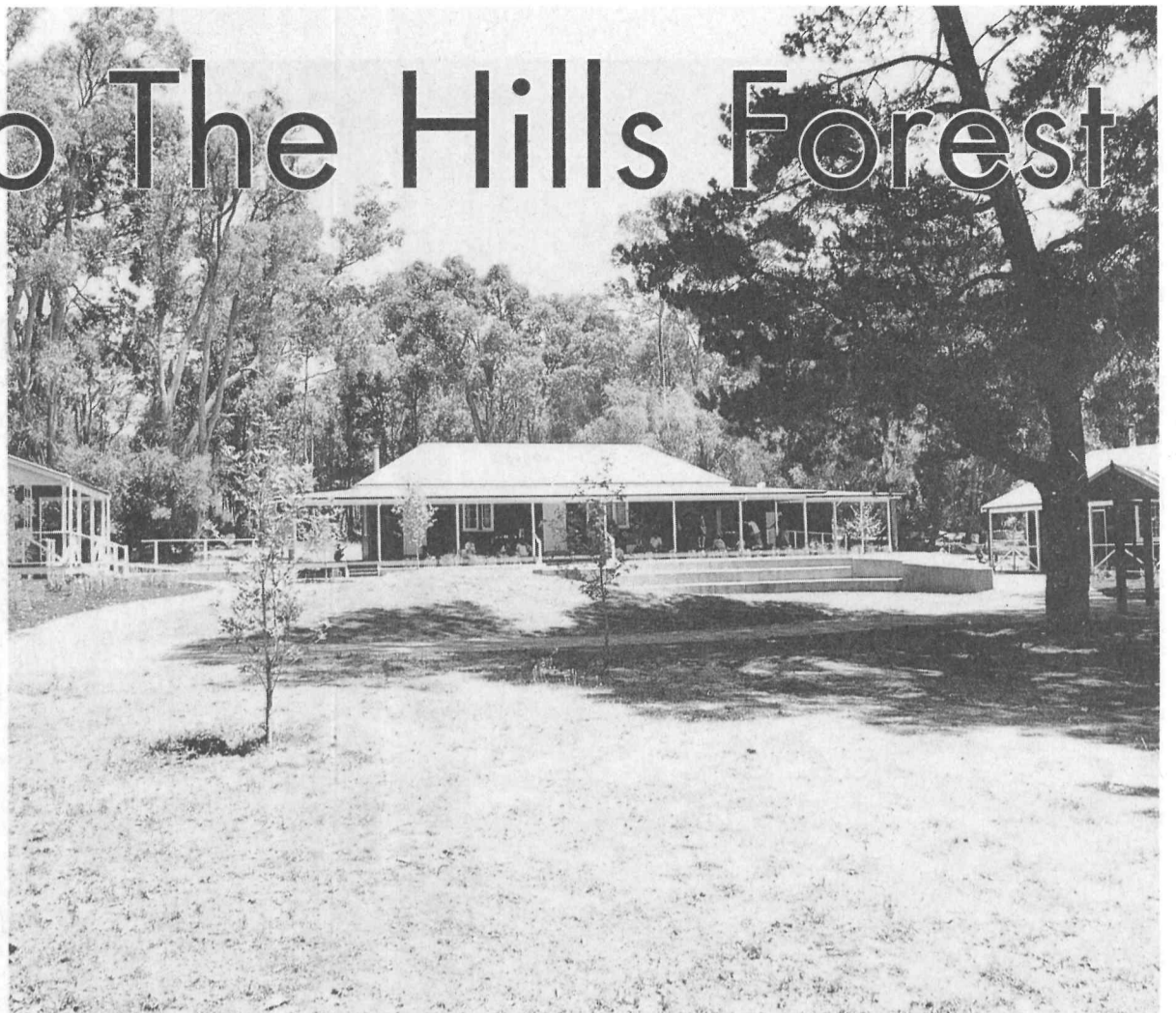
The forest is still a hive of activity, but these days emphasis is on people visiting the area in search of recreation. The Hills Forest is the first in a series of ecologically based recreation areas to be developed by CALM—each focussing on a different ecological system such as

forest, marine or wetlands. The wide range of activities available at The Hills Forest help promote an appreciation of the forest and the systems that it supports.

The bushland mainly consists of jarrah forest, intermingled with fingers of wandoo in the valleys and towards the eastern fringes. Although most of the forest was cut over during the early days of the colony, there still remain some magnificent specimens of 'king jarrah' more than two metres in diameter. The other main tree species are marri (or redgum), Swan River blackbutt (or yarri), banksias, sheoaks and the unusually named snottygobble. Balgas (or blackboys), zamias, grevilleas, hakeas, wattles, orchids, peas, kangaroo paws and other native wildflowers are found among the understorey.

The Hills Forest includes five national parks (John Forrest, Gooseberry Hill, Greenmount, Kalamunda and Lesmurdie Falls) and the Mt Dale Conservation Park.

The Helena River Reservoir—known to most people as the Mundaring Weir—is a popular destination, with the Mundaring Weir Gardens overlooking the dam and the O'Connor Museum, which



sits at the foot of the weir wall near the WA Water Authority's pumping station.

East of the forest, near Chidlow, is Lake Leschenaultia. The lake was originally built to supply water for locomotives that plied the eastern railway, the same railway that once passed through John Forrest National Park. Managed by the Shire of Mundaring, this beautiful lake is set among tall jarrah and marri forest. There are picnic areas and swimming facilities with walktrails that run around the lake's shore or through the forested areas.

The town of Kalamunda is the starting point for the Bibbulmun Track, a forest walk trail stretching from The Hills Forest 650 km to Walpole, on the State's south coast. CALM's 'Building a Better Bibbulmun Track' project will see the trail substantially upgraded, realigned and extended to Albany. This project will establish the Bibbulmun Track as one of the world's great, long distance, wilderness trails.

The Hills Forest Activity Centre, located just north of Mundaring Weir off Mundaring Weir Road, is

The Hills Forest Activity Centre—the focal point for most of the activity programs.

the focal point for most of the activity programs. It has an amphitheatre and three old timber forestry buildings that have been renovated and now house the administration office and rooms for a variety of activities and seminars. Some of The Hills Forest's activity programs and a selection of picnic and camping spots in this delightful bushland setting are featured in this paper.



Operation Foxglove brings back the animals

The Hills Forest is rapidly becoming a refuge for native mammals that have been taken to the brink of extinction through the destruction of their natural habitat by land clearing, or by introduced predators, such as the European fox.

'Operation Foxglove' is a broad scale wildlife recovery program in the State forest between Mundaring and Collie that aims to restore populations of small native mammals through fox control.

Since Operation Foxglove began in The Hills Forest in 1993, CALM wildlife researchers have found a dramatic increase in the number of small native mammals. Some animals are re-establishing themselves in areas where they have not been sighted for years, and research has shown this is a direct result of fox control.

Operation Foxglove uses a naturally occurring poison known as 1080,

Left: The brushtail possum is one native animal benefiting from Operation Foxglove.

which is derived from native peas. The poison is lethal to foxes, but not to native animals. This is because native animals have evolved alongside these 'poison peas', but foxes, having been introduced to the areas in the last hundred years, bear no tolerance to it.

Some of the smaller mammals that are benefiting from fox control are the chuditch, dunnart, mardo, quenda (southern brown bandicoot), brushtail possum and western pygmy possum.

Conserving native animal species is an important part of The Hills Forest management, and the on-going control of foxes will result in an abundance of wildlife for you to see right on Perth's doorstep.

Birdlife abounds

A walk through The Hills Forest is a choral experience. During the day, the cries of parrots—some of them rare, such as Carnaby's cockatoo or white-tailed black cockatoo—can be heard. If you sit quietly, you can hear the rustle of the leaves as

little wrens and honeyeaters flit among the bushes.

A look across the valleys from high vantage points will often yield the sight of a wedge-tailed eagle floating on the wind looking for its prey. In the evening, the chorus continues as the hoots of owls are interspersed with the melodic warble of magpies.


Reptiles aground

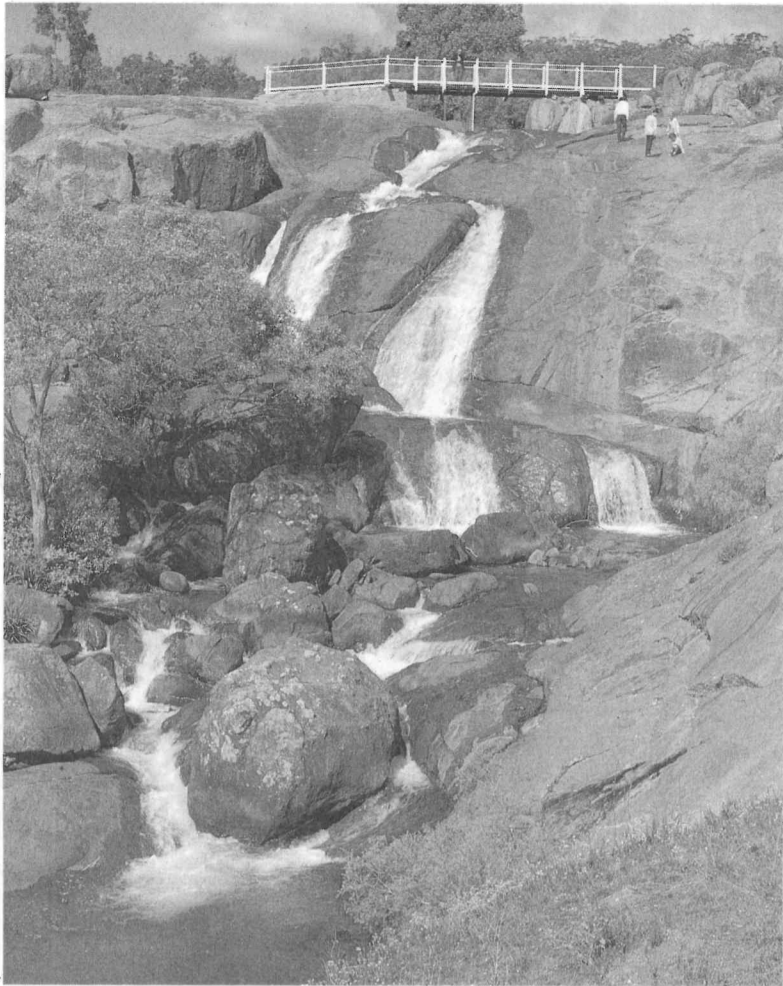
Bobtail lizards are often seen sunning themselves on roadways or trails, or heard 'lumbering' through the dense, dry banksia leaves. If you look among the trees, you might be able to distinguish a goanna as it lies with an eerie stillness.

Granite outcrops can abound with sprinting dragons, disturbed as they soak up the sun's warmth. Small geckos—including the barking gecko which 'barks' like a dog at night—scurry over rocks away from approaching walkers.

Near the dense scrub, along creeks, the presence of tiger snakes demands extra caution.

Managing Editor: Ray Bailey Editor: David Gough
Manager, The Hills Forest: Stev Slavin
Design: Stacey Strickland Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer
Published November 1994

 Department of Conservation and Land Management
50 Hayman Road, COMO, WA 6152.



John Forrest National Park—part of Perth's history

John Forrest National Park, on the northern edge of The Hills Forest, is one of Australia's oldest conservation areas and Western Australia's first national park. It offers many things to do.

It was established in 1898 as a reserve to conserve its many natural and cultural features. It became John Forrest National Park in 1947, in honour of the famous WA explorer and statesman.

In the early 1900s, visitors came from Perth by rail and alighted from their trains at Hovea Station, a short distance from Hovea Falls, to enjoy a 'day in the bush'. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, sustenance workers built steps, ornamental gardens, walls, footpaths, picnic shelters and swimming areas. The park soon became a sanctuary for city dwellers and remains so for many people today.

Recreation is an important use of John Forrest National Park. Some of CALM's *Go Bush!* activities are centred there and further programs will be offered to encourage awareness of the park's many natural and cultural features. It provides magnificent vistas of the Swan coastal plain and contains walktrails through rugged wilderness, along the old railway line or to quiet pools and spectacular waterfalls. From the main picnic area, follow the old railway track for 750 metres north-east to Hovea Falls, or wander north-west to National Park Falls. On the western boundary of the park is the Rocky Pool picnic area, which is set among attractive wandoo and paperbark woodland. Here, after winter rains, you can sit and watch the waters of Jane Brook tumble down a series of small rapids into the pool.

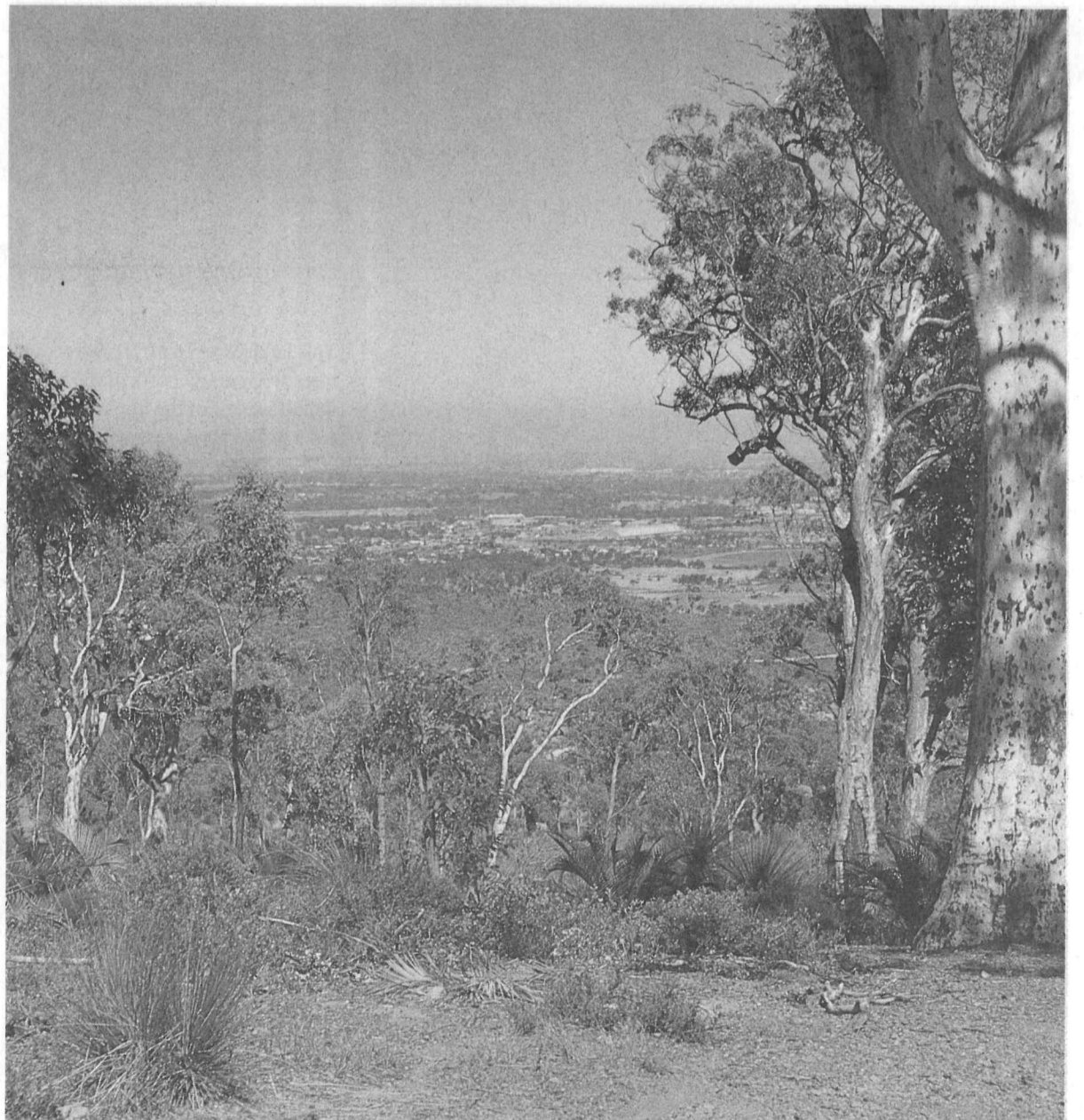
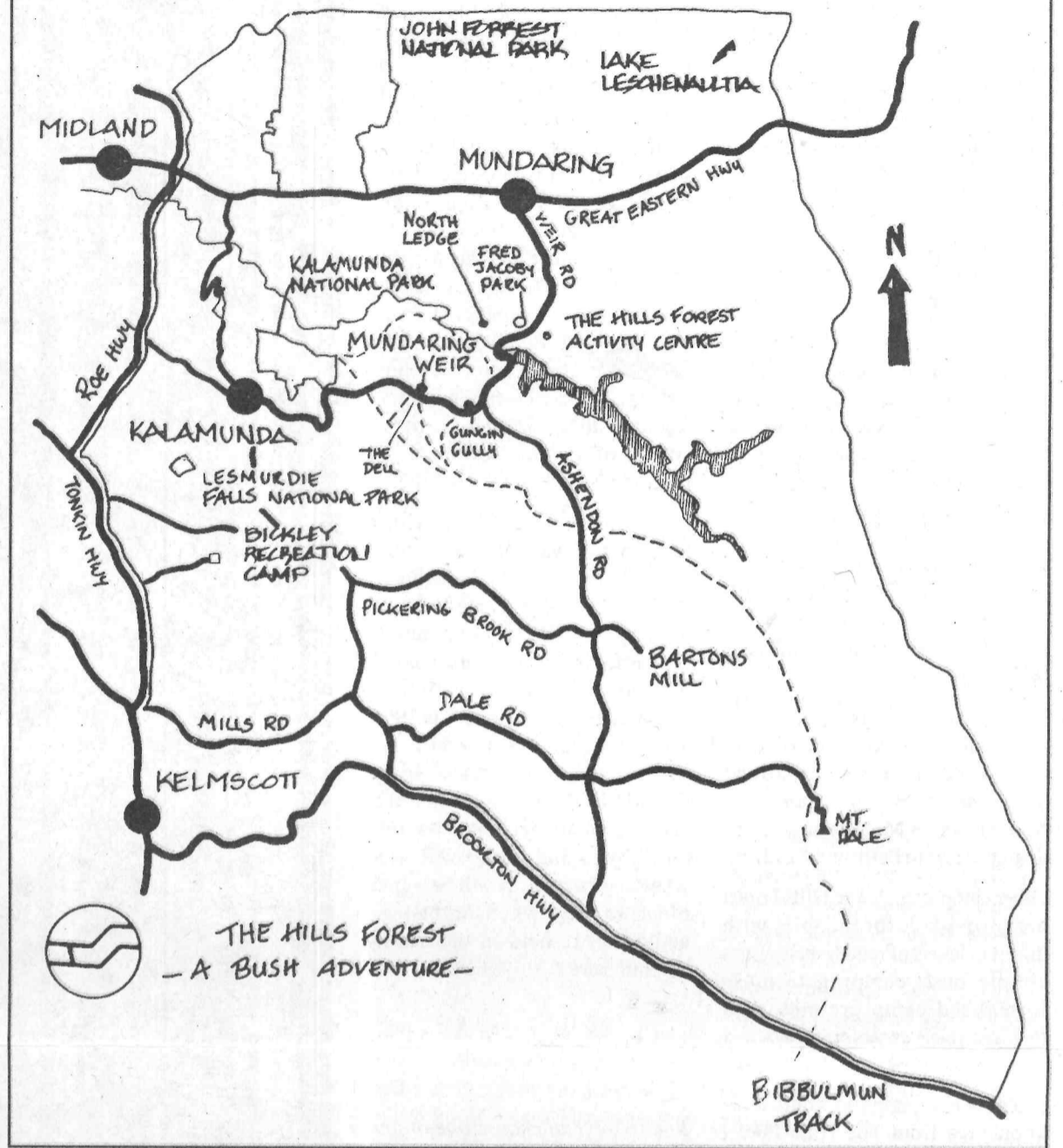
The park is also close to metropolitan schools. With its big expanses of natural forest and woodlands, it makes the perfect place for nature studies. A common feature of the park is its granite outcrops fringed by heaths. As the soil here becomes shallow, annuals and herbs abound, with sundews, orchids and resurrection plants growing through the moss swards. Bungarra lizards are often visible in the open on these outcrops as well as on roads and tracks, while western bearded dragons often bask on fallen timber and on roads. Honey possums and western pygmy possums inhabit heathlands next to granite surfaces, and mardos are quite common and sometimes visible by day in forested areas. Woodland birds of the park include the 'twenty-eight' parrots and the less common red-capped parrots, rufous and golden whistlers, western spinebills and New Holland honeyeaters.

John Forrest National Park is managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for the people of Western Australia and it forms an integral and important part of The Hills Forest. A 10-year management plan for the park was released in 1994. The plan aims to increase awareness of the park's conservation, recreation, cultural and historical values, and to develop new facilities and recreation opportunities for visitors.

Above: National Park Falls is one of the main attractions of John Forrest National Park.

Right: Parts of the park offer extensive views over the Swan coastal plain.

Map of The Hills Forest



Camp in the heart of the forest

There are few pleasures that can be as enjoyable and inexpensive as sleeping under canvas or under the stars. Spending a pleasant evening sitting around a glowing campfire and sharing stories over a glass of wine or a mug of hot chocolate is a great way to escape the pressures of city life—only a few kilometres away.

Four camp sites are available in The Hills Forest and more may be planned later.

On the Bibbulmun Track, there are two campsites between the start, at Kalamunda, and the Brookton Highway. Both areas are based on 'first in gets a site'. The Little Oven camp site is a bush site 15 km from the start, with a toilet and fire ring. It is in beautiful bushland near a creek with nearby hilltop views. If you don't want to walk the full distance, there is an easy two-kilometre walk from Mundaring Weir Road.

Mt Dale camp site is a good day's walk—about 22 km—from Little Oven. It also has toilet facilities and a fire ring and is only a short walk from the top of Mt Dale and its 360 degree views to Perth and Northam.

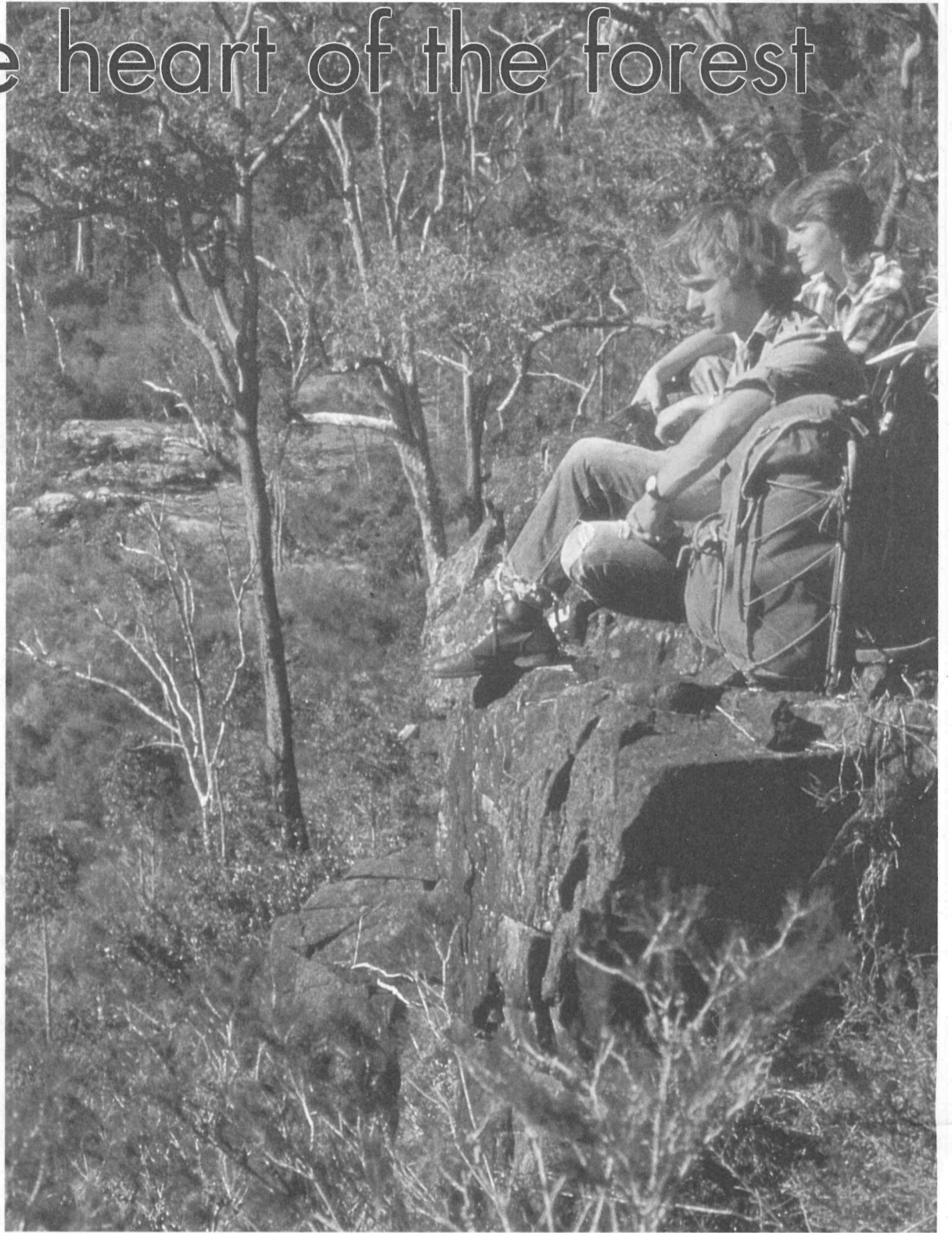
Other camp sites in The Hills Forest are provided for people with different levels of requirement, from simple bush camping to more formalised camp grounds with facilities such as water, toilets and showers.

Patens Brook camp site is only three kilometres from The Hills Forest Activity Centre, where you can park

your vehicle overnight. The area has toilets, fire rings, fireside log seats, picnic tables and a rainwater tank. There are 15 camp pads and a further 10 are being installed. The camp site is ideal for community groups such as Scouts, Guides, youth organisations, sports and social clubs, as well as the family. Patens Brook is nestled among jarrah and blackbutt trees and some pines, a reminder that the area was once used as a plantation. A nearby stream flows five months of the year over big granite rocks to form waterfalls and a small wetland swamp. The area has many tracks leading into the forest and offers a choice of walks, views and the occasional meeting with wildlife.

Basic camping facilities with a kitchen are available on an open grassed area near The Hills Forest Activity Centre. The site has been used by schools and community groups for nearly 15 years, but will be superseded when a new Activity Centre camp ground is built in 1995. This new camp site—with hot showers and a cookhouse—will be the first in Western Australia that fully accommodates people with disabilities and those who need wheelchair access. It will be a great place to stay when night-time activities are held in the nearby amphitheatre.

Right: You can choose one of four bush campsites in The Hills Forest.



Fred Jacoby Park—a link with pioneer days

This landscaped park is planted with trees from many parts of the world, including one of the biggest English oaks in Western Australia.

The area was settled in the 1830s by James Drummond, the Swan River Colony's first botanist. But before the turn of the century, the area had become a vineyard and was owned by Mr Jecks, who is believed to have planted the oak.

In 1896, Mr Jecks died and the property was bought by two brothers, Mattheson and Fred Jacoby, who named it 'Portagabra'.

In 1904, Fred Jacoby became the sole owner and developed it into an orchard, where he also grew vegetables and daffodils. He later built the Goldfields Weir Hotel (now

the Mundaring Weir Hotel) when the area became a favourite picnic spot for railway travellers, sightseers and bushwalkers in the hills.

Mr Jacoby died in 1954 and his daughter, Mrs Elfreda Devenish, presented the 14.5 hectare area to the people of Western Australia. The Devenish Plantation, a plantation of radiata pine established in 1954 and featured on the Portagabra Track, was named in honour of Mrs Devenish.

Walking in the Park

The park is the starting and/or finishing point for three walktrails that feature in the best-selling books *Family Walks in Perth Outdoors* and *More Family Walks in Perth Outdoors*.

The Kattamorda Heritage Trail is a 27-kilometre walktrail that runs from Mundaring to Bickley Reservoir and provides pleasant bush strolls through rural and forest scenery. It can be divided into

sections and part of it runs one and a half kilometres from Fred Jacoby Park to Mundaring Weir along the old railway line that was used to transport materials from Mundaring for the construction of the dam wall.

The Portagabra Track is a four-kilometre loop track that begins and ends in Fred Jacoby Park. It crosses a narrow wandoo-yarri gully and small area of virgin jarrah forest, regenerated jarrah-marri forest and the Devenish pine plantation. Different landforms provide habitat for a wide range of wildflowers, mainly in spring. The trail is used by schools for forest environmental studies.

Southell Trail begins at Martin Road in Mundaring and runs eight and a half kilometres to North Ledge. As you walk along this forest trail you will be rewarded with magnificent views from the ridge top. The trail passes Devenish pine plantation and finishes at the Fred Jacoby Park picnic area.

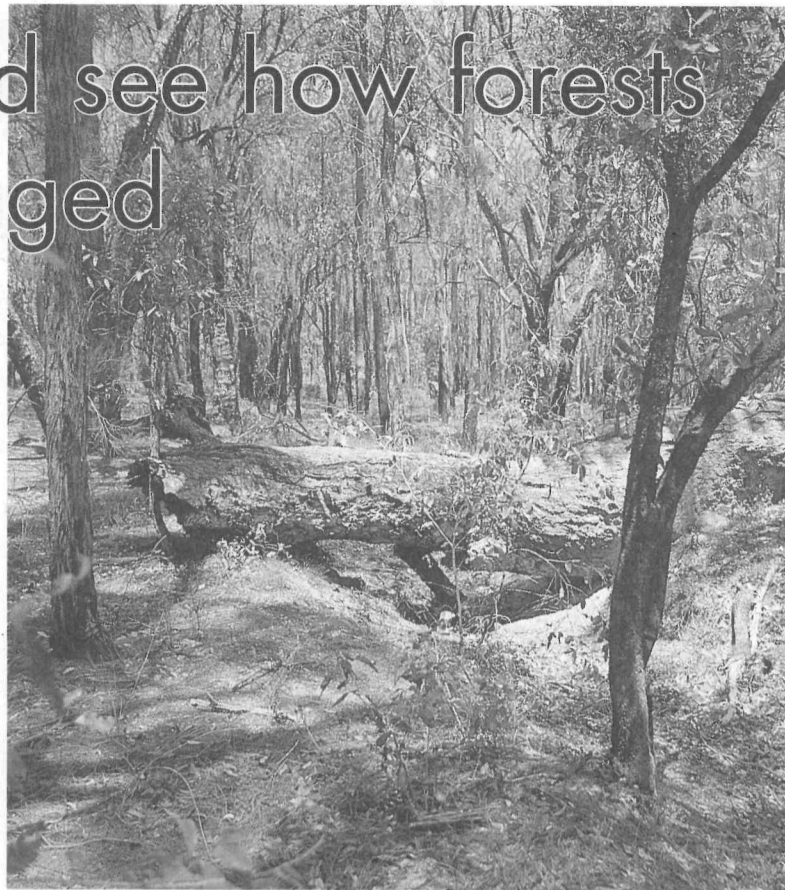
Left: The pine plantation near Fred Jacoby Park was established in 1954, the year the park was presented to the people of WA.

Come and see how forests are managed

The Hills Forest offers an ideal opportunity to enjoy a day in the bush, do something new and, at the same time, see how your forests are managed.

Throughout the area you will see softwood plantations, test plots of non-native trees and evidence of logging operations. Prescribed burning patches, undertaken to protect neighbours and people looking for recreation, are obvious and are also important to protect the other valuable resources our native forests provide.

A great way to see the challenges of managing our multiple-use forests is the 'Unseen Forest' activity in the *Go Bush!* program. This is a bus tour that takes you deep into the quarantined forest east of the Mundaring Weir.



Above: In the early days, logs were cut in saw pits such as this one near the 'King Jarrah' tree.

Contact The Hills Forest office on (09) 295 3149 for more details.

Reserve your part of The Hills Forest



Most facilities in The Hills Forest are available to everyone on a first-come-first served basis. But you can reserve a particular facility or area for a special function such as a social club outing or even a wedding.

Fred Jacoby Park has four areas that can be reserved for family or club functions.

The Hills Forest Activity Centre is available for hire and is suitable for seminars, corporate planning sessions or special club meetings.

The 200-seat rammed-earth amphitheatre is an ideal venue for school plays, community arts programs and music concerts. It has four distinct levels of lighting for stage and surrounds, and excellent audio-visual facilities.

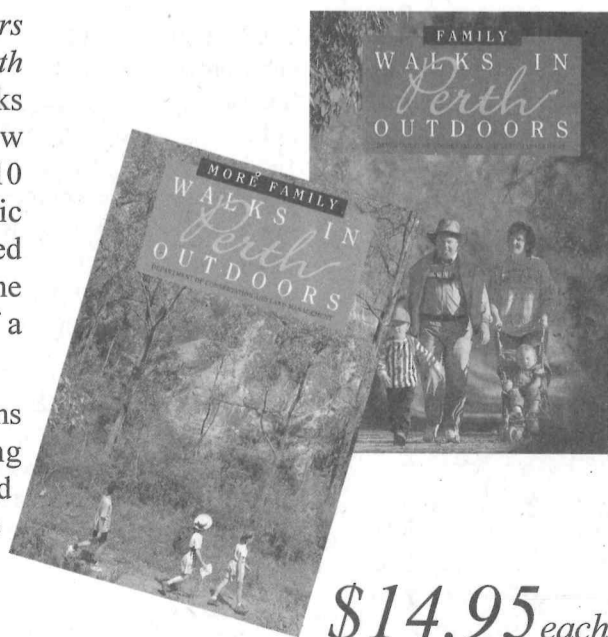
Patens Brook camp site is available for group bookings.

Just 'phone the forest' on (09) 295 2244 for details.

TWO GREAT BOOKS OF WALKS!

Family Walks in Perth Outdoors and *More Family Walks in Perth Outdoors* each contain 52 walks that vary in length from a few hundred metres to more than 10 kilometres. Most have a picnic spot nearby and can be completed within a few hours (though the longer ones may take you half a day or so).

There are maps and descriptions of every walk and interesting features on some of the plants and animals you may see along the way.



Available from CALM offices, booksellers and newsagents

Department of Conservation and Land Management

Things to see and do

The huge expanse of The Hills Forest provides a vast array of opportunities to get away from the confines of the city without having to travel for hours.

The number of things to do and see is limited only by your imagination. Numerous walktrails lead to areas where you can observe how the natural environment works. You can spend time with family and friends in large open spaces like Fred Jacoby Park, where the grassy areas are manicured by native 'lawnmowers' such as kangaroos and wallabies. You can camp overnight and experience the bush coming alive, as the native inhabitants emerge from their daytime hideaways and head out in search of food.

Here are some of the outdoor recreation spots where you can get away from it all and have your very own bush adventure. Let your imagination roam free.

Mundaring Weir Gardens

These formal gardens and lawns on the north side of Mundaring Weir provide pleasant surroundings for a picnic or leisurely stroll. The nearby O'Connor Museum, named after C.Y. O'Connor, the engineer who designed and built the dam, tells the story of the mammoth task to put in the pipeline that takes water to the Goldfields around Kalgoorlie nearly 800 km to the east.

Where is it?: 40 km east of Perth along Great Eastern Highway to Mundaring, then along Mundaring Weir Road; or enter Mundaring Weir Road from the Kalamunda end. Travelling time is around 50 minutes from Perth.

Facilities: BBQs, toilets, water, parking

What to do: Picnicking, bushwalking, O'Connor Museum

Best season: Spring, summer

North Ledge and Big Log

This is a secluded spot along a pleasant drive through the forest north of Mundaring Weir and offers views over the Helena Valley. It is excellent for forest wildflowers in spring. Stop off at the small picnic area set in the forest near the big fallen jarrah log and admire the views over the weir.

Where is it?: From Mundaring Weir Road, turn into Atkins Road at the Zamia Forest Recreation Area and follow the signs.

Facilities: BBQs, shaded tables, toilets, parking

What to do: Two walktrail loops (one five minutes, the other 15 minutes) through surrounding bush give views of the weir and valley towards Perth. A 10-minute walk runs to the Weir Youth Hostel.

Best season: Winter, spring

South Ledge

This picnic site overlooks the weir wall and lower Helena Valley. The area is ecologically important as it represents the floral transition from cap rocks to granite outcrops, which support different species of plants. It is especially good for wildflowers in spring.

Where is it?: Following Mundaring Weir Road and the turn-off to Farrell Grove, a one-way forest track leads 900 metres to South Ledge.

Facilities: BBQs, toilets

What to do: Picnicking, bushwalking, wildlife watching

Best season: Spring, early summer

Gungin Gully

This roadside picnic site is next to a rather unusual grove of trees. They are karris, generally found in the higher rainfall areas around Manjimup in the lower south-west. Much of the surrounding native jarrah and banksias were badly infected with the fungal disease 'dieback' and were replaced with trees that appeared resistant to the fungus. Also close by is a pine plantation.

Where is it?: Turn off Mundaring Weir Road opposite the junction of Lockwood Road on the Kalamunda side of the weir.

Facilities: BBQs

What to do: Bushwalking, picnicking, wildlife watching, bridle trail

Best season: Spring for wildflowers and early summer

Forsythe's Mill

Originally the site of one of the first sawmills in the area, this now is a small roadside picnic site among white-barked wandoo woodland. The woodland is home to many native mammals. CALM's fox control program will enable species that have become locally extinct, such as the numbat, to be reintroduced to parts of the woodland and jarrah forest.

Where is it?: 45 km from Perth, 11 km east of Mundaring on Great Eastern Highway.

Facilities: BBQs, toilets, tables

What to do: Picnicking, bushwalking

Best season: Spring

Fred Jacoby Park

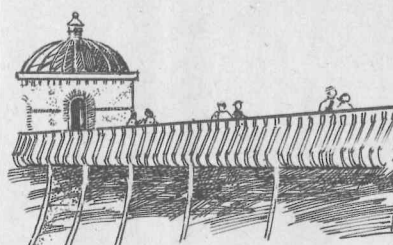
This landscaped park sits beside Mundaring Weir Road. It has been developed and is managed by CALM as a reserve for recreation and education. Although the area has had a long and varied history, it is probably best known for the huge English oak tree that dominates the main picnic area.

Where is it: 40 km from Perth on the Mundaring Weir Road.

Facilities: BBQs, playground, open areas for games

What to do: Picnicking, bushwalking, wildlife watching, photography, recreation

Best season: All year



GO BUSH! in The Hills Forest

Go Bush! is the major activity program in The Hills Forest. The program began in 1991 with 10 courses on offer. Today, *Go Bush!* offers 32 activities twice a year and, since it began, almost 8 000 people have taken part in the program.

Go Bush! activities are led by people skilled in their particular field. The length of each activity varies, but most are held between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Some weekday events are held in school holidays.

On night-time events, you'll venture deep into the forest with CALM officers to learn about forest life on spotlighting expeditions, sometimes bushwalking and/or camping overnight in a forest glade

Go Bush! courses include topics such as forest management; wildlife management and fox control; rehabilitation of injured birds, such as eagles, owls and falcons; recognising wildflowers; using bush materials to make works of art; bird watching; discovering forest reptiles; learning about water and catchment management; mountain-bike riding; bush tucker and medicines; and Aboriginal culture.

You can find out more about the times, dates and venues of *Go Bush!* activities from brochures in local libraries, The Hills Forest, local CALM offices, local tourist bureaus and some shops in the Hills area.

Right: *Viewing birds at close quarters. This owl is one of many injured birds that are rehabilitated at Raptor Retreat.*



Forest Under Canvas Activity Program

Family Bushcraft: This enables the whole family to *Go Bush!* with an experienced guide and pick up tips on edible and medicinal vegetation, camp cooking, siting and pitching tents, bush etiquette and more.

Back to Nature: Enjoy the sights and sounds of the forest with a weekend of bush experiences. Join a CALM officer to check survey traps for wildlife and have fun searching for signs of animals in the forest. In the evening, go spotlighting and see the forest animals when they are at their most active.

Discover the Nyoongar Way: Nyoongar Aborigines inhabited The Hills Forest area long before Europeans came. Experience their traditional lifestyle and culture with a weekend of hands-on experiences, and sit around the campfire at night to learn from Nyoongar Dreaming stories.

Camp Oven Cuisine: Find out how to prepare a three-course evening meal in the bush and then sit under the stars and enjoy your culinary delights. Afterwards, spin yarns and sing songs about the forest and the great outdoors.

A Forest Adventure: This activity is for children aged between 10 and 14 years. Over two days, they can explore the forest's natural playground and discover its hidden treasures, all under the supervision of an experienced leader.

Out and Back: Enjoying the forest is one thing, but getting lost isn't designed to be part of it. The Hills Forest is the perfect setting to learn tips on map reading, using compasses and even navigating by the sun and stars.

Llama Trekabout: You do the walking, the llamas do the backpacking. Walk with these gentle animals, camp out overnight and share your experiences around the campfire.

Nature's outdoor classroom



The Hills Forest is a huge, natural classroom on the edge of the metropolitan area that can be used for a variety of educational activities. CALM's Hills Forest School Programs have been developed by professional educators to provide two streams of learning. One involves specific courses designed by teachers to fit in with the existing school curriculum. The other consists of informative activities for students visiting other sites in the area.

'Discovering The Hills Forest' is a big success with primary schools, with more than 1 100 students attending so far. The program aims to develop awareness of and feelings for the jarrah forest ecosystem, and to learn about the many uses of the forest. The course also includes an in-service training for teachers.

'Where the Forest meets the School' is a new program being developed with Gosnells Senior High School to suit some secondary school curriculum needs. It is a cross-curriculum program encompassing a wide range of areas such as art, geography, social studies, home economics, work studies and business education. The pilot course will be run in 1995.

Many schools visit The Hills Forest for outdoor studies. CALM is preparing a catalogue of information to help students learn about the local flora, fauna, uses, landscapes and management practices.

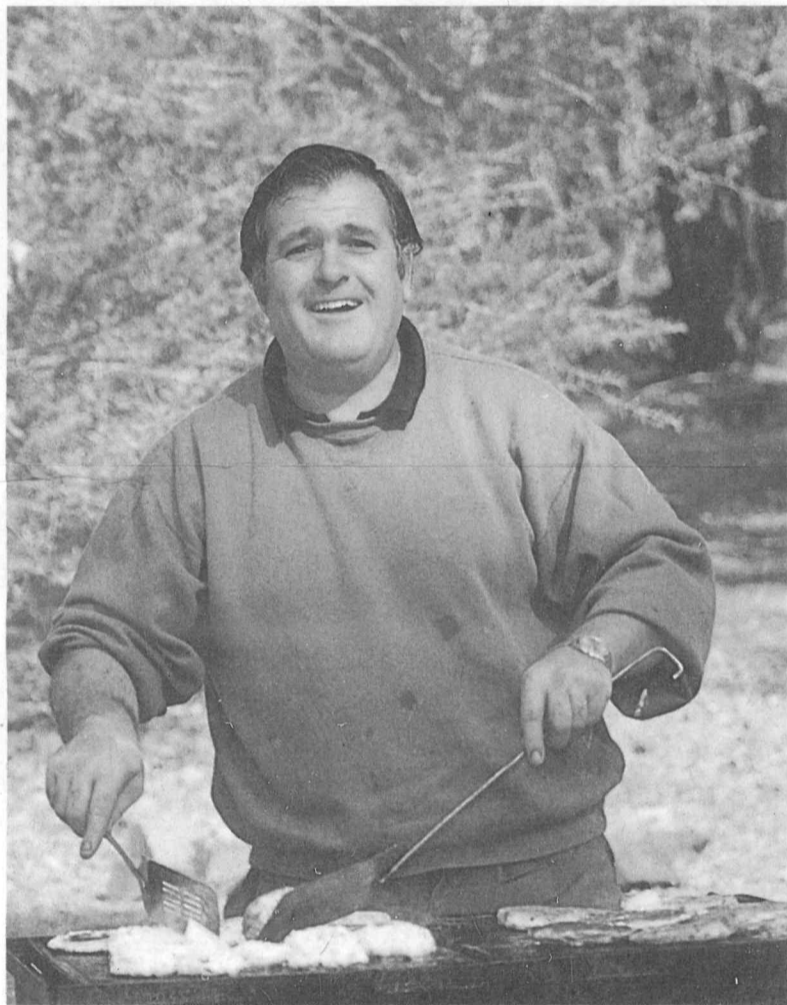
Contact The Hills Forest Activity Centre or 'phone the forest' on (09) 295 2244 for more details.

MAILING LIST

Don't miss out on the great activity programs and events developed for CALM's Hills Forest. Write or 'phone the forest' on (09) 295 2244 to get on to our mailing list. Then every time there's something new about to happen, you'll be one of the first to know.



Above: Volunteers take visitors on guided walks through The Hills Forest.



Discover the sights and sounds of the night

The Western Australian bush has been an inspiration for stories and dances since Aboriginal people came to the forest more than 30 000 years ago. More recently, the bush has captured the imaginations of novelists, poets, balladeers and musicians as they recount the stories of early European settlers.

Sights and Sounds of the Night is an inexpensive program of outdoor concerts held at The Hills Forest's 200-seat rammed-earth amphitheatre, made from the terracotta coloured clays found throughout the forest. It nestles in a bushland setting behind The Hills Forest Activity Centre. There are performances and activities for everyone.

Prominent story-tellers retrace the lives and times of the people of the bush, including the local Nyoongar Aboriginal people. You and your family can spend time listening to bush bands while enjoying johnny

cakes and billy tea beside the campfire. If jazz is your flavour, you can bring a picnic tea and dance under the stars.

Another activity in this program is 'Back to the Forest', a fair dinkum Aussie bush show designed especially for children, but mums and dads will enjoy it just as much.

And if you can spin a good yarn or two, recite one of your own poems or sing one of your songs, you can do it at the 'Bush Yarn Spinners' Night'. You might even win the Poet's Cup!

Find out more about *Sights and Sounds of the Night* in brochures from local libraries, The Hills Forest or local CALM offices.

Left: Billy tea, johnny cakes and a smiling face—the finishing touch to an evening's entertainment in the forest.

Experience the forest under canvas

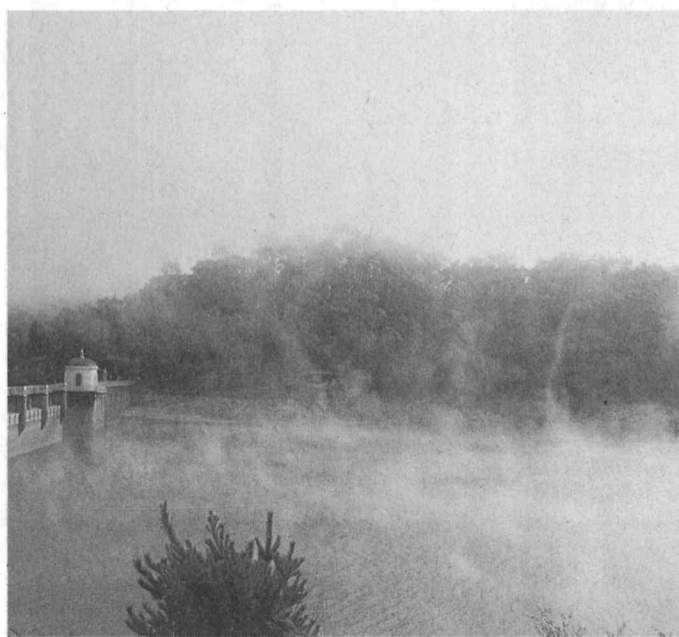
When the sun dips over the Darling Scarp, The Hills Forest reveals secrets that are hidden away during the day.

The sounds of the forest change from the gentle rustle of leaves and the occasional screech of a parrot to the scratchings and scurrings of native animals as they begin to stir and go into action, fossicking among the trees or the undergrowth in search of food. The moon becomes your lantern and the stars the signposts that lead you on a night-time adventure along walktrails winding through the tall dark forest and past old twisted trees with crooked arms that reach out into the darkness.

The *Forest Under Canvas* activities provide a great opportunity to camp

out and experience the forest when the rest of Perth is snug in bed. You can learn about the Nyoongar Aborigines who lived here for thousands of years and moved each year from the hills of the Darling Range to the plains and wetlands below, or you can trek through the forest with a herd of South American llamas to camp overnight in a hidden camp site. You can help check animal survey traps or go spotlighting for our nocturnal native animals. There are so many things to do in the forests at night.

Details of dates and fees for all the courses in *Forest Under Canvas* are available in a separate leaflet from your local library, CALM offices or The Hills Forest Activity Centre.



Early morning mist over the Helena Reservoir.

We need volunteers...

An important part of providing fun and inexpensive activity programs is the involvement of our team of volunteers, now numbering 35. These volunteers are special people who offer some of their spare time to assist guides and CALM's Hills Forest staff in creating the right atmosphere and providing good service to all activity participants.

All volunteers undergo a two-day training program and offer a variety of skills and time to the project. You don't have to have specific experience or qualifications—just an energy for the project and an enjoyment of being outdoors with people.

CALM can usually find a spot for everyone, from helping out in the office taking the bookings, right through to sharing the activity with the leader.

Training programs are conducted twice a year, so if you would like to do something for the environment, love the forest, and want to have fun helping people learn about its values, call Paula on (09) 295 2244 and register for the next call-up.

...and sponsors

CALM's Hills Forest project has fired the imaginations of individuals, community organisations and local and national businesses. Without the help of these people, many of the activities and facilities would still be on the drawing board.

We have attracted sponsorship and assistance from a variety of companies and organisations. Their forward thinking has helped get many of the facilities and activities off the ground. But there are still plenty of opportunities to help build ideas into reality.

The Hills Forest project delivers to a broad cross-section of the community. A few of the sponsors who have helped to date include ALCOA of Australia, ICI Australia, Paddy Pallin's, Hoo Hoo Club, Westrek, Australian Geographic Shop and many of the local sawmillers. They have been rewarded by the high public profile of The Hills Forest.

Sponsorship has also come from community groups in the form of work experience programs and community projects. So if you are a member of a club looking for interesting community projects to undertake, or a business which wants to get involved, we can help. If you are interested, please contact CALM's Hills Forest Manager, Stev Slavin, on (09) 295 3149.

