



# Conservation News

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 2001

## People power packs a punch

**RESEARCH** into the Department's people management strategies show we are way ahead of the pack.

An initial benchmarking study of 11 public sector agencies showed that we performed better than many others taking part.

### Follow up research

This is being followed up with 'qualitative research' carried out in two stages—the first was held earlier this year and the second will be held between May and November next year.

Results from the benchmarking research showed we have a low level of sick leave, a low level of resignations and a big response to employment when we advertise for staff.

### Preferred employer

It means people want to work for us, and we're earning the tag of 'preferred employer.'

Although our overtime was higher than that incurred by the other agencies, the culprit was bushfires (which usually don't happen in office hours!).

We have more men working for us than women—in fact we're the lead agency in that respect—but the number of Aboriginal staff is high, giving us the best results among the other agencies because of the ongoing commitment to Aboriginal employment.

Compared to other agencies our absence rate was low because of job satisfaction, commitment and variety.

# First stage of Gnangara Park nearly complete

**THE first stage in the creation of a 1000 hectare 'demonstration park' in Gnangara is nearing completion.**

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has installed 18 kilometres of ringlock fencing and 72 gates between Gnangara Road and Pinjar Road as part of a plan to develop a recreation area in the south-east corner of the pines near Ellenbrook.

The Department's Swan Coastal District Manager Alan Sands said the fencing was considered the District's 'Sanders Line' after Operations Officer Clayton Sanders who has overseen the design and construction phases of the project.

Alan said the District's staff—including seasonal personnel—had done a terrific job in building the gates and installing the fencing.

"I think we carried up every length of '45-pound' railway track in the State," he said.

"Our staff made the railway track gates at the District's Yanchep Workshop and so far they have withstood several attempts to by-pass them."

Clayton said there were three key issues the District was addressing—motor bikes, dumping of cars and rubbish, and fire management.

A new motor bike area is being developed west of Centroway and the existing bike area rehabilitated. This will lessen the impact of the bikes on residents of Ellenbrook and avoid conflicts with other users of the area.

"The fencing and the gates restrict access to areas that unfortunately were being used as dumping grounds," he said.

"Dumped vehicles also have been a major problem, not only in terms of



Swan Coastal District Manager Alan Sands and District crew Graeme Elsdon, Dave Perkins, Alan Jenkins and overseer Sam Greer with one of the 72 gates built and installed in Gnangara Park.

disposing of them, but the threat they pose when they are deliberately set on fire.

"We have put in six-metre-wide ploughed breaks along the fencelines and roads such as Centroway that create fuel-reduced buffers to minimise the risk of fires spreading as a result of burning vehicles.

"An added benefit is that we now effectively have 18 kilometres of 'safe refuge' for fire crews in the event of a sudden shift in fire behaviour."

Since the fencing has been installed, there has been a distinct change in the pattern of where cars are dumped. Even though some of them have been deliberately set on fire, the fires have not spread into the plantation or the bush.

"This is saving an enormous amount of time and unnecessary expense in fire suppression."

## Beelihar Regional Park draft Management Plan Release

**OUR Regional Parks Unit took time to celebrate this month with the finale of three big projects.**

The draft management plan for Beelihar Regional Park was released, a new sign system for regional parks was launched and an Aboriginal Heritage Walk Trail at the Spectacles Wetland was opened.

Regional Park Manager Tim Bowra said the draft management plan was an exercise between the Regional Parks Unit, a team of

By Mitzi Vance

environmental consultants and three local government authorities—the City of Melville, the City of Cockburn and the Town of Kwinana.

The plan outlines future management practices and ensures recreational and tourism needs don't have an adverse effect on ecosystems. One of the priorities is community involvement.

### Community access

"It's vital—we need to make sure that the community has access to recreational facilities but at the same time understands the need for conservation."

Tim said the plan was a milestone because Beelihar Regional Park contained 18 internationally significant lakes and wetlands.

"It is on the Interim List of the Register of the National Estate and one of its lakes, Thomsons Lake, is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention," Tim said.

The new five kilometre Aboriginal heritage trail has been partly funded by Alcoa of Australia

## Greenpower conserves biodiversity

**THE Department of Conservation and Land Management has taken the first steps in a program to reduce its Greenhouse gas emissions by sourcing 10 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources.**

The Department's Acting Executive Director, Keiran McNamara, says the Department will buy 10 per cent of its power needs from the south-west grid as 'green electricity'.

### Buying green

"Buying 'green electricity' from the grid will help support the development of renewable energy sources in Western Australia, but

more importantly, it will help the Department lessen its impact on climate change," he said.

Keiran said an energy audit of the Department's State Operations Headquarters in Kensington would be undertaken as part of a program to develop an energy management plan covering all aspects of energy use.

### Department a pioneer

Keiran said the Department had been among the pioneers of tree crops on cleared farmland to create 'carbon sinks' and was promoting trading in 'carbon credits' as an economic diversification for the State's agricultural sector and to help conserve the State's biodiversity.



Traditional Custodian Joe Walley shares a joke with Environment and Heritage Minister Judy Edwards and Stuart Harrison, Beelihar Regional Park Operations Officer.

Department of Conservation and Land Management supports the International Year of the Volunteer



and starts at the Spectacles lakes on Anketell Road, Kwinana, taking hikers on a tour of the park's Aboriginal sites. Senior Traditional Custodian Joe Walley provided ideas for stories on the distinctively designed signs.

Tim thanked his staff for their hard work and dedication, particularly the efforts of Brendan Dooley.

# Working Together

During a recent visit to the Department's Kensington offices Dr Judy Edwards, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, emphasised the importance of working with the community. The meeting of our Regional and District Managers later the same week provided the opportunity to reinforce this message (as well as listen to a fascinating talk by Danny Rosenkrans who is on exchange from the US National Parks Service in Alaska).

We should always remember that the parks, reserves, forests, flora and fauna we look after do not belong to the Department. Rather they belong to all Western Australians, and our role can be thought of as one of stewardship on behalf of the entire community.

Working with the community isn't anything new, but it's an area we need to focus on even more if we are to achieve greater public support for what we do. This includes members of the public through phone calls, letters and emails; our park visitors and neighbours; volunteers; Aboriginal communities; conservation organisations and natural resource management groups; local governments; advisory committees; licensees; industry; the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority; and Members of Parliament.

I want to emphasise to senior staff and those in leadership positions that you need to interact regularly with the community to ensure that we remain aware of their expectations of a conservation department.

On a different note, this edition carries an article about the recent administration seminar at Margaret River, which I have been told was a great success. I would like to apologise to the staff who attended for my last-minute cancellation. One of the inescapable duties of being Acting Executive Director is appearing before Parliamentary Estimates Committees to answer questions about the Department's budget. Unfortunately the scheduling of Committee hearings prevented my attendance.

*Keiran McNamara, Acting Executive Director*



*The Perth Rogainers at Albany's wind farm.*

## Hidden Valley shelter moved

**THE installation of Western Power's 12 wind turbines above the coastal cliffs of Sandpatch near Albany created a mammoth project.**

Four kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track west of Torndirrup National Park had to be realigned, the track upgraded to cater for the increase in day visitors and the Hidden Valley Shelter and campsite moved a kilometre west of its original site because of the turbines' noise.

Each turbine generates 21.6 megawatts of power and stands more than 100 metres from the tip of the blade to the ground. The combination of 12 towers will supply enough power for 15,000 average homes, or up to 75 per cent of Albany's power.

The Perth Rogainers, no stranger to

**By Martin Lloyd**

Bibbulmun Track shelter construction, offered their voluntary services to move the shelter to the new site. A total of 26 volunteers spent a valuable weekend building the new campsite shelter. The shelter's prefabricated sections constructed by prisoners at the Albany Prison were expertly assembled. The prison supervisor was there to see how it was going to look and to give feedback to the workshop crew.

At the end of the weekend, not only was a new campsite gained but the old one was removed. It was an excellent weekend and all enjoyed the Albany sunshine. Thanks to all involved with the project.

## Alf and his portable door

**By Tammie Reid**

**THE first thing Forester Alf Lorkiewicz of Forest Management Branch in Bunbury does after hiring a Cessna 172 is to unclip the existing aircraft door and attach his own.**

Alf's door has been modified to house a high quality Hasselblad ELM500 automatic camera, usually found in professional photographic studios but in this case most often found at 8,600 feet above sea level, photographing the forest or plantation estates.

Twice a year, under clear sky conditions, Alf photographs the current hardwood harvesting areas. He then processes stereo prints at a scale of 1:12,500. This is part of the SILREC system, a system for recording the silviculture or forest treatments carried out or carried over during a financial year of operations.

These data are used to plan for next year's forest management operations and to compile the harvest figures used in the annual report.

Other uses of Alf's aerial photography system have included assessment of drought deaths in E. globulus plantations, softwood harvest operation area, counting of stems per hectare - tree inventory, windthrow assessment in plantations and more recently trials testing the suitability of using infra red film to detect and assess dead or dying vegetation.

Alf has designed a fibreglass bubble in the door that when in the air enables a quick check on the light readings for correct film exposure. The camera is slid into a mount that folds out and allows for adjustments to be made to the

lens and changing of the film magazine.

At a recent break in at the Department's Bunbury office the only damage was to a fridge in the tea room that was securely locked. The would be thieves jemmied what they were hoping was a windfall of expensive alcohol only to find it was Alf's supply of Hasselblad film for his door mounted camera.

At \$400 per roll and an eight week lag time to order from Germany, Alf places high value on his film. The would be thieves closed the door in disgust and left it all behind.....for this month's works programme.



*Alf Lorkiewicz*

## A family affair in Pemberton

**By Jeff Bennett**

**IT was high time for families to discover what staff did behind closed office doors or out in the open, Pemberton staff reckoned.**

They got together to devise an idea for partners and children to really find out what we do by inviting families to look at works on the next big tourist attraction in the South West, the Karri Forest Explorer Drive.

The day started at the Pemberton office and we ventured to Big Brook Dam for morning tea. There Colin 'Drafty' Hunter and Phil Keeble delighted our taste buds with scones, jam and cream.

We travelled along the Drive and viewed

the new platform at the Warren River Cedar Site that was constructed by Overseer Kevin Barnsby and crew. Our 49-seater bus made the pioneer journey through Big Brook and Giblett Forests along the new Drive to Beedelup Falls. We passed outstanding redevelopment works carried out during the last three years. Our last stop was at the Bicentennial Tree where we had a delightful BBQ lunch.

It was a fantastic day out to reward and recognise the achievements by District staff.



## Rare birds survive wilderness wildfire

**By Allan Burbidge**

BRISTLEBIRDS are still singing well in the Nuyts Wilderness in Walpole-Nornalup National Park despite the extensive wildfire in March which burnt much of their habitat.

During 1999 and 2000, departmental staff and volunteers translocated 15 Western Bristlebirds from Two Peoples Bay to long-unburnt vegetation in Nuyts Wilderness as part of the recovery efforts for this threatened species.

Then, in March this year, an extensive wildfire burnt the release site.

Fortunately, some of the birds had already

dispersed several kilometres to the west, near where the fire was finally contained.

In September we carried out intensive monitoring of the site when myself and Neil Hamilton, from the department's Wildlife Research Centre, joined Isaac Hatch (Walpole District) and volunteer Ted Middleton to follow up earlier reports and map the occurrence of singing birds.

The result was extremely pleasing—we recorded five male and at least two female

birds. Even if there hadn't been a wildfire, this would have been a very encouraging result.

Most birds were in a buffer strip burnt three years ago, and one was in older vegetation. All were near the fire boundary.

It is fortunate that the fire was stopped where it was because if it had gone any further west, we may have lost all the bristlebirds in Nuyts.

Options for future action will be discussed at the next recovery team meeting planned for December.

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## Safety success is sizzling...

**SAFETY records from 90 of the Department's gang units and work groups have made us the most successful State organisation in avoiding lost time injuries.**

The recognition came at Western Australia's premier safety awards ceremony run by the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP) last month.

Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara accepted the prestigious Lost Time Injury Performance Award from Training Minister John Kobelke on behalf of the work groups, who achieved six calendar months without an employee being away from work for a full shift.

Keiran also accepted a second award, a silver Safe Way Achiever Award for our continuous improvement in occupational safety and health systems, including procedures and training in the workplace.

A Departmental Occupational Health and Safety Consultant, Richard McAlinden, said the awards recognised the Department's continuing commitment to, and success in the area of, occupational safety and health.

In characteristic fashion, he added: "Well done to all the wallys who won!"



Keiran McNamara receives the safety award from Training Minister John Kobelke.

## Gearing up for a long fire season

By Nigel Higgs

**DEPARTMENT of Conservation and Land Management's Fire Management Services is gearing up for a long fire season.**

Fire Management Services Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said the dry winter and spring had meant most districts in the forest regions had had to scale back planned burning programs. The prolonged drought conditions are certain to lead to a very long fire season characterised by intense and difficult wildfires.

"In the northern parts of the south-west forests fire crews have done a terrific job in taking advantage of dry conditions and cooler temperatures during winter to carry out planned burns for biodiversity, forest regeneration and community protection," Rick said.

"However, conditions in spring have been dry and the program in the southern forests has been mostly restricted to the smaller prescribed burns.

"We've already had 50 wildfires to date including one at West Cape Howe that has burned more than 1000 hectares."

### Water bombers

Rick said the Department again would be combining with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority in using water bombers this summer. Three would be based in Perth and two in Bunbury.

The Department had upgraded facilities at several centres so that the firebombers could be used from forward bases throughout the south-west. Some partial coverage will be provided to the western parts of South Coast and Wheatbelt regions, and the northern sandplains.

A major waterbomber ground crew training exercise has been scheduled for late November in Manjimup and refresher courses have been held for ground controllers and aerial attack supervisors.

### Intensive training

Rick said the intensive training programs, particularly in fire management and the Incident Control System, the Department had run over the past few years was now paying dividends as staff became more confident in taking on management roles in fire operations.

"This training has been critical to ensuring we not only have experienced officers, but also in planning for the future," he said.

"It also has been pleasing that personnel from FESA have been involved in the training programs. This is helping strengthen the close working relationships we have not only with FESA, but also with local volunteer brigades."

Rick said 80 new seasonal fire crews had again been taken on this year to assist in prescribed burning and fire suppression operations this summer.

"It is significant that many of these crews have been 'on board' in previous years which ensures that there are sufficient experienced personnel available to undertake the often hazardous work in fire control activities.

## Weedos turn out for Weed Buster Week

By Roger Armstrong

**THE State Weed Plan was launched at a gathering of "weedos" from government, industry and the community in Bunbury recently.**

The release coincided with the start of National Weed Buster Week.

The plan provides a framework within which all parties interested in weed management can work together to coordinate their efforts and share resources.

Weeds cost Australian agriculture more than \$3.3 billion every year.

The cost to the environment and our natural heritage is also significant. Weeds are an insidious invader of natural environments that change the way natural ecosystems function and result in catastrophic damage to our unique biodiversity.

Weeds are one of the most significant threatening processes contributing to loss of biodiversity and are up there

with feral animals, salinity and dieback.

Like many of these threatening processes, weeds do not respect tenure boundaries.

To achieve worthwhile results in weed management a coordinated approach is required by landholders, industry, community and local and State Government.

Physical weed control, quarantine operations, education, publicity and research need to be focussed to obtain the best result for WA.

The plan provides the mechanism to achieve this focus.

WA has been fortunate in that its isolation has meant that fewer weeds have had the chance to become established in our state than those on the eastern seaboard.

However, we cannot be complacent. Many of the plants that are weeds today

started their journey in our gardens.

Bridal creeper, Arum lily and double gee came to WA as garden plants.

There are hundreds of "sleeper" weeds in our gardens today that are awaiting the opportunity to escape into our fragile natural environments.

Globalization of trade and the increasing ability to order seeds via the internet from all over the world will increase the probability of new weeds being introduced to WA.

We all need to work together to address the threat of weeds.

The plan is the first strike in a long campaign to protect our natural environment from weeds.

For copies of the plan phone Lorraine Doherty at Kensington on (08) 9334 0365 or the Department of Agriculture Publication Section on (08) 9368 3729.



Koodah and year four students Allanah McKnight and Sheree Hollow build a fishing fence.



Renee Haywood and Melissa England put a fishing fence into action under the eye of Koodah.

## Entire primary school heads to Hills Forest Discovery Centre

**MORE than 300 students and teachers from Heathridge Primary School descended on The Hills Forest Discovery Centre in Mundaring late last month.**

It was the first time an entire school had visited en masse, climaxing weeks of planning by our EcoEducation team.

School Principal Gary Smith said the day was "absolutely fantastic" and enabled students to do months of pre-visit and follow-up activities.

Pre-primary to Year seven children were given a hands-on experience in nature conservation.

It showed how strong and popular the Department's EcoEducation programs are.

"It was just brilliant," Gary said. "The kids are still writing stories and we've built the program into our values education, which is especially important because the value of environmental responsibility is an integral part of the curriculum framework."

Since beginning nine years ago, the Department's EcoEducation program has been enjoyed by more than 90,000 students and teachers from around the State led by a team of 11 Educational and Aboriginal officers.

Our Senior EcoEducation Officer, Liz Moore, said the Heathridge students enjoyed a day of challenging activities.

They took part in animal monitoring activities, had close encounters with threatened species and learned about traditional Ngunjar culture. They also learned about dieback, the management of forests for quality water and the impact of fire.

The day followed a full day of professional development by teachers from Heathridge Primary School in May.

"They valued the day and the resources they were given so much that they returned with the whole school," Liz said.

Liz added the EcoEducation program, sponsored in part by Alcoa World Alumina Australia, built on the work that students had done in the classroom and helped to develop an appreciation of the biodiversity of the natural environment.



EcoEducation staff who helped co-ordinate the big day. (back row, from left) Marie Jacquier, Jenny Forrest, Chrissy Pinkerton (volunteer), Winsome Mortimer, Lorita Schmitz, Anne Taylor, Meg Corsini and Liz Moore, (middle row, from left) Delvene Cornwall and Linda Phillips (volunteer) and (front row, from left) Maree Morisey, Koodah Cornwall, Peter Russell and Jill Francis

## Conservation briefs

### Campgrounds closed

CAMPING grounds at the Avon Valley and Walyunga National Parks, and at Lane Poole Conservation Reserve, are closed during the summer months because of extreme fire conditions.

### Annual report available

The Department of Conservation and Land Management's 2000-2001 annual report is now available. It is accessible on the Department's website.

### Valuable volunteers

Volunteers make a valuable contribution to conservation initiatives in Western Australia.

The Department has 3000 registered volunteers who contribute more than 190,000 hours a year towards conservation initiatives in conjunction with community groups.

The 800 members of the Department's Bush Ranger Cadet units contribute a further 105,000 hours.

Examples of the volunteer work undertaken include four-wheel-drive clubs helping to stabilise tracks plus clean up days and volunteers helping in seed collection.

The Department's Community Involvement Volunteer Program is also a valuable source of opportunity for students to gain work experience.

### Bush Rangers in Wheatbelt

Cadets from Gosnells Senior High School's Bush Ranger unit joined forces with Wheatbelt farmers to revegetate and rehabilitate areas at risk of salinity.

They came at the invitation of farmers in the West Beverley's Kokendin Catchment Group and planted nearly 10,000 trees on two farms.

This year the Kokendin Catchment Group and other locals propagated more than 125,000 trees, with farmers welcoming the assistance of community groups. The tree-planting exercise gave the Bush Rangers first hand experience of problems caused by salinity and rising water tables.

### Wildlife charges

Two men were fined \$700 in the Joondalup Court of Petty Sessions earlier this month on two charges prosecuted by the Department.

One was fined \$500 on a charge under the Wildlife Conservation Act of taking protected fauna in a colony of nesting birds on Lancelin Island, an A class Nature Reserve. The other was fined \$200 for keeping 19 bobwhite quail, a non-native bird species that Western Australia is not allowed to be kept in captivity.

Chief Wildlife Officer David Mell said the actions at Lancelin Island were totally irresponsible as signs on the Island warn people that access was allowed only to beach areas and the main part of the island is off-limits because of bird nesting sites.

David said bobwhite quail posed a high risk of becoming established in the wild if they were released or escaped and would compete with native species.

"Eradication of introduced alien species is very expensive," he said.

### Rats removed on Montebellos

Rat baiting has been completed on the Montebello Islands Conservation Park as part of wildlife conservation efforts.

The reintroduction of threatened mammal species and the eradication of feral animals from the islands are the aims of the Department's Montebello Renewal project.

Rat baiting was first carried out on the islands in 1996 with subsequent baiting on some islands in 1997 and 1999. Despite these efforts non-native black rats remained on some of the islands.

"If not eradicated, they have the capacity to spread throughout the archipelago and threaten native species," the Department's Deputy Director of Biodiversity Conservation, Andrew Burbidge, said.

Montebello Renewal has the support of Apache Energy and Chevron Australia.



Barb Kennington from Narrogin emerges from Giant's Cave.

## Administration seminar a success

**EIGHTY staff from as far north as Exmouth, east to Kalgoorlie and south to Albany attended this year's administration seminar in Margaret River.**

Credit for the successful seminar goes to Val Erceg, Caroline Fremlin and Georgie Larsen and a number of staff in the Blackwood district - Brad Commins for his support and two days of great facilitating, Greg Voigt for looking after catering, Glenn Willmott for venues, Anne Wood and Calgardup and Giants Cave staff, Neil Taylor with the Cape to Cape Walk Trail, and Ken Ninnette and Rob Klok at Ellensbrook House.

As with all well presented functions there is always a leader. Val invested almost 12 months' constant planning, guidance and direction.

Three people from outside the Blackwood District—Tammie Reid, Barb Kennington and John Skillen—deserve high praise for the support they provided. They were just great.

Administration staff across the Department had the chance to network, looked at opportunities presented by change, recognised that people were the most important asset of the department and were encouraged to take ideas from the seminar back to work.

Other admin issues covered were corporate templates, budgets, staff uniforms, the Department's web kiosk, information systems, the chart of accounts and staff health.

Staff also heard about staff physical fitness, the Department's scale and diversity, product branding and the increased promotion of our South West assets.

Office bound staff also had the chance to visit some of the Department's icons, covering

more territory than the early explorers and visiting at least one cave as well as walking eight kilometres of the Cape to Cape trail.

It was a great chance to look at administration's role and future.

Well done everyone!

## Staff changes...Staff changes...

**Staff changes finalised during the last two months include:**

**Permanent appointment:**

Sarah Adriano, as reserves officer, Goldfields Region.

**Temporary deployment:**

Kim Cream, Crawley office to Yanchep National Park as visitor services officer (six months).

**Contracts:**

Sandra Gilfillan, assistant conservation officer, Albany (four months); Evelyn McGough, database operator, WA Herbarium (three months); Leonie Swinton, quality assurance officer People Services (six weeks); Tamra Chapman, data analyst Exmouth (one month); Lisa Archer, landscape architect, Recreation and Landscape Planning section (three months); Christine Fregard, technical officer, Wildlife Branch, Kensington (three months); Roger Syme,

reserves officer, Denham District (12 months); Christie Mahony, reserves officer, Denham District (12 months).

**Transfers:**

Kevin White, senior operations officer, Fire Services in Bunbury to Broome District Office; Gary Davidson, assistant operations officer, Harvey office to Forest Products Commission, Harvey; Brad Rushford, reserves officer Wildlife Branch, Kensington to Denham District Office.

**Resignations:**

Jamie Allnut, regional coastal facilitator, Albany; Janita Winata, personnel officer People Services; Lana M. Bowers, officer, Kirup; Michael Meffert, technical officer, Wildlife administration.

**Redundancy:**

Vicky Hamley, senior technical officer, WA Herbarium.

## Tenth fauna training course a success

By Peter Orell

**THE Perup Forest Ecology Centre played host to the Department's Fauna Management Course for the second time.**

Sixteen participants learnt the basics of fauna management and had an introduction to fauna survey techniques including trapping and handling animals.

The participants came from as far afield as Esperance and Coorow and all were keen to get their hands on some of the fauna abounding in Perup. The enthusiasm was essential to get them through a tight schedule of morning field sessions with early starts and afternoons of lectures and some classroom activities.

### Highlights

Evening activities included an introduction to frog call and owl call surveys, a look at bats and a spotlighting survey. The highlight of the week for everyone was the 'hands on' experience in trapping chuditch, possums, quenda, woylies and other animals.

The tenth annual course was run at Perup by the Wildlife Branch with assistance from the Science Division, the Warren Region and

the Donnelly District. It has evolved to meet the changing needs of the Department since the first Mammal Conservation Course was held at Batalling Field Study Centre in 1992. The course provides the training necessary to support the Department's Western Shield program.

### Still here...

About 85 per cent of staff who have attended the courses over the years are still with the Department. Several graduates from the first course in 1992 have remained actively involved in programs where the knowledge and skills learnt have been directly relevant. Kim Williams and Lyndon Mutter are Nature Conservation Program Leaders for the South West Region and the Swan Coastal District respectively. Rob Brazell has been instrumental in establishing fauna conservation programs in Wellington District and Leon Price has been involved with establishing fauna

related activities at the Wellington Discovery Forest. Albany District Environmental Officer, Paul Blechynden, manages Western Shield fox baiting operations in his District.

### Graduates

Our 2001 graduates are: Luke Bouwman (Cervantes, Moora District), David Butcher (Pemberton, Donnelly District), Les Coyne (Esperance District), Stefan De Haan (Wanneroo, Swan Coastal District), Fiona Falconer (Land For Wildlife, Coorow), Wink Ferris (Volunteer, Wellington Discovery Forest), Stephen Gray (Katanning District), George Laws (Busselton, Blackwood District), Katrina McGregor (Narrogin District), Stephen Mills (Fitzgerald River National Park, Albany District), Redfern Morehu (Albany District), Myles Mulvay (Wanneroo, Swan Coastal District), Kris Narducci (Katanning District), Bruce Nieuwenhyze (Kirup, Blackwood District), Julia Northin (Nannup, Blackwood District), and Brian O'Hehir (Kirup, Blackwood District).