

Behind the scenes success

AFTER months of planning and unavoidable hiccups, the Department's recent symposium on fire in south-west ecosystems was a great success.

The final program, which was prepared with input from the Conservation Council of WA and FESA, covered a range of fire science topics and issues of broader community concern.

Glenda Lindsey from the Kensington Science division, said organising the fire symposium was an immense task and presented numerous challenges along the way.

"Initially, the symposium was going to be a two-day conference in September last year attended by about 80 people," Glenda said.

"It was postponed until April 2002 and another day was added to the proceedings to cover a broader range of community issues.

by Rhianna Mooney

"At that stage, we expected about 150 people, but the actual number of people who registered was about 350, which exceeded everyone's expectations."

Glenda said the venue had to change to cater for increased numbers.

"We certainly didn't want to have to turn anyone away just because there wasn't room.

"In the end, the symposium was held at the WA Turf Club Function Centre which handled large numbers of people and was centrally located to Perth."

Apart from a false fire alarm, the symposium ran smoothly.

"The fire alarm wasn't planned, it just happened. We had to evacuate the entire conference mid session, but at least it gave the WA Turf Club

some practice in evacuation. After all, the main theme of the symposium was fire control and management," Glenda said.

"The feedback has all been very positive and unanimously testifies that the conference ran very smoothly."

Glenda said the task of organising the symposium was made easier by the help and support of many people. She said that the work was not over yet, with a fair amount of work to be done to publish the proceedings.

"The Director of Science, Neil Burrows and the Science Adviser and Senior Principal Research Scientist, Ian Abbott did most of the work and their thorough organisation made the conference a success," she said.

"I would like to thank all those who helped to plan, organise and orchestrate the conference."



Caption: Glenda Lindsey is flanked by Janine Morris and Michelle Vellios, who work for the Forest and Tree Crops Group.



Fire Symposium Organisation.

Seminars

Glenda
Godfrey

Michelle.