



Conservation News

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MAY 2002

New funding arrangements for south-west forests



Wheatbelt Regional manager Ken Wallace (front) accepts the National Salinity Prize with Richard George from the Department of Agriculture and Audrey Bird, a farmer in the Toolibin Lake Catchment. Audrey is a member of the Toolibin Lake Recovery team and chair of the local catchment group. Photo from the Canberra Times, taken by Adam McLean

Award for Lake Toolibin recovery

Western Australia's Toolibin Lake Recovery Team and Technical Advisory Group have won the prestigious National Salinity Prize.

The prize is sponsored by the Institution of Engineers Australia and rewards groups for their innovative development of new technologies or practical solutions that address the problem of salinity in rural and urban Australia.

The Toolibin Lake catchment covers 48,000 hectares in the headwaters of the Blackwood River, 50 kilometres east of Narrogin in the WA wheatbelt.

The area is one of the most important wetland systems in the wheatbelt and when filled with water is home to up to 42 waterbird species.

Toolibin Recovery Catchment Officer, Julie Wyland said agencies and local landowners have worked together for over 25 years to develop strategies to protect and conserve Toolibin Lake.

Julie said that the coordination of work at Toolibin Lake was formalised in 1994 with the development of the Toolibin Lake Recovery Plan.

Continued page 3

NEW funding arrangements for the Department of Conservation and Land Management in the recent State Budget will strengthen the Department's management of the south-west native forests on an ecologically sustainable basis

The Department's Acting Executive Director, Keiran McNamara, said the Budget included a specific allocation of \$10.6 million to the Department for the management and protection of State forests, replacing the previous payment for this purpose from the Forest Products Commission (FPC). This will address any remaining perceptions regarding conflicts of interest in the management of native forests.

Keiran said the new arrangements meant the Department could manage the multiple-use forest areas irrespective of the level of commercial operations such as timber harvesting.

"It also means that the Department's operations that are specifically associated with commercial forestry operations and protection of plantations will be met by the FPC," Keiran said.

Other key initiatives for the Department in the 2002-03 Budget include:

- New funding under the Government's *Protecting our old-growth forests* policy to provide for management of new national parks and conservation reserves. Recurrent funding for management of the proposed new south-west parks and reserves will be increased by \$2 million over the previous year's allocation to a total of \$4.5 million, and annual capital funding will be increased by a further \$1 million to give total capital funding of \$3.07 million;
- \$1 million for capital costs of the proposed Karri Tingle Discovery Centre in the Walpole Wilderness Area;
- an additional \$300,000 for on-the-ground management of pastoral leases bought to create an adequate conservation reserve system in the Gascoyne-Murchison, as well as for off-reserve conservation measures; and
- \$8 million for salinity initiatives aimed at conserving biodiversity in affected areas, including the natural diversity recovery catchments and Crown reserves management programs.

Keiran said that now the State Budget was handed down, Directors would complete the negotiation of Service Provider Agreements to reflect the Government's conservation priorities.

Department in national biodiversity audit

by Tracy Peacock

THE Department of Conservation and Land Management has been a collaborator in an ambitious project auditing Australia's biodiversity.

Reports were delivered to the National Land and Water Resources Audit last month.

Collaborators on the audit project included the various State and Territory conservation agencies, CSIRO, universities and museums.

In Western Australia, Agriculture WA and other agencies assisted the Department.

The audit identified the biodiversity values of each sub-region, their condition and trend, existing activities to protect them, gaps in the reserve system and additional activities likely to have a worthwhile effect.

The Department's Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara chairs the national committee overseeing the project.

Norm McKenzie, a survey ecologist with the Department's Science Division, said the audit provided a valuable national overview which would help form the basis of future conservation planning.

"It does provide some objective recommendations on where conservation dollars should be spent and on what," he said.

Norm said staff had worked on the audit for the past nine months and he acknowledged the efforts of the Department's regional ecologists and Nature Conservation leaders who had compiled most of the data.

"It has relied on the goodwill of a lot of staff who made the time to contribute their expertise," Norm said.

Continued page 4

Fire symposium adds to knowledge

THE outcomes of the three-day symposium on fire ecology and impacts will help the Department refine its fire management regimes for the State's conservation estate.

Director of Science Neil Burrows says the symposium provided a wealth of information that will help to conserve the State's distinctive biodiversity and protect conservation and community values from damage by wildfires.

The symposium was attended by 350 people including fire managers, fire fighters, academics, conservationists, local government representatives, farmers and interested members of the community.

The program of topics and speakers was prepared by the Department in consultation with representatives of the Conservation Council of Western Australia, the WA Forest Alliance and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Speakers were mainly from WA universities and Government agencies but included guest speakers

from eastern Australia and the United States.

Neil said the symposium aimed to collate and disseminate current scientific knowledge of fire behaviour and its effects on plants and animals in south-west ecosystems.

"But it also provided an opportunity for discussing a diverse range of social and community issues including perspectives from Nyoongar Aboriginal people, bushfire law, regional planning, the threat bushfires pose to communities and to human health and the contribution of bushfires to global warming," he said.

"Important findings that emerged from the presentations were that for thousands of years, fire, including the deliberate and skilful use of fire by Nyoongar people, has played an important role in moulding the distinctive ecosystems of the south-west.

"A common theme from the scientists was that no single fire regime benefits all wildlife species and communities.

"Rather, native plants and animals have evolved in a diversity of fire regimes over long periods of time so there needs to be greater variability of factors such as frequency, season, scale and intensity of fires to create a mosaic across the landscape that in turn will promote biodiversity.

"This means we need to be flexible in our approach to fire management - we need to avoid using the same fire management prescriptions over large areas for long periods to avoid undesirable impacts on biodiversity conservation."

The scientific papers presented at the symposium would be published as a book by an independent scientific publisher. Other papers are being collated and will be published in a separate volume.

Abstracts from the various papers are available on the Department's Science Division pages on NatureBase at www.naturebase.net/science/science.html

Working Together

This edition of *Conservation News* carries the story of the Toolibin Lake Recovery Team and Technical Advisory Group winning the Institution of Engineers National Salinity Prize that was presented by the Prime Minister at a ceremony in Canberra's Parliament House recently.

There are a number of lessons from Toolibin for the way the Department goes about its work.

Toolibin is a wetland ecosystem that sits in a highly cleared wheatbelt catchment and its conservation values are under threat from hydrological and other changes operating at a landscape scale far beyond the boundaries of the nature reserve.

Features of the response at Toolibin include multidisciplinary scientific and technical investigation; local landholder engagement and involvement; sound planning; and adoption of an integrated package of measures on and off the reserve embracing engineering works beyond what we normally contemplate in conservation programs, as well as more 'conventional' responses such as revegetation.

A couple of other features also warrant mention. One was having the vision and foresight to tackle a complex problem where success was far from guaranteed. The other was, having made that decision, an institutional commitment to substantial and continuous investment for the long haul rather than looking for a short-term fix. Finally, our work at places such as Toolibin emphasises the Department's invaluable role in driving long term experiments that are essential to develop and test the new technologies that will underpin the future of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use.

As we embark on an era of increasing partnership with regional natural resource management groups in the delivery of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and stage two of the Natural Heritage Trust, it is essential that we bear in mind what we have learned from Toolibin.

My congratulations go to Ken Wallace and all those involved in the Toolibin project for the national recognition they have deservedly received.

Keiran McNamara, Acting Executive Director



Tammars translocated from wheatbelt to Avon Valley

by Christine Freegard

BETWEEN thunderstorms, lightning and torrential rain, 69 Tammars wallabies were released into their new homes in the Avon Valley on April 30 and May 1.

The Tutanning Nature Reserve wallabies topped up populations previously translocated to Julimar State Forest, Avon Valley National Park and The Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Paruna Sanctuary. The animals were released under the *Western Shield* Program. Twenty were released into Paruna Sanctuary, 22 into Julimar State Forest and 27 into Avon Valley National Park.

Tutanning Nature Reserve, 25 kilometres east of Pingelly in the wheatbelt, supports one of the largest populations of Tammars wallabies in Western Australia. The wallabies often graze in large groups in adjoining farm paddocks, damaging crops.

Les and Cindy Marshall own the adjacent farm and kindly allowed the use of their shearing shed as a base for the translocation. Full use of the wool classing table and sorting bays was made when the wallabies were weighed, sexed, fitted with ear tags and sorted by sex and proposed destinations. Each animal was fitted with reflective ear tags to enable monitoring by spotlighting to distinguish between males and females (blue tags for boys, red tags for girls).

Staff from the Wildlife Branch (Peter Orell

and Christine Freegard), Paruna Sanctuary (Leigh Whisson and Jo Williams) and Narrogin District (Brian MacMahon, Howard Robinson, Martin Clarke and Kate McGregor) as well as volunteer Luke Stone assisted in the trapping and Peter Mawson, Melanie Harding, Jim Maher, Andre Schmitz and Trish Gardner assisted in the transport and release of the animals.

The Tammars wallaby was once common across southern Australia but populations are now restricted to several offshore islands and disjunct mainland sites across WA and South Australia. It was originally widespread in the jarrah forest and in the wheatbelt.

Until recently, the Tammars wallaby was listed as being rare or likely to become extinct under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. It was removed from this list in July 1998 and is now considered to be conservation dependent.

Translocations such as this help to further secure the conservation status of the Tammars wallaby and restore the original complement of mammal species found in our national parks and nature reserves at the time of European settlement. Future translocation destinations include Walyunga National Park and Hills Forest.

ECOPLAN brings environmental movement to Department



Bridget Hyder-Griffiths (left) and Margo O'Byrne.

A GOVERNMENT campaign that supports nearly 300 'Friends' of bushland groups in Perth has transferred to the Department.

Ecoplan spent the first 11 years of its life at the Department of Environmental Protection but moved to this Department two months ago under the Machinery of Government changes.

Ecoplan's co-ordinator, Margo O'Byrne, brings with her the environmental passion and community spirit that has already encouraged thousands of people to care for local bushland.

Friends of bushland groups are creating walks, restoring bushland, keeping weeds at bay and removing rubbish. Their numbers continue to grow as more groups set up under the stewardship of Ecoplan.

"The real joy is that members of groups formed with assistance from Ecoplan are seeing that they can make a difference to the environment," she said.

She is looking forward to developing Ecoplan with the Department.

Margo and Bridget Hyder-Griffiths—seconded from the DEP to oversee the transition of Ecoplan to the Department—will liaise with key people in the Department including Penny Hussey from Land for Wildlife, May Carter from Nearer to Nature and Bronwyn Humphreys from CALM

Bush Rangers to increase Ecoplan's community links, adding to the partnerships already formed with the Swan Catchment Centre and Greening Australia (WA).

Margo said Ecoplan was born at a time when roads and development had destroyed and continued to destroy many pockets of urban and semi-rural bush.

"People wanted to do something so they got together to say 'What can we do on a practical level?' They spent six months creating the basis of Ecoplan," Margo said.

From an initial handful of people there are now thousands of people involved in the 'Friends' of bushland groups in the Perth metropolitan area, with more springing up in rural areas.

Ecoplan uses training programs to enable Friends groups to identify weeds and other plants, and restore degraded or neglected bushland.

Margo said changing community attitudes had seen a metamorphosis in the type of person who fought for the environment.

"Fifteen years ago we saw committed conservationists. Now we're seeing more ordinary citizens who've picked up the environmental message, as well as students," she said.

"When people join a Friends group they've often found a way to express their concerns for the environment on a practical level, achieve something meaningful and can see that they're making a difference."

Communities work with scientists

A UNIQUE WA project has been collecting valuable information on marine green turtles and identifying their harvesting by Aboriginal communities in the Dampier Peninsula area.

The joint 12-month project between the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Environment Australia, Environs Kimberley and Aboriginal communities, has focused on the four Aboriginal communities between Broome and One Arm Point.

The Department's Biodiversity Conservation Group Manager Keith Morris said a representative in each community had been collecting information on turtle take on a daily basis since September 2001.

"We've designed a data collection sheet and a contact in each of the communities provides us with the information," he said.

Information relating to species, sex, size and where the turtles are taken is collected.

The extent of turtle egg collecting is also being assessed.

Keith said data already collected had shown that female green turtles were preferred for meat and that turtles taken in the One Arm Point area are nesting on islands along the entire Pilbara coast.

"The aim is to find out how many are being taken and make a judgement on what proportion that is of the population," Keith said.

"We believe there could be about 1000 turtles taken annually. This is probably only a small proportion of the total number of green turtles in the area, however it must be remembered that turtles from WA waters are also taken for meat in the Northern Territory and Indonesia."

An extension of the project will be sought for 2002/03 and if successful it will be expanded to examine the extent of turtle harvest in the La Grange Bay area, south of Broome.

Science staff survey

THE Department's Science Division plans to conduct a staff attitudinal survey in the Division.

Plans for the survey were discussed at the Division's two-day meeting at Point Walter in May.

Biodiversity Conservation Group Manager Keith Morris said the aim of the survey was to gauge the opinion of the 130-strong Science Division staff about issues such as their working relationships with peers, team members and management.

"We've never undertaken this type of survey in the Division before and we felt it was timely because there have been several changes in the Department," he said.

"We felt it was a good time to determine what issues were troubling people and to see what could be done to improve the situation. In this process we also hope to identify the positive aspects of the work place."

Keith said it was important that as many staff as possible participated in the survey so that meaningful results could be obtained.

A consultant will oversee the program and analyse the survey results. His report is expected to be handed to the Division's Science Management Council by July.

SMC would discuss the report and examine ways of implementing the recommendations where possible.

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Public participation workshop for Corporate Executive

MEMBERS of the Corporate Executive are among the latest Department personnel to take part in public participation training.

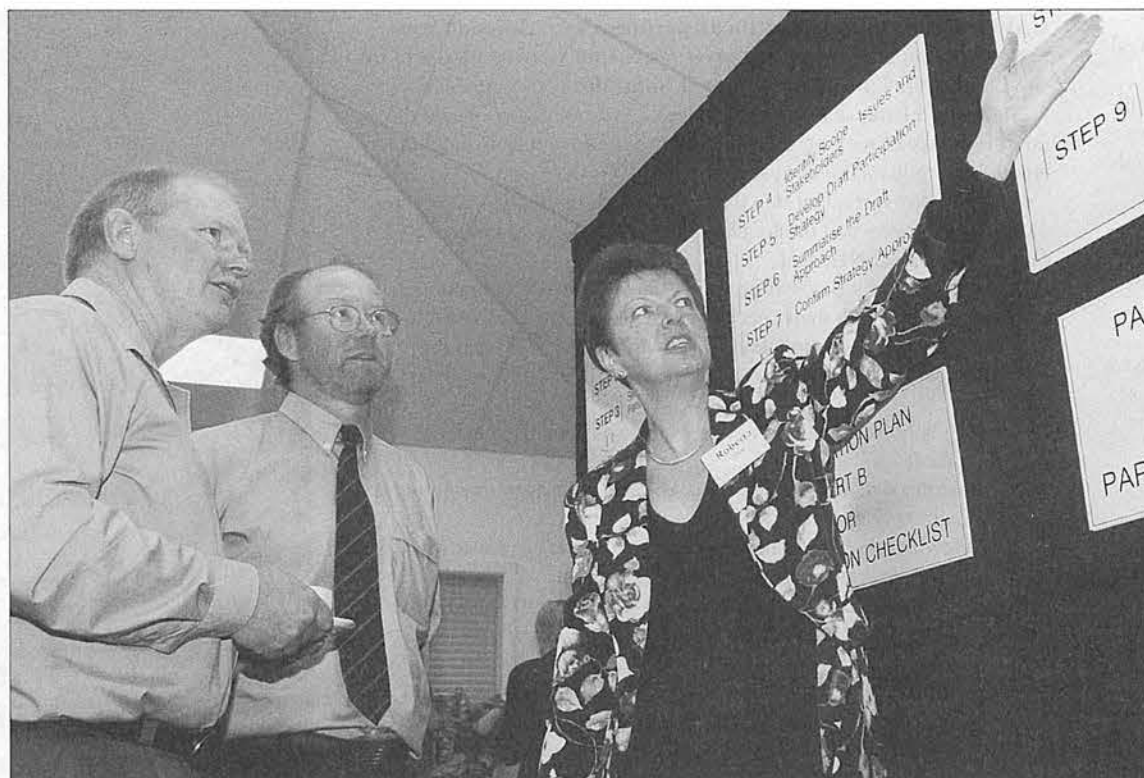
Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara, along with Directors and their policy advisors, attended a public participation workshop in late April at Wollaston Conference Centre in Mt Claremont.

"The workshop was designed to give Corporate Executive an overview of the content of the Department's public participation training program, as well as an understanding of what's involved with the various forms of public participation used by staff," said Director of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Ron Kawalilak.

"The workshop was also an opportunity to report back to Corporate Executive on the outcomes and the feedback from the public participation training program being conducted for staff."

To date, more than 160 staff from the Department and from the Forest Products Commission have taken part in seven two-day workshops. An eighth workshop for 22 staff is scheduled for late June in Mandurah.

"Another aim of the workshop was to build an understanding amongst Directors of what is required to further develop, within the Department,



Roberta Meade (right) discusses the public participation planning process with Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara and Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp. Photo by Ernie McLintock

public participation competencies and a culture of partnership with the community," said Ron.

"Maintaining community involvement and support is a key result area for the Department and an ever-improving public participation program is one way to achieve that.

"Ongoing understanding, support and encouragement from Corporate Executive is necessary to ensure

working in partnership with the community is a reality throughout the Department.

"Directors are aware of this and that's why they wanted the workshop."

Additional steps to support public participation within the Department will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of Corporate Executive.

The workshop was organised by

Senior Project Officer Tammie Reid, and was delivered with the assistance of Gae Synnott and Roberta Meade, who have been heavily involved with the Department's public participation training program for the past 20 months.

Corporate Executive is planning future similar workshops with a cross-cultural awareness training workshop being developed.

Dwellingup chemical retrieval plan

THE Department has completed an operations plan to locate, identify, retrieve and dispose of chemical containers that may have been buried near Dwellingup.

The plan was prepared by an experienced and accredited environmental consultant, Gutheridge, Haskins and Davey.

The Department's Director of Regional Services, Alan Walker, said surveys had indicated some containers were buried in State forest and a Crown reserve near the townsite in the 1970s.

Alan said although the containers may have been disposed of in line with practices and regulations of the day, changing community values had led to public concern about possible environmental and health implications.

"In particular, the Department is concerned about suggestions earlier this year that the containers were from a contaminated batch containing dioxins, imported into Western Australia between 1969 and 1971," he said.

"Although the Department has not found any evidence to suggest the buried containers are from the contaminated batch, it takes the community's concerns seriously and believes it is important that any chemical containers are removed."

The plan had been approved by the Department of Environment, Water and Catchment Protection and the Health Department.

"A priority of the Department is to ensure public safety and to minimise any adverse impacts from the recovery and disposal operation on the natural environment," he said.

"The Department is committed to ensuring the Dwellingup community is kept informed at all times of any chemical containers found, the quantity and the method of retrieval."

Alan said the Department, under the guidance of the Department of Environment, Water and Catchment Protection, had engaged a consultant to carry out electromagnetic tests of areas where current and former Departmental staff had identified as sites where containers might have been buried.

This testing detected three sites containing five priority areas each of which was less than 10 square metres and one priority site covering about 40 square metres. These priority sites will be excavated and any containers found will be retrieved and sent for disposal under environmental and health guidelines.

The five-day operation is due to begin this month.

Alan said that when the development of Dwellingup caravan park was announced in the early 1990s, there were concerns that chemical containers might have been buried on the proposed site.

The Department arranged for 230 soil samples to be taken. Subsequent testing revealed no chemical residues although some traces of chemicals were identified in water samples from a nearby stream. These traces were well below World Health Organisation standards.

Award for Lake Toolibin recovery

From page 1

"The Toolibin Recovery Plan has really been one huge experiment," Julie said.

"The plan has taken an integrated approach to address the problem of salinity, incorporating many different strategies.

"A broad consortium of parties, consultants and contractors brought a range of ideas to fruition at Toolibin Lake."

The Toolibin Lake Recovery Team and Advisory Group is made up of representatives from local landholders; the Department of Conservation and Land Management; the Department of Agriculture; the Water and Rivers Commission and Edith Cowan University.

"The recovery of Toolibin Lake and the success of the Recovery Plan relies on the continuation of these long standing partnerships and community involvement," Julie said.

Chairman of the Toolibin Lake Recovery Team, Wheatbelt Regional manager Ken Wallace, said the award was an acknowledgment that long-term complex natural management problems required long-term complex partnerships.

"This project couldn't have succeeded without the partnerships with these groups. Lessons learnt at Toolibin will hopefully help others tackle salinity effectively," he said

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.

Conservation briefs

No more catcalls at Rottnest

For the first time since European settlement, it seems that cats have been eradicated from Rottnest Island.

The Rottnest Island Authority has attempted to rid the Island of cats since 1965 because of the potential threat to ground nesting birds, quokkas and reptiles.

Three cats were trapped during the latest exercise on Rottnest Island earlier this year.

"It is always possible that individual cats will re-establish on the island," Senior Research Scientist Dave Algar said.

A Departmental report recommended that a trapping program should be conducted if cats reappear on the island.

Tree growers' program

The Tenth WA Master TreeGrower program was held in the Avon Valley recently.

Attracting 17 participants, the eight-day course provided local farmers with the chance to gain expert advice on a range of farm forestry options.

It was organised by Greening Australia (WA), WA Landcare Promotions and the Department's Farm Forestry Unit.

Farm Forestry Development Officer Chrissie Rob said the program presented information ranging from milling, value adding and marketing timber products to species selection, site establishment and management requirements.

Another Master TreeGrower program is planned for this year in the Moora region.

Department in national biodiversity audit

From page 1

The nation was divided into 85 terrestrial regions and 354 subregions under the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia. Data were compiled on each area, so the audit covered all parts of Australia.

Norm said the Department also compiled more detailed case studies on the north-west Kimberley and the inner Wheatbelt.

Another aspect of the project was a detailed mammal audit.

"We compiled a list of the original mammal fauna in each region of Australia at the time of European settlement," Norm said.

A matrix was produced with information on 305 species.

"The bottom line is that in some regions of Australia a third of the mammal fauna is extinct," he said.

Congratulations to cave volunteers

CAVERS came to the aid of the Department's Blackwood Caves team by helping them carry a pre-constructed viewing platform into the Calgardup Cave in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.

Blackwood Parks and Visitor Services Leader Neil Taylor said the enormous task of moving the platform, required volunteers who understood the fragile nature of caves.

"It was really important that the people working on this project were alert to the dangers and the fragility of caves in order to minimise the possible damage," Neil said.

The Department's Blackwood Caves Guide Tracey Robbins invited two caving clubs with their specialist knowledge and equipment to help.

"The local caving group Cavers Leeuwin Inc (CLINC) and the Speleological Research Group (SRG) from Perth happily assisted," Neil said.

"Getting help from the two caving clubs was actually much easier than the task itself."

Neil said the size and weight of the objects the groups moved made the task extremely challenging.

"The viewing platform was 4.5 metres in diameter and was made from stainless steel and recycled plastic," Neil said.

"It has been estimated that the platform weighed 1500kgs and the numerous fixing bolts and batten screws were all 316 grade stainless steel.

"To make the exercise even harder, we had to carry the materials and tools down 212 steps and negotiate 20 metres of low ceiling."

The local CLINC members carried all the materials into the cave after work on a Friday evening and the specialist construction crew from SRG arrived on the Saturday to reconstruct the platform, put together jointly by private enterprise and the Department's work crew.

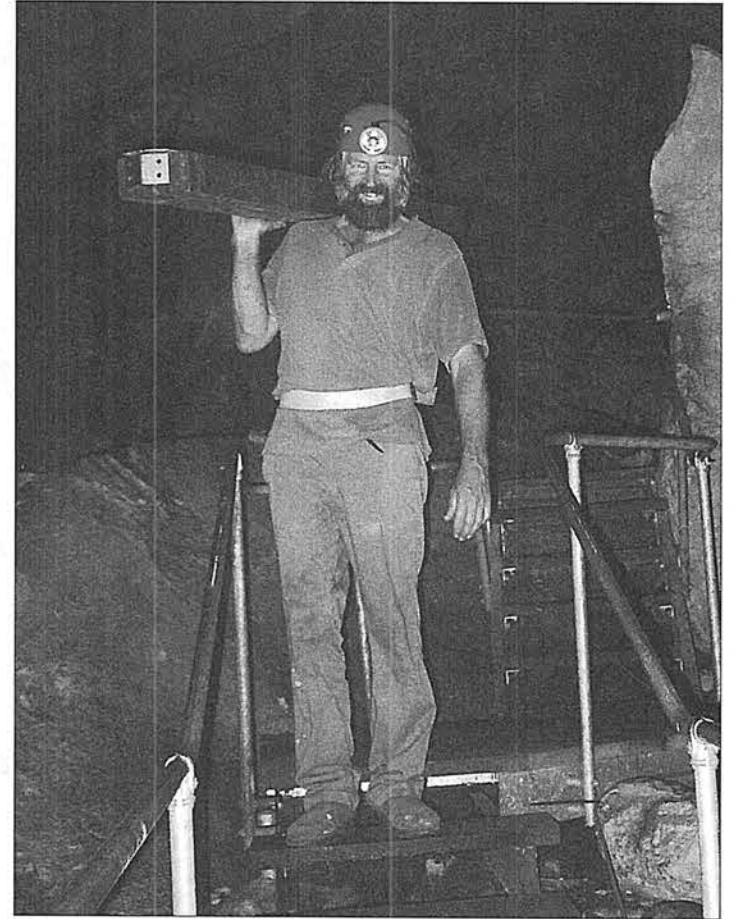
"There were very weary bodies leaving the cave at the end of both days," Neil said.

The initial cost of the viewing platform is higher than a conventional timber structure but the ongoing costs are minimal and it will not require annual oiling.

"The materials are likely to be used more often in our coastal recreation sites," Neil said.

Neil said Anne Wood, her staff and all the volunteers are to be congratulated for doing an excellent job.

"The speleological clubs of Western Australia continue to do a fantas-



National Park ranger Rob Klok carries a piece of the platform down the 212 steps.

tic job in supporting the Department manage the karst areas in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and throughout other karst areas in the state," Neil said.

"Their support is thoroughly appreciated."

Staff changes . . . Staff changes . . . Staff changes . . . Staff changes . . .

Contracts

Beth McKernan, Assistant Training Officer, Dwellingup Training Centre; Anthea Jones, Administrative Assistant, Wildlife Administration, Kensington; Katrina Hawker, Project Officer, Land Administration, Kensington; Vicki Berry, Web Author, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Crawley; Darren Gillespie, Marketing and Promotions Officer, Parks and Visitor Services, Swan Region, Kensington; Maree Stinton, Officer, Information Management Branch, Kensington; Andrew McCarthy, Farm Forestry Development Officer, Science Division, Kensington; Arvid Hogstrom,

Seasonal Ranger, Windjana Gorge National Park, West Kimberley District; Lyndon Quaife, Seasonal Ranger, Windjana Gorge National Park, West Kimberley District; Kelly Shepherd, Research Scientist, Science Division, WA Herbarium; Scott Coad, Senior Technical Officer, Science Division, WA Herbarium; Rhianna Mooney, Editorial Assistant, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Crawley.

Permanent Appointment

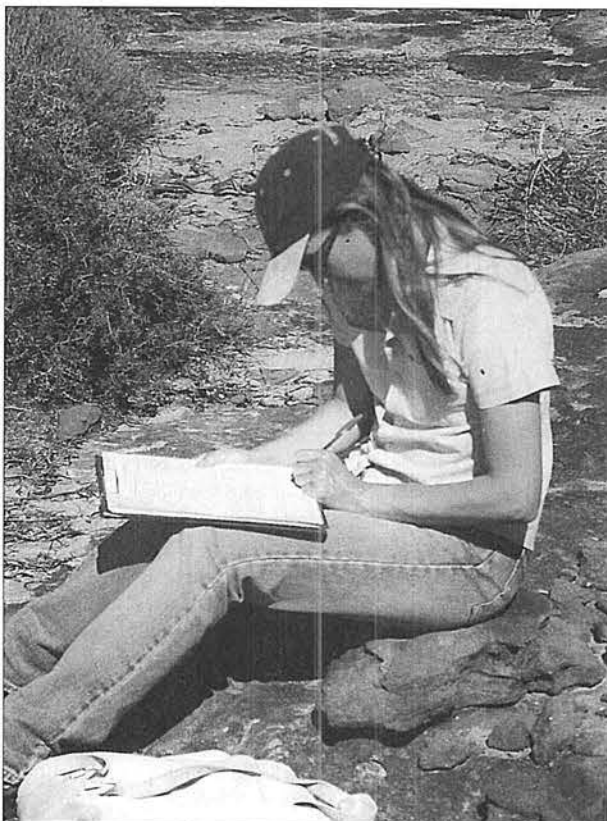
Anthony Raudino, Dieback Interpreter, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Bronwyn Humphries, Senior Project Officer, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Kensington; Kristin Larkin, Visitor Services

Officer, Swan Coastal District, Regional Services Division, Yanchep NP; Cheri Higgs, Visitor Services Officer, Swan Coastal District, Regional Services Division, Yanchep NP; Matthew Swan, Visitor Services Officer, Swan coastal District, Regional Services division, Yanchep NP; Leigh Sage, Dieback Interpreter, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury.

Transfer

Kerry Troeger, Licensing Officer, from Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Kensington to Parks Policy and Tourism, Kensington; Nicole Willers, Conservation Officer, to Swan Region, Regional Services Division.

New book for wildflowers



Alanna Chant fills out a rare flora report form.

ALANNA Chant has been piecing together information about threatened wildflowers in the Geraldton area for more than two years.

It's been a fascinating project for the Department's Geraldton Work Centre Conservation Officer and has culminated in a new publication, *Threatened Wildflowers of the Mid-West*.

The aim of the newly-released Bush Book, which took her about two months to research and compile, has been to develop community awareness of flora conservation and to promote community involvement.

She said it has already received local support from groups such as the Geraldton Herbarium Group.

Alanna described the book as a useful tool in encouraging the community "to help them help us".

She said it would also be useful for school children.



More than 1000 people gathered in the Dwellingup cemetery to farewell a beloved Department staff member last month. Taryn Linning started at the Department 20 years ago as a junior and worked as a clerical officer, technical officer and fire officer. Taryn's funeral was set against the beautiful Dwellingup jarrah forest and attended by many people whose lives she had touched in the south-west and metropolitan regions. The funeral guards of honour were invited to wear their green fire service coats and a spotter plane did a fly over as an acknowledgment of Taryn's service to the Department. Taryn's daughter released butterflies and the theme song was "always look on the bright side of life" from the *Life of Brian*.