



# Conservation News



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DECEMBER 2002

## Volunteers donate a million hours



Environment and Heritage Minister, Dr Judy Edwards (second row, second from left) stands with Outstanding Service Award recipients and Volunteers of the Year (back row, from left) Amanda Payne, Wildlife Carers' Consultation Groups; Jo and Dick Stone, Regional Park volunteers at Canning River; (second back row, from left) Vicki Laurie, Friends of Kadina Brook's Gooseberry Hill Block; volunteer coordinator Marg Buckland; Isobel Hughes and Sue Smith, Wildlife Carers' Consultation Group; Frank Parrotte, Volunteer of the Year; (second front row, from left) Linda Stanley, Friends of Piesse Brook; Meike Gaikhorst and Ruth Haight, Wildlife Carers' Consultation Group; Don Briers, Volunteer of the Year; (front row, from left) David Hancock, Volunteer of the Year; Marilee D'Souza, Wildlife Carers' Consultation Group; and David Taggart, Friends of Yellagonga. Not pictured were Outstanding Service Award recipients Chris Collins, Neil Goldsborough, Penny Anderson and Liz Appelt. Photo by Norm Bailey

**VOLUNTEERS** have donated more than a million hours to the Department since the volunteers' program began in 1989.

A decade ago, 800 volunteers contributed 40,000 hours to 41 projects. This year more than 5600 registered volunteers donated 217,000 hours to bring the collective total to more than a million.

Their achievements were honoured by Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards at a ceremony at Matilda Bay earlier this month.

Dr Edwards said the volunteers' register had doubled in the last three years as people donated skills and energy to a myriad of programs and projects.

"People are rolling up their sleeves for a remarkable range of work, whether it's assisting with land rehabilitation, helping relocate wildlife, monitoring our marine life, acting as campsite hosts – the list seems endless," she said.

"Conserving Western Australia's natural heritage and biodiversity is a responsibility the entire community shares. The dedication of people like those receiving awards can inspire others to see they, too, can make a difference."

Dr Edwards said volunteering for the Department assumed many different forms.

"An individual's contribution might be two hours or two days a week – but it is needed on a community-wide basis, if we're to pass on our natural heritage to future generations in good shape."

Dr Edwards presented Outstanding Service Awards to seven individuals and a group, the Wildlife Carers Consultation Group, which was honoured for its work in "forging a new understanding among the Department, Perth Zoo and wildlife carers throughout the State."

"The Department offers many programs which enable people to offer their time and expertise in a context that interests and challenges them," she said.

"CALM Bush Rangers, for example, has grown in leaps and bounds and now involves 1100 secondary students and 29 schools in many projects.

"Volunteers are involved in Bushland Care Days, clean up days, wildlife conservation and rehabilitation, flora surveys and the rehabilitation of parks, Perth Observatory's star watch nights, shopping centre displays and as campground hosts in national parks and state forest campsites," she said.

## \$7.05m capital works program

A \$7.05 MILLION Department capital works program has enhanced the experience of visitors to our national parks and created jobs for south-west timber workers.

Reaching and relishing our finest ecotourism locations is easier than ever – even peering over Kalbarri's Hawks Head gorge for visitors in wheelchairs.

Work completed in national parks under the 2002-03 program ranges the length of our State and includes:

by David Brewtnall

- New roads and facilities for the 86km Karri Forest Explorer Drive from Pemberton, set for an early-2003 official opening;
- Sealing of the final section of road from Cervantes to The Pinnacles;
- New visitor facilities in Pilbara parks, including a campsite being developed for an Aboriginal corporation (Gumala Enterprises);
- Enhancing the King Tree recreation area in Wellington National Park; and

ation area in Wellington National Park; and

- Initial development of facilities in the new Walpole Wilderness Area.

Making the picnic area at Hawks Head fully accessible to wheelchair users has been part of a \$240,000 program to enable the elderly and disabled to enjoy the best Kalbarri National Park has to offer. Earlier work opened up The Loop lookout to people with disabilities.

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## Volunteers of the Year

A PERTH man who developed a database of historical information on the distribution of native mammals was one of the Department's three Volunteers of the Year for 2002.

Frank Parrotte of Wembley Downs was honoured for his work on the mammal database, along with two other hard-working vollies – Bibbulmun Foundation stalwart Don Briers and Yellagonga Regional Park

by David Brewtnall

'friends' organiser David Hancock.

Former Director of Biodiversity Conservation – and now volunteer – Andrew Burbidge, said Frank's work at the Woodvale Wildlife Research Centre had resulted in a better understanding of mammal distribution.

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Premier Geoff Gallop (right) presents a \$50,000 cheque to the Chairman of the Board of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Mike Wood.

## Funding for Bibbulmun Track

PREMIER Dr Geoff Gallop presented the first of three \$50,000 cheques to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation at a function last month.

Dr Gallop, the Foundation's patron, presented the cheque and announced the Department's commitment to contribute \$150,000 to the Foundation during the next three years.

Dr Gallop said the money would be used to help fund employment positions and further develop markets in Japan and the UK.

"The Foundation is working with travel wholesalers to target overseas markets, such as Japan and Europe," he said.

"They are also developing a range of tourism products such as the popular 'Bibbulmun Walking Breaks'.

"With these products and the marketability of the track itself, we are confident in the potential for

by Annie Keating

growth in these tourism markets."

Dr Gallop said the track's success would only be made possible by the work of the Foundation's 1,800 members, including 430 volunteers who are registered with the Department.

"The track's major sponsor Alphawest, will continue to improve its 'Eyes on the Ground' volunteer maintenance program," he said.

"The program involves the coordination of maintenance activities between the Department's districts, the Statewide Tracks and Trails Unit, the Foundation, and the volunteers themselves.

"Volunteers are assigned to 147 maintenance sections along the track. They also help out with events such as guided walks and with administrative tasks."



# Working Together

The final *Conservation News* for 2002 provides the opportunity to reflect on a year I believe the Department and its staff can look back on with pride.

While there is always a lot more to be done in conservation, the year has seen significant achievements on many fronts including joint management and indigenous employment, visitor facilities in our parks, progress on a new forest management plan, substantial land acquisitions particularly in the rangelands for addition to the State's conservation reserve system, continued growth in our volunteer program, numerous wildlife projects, the symposium on fire management in south-west ecosystems, and a strong emphasis on staff training and development.

I would like to thank all staff for their dedication and enthusiasm across the full range of work that we perform for the Western Australian community. A special thanks goes to all those staff who have been fighting wildfires recently, and who plan for and manage fire throughout the year.

Next year will bring more challenges and opportunities for the Department, especially as we work to complete the delivery of many of the policy commitments the Government made when it took office in February 2001. High on our agenda in this respect in early 2003 will be a public consultation program on a new Biodiversity Conservation Act for WA.

Finally, together with the Minister Dr Judy Edwards and other members of the Corporate Executive, I would like to extend to all staff and their families, our statutory authority members, volunteers and other partners, my best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Keiran McNamara,**  
Acting Executive Director



# Four new indigenous students

by Beth McKernan  
& Rhianna Mooney

THE Department has taken on four indigenous university students as part of the National Indigenous Cadetship Project.

Marie Strelein, Humera Rind, Mark McMahon and Maurice Agale recently began working in areas relating to their university studies.

The cadets are supported throughout their university studies at Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia (UWA) and will be provided with paid work placements in the Department between academic years. At the completion of their degrees, the Department will offer them full-time employment.

Mark McMahon grew up in Carnarvon and is now in his second year of a Bachelor of Commerce at UWA, with a major in Accounting and a minor in Business Law. He is undertaking his cadetship in the Department's finance division and has been involved in projects such as the End of Year Report.

Maurice Agale grew up in Mikkaparinya near Port Hedland before moving to Queensland, back to Port Hedland and then to Sydney. Maurice resumed a law degree at UWA that he began at the University of New South Wales, and will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts with a triple major in political science, anthropology and industrial relations.

Marie Strelein grew up in Bunbury and is completing a Biological Science degree at Murdoch University. She has undertaken work experience with the Department in Geraldton

and Bunbury and been involved in projects including the Buntine Marchagee recovery catchment and dieback interpretation projects.

Humera Rind, also at Murdoch University is studying a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Conservation Biology. She is in her final year of study. Humera was inspired to study in the environmental area because of her love of nature and a feeling of spiritual connection to the land. Humera will commence her next work placement at Woodvale in December and will be responsible for creating a chuditch information database.



Indigenous cadets Mark McMahon (left) and Maurice Agale.

# Students launch detective program

YEAR 6 students from Helena College Junior School in Darlington have been very busy lately on helping to develop the *Forest Detective Trail*.

In November the class took part in the celebration of 10 years of Eco-Education programs being run at The Hills Forest in Mundaring and the launch of *The Forest Detective Trail*.

The project writer of this exciting new forest excursion program is Marie Jacquier who has a son, Kieran, in Year 6 at Helena College. Marie has worked with the children from the beginning of this project and it was wonderful for Kieran's class to share in the celebration of the launch.

Marie had previously visited the Helena classroom to prepare the children for their day on the trail. This involved activities which increased their understanding of the need for scientific research, familiarised them with

By Michele Botterill, Year 6  
teacher Helena College

appropriate language and practices associated with forest conservation research, improved their understanding of Western Australia's unique fauna and encouraged them to learn more about our forests and biodiversity.

On the day of the launch the students met scientist, Dr Mark Garkaklis, whose research on woylies' behaviour is included in the program. He also updated them on his latest findings.

After the day of sharing in the celebrations, experiencing an animal encounter, becoming Forest Detectives, enjoying kangaroo sausages and solving the 'woylie' mystery, the children presented Marie with forest flowers to celebrate her efforts.



EcoEducation officer Marie Jacquier is presented with a painting of a woylie by Helena College student Ashlee Wilkinson at the launch of the Forest Detective Trail.



One of the Department's Senior Technical Officers from the Science Division in Manjimup, Graeme (Tub) Liddel, counts baits into bags during the baiting operation.

# New success in cat control

by Tracy Peacock

Feral cat control has taken another positive step with the successful baiting program recently conducted by the Department in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.

Baiting was conducted in June over a 625 square kilometre area at the Eagle Bore study site.

Over the next 12 months the site will be monitored for reinvasion of feral cats.

The Department's Science Division Technical Officer John Angus said just nine days after baiting, cats were effectively removed from the baited zone.

He said this work had demonstrated the feasibility of feral cat control in arid Australia and also "significantly improved the efficiency with which that control may be achieved."

"The methods used here offer the opportunity to protect threatened desert fauna from feral cat predation and provide the opportunity to proceed with fauna reconstruction work not previously possible in the face of predation by the feral cat," John said.

He said cat density was assessed before and after the aerial baiting operations.

"Work at the site will now be focussed on determining when and how often baiting must be repeated to maintain cat control."

# Volunteers of the Year

from page 1

He played a key role in the development of a database of historical information about Western Australian native mammals.

Gwen Plunkett of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation said the group was lucky to have Don Briers' commitment in the form of more than 300 voluntary hours working on the track.

David Hancock was honoured for his organisational work for 'friends' groups and for the plant nursery at Yellagonga

Regional Park.

The Department's Regional Parks Operations Officer, Jayson Puls said David had been a volunteer for eight years.

"He's the oil that keeps the machine moving, he is dedicated to community involvement in the metropolitan area," he said.

The successful awards function at Matilda Bay Restaurant reflected the hard work of our long-serving Volunteer Co-ordinator Marg Buckland - well done Marg! (See on Track, page 3).

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## Right on track

*Right on Track is a monthly news story feature sponsored by the corporate executive group using stories from around the State that demonstrate our strategic directions and core values. This month's feature is about volunteer coordinator Marg Buckland, by Tammie Reid.*

Many people in the Department have responsibilities that underpin the work and achievements for so many others.

One such person is Marg Buckland, Volunteer coordinator of the Parks Policy and Tourism Branch.

Marg has responsibility for overseeing the Department's volunteer program including its development and management, to ensure that the Department's expectations as well as those of volunteers are met.

To achieve this, Marg coordinates the volunteer register, a massive database. The volunteer hours totalled 217,000 as reported for the 2001/2002 Annual Report, representing a huge community contribution to the conservation and land management outcomes of the Department.

Marg also delivers a number of training and development workshops to support and encourage Departmental staff to be effective in running their own localised volunteer programs. These are now offered on an annual basis.

Marg is a very patient and gentle worker who has incredible commitment to following through on all the details that are required to build trusting and effective partnerships with volunteers as well as the Departmental staff who manage and support volunteers.

She gives customised attention to her volunteer groups and has recently run the second of a very successful Campground Host Information Day.

The wildlife carers' program now involves 1000 volunteers across the state, with 300 formally registered and trained. Marg coordinates four wildlife carer courses per year and has worked closely with Peter Lambert of Wildlife Branch to set up a Wildlife Carers Consultative Group.

This combines with the WildCare Hotline a 24-hour service run by volunteers out of Kensington HQ. They provide advice and assistance to an average of 40 calls per day from across the state.

It is her conviction that this work is important that drives her on to seek ways to support and develop Departmental staff who work with volunteers, as well as volunteers themselves.

The Director of Parks, Jim Sharp, said: "Marg is reluctant to draw attention to herself or her achievements. However, it is important to recognise the great achievements she has made in developing the volunteers' program and ensuring its ongoing success."



## Quokkas on mainland

**MENTION a quokka and some people immediately think about Rottneest Island.**

But, that isn't the only place it can be found in Western Australia.

It's found on the mainland and also on Bald Island, near Albany.

"Although widely known because of its occurrence on Rottneest Island, the quokka's presence on the mainland is less well known and it is often inaccurately reported as occurring only on Rottneest Island," said departmental research scientist Paul de Tores.

He said recent departmental research had added to the understanding of the macropod marsupial, with enormous benefits from a collaborative approach involving students.

"Matt Hayward's findings from his PhD project studying quokka populations in the northern jarrah forest and Erika Alacs' honours year project studying the genetics of the same populations were vital components," Paul said.

"As a result we have increased our understanding of quokka population dynamics and distribution."

Paul said the current distribution extended from the Darling Plateau, immediately south of Perth, through the northern and southern forest regions and the south coast to the Albany/Torndirrup National Park area.

"There is a geographically isolated population in the Stirling Range National Park. The quokka is now absent

By Tracy Peacock

from the Swan coastal plain with the exception of one site where it is now thought to occur. Its presence here is suspected as a result of very recent collection of a skull and the presence of scats and runways," he said.

Paul added distribution on the mainland pre-European settlement extended from Jurien Bay to the Hunter River area, 150 kilometres east of Albany.

Its distribution and abundance declined with the arrival of the introduced red fox in south-west WA.

"The decline continued with another major contraction of distribution apparent in the period 1980 to 1992," he said.

Paul said ongoing predation by the fox, habitat destruction and habitat modification through altered fire regimes had probably contributed to the quokka's decline.

The quokka is listed as a threatened species. The populations at most risk are those in the northern jarrah forest and the Stirling Range.

Recommendations for a new strategic and adaptive management approach have been made.

As part of this, research and monitoring would focus on the quokka's response to a variety of management practices such as fire, fox baiting and pig control.

## \$7.05m capital works program

From page 1

Access to our nature-based tourist attractions has involved upgrading not only roads but airstrips. At Windjana Gorge in the West Kimberley, the airstrip has been upgraded to Royal Flying Doctor Service standard for day use.

Some roadworks have been undertaken in partnership with other authorities – in Wellington National Park, for example, where the Department is sharing road

upgrading with Dardanup Shire.

This has provided visitors with much-improved access to popular spots such as Honeymoon Pool, Longpool, Little Rock Rapids, Big Rock and the Wellington Dam wall.

In approving the capital works program, the State Government asked that where possible it would provide jobs for former south-west timber industry workers.

This outcome has been achieved

in the Warren region. In early November the Department was employing 15 of these workers for park projects, with another three due to be taken on within weeks.

This was in addition to 11 'new park' positions created within the Department – for rangers, field officers and planners.

More details on these park improvement works will be given in coming issues of *Conservation News*.

## Barna Mia opens at Dryandra

**DRYANDRA Woodland has been something of a tourism 'hidden gem,' to use the words of a local tourist official.**

Now the gem has a shining new facet – Barna Mia. Planned and developed by the Department, and opened on 14 December by Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards, Barna Mia offers visitors an 'up close' night-time glimpse of rare Western Australian marsupials in their natural habitat.

"Barna Mia is a marvellous new attraction expected to enhance people's appreciation of nature conservation," Dr Edwards said.

"It will also bring increased tourism revenue to the region, particularly to Narrogin and Dryandra Woodland, which has been something of a hidden gem.

"Barna Mia offers visitors the chance to see unique endangered native fauna such as the bilby

by David Brewtnall

and burrowing bettong in bushland under the stars."

Dr Edwards said visitors were increasing steadily and Barna Mia gave them another reason to stay longer.

"It is hoped the sanctuary will attract more than a third of the 20,000 visitors who enjoy Dryandra each year for bushwalking, cycling and camping."

All tours are guided and the animals' welfare is paramount. Visitors are taken into a spotlight four-hectare viewing enclosure, where they can see the numbat, bilby, burrowing bettong, banded hare-wallaby, rufous hare wallaby and western barred bandicoot.

Most of these threatened marsupials are now breeding at Dryandra – living proof of one of the Department's most meticulously planned and successful

programs Return to Dryandra, part of the Western Shield program.

Dr Edwards said Barna Mia was "the outcome of years of work by Wheatbelt Regional and Narrogin District staff," and praised district staff who fulfilled animal-feeding rosters.

The interpretive centre was constructed by a local builder and craftspeople using \$270,000 from the State Government and \$80,000 from the Commonwealth.

A new program of ecoeducation programs is being developed by Narrogin district staff, strongly focussed on the need for biodiversity and the return of threatened species once found across most of WA's agricultural and arid zones.

Cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and \$32 for families – fees determined on a cost recovery basis.

For more information go to our website, <http://www.naturebase.net/tourism>



Shane Peach (right) cleans out the pens with a fellow Bush Ranger.

## Bush Rangers at Shark Bay

**MANJIMUP CALM Bush Ranger Shane Peach made his decision to become a National Park Ranger after spending the October School Holidays at the Shark Bay World Heritage area.**

Shane was one of four Bush Rangers who spent time at Shark Bay and assisted departmental staff in a wide range of activities.

CALM Bush Ranger Unit Leader, Wendy Nelson said the students fed rare native animals, caught reptiles, interacted with dolphins and visited remote areas.

"I think every teenager in the State should get an opportunity like this. It really opens their eyes to what's involved in managing a National Park," she said.

"The CALM Bush Rangers were involved in the rehabilitation of gravel pits and old four wheel

drive tracks. They also cleared and maintained animal pens at the Department's Captive Breeding Centre and monitored native animals using pit traps."

The CALM Bush Ranger program is a departmental initiative that provides the WA community with an opportunity to learn about the environment and become involved in nature conservation.

"The program encourages secondary students to volunteer in the area of biodiversity conservation in partnership with their local community," Wendy said.

In 2001 more than 1000 CALM Bush Rangers contributed more than 180,000 hours to a range of conservation activities. The success of the program will see 12 CALM Bush Rangers from Northam Senior High School take part in a similar program in April 2003.

## Big Brook a great success

**WITH fires raging all over the state after high winds on the Friday and only three undespached Pemberton staff left to run the Big Brook Relay, it didn't look promising for the November 16 event.**

A record 24 teams had registered and after some clever juggling at the start-up briefing, where teams were cobbled together (filling in the gaps depending on who had not been sent to a fire), 17 teams lined up for the gruelling crosscut start.

Many people pitched in to assist the three event organisers Rod Annear, Yvette Caruso and Shawn DeBono.

Records tumbled as Jack Kenbeck and Trevor Radford crosscut their five rings in a minute flat.

This mighty effort gave their team, the FPC

by Tammie Reid

Coneheads an advantage over the field that they built on throughout the relay to finish first.

They were closely followed by Bunbury Lunchtime Legends and Dwellingup Deperados, while the FPC Woodpeckers took out the Derriere Wooden Toilet Seat award.

Another highlight of the event was the recognition and life membership awarded to Rod Annear.

Thanks must also go to all the Pemberton crew who worked so hard to have everything ready for the day.



## Conservation briefs

### Margaret River safari workshops

Departmental ranger Peter Simmonds of Leeuwin-Naturaliste recently converted a group of aspiring safari guides into "Plover Lovers".

They were attending safari guide workshops in Margaret River last month.

The workshop included activities at the Department's Contos Camp in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

Peter explained to the group that pet dogs on the beach were a huge problem for nesting plovers.

The trainee guides agreed that few dog owners would be aware of the damage their pets could do.

Safari Guide Workshops is an innovative training program designed for adventurous people who want to learn basic safari guide skills and gain a competitive edge in the tourism industry.

### Midwest regional office relocation

Geraldton staff have celebrated their move into a new office at the Batavia Coast Marina.

Finance and Administration Manager, Noel Davey said the region had needed more office space for the last two years.

"We have 16 staff in the Geraldton office and may employ up to five more. The need for more space was a major consideration in the decision to move offices," Noel said.

"Other benefits include the accessibility to our new first floor office via lifts, and the shower facilities.

The full address of the new office is First Floor, The Foreshore Centre, 201 Foreshore Drive, Geraldton. The phone number is unchanged - (08) 9921 5955.

# National park work camp a big success

by Judymae Napier

**A DEPARTMENT of Justice work camp in the Millstream-Chichester National Park has now been operating since 1999.**

The efforts of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Pilbara staff, the Department of Justice and Roebourne Regional Prison, saw the establishment of the work camp, adjacent to the staff workshop at Millstream.

Prisoners and wardens live on site, and are involved in a number of projects within the Millstream-Chichester National Park, in both the nature conservation and recreation programs.

One of their achievements included an upgrade to the Chichester Range Camel Trail, an historic trail that follows the route once taken by bullock and camel teams from the northwest coast to the inland Pilbara.

Work has resulted in a clearly defined, guide-posted walk trail that links the panoramic views of Mt Herbert at the top of the Chichester Range down to the spectacular beauty of Python Pool and the nearby Snake Creek campground.

A plaque, to be erected adjacent to the Chichester Range Camel Trail, was presented to representatives from the Department of Justice and the Roebourne Regional Prison by Pilbara CALM staff at Millstream.

Peter Fishwick, now based at Jurien Bay, was one of the instigators of the project. Peter was back in the Pilbara to attend a Management Planning Workshop at Millstream.



Russell Asplund (Millstream Ranger, left), Chris Muller (Pilbara Regional Manager), Peter Fishwick (Parks and Visitor Services Leader, Moora District), Glyn Griffiths (A/Work Camp Manager), Tim Buxton (Prison Officer), John Sterritt (Prison Officer), Greg Smith (Representing Roebourne Regional Prison), Patricia Parker (Trainee Ranger Millstream) and Jamie Birnie (Ranger In Charge Millstream). Photo by David Whitelaw.

## Inaugural graduate of Mulholland Scholarship



Stev Slavin at his graduation ceremony.

The scholarship was established to honour Seamus and his influence on his colleagues while in the Department and there have been four recipients of the award so far.

In September the inaugural scholarship recipient, Stev Slavin, completed his studies at Edith Cowan University with a Master of Business Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Business (Tourism).

"The scholarship is an important way that the Department can invest in its employees and build the qualities so evident in Seamus," Stev said.

In the same month this year but on the other side of the world, Jim Sharp, Director of Parks and Visitor Services, and his wife Leanne visited and stayed with Seamus' mother and father in Donegal, Ireland.

Jim said the stay with Tony and Beverley Mulholland was an uplifting experience as they climbed "Seamus' Mountain" also known as Croaghonaugh, had 10am pudding with the local postman, Michael, and sat around at night discussing the deep things of life, as you do in the wilds of Barnesmore Gap.

The Mulhollands have maintained a strong link with the Department while at home on the other side the world by receiving Conservation News regularly and having a particular interest in the scholarship recipients. They have built a self-contained cottage set in an area of natural beauty, surrounded by magnificent gardens, which attracts world travellers. Jim said their hospitality and generosity was of the legendary Irish form.

**THIS year marks events that reinforce the importance of Seamus Mulholland's impact on the Department.**

The Seamus Mulholland Scholarship was created to commemorate the work and sad loss of Seamus in a boating accident in the South-West in January 1997.

He was an outstanding young professional and well-respected leader who after a diverse and dynamic career in several parts of the Department had been heading the important plantation strategy aimed at fighting the state's salinity problems at the time of his death.

## New book sees art merge with science

**ART met science when the first book featuring exquisite illustrations and detailed descriptions of the Margaret River region's wildflower was launched recently.**

Hundreds of paintings and sketches by Margaret River artist Pat Negus were combined with scientific information from the WA Herbarium and prose by Margaret River resident Jane Scott to create Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Australia's South West-August Margaret River Region.

The hard cover book was launched by the WA Herbarium's Director, Dr Neville Marchant, at the Xanadu Winery.

The Department's former Regional Herbaria Consultant and now WA Herbarium volunteer, Jan Gathe, was also at the launch.

"It's a substantial book with a brief botanical description, the locality, the scientific name and historical details of 500 plants which will be a worthwhile addition to any collection," Jan said.

Jan co-ordinated the regional herbaria program and said 20 volunteers from the Margaret River area contributed to the book over three years by sending plant specimens to the WA Herbarium for identification and 'vouchering.'

"Local people with local knowledge have added to the State's collection and, with our help, produced a beautiful book which will fill a real need," she said.

"It's a combination of science and art and is a coup for volunteers, the Department, Pat and Jane."



At the book launch were (from left) WA Herbarium volunteer Pat Angel, artist Pat Negus, Director of the WA Herbarium, Neville Marchant, the book's author, Jane Scott and WA Herbarium volunteer Jan Gathe.

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

### Promotion

Des Plumb, District Wildlife Officer, Katanning Office, Regional Services; Tamara Wrangmore, Administration Officer, Narrogin Office, Regional Services; Brad Rushford, Wildlife Officer, Kununurra Regional Office.

### Contract

Christopher Gage, Technical Officer,

Science Division, WA Herbarium; Megan O'Brien, Technical Officer, Science Division, WA Herbarium; Juanita Ciampini, Technical Officer, Science Division, Kensington.

### Permanent

Rebecca Carter, Nature Conservation Coordinator, Jurien Bay Office, Mid-West Region, Regional Services Division; Li Shu,

Research Scientist, Fire Services, Kensington; Nicole Willers, Assistant Conservation Officer, Swan Region, Kensington; Julie Walters, Information Management Officer, Corporate Information Section, Kensington; Erica Shedley, Regional Leaders, Nature Conservation, Manjimup Regional Headquarters, Regional Services Division.

### Resignation

Noal D'Souza, Technical Officer, Science Division, Kensington; Wendy Bott, Officer, Fire Services, Kensington.

### Transfer

Michael Sermon, National Park Ranger, Karratha Regional Office to Karijini National Park.