

Conservation News

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FEBRUARY 2003

Department investigates sighting of toxic pest

by Rhianna Mooney

WATER bodies were checked and surveys were conducted at a Kimberley cattle station after a contractor reported a cane toad sighting last month.

The toads were reportedly sighted on a Fitzroy Valley cattle station about 120 kilometres south-east of Derby, by a contractor working in the area.

He said two cane toads had been in the station workshop. One had been killed, but the other one escaped.

Kimberley Regional Manager, Chris Done said there had been several reported sightings of cane toads in the Kimberley, but only one had been confirmed. He said two cases in Perth had also been confirmed, one at Wanneroo and another at Attadale.

"It is thought they all hitched a ride on vehicles," he said.

Chris said it was important to investigate a reported sighting as soon as possible, so that if a small number of the pests, confined to an isolated area were found, they could be controlled.

"Staff from the Department and the Department of Agriculture were despatched to investigate the sighting soon after the report. They spent several days and nights over a period of three weeks attempting to confirm the sightings by trapping, checking water bodies for toads and their tadpoles and listening to calls," he said.

Chris said the urgency of the



investigation was due to the implications caused by the toads reaching the river system.

"Once they enter the water systems, and establish a breeding population, controlling them would be impossible," he said.

"We dread the day that cane toads cross the WA border as they've already done into NSW and the Northern Territory.

"They are such prolific breeders, and travel about 25 kilometres each year. At the moment, they are well west of Katherine, and gradually heading towards Kununurra and the Ord River."

Chris said the arrival of cane toads would also have a serious impact on native animals.

"Cane toads kill their predators (fish, northern quolls, goannas, crocodiles and birds of prey) as well as their prey. The glands on the side of their neck secrete a poisonous fluid if they are handled, making them a toxic pest," he said.

Chris said the reported sightings were a timely wakeup call.

"This will hopefully remind people to keep an eye out for them," he said.

"We have to be aware of their looming arrival and work in the meantime to monitor local frog species so we can observe how they are affected by the cane toad.

"Unfortunately, the development of effective control methods for cane toads appear to be a few years away."



Andrew Ando and Yvonne Varris showed off these rare red-tailed black cockatoos at a Perth media event to launch the Government's proposed new biodiversity conservation laws. Photo by Norm Bailey.

Volunteer reunites feathered families

IN a quiet paddock on Perth's outskirts, wildlife carer Yvonne Varris sets down a cage and hopes for a small miracle...

A flock of white-tailed black cockatoos is stirring in nearby waddoo - but is it the 'right' flock?

The birds take flight and suddenly the young Carnaby's white-tailed black cockatoo in the locked cage becomes excited, flapping and screaming. Moments later a dozen birds descend on the cage. Family. Yvonne's baby is going home.

In the past year, Yvonne Varris has released several hand-raised fledgling birds back to the wild, reuniting them with their families

by David Brewtnall

after tracking flocks all over the metropolitan area.

"It's something no-one had ever done here," says Wildlife Officer Andrew Ando. "Until Yvonne proved otherwise, conventional wisdom was that young hand-raised birds would not survive if released to the wild.

"Through her amazing work, Yvonne has shown such releases are possible if the carer is sufficiently knowledgeable and dedicated."

The Nollamara woman says she discovered the cockatoos' powerful parental bond almost by accident.

"But now I know these intelligent birds grieve something awful when they lose a baby. They never forget their young."

The 'reunion' episode described here is fairly typical.

"Andrew and his colleagues tell me where the flocks are when the time is right," she said.

The fledgling to be released has been prepared by a diet of gumnuts and banksia nuts, and has convinced Yvonne of its maturity."

The modest carer with 20 years' experience thanked the Department's Andrew Ando and Rick Dawson "for their constant encouragement and support".



Cane toad. Photo by Gregory Millen/Nature Focus.



Minister visits fire scene

ENVIRONMENT and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards visited the forward control point during the fire along the Brookton Highway near North Bannister on the Australia Day long weekend. Dr Edwards was briefed by Incident Controller

by Nigel Higgs

Kevin Pollock (left), Operations Officer Greg Napier (centre) and Regional

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500 staff in fire fitness training

by Tracy Peacock

MORE than 500 Department of Conservation and Land Management staff involved in fire fighting took part in fire fitness training and assessments in the lead up to the 2002-2003 fire season.

The Department's Corporate Health Officer Alicia Taylor said it was the first time the Department had coordinated a structured eight-week fitness training program for employees.

Nine fire fitness facilitators helped to conduct the training and assessments.

Staff could choose to undertake the current assessment program or the new assessment and eight week program.

Alicia said about 90 per cent of employees chose to take part in this new assessment which also included a medical examination.

"It has been pleasing to hear stories relayed by individuals, fire fitness facilitators and managers of employees who have taken the opportunity to address lifestyle

issues identified with their doctors," she said.

"Some employees have reported weight losses directly attributed to the eight-week training program.

"Weight losses of up to 10 kilos have been achieved and one employee happily told me this has had a positive affect on his lifestyle and his outlook on life.

"Many employees report to be feeling much more energetic and their self esteem is higher than it has ever been.

"A number of employees from various work centres have requested Department support for continuing their training programs throughout the year to maintain their health improvements.

"This is just the first step in maintaining a fit and healthy staff group who look after themselves and each other."

Working Together

On 25 February I had the pleasure of opening a workshop of about 100 participants as part of our review of the Department's Western Shield program.

While fox baiting to protect some fauna species has been going on for longer, it is now some six years since Western Shield commenced in its current form.

There is no doubt that Western Shield has been successful in controlling feral predators, particularly foxes, to the extent that three mammals (the woylie, quenda and tamar wallaby) have recovered sufficiently to be removed from the threatened species list, and many other native animals are now more abundant on baited areas.

The program has also been successful in other ways. It was a bold and ambitious project; built on science; tackled on a large scale; and combining and testing the skills of Departmental staff in research and operations, leading to technological innovations and imaginative efforts to solve challenges in the field.

It is important that programs of this type are subject to periodic review, so that we and others can learn from what we have done, and improve the program so that it can deliver to its full potential.

A key part of the review was the appointment of an independent panel of three leading scientists from eastern Australia. I look forward to publication of their report, along with the detailed review papers on all aspects of the program compiled by Departmental staff.

Western Shield is just one example where the dedication and commitment of our staff shine through. I would like to thank all who have contributed to its success to date, and I look forward to building on that success in the future.

Keiran McNamara, Acting Executive Director



(Left to right) Meagan Bardon, Yvette Caruso, Jarred Donald and Alanna Chant celebrate their efforts in the Bibbulmun Track Team Challenge.

Bibbulmun Team Challenge lasts four days

THE Department's Mountain Designs Bibbulmun Track Challenge team learnt that having fun is far more important than winning.

"Despite having to endure the pouring rain, walk 20 kilometres each day up insurmountable hills and push our physical prowess, intellect, artistic talents and patience to their limits, we had a wonderful time," team member Yvette Caruso from the Donnelly District said.

"The experience of walking through jarrah forests for four days and witnessing the camaraderie and team building that occurred, was far more important than winning.

"It was however a fantastic effort by the Department's team to come a close second in their heat to a FESA team, who were the overall winners."

The Department was a sponsor of the event and many departmental staff were

involved as volunteers, supporters and competitors.

Meagan Bardon from GIS Section, Alanna Chant from Geraldton District, Yvette Caruso and Jarred Donald of Perth Hills District made up the Department's team, that was sponsored by Parks and Visitor Services with support from Regional Services.

Scott Hunter from Wellington District, who is familiar with the track because he helped build it and has walked it twice, joined up with an independent team who won their heat. Elisa Skillen and Ian Anderson from the Tracks and Trails Unit also joined the Bibbulmun Track Foundation team for another heat.

Dave Hampton and Elisa Skillen also volunteered at the event, and district Bibbulmun Track Coordinators Mark Humble, Dave Lathwell, John McKenzie and Marin Lloyd provided valuable logistical support.

Minister visits fire scene

from page 1

Services Director Alan Walker (right).

The fire burned through more than 400 hectares after it was started by lightning strikes.

Greg and Alan drove the Minister around the 12.5 kilometres of fireline where she was able to see crews from throughout the south-west forest areas mopping up and ensuring the area was safe. Several trees along the highway had to be felled for public safety.

The fire burned through areas carrying 17-year-old fuels. In some places, the fire intensity matched that of the Mt Cooke fire two

weeks earlier that burned 18,000 hectares. This was the biggest fire in the northern jarrah forest for more than 40 years.

Both fires were contained when they ran into areas that had been prescribed burned within the past five to seven years.

The Department's Director of Science, Neil Burrows, visited the Mt Cooke area the day after the fire and said the intensity was such that it melted glass – that's more than 1200 degrees.

Neil provided this graphic description of the scene on Mt Cooke:

"I was staggered at the severity of the environmental impact of the fire. The once dense and diverse green shrubby understorey has gone; it has been completely incinerated. All that remains is grey ash, charcoal and scorched earth, such as has been the ferocity of the fire.

"The large wandoo, jarrah and marri trees stand forlornly as black sentinels, completely defoliated, their stems charcoaled from top to bottom. Numerous large old trees have burnt to the ground. Orange strips of super-heated soil remain where there were once old logs.

"Grass trees, one of the few understorey species that has not been completely burnt away, are likewise defoliated and charcoaled. Boiled resin has oozed out of the cracks and crevices of the grass trees, re-solidifying as it cooled when the flames had passed. The resin hangs from the black stems resembling hell's icicles."

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Diamond Tree Lift

THE Department's Diamond Tree fire lookout is set to get a lift – and much more.

A group of local business people plan to build an innovative 60-metre enclosed lift, viewing platform and other tourist facilities near our well-known 60-year-old landmark in the Diamond State Forest just south of Manjimup.

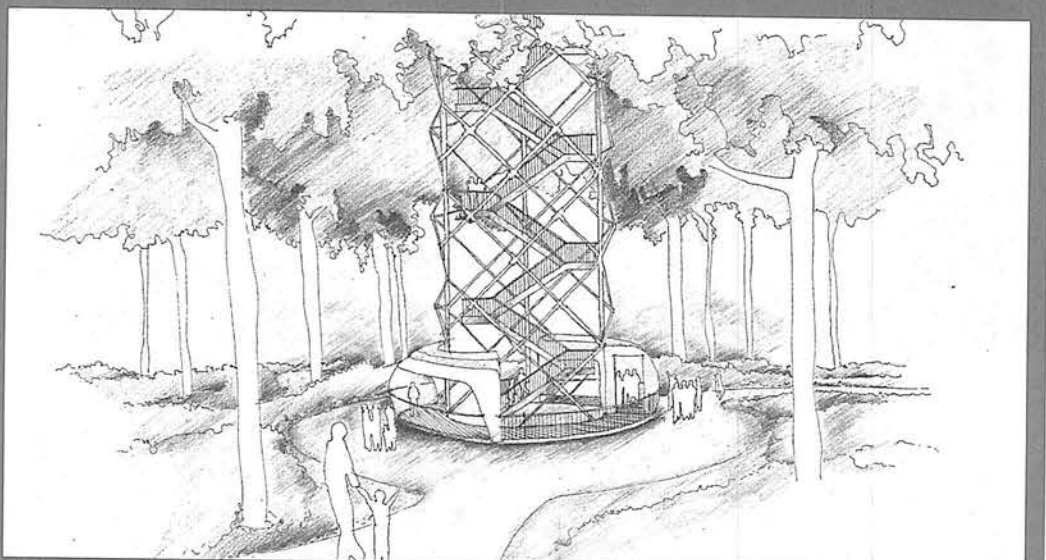
The Department is guiding a steering committee for the project and will ensure it is consistent with the usual statutory requirements for such a development.

To be sited about 50 metres from the Diamond Tree, the new development is planned to include a café/restaurant and information centre.

by David Brewtnall

Rod Quartermain, who is co-ordinating the project for the Department, said that in addition to the views of the community, comment will also be sought from other key stakeholders such as the Heritage Council of WA, "before we provide advice on the proposal to the Conservation Commission and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage".

Those wishing to see the Concept Design Report can view it at the Shire offices or can contact the Shire on 08 9771 1366.



An artist's impression of the Diamond Tree lift.

2003 Aerial baiting

by Tracy Peacock

THE latest round of State-wide aerial baiting to kill foxes is scheduled to start in early March.

Covering some 3.5 million hectares, the baiting has been scheduled for completion in 56 days and is part of the Department's highly-successful Western Shield program.

Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer John Asher said the aerial baiting would take place in operational areas around the State from Cape Range near Exmouth to Cape Arid east of Esperance, including all south west forest areas from Mundaring to Albany.

The plane involved in the aerial baiting would clock up some 180 hours of flying time to complete the job, he said.

The aerial baiting started in 1994 as part of the Department's Operation Foxglove which was conducted between the Hills Forest area and Collie.

Since then it has become an integral part of Western Shield, which kicked off in 1996.

"In the future it may be extended to include arid zones to combat feral cats," John said.

The success of the current baiting program was measured by monitoring native fauna.

John said the program has been successful and had led to three animals being taken off the threatened species list.



From left: Gilbert Marsh, Mark Cowan and Daphne Edinger.

LANDSCOPE's 10th Birthday

LANDSCOPE Expeditions celebrated a decade of achievement at the annual reunion held in late November at the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre.

Attended by 60 people, the reunion was an opportunity for expedition members and leaders to review the achievements of LANDSCOPE Expeditions since the first expedition traveled to the Gibson Desert in September 1992.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions' coordinator, Kevin Kenneally, led the 2002 expedition to the Mitchell Plateau in the Kimberley region. He thanked old and new friends for their contributions to nature conservation in Western Australia through their involvement with the expeditions program.

"The program has made a significant contribution to science in the decade it has been in operation. Without the help and contributions provided by volunteers, many important nature conservation projects

would simply not have been done," Kevin said.

Volunteers had shown great loyalty to the program, returning year after year to visit different parts of the State and help gather information on threatened environments and endangered species, he said.

A highlight of the annual reunion was a slide presentation by one of the Department's Karratha-based scientists, Stephen van Leeuwen, on the July expedition to the remote and difficult to access Barlee Range Nature Reserve.

Attendees also experienced the June expedition to Roebuck Bay, where volunteers joined world ornithological and scientific experts at the Broome Bird Observatory to study the importance of the area as a shorebird habitat. Led by Grant Pearson from the Department's Science Division in Woodvale, the expedition comprised an impressive convoy of vehicles, including hovercraft, to negotiate the mudflats.

Reserves snapshot

by Nigel Higgs

A REPORT that provides a snapshot of the extent of the State's terrestrial conservation reserve system managed by the Department will be a useful reference for staff involved in reserve management and the planning for new reserves.

Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara said the report had been prepared for the State Government as part of the development of a policy to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system. The Government has endorsed the policy which means the Department has its clear support to continue to expand the conservation estate so that it meets CAR criteria.

Keiran said a key priority for the Department was to establish and manage a conservation reserve system that reflected the many different environments found throughout the State.

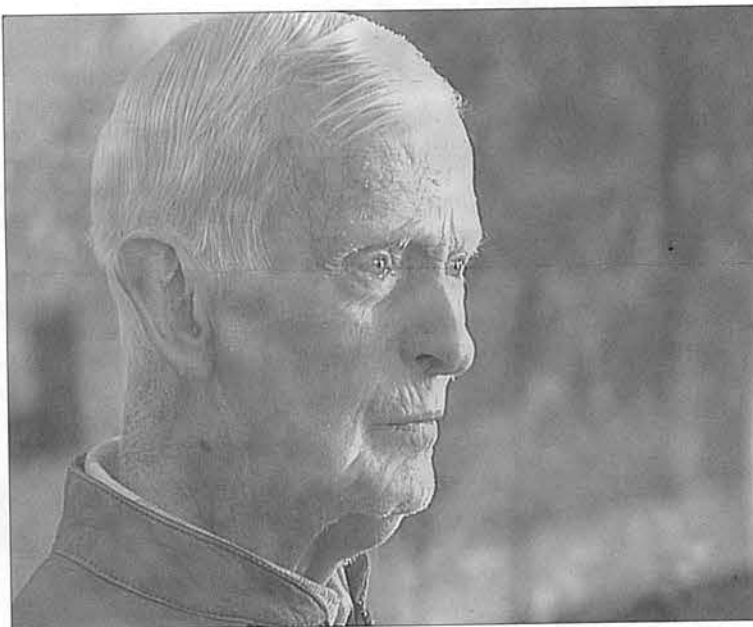
"A conservation reserve system plays a pivotal role in conserving the State's enormously rich biodiversity," Keiran said.

The report shows that the terrestrial conservation reserve system – comprising national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and miscellaneous reserves – currently extended over almost 17 million hectares or about 6.6 per cent of the State's land area.

Further additions to the estate through existing policy commitments and recent land purchases will see almost 700,000 hectares of the south west forests and 4.2 million hectares of former pastoral leasehold land included in the conservation reserve system. This will bring the total area reserved to 21.7 million hectares or 8.5 per cent of the State's land area.

A summary of the report – *Establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Terrestrial Conservation Reserve system in Western Australia* – can be found on the Department's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/projects/conservation_res_snapshot.html

Keiran said a similar report would be compiled on the State's marine reserve system.



Dick Perry on his 100th birthday in June 2003. Photo courtesy of Visual Reality Productions.

Community farewells forestry icon

DICK PERRY is celebrated as one of State's greatest foresters. It is with sadness we mourn his passing in January 2003, aged 100.

Dick leaves behind the legend of his long and influential career as a forester and scientist.

He was a pioneer of the forestry industry in this State. His career spanned more than 50 years and was spent entirely at the Forests Department.

He is celebrated for his work on maritime pines, fertilisation trials and his expertise in termites and photography.

As an apprentice in 1918, Dick took part in the establishment of WA's first pine plantation at Ludlow.

He also worked as a personal secretary for the Conservator and became intimately involved with the planning and establishment of the State's softwood plantations.

This was the basis for today's plantation scene.

Dick and his wife spent time in Portugal searching for the perfect

pine for a tree-breeding program.

The Department received messages of condolences from the National Forestry Association in Portugal, which recognised Dick's work there between 1964 and 1965.

"In Portugal we feel honoured to be the guardians of one of his important career achievements – the *Pinus pinaster*," Research Scientist Maria Carolina Varela from the National Forest Research Institute Lisbon, Portugal said.

In 1991, Dick received Membership of the Order of Australia for his contribution to forestry and entomology. In 1993, his work was awarded by the Commonwealth Government with the Australia medal. In 1995, he was made an Honorary Member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

The plant *Goodenia perryi* Gardner ex Carolin, the termite *Amiternmes perryi* Gay and Dick Perry Avenue in Kensington have also been named in his honour.



Volunteers help keep the whales afloat in waist deep water. Photo courtesy of the South Western Times, Bunbury.

Volunteers invaluable to whale rescue

THE efforts of thousands of volunteers who helped rescue six whales stranded in Busselton's Geographe Bay in January have been publicly thanked.

"We couldn't have done it without them," said the Department of Conservation and Land Management Parks and Visitors Services Coordinator Neil Taylor.

He estimates between 2,000 and 3,000 people helped with the six Gray's beaked whales – five adults and one juvenile – in shifts in what many later described as a once in a lifetime experience.

Neil said the volunteers were organised into teams of about 12, spending about 30 minutes with the animal before being replaced by another crew.

"The result we had wouldn't have been attainable without their support," Neil said.

"What people did was hold the animals in waist deep water so that they could breathe and also to keep their

dorsal fin wet."

Neil said volunteers were organised by Department staff and were required to register before they helped in the rescue attempt.

The stranded whales were reported to the Department at about 7am, and volunteers were soon on the scene assisting with their rescue.

The Department bought in slings and other rescue equipment in an effort to save the whales.

Although they were returned to deeper waters, three of the whales later died.

Neil acknowledged the dedication of Department staff during the rescue plus support of the Fisheries Department, local shire and the State Emergency Service.

by Tracy Peacock

Conservation briefs

Safari trainees become plover lovers

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

They were attending safari guide workshops run by safari tour operator Global Gypsies in Margaret River recently.

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

Yanchep's prize-winning programs

Two of Yanchep National Park's well-known programs – Nyoongar Camp Life and Bush Tucker Walk will appear on the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA) website as models of best practice.

Yanchep's Education Coordinator Jason Barrow said he was pleased with the recognition.

He acknowledged the team effort of colleagues Brenton Clinch, Robert Narrier, Wayne Dekker and Claire Barrow, and the Department's Aboriginal Heritage unit leader, Noel Nannup, in the program's success.

Jason said the park's school-based activities attracted 10,000 school children last year.

Growing popularity of the indigenous activities in the park meant that Aboriginal employment was growing steadily to meet demand, he said.

"Now we can further develop more Aboriginal cultural-based activities at the park," Jason said.

New member joins Commission

by Peter Baldwin

THE Conservation Commission of Western Australian has welcomed the knowledge and expertise of new board member Bill Mitchell.

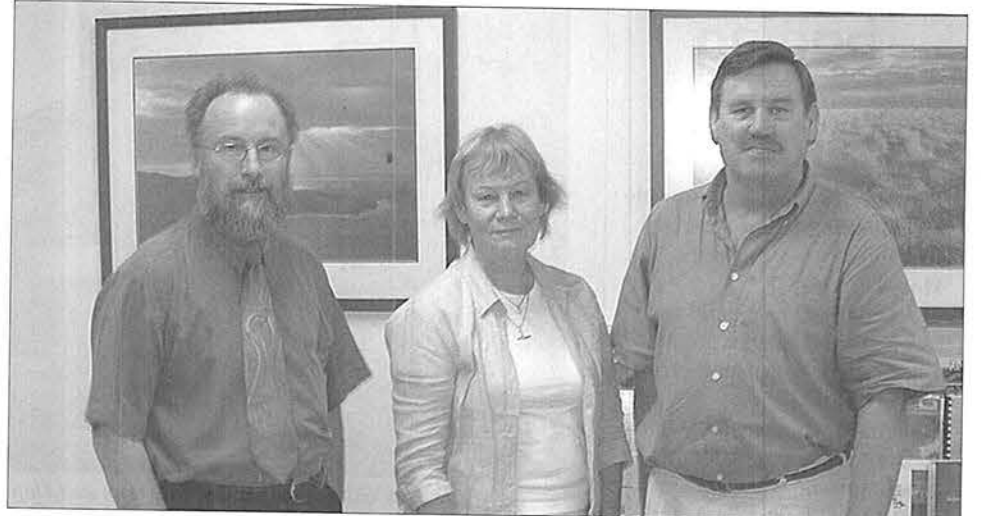
Bill was appointed to the Commission to replace former deputy Chair Tom Day, who did not re-nominate at the end of his term of appointment in November last year.

Board members Pat Barblett and Glenn Kelly were also reappointed, Pat as deputy Chair.

Chairman Dr John Bailey welcomed the appointments noting that it was important to have members who could bring diverse knowledge to the Commission.

"Bill's knowledge of WA's rangelands will be particularly useful given the recent acquisition program in the Gascoyne-Murchison and its future expansion in other regions as a consequence of the review of pastoral leases," John said.

As a present Councillor on the Murchison Shire, former Murchison Shire President (1983



Chairman of the Conservation Commission, John Bailey (left), pictured with the newly appointed deputy Chair, Pat Barblett (centre) and new member Bill Mitchell (right). Photo by Peter Baldwin.

to 1991) and Deputy Shire President (1991 to 1996), Bill brings a wealth of knowledge of rangeland issues to the commission.

He is also the WA Local Government Association Deputy President, and is a mem-

ber of the WA Soil and Land Conservation Council, WA Rivers and Estuaries Council, Pastoralists and Graziers Association Natural Resource Management Committee and the Country Shire Councils Association Executive.

Mermaid to attract explorers

by Chris Done

A PROJECT to install interpretive signs at the Mermaid Tree in the Kimberley region has been successfully completed.

The Mermaid tree is a huge old Boab (*Adansonia gregorii*) tree which happens to be the most remote and isolated historical monument of European exploration in Australia.

It is located 330 kilometres WNW of Wyndham and 290 kilometres NNE of Derby at a place called "Careening Bay" in the Prince Regent River Nature Reserve.

The only access, short of walking, is from the sea or by helicopter.

The tree was inscribed by the crew of Phillip Parker King's cutter, the "Mermaid" when the ship was repaired

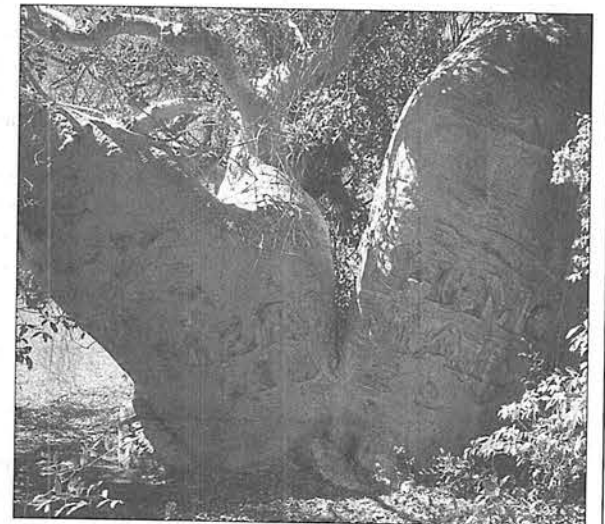
there in 1820 and the inscription "HMC MERMAID 1820" is still clearly legible today.

When I first visited the site in the late 1980s it was already on the itinerary of some "round Australia" yachties.

During subsequent years, visitation has increased in line with the greater tourism focus on the Kimberley coast.

The aim of the project was therefore to give visitors information about the site and to engender and foster a feeling of respect for its importance and historical significance.

Thanks to the Australian Geographic Society which helped fund the project.



The Mermaid Tree. Photo by Chris Done.

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

Contracts

Grazyna Packowska, Technical Officer, Wildlife Branch; Kylie North, Field Officer, Manjimup Regional Headquarters; Stephanie Hill, Technical Officer, Albany; Daniel Oades, Assistant Operations Officer, Exmouth; Anthea Jones, Project Officer, Wildlife Conservation; Christie Mahony, Programs Officer, Hills Forest, Mundaring; Claire Forward, Ranger Grade 1, Margaret River; Neil Blake, Tech Coordinator, Albany (Nature Conservation Division); Marc Barendrecht, Field Officer,

Collie; Shaun Bunting, Design Studio Officer, Regional and Corporate Parks.

Permanent

Allison Driscoll, Field Officer, Collie; Sarah Barrett, Conservation Officer, South Coast, Albany; Rebecca Walker, Conservation Officer, Swan Region; Melissa Gitsis, Officer, Donnelly District; Shawn Councillor, Indigenous Liaison Officer, Donnelly District; Neil Clancy, Regional Business Manager, Swan Region; Tania Donovan, Aboriginal Employment and Development Officer, People

Services, Dwellingup.

Promotion

Carl Beck, District Parks and Visitor Coordinator, Denham; Greg Strelein, Sustainable Resources Manager, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury Regional Headquarters; Leon Price, District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator, Collie District Office; Ian Wilson, District Nature Conservation Coordinator, Pemberton; Greg Freebury, District Nature Conservation Coordinator, Walpole; Tracy Churchill, Recreation, Planning and Design Coordinator,

Recreation, Planning and Design.

Contract ceased

Shilen Haria, Programmer, Fire Management Services; George Hope, Technical Officer, Forest and Tree Crops Group, Science Division, Kensington; Megan O'Brien, Technical Officer, WA Herbarium; Christopher Gage, Technical Officer, WA Herbarium.

Temporary deployment

Julie Adams, Personal Assistant, Conservation Commission, Crawley; Peter Bidwell, District Manager, Walpole; Adrian Coleman, Wildlife Licensing Officer, Wildlife Branch;

Tony Jupp, Senior Project Officer, Forest Policy Implementation Branch; Martin Lloyd, Regional Leader Parks and Visitor Services, Albany.

Transfer

Natalie Hull, Officer, Albany to Forest Products Commission, Manjimup; David Blood, Senior Operations Officer, Agriculture Department to Geraldton.

Temporary transfer

John Dunn, Project Manager, Information Management.

Redundancy

Jenny Smith, Officer, People Services Branch.

Hamelin Bay receives a helping hand



Bush Rangers at work oiling the lookout and boardwalk. Photo supplied by CALM Bush Rangers.

FIFTEEN Manjimup Senior High School CALM Bush Rangers recently gave the Blackwood District a helping hand.

It was the third time CALM Bush Rangers had given operational assistance to the Blackwood District's work at Hamelin Bay.

National Park Ranger Glenn Willmott says it was rewarding to see students involved in the day-to-day work of the Department.

"They really take away an appreciation of what's involved with land management, and also see the benefit of the work conducted by past Bush Ranger groups."

The first day saw the Bush Rangers carry knapsacks full of rainwater into Golgotha cave to clean down dusty and dirty cave formations to reveal brilliant white formations. They were also given a guided tour through the cave by guide Tracy Robins who explained cave ecology and management

problems associated with human use of caves.

The second day saw the Bush Rangers work with Department crews to maintain and finish off works to new facilities at Hamelin Bay. One group oiled boardwalks and lookouts, while the other group carried out landscaping work around the new toilet blocks.

Both groups worked tirelessly to complete the tasks given for the day and then took pleasure in dipping themselves into the clear turquoise waters of Hamelin Bay.

The group was accommodated at the Margaret River Eco Discovery centre, where they got to experience the nightly rituals of the local Wharncliffe Mill Brush Tail Possums.

Manjimup Senior High School teacher and Bush Ranger Supervisor Graeme Gibson said "the possums were a treat for the students and were very accustomed to humans, however one got a little too friendly and started urinating next to my bed!"