



# Conservation News



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## Jurien Bay Marine Park – WA's newest marine reserve



Premier Geoff Gallop and Environment Minister Judy Edwards on the water at Jurien Bay.

**THE State's newest marine park was officially celebrated with the dedication of the Jurien Bay Marine Park by Premier Geoff Gallop on August 31.**

The new park takes in the waters of the Turquoise Coast for 100 kilometres between Wedge Island and Green Head and is the first marine reserve declared in Western Australia in 13 years.

The creation of the park is the forerunner to a program to create additional marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara, and in the waters off the Leeuwin Naturaliste coastline from Geographe Bay to Hardy Inlet. The process to create a marine reserve in the Walpole-Nornalup inlets on the south coast, and to extend the Ningaloo and Rowley Shoals marine parks is also under way.

WA's marine environment is one of the world's 'hotspots' in terms of biodiversity but relatively little of our marine area is actively managed for conservation. The move to establish these new parks is part of an aim to create a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine reserve network across the various biogeographic regions around the State's 13,500 kilometre coastline.

The creation of the Jurien Bay Marine Park, together with associated features such as Nambung National Park and its internationally-renowned Pinnacles, the Lesueur National Park with its incredibly rich plant diversity, and the offshore islands means the

by Nigel Higgs

central coast will have a range of attractions that can be managed sustainably to create greater economic and social benefits for the region.

The State Government is providing an additional \$430,000 for marine conservation initiatives for Jurien Bay and Ningaloo marine parks this year and a further \$2.36 million over the following three years.

Environment Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the waters of the new park were a treasure trove of marine biodiversity. The islands provided important habitat for sea lions and seabirds, while the waters represented a transition zone between the tropical north and temperate south.

"The limestone reefs are a diver's delight with their grottos and caves and a range of colourful sponges, while the extensive seagrass meadows provide shelter and habitat for a wide variety of marine life," she said.

Dr Edwards and Fisheries Minister Kim Chance said the State Government was very aware that some recreational fishing and voluntary conservation movement interests had reservations concerning the management zones in the new park.

They announced three specific initiatives to address the concerns raised by the Conservation Council of WA and Recfishwest.

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## Best foot forward in City to Surf

**CALM's City to Surf team put its best foot forward in this year's event.**

The team was the biggest in 10 years, attracting 55 staff, friends and family members.

Director of Corporate Services John Byrne and Director of

by Vanessa Beal

Regional Services Alan Walker were among the team. They completed the 12-kilometre event in just over 70 minutes.

CALM's fastest runners were

Martine Holland from the Swan Coastal District and Jordan Harvey from Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs. Both finished in less than an hour.

Corporate Health Officer and team captain Vanessa Beal said more than 19,000 competitors took part in the Activ Foundation's City to Surf event on Sunday 31 August.

"CALM's team was one of the larger corporate teams and was the second largest team from a government department," she said.

"I believe this reflects that staff are taking a greater interest in health and fitness.

"Colleagues formed walking and running groups and trained during lunch and after work in preparation for the event.

"Many staff are keen to keep these exercise groups going and look forward to future events to take part in between now and next year's City to Surf."

CALM's team donned team t-shirts featuring the Dryandra Woodland logo and held a morning tea at Kensington in recognition of the efforts of participants.

Vanessa congratulated everyone who took part.

"It was a great achievement and I hope to see you there again in 2004," she said.

The City to Surf is the Activ Foundation's largest annual fundraising event. It raises money to support people with intellectual disability and their families living in WA.



Chris Done (right) at his official farewell at Crawley with the Director of Regional Services, Alan Walker (left) and Executive Director Keiran McNamara.

## Goodbye and good luck, Chris

**CHRIS Done reflects on his time with the Department as being an interesting, challenging and satisfying 27 years.**

The Kimberley Regional Manager, who has just retired, says he's enjoyed his work, the people and the Kimberley experience.

"I have also been privileged to have many very good staff with whom to work over the years and I wish to thank them for their pro-

by Tracy Peacock

fessionalism and mateship," he said.

Chris started with the Department after graduating from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Science and a seven year stint in Papua New Guinea working for the Forestry Department.

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Showing off their team t-shirts before the event were (back row, left to right) Gerard Ots, Stacey Johnson and Tracy Heaperman from Corporate Information Services and (front row, left to right) Robyn Wilson and Melissa Robinson from Geographic Information Services Section and Julie Howie from Information Management Branch.

## Executive Director appointed

**KEIRAN McNamara was appointed Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management in August. He has been Acting Executive Director since July 2001.**

Environment Minister Judy Edwards said Mr McNamara was a career public servant with a background in conservation management and policy and had shown strong leadership qualities over the two years he has acted as Executive Director.

Mr McNamara was formerly CALM's Director of Nature Conservation and has a degree in Natural Resources.

# Working Together

A feature of our business is that much of the land and waters we manage serves several purposes.

Conservation of biodiversity is a purpose for virtually all land and waters we manage. Some land such as national parks can also be managed for recreation as well as biodiversity. Forests meet biodiversity conservation, recreation and sustainable forest management objectives. We also have responsibilities for biodiversity conservation on all lands and waters throughout the State.

The Government's Output Based Management approach reflects these different outputs. The Conservation and Land Management Act gives specific status to the Output Directors. Provider Divisions such as Regional Services and Science delivers the outputs on the ground.

Our Corporate Executive recently confirmed the continuing importance of Output Purchaser Provider (OPP) processes in the Department. This decision follows consideration of a discussion paper and assessment of staff feedback. Essentially OPP is the best way we have of ensuring that we effectively and efficiently deliver outcomes consistent with our charter.

An OPP Focus Group, with representation from each Division, is responsible for carrying through specific actions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of OPP processes.

To facilitate OPP budget processes, the way in which cost centre budgets are set is being reviewed. A phased introduction of changes will be implemented commencing with the budget process for 2004-05. The annual budget process will include a three-year strategic planning horizon for all Outputs. A review of the Department's current strategic plan will also occur during 2003-2004 to enhance integration of the Department's planned outcomes and key result areas with the annual budget process.

A common activity list across Outputs will be implemented commencing 1 July 2004. Consultation with all Divisions on the proposed new activity list is occurring.

I ask all staff to support the revised OPP processes as they are progressively implemented so that the Department can continue to enhance its focus on delivery of priority services to achieve better outcomes.

John Byrne, Acting Executive Director



## Jurien Bay Marine Park – WA's newest marine reserve

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These included:

- A working group to consider the proposal for a recreation zone off the Jurien townsite. This group will include people with backgrounds in the Jurien community, recreational and commercial fishing, and conservation interests. It will report to the Minister for the Environment, through the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, by March next year.
- A program of research and monitoring of the ecological impacts of rock lobster fishing in the Marine Park. The program will be overseen by a steering committee that will include senior scientific staff from relevant agencies, as well as representatives of commercial and recreational fishing groups, the voluntary conservation movement and local government.
- Funding through the Department of Conservation and Land Management for a doctoral research project through a WA university to address the design and effectiveness of sanctuary zones in the State's marine parks and reserves.

A community-based advisory committee is being formed to ensure that the local community can actively participate in the management of the park.

Executive Director Keiran McNamara said

the creation of the Jurien Bay Marine Park, and the process to create new marine conservation reserves, was a critical step forward.

"The process to create the new park was a long and involved one," he said.

"However, the end result has been tremendous and is a credit to the efforts of staff from the Moora District, Midwest Region, Marine Conservation Branch and other sections of the Department, as well as the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, who contributed to the process."

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## Fire research in Goldfields

**NEW research focusing on feral predators and changing fire regimes has started in the Goldfields region.**

The recently acquired 243,000 hectare Lorna Glen station, north east of Wiluna, will be the main focus of the study.

The Department's Director of Science, Dr Neil Burrows, said there had already been an alarming loss of native animals in WA's arid regions and rangelands.

"For example, about 33 per cent of all native mammal species, and 90 per cent of medium-size native mammals have become either extinct or are suffering massive contractions in their ranges," he said

The cause of this degradation includes introduced predators such as the European fox and cat.

"Cats as predators – they are the number one problem in the arid areas," the Department's Goldfields Regional Manager Ian Kealley said.

Ian said work on the research program had already started with tracks, pit traps and other infrastructure being put in place during May.

"It's been a major focus for our staff with several trips to the area this month," he said.

"We've done the first lot of pre-baiting fauna monitoring and cat and fox number

monitoring.

"The intention is to do the first cat baiting in July and then 12 months of post-bait monitoring."

The Department has been liaising with and involving the Wiluna Aboriginal community on the research program.

"Their knowledge of the bush and of traditional land management practices, especially in relation to fire, will be critical to the overall outcomes of the project," said Neil.

The feral cat baiting program at Lorna Glen follows trials in the Gibson Desert last year.

The new research program and trials will be run in conjunction with an on-going biological survey, reserve management work and operational activities undertaken by the Department's Goldfields Region on Lorna Glen and the neighbouring 321,000 hectare Earraheedy Station that also is managed by the Department.

The research will build on previous Departmental work over the past decade in the Great Victoria Desert, the Gibson Desert and the Great Sandy Desert.

Lorna Glen and Earraheedy are among a number of former pastoral leases the Department is now managing for conservation values.



Aboriginal trainee Anthony Richardson (left) and local volunteer Gary Hearle (right) collecting samples at Lorna Glen.

## Summer sampling at Lorna Glenn

**GOLDFIELDS regional staff, trainees and volunteers have completed a summer biological survey of Lorna Glen.**

The survey, the last of three biological surveys conducted at the station, is part of a systematic program to establish baseline biological data for new station acquisitions in the Goldfields Region.

Regional Ecologist Mark Cowan led enthusiastic teams through intensive sampling of 25 sites of major habitat diversity on the Station, which were established in November 2001 by a hard-working Conservation Volunteers Australia crew and volunteer Brian Hume.

Mark said the aim of the survey was to document the current biodiversity of the area including flora, vertebrate fauna and higher order invertebrates and to identify threatened species and ecosystems.

"Through these baseline studies we will have a reference point by which we can gauge change and make informed decisions in relation to management as it affects biodiversity conservation," he said.

The teams' sampling included pit trapping, Elliot trapping, opportunistic foraging and observation to collate details of the fauna. Participants included regional staff Sarah Adriano, Brett Lewis and Brad Barton, regional trainees Ross Lynch, Anthony Richardson, Luke Stokes and Darren Mason and volunteers Gary Hearle and PJ.

Expert arid zone botanists Daphne Edinger and Gilbert Marsh from the CALM Herbarium participated on two of the surveys collecting and identifying the many plants at each of the sites. Kevin and Yvonne Coates participated on the summer survey collating the many species of birds.

## Barna Mia wins award

**NARROGIN District's work in establishing and running the native wildlife viewing facility Barna Mia at Dryandra Woodland has been rewarded with a Golden Heartlands Regional Tourism Award.**

This unique facility has been an extremely popular attraction in the region since it opened in December last year. It provides visitors with an opportunity to encounter five threatened species of marsupials, such as the bilby and boodie, in a natural bushland setting.

The facility won the category of 'New Tourism Development' of the Golden Heartlands Tourism Awards, which recognizes excellence, achievement and contribution to the development of tourism in the Heartlands region.

Narrogin District staff were on hand to accept the award at the presentation dinner and were also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for significant contribution to the development of tourism in the Heartlands region.

Pictured with their award (from left) are Kate Macgregor, Lyn Chadwick, Paul McCluskey, Leon Silvester, Tricia Sprigg and Georgia Ryan.



# Friendship brings great rewards

**GREAT friendships are built on trust and loyalty – something our Kensington front counter telephonist Michelle Griffin and her new guide dog Piper have been achieving.**

Michelle has worked for CALM for 14 years and – after a 12-month wait – picked up 22-month-old Piper in July.

Michelle and Piper are now a regular sight around CALM's Kensington office and around the streets of Fremantle, where Michelle sometimes heads on week-ends.

"The first four weeks have been challenging, interesting and a big learning adventure," Michelle said.

"Each day is different and I am getting to know and trust Piper. Trust between us is very important, without it we just can't work as a team.

"So far I am learning that she is very strong-minded, sometimes stubborn and has lots of character."

Michelle said having a guide dog was already providing her with more independence and making life easier.

"My lifestyle has definitely changed. We are both adjusting to the new routine. It's almost like having a new baby," she said.

"At the moment we are learning our day-to-day routes and I am already finding it much easier to get around."

by Rhianna Mooney

Michelle applied for a guide dog from the Association for the Blind and was placed on a waiting list. She was assessed on six criteria, including mobility and her reasons for wanting a guide dog, and given specialised training.

Guide dogs cost \$20,000 to train and breed, with intensive, on going training provided to the owner and dog.

Michelle said that support from her friends, family and colleagues had also been important to Piper settling into her life.

"The support from my family and people at work has been great, and really important," she said.

"It has taken us all a little while to get used to having Piper around but people have been really helpful."

The Association for the Blind has provided a list of Dos and Don'ts to help Michelle and Piper settle into the work environment. The list is available from the Association or from the Kensington front counter.

"It is important people remember that Piper is a working dog and not a pet. I have had to learn to be confident, quick and firm, to trust her and maintain control of her while she's working," Michelle said.



Michelle Griffin and her new guide dog, Piper. Photo by Norm Bailey.

## The end is near!

by Darren Stevens and Michelle Davies

**THE end is near for the graduate recruit group of 2002-2003, which recently completed the last instalment of training at the Dwellingup Training Centre.**

The 18 recruits have spent the past year learning about Department operations through placements in Wildlife, Parks and Visitor Services, Nature Conservation and Fire Management Services throughout the State including the Midwest, Southwest, Swan, Goldfields Southern and Kimberley regions.

The group are extremely close knit through extracurricular activities including underwater hockey, football, swimming in the nearby river and dams and the crowd favourite hacky-sac. They are also entering their team "The Corporate Executives 2010" into the Big Brook relay again this year.

The recruits are looking forward to their graduation ceremony and to being considered for permanency with the Department after two years of training. The recruits send their special thanks to Peter Hill and Alan Byrne for their efforts and support over the last year.



CALM's Acting Director of Nature Conservation, Gordon Wyre, and a bilby are pictured with Floreat Park Primary School students Tim Stuart, Natalie Stawell Wilson and Matt Frame at the school recently. The school won the \$5000 Epic Energy Wildlife Conservation Challenge run in conjunction

with CALM and the WA Department of Education and Training. The money will be used for conservation projects. Students wrote, directed and performed a play, created puppets and ran a shopping centre display to win the prize. Photo by Greg Burke, West Australian Newspapers.

## Goodbye and good luck, Chris

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"My work there initially involved forest assessment work which took me to most of that fascinating country's provinces and saw me spend up to three months at a time in very isolated parts, working closely with PNG nationals and other expatriate foresters and support staff," he said.

"The time in PNG was extremely interesting, but in 1975 my wife Pip and I decided to come back to Australia.

"Rick Sneeuwjagt is a mate from university days and he advised me that a position may be available in the West so I applied and was subsequently appointed as an Assistant Divisional Forest Officer with the Forests Department in 1976.

"My initial posting was to Nannup and I was appointed Divisional Forest Officer there about six months later.

"However, I think the tropics must have got in my blood because when the Forest Department decided to establish a presence in the Kimberley I was keen to compete for the position and in mid-1979 we were transferred to Kununurra.

"Over the years I have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with various Aboriginal communities right across the Kimberley from Kununurra to Wyndham, to Billiluna and Mulan in the east Kimberley to Bardi, Lombadina, Bidadanga and others in the west."

Chris lists some of his work highlights as being involved in the establishment of a sandalwood industry in the area, the proclamation of the Purnululu National Park in 1987, the addition of the Mt Hart pastoral lease to the conservation estate, the recent World Heritage Listing of Purnululu National Park plus the realisation of a long held dream to have a purpose-built departmental office in Kununurra.

And his plans for retirement? "Pip and I will stay in Kununurra and I will keep myself busy on our small mango and sandalwood block as well as pursuing many other interests including travel and bushwalking," he said.

## Right on track

*Right on Track is a monthly series of articles sponsored by the corporate executive and designed to illustrate some of the new ways of working for CALM, illustrating a current project and emphasising our strategic directions and corporate values. This month's article was written by Tammie Reid, a Senior Project Officer in the Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division.*

Developing community understanding, support and involvement for the work we do is one of CALM's key strategies for conserving biodiversity and managing the lands entrusted to us.

Regional Services Director, Alan Walker recently came across a great example of what this can look like when inspecting a program of fire prevention work in the nature reserves north-east of Albany. He describes himself "as an enthusiastic supporter of the project and its achievements".

A team approach involving several staff from across outputs and Divisions within the South Coast Region, this program integrates a range of elements of the Department's work including fire protection, nature conservation, off-reserve management and neighbour liaison.

It also illustrates how community working relationships can be strengthened by small, consistent, and modest steps and can greatly contribute to the nature conservation outcomes we seek as an agency.

What started out as a low key briefing, one night, three years ago in a farmer's woolshed has led to regular neighbour biodiversity management involvement program for the proposed Peniup and Corackerup nature reserves.

The focus began when Alan Danks, Tony Start, Mal Grant and Greg Broomhall started work on interim management guidelines and ascertained that the reserves hadn't been burnt since 1957.

Mal explains: "While smaller fires had burnt portions of both reserves in 1968, most of the areas (4500 and 6500 hectares respectively) had even-aged vegetation and a 46-year leaf litter build up.

There are few access tracks into the area and CALM firefighting units are at least 90 minutes away from attending incidents within the reserves. One boundary had no management track at all.

The possibility of a complete reserve being burnt, should a fire get started over summer, was very high. We saw the potential for this when an accidentally-started fire on private property abutting the Corackerup nature reserve in March 1999 burnt to within a few hundred metres of the northern boundary of the reserve.

This situation is a huge risk to the reserves' biodiversity and conservation values and threatens mature plant communities including two declared rare flora species and multiple priority flora populations. Populations of the endangered mallee fowl and a recently translocated dibbler population at Peniup are also at risk.

The opportunity for animals to relocate into adjacent suitable habitat and refuge after a wildfire is limited now that farm development is well established and road reserves are small, narrow and subject to fox predation.

Alan Danks said research in Victoria suggested that mallee fowl preferred vegetation unburnt for around 40 years or where the leaf litter and debris build-up was adequate for mound building and maintenance.

To protect the nature conservation values of the reserve we need to break up the even-aged nature of the vegetation, creating a range of serial vegetation stages. This should limit the impact of a fire, protect long unburnt areas and increase the likelihood of suppression, promoting a greater

range of flora and fauna biodiversity in the reserves.

The local farming community had long valued these reserves for their naturalness, the wildflowers and for the mallee fowl populations. The community had been involved and consulted with the implementation of Western Shield and the Mallee fowl Preservation Group fox baiting programs in and around these reserves in the past.

Regional Manager, John Watson saw it was imperative that they endorsed and supported any reserve protection strategy.

"We believed we could then build on neighbour support and involvement to address off reserve biodiversity issues in the region as well," he said.

In one instance this support led to 24 kilometres of a boundary management track being established on already cleared farmland instead of necessitating a new eight metre wide clearing in the reserve. (This equals the retention of more than 19 hectares of native vegetation.)

The four adjacent landholders also agreed to weldmesh gates being situated in the fence opposite dams on their properties for future wildfire fighting needs.

During the last three years regular briefings, field work and joint operations with volunteer brigades have been so successful that the annual works program consistently involves a dozen or so neighbours – as long as the work is programmed after seeding!

No wonder Alan Walker described this work as a wonderful example of consultative and collaborative land management in the South coast Region.



PLC students Shirley Feng (left) and Libby Ward (right) collecting stygofauna specimens from ground bores at Woodvale.

## A day with a scientist

**EVER** wondered what CALM scientists really get up to in their day? As part of National Science Week, high school students recently spent a day finding out.

CALM's 'A day with a scientist' program aims to give students with an interest in pursuing science-related careers an insight into what's involved on a day-to-day basis.

Senior Technical Officers Mike Scanlon and Andrew Williams took two Year 11 Perth Ladies College students and Year 12 students from Kelmscott Senior High School and John Wollaston Anglican Community School under their wings for the day.

The students were selected, based on nominations from their teachers, to gain an insight into the careers of scientists and become aware of how science forms the basis of nature conservation management decisions.

They went on a tour of Woodvale Research Centre, took water samples from bores and analysed the results under microscopes. They also identified butterfly specimens and mounted samples for display.

Year 11 PLC student Libby Ward said she had always been interested in a career in

by Rhianna Mooney

science and loved the chance of practical experience.

"I'm still working out what area I would like to get into and 'A day with a scientist' gives me a chance to get hands-on experience outside the classroom," she said.

"I have always loved being outdoors and a career in science will enable me to work outdoors and travel the State."

Mike said it was important to encourage young people to pursue a career in a science-related field and to give them experience.

"It's great to see students come through with the same passion for science that I had as a kid," he said.

"My passion for science was encouraged by a high school biology teacher who seemed to love his job day in and day out.

"CALM's 'A day with a scientist' program gives the students a bit of encouragement and a chance to see what we get up to.

"Who knows, we might have had a future renowned botanist with us."

## Walpole Community joins in

**PLANNING** for the Walpole Wilderness Area is being guided by a new Community Advisory Committee.

The 13-member committee has representatives from local government, conservation interest groups, Native Title claimants and local community members.

It was formed as part of a broader public participation strategy to incorporate the community's wishes in planning for the area.

The Department's Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp, chairs the process group. The committee has discussed a range of issues including identifying wilderness areas, establishing a process for the development of a Discovery Centre, nature conservation, recreation and tourism.

The Walpole Wilderness Area has incorporates four new proposed national parks and three existing national parks located to the north of Walpole and Denmark to the Hay

River and west to the Shannon National Park. This amalgamation of parks, together with D'Entrecasteaux National Park, will be one of the largest contiguous reserve systems in WA's South-West.

The Walpole Wilderness Area was proposed as part of the Gallop Government's Protecting Our Old Growth Forests Policy and is important for its environmental, scenic, recreation and cultural values including endemic species of flora and fauna such as the sunset frog, the tingle trapdoor spider, the red flowering gum and large tingle trees.

It has significant areas of karri and jarrah old growth forest and a wide range of landscape features such as tall forests, granite mountains, wetlands and heaths, river systems and coastal environments and wilderness qualities. The Tree Top Walk and a range of recreation and tourism opportunities are located in the Walpole Wilderness Area.

## Big Brook Challenge

by Rod Annear

**IF** you hadn't heard its time again to think about getting your team together for the Big Brook Relay

The event will be held on Saturday, November 15, so there's no time to lose if you want to improve your fitness and lose that beergut and sagging bum.

Events are crosscut sawing, cycling, running, canoeing, and swimming, with the winning team receiving the Karri All Sports Trophy.

There's also the Derriere Award for the team who with flair, style and panache and is last past the post.

For those staff who wish to stay the full weekend why not contact the Pemberton Tourist Centre to book some accommodation. Call them on 9776 1133

Don't leave it until the last minute to get your team in - start organising today!

If you have not been approached by a colleague, (or strong-armed into it by the boss), but you would like to join a team or form one yourself, contact Rod Annear or David Meehan in Pemberton without delay for details, as entries must be in no later than October 31.

They can be reached by telephone on (08) 9776 1207.

Above all, the Big Brook Relay is a family day, with children's activities, and - for those minimally competitive grownups who enjoy becoming horizontal while leaning on a rope - there's a tug-of-war.

A sausage sizzle will be available at lunchtime on Saturday, but please bring other picnic or barbecue foods, fighting irons (cutlery), crockery and glasses, as well as your own frisbees, sailboards and canoes.

See you there!

## Conservation briefs

### Walk to Cure Diabetes

CALM staff, friends and families are taking a step in the right direction to find a cure for diabetes, a disease that affects more than one million Australians.

It's not too late to register for the seven-kilometre, October 19 walk around Burswood Park. Regional walks are also being held in Bunbury, Geraldton, Albany, Esperance, Moora and Kalgoorlie. Family walks will also be held in Hyden, Katanning and Darkan.

Please contact Rhianna Mooney from Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs on (08) 9389 8644 or by email (rhiannam@calm.wa.gov.au) for more information.

### Western Shield-US link?

When will CALM lay fox baits in North Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Montana North Idaho, Washington and Oregon?

That's the question a US traveller, Dan Talbot, asked on our website, NatureBase.

John Hunter - who answers 45 to 55 email questions on behalf of the Department each day - seized the moment.

"Hey Dan, I knew our Western Shield program was probably the best threatened species project on the planet, but your Government has not yet contacted us for help in your country. I suggest you contact your local US National Parks and Wildlife Service."

### WA fire officers to help out in US

Four senior Western Australian fire officers are part of a 50-strong contingent of Australian and New Zealand fire personnel who are helping the United States manage an outbreak of wildfires in that country.

The WA team comprises three officers from the Department and one from the Forest Products Commission. The CALM team comprises Bob Hagan, Bunbury; Barry Hooper, Kalgoorlie and Mitchell Davies, Katanning. Murray Mitchell from the FPC in Bunbury is the fourth member.

Executive Director Keiran McNamara said the United States authorities requested the assistance following an extended fire season and the unavailability of personnel from Canada, which also is facing severe forest fires.

Members of the ANZ contingent have been deployed as division commanders on fires in the northern Rocky Mountains. The Americans specifically requested personnel who were experienced as divisional commanders and could lead teams using heavy earth-moving machinery in fire suppression operations.

This is the third time in the past four years WA fire personnel have been sent to the United States during that country's wildfire season.

## Teaching the teachers at Dryandra

A FAMOUS adage says in order to retain at least 80 per cent of what is taught, students must experience the event.

The same applies to teachers and environmental educators, a group of whom visited Dryandra Woodland on a recent Western Shield sponsored professional development camp titled Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night.

After a drive to the secluded Lions Village in Dryandra Woodland they visited the new Barna Mia Sanctuary, meeting a short-beaked echidna crossing the road on the way.

by Liz Moore

Barna Mia was built by the Department to give visitors the opportunity to discover species which have been reintroduced to their former habitats under its Western Shield 'Return to Dryandra Project'.

The group saw the the bilby (dalgyte), boodie (burrowing bettong), mala (rufous haired wallaby) and marl (western barred bandicoot), viewed a slide show and checked traps.

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

### Contract

Corinne Gaskin, Clerical Officer, Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington; Bronwyn Mathiesen, Librarian, Forest Tree Crops Group, Kensington; Ben Deeley, Resource Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Sandra Gilfillan, Conservation Officer, South Coast Region, Albany; Susan Ajah Subah, Research Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Kensington; Kate Fitzgerald, Officer, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle.

### Permanent

Emma Bramwell, Technical Officer (Covenanting), Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Peter Orell, Zoologist (Western Shield) Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Cherylynne

Casserly, Officer, Donnelly District, Pemberton; Robert Davis, Technical Officer (Curation), WA Herbarium, Science Division; Annie Keating, Tracks and Trails Coordinator, Parks and Visitor Services; Avril Baxter, Land for Wildlife Officer, Nature Conservation Division, Wildlife Branch, Narrogin; Heather Adamson, Land for Wildlife Officer, Nature Conservation Division, Wildlife Branch, Merredin; Jenny Dewing, Land for Wildlife Officer, Nature Conservation Division, Wildlife Branch, Bridgetown; Fiona Falconer, Land for Wildlife Officer, Nature Conservation Division, Wildlife Branch, Coorow.

### Temporary transfer

John Carter, Assistant Rangeland

Conservation Officer, Perth Hills District, Mundaring to National Resource Branch, Mundaring.

### Retirement

Chris Done, Regional Manager, Regional Services, Kimberley Region, Kununurra.

### Resignation

Alison Dugand, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Mundaring; Emma Slapp, Clerical Assistant, Wellington District, Collie; Sandra Maciejewski, Regional Bushcare Facilitator, Wildlife Administration, Albany.

### Leave without pay

Don Daams, Cartographic Officer, Information Management Branch.