# Conservation Nev



OCTOBER 2003

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT Experts say Western Shield is world class

WESTERN Australia's native fauna recovery program - Western Shield - has been hailed by a review panel of independent scientific experts as a world-class and iconic predator control program that has delivered real conservation outcomes.

The review panel's assessment of the Department's comprehensive fauna recovery initiative was released for public comment ear-

It recommended that Western Shield, which aims to conserve native animals at a landscape level by controlling introduced predators - the European fox and feral cat - be continued and

The three-member review panel found Western Shield was extremely successful in strategically targeting the recovery of a wide range of threatened native fauna in a short time frame.

It praised CALM for its scientific research and a management framework that exploited the advantage of the naturally occurring toxin, 1080.

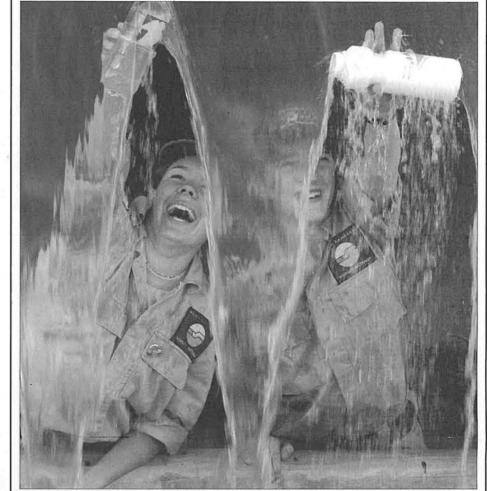
Panel members were Professor Hugh Possingham, from the Departments of Zoology and Mathematics at Queensland University; Emeritus Professor Peter Jarman, from the Department of Ecosystem Management at the

by Mitzi Vance

University of New England, NSW; and Mr Allen Kearns, from the CSIRO's Sustainable Ecosystems Division.

- Recommendations included:
- expanding the program to provide for more effort into feral cat research and
- · appointing a Western Shield manager to provide a clearer management structure for science and business;
- · enhancing community involvement to build on the goodwill already generated by Western Shield:
- · reviewing the purposes of monitoring and the extent to which the present techniques, distribution, and staff input effectively and efficiently fulfil these purposes;
- a co-operative approach between CALM and the Department of Agriculture in the production of 1080 meat baits; and
- enhancing the experimental aspects of Western Shield to provide greater scope for research needs.

The report is on CALM's website http://www.naturebase.net



CALM Bush Rangers Sarah Windus and Grant Edward at the Conservation and Landcare Exhibit. Photo by Sharon Smith, The West Australian.

## Royal Show success

FOR the past two years CALM has sponsored the Royal Show landcare exhibition and while last year was attractive, this year was doubly impressive.

Centrally located, the settlement-style pavilion was an oasis of agricultural and natural environments, native and domestic animal species, activity games, cultural performances and explanatory displays.

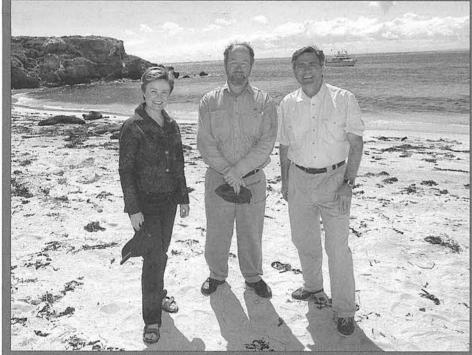
It highlighted the critical issues affecting the natural environment and focused on biodiversity, sustainable development, damage caused by salinity and rubbish, land and water quality, and people, volunteers and organisations committed to land care.

Displays and activities were staged by Bushfoods Australia, landcare groups attached to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Murdoch University's Environmental Science faculty, the Department of Agriculture, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Forest Products

by John Hunter

Commission and the Natural Heritage Trust. Special thanks to CALM staff who made the project such a huge success - Dan Huxtable and Jerome Carslake (Kensington Research), Brenton Clinch, Rob Narrier, Wayne Dekker and Sherylee Randall (Yanchep National Park Heritage Unit), Liz Maguire (Nearer to Nature), Bronwyn Humphreys (and the CALM Bush Ranger units that she co-ordinates), Peter Lambert (Wildlife Branch), Jamie Ridley and Michael Phillips (Perth Hills District), Elisa Skillen, Penny Hussey, David Lamont and Margaret Buckland (Kensington).

We'd also like to thank wildlife carers June Butcher, Yvonne Varras, Stuart and Amanda Payne and Terry High and all their volunteer helpers for being part of



CALM Executive Director Keiran McNamara (centre), Premier Geoff Gallop and management plan that will guide the island's future.

Fremantle, was prepared by CALM's planning team and the community-based Carnac Island

## Pilbara biological survey gets going

THE first stages of the Pilbara biological survey are well

Terrestrial sampling sites have been selected by Department Research Scientist Stephen Van Leeuwen and Project Coordinator Norm McKenzie, and installed by a team led by Jim Rolfe and Bob Bromilow, from the Science Division.

Stephen said teams had started to install the pit sites in July and finished this month.

He said it had been, at times, a difficult and physically

demanding job to dig the 2500 pitfall traps, especially in the hard and rocky Pilbara and small explosives charges had been used in many instances.

"The first servicing of the invertebrate pit traps will take place in November, while the opening of the pit traps for small mammals will not take place until April next year," he said. Stephen said an important element of the survey had been community consultation and this would continue over

Meanwhile, surveying of stygofauna in the Pilbara

Department Research Scientist Stuart Halse said his research team had made six visits to the region and had taken about 250 samples from about 150 sites.

'We expect three years in the field and are about one-third of the way through this program," he said.

He said over the next two years they would sample pastoral leases for stygofauna.

## Working Together

In recent weeks the Department has been criticised in the media over several prosecutions.

The Department has always sought to deal openly with the media, and will continue to do so. This includes encouraging access to our programs and staff, providing information and responding positively to inquiries.

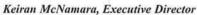
However, dealing with prosecutions is a different matter. When charges have been laid and a Court hearing is pending, all we can say is what the actual charges are. We cannot make known the alleged facts of the case, as to do so constitutes a contempt of Court.

Unfortunately, therefore, we have been unable to respond publicly to the incomplete and

sometimes inaccurate recent reports in the media. The Department has a duty to seek compliance with the Conservation and Land Management and Wildlife Conservation Acts. Doing so involves a range of strategies, including education and awareness programs, providing advice and guidance to individual persons, and enforcement action in respect of breaches of the law. Breaches are dealt with in accordance with our prosecution guidelines, and may result in advice or formal warnings, infringements, or prosecution in more

Some of the recent media coverage has adversely affected the Department's standing in the eyes of the community. Nevertheless, our duty to uphold the State's conservation laws is one that we will continue to perform in a fair and reasonable manner

serious instances.





## International recognition for **LANDSCOPE** Expeditions



The LANDSCOPE Expeditions team Cheryl Tonts, Kevin Kenneally and Jean Paton celebrate their most recent award.

## Jurien marine survey

by Tracy Peacock

WESTERN Australia's newest marine park was the subject of a major marine biodiversity survey this month.

Jurien Bay Marine Park, gazetted in August, covers the waters of the Turquoise Coast for 100 kilometres between Wedge Island and Green Head. It's the first marine park declared in

Marine Ecologist Kevin Bancroft, who worked on the survey with Marine Community Monitoring Officer Karen Wheeler, said the survey was part of ongoing research and monitoring of the social and ecological values prior to, during and after reserve creation.

"This is an essential element of ensuring that the management of the marine park is effective in achieving the stated objectives," he said.

Baseline biodiversity surveys were undertaken in the same area in 1999 and 2000. Kevin said this latest survey would provide meaningful estimates of average conditions prior to the implementation of management zoning.

He said 25 sites were revisited and a visual census taken on the abundance and size of large fish, as well as the abundance of cryptic fish and benthic invertebrates.

Agencies that helped in the survey were the University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, CSIRO Marine Research and the Department of Environment.

#### LANDSCOPE Expeditions' integrated approach to eco-tourism has been recognised by an International Environmental Award.

The accolade, from the Association of German Travel Agents and Tour Operators (DRV), was awarded to the Department's LANDSCOPE Expeditions and a private nature reserve in Tanzania.

The annual DRV International Environmental Awards recognise organisations that have achieved notable success in protecting or improving the environment while supporting tourism.

Since 1992 more than 50 LANDSCOPE Expeditions research programs have been carried out in remote regions of WA, resulting in many important scientific discoveries.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions Co-ordinator Kevin Kenneally said that by combining conservation with tourism, the expeditions contributed to CALM fulfilling its mission.

"The aim of nature conservation is to ensure the survival of a region's native plants and animals," he said.

"LANDSCOPE Expeditions works with scientists and the tourism industry to anticipate the effects of disturbances and offers solutions to manage them for a sustainable future.

"While most clients are from WA, some come from all over the world and take part in hands-on, collaborative research projects."

#### Conservation News October 2003

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## New National Parks Day



Environment Minister Judy Edwards and Acting Executive Director John Byrne at Mundaring on New National Parks Day. Photograph by Ernie McLintock.

A COMMUNITY fair and information day at Fred Jacoby Park in Mundaring celebrated the release of proposed boundaries for five new national

Visitors to 'A New Era - New National Parks Day' saw maps of the proposed new national parks and learned how to become involved in the formal public

Environment Minister Judy Edwards officially opened the new parks display marquee and invited members of the community to examine the suggested boundaries for the proposed new Mundaring, Pickering Brook, Canning, Wandoo and Helena Valley national parks, which cover more than 76,000 hectares.

Nearer to Nature's Marketing and Promotions Officer Darren Gillespie said attendance on the day was fantastic.

"People enjoyed native animal displays, walking and cycling trails, national park management issues, and local European and Nyoongar history," he said.

"Activities such as kite making and boomerang painting intrigued the kids.

'Visitors also learned about the proposed new parks and enjoyed the day by taking part in guided frog and wildflower walks through Mundaring National Park's proposed new areas."

Throughout the day, Rangers and other CALM staff were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Maps and information on the proposed new parks will be displayed in Shire of Kalamunda libraries until early

### Wildlife Carers' Consultation Group

NEW members have been appointed to the Wildlife Carers Consultation Group.

They are Rita Watts (Wildlife Emergency Care, Busselton), Robyn Dennis (Karridale), Mieke Gaikhorst (Armadale Reptile Centre) Stuart Payne (WA Conservation of Raptors), Robyn Foley (Kalamunda), Ruth Haight (Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation), Pam Smith (Roleystone Wildlife Hospital), Marra Apgar (Perth Raptor Care), Tess Hunt Broomehill (Great Southern Care Wildlife) and Karen Pryce-Howells (Native Animal Rehabilitation Centre).

They join Lizzie Aravadis (Fauna Rehabilitation Foundation), Dr Cree Monaghan (Perth Zoo) and Supervising Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert (Chair).

Departmental Community Involvement Coordinator Marg Buckland acknowledged the contribution of retiring group members who recently received outstanding service awards from Environment Minister

The group, set-up in 2000, aims to develop closer working relationships and communication between wildlife carers in WA.

Marg said the development of a new code of practice would be a high priority for the group. The draft will be sent to all registered wildlife carers for comment.

### Native reeds for frogs planted at Herdsman Lake



CALM's Clive 'C.J.' Smith from Swan Coastal District with Year 7 student Ross Gamble from Wembley Primary School at Herdsman Lake Regional Park.

PLANTING more than 20,000 native reeds in one week was child's play for Perth students who donned wellies and braved the mud at Herdsman Lake Regional Park.

The students, from Wembley Primary School, Hale School and Chrysalis Montessori School, took part in planting native reeds at two sites in the park.

Regional Parks Operations Officer Jayson Puls said the project aimed to re-establish understorey vegetation, which will protect small birds and frog species that live in the park.

"The project was the single biggest planting undertaken at Herdsman since the early 1980s and is part of an ongoing weed control and revegetation program," he said.

"It was also an opportunity to further develop partnerships and strong links with the local community, particularly local

Jayson said the feedback was positive and the project had given students the opportunity to have a hands-on role in conserving Herdsman Lake.

"We will continue to encourage community groups and schools to adopt parts of the park, and have been approached by other schools who would like to take part in similar activities," he said.



CALM's Jayson Puls (back, right) presented a certificate of appreciation to Hale School's Community Service Officer Michael Beech (back, left), Director of Pastoral Services Richard Goater (back, centre) and Year 10 students (front, left to right) Michael Tongue, Jason Carter and Louis Dallimore. Jayson said Hale played an important role in the program and he looked forward to their continued support.

## Gnulli and CALM work together

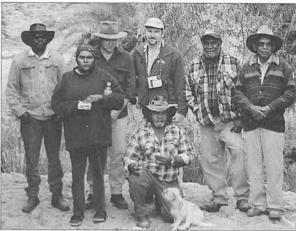
THE Department recently hosted a visit by members of the Gnulli native title claimant group at Kennedy Range National Park.

Brett Fitzgerald, Senior Operations Officer at Carnarvon, said the visit had been organised as part of the development of the park's interim management guide-

He said discussions during the three-day trip into the western part of the Kennedy Ranges plus nearby Mooka and Mardathuna Stations centred on future development options in the park such as visitor access, new camp sites and day-use areas.

"The interim management guidelines will enable necessary operations to be conducted while an approved management plan is completed," Brett said.

"The trip was an informa-



### by Tracy Peacock

tion sharing opportunity, but also gave claimant group members the opportunity to go to the western side of the ranges which can only be accessed by four-wheel drive."

He said discussions had

also focused on feral animal control and the possible removal of introduced date palms at several springs in the area such as Yenni

Spring. Work on the IMG started in 2002 and the recent meeting with the Gnulli people had been an integral part of the process.

"It was part of our ongoing liaison process with claimant groups," he said.

Members of the Gnulli native title working group visit the Kennedy Range area with CALM officers. They were, from left, Ross Crowe, Sharon Crowe, Kelly Gillen (Regional Manager Mid-West), Brett Fitzgerald (Senior Operations Officer, CALM Carnarvon), John Dale, Ron Crowe (Chairman

of the Gnulli Claimant Group) and Syd Dale. They were at Yenni Spring on the ex-Mooka pastoral lease. Mooka Station was acquired for addition to the Kennedy Range National Park through the Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy with funding from the State Government and the Commonwealth's National Reserve System Program.

## Teachers go hands on in Shark Bay

HOLDING lizards, weighing small mammals and getting dirty hands setting pit trap lines were some of the experiences of 20 teachers visiting Shark Bay.

The teachers from around the State took part in the Professional Development weekend called 'Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Weekend', which coincided with Threatened Species Day.

Based at the Peron Homestead in the Francois Peron National Park, the weekend was funded by CALM's EcoEducation Western Shield Schools Program with assistance from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The teachers learned about why Shark Bay was Western Australia's first World Heritage listed area and how CALM's major conservation project in the area, Project Eden, helps to restore and protect the area's unique conservation values.

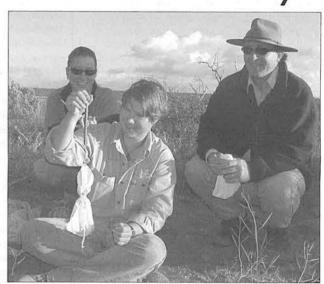
Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator Carl Beck said the weekend was designed to give teachers a greater understanding about conservation and management of threatened species.

"Hopefully the teachers will pass this message on to their students and consider Shark Bay as a destination for future school camps," he said.

Senior EcoEducation Project Officer Liz Moore said she had received positive feedback.

"They were given an enormous amount of curriculum information, packages, contacts, and references that they can use in the classroom and in their schools," Liz said.

The teachers learnt about the range of techniques used to monitor the area's native fauna, set pit trap lines and small box traps and checked them the next morning. They handled, weighed and measured a number of native species that wandered into the traps.



Project Eden's Manager, Colleen Sims, weighs a native animal, watched by Parks and Visitor Services Leader, Carl Beck and Cathy Beeck from Geraldton Secondary College.

They also met representatives from several Shark Bay community groups and got up close and personal with some of the area's reptiles.

Planning for a similar camp next year has already begun because of the success of this year's camp. Thanks to CALM's Colleen Sims, Cathy Himbeck and Nicole Noakes for their great support.

### New Coral Bay patrol boat

CORAL Bay's new patrol boat, The Yardi Yarra, has been launched with the support of the local Aboriginal community.

been purpose-built and will be used for scientific research and to

means dugong in traditional language.

### Right on track

Right on Track is a monthly series of articles sponsored by 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 is by Tammie Reid, a Senior Project Officer in the Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division.

Imagine being able to travel the whole state, visiting the best of our State's natural tourism destinations, witnessing all the regional highlights and being able to speak with the locals ... all in a day, in fact, all before lunch.

This is what CALMTIE is about. The CALM Tourism and Information Exchange is an annual event organised by the Tourism and Marketing Unit of the Parks and Visitor Services Division (PVS).

This year's organiser, Park Policy and Services' Marketing Officer, Natasha D'Arcy, explains;

"The event fosters two-way communication between the Department and members of the tourism industry including commercial tour operators, inbound tour operators, travel media, travel consultants and visitor centre

staff. CALM staff partner local Regional Tourism Association representatives to showcase and discuss their local attractions with members of the industry.

"This year the Department joined forces with the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC), the national peak body of the tourism export industry in a positive collaboration between government and industry."

Jim Sharp, Director of Parks and Visitor Services, participated in the Exchange, staying to walk the floor, talking with delegates and reaffirming the importance of this event.

"It is a chance to further the industry's knowledge, understanding and appreciation for sustainable tourism while providing staff with an opportunity to listen to the needs, aspirations and business concerns of operators who deal in nature based tourism," Natasha said.

"Getting our key field people into one room, exchanging ideas, insights and talking with industry about ways of developing even more effective nature based experiences in a nature conservation ethic is a fantastic achievement.

"For some of our more remote based staff, I realise this isn't easy. CALMTIE 2003 attracted more than 130 delegates including a high number of quality 'buyers' such as inbound tour operators and travel media. The Exchange could not be successful if our regional staff did not participate. It is a strategic and important event for the Department and I appreciate the effort it takes to attend."



Senior Technical Officer Neil Thomas (left) releases a boodie, assisted by Narrogin District's Operations Officer, Greg Durell and his son Steven.

### **Boodies** are back

BOODIES have made a return to the wild in the State's Wheatbelt.

Twenty of the small native marsupials were reintroduced into Dryandra woodland, north-west of Narrogin in August following the Department's successful breeding program.

The species has not been recorded in the wild in the Wheatbelt for 60 years and once had one of the broadest geographic ranges of any Australian mammal

Senior Research Scientist Dr Nikki Marlow said the boodie, a 'cousin' of the woylie, usually weighed about 1.5 kilograms and was extremely susceptible to predation by the European fox and feral cat.

The released animals were bred in a 10 hectare enclosure CALM built in 1998 as part of the 'Return to Dryandra' project that aims to breed five species of threatened marsupials for reintroduction into the woodland and other similar sites where fox-control has been achieved.

The release was part of the Department's Western Shield program and undertaken by staff from Science Division, Nature Conservation and Narrogin District.

Dr Marlow said predation by introduced species, loss of habitat and changed fire regimes were contributing factors to the decline of the boodie on the mainland.

"The last reports of boodies in the Wheatbelt were back in the 1940s," she said.

"Today, the only known wild populations are on Bernier and Dorre islands in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, and on Barrow Island off the Pilbara coast.

"The species also has been reintroduced into Heirisson Prong and Faure Island in Shark Bay and onto Boodie Island at the southern tip of Barrow Island."

Dr Marlow said 15 of the 20 animals released were fitted with radio collars.

"Further monitoring will be undertaken next year to assess the survival rate of the animals. If it is shown that they have become established and are breeding in the wild, there will be further releases from the captive breeding stock."

## Even more dibblers released at Peniup!

HEAVY rain over the preceding week did not prevent the release of 43 captive-bred dibblers at the 6530-hectare Peniup proposed nature reserve, 20 kilometres southwest of Jerramungup, in early October.

The release followed a gathering of about 30 local community members and volunteers, many of whom are involved in management and monitoring of Peniup and neighbouring Corackerup Nature Reserve.

The dibblers were the third group bred at Perth Zoo for release at Peniup by the zoo's Native Species Breeding Program. They are descended from 11 wild individuals captured in 2000 and 2001 by CALM scientists and volunteers in Fitzgerald River National Park.

Dibblers have now been released in early October each year since 2001, in the first reintroduction of dibblers on the mainland. Regular trapping by CALM Science Division and Albany Work Centre staff with help from community members has shown that dibblers are surviving and breeding in Peniup. Fourteen young dibblers born on site were cap-

### by Tony Friend

tured this spring, prior to the 2003 release.

Dibblers were believed to be extinct until 1967, when a small population was found at Cheynes Beach, east of Albany. Other populations were discovered in the Fitzgerald River National Park in 1984 and on Boullanger and Whitlock islands off Jurien Bay in 1985. The Dibbler Recovery Team, comprising dibbler experts and other stakeholders from CALM, Perth Zoo, five universities, the Malleefowl Preservation Group and local communities, has overseen dibbler recovery since 1996. The first new dibbler population was successfully established on Escape Island, through the release during 1998-2000 of 83 dibblers bred by Perth Zoo from nearby Boullanger and Whitlock islands stock.

The good rains that have fallen in the region over winter and spring this year are expected to increase insect food for dibblers in Peniup and aid the rapid growth of the fledgling population.



CALM Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend shows volunteers a dibbler at Peniup as part of the breeding and release program.

### A dream job in a dream location...

THAT'S how 27-year-old Pamela Parker describes her job at picturesque Coral Bay.

As the Department's marinebased Nature Conservation Officer at Coral Bay since February, Pamela says she can think of nothing better than spending a lot of her working day at the beach.

"I always wanted a job like this and to come to Ningaloo it's just so special. It's my dream job," she said.

"I absolutely love the fact that I'm in a beautiful location.

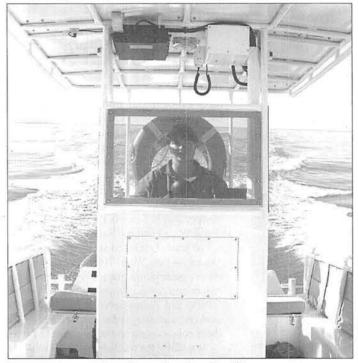
"Every time I look out the window it is such a beautiful vista."

Pamela previously worked for the New South Wales Fisheries Department on a communitybased monitoring program studying grey nurse sharks.

The program involved dive groups counting the sharks four times a year and meant Pamela spent about four months a year

"It was a passion for me because I love grey nurse sharks," said Pamela, who has a Bachelor of Applied Science from Southern Cross University in Lismore.

At Coral Bay her work is varied and includes enforcement, turtle monitoring, implementing the Coral Bay Boating Strategy and community education.



Pamela, on the job at Coral Bay.

### by Tracy Peacock

"Community education is my primary focus at the moment," she said.

This work involves the local community and tourists and sees Pamela spending several hours at the beach every morning talking to people.

The Department's Exmouth District Manager Jennie Cary said Pamela was doing an

excellent job at Coral Bay in a difficult environment.

"She's done a wonderful job helping to implement important projects this year such as the Coral Bay Boating Strategy which was a formidable task," she said.

"In a time of change, working in a local community can sometimes be a difficult task and Pamela has conducted herself in a professional manner."

### Conservation briefs

### Canadian couple treks the track

A Canadian couple have set out on a two-month, 936-kilometre trek from Perth to Albany on the Bibbulmun Track.

Sandy and Janet Campbell, from Winnipeg Manitoba, are avid hikers who spent time in Australia during 1996 and 2000 on teacher exchange programs.

They had reached Dwellingup on September 23.

#### Open day in Exmouth

The Coral Coasts Parks Advisory Committee - in conjunction with the Cape Conservation Group and Coast West-Coast Care - held a public open day at Exmouth this month.

The Cape Conservation Group's video Nurturing Ningaloo was launched. The public also received information about reviews of the Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park management plans, and other local coastal and marine management issues.

There were presentations on marine and terrestrial ecosystmems and information exhibitions from local organisations and government agencies, including CALM.

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

#### Contract

Anne Braithwaite, Project Officer, Forest and Tree Crops Group, Kensington.

Melanie Baister, Clerical Officer, Science Division, WA Herbarium; Sylvia Leighton. Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Albany; Cherie Kemp, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Busselton; Keith Claymore, Principal Policy Advisor, Nature Conservation Division, Crawley; Rosemary Jasper, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Ravensthorpe; Roger Syme, Reserves Officer, Shark Bay, Denham; Darren Gillespie, Marketing and Promotions Officer, Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring.

#### Promotion

Bridget (Penny) Hussey, Senior Project Officer (Land for Wildlife), Wildlife Administration; Criteria progression

Andrew Crawford, Senior Technical Officer, WA Herbarium.

#### Temporary transfer

Neil Taylor, Marine Liaison Officer, Blackwood District; Aminya Ennis, Regional Leader, Parks and Visitor Services, Wheatbelt Region, Narrogin.

Paul Winton, Planning Officer, Regional Parks; Greg Freebury, Nature Conservation Officer,

South Coast Region, Albany.

#### Secondment

Hazli Koomberi, Audit Manager, Conservation Commission, Crawley. Retirement

Thomas Smith, Astronomical Officer, Perth Observatory; Michael O'Donoghue,

Administration Officer, Wildlife Administration. Resignation

David Holley, Planning Officer (Marine), Wildlife Administration, Wildlife Conservation; Dale Kickett, Trainee Ranger, Mundaring District Office; Stephen Newby, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch. Redundancy

Leigh Trevorrow, Forest Ranger, Forest Management, Kensington.

Contract ceased

Albert Keith Moon, Ranger, Mt Augustus, Shark Bay District; Kirsten Pearce, Field Technical Officer, Research Manjimup; Christopher New, Project Officer, Manjimup Regional Headquarters. Temporary deployment

Janine Liddelow, Conservation Officer, Karratha; Natasha Oke, Fire Operations Officer, Fire Management Services.