



Conservation News

Print post approved PP65002/00001



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 2004

Pilbara field surveys completed

CALM scientists have completed a successful four-week trip through the Pilbara as part of one of Western Australia's most extensive biological surveys.

The trip, covering 180,000 square kilometres across the Pilbara Craton Bioregion, was the first terrestrial vertebrate sampling expedition conducted as part of the four-year Pilbara Biological Survey.

CALM zoologist Norm McKenzie said scientists from CALM and the WA Museum travelled throughout the Pilbara's four subregions—Chichester, Fortescue Plains, Hamersley and Roebourne—to the 151 biodiversity sites earmarked as part of the survey.

"Each team visited three survey areas for about a week of sampling at each area," he said.

In these areas they opened and monitored pit traps which had been installed last year, and recorded birds.

"Each day for seven days and nights we went and pulled out reptiles and small mammals from the pits and identified them," he said.

Bat echo location recording gear was also set up in each area to survey bat species.

Norm said they were pleased with their findings to date. Data analysis and identification are still being carried out.

"We were recording an average of 10 species per site of lizards, plus about four species of mammals and 10 bird species," he said.

Fauna found included emu wrens, spinifex birds, geckos, legless lizards, rock rats, yellow faced whip snakes and small goannas.

"We were pleased with the diversity of what we got given the harsh nature of the country," Norm said.

The teams were led by Norm and by Senior Research Scientist Allan Burbidge from the Woodvale Research Centre, Regional Ecologist Peter Kendrick from the Karratha Office, and Senior Research Scientist Dave Pearson from the Woodvale Research Centre. The WA Museum's Curator of Herpetology, Paul Doughty, also took part.

Allan's team covered the Karratha to Millstream to Mulga Downs area north-west of Newman, Peter's team the Karratha to Mt Florence area to the north of Newman, Dave's team the Whim Creek, Nullagine and Meentheena areas and Norm's team the Nanutarra area east to Tom Price, down to the eastern end of the Hamersley Ranges. Each team had two vehicles.



Neil Thomas and Cate Sadler-Baker prepare for trapping. Photo - Neil Hamilton.
Inset: Allan Burbidge checks a vertebrate pit trap. Photo - Allan Burbidge.

By Tracy Peacock

Allan said there were many survey expeditions in Australia but none had been on the geographic enormity of the Pilbara survey. Survey results are being entered on the CALM database, and will be added to after the next terrestrial monitoring survey in May next year.

Norm said other components of the survey—flora and waterways and subterranean creatures—were progressing well. The botanical part of the survey will cover the same sites as the terrestrial component, with additions.

"The Pilbara Biological Survey will move us from a qualitative understanding to a quantitative understanding of plant and animal distribution patterns in these areas," Norm said.

"We expect to add considerable data to our knowledge of what is happening in the region and to understand its biodiversity."

RESEARCH TEAMS

Norm McKenzie (mammals/reptiles)
Nadine Guthrie (invertebrates/reptiles)
Phil Stone (volunteer—birds)
Ron Johnstone (curator of birds, WA Museum)

Allan Burbidge (birds)
Jim Rolfe (reptiles/mammals)
Brad Durrant (invertebrates/mammals)

Dave Pearson (mammals/reptiles)
Keith Morris (mammals/reptiles)
Neil Thomas (mammals/reptiles)
Neil Hamilton (birds)
Cate Sadler-Baker (volunteer—logistics/mammals)

Peter Kendrick (reptiles/mammals)
Leslie Gibson (mammals/reptiles)
Tom Smith (logistics)
Laurie Smith (birds)

Paul Doughty (WA Museum) travelled between teams.

Tasmanian tiger jawbone found in Kimberley

The sub-fossil jawbone of a Tasmanian tiger was discovered in the Cheddar Cliffs area of the Napier Ranges during the recent Kimberley mammal audit.

CALM zoologist Norm McKenzie said the jawbone, believed to be at least 3000 years old from the mid-early Holocene period, was found deep in a limestone cave by photographer Jiri Lochman, who was working as a volunteer with the survey.

"The jawbone was shown to a palaeontologist who was with us on the Kimberley mammal survey and he confirmed it was a Tasmanian tiger," he said.

"It was discoloured, leached and so forth, so it was not something that was about 100 years old.

The first Tasmanian tiger jawbone, estimated to be about 3000 years old, was found near Tunnel Creek in the Napier Ranges in the 1970s so this second specimen shows that the Tasmanian tiger was definitely a part of the Holocene Kimberley landscape.

Norm said the limestone cave system, where the jawbone was found, provided an environment that was still, dry and non-acidic which helped preservation.



CALM Wildlife Officers Nick Phillips (left), Matt Warnock and Pauline Southgate with the seized wildlife. Photo - Ashley Tate Townsend.

CALM seizes wildlife from homes

CALM Wildlife Officers have busted another suspected illegal wildlife operation with the seizure of 100 reptiles, 20 scorpions and two spiders from three properties in Perth's southern suburbs.

The animals include tiger snakes, dugites, whip snakes, bearded dragons, ornate dragons, Stimson's pythons, knob-tail geckos, sand swimmer skinks, legless lizards, shingle back skinks and bird-eating spiders. A gwardar, carpet python and diamond python also were among the species found.

Nature Protection Branch Manager David Mell estimated the local value of the animals at approximately \$40,000.

"They had almost 30 Stimson's pythons that are individually worth about \$500, so they had almost \$15,000 worth in Stimson's pythons," David said.

He said the Department conducted the raids based on information reported to the Department. Warrants were issued to search the three properties simultaneously.

"Taking out a search warrant is not an action taken lightly - there are serious implications on people's lives and we make sure we have good reason," David said.

"The whole operation ran very smoothly because of careful planning."

By Ashley Tate Townsend

CALM will allege the animals were taken illegally from the wild and unlawfully held.

Penalties of up to \$4000 exist for each offence. Some of the species seized are not permitted to be kept as pets in WA.

Wildlife Officer Matt Warnock said the range of species was unusual and the seizure was one of the biggest in recent years.

"We are concerned about the possibility that unscrupulous people may take animals from the wild to sell them as pets," Matt said.

CALM had introduced a licensing system to enable people to keep some reptiles and frogs as pets. Pet keepers must obtain their reptiles and frogs legally from a licensed dealer and cannot take them from the wild.

David said the number and variety of specimens in the collection suggested they were intended for commercial use.

"We believe the animals were destined for the local pet trade, but there was no indication that any of the animals were destined for the overseas market."

Working Together

The Department of Conservation and Land Management will be 20 years old on 22 March 2005 – the 20th anniversary of the CALM Act commencing operation.

We are often so busy dealing with the present that we don't take time to sit back and reflect on what has been achieved over a period as long as 20 years.

Those 20 years have seen an enormous change in conservation in Western Australia—a significant expansion in parks and reserves; changes to forest management; expanded facilities for park visitors; international recognition via World Heritage and Ramsar wetland listings and designation of the south-west as one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots; moving into off-reserve conservation programs; commencement of indigenous joint management; a focus on threatened species recovery including the launch of Western Shield; and maintenance of a high level of protection of the community against wildfires.

I would appreciate hearing your views on major achievements over the past 20 years, and also on our goals for the future, as we plan to use the 20th anniversary as the starting point for updating CALM's 2002-2005 Corporate Plan.

While saving endangered species and establishing new national parks and iconic attractions such as the Tree Top Walk will feature in our list of achievements, I'm equally interested in hearing your views in other areas, for example staff diversity; staff safety and welfare; volunteers; our contribution to the science that underpins conservation; and community engagement.

I would encourage all staff to feed their ideas into both our 20th anniversary commemoration and the development of our next Corporate Plan.

Keiran McNamara, Executive Director



Mentoring program success

Sharing 36 years of knowledge and experience of working for CALM with a younger employee has been a rewarding and valuable time for Rod Simmonds.

The Warren Region Fire Coordinator has just completed 12 months mentoring Allison Driscoll, Acting Recreation and Tourism Information Systems Field Coordinator.

The pair teamed up as part of CALM's trial mentoring program which kicked off in July 2003.

The aim of the program was to enhance the personal and professional growth of employees and was a spin-off from the Department's Leadership and Development Program.

Rod said he had informally been mentoring staff for a number of years, but the trial program had provided a formal structure for this aspect of his work.

Allison, a graduate recruit, who was working as a Wellington District National Park Ranger during the mentoring program, acknowledged the professional and career guidance she received.

"At the beginning of the program we set up a mentoring agreement and listed the issues and topics we wanted to talk about," Allison said.

"Each time we met up we would talk about one of the topics such as policy and politics or people management and team building.

By Tracy Peacock

"Having Rod as my mentor has encouraged me to realise my potential within the Department and I have gained a lot of confidence from my interactions with him.

"I also got a broader understanding of what other people do in the Department.

"Now we're good friends and colleagues."

The program is being evaluated by CALM People Services.

Conservation News November 2004

Published by Department of Conservation and Land Management Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Cygnet Hall, (cnr) Mounts Bay Road & Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Carl volunteers at local library

WHAT started as a CALM display for the Katanning Library became an environmental education program with the help of Katanning District Nature Conservation Officer Carl Beck.

During the last school holidays Carl volunteered his holiday time to deliver two morning programs for students at the library on the value of local native wildlife.

"The students trapped and measured a toy animal and used radio tracking to locate an imaginary animal, which helped them understand how we monitor native animals," Carl said.

Librarian Camilla Cavoli's request for a CALM display resulted in Carl's visits, attended by 40 children.

Camilla said the children enjoyed asking him questions and learning about native wildlife.

"We got a range of kids aged five to 12 and he catered to all of them," she said.

Carl read books about native birds and led games such as Gum Nut Bingo, during which he shared his knowledge of the native plants and animals pictured on the bingo cards.

Camilla said children and adults examined the display Carl set up in the library, which included stuffed animals such as a Carnaby's

cockatoo, numbat and pigmy possum.

"The display provided information on rare and smaller animals such as the red-tailed phascogale," Camilla said.

Several home-schooled students came along. "They might not have similar opportunities without CALM's participation in community programs.

"It was just great to have someone from the community come in and work with the kids," she said.



Carl Beck with children at the Katanning Library.

Royal effort at Royal Show



Pictured at the opening of the Royal Show's land care exhibit were (from left) Bush Rangers Supervisor, George Georgis; Acting Director of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Caris Bailey; Bush Rangers Volunteer Carleen Edwards; CALM Executive Director, Keiran McNamara; Environment Minister Judy Edwards and Bush Ranger Tina Bowers.

Photos above and below – John Hunter.

CALM staff and volunteers gave a sterling effort to make this year's Royal Show display one of the best yet.

For eight days dozens of CALM Bush Rangers, wildlife carers, herbarium volunteers, campground hosts and others joined forces under the watchful eye of volunteer coordinator Marg Buckland, wildlife officer Peter Lambert and display coordinator John Hunter to make sure CALM put its best foot forward.

"We couldn't have run such a successful display without our volunteers," John said.

"The whole exhibit was extremely well-served and each year the standard has risen to a new high, getting better and better."

The Conservation and Land Management Land Experience exhibit attracted 141,000 visitors, who came to see the many and varied stands representing the efforts of many government departments involved in land care practice, private land and wildlife care representatives, cultural and environment performers, and bush foods and mining interests.

CALM, as the major sponsor, featured with an excellent walk-through enclosure displaying birds, reptiles and amphibians supplied by the Caversham Wildlife Park and the Armadale Reptile Centre. They included bush curlews, swans, ducks, plovers and beautiful north-west native doves and pigeons.

"At all times we portrayed the right messages to the public with regards to our charter of land conservation and wildlife protection," John said.

"We were extremely careful about the

ethics of the display and ensured that the animals were carefully monitored for their well being and any stress.

"We found the public to be very considerate of the animals. In fact, the visitors were blown away by the fact that they could get within a couple of metres from the birds in the outdoor display."

Kanyana Wildlife Centre volunteers brought rare native mammals such as woylies, ringtail possums, bilbies and a frog-mouth owl to their nocturnal house display, as well as echidna, young kangaroos, tammar and boodie, which were hand fed and cuddled by eager fans.

CALM Bush Rangers featured prominently with their presence on the front counter of their own 'display shed' and became a major part of the volunteer workforce. Campground hosts also staffed a campsite display to tell people about their role in national parks around the State.

The mining industry supplied a drilling rig that was positioned in a Kimberley landscape, showing that miners and prospectors also have a role to play.

The mini Bibbulmun Track and visitor shelter marking the 25th year of the Track's operation was well patronised.

"We received congratulatory emails from CALM staff who attended, and from Tourism Minister Bob Kucera who wrote us a letter of congratulations," John said.

"Everyone helped out, from the Royal Agricultural Show contractors who built the displays and enclosures to the volunteers who gave up their time."

CALM shines in Guest Town display

AS WELL, between 70,000 and 80,000 people passed through the Exmouth Guest Town Pavilion.

CALM was one of the many exhibitors, fascinating visitors with a six-metre whale shark, echnidnas, kangaroos, pink and grey galahs, an emu, turtles, a snake and an eagle.

Literature about Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park was handed out.



Royal Agricultural Show councillor in charge of land care, Bevan Bessen (centre) helps to set up the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre display with Kanyana founders June and Lloyd Butcher.

Fran gets PhD and family

A demanding job, two babies and feverishly spawning mussels couldn't stop Fran Stanley from earning her PhD, but they did slow her progress.

Fran, the daughter of CALM Research Fellow Dr Andrew Burbidge, started working on her doctorate degree at Murdoch University in 1991 and finished her thesis this May.

She examined the levels of zinc extracted by the kidneys of marine mussels for three and a half years, stopping for about four months once while the mussels spawned almost continuously. Fran spent most of her time gazing into electron microscopes to examine tiny granules from the mussels' kidneys.

In late 1994, Fran's husband took a job in Karratha and she began working as a Reserves Management Officer for CALM's Karratha Office.

"I thought I'd be able to start a new job and finish my thesis at the same time, but that didn't happen as I planned," Fran said.

As her life went full speed ahead, Fran said she was determined to find out if the mussels' kidney granules could be used as indicators of zinc pollution. She went on leave to have her first child in 1998.

"Again, because it was my first child I said, 'Oh, I'll have heaps of time to work on my thesis.' I didn't realise how much work a new baby would be," Fran said.

She said her husband, family and colleagues, particularly then Pilbara Regional Manager Chris Muller, were very supportive of her as she rewrote the thesis several times.

Fran recently returned to work after



Fran Stanley, pictured at home with sons Aaron (14 months) and Tim (six).
Photo - Fran Stanley.

having her second boy and establishing that the kidney granules of mussels are not useful as indicators of zinc pollution.

"Because it took me so long to write it up, it was always in the back of my mind. I'm glad that's not there any more—there is a sense of accomplishment now," Fran said.

Inspirational wildlife carer receives award

By Ashley Tate Townsend

Eunice Daubert's caring hands have cradled possums, bandicoots, kangaroos, lizards, penguins and many other wild animals in the past 28 years.

The countless animals she has treated, as well as those treated by the other wildlife carers she has influenced, may be unable to express their gratitude but the International Fund for Animal Welfare has done so for them.

Eunice was presented with the IFAW's Inspiration Award earlier this month because of her encouragement and support for others who care for wildlife, while caring for animals herself.

The ceremony was held at the Albany Wildlife Shelter, which Eunice runs.

"It was quite an honour," Eunice said.

"All wildlife carers are rewarded in the work they do, with the reward being bringing the animals back to health and releasing them. You don't expect a reward from anything or anyone else."

Eunice was nominated by Sue Gleave, who as a child in Albany knew Eunice as "the woman in Bottlebrush Road who you take sick animals to".

"I've always loved animals and Eunice talked me into becoming a carer myself," Sue explained in her nomination.

"She has been such a help and wealth of knowledge that I now

have my own wildlife shelter."

Eunice assists CALM Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend at Albany with the Gilbert's potoroo breeding program. She helped hand-rear two young Gilbert's potoroos, saving one after it was orphaned and familiarising the other with humans to help it cope with being handled in captivity.

Less than 40 of these animals exist so Eunice's care had a direct impact on efforts to conserve Australia's most endangered marsupial.

Tony said he was very glad that Eunice had been recognised for her tireless work.

"Rearing pouch young is hard work—a day and night occupation for months," he said.

"It is something we wouldn't be able to do without a skilled wildlife carer like Eunice."



Eunice Daubert (centre) pictured with Stephanie Hill, a Technical Officer with CALM's Science Division's research centre in Albany, and Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend.

Right on track

Right on Track is a monthly series of Conservation News articles sponsored by Corporate Executive, designed to illustrate CALM's strategic directions and corporate values.

This month's feature highlights the active networks of CALM staff who take on formal workplace responsibilities for occupational safety and well being. It's a role that requires a commitment to continuous learning and improvement, keeping abreast of legal requirements and fostering a peer network for best practice, and information exchange.

Acting Director, Corporate Services, Ron Kawallak recently participated in the regular occupational safety and health team leader, training and development program held this year at Perup Ecology Centre.

He remarked on the dedication and commitment of the 30 or so safety team leaders who attended.

"For the first time, this two-day meeting was held out of the metro area. People valued the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and insights in a 24/7 environment. It was inspiring for me to meet and talk with staff, including some former CALM colleagues from the FPC, all clearly dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe work environment for their colleagues.

"Perup is also a very special CALM place, and a meaningful backdrop for the learning and the seriousness of the OSH role. For many Government Departments, safety is a fairly simple and office-based issue—for us it involves a wide range of field-based situations across the State, on land, sea and in the air, with

hazards and risks peculiar to conservation and land management, in remote and often dangerous terrain far from the office.

"I was impressed with the outcomes of the meeting and with the leadership provided by Richard (Macca) McAlinden. A number of workshop sessions capitalised on the experience and wisdom of attendees and produced:

- a generic safety/hazard checklist for pre-departure, office safety and field inspection;
- a 12-month OSH task planning calendar;
- a generic role and responsibility statement for OSH team leaders; and
- refined risk analysis and register tools.

"Individual team leaders presented snapshot sessions based on local projects and information awareness sessions in readiness for the fire season were also featured on the agenda.

"The meeting was also a chance to introduce and involve our new corporate health team leaders, Jordan Harvey and Shawn Atwood, to the wider group.

"Fitness, nutrition, new safety equipment and a session to reflect on how far we've come in our OSH program over the years all helped to reinforce in my mind that the role and responsibility that OSH team leaders take on is of the highest level of service—alongside that of the Peer Supporters and the Grievance Officer Networks—that an individual can do for CALM."



Pictured from right are Peter Morris, Sara Scanlon, Chris Roberts, Kelly Bennet and Scott Hunter. Photo - Chris Trethowan

Clever designs at Stony Brook

Fresh designs and innovative construction details are on show at Stony Brook—a 'New Parks' campsite designed as part of the Honeymoon Pool upgrade in the proposed extension to Wellington National Park on the Collie River.

The work involved the construction of a group camp kitchen, consolidated camping pads within retaining walls, wooden decking to minimise site vegetation damage and rock feature seating walls that double as retaining structures.

Wellington Overseer Chris Roberts and his crew of Trevor Briggs, Tony Best, Dave Hansbury, Glen Jones aka 'Fonzie', Kelly Bennet, Ben Crawford, Ian Michael and Sara Scanlon were responsible for the site works of the camp kitchen and decks while Scott Hunter focused on the car parks, campsites and access.

Park Ranger Peter Morris was the project manager, Neil Moncrieff the landscape architect and Doug Hovell the construction supervisor.

According to Doug, a unique aspect of this project

By Tammie Reid

involved the pre-fabrication of the decking in modular units at the Collie work centre workshop.

"The advantages of building at the workshop minimised the time spent travelling to and from the site. It was convenient in terms of access to electricity, tools and materials, ease of communications if things needed to be clarified and security after hours.

"It's something we're doing more of," said Doug. "It seemed to work well. We used this pre-building technique for the Leschenault toilet block and boardwalk and will do more in the Kirup and Margaret River workshops for construction projects down there."

After four months of construction, Stony Brook looks top notch. In fact, the crew's concerned that when their partners and spouses see the detail of the decking and rock seating walls, they will demand something similar on the domestic front!

A ground parrot in a haystack

WHEN Kojonup farmer Wayne Zadow spotted a single feather left behind by an elusive bird, he knew he'd stumbled onto something big.

Resting on a small plant in Fitzgerald River National Park was the feather of the elusive western ground parrot.

Wayne was part of CALM Project Officer Brent Barrett's team of volunteers and experts conducting a six-day survey to find the parrots and their nests.

"Finding the feather was just a bit of luck I think—like finding a gold nugget. I was in the right spot at the right time," he said.

The find came after two days without his spectacles, which he'd lost in the shrubbery!

"But I only needed my glasses at about half past four in the morning when I was trying to read the GPS display," he joked.

The feather, which will be used for genetic research, wasn't the only evidence that luck was on the team's side—there also was the historic moment when Brent snapped the first photograph of the bird in the wild.

The group flushed six to 10 parrots from the bush 33 times, giving some group members their first glimpse of the bright green birds after years of searching.

"We'd flushed only two birds in the year-long history of the Western Ground Parrot Recovery Project," Brent said.

"What happened was a monumental event in the history of western ground parrots."

They filmed a short clip of a bird in flight but found no nests. The last time a nest



Brent Barrett with a ground parrot feather.

By Ashley Tate Townsend

was seen in WA was in 1912.

Fewer than 200 western ground parrots (*Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*) live in the wild.

The Fitzgerald River population is one of three known populations. A previously known population in the park mysteriously disappeared last November, but since then Brent and his team discovered the new population during several exhaustive surveys.

"Our goal is to understand the timing of ground parrot nesting habits," Brent said.

"We want to know when they need protection from predators and the location and type of habitat essential for nesting."

Goodbye and good luck

ONE OF the best-known faces in CALM's Kensington Office, Barbara Moss, pictured below, retired last month.

Barbara joined CALM as a tea lady 18 years ago, becoming a permanent staff member in 1991. Apart from a six-month secondment to the Forest Products Commission as a receptionist in mid-2000, Barbara has been a visible staff member gracing the Kensington Front Counter, and was often CALM's first contact for customers and visitors.



Conservation briefs

Natural Resource Management Office in business

A WA Natural Resource Management (NRM) Office has been established in Perth.

The office spans across departments, reporting to the Cabinet Standing Committee on NRM and Salinity.

John Loney—seconded from the Department of Industry and Resources—is its head while Don Crawford manages policy and administration, Janette Hill-Tonkin monitoring and evaluation and John Holley funding and programs.

Other staff are Natalie Moore, Romy Collier, Dr Helen Allison, Nikki Stavely, Desiree Leech and Sharde Lee.

The office will develop and coordinate NRM policy, and negotiate with the Commonwealth on Natural Heritage Trust/National Action Plan issues and accrediting regional plans.

Student investigates Ningaloo changes

A Murdoch University honours student is studying how communities react when a marine conservation area is established or expanded in their regions.

Alisha Ryans-Taylor is compiling her thesis now and will present it to the Department early next year. She has visited Ningaloo Marine Park for part of her studies.

Supported by CALM's Marine Conservation Branch, the research involved a literature search, surveys and interviews with stakeholders.

Channel Island clean-up

Channel Island, near Mandurah, got some much-needed attention when 30 over-55 Canoe Club members—the Grey Dolphins—armed themselves with garbage bags and sharps containers, and rowed their boats from Mandurah to clean up the island.

Channel Island is an A class nature reserve and an important area for migratory waders.

CALM Senior Operations Officer (Nature Conservation), Murray Love, said the enthusiasm of the group was indicative of the good working relationship between CALM and local residents.

"The Grey Dolphins have affectionately adopted the island," he said.

"They did a fantastic job and collected a huge amount of rubbish, including a wheelie bin, a cray pot, tyres and numerous other bits and pieces."

Bibbulmun Track wins tourism award

The Bibbulmun Track has won the 2004 WA Tourism Award for a significant tourist attraction.

The award was presented to an attraction of State importance that marketed primarily to visitors outside WA, and contributed to the tourism experience.

The award was accepted by Bibbulmun Track Foundation Chief Executive Officer Linda Daniels, who said walkers made 137,500 visits in a 12-month period and spent an estimated \$21 million annually.

More than 350 volunteers maintain the Track and facilities in world-class condition.

Premier Geoff Gallop said it was doubtful any other passive recreation facility "could match this enormous awareness level in the wider community" which indicated the important role the Track played in progressing the State Government's physical activity strategies.

On the road again...

TWO brightly coloured, custom-built interpretive trailers, the latest additions to CALM's Nearer to Nature program, have been shown off to Crawley Headquarters staff.

Featuring vibrant signage designed by Shaun Bunting, of CALM's Interpretation Unit, the trailers are aimed at improving Nearer to Nature's ability to engage the community in activities at a variety of natural locations.

"The green trailer has several features that allow it to be used as a mobile venue in natural areas that do not have a visitor or environmental centre," said former Nearer to Nature Manager May Carter.

By Rhianna Mooney

"The trailer's gas hot plate, fresh water tank and two-sided awning will allow Nearer to Nature to coordinate activities in areas with few or no facilities.

"It's set up with its own projector, lap top computer, generator and removable white screen so activity participants can view presentations about the environment they are experiencing first hand.

"The smaller blue trailer will help staff transport materials and coordinate activities at Perth's two marine parks."



Pictured (left to right) in front of one of the new trailers were Nearer to Nature's Programs Officer Kylie North, Programs Coordinator Rohan Swan, Nearer to Nature's former Manager May Carter, Director of Parks and Visitor Services Jim Sharp and Marketing and Promotions Officer, Darren Gillespie.

Show biz travels to the Pilbara

By Rhianna Mooney

KARIJINI National Park—selected to represent the beauty of Western Australia—played host to the Australian children's choir and a film crew in the production of a \$10 million advertising campaign for Qantas.

"Lights, camera, action" are not words you hear often in the rugged Pilbara but when parts of Karijini National Park were transformed into a movie set, there were lots of firsts.

Sites around Australia, as well as locations in France, Greece, Japan, USA and New Zealand, were chosen as backdrops for the choir to sing Peter Allen's 'I still call Australia home'.

The production agency travelled extensively across WA last year looking for a location and finally chose three locations at Karijini.

Karijini National Park Ranger, Paul Udinga, said park staff were on hand to supervise the production to ensure minimal impact to the environment.

"It was amazing to see a place turned into a film set within hours and all the logistics it took to make it happen," he said.

"Then they disappeared with little trace."

Paul said that advertising campaigns, such as the Qantas advertisement, often had a direct, positive effect on tourism numbers to the area.

"The campaign will put the Pilbara on the world stage and will no doubt boost an already rapidly growing tourism industry in the area," he said.

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

Contract

Amanda Court, Clerical Officer, Kimberley Region, Broome; Norman Van Boeyen, System Administrator, Information Management Branch, Kensington; Vesna Wills, Clerical Officer, Regional Parks Unit, Parks and Visitor Services Division, Fremantle; Rory Chapple, Community Education Officer, Shark Bay District; Anne O'Malley, Officer, Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Warren Hudson-Taylor, Technical Officer, WA Herbarium.

Permanent

Michelle Tilbrook, Project Officer, Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington.

Promotion

Geoff Stoneman, Branch Manager, Policy and Practices Branch, Sustainable Forest Management Division, Kensington; Stefan De

Haan, Nature Conservation Coordinator, Perth Hills District.

Reclassification

Linda Broomhall, Administration Assistant, South Coast Region.

Temporary transfer

Alice Reaveley, Assistant Operations Officer, Planning and Visitor Services to Perth Hills District.

Secondment

Janet Daronch, Officer, Swan Region, Kensington to the Department of Justice.

Temporary deployment

Christy Mahony, Ratis/Records Data Officer, Shark Bay District; Kim Kershaw, Nature Conservation Coordinator, Albany; Peter Gibson, Sustainable Forest Management Project Officer, Swan Region, Kensington.

Retired

Barbara Moss, Customer Service Officer, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Kensington; Chang Sha Fang, Collection Manager, Science Division, WA Herbarium.

Resigned

Meredith Spencer, Field Officer, Blackwood District, Busselton (South West Capes).

Contract ceased

Anthony Howard, Interpretation Officer, Exmouth; Francis Kirchner, Recovery Catchment Officer, Geraldton; Pamela Jennings, Seasonal Ranger, West Kimberley; Belinda Cannell, Marine Conservation Officer; Penelope Fewson, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Britt Anderson, Marine Park Ranger, Swan Coastal District, Fremantle.