



Conservation News



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JANUARY 2005

Heroic efforts of fire crews in Perth Hills

CALM's fire staff worked on their toughest fire in 40 years this month to save Perth Hills residents from WA's ever-present summer peril – wildfire.

Fires lit by an arsonist burnt more than 26,000 ha – 260 sq km in an area 13 times the size of Rottnest Island – in the Pickering Brook, Karagullen, Mundaring and Barton's Mill area. It was the biggest fire in the northern jarrah forest since the 1961 Dwellingup fires.

The Perth Hills fire came within 4km of CALM's Mundaring office, forcing staff to evacuate the fire control centre in the very early hours on 19 January, relocating to the Police Communications Centre in Midland.

A reward of \$100,000 has been offered by the State Government to catch the person responsible.

CALM teams from as far afield as Albany, Kalgoorlie and Karratha were joined by a growing army of colleagues, the Forest Products Commission, Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Police and volunteers to control blazes that, at their peak, had a 160 km perimeter.

Smoke and imminent fire danger closed several roads while residents were put on alert as high temperatures and winds fuelled the flames.

The northern parts of the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track were closed.

Perth was bathed in a heavy smoke haze for several days with visibility reduced to less than 400m at times. People with conditions exacerbated by bushfire were urged to follow their usual medical advice.

Hills householders were asked to turn off air-conditioners but keep water flowing over the filters, close all doors and windows and stay inside until the fires passed. Hoses and fittings were taken inside, and debris around the houses cleared in a bid to stop sparks igniting dwellings.

Executive Director Keiran McNamara said the succession of major fires had been particularly demanding for CALM fire crews and controllers, but their response had been tremendous.

"Staff have been brought in to the Perth Hills fire from across most of the State and people have worked very long hours and many



Fire crew on duty at the Perth fire were (from left) Karim Khan (Kirup), Tom Powell (Busselton) and Anthony O'Neill (Busselton). Photo – Ron D'Raine

consecutive shifts to bring the fire under control.

"The impact this has on staff, and on their families, is recognised and I appreciate the exemplary professionalism and commitment people have shown," he said.

He said the cooperation between CALM, FESA, the Police and other agencies illustrated the extraordinary effort made by CALM staff and the excellent interagency

support provided by others.

Director of Regional Services, Alan Walker, said the efforts of CALM staff had been incredible under extremely challenging circumstances.

"The support of volunteers, FESA and others was also invaluable but CALM and FPC people did an absolutely heroic job. They worked incredibly long hours under trying conditions, and fought one of the most difficult

fires in 40 years," he said.

Premier Geoff Gallop, Environment Minister Judy Edwards, Emergency Services Minister Michelle Roberts, Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan and FESA CEO Bob Mitchell made comments of appreciation to CALM staff.

The fire was brought under control after seven days with mop-up and patrols to control hotspots continuing for several weeks.

Yanchep reopens after devastating fire

REHABILITATION is underway at Yanchep National Park after a wildfire, thought to have been deliberately lit, burnt through 1600 hectares – 50 per cent of the park.

Areas above and below Yanchep Beach Road and along Wanneroo Road and Old Yanchep Road burnt on Thursday 6 January and into the morning of Friday 7 January.

One of the five CALM houses in the national park, occupied by Indigenous Heritage Officer Brenton Clinch, his wife and two children, was destroyed. Another house was damaged. Acting Park Ranger, Brad Johnson, sustained serious injuries when a tree branch fell on the tractor he was in during the mopping up process. Power supplies to Yanchep and Two Rocks were cut and roads were closed.

CALM Executive Director, Keiran McNamara, said the injury to Brad and the impact of the fire on Brenton and others was particularly distressing, even more so as the fire was an act of arson.

"The suppression operations over the 48 hours of the fire involved staff and crews from throughout the south-west and the Forest Products Commission with support from local volunteer bushfire brigades, the Fire and Emergency Services

by Rhianna Mooney

Authority and Police," he said.

"I would like to congratulate the park staff and fire crews who were first on the scene.

"They did a tremendous job to save the facilities, including the heritage-listed buildings, the Indigenous interpretation centre and the koala enclosure."

Fire crews managed to save all the heritage buildings, including the visitor centre, Yanchep Inn and Gloucester Lodge Museum.

Regional Fire Coordinator, Rob Towers, said CALM fire crews in the Swan Region were often involved in fires on the edge of the urban interface but were usually only required to stop fires reaching houses, particularly in areas like Wanneroo, Yanchep, Mundaring and Jandakot.

But, in this case, CALM fire crews were first at the scene so were required to act quickly to protect the property.

"The fact that only one house was lost, even though others were threatened, shows the professionalism and commitment of all fire crews."

It was the first Department-owned house lost to fire since 1961.

District Manager for Swan Coastal District, Paul Brown, said it was timely to remind other staff living in CALM-owned houses that while CALM would incur the cost of the damage to the structure, contents insurance is the responsibility of the individual.

"Staff should consider the threat of wildfires around their park homes," he said.

"It's important they make sure their contents are covered by insurance."

Paul said that short to medium-term accommodation close to the park was being provided to the families affected.

Acting Visitor Services Manager, Kim Cream, said that even after the fire, as the park was being prepared to be re-opened, support continued for those directly involved, particularly for Brad, Brenton and their friends and families.

"During the fire, staff and their families, volunteers, local community members and 'Friends of' groups rallied to support each other and pitch in and help," she said.

"And their amazing support has continued."

Working Together

I wrote this column on the 11th day of the Perth hills bushfire – a day on which we were finally scaling down our operation, although there remained a big job to do on mopping up and rehabilitation.

It wasn't just a CALM effort by any means, but I want to comment on some of what I saw in the performance of CALM's staff throughout the fire.

Professionalism, dedication, commitment and capacity for sheer hard work were obvious throughout. Additionally, I was enormously impressed by the ability of staff to remain calm, level-headed and clear-thinking when facing enormous challenges; by their adaptability; and by the extent of strategic thinking and contingency planning for 'what if' scenarios.

These attributes don't come to the fore by accident. They are the product of leadership, training, experience and teamwork.

There were a number of notable "saves" by CALM's fire crews, including several houses in the Pickering Brook area and the halting of the headfire that was running towards Mundaring Weir and which threatened communities along the Great Eastern Highway.

It is now important that we analyse this and other fires so far this season, and learn from them for the future. In some ways we're the victims of the success we've achieved together with the other agencies and the volunteer firefighters – because loss, damage and injuries have been so limited, many in the community don't appreciate how serious the Perth hills bushfire really was.

The head count of all CALM staff who contributed directly to the Perth hills bushfire effort isn't quite complete yet, but the figure I have been given is over 700. Well done!

Keiran McNamara, Executive Director



Experts attend CALM stygofauna workshop

A special two-day workshop has shed light on stygofauna – tiny crustaceans – and other invertebrates that inhabit groundwater.

Organised by CALM, it was attended by 25 prominent Australian and New Zealand scientists, who each presented their most recent findings.

CALM's Science Division is currently involved in a major four-year research project on stygofauna, as part of the Pilbara Biological Survey.

Staff involved in the project – Stuart Halse, Stefan Eberhard, Michael Scanlon, Jim Cocking and Harley Barron – took part in the workshop.

Stefan said the workshop's aim had been to share the latest research knowledge in this rapidly developing field.

"It was highly successful and resulted in significant outcomes for stygofauna research in WA," he said.

"As this important research progresses, additional workshops, presentations and publications are planned in order to disseminate the results more widely, to industry, conservation managers and other stakeholders including the general public."

Stygofauna are a unique and significant component of Australia's biodiversity and research over the past few years has shown WA to be a hotspot for these animals.



CALM's Stuart Halse, Stefan Eberhard, Mike Scanlon, Jim Cocking, Harley Barron, Jane McRae (all pictured), and Adrian Pinder (not pictured) were among the 25 people who attended the stygofauna workshop.

CALM plans to rid Kimberley island of exotic rats

AN invader's time is up after a troublesome 100-year stay on Adele Island off the Kimberley coast.

CALM Officer Tim Willing is leading a team of volunteers and CALM staff in an effort to rid the island of the Pacific rat (*Rattus exulans*).

Tim said the rats arrived on the island at least a century ago, probably as 'stow-aways' on an Indonesian vessel. Genetic studies determined that the rats came from Indonesia.

The rat, that does not occur on the Australian mainland, is a threat to native seabirds that breed on the island. The population is estimated at up to 8000.

"This type of rat is known for taking the eggs and chicks of seabirds, especially on Pacific atolls," Tim said.

"It is particularly a threat to terns and noddies."

Adele Island became a nature reserve in 2001, and since then eradication of the rats has been a priority for the island's management.

The team will lay 10,000 rat baits by hand over the entire 220-hectare island, in

a grid produced by one of the volunteers – a surveying student at Curtin University. Much of the terrain is dense, waist-deep beach spinifex that is difficult to walk through.

"Unlike other feral animal baiting projects, this island can't really be baited by helicopter because thousands of nesting seabirds would be panicked by its use," Tim said.

"The birds also make using a helicopter hazardous because some of the seabirds, such as frigate-birds, like to ride the thermals and soar very high – potentially into rotors."

The group will travel by boat, 200 kilometres north-west of Derby to the fish-hook-shaped, sandy island.

Four of the volunteers are expert bird-watchers, who will conduct a detailed count of the island's migratory shorebirds during the trip. Other volunteers include two TAFE students, one of them a Bardi Aboriginal man. The group will later stop at the Lacepede Islands to replace signs lost in Cyclone Fay, and will conduct a survey of those islands' shorebirds as well.



Volunteer Adrian Boyle dons gloves to lay 10,000 baits by hand over Adele Island.

Montebellos: rat free

By Ashley Tate Townsend

EIGHT years of work may have finally eradicated introduced black rats from the Montebello Islands.

Credit goes to more than 30 CALM staff members who gave up some of their holiday time to secure plastic bottles containing rat bait on the sandy soil and rocks of the windswept islands.

The volunteers hit the islands in the winter of 1996 to conduct this first major baiting project for Montebello Renewal, a *Western Shield* project to eliminate feral animals and reintroduce locally extinct or threatened native animals on the islands.

CALM's former WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit Director, Andrew Burbidge, coordinated the project, and easily found CALM staff to donate their time.

"We put out a broadcast email and note in *Conservation News*, and we had more people respond than we could use," Andrew said.

Although a few rats survived the baiting on a few islands, CALM learned that the poison did not adversely affect native animals on the islands. This meant the bait could be distributed using a spreader bucket slung beneath a helicopter rather than carefully placed in plastic bottle stations.

There has been no sign of black rats since the last helicopter baiting in 2001. The likely eradication of the rats should lead to reintroduction of mammals and birds that became locally extinct as a result of predation by the rats and feral cats, which were eradicated from the islands in 1999.

"The volunteers were vital and we couldn't have done it without them," Andrew said.

New retardant to combat bushfires

CALM is taking a 'chemical' approach to help stem bushfires this year.

CALM is using a retardant as part its aerial fire suppression strategies. The retardant, commercially known as Phoscheck, is a slurry of water, common fertilisers and a natural gum thickener. Red ochre is added so the 'trails' are easily seen by ground crews, water bomber pilots and aerial attack supervisors.

Senior Fire Operations Officer Terry Maher said the introduction of retardant followed several trials over previous seasons.

"It is widely used in the United States, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria," he said.

"CALM has adopted the strict environmental standards imposed by the United States Forest Service and the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment in using the compound.

"We expect it to be effective as an initial strike tool so that we can slow down the spread of fires

by Nigel Higgs

until ground crews can mount a direct attack."

CALM has leased a 30,000-litre tanker that can be used to cart the compound, mix the slurry and pump it into the water bombers.

Initially the tanker is being based at Jandakot but it can be readily transported behind a prime mover to other airstrips.

"The use of retardant in WA is still in the very early stages and we will be evaluating the effectiveness of the compound in WA conditions," Terry said.

"We'll then look at the possibility of expanding its use to other areas such as Bunbury, Manjimup and Albany where we have water bombers based during the fire season."

Fleet Supervisor Allan Jones, Fire Equipment Officer Graeme Giudici and 'Nibs' Morganti from the Swan Hills District are co-ordinating the introduction and operation of the tanker.



Fire Equipment Development Officer Graeme Giudici (left), Perth Hills Fire Equipment Officer Nibs Morganti (centre) and Bunbury Office Fleet Supervisor Allan Jones with one of the trucks.

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Managing Editor: Sue McKenna

Journalist: Tracy Peacock

Contributing Editor: Rhianna Mooney

Design and Production: Natalie Jolasko

Telephone: (08) 9389 8644

Facsimile: (08) 9389 8296

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Now you see it, now you don't

THE Piawaning clawflower (*Calothamnus accedens*) south of Moora came perilously close to extinction when its single population of 14 plants was almost completely bulldozed.

Twelve years ago, botanist Alex George first collected the specimen from a roadside as part of a botanical study. Alex pressed the specimen in the same year and put it aside for future study.

"It was only in 2004 that I examined it and was surprised to find that it was a Piawaning clawflower," he said.

"So, I revisited the area and drove along roads to check for other populations.

"I found the population I'd seen in 1993 but, to my dismay, it had been bulldozed

By Rhianna Mooney

some weeks before and the stems had been pushed into a heap."

Fortunately, the Piawaning clawflower has a lignotuber so part of the plant exists underneath the ground's surface. This meant six plants survived and were sprouting vigorously.

Alex, who is an associate of the WA Herbarium and Murdoch University, said he also found another population of about 30 plants on a narrow verge.

"The discovery of additional populations emphasises the importance of road verges in conservation, especially in areas that have been cleared for farming," he said.

Piawaning clawflower was named in 1984 by botanist Trevor Hawkeswood, based on a collection gathered in 1980 from a single population of 14 plants on a narrow road verge between Piawaning and Wongan Hills.

"Further surveys in the area failed to find further populations, but unfortunately the original population was found to have been destroyed by severe slashing of the road verge as part of the Shire's road maintenance program," Alex said.

The species had been regarded as being presumed extinct since that time, until Alex rediscovered it. The discovery is of particular significance as this was the only flora species in WA that was believed to have been made extinct directly as a result of human activity.



Botanist Alex George with a pressed specimen of the Piawaning clawflower. Photo - Rhianna Mooney

Weeding out the problem

TACKLING the problem of Geraldton carnation weed in the Pagonini bushland and wetlands in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park has been the focus of several local groups.

CALM's Urban Nature Program, the Perth Biodiversity Project, CALM Regional Parks, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre volunteers, Greencorps and local residents have been working together on the weed problem.

Geraldton carnation weed is present only around the edges of the reserve, but without active management it could invade bushland within Pagonini and have a serious impact on the native flora.

A special workday was held recently which included discussions on the weed, how it spreads and the current information available on control. They also spent time removing the weed by hand from the affected area.

It was noted that one of the major ways it was spreading into the bushland was along adjoining road verges and in road and path building materials, particularly limestone.

In the past 10 years it has spread through bushlands in the Rockingham area including the coastal heath around Becher Point and is now moving into the threatened ecological communities of the Holocene dune swales.

Kate Brown and Renee Miles, of CALM's Urban Nature Program, and Julia Cullity, of the Perth Biodiversity Project, with advice from John Moore, of the Department of Agriculture, have set up some preliminary herbicide trials in the Port Kennedy Scientific Park to try to find a herbicide that will selectively control Geraldton carnation weed where it is invading native vegetation.

New species found

WHEN teacher Sandra Murray stumbled upon a plant she had never seen before on a roadside in 2001, she didn't excitedly conclude that it was a rare or new species.

"After you've been collecting for years you assume that it's just something you haven't collected before," she explained, noting that she often sees plants that are new to her.

Sandra, a volunteer for the Kulin/Kondinin Regional Herbarium, got a call from the WA Herbarium when they had trouble identifying the specimen she collected.

The plant succumbed to bulldozers working on road maintenance before she could collect more specimens from it.

A year later, hairstylist Joan Francis, another volunteer for the regional herbarium, collected a second specimen of the unidentified plant.

WA Herbarium Technical Officer Rob Davis organised a follow up investigation led by Narrogin District Conservation Officer Kim Kershaw, resulting in the discovery of several hundred plants and confirmation of the type of *Acacia* as a new species in 2004.

The new species is yet to be named but is closely related to the *Acacia congesta* group.

Sandra described the prickly bush as having arm-like branches with leaves too small to fill in the space between the branches.

"It's a very unusual plant - you couldn't mistake it for anything else. It's a bit like an octopus I suppose," she said.

Rob commended this and other contributions Sandra and Joan have made as volunteers.

"They've been two quite active people and they've done a fantastic job," he said.

He emphasised that regional herbaria volunteers constantly make significant discoveries that support CALM's conservation efforts.

"It's a really amazing find. It highlights how many undiscovered things are out there and the value of having highly trained volunteers with extensive knowledge of their local area," Rob said.

In search of seeds

By Ashley Tate Townsend

THE task: Obtain seeds from more than 2000 species of native plants by 2010, including at least 1000 rare and poorly known species, for the Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP), an international project aimed at conserving the seed of 10 per cent of the world's flowering plants.

The talent: Anne Cochrane and technical officer Andrew Crawford, in conjunction with Kings Park and Botanic Gardens staff Luke Sweedman and Bob Elkins.

CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre was established in 1992 as a long-term seed storage facility for rare, threatened and poorly known WA flora. As the centre's manager Anne has driven tens of thousands of kilometres searching for plants and their fruits during the past 13 years.

It hasn't always been easy. Although plants don't have the ability to run, they can hide.

Anne said some heathland plants, easily located when in flower, blend in with the surrounding vegetation when not flowering. If she manages to locate the plant, something else may have beaten her to the seed.

"In some years, we are actually competing against locusts, ants and birds for this precious resource—I'll go back to collect the seeds and many will have been eaten or damaged," she said.

"In addition, frost damage may destroy the viability of the collection. So we're competing with nature in our job."

On one occasion she and other CALM staff endured a hot walk through burnt bushland to collect seeds from a small population of *Lambertia fairallii*, one of the threatened native honeysuckles.

"We managed to collect 68 seeds in total and discovered that the population was very diseased," she said.

"It's disappointing when you spend all day trying to get to a site and you find out the seeds aren't quite ready for collection or the plants are unhealthy, dying or even dead."

Specific species also make Anne's work a challenge. Collecting seed from plants in the genus *Adenanthos* tested

her problem-solving skills.

"These plants flower and fruit for a long period of time, but there are few fruits available for collection at one time," she explained.

"If you have to drive three or four hours to a field site then you want to collect more than a few seeds—I've devised some seed traps so I wouldn't have to make so many costly trips."

Despite the difficulty of collecting and periodic disappointments, Anne and Andrew have the centre on track to meet CALM's MSBP goals. Anne said they value the contribution of regional CALM staff and volunteers who assist with collection in their area.



Anne Cochrane handing over seed collections to Tim Pearce from the MSBP at the start of the program. Photo - Verna Costello

New Merredin officer takes to bush



LEAVING the ocean for the WA wheatbelt has meant a change of scenery and job for 34-year-old Roger Syme.

Collie-born Roger has swapped his CALM position as Reserve Officer at Shark Bay to become the new Merredin District Operations Officer.

"The one thing I do miss most is the ocean," he said.

"I've even been swimming in the town dam recently – that's how desperate I've been!"

Roger, who has a Bachelor of Applied Science, has worked for CALM for more than three years.

He said his work at Shark Bay had brought him into daily contact with the dolphins plus other duties such as visitor risk management,

By Tracy Peacock

occupational health and safety and publications.

"Working with the dolphins – that was naturally a highlight," he said.

Roger said he had been on an "exponential" learning curve since arriving in Merredin.

He said his new role involved a variety of tasks including fire management, pest control, revegetation and rehabilitation program work and recreational site development.

And does he enjoy the change of scenery?

"Very much. I like the variety and getting out and about in the bush as much as possible."

Volunteers lend a hand for turtle monitoring

By Gerry Blum

THE dedication and willingness of volunteers during the 2004-2005 turtle nesting season has so far mimicked that of the 2003-2004 season in Exmouth.

So far, 71 volunteers have signed up to give two to three hours of their time each day to walk the beaches and record successful nesting attempts, turtle species, evidence of any disturbance and predation and the emergence of hatchlings.

Collectively they have contributed more than 2193 hours to the program to monitor 50 kilometres of beach along the Ningaloo Reef every day since the beginning of December.

There is a strong emphasis on local volunteer participation again this year in the Ningaloo Community Turtle Monitoring Program.

According to Turtle Conservation Officer Allison Richards, who works for the World Wide Fund for Nature and is based at CALM's Exmouth office, there are several different opportunities to interact with turtles and actively participate in turtle conservation.

"We encourage volunteers to take part in all aspects of the program," Allison said.

"First of all we need 'Turtle Trackers' to determine the status and population trends of marine turtles along the Ningaloo coast

line and to record data.

"Secondly there is the Jurabi Turtle Centre project which aims to provide effective public education on marine turtle nesting processes and to promote appropriate behaviour when watching nesting turtles.

"Thirdly, volunteers can get involved in the Bundera Remote Camp experience which is situated in a remote area on the Ningaloo Reef and is aimed at determining the relative significance of Bundera Coastal Protection Area as a turtle nesting beach and identifying threats to marine turtle nesting," Allison said.

The Ningaloo Community Turtle Monitoring Program is a team collaboration between the local Cape Conservation Group, CALM, WWF Australia and Murdoch University.

This year the program is being expanded and implemented in Port Hedland, Coral Bay, Red Bluff, possibly Carnarvon and Wickham.

For more information or to become a 'Turtle Tracker' please contact Allison Richards on 9949 1676, or by email (arichards@wwf.org.au).

Conservation briefs

Gascoyne-Murchison NRM

Kelly Gillen, CALM's Midwest Regional Manager, is a member of the Interim Gascoyne-Murchison Natural Resource Management Council.

Other members include representatives from the Pastoralists' and Graziers' Association, the Kuwinywardu Aboriginal Resource Unit, the Carnarvon Growers' Association, Nor-West Seafoods Pty Ltd, the Departments of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Gascoyne Development Commission and the WA Local Government Association.

Community forest inspection program expanded

The trial program of community forest inspections is to be continued.

The trial, an integral role in the community consultation process for sustainable forest management, provided an opportunity for community representatives to inspect operational aspects of timber harvesting.

So far, inspections of native timber harvesting have been completed in the forests around Collie, Jarrahdale and Pemberton.

Written reports of the inspections were prepared and provided to all participants. A summary of the trial program is available on NatureBase (www.naturebase.net).

Fond farewell to Albany Bush Ranger leader

AFTER four years as a dedicated CALM Bush Rangers Coordinator, Val Davies is leaving Albany Senior High School.

CALM Bush Rangers Program Coordinator, Bronwyn Humphreys, said Val and her husband Steve had made an invaluable contribution to the program since they joined in 1999. They are moving to Bremer Bay where Val will work at the Bremer Bay Primary School.

"Val started the first Unit at Warnbro Community School in Perth and then moved to Albany Senior High School, where she started the Unit," Bronwyn said.

Regional Leader Parks and Visitor Services, Martin Lloyd, said it was Val's enthusiasm and her tireless encouragement of students that made her such an asset.

"Val has an outstanding passion for the local environment and a desire to get children to actively learn about conservation," Martin said.

"There have been many highlights over the past four years, in particular the opportunity for two Cadets to spend five days on the STS Leeuwin Voyage, bird monitoring, attending a snorkelling course, helping with the Albany Agricultural Show, working with the Land for Wildlife programs and completing basic fire training.

"Val was instrumental in making all these activities possible."

Bronwyn said the CALM Bush Rangers

program relied on volunteers like Val and the hundreds of hours that the other adults contribute to the program each year.

"Ninety per cent of the program's volunteers are teachers and the program relies heavily on inspired and motivated people like

Val and the hundreds of hours that she and others like her contribute each year... both face to face and in events planning."

Val received an Instructors Award for Excellence for her continuing work with the Albany Bush Rangers in 2004.



Pictured at a celebration for Val Davies were (back row, left to right) Albany Senior High School Principal, Noel Chamberlain, Regional Leader Parks and Visitor Services, Martin Lloyd, Regional Manager, John Watson, Bush Rangers parent, Mark Foreman, Land for Wildlife Officer, Sylvia Leighton, and (front row) Val and Steve Davies. Photo – Brent Barrett

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

Contract

Lousie Burch, Design and Studio Officer, Planning and Visitor Services Branch, Kensington; Glenn Claybrook, Seasonal Ranger, South Coast, Albany; Emma Adams, Reserves Officer, Shark Bay District, Denham; Robyn Lee-Ann Polini, Receptionist, People Services Branch, Kensington; Holly Smith, Project Officer (wetlands), Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Mia Morley, Project Officer, Woodvale Research Centre.

Promotion

Tricia Sprigg, Visitor Services Officer, Regional Services Division, Wheatbelt Region, Narrogin; Tracy Shea, Visitor and

Regional Services Coordinator, Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington; Jodie Miller, Project Officer, Forest Management, Manjimup; Matthew Phillips, Senior Ranger, Perth Hills District, Mundaring.

Permanent

Peter Jones, Project Officer, Forest Management, Bunbury; Laura Sinclair, Field Officer, People Services Branch, Dwellingup Training Centre.

Seconded

Christine Pailthorpe, Project Officer, Rottnest Island Authority to Wildlife Protection Branch, Kensington.

Retired

Nick Nudge, Acting Grants Administrator, Woodvale Research Centre.

Temporary deployment

Stephen Quiterio, Technical Officer, Wildlife Branch, Kensington; Marie Strelein, Conservation Officer (flora), Narrogin District Office.

Transfer

Matthew Swan, Officer, Swan Coastal District, Yanchep National Park to Regional Services Division, Matilda Bay Reserve.

Temporary transfer

Jennifer Paterson, Clerical Officer, Financial Services Branch, Kensington to Swan Coastal District, Regional Services

Division, Wanieroo.

Contract ceased

Belinda Cannell, Marine Conservation Officer, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle.

Resignations

Riki Stevens, Officer, Swan Coastal District; Catherine Vann, Marketing and Customer Services Coordinator, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Kensington; Kerry Troeger, Licensing Officer, Park, Policy and Tourism, Kensington; Belinda Rice, Personal Assistant, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Cygnet Hall.