



Conservation News

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 2005

Biodiversity discussion paper released

A DETAILED strategy to conserve WA's biodiversity has taken its first steps with the release of a discussion paper for public comment.

The paper, *Towards a biodiversity conservation strategy for Western Australia*, proposes strategic directions and initiatives for the next 25 years, with follow-up actions and outcomes for the next century.

It was prepared by a CALM team led by Acting Assistant Director Nature Conservation, Keith Claymore, and followed earlier public consultation on proposals for new biodiversity conservation legislation in 2002 and the preparation of the Biodiversity Audit for WA.

WA is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world, with the south-west recognised as one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots – the only one recognised in Australia. In addition, WA contains eight of the nation's 15 biodiversity hotspots.

The discussion paper notes biodiversity is at a crossroads in terms of decline and recovery.

In the past century, at least 18 species of native animals and 15 species of native plants have become extinct. Today, 190 animal species and 357 plant species are threatened with extinction.

While it has taken more than 100 years to reach this point, and major advances have been made in habitat and species protection in recent years, a clear strategy needs to be put in place now to reverse the decline and promote recovery.

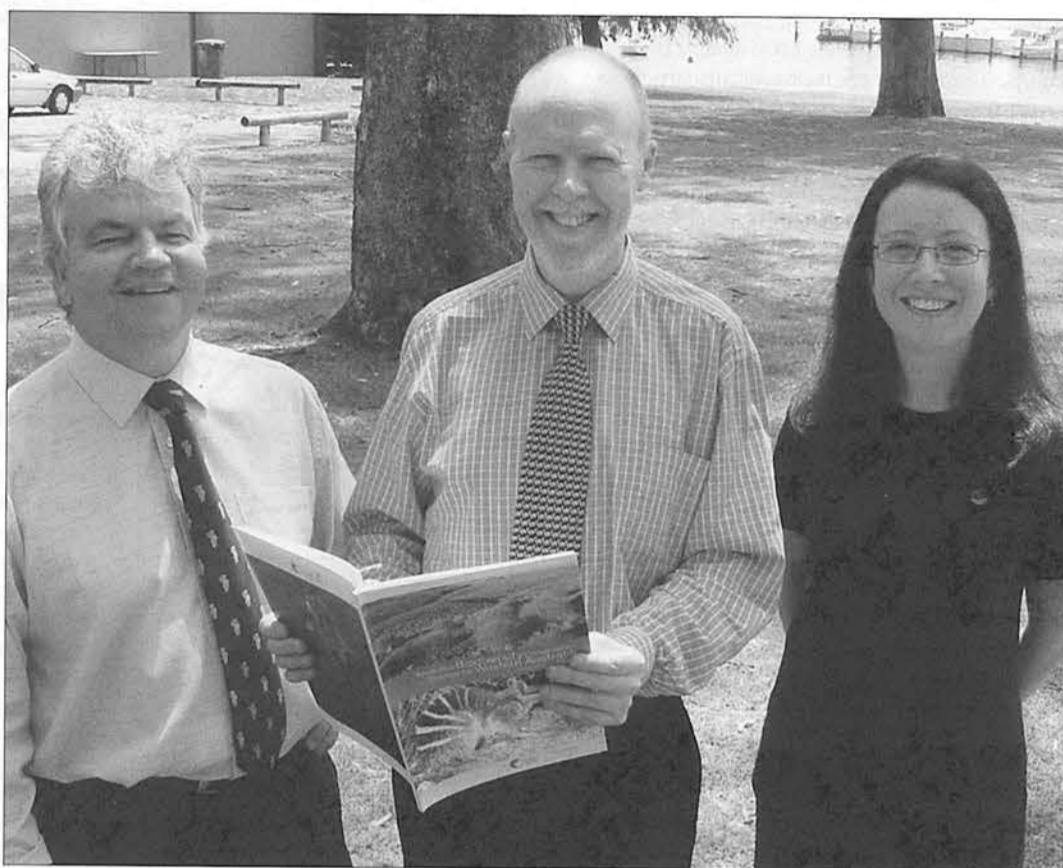
The discussion paper presents a 100-year vision and proposes strategies for the next 25 years.

Western Shield

CALM's *Western Shield* program is well on its way to recovering a range of mammal species from near extinction. Since 1996, three native mammals – the woylie, tamar wallaby and quenda (southern brown bandicoot) – have been removed from the threatened species list as a result of *Western Shield*.

Copies of *Towards a biodiversity conservation strategy for Western Australia* are available from CALM offices or can be downloaded from CALM's website (www.naturebase.net/haveyoursay).

Submissions on the proposed strategies should be addressed: Discussion paper, *Towards a biodiversity conservation strategy for Western Australia*, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley, WA, 6983. Submissions close on 15 April 2005.



Acting Nature Conservation Director Gordon Wyre (left), Acting Assistant Nature Conservation Director Keith Claymore and Policy Officer Hayley Valentine with the *Towards a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Western Australia Discussion Paper*. Photo – Rhianna Mooney

Air attack to stop 'bio-bulldozer'

A THIRD aerial spraying operation for dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) in the Fitzgerald River National Park began in December with the completion of the first of two sprays.

The national park was first sprayed in 1997 and then again in 2001 and CALM's South Coast Region Senior Operations Officer (Nature Conservation), Malcom Grant, said the results of the previous sprays had proved successful in stemming the spread of the potentially devastating disease.

A 225-hectare area in Fitzgerald River National Park was sprayed with a neutralised phosphonic acid product known as phosphite, which is a food chemical used in confectionery such as sherbet.

"The disease occurs in about 175 hectares in the national park, over an area known as Bell track," Malcom said.

"The area of infestation, as well as a buffer area, were sprayed."

Malcom said that the aerial spraying was one part of a Department-wide action strategy to combat dieback.

"CALM's Dieback Response Group is utilising various methods including track realignments, digital elevation imaging, aerial spraying and the development of other treatments by CALM Science to fight what's been dubbed a 'bio-bulldozer' at the Bell track locality," he said.

Earlier spraying has proved to be effective for up to 18 months.

The Fitzgerald River National Park extends more than 330,000 hectares on the State's south coast and is home to 1760 species of native plants, of which 75 per cent are not found anywhere else.

Australia Day honour for Kevin

A LIFETIME spent inspiring young people to swap virtual reality for the world of nature has resulted in CALM's LANDSCOPE Expeditions Coordinator, Kevin Kenneally, being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

"It's one of those things you expect other people to receive, and you never expect to be on the list," he said.

The award marked his service to the community through a range of organisations promoting environmental education, advancement of botanical knowledge and the interest of youth in natural history.

Kevin joined the WA Herbarium (now managed by CALM) 33 years ago as a botanist – "my profession" – and spent the next three decades taking science to the community.

"I'm a great believer in getting the community involved in nature conservation because the environment is everyone's responsibility," he said.

Kevin's links to the community began 35 years ago with his role as a councillor at the WA Gould League, one of Australia's most respected and influential non-profit nature conservation education groups. He has been president of the Gould League for 21 years. Each year 10,000 school children visit its headquarters at Herdsman Lake for excursions, sleepovers and weekend activities.

"Many of the young people with whom we worked are now employed by CALM or the WA Museum in nature conservation areas, which is very rewarding," Kevin said.

He is a past president and honorary life member of the WA Naturalists Club, was convenor of the junior Naturalists' Club for 10 years and is an honorary associate with the WA Museum, having worked with colleagues there for many years on biological surveys.

Kevin is the Coordinator in charge of CALM's LANDSCOPE Expeditions, where for the past 13 years people have paid to join and assist CALM's scientific expeditions in remote areas.

"We've raised \$1.5 million for research in that time and had about 700 people participate," he said.

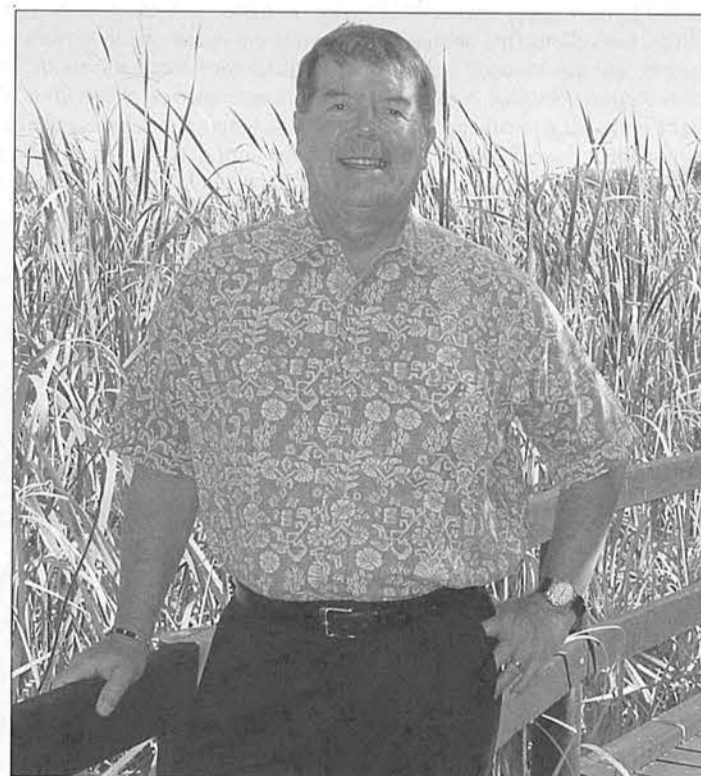
Kevin said that to him, the Order of Australia recognised the importance of science in people's lives.

"In these days of virtual reality, it's much more exciting to get young people out doing something in the real world," he said.

"We get them interested in the environment, and give them an enlightened attitude so that they're well informed and can make balanced decisions on matters that affect future generations."

Kevin said although he received the award, he didn't do it alone.

"Nothing would get done without the enormous help of our volunteers



Kevin Kenneally at Herdsman Lake. Photo – Rhianna Mooney

and colleagues, whom I thank very much," he said, adding he also had wonderful support from his wife, Dr Irene Ioannakis, who also works with young people.

"One of the lucky things about my career is that I've loved the work because it's also my hobby, and I've worked during a period when there was a lot happening in the nature conservation area," he said.

Congratulatory letters were sent by Premier Geoff Gallop, former Premier Sir Charles Court, the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC and the WA Museum's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ian McLeod.

The award will be presented at an Investiture Ceremony at Government House on April 8.

Alison Hopkins of Manjimup also won an award. See page six.

Working Together

This month's Conservation News includes a two-page feature on highlights of 2004. It is always worthwhile taking some time out to look back over a year and reflect on our achievements.

Those achievements certainly have been diverse, and include significant additions to the State's system of national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves. The marked expansion of WA's system of parks and other reserves in 2004 reinforces recognition of the formal reserve system's cornerstone role in biodiversity conservation, as well as the key role that parks and reserves play in nature-based recreation and tourism, and regional economies.

One of our priorities during 2005 will be to continue working to enhance the quality of our management of the conservation reserve system, and its standing in the eyes of the community. The focus on good quality facilities and visitor services will continue, as will our commitment to public participation and the development of our "good neighbour" policy. However, an area where I believe we need to do a lot more is in protecting the flora, fauna and ecosystems in our reserve system against the multiple threats they are facing, particularly from weeds, feral animals, dieback, salinity and altered fire regimes. That will require a more strategic approach, aided by the development of a State biodiversity conservation strategy, and the marshalling of our human and financial resources to achieve the best results.

On a different note, the front page of this edition reports that Kevin Kenneally was recently awarded the honour of becoming a Member of the Order of Australia. I am sure all CALM staff will join with me in congratulating Kevin, whose tireless work in community (especially youth) involvement in conservation, particularly through education and science, has been recognised through this honour.

Keiran McNamara, Executive Director



Rare deep sea creature found in Geographe Bay

A WATER-SKIER who fell off his ski several kilometres south of the Busselton Jetty made the rare discovery of one of the sea's most remarkable creatures – an oarfish.

When local resident Geoff Palmer toppled into the ocean he found himself in a close encounter with a specimen of marine life normally hidden from the rest of us.

Lying just below the surface was a three and a half-metre oarfish, a long thin silver fish with blotches and wavy markings, with tiny spines projecting off each fin.

The oarfish is one of the world's longest bony fishes, with a ribbon-like body that has been reliably documented to grow up to eight metres long but with records showing specimens as long as 17 metres.

The fish was found 500 metres offshore. Geoff and his wife Sue were so amazed they called CALM Marine Liaison Officer Neil Taylor for more information on their unusual discovery.

"It's a marvellous find because it shows that our oceans are a treasure trove of unusual creatures, and that we need to protect what's there for future generations," Neil said.

"The find was unusual because the oarfish was in such good condition. Others have been found locally but typically are in the water for a longer time and usually have pieces missing."

Professional fishers Peta and Alan Myles are storing the oarfish in their freezer before Neil takes it to a taxidermist who will prepare a cast of the specimen for future display purposes.



The 3.5 metre oarfish removed from the water. Photo – Neil Taylor



Two new schools join CALM Bush Rangers

TWO new schools have joined CALM's successful Bush Rangers program.

They are the Pia Wadjarri Remote Area School, via Yalgoo in the Murchison, and Phoenix West Vocational College at Geraldton. The total number of WA schools now partnering CALM in running the Bush Rangers program is 36.

Ninety per cent of the young people on the program at the new schools are local Yamatji members.

They will carry out environmental and heritage projects with local Yamatji people, the local councils and CALM staff.

One project will be the establishment of a local bush foods orchard.

Pictured above at the launch of the new units were (back row, left to right) CALM Senior Pastoral Officer David Blood, CALM Bush Rangers' Instructor from Tardun Christian Brothers Agricultural School, Peter Crawford; Principal and CALM Bush Rangers Instructor at the Pia Wadjarri Remote Area School, Gail Cresswell; CALM Bush Rangers' Leader from Phoenix West Vocational College and Pia

Wadjarri Remote Area School, Bernie Carroll; CALM Bush Rangers' Unit Leader at Tardun Christian Brothers Agricultural School, Marty Paton; (front row, left to right) CALM Bush Rangers' Instructor at Pia Wadjarri Remote Area School, Fred Gorman; Monty Mitchell from the Department of Education and Training, and CALM Pastoral Reserves Officer from the Midwest Region, Tony Raudino.

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North-West marine parks created

THE Montebello Islands Marine Park, the Barrow Island Marine Park and Barrow Island Marine Management Area and an extension to the Rowley Shoals Marine Park have been formally created.

This places WA as a world leader in the conservation of marine biodiversity and the protection of coral reefs.

The Montebello-Barrow islands are a significant nesting area for marine turtles and the surrounding waters support important coral reefs and unique offshore mangrove communities.

Diverse coral reef communities occur throughout the proposed reserves, and six species of mangroves are found.

The Montebello-Barrow Island parks are within WA's most productive petroleum area which is used for various marine-based activities including pearling, tourism, recreational fishing and commercial fishing.

The Montebello Islands Marine Park extends over 59,000 hectares of which 49 per cent will be sanctuary zones. The Barrow Island Marine Park will be a 100 per cent sanctuary zone and the Barrow Island Marine Management Area, that will extend over 148,500 hectares, will provide an important buffer for the two parks.

The Rowley Shoals Marine Park has been extended to 87,500 hectares of which about one-quarter will be sanctuary zones.

The reef fauna of the shoals is exceptionally rich and diverse and represents the oceanic coral reef community types characteristic of the Indo-West Pacific Region, and is very different to the coral observed in waters adjacent to the Australian mainland.

The biodiversity values of the Rowley Shoals are of global significance and it is a world-renowned dive site.

A crucial part of the development of the new marine reserves at the Montebello-Barrow islands and the extension of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park was the involvement of the community and industry.

A community-based advisory committee developed the Montebello-Barrow islands marine reserves proposal, including the boundaries, purpose and zoning of the reserves. There also was extensive input from the community and other stakeholders.

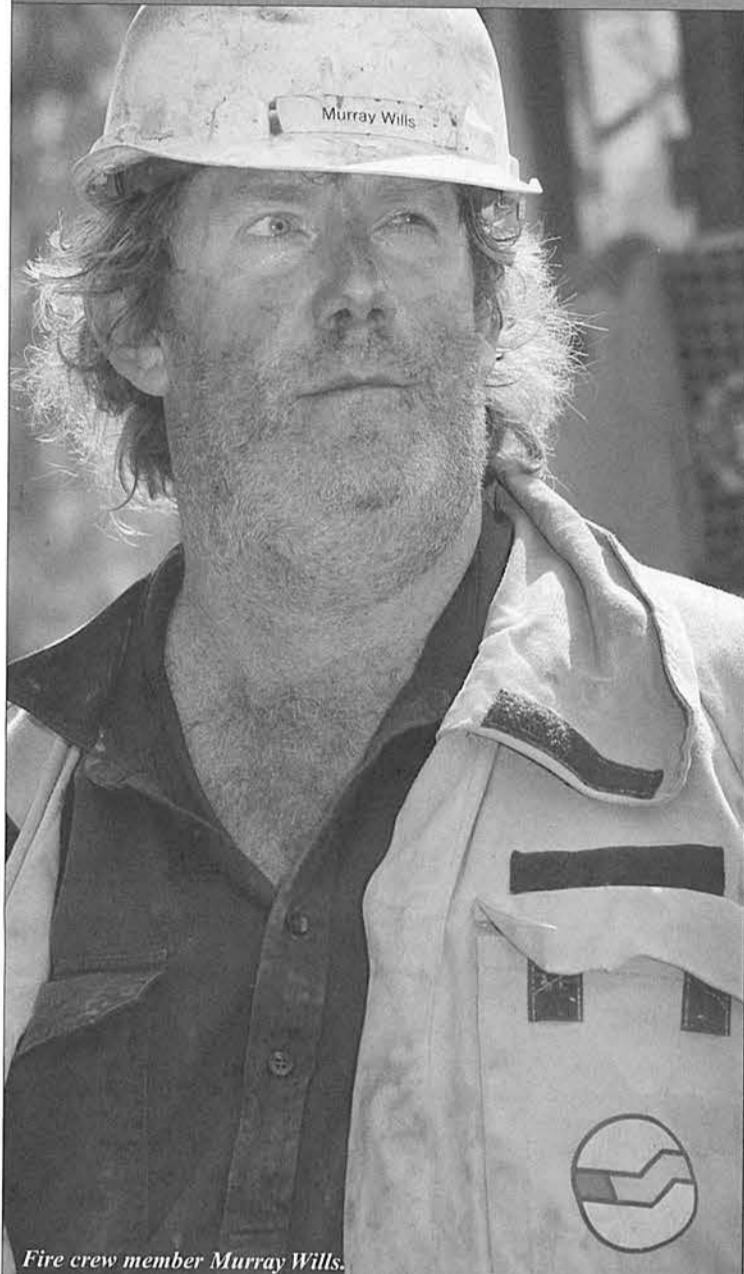
At Rowley Shoals Marine Park, there was consultation with CALM staff, Department of Fisheries staff and local stakeholders to develop the draft plan.

Indicative management plans for both the Montebello-Barrow islands and Rowley Shoals marine reserves were released for a three-month public comment period last year. The comments received were considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the respective plans.

Images from the Perth hills fire

CALM's pilots and aviation experts at Jandakot Airport were (left to right) Gary Lannigan (Albany), Jim Robbins (General Manager of Dunn's Aviation), Natasha Oake (Fire Management Services), Peter Gibson (Collie), Graeme MacKenzie (Albany) and Alan Udy (Manjimup).

Smoke formations dominated the sky.



Fire crew member Murray Wills.

Staff at the Logistics-Resources Management section.



CALM fire crew and SES volunteers take a break.



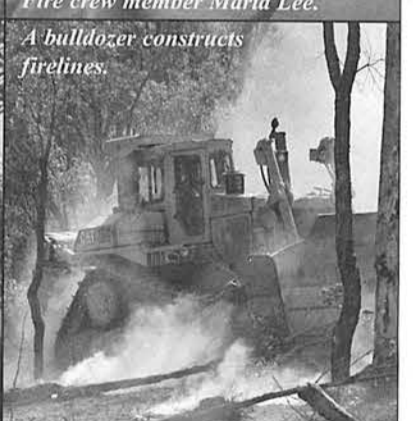
A briefing at the operations point.



Fire crew member Maria Lee.



Perth from Kings Park on Wednesday 19 January.



A bulldozer constructs firelines.

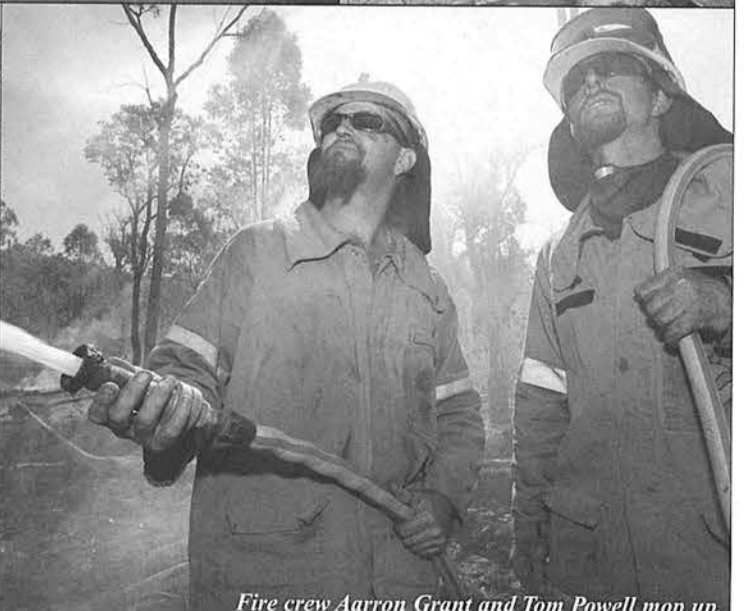


The smoke almost blanks out the sun.



Fire crew work on a firebreak.

The planning team at Midland: Tony Raudino (Geraldton), Murray Mitchell (Forest Products Commission) and Tammie Wrangmore.



Fire crew Aarron Grant and Tom Powell mop up.

2004 – the year in review

January

- New national and marine parks were the focus of CALM's operations during 2004. The year began with the release of the indicative management plan for the Rowley Shoals Marine Park, ensuring the long-term conservation of a pristine marine area.
- A total of \$50,000 was granted to 21 community groups undertaking conservation work in Perth's metropolitan regional parks.
- Two threatened mammal species, the bilby and the boodie, were found to be thriving in the fox-controlled Dryandra Woodlands near Narrogin after being reintroduced in October 2003.
- A warning was issued for people to be aware of crocodiles in the west Kimberley following an incident where a four-metre crocodile scared two campers by grabbing and shaking their tent.
- CALM firefighters continued their amazing efforts, following the Bridgetown and Tenterden fires in December 2003, to combat wildfires throughout the State, including a fire that burned more than 200 ha in John Forrest National Park.

February

- CALM set up a one-stop shop for fire claims in Bridgetown following the devastating bushfire during the Christmas period of 2003 that caused property and stock losses.
- A draft CALM fire management policy was released for public comment. The policy updated the existing policy and outlined CALM's approach to the use of fire, fire suppression, wildlife prevention and the rationale and scientific principles behind it.
- The indicative management plan for the Montebello/Barrow islands, which included two new marine parks and a marine management area, was released. CALM's Marine Community Monitoring Program across the State, which allows schools, environment and sporting groups to take an active role in monitoring and protecting WA's marine environments, was expanded.
- Community awareness of the marine environment was supported with the opening of a new interpretive centre in Exmouth enabling visitors to learn more about endangered marine turtles in the unspoiled North-West Cape area.

March

- A new policy and set of best practice guidelines to tackle *Phytophthora* (dieback) were launched in Perth's northern suburb of Noranda to highlight the proximity of dieback – one of the greatest threats to WA's biodiversity – to urban Perth.
- CALM fire officers continued to work hard suppressing wildfires during the hot months, with fire officers and local volunteer bush fire brigades containing bushfires at Gingillup Swamp Nature Reserve and Lesueur National Park.
- To support its fire prevention and suppression strategies, CALM employed 38 fire crew following the allocation of an extra \$3 million in new funding for fire operations.
- It was announced that three tourist facilities will be located in the Walpole Wilderness Area.
- CALM wildlife officers and customs staff discovered 24 oblong turtles and one shingleback skink in four postal packages destined for Japan, prompting a warning against wildlife smuggling.

April

- Tammar wallabies were reintroduced into Nambung National Park, 240 km north of Perth – the result of successful aerial baiting programs under the wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*. The Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group also helped in efforts to conserve Australia's most endangered marsupial.
- Karijini Senior Ranger Paul Udinga saved an injured English tourist from being swept away during a flash flood at Karijini National Park. SES worker Jim Regan lost his life in the rescue.
- The Cape Range National Park issues paper was released, part of the public consultation process to prepare a management plan for this distinctive area on the State's north-west coast.
- A landmark book on Roebuck Bay was launched, detailing the biodiversity and social values of one of WA's most important areas. *Life along land's edge: Wildlife along the shores of Roebuck Bay*, Broome was written by local and international scientists and published by CALM.
- A feasibility study into establishing a commercial salt harvesting operation using saline water beneath Toolibin Lake was released.



CALM's Harvey inventors Bruce Withnell (centre) and Rob Brazell (right) with conservation employee Dave Hawkes show off their new 1080 fox sausage baits. They invented a machine that injects 1080 into up to 15,000 *Western Shield* fox and cat baits a day. Photo – Sue McKenna

June

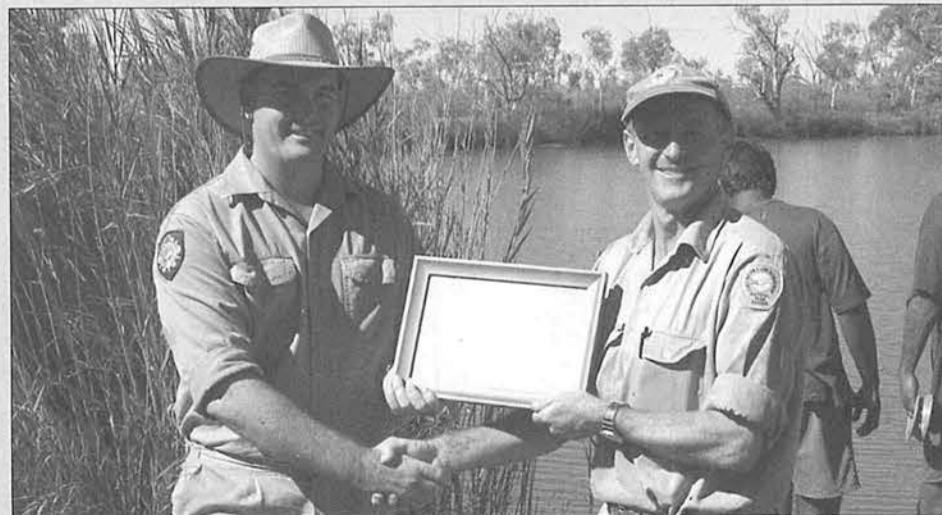
- Around 150,000 baits were dropped from the air during June as part of conservation measures to protect native wildlife from introduced predators under the wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*.
- Salinity management in the mid-west region of WA was significantly helped by the completion of a preliminary groundwater investigation report for the Buntine-Marchagee Recovery Catchment.
- Legislation to create nine new national parks and six new nature reserves was introduced into Parliament. This legislation would increase the State's conservation estate by almost 120,000 ha.
- Children and teachers from Bayswater and Maylands Peninsula primary schools turned out to help CALM celebrate Arbor Day 2004 at Riverside Gardens in Maylands. The focus was on flooded gums and their ecosystems and the important role they played in river flood plains.
- A prosecution advisory panel was established to consider public interest issues before charges are laid for breaches of wildlife conservation laws. This was one of the recommendations of a review of CALM's prosecution policy and guidelines undertaken in late 2003.

May

- The creation of new national parks was taken a step further with boundaries for the proposed Dalgarp, Easter, Greater Hawke, Hawke, Lake Muir, Tone Perup and Whicher national parks released for public comment.
- One of the State's most significant conservation areas, Two People's Bay Nature Reserve, remained a nature reserve maintaining its status as a flagship for the conservation of endangered species. This followed public consultation and advice from the Conservation Commission of WA.
- Conservation efforts on private property received a boost with the introduction of an incentive for private landowners to manage parts of their properties for nature. The incentive removed land tax liability for areas of private land protected and managed under eligible conservation covenanting programs.
- WA's beekeepers also received greater support with the announcement that they would be able to trade apiary sites on Crown land, including land managed by CALM.
- CALM began its prescribed burning program for the year, in which more than 120,000 ha of WA bush would be burnt during the 2004 autumn – the highest level of burning in decades.



Karijini National Park Senior Ranger Paul Udinga with Michelle Suri, the English tourist whose life he saved. Photo – Sue McKenna



CALM's partnership with the Department of Justice's Work Camp scheme was recognised at Millstream-Chichester National Park when CALM presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Roebourne Regional Prison Work Camp. During the successful five-year partnership, prisoners became involved in the conservation of the park's natural and cultural values, maintenance, walk trail developments and controlling introduced weeds, learning new skills such as how to use machinery and equipment. CALM Ranger Russell Asplund (right) was pictured presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to Darren Day from the Department of Justice. Photo – CALM

2004 – the year in review



Executive Director Keiran McNamara (right) and Indigenous trainee Wayne Dekker accept the national Diversity@work award for CALM's dedication to Indigenous people. The award was won in the Employment and Inclusion of Indigenous Australians category.

Photo – courtesy Diversity@work

- A structural reform of the State's beekeeping industry was also announced with the aim of ensuring its sustainable future. The reform included a set of regulations to manage beekeeping on public lands and to implement changes to trading apiary sites.

July

- Stage one of the Munda Biddi Trail from Mundaring to Collie was officially opened. Destined to become one of the world's most renowned cycling wilderness trails, the completed Munda Biddi will extend 1000 km from Mundaring to Albany.
- The process to create two new conservation parks in the south-west native forests progressed with the release of indicative boundaries for Kerr and Hester.
- A \$5 million package for scientific research into the Ningaloo Reef, its ecosystems and whale sharks was unveiled. Plans were announced to increase Ningaloo Marine Park's protection in a new draft management plan.
- A new resource guide titled *Biodiversity Incentives Programs in WA* was launched. Landowners and community groups interested in conserving the nature of WA now have a 'ready-reckoner' for a range of programs throughout the State.

August

- The first database of 17,000 WA terrestrial insects, including butterflies, moths, spring beetles, jewel beetles, parasitic wasps and timber borers, was launched by CALM.
- CALM became a signatory to a groundbreaking international agreement on genetic research into Australian eucalypts, which may hold the key to tackling environmental problems such as salinity and dieback.
- Public submissions were called on a discussion paper on the national Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and the possible need for a new code of practice.
- The final boundaries for the Walpole Wilderness Area were announced encompassing 95,000 ha of old-growth karri and jarrah forests.

September

- The award-winning MATES program received another accolade when it won the prestigious national Diversity@work award in the category of Employment and Inclusion of Indigenous Australians.
- CALM joined forces with the Department of Agriculture to research, develop and manufacture animal pest baits. CALM uses approximately 780,000 dried meat fox baits each year.



Darren Capewell from the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation (left) and CALM trainee Daniel Cock, who is also a member of the Yadgalah community, signify the partnership between CALM and Indigenous people. The Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation won the 2004 National LandCare Award's Indigenous section for its role in a CALM-Yadgalah project. Photo – Sue McKenna

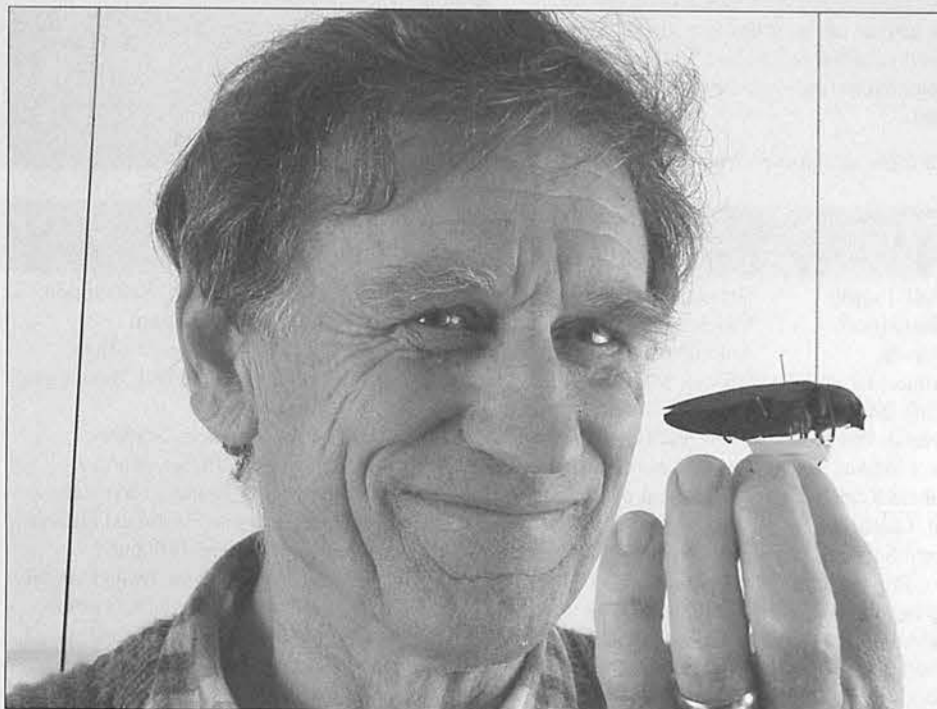
- An independent report was released containing new research which showed the State's key conservation areas were reaping millions of dollars a year for regional economies. The report by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism focused on the economic benefits of tourism in national parks, marine parks and forest regions and was the first of its kind in WA.
- Conservation efforts in the World Heritage listed Shark Bay region were boosted by a partnership between CALM and the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation. The partnership facilitated greater Indigenous input into the management of biodiversity in the region.
- Legislation was introduced into Parliament to create nine new national parks covering 140,000 ha, bolstering work to have a world-class parks system.
- WA's teachers learnt about conservation first-hand by taking part in CALM's EcoEducation professional development program in the World Heritage listed Shark Bay region.
- A joint entry by Jurien Bay District High School and Cervantes Primary School won the 2004 Epic Energy Biodiversity Conservation Challenge – the second year the competition has been held for students by CALM.
- It was announced that one of the world's largest fringing reefs would be further protected with the proposed extension of Ningaloo Marine Park to include the entire 290-km stretch of the coral reef system.
- CALM scientists completed a successful terrestrial vertebrate sampling survey as part of the four-year Pilbara Biological Survey.
- The campaign to encourage people to venture outdoors was boosted with the launch of CALM's Healthy Parks Healthy People program, which aims to increase community awareness, visitation and support of parks, waterways and reserves by demonstrating the link between health and conservation.

December

- The wildflower season coincided with the discovery of populations of two rare plants by the Lake Districts Regional Herbarium and rare flora volunteers. Flora conservation had a win through CALM's participation in an international project to conserve 10 per cent of the world's native plants, including a rare wattle found only near Bolgart, 100 km north-east of Perth.
- CALM was provided with an additional \$3.6 million for fire management. Extensive training sessions were held in Bunbury for pilots, fire managers and ground crews involved in the State's aerial fire fighting operations.
- One of WA's endangered marsupials, the dibbler (*Parantechinus apicalis*), made a comeback with the reintroduction of 51 animals bred at Perth Zoo into Stirling Range National Park.
- A third piece of legislation to create new national parks and other conservation reserves was introduced into Parliament and the Wilderness Policy was launched.
- CALM officers busted a suspected illegal wildlife operation, seizing 100 reptiles, 20 scorpions and two spiders from three properties in Perth's southern suburbs.
- The consultation process for parts of the Ningaloo Reef-North West Cape to be nominated for World Heritage listing was extended, enabling greater consultation with key stakeholders and the community.
- The draft *Tuart Conservation Strategy* was launched detailing plans to halt the further decline of high conservation value tuarts, adding more than 5000 ha to the conservation estate.
- A discussion paper was released to begin the preparation of a strategy to conserve the State's biodiversity. *Towards a biodiversity conservation strategy for WA* proposed a number of strategic directions and initiatives on which the public can comment and make submissions.
- The war against cane toads continued with a \$600,000 plan to fight the cane toad's arrival in WA.
- It was announced that two new parks in the Montebello-Barrow Islands area would be created and the existing Rowley Shoals Marine Parks boundary would be extended.
- Bushland Benefits, a new bushland conservation scheme to provide economic incentives for landholders to manage privately owned areas of remnant vegetation for nature conservation, was unveiled. The first parcel of land was purchased under the new nature conservation program, the Biodiversity Adjustment Scheme.
- Legislation was passed making the new national parks official – a fitting end to 2004. Western Australians now have another 36 national parks and nature reserves and 10 new conservation parks to visit.

November

- Around 10,000 baits were laid on 220-ha Adele Island Nature Reserve, off the Kimberley coast, to end the exotic Pacific rats' 100-year stay. The eradication of introduced black rats from the Montebello Islands also was a success, paving the way for the reintroduction of native species that had vanished from the area.



CALM's Senior Technical Officer Tom Burbidge with one of the 17,000 specimens that have been databased. Photo – Rhianna Mooney

Cultural awareness training

CALM's Science Division and WATSCU staff attended a cross cultural awareness course run by the Indigenous Heritage Unit.

Fourteen staff from Kensington, the Observatory and Woodvale attended the two-day course at Woodvale in December.

Facilitators were Koodah Cornwall from CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit and private cultural awareness contractors Kim Bridge and Tim Muirhead.

The group met again in January to talk about the ideas and thoughts emanating from the course and passed these to CALM's Training Manager, Alan Byrne, who coordinates the training across the Department.

Comments from participants are listed below.

"Wow what a fantastic experience my colleagues and I have had over the last two days at Woodvale. I don't think there was one person who did not experience something special from this course."

"Koodah, Kim and Tim allowed us to get a very small insight into the past and contemporary issues facing the Aboriginal population today."

"The course provided valuable training for me on Aboriginal history and culture. I was reminded of the need to remember the place that Aboriginal people have in our own history and the necessity to ensure it is not forgotten. This includes their valuable knowledge of the country, the extent of their desire for reconciliation as well as the injustices inflicted over 200 years."

"I thought that Koodah's, Kim's and Tim's different focuses and styles all complemented each other extremely well and made for an entertaining and enlightening interactive experience."

"I very much enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of honest open communication and acceptance of each other (and ourselves) as people with the common goal of exploring how we might improve our relationships now and into the future, given the historical and current issues associated with Aboriginal dispossession."

"This course was very well presented by all three speakers with a lot of feeling for their subject. It reminded me of the need to



Pictured at their cultural awareness training were (front, left to right) Judy Dunlop, Katie Saunders, Joanne Smith, Terry Cornwall (Koodah), Sally Black, Val English and Kim Bridge, and (back, left to right) Lee Patrick, Margaret Langley, Tom Burbidge, Ken Tinley, Jill Pryde, Sarah Davis and Grant Pearson. Photo - CALM

remember the place that the Aboriginal people have in our history and how necessary it is that this history is not forgotten by not only the non-Aboriginal people but also by the younger generation of Aboriginal people."

"I found the course very useful in reminding me about the bigger issues facing the Indigenous community. I thought that the presenters dealt with the issues well. I would like to see further participation, especially those field staff with little knowledge of Indigenous matters and to ensure awareness of country."

"The course gave me an insight into Aboriginal culture and provided a platform in which we were able to raise and discuss any issues relating to the historical and present day issues facing Aboriginal people. I especially enjoyed the practical component of the course where Koodah demonstrated how

to make glue using the resin of a balga tree, and spoke about some of the uses of native plants as bush food and for making shelter and fire as we wandered through the Woodvale Nature Reserve."

"I thought it provided a very useful (and personal) insight into the historical causes of the impact of white settlement and laws on Aboriginal people, provided information about some aspects of cultural differences that could help improve our interactions, and an insight into some of the ways we might help bridge the gaps between white and Aboriginal cultures in the workplace and elsewhere!"

"I think everyone can get a lot from what Koodah, Kim and Tim shared with us."

Work centres interested in the program should contact Alan Byrne at the Dwellingup Training Centre for more information.

Conservation briefs

Volunteers at William Bay NP

If you'd like to volunteer for the William Bay National Park's Association Ecosystem Reconstruction Group near Denmark, call the local William Bay CALM office or the volunteer group.

The group - which is the park's re-named weeding group - meets fortnightly on Mondays at the CALM office, working for two hours.

Volunteers have regenerated some of the areas that have been cleared of weeds, and have removed the weed *Typha orientalis* from Lake Byleveld.

They are now working on a trial to replace an infestation of pelargonium with indigenous plants.

Interested people can contact Lindy Wilson on 9840 9306 or Jessie Healey on 9840 9391 or Ranger Hardy Derschow on 9840 9255.

On alert for cane toads

Cane toads are getting closer to the Northern Territory-WA border - so CALM and the Department of Agriculture will concentrate on quarantine, surveillance, research and public awareness.

CALM Ecologist, Winston Kay, said it was important to be proactive about the invasion of cane toads so that native species at risk could be identified, and measures taken to protect them.

"While the main population front of cane toads is expected to reach the WA-NT border within the next five years, one mating pair can lay up to 35,000 eggs that hatch in between 48 and 72 hours," Winston said.

"Cane toads are known to hitchhike on vehicles so it's important that the community remains diligent in making sure that they don't chauffeur any unwanted passengers."

"Increasing public awareness is an important component of the plan."

Electronic payslips

PRINTED payslips will be replaced with electronic payslips for all CALM employees with a current webkiosk user account.

Kensington and Herbarium staff will be the first to make the transition to electronic payslips, for the pay of the 10 March 2005. Other cost centres will be phased in gradually between March and June this year.

All affected employees who currently still receive a printed payslip will receive a letter and an email advising them of the transition during the coming weeks.

People who are unable to access the webkiosk, or who experience regular difficulties with access due to remoteness, will continue to receive printed payslips.

The aim in making the move to electronic payslips is to increase efficiency by reducing processing time and costs.

First-time users of the kiosk, or people who are experiencing access problems can contact Clive Coshan on 9334 0358 or Brad Colton on 9334 0162.

A webkiosk user guide is available on the People Services Branch Homepage of the CALMweb at <http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/drbc/d/hrb/manuals.html>



Alison's a hard act to follow

WARREN Region's Administrative Assistant, Alison Hopkins, is well known for her work both inside and outside the office.

She received the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for people aged 25 and older after being recognised for her work with the Manjimup Repertory Club.

"Alison's generosity of spirit has not only provided a platform for our community's considerable artistic talent, it has also given children and adults alike self esteem, self confidence and lasting friendships," Manjimup Shire President, Peter McKenzie - pictured with Alison - said when presenting the award.

Photo - Courtesy of Elizabeth Lillis, Manjimup-Bridgetown Times.

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

Contract

Maria Garcia, Architectural Draftsperson, Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington; Margaret Smith, Geologist, Warren Region, Manjimup; Benson John Todd, Resource Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Manjimup; Nicki Warnock, Resource Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Benjamin Smith, Technical Officer, Biogeographical Branch, Woodvale; Charles Bellamy, Architectural Draftsperson, Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington; Gaynor Stanicic, Receptionist, WA Herbarium.

Promotion

Peter Fishwick, Parks and Visitor Services Capital Works Coordinator,

Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington; Jeff Kimpton, Senior Ranger, Pemberton District Office; Sue Fiannaca, Workforce Services Officer, People Services Branch, Kensington; Melissa Bascombe, Administration Assistant, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Cygnet Hall; Tim Firth, Fire Operations Officer, Swan Region, Kensington; Peter Wilkins, Senior Ranger, Fitzgerald River National Park.

Permanent

Rosemary Massam, Customer Service Officer, Swan Region; Stephen Toole, Operations Officer, Kalgoorlie; Beryl Crane, Administration Officer, WA

Herbarium; Stephen Ball, Project Officer (Sustainable Resources), Forest Management Branch, Kensington; Julia Boniface, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Branch, Blackwood; Brian O'Hehir, Project Officer, Kirup; Ian Scott Walker, Regional Manager, Pilbara Region, Karratha; Sonya Brunt, Leasing Officer, Parks Policy and Services, Kensington; Julian Fox, Project Officer, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Marc Barendrecht, Fire Operations Officer, South West Region, Bunbury; Max Haste, District Manager, West Kimberley District.

Temporary transfer

Paul McCluskey, Senior Planning

Officer, from Narrogin to Parks and Visitor Services Branch, Kensington; Anthony Raudino, Crown Reserves Officer, Midwest Region, Geraldton.

Transfer

Bridget Hyder-Griffiths, Urban Nature Coordinator, from the Department of Environment to Swan Region, Kensington; Vince Hilder, Fire Operations Officer, from Kirup to Pemberton.

Contract ceased

John Brent, Infrastructure Manager, Information Services Section, Kensington; Catherine Tauss, Senior Technical Officer, WA Herbarium; David Bebbington, Cartographic Officer, Information

Management Branch, Kensington.

Temporary deployment

Sylvia King, Project Officer, People Services Branch, Kensington.

Resignation

Jessica Meeuwig, Marine Conservation Officer, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle; Kristy Chapman, Technical Officer, Denham; Martine Holland, Landscape Architect, Swan Coastal District, Wanneroo; Allen Grosse, Senior Project Officer, West Kimberley District; Ben Fitzpatrick, Nature Conservation Officer, Exmouth District; Erica Shedley, Senior Forest Officer, Warren Region, Manjimup.