



# Conservation News



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JULY 2005

## CALM and Justice partnership continues to aid conservation

**A unique partnership between CALM and the Department of Justice will continue to provide conservation benefits and prisoner rehabilitation following the re-signing of a memorandum of understanding.**

The new MOU was signed at a ceremony at Millstream-Chichester National Park, in the State's north-west, on 20 July. An MOU between the two agencies has been in place since 1999.

It was timed to coincide with a key milestone for the partnership – the fifth year of operation of DoJ's Millstream work camp.

The MOU continues the partnership between CALM and DoJ on collaborative projects that provide community benefits through the involvement of prisoners and community-based offenders in conservation

and recreation infrastructure development projects.

CALM Executive Director, Keiran McNamara, said the partnership was a boost to conservation throughout the State as it helped fast-track biodiversity projects and the development of visitor facilities and services in national parks and other conservation reserves.

"Since the partnership started with DoJ in 1999, we have seen a tremendous number of conservation projects and recreation infrastructure projects completed throughout the State with the help of prisoners," he said.

"Prisoners have made significant contributions to projects such as the Munda Biddi Trail and the Bibbulmun Track as well as control of exotic weeds and the rehabilitation of natural bushland areas.

"In fact, more than 23,000 hours have been contributed to CALM projects by prisoners under the MOU – that is equivalent to labour costs of around \$340,000.

"In Millstream-Chichester National Park alone more than 11,400 hours have been contributed which is equivalent to labour costs of around \$168,000."

Under the MOU, prisoners have also restored the old Cameleers Track and built new camping grounds.

Keiran said the continuation of the MOU would continue to provide significant opportunities for DoJ and CALM to bring together their common aims and interests to provide useful and meaningful work activities for prisoners/offenders while at the same time resulting in benefits for the community.

DoJ Acting Director Rural and Regional

Prisons, Jim Dunstan, said the camps offered a cost-effective, practical alternative to traditional imprisonment.

"Typically, minimum-security prisoners at work camps undertake a range of activities, providing a resource for local communities, with both the community and the prisoners benefiting," he said.

The Millstream work camp provides culturally-appropriate custodial services for minimum-security prisoners. For many prisoners from Roebourne Regional Prison, Millstream is their traditional land and this allows the local Aboriginal community, particularly elders, to be involved in rehabilitation.

DoJ currently operates six work camps, based at Millstream, Derby, Pardelup, Walpole, the Wheatbelt and Wyndham.



CALM's Churchill Fellow, Kate Hassall (second left), with CALM Parks and Visitor Services Director, Jim Sharp, WA Herbarium Director and Winston Churchill Memorial Trust WA Regional Committee member, Neville Marchant, and CALM Executive Director, Keiran McNamara. Photo - Carole King

## Kate wins prestigious fellowship

**KATE Hassall is about to indulge her passion for ecotourism and progressing Indigenous involvement in parks, thanks to a Churchill Fellowship.**

The 33-year-old Policy Advisor with CALM's Parks and Visitor Services was awarded the fellowship last month. She was one of 10 West Australians to receive the award.

Kate plans to visit Canada and South Africa for six weeks leaving in October this year.

She will assess some best practice models for managing conservation areas involving Indigenous groups, government, the private sector and wider community.

"In particular, I will be looking at partnerships between park managers, ecotourism operators and Indigenous communities," Kate said.

"There is the potential for substantial benefits, in both conserving natural areas and giving meaningful outcomes to Indigenous people which support the protection of culture."

Kate said a trip to Africa last year inspired her to apply for the fellowship.

"I was fortunate to learn so much about Africa's people, their culture and wildlife from local guides while on various tours in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Kenya," she said.

"This also brings direct benefits to the local communities by employing local people."

In Canada, Kate will meet with internationally renowned

researcher Paul Eagles, Chair of the Tourism and Protected Areas Taskforce on IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, to review Canada's partnership models and their application in a first world setting.

In South Africa, she plans to meet with one of Africa's leading ecotourism organisations, Conservation Corporation Africa.

"CC Africa operates high quality safari lodges, camps and organised tours across six African countries and provides significant ongoing investment into parks as well as conservation and community development programs."

Kate believes these best practice models provide valuable knowledge and experience to broaden partnership opportunities in WA, due to their proved success overseas.

The Churchill Trust is an Australian Trust established in 1965 to honour the memory of Britain's Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. Recipients are provided with financial support to undertake an overseas project that will benefit the Australian community.

The official announcement of the 2005 Churchill Fellows was hosted by the Trust's WA Regional Committee on 29 June. Fellows will also attend a reception at Government House in August to commemorate the Trust's 40th anniversary.

Last year CALM Senior Wildlife Officer, Doug Coughran, and WA Herbarium Technical Officer, Amanda Spooner, were awarded Churchill Fellowships.

## Wayne voted top Indigenous tourism guide



Yanchep National Park's Wayne Dekker, winner of the Indigenous tour guide category of the inaugural Gnunkai Awards. Photo - Christie Mahony

**YANCHEP National Park's Wayne Dekker has won a national Indigenous tourism award.**

The 25-year-old Aboriginal Trainee Ranger took out the Indigenous tour guide category in the inaugural Gnunkai Awards.

The presentation was made at the 2005 Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference held in Perth last month.

Wayne started work at Yanchep National Park in August 2000 as a casual Visitor Services Tour Guide and was one of the first recruits to go through CALM's Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES).

He conducts a variety of guided tours at the park including the Crystal Cave Tours, Meet the Koala, Nyoongar Camp Life, Share the Dreaming and Didgeridoo and Dance, and all cultural tours.

Wayne has also represented Nyoongar people at many events and official openings on behalf of Yanchep National Park.

"The award is a bonus, but the real reward is the satisfaction I get from sharing my culture with people and knowing visitors are leaving with a positive experience," Wayne said.

Yanchep National Park's Acting Visitor Services Manager, Kim Cream, said they were extremely proud of Wayne's win.

"It's a fantastic achievement for Wayne, Yanchep National Park and the Department to be nominated as finalists and then Wayne being named a winner. It also shows CALM's commitment to Indigenous tourism," she said.

Yanchep National Park was named as a finalist in the organisation category of the Gnunkai Awards.

The awards have been established to recognise commitment and contribution to Indigenous tourism.

# Working Together

The month of July provided the opportunity for several field visits – to the Stirling Range, Porungurup and Torndirrup national parks to view recent and proposed visitor facilities upgrades; to Toolibin Lake and associated catchment revegetation programs; and to Karijini and Millstream-Chichester national parks in the Pilbara. Such visits, and the associated discussions with regional staff, always provide a welcome reality check to keep the daily paperwork and meetings in Perth in perspective.

The lead article on the front page of this *Conservation News* reports on the re-signing of our memorandum of understanding with the Department of Justice at Millstream. The partnership with the DoJ provides benefits in both directions. The prison camp workforce is making an excellent and very valuable contribution to essential conservation works, especially weed control, and to the provision of access and facilities for park visitors. The program also contributes to broader community social objectives through improving prisoner rehabilitation and self-esteem.

The signing ceremony also coincided with a Park Council meeting and the progress in respect of joint management that was evident was pleasing to see. Like some others around the State, the park is on the verge of receiving increasing numbers of visitors as road infrastructure in the region improves, and CALM staff and the Park Council are planning ahead for the inevitable opportunities and challenges.

July also saw John Blyth retire. John was one of four scientific advisers appointed to the Crawley office when CALM started in 1985 – the other three were Paul Jones, Jim Sharp and myself. We wish John well in his retirement, and hope he can find that elusive night parrot.

Keiran McNamara, Executive Director



# Aircraft use a first for the Kimberley

CALM has used aircraft for the first time to fight fires in the Kimberley, at Mirima National Park.

A fixed wing aircraft dumped large amounts of water along the fireline in early July, while a helicopter with a suspended bucket was used to target specific fire hotspots.

The trial appears to have been a great success, with the aircraft working with crews on the ground from CALM, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the local authority.

The aircraft helped stop the fire before it could completely burn out the park and threaten nearby private property.

During the heat of the day, while not stopping the fire, the fixed wing aircraft targeted the most active fronts to slow down the spread.

This allowed ground operations to be put in place, including the construction of firebreaks by heavy machinery.

CALM Senior Operations Officer, Dave Grosse, acknowledged the work of the aircraft personnel.

"Apart from the direct fire suppression work the pilots of the aircraft were able to give updates on fire activity, provide maps of the extent of the fire and direct ground operations to problem areas," he said.

by Gordon Graham

"In several places where ground crews could not pick up fire activity because of the terrain and long grass, the pilot of the helicopter in particular, was able to steer ground crews to where they were needed."

CALM and FESA will continue to investigate the feasibility of aircraft use in other Kimberley locations.

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# Vale Wendy

FOR more than nine years, most people calling or visiting CALM's Crawley office were greeted by Wendy Maund.

All who knew her were deeply saddened when Wendy passed away last month after a short illness.

"Wendy's warm personality and great sense of humour made her invaluable at Reception, and made her many friends," said CALM's Executive Director, Keiran McNamara.

"She was a key member of the Crawley team – always ready to help and always ready to listen – and will be sorely missed.

"Wendy was enormously proud of her three sons, Gavin, Chris and Jeremy.

"We're very pleased to have been able to share her joy this year over Gavin's wedding and the birth of Chris's daughter, Manon, Wendy's first grandchild.

"Wendy's professional support, her genuine interest in her colleagues, and her infectious laugh will be remembered with great affection."



Wendy Maund with her first grandchild, Manon.

# Outfoxed

By John Hunter

KEVIN Marshall, our Regional Wildlife Officer for the Midwest Region, has been around a long time.

As a matter of fact he did drop the clanger to me that he's now the oldest wildlife officer currently serving in the 'bush' and during the past 17 years in the region, has seen some mighty strange things.

Over the past nine years, Kevin has kept a diary on the sighting of foxes and their unusual habits in the area between the highway and the Zuytdorp Cliffs, south of Shark Bay.

He says this desolate and inhospitable area attracts groups of very suspicious acting humans... and foxes.

The humans have made a bad habit of discarding their partly consumed aluminium cans of liquor along tracks to the coast which means Kev has to stop and pick them up.

At first he thought that they had been used as shotgun targets, bent and full of little holes, but after years of careful observations, measurements and microscopic scratch mark determinations, he has come to the conclusion that the foxes of the area are performing some cunning stunts.

In the summer season when fresh water is non-existent around Zuytdorp, foxes have apparently learned to survive on the body fluids from their prey, followed by small swigs from dumped cans.

Kev is pretty sure that the marks on the soft aluminium indicate that foxes are gently picking up the cans in their mouth, then squeezing them several times between their jaws until their teeth puncture the metal and with head tilted back, the foxes partake of the residue grog, or in the case of an old can, condensation.

Kev was recently heading to the Shark Bay Regional Conference with colleagues Noddy Desmond, Bec Carter and Tone Raudino when they pulled over for a pit stop at the Northern Barrier Emu Fence.

After a quick walk west along the fence Kev returned with a fresh can of 'Jack Daniels' and a full tube of sunburn cream. Both items had the usual puncture marks, but only the can was totally empty.

# 30th Bush Book hot off the press

CALM has just released its 30th Bush Book, this time focusing on flowers of the Stirling Range.

More than 250,000 copies of the pocket-sized books have been sold since the series started in 1996.

Bush Books are a practical guide to help people learn about and discover WA's distinctive plants, animals and special features, region by region.

Books in the series include Mammals

of the South-West, Birds of the Kimberley, Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West and Trees of the Goldfields. There are books specifically for the metropolitan area, including Birds in the Backyard and Bugs in the Backyard.

The latest Bush Book, Flowers of the Stirling Range, captures the botanical megadiversity of the area.

The park is exceptionally rich in

plant species containing 90 families, 384 genera and 1517 species within its 115,600 ha. Eighty of the plant species occur nowhere else in the world.

The area provides a range of habitats and its beauty and biodiversity attract many local, national and international visitors. CALM has established a number of walks within the park for nature lovers and these are included on a map contained in the book.

# Jurien Bay Marine Park management plan released

MANAGEMENT of the Jurien Bay Marine Park will be further strengthened with the release of the park's management plan.

Environment Minister Judy Edwards described the park's waters as a treasure trove of marine diversity with the islands providing important habitat for sea lions and seabirds.

"CALM already has initiated a range of management strategies for the park," she said.

"These include signage and education programs, zone markers, schools programs and initiating a range of collaborative research and monitoring projects.

"The research programs are already highlighting the importance of this area and confirming the importance of protecting the environment and conserving the area for the future.

"Three dedicated staff have now been appointed and \$470,000 has been provided in the State Budget for CALM to implement the management plan.

"The Department of Fisheries has also been provided with \$250,000 to assist CALM with management of the park, with a particular focus on ensuring user compliance with zone regulations."

Dr Edwards said a community-based management advisory group would now be formed to ensure that the local community could actively participate in the management of the park.

The Jurien Bay Marine Park, encompassing the waters of the Turquoise Coast for 100 km between Wedge Island and Green Head, was established in August 2003, following an extensive public consultative process.

Copies of the Jurien Bay Marine Park management plan and the analysis of public submissions are available from CALM's Jurien Bay and Fremantle offices or on [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net).

# Twenty years ago this month... July 1985



## FROM MY DESK

ONE of the dangers that confronts any large organization which has a multiplicity of problems and a scarcity of resources is the tendency to attempt to do everything, but nothing properly.

We must be careful we don't fall into this trap because our brief — public land management in Western Australia — is exciting and the formation of the new Department has raised both the public's, and our own staffs', expectations as to what needs to be achieved.

One of the most serious consequences of attempting to do everything yesterday is that, inevitably, it results in excessive stress on staff members which leads to frustration and finally disillusionment.

There is an answer to this problem: we must set out a long-term plan for the Department, document the resources we have to implement the plan and determine the priorities for implementation.

Inevitably, during the first few months since the Department has been formed, we have been concerned primarily with keeping the train on the track.

I believe we (the whole Department), have succeeded beyond all expectations.

This has meant, however, that long-term policy development has had to be put aside.

Consequently, we have had to rely on officers in the field to use their own initiative where there has been no clear policy guidelines.

Now that we have our full complement of staff, some of the wildfires have been put out, we are in the final planning phase.

We have already had a critical

• BELOW: In the victor's corner Phil Davies leads John Rosair and Peter Hawkins (L) and Matthew Sinclair and Anita Webb (R).



Photos: IAN KAY

## Committee elected

THE CALM Social Club held a Sundowner on July 12 to start the new financial year and introduce the new committee.

Immediate Past President Drew Griffiths, officially handed over the reins to Gary Robinson, and thanked his old committee for a rewarding year's fellowship.

Drew also made a successful plea for general support for the new club.

"It is particularly important for the different people within the new department to get to know one another," he said.

"The club has the full support of management and the response to most get-togethers has been enthusiastic. Gary just needs a few more people on his team to maintain the momentum."

Annual reports were tabled and necessary changes to the club's constitution were made at the AGM on July 9.

A full committee for 1985/86 was not elected from the sparsely attended meeting, but by the end of the Sundowner Gary had his team together:

Vice President: Chris Simms; Secretary: George Zebrowski; Treasurer: Bob Simpson; Committee: Les Marable, Ric Currian, Carolyn Milligan, Mary Colreavy, Jenny Doelle and Ian Kay.

"There are still a couple of vacancies for good keen people," said Gary, "but with the team we have already it should be a good year."

Phone Gary on Como, ext. 338 for Social Club enquiries.



• THE last supper? Heidi Graski feeds Geoff Kellie a chip on his last day with the Department.



THE joys of winter motoring. A Track during the D'Entrecasteaux

## Tragedy Track lives up to its name AUTHORITY TOURS NATIONAL PARK

THE National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority visited the proposed D'Entrecasteaux National Park for two days last month. Accompanied by the project Authority members, Syd Shea, the group visited Windy Harbour, Coodamurru Beach, the Yeagally River.

The project planning team, consisting of recreation leader Alan Walker, Paul Llewellyn, Richard May and Wayne Schmidt, brought Authority members up to date with the planning process and issues



• KEN Jones (R) is pictured on the trail with the Manager Northern Forest Region George Peet, Alcoa's General Manager (WA) Roger Vines, Mrs. Jones and Ron Davies MLA.

## Minister opens new walk trail

THE Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Ron Davies, opened a walk trail at Langford Park, near Jarrahdale, on Friday June 21.

The trail is at the site of the first bauxite mine in the Darling Range, which came into production in the early 1960's.

Mr Davies said rehabilitation of the mine site was important because it is close to Perth.

"The Darling Range Forest has many uses to satisfy," he said.

The mine pit has been made into a lake and development of the surrounding area as a picnic site was started in 1973.

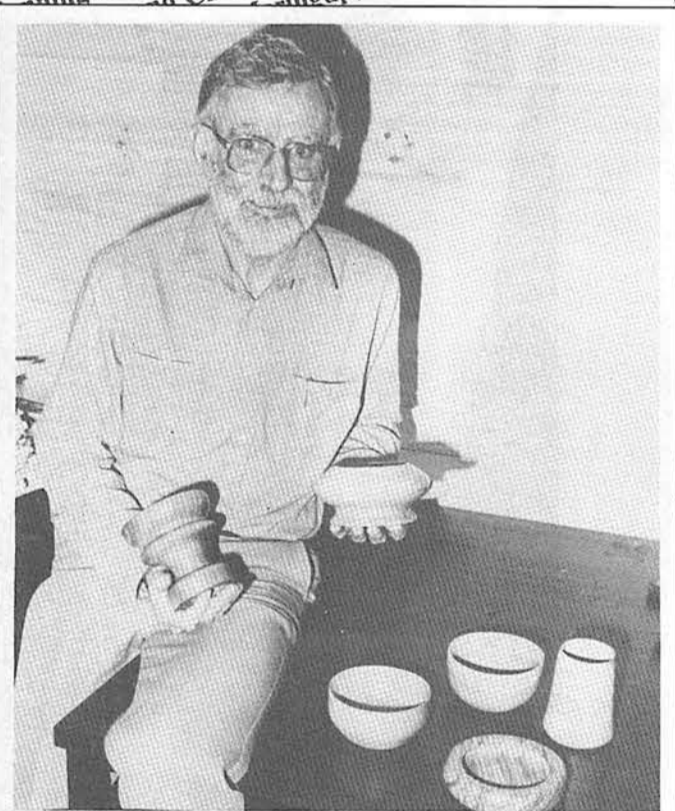
Since 1979 other recreational plans have been initiated and the walk trail is the culmination of two years work.

Both Alcoa and the Department contributed to its establishment.

The walk trail was named after Ken Jones who recently retired after working for 27 years as a forester in the Jarrahdale district.

Ken was responsible for many changes in bauxite mining rehabilitation since the 1960's.

Mounted signs along the trail explain the ecology of the jarrah forest and bauxite mining.



• PHIL SHEDLEY with examples of his work: (left hand) a bowl from the Gloucester Tree branch; (right hand and below) two bowls from new generation jarrah; (foreground) a wando bowl and (rear) two bowls from marri.

## TURNING HISTORY INTO A TREAT

By IAN KAY

A DEVELOPING interest in wood turning is being used by Phil Shedley to create attractive mementos from historic pieces of timber.

Recently Phil crafted various bowls and goblets from branches lopped from the Gloucester Tree.

He has also produced bowls from off-cuts of 'first' logs passing through the new Harvey Mill.

"The finished bowls are an appealing way of demonstrating the potential of many timbers," said Phil.

"I now have handy examples of the new generation Jarrah wood which I believe will play a significant role in the State's future hard-wood resource."

Phil also has turned examples of

mature jarrah and karri, both of which could be used to supplement world supplies of high quality fine red cabinet woods.

With his knowledge of seasoning, Phil has managed to successfully treat small blocks of green timber in a microwave oven before he turns them.

A piece of marri — sometimes called "the rubbish tree" — was treated in the microwave and emerged with a pale, even grain that kept other professional timbermen guessing.

Phil has also achieved interesting effects with Christmas tree wood and other mature species.

The possibilities are growing all the time, and Phil predicts that the processing of quality timbers will progress more rapidly as the industry masters the new technologies associated with small log milling and seasoning.

Twenty years ago this month. . . July 1985



# CALM News

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**WA's mammal emblem, the numbat, has made wildlife history.**

The little marsupial has been bred in captivity for the first time in this State.

Nine youngsters are thriving with six adults — and each gobbles the equivalent of 20,000 termites a day at WA Wildlife Research Centre at Wanneroo.

And while the nine are still on mother's milk, the adults are tucking into a specially prepared milk-based diet to save the centre's staff the arduous task of fin-

## Numbats bred in captivity

ding the digging up termite mounds.

Dr Tony Friend, a researcher specialising in rare fauna, is delighted about the births and the success with the new diet.

"Our three females had litters of four, two and three in January and the young ones are doing

well," he said.

"They are the first born in captivity in WA.

"Two litters were produced in Sydney some time ago, but they survived only a few weeks. Ours are now more than six months old."

Numbats are difficult to keep in zoos because of the problem of

obtaining daily supplies of termites.

The special diet perfected by Dick Whitford, technical officer in charge of the numbat colony, could be the breakthrough zoos have been waiting for.

Tony brought the six adults in from the wild in May and June last year as part of his studies.

"The first pair we called Errol and Nefertiti, but the rest are known by numbers," he said.

Numbat is an Aboriginal name for the animal in the York district.

It was originally called the banded ant eater — from its Latin name, *Myrmecobius fasciatus*.



## Orphaned joey in good hands



A RANGER'S wife's work is never done. Jackie Pemberton, wife of mobile ranger Richard Pemberton took care of this orphaned joey at the Cape Le Grande National Park while Ranger Ian Solomon and his wife were on holidays.

# EXPERIMENTAL BURN AT FITZGERALD

By IAN KAY

AN effective method of making fire-breaks has been tested at the Fitzgerald River National Park, using aerial burning technology.

The result offers exciting prospects for CALM.

Following further tests, the Department hopes to use the technique to install internal fire-breaks in the Fitzgerald Park which was affected by wildfires last year.

The risk of introducing or spreading dieback will also be greatly reduced as bulldozers and ploughs will not have to be used.

The technique could possibly be applied to other areas of Crown land where improved fire protection and minimal environmental disturbance is required.

At Fitzgerald, an effective 500m wide fire-break five kilometres long was successfully burnt on June 6.

The burn had been planned for more than two years, but had to wait

until the technology, resources and manpower were available.

As a forerunner to the aerial burning a number of test burns were carried during the winters of 1983 and 1984 by ranger George Duxbury, who is now located at Cape Range National Park.

Although weather conditions and the terrain were similar to those used in the test fires, the June 6 burn was not as complete as had been expected.

Fire management Officer, Brian Cornell said that the initial ignition was over a 20km strip, but only a 5km fire-break was burnt.

He said it would be completed when suitable weather conditions prevail.

"The aerial experiment established that the technique is feasible, and with further refinements we should be able to adapt our approach to produce better results," Brian said.

The trial was located within the Maringerup section at the north-east corner of the park near Jacap, after a detailed

flora and fauna assessment was made.

Planning for the trial was discussed at a meeting between the Fitzgerald River National Park Association, the Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe Shire Volunteer Bushfire organisations, the Bush Fire Board and Department officers.

## Progress made on ranger concerns

PROGRESS is being made with a number of industrial concerns that arose following the integration of National Park Rangers into CALM.

The concerns were aired at a rangers' seminar in April.

A committee, under the guidance of Dr Sally Kennedy, an industrial officer from the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union, was set up to negotiate the concerns with senior Department staff.

Agreement was reached on the retention of the rangers' uniform.

New authority cards for all rangers, including wildlife and forests officers, will be developed.

Discussions concerning the employment parity of park rangers and forest rangers, and the introduction of a five day week are also under way.

In the field, the issue of new equipment — radios and vehicles — has been achieved and conditions for mobile rangers will be improved with the development of permanent caravan sites and the introduction of maintenance allowances.

Of particular importance to future planning for the rangers will be the processing of a questionnaire being prepared by David Greenhill, in conjunction with the Policy Director of National Parks, Chris Haynes.

Committee Convenor Rory Neal urged rangers to participate.

"I hope all Rangers will answer the questionnaires, and send a copy of the points raised to a member of the working party," he said.

"The Department is making a genuine and determined effort to solve the problems in the National Parks area, I am sure that by maintaining this effort and commitment we will all benefit."

Other members of the committee are Roy Harris (Northern Region), Mike Batchelor (Southern Region), David Lamont (Grade 4 and Metropolitan), Keith Moon (Mobile), and Phil Gray (Eastern Region).

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## Research scientist here for seminar

RESEARCH Scientist and Wood Technologist, Dr Ted Hillis, has been invited to visit the Department.

The Chief Research Scientist with the CSIRO division of Chemical and Wood Technology, Dr Hillis is expected to discuss disease research, timber utilization and wood chemistry and anatomy with staff in related fields.

During the week he will visit the Wood Utilization Research Centre at Harvey, meet industry

leaders and talk to executives from various other government departments.

On Friday, August 9, Dr Hillis will present papers on the recent South African Forest Products Conference, and the world's wood needs and supplies.

The wood supply seminar starts at 2.00pm sharp in the Como Training Centre.

An open invitation has been issued to forest industry people to attend and a good representation from the Department is expected.

Seats should be confirmed with Shirley Dennett on Como extension 226.



● Dr. Ted Hillis.

# New dibbler sightings

**DIBBLERS** have been discovered in a place where they were not known to exist – the eastern end of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

CALM National Park Ranger, Steve Mills, made the discovery in May at East Mount Barren, after seeing something “dibbler-like” in the area.

As part of regular Western Shield monitoring, Steve set some cage and Elliott traps hoping to find out if what he had seen was a dibbler.

“I had five sets of traps in for four nights and ended up catching three dibblers,” Steve said. “It was totally unexpected. Everyone is pretty excited about it.”

“We didn’t know that any existed near this area. The nearest population is about 30 km away.”

Dibbler Recovery Team Chair, Tony Friend, said it was the eastern-most dibbler record since 1985.

Dibblers are small, carnivorous marsupials,

about twice the size of a house mouse. They have a thick hairy tail and distinctive white eye rings and are agile climbers that eat mostly invertebrates, small reptiles and nectar.

They were presumed to be extinct since 1904 and then were rediscovered in 1967 at Cheyne Beach, 50 km east of Albany. In 1984, dibblers were also discovered in the Fitzgerald River National Park, then in 1985 on two small islands (Boullanger and Whitlock) off Jurien Bay.

Steve said a DNA sample was taken to see if the newly-discovered dibbler was related to other nearby populations.

“I also expect further trapping to take place to see if there are others in the area,” he said.

He said it was unusual to find dibblers as close to the coast as this new discovery had shown.

“Where they were found was about 150 to 200 m from a cliff at the ocean,” Steve said.

“It shows that they do exist close to the coast.”

## Getting active in our parks



Volunteers Emma Rose, Clare Rose and Ashley McDonald helping to plant seedlings at the recent tree planting day at Herdsman Lake. Photo - Jacinta Overman

### GET ready to be physically active on September 1!

To herald in the spring season and to encourage physical activity, CALM’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People program will be conducting its first Physical Activity Awareness Day.

It’s part of a broader State Government initiative to increase levels of physical activity in the community.

Planned activities are expected to include guided walks through Beeliar, Yellagonga and Herdsman Lake regional parks, Yanchep National Park and the Hills Forest.

The Department’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People Project Coordinator, Cathy Gazey, said the aim of the day was to get people out and about and increase their awareness of the importance of being physically active for good health.

“We want people to be physically active. Being active in one of our beautiful parks also means the health benefits accrued are likely to be above and beyond that achieved through physical activity alone,” she said.

“In fact, evidence has shown that visiting a park is one of the simplest and cheapest ways of improving your health. Just being in touch with nature can provide positive health benefits.”

The Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative encourages people to get out and enjoy parks and promotes the physical, mental and social health benefits of spending time in nature.

The program is based on Parks Victoria’s model which was first implemented in 2000.

CALM’s program was launched by

Environment Minister Judy Edwards in November 2004.

Since then, links have been established with the community, promotional materials produced and the program presented and displayed at conferences and trade shows.

“Earlier this month under the Healthy Parks, Healthy People banner, Regional Parks conducted a tree planting day at Herdsman Lake where some 6000 seedlings, including banksias, acacias, eucalypts and melaleucas were planted by volunteers to create homes for native animals,” Cathy said.

“It was a great opportunity for people to realise they could achieve recommended levels of physical activity by doing conservation work and at the same time make a valuable contribution to the health of the environment.”

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

### Did you know?

The foundation of the Department’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative is based on international evidence showing strong links between contact with nature and human health. Although most of us know intuitively that contact with nature is important for our health, recent research provides a scientific basis for this supposition. Contact with nature refers to everything from viewing natural scenes and interacting with the natural world to gardening and pet ownership. Reference details of the studies summarised here can be found on [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)

#### Did you know that contact with nature... Improves healing and boosts immunity

Following gall bladder surgery, patients with a window view of open terrain or waterscape showed faster recovery, required less time in hospital, had better evaluation by nurses, less complications and a lower requirement for painkillers, compared to patients with no view.

#### Reduces and improves recovery from stress or anxiety

After a stressful event, people viewing a natural scene compared with an urban scene subjectively reported lower stress levels and were supported by objective measures of heart rate, muscle tension and blood pressure.

#### Reduces mental fatigue

Mental fatigue may occur following an intense period of concentration, or directed attention, and is manifested by irritability, restlessness and lack of concentration. Contact with natural environments fosters recovery from mental fatigue by restoring attention, reducing tiredness and irritability, and improving productivity and performance during attention demanding tasks.

#### Improves psychological well-being

Contact with nature has profound effects on psychological well-being. Following contact with nature, people self-report higher ratings of health and well-being, quality of life and life satisfaction. In addition, there is a higher frequency of positive moods and reduction in negative moods, improved self-esteem and self-awareness, and alleviation in the symptoms of depression and anxiety.

#### Enhances work performance and morale

Access to nature in the workplace is associated with lower levels of perceived job stress, less sick days, a lower incidence of stress related illness, greater job satisfaction and fewer resignations.

## Shani looks back on 24 years of service

BACK in 1981 Shani Owens (pictured right) kick-started her public service career with a government agency called the National Parks Authority.

Today, she’s part of a much bigger conservation department, CALM, and she’s still enjoying her work and the challenges presented.

“It was quite small in those days. There were several staff plus a radio room where an officer would contact the national parks by radio,” Shani recalls of the NPA and her role as a receptionist/typist.

Her job at the NPA was her second after leaving school.

“When I was leaving school, the belief was that you should find a good job and stick at it for a while, and the public service was seen as a secure job.

“Things are a bit different now. People shop around

and if they don’t like something they move on.”

However, the personal assistant to Acting Nature Conservation Director, Gordon Wyre, says there’s a lot to be said for loyalty and length of service.

Shani describes her time with CALM as very rewarding with job satisfaction and a great work environment.

“The variety of work has been pretty amazing really,” she says of her various roles over the past 24 years including being personal assistant to four directors responsible for project management, sustainable forest management and nature conservation.

“What makes it most enjoyable is the people you work with. There’s so many good things about working here.”

*This is another story in a series marking CALM’s 20th anniversary year about people who have been with the Department since it was established.*



# Boosting tree numbers in Merredin

**MERREDIN school children got into the Arbor Day spirit in June by helping to plant some 1200 seedlings.**

CALM Merredin District Wildlife Officer, Jon Pridham, said the St Mary Primary School students helped to plant the seedlings at Merredin's Tamma Parkland which is a rehabilitated tip.

The area now has 170 species of native plants, 34 species of birds and the threatened spider, *Aganippe castellum*.

"There was some very enthusiastic planting by the students involved with direction from adults, despite the wet and muddy conditions," he said.

"Merredin had been experiencing some very wet weather at the time, but it managed to hold off long enough during the planting and the sausage sizzle that followed.

"It was a great day and the feedback that we've had from teachers indicated that the students really enjoyed the experience."

Jon said the Arbor Day tree planting was conducted with the assistance of Greening Australia, Main Roads Western Australia and Emoleum.

Arbor Day is an important day on the environmental calendar and has been celebrated by Western Australians since 1919.

CALM assisted and hosted a number of Arbor Day plantings throughout the State.

The Department also produced an Arbor Day poster that was distributed to all CALM regional and district offices throughout the State for use in classrooms, Government offices and other public locations, including tourist information and visitor centres, libraries and recreation outlets.



CALM Merredin District Wildlife Officer, Jon Pridham, with St Mary Primary School students Laura McLloney (left) and Sophie Caporaso at the Arbor Day tree planting. Photo - Pam Masters

## Conservation briefs

### Big relay planned for November

Mark your diaries for the 19th annual Big Brook Relay which will be held on 19 November 2005.

For more information contact David Meehan on 9776 1207 or Rod Annear on 9295 1955.

### Sustainability Action plan endorsed

CALM's Corporate Executive has endorsed a Sustainability Action Plan for the Department.

This is in accordance with the State Government's Sustainability Code of Practice.

The plan can be viewed on CALMweb.



Natasha Nagpal, of Mumbai, India, cuddles a joey at CALM's display at the Australian Tourism Exchange. Photo - Michelle Tilbrook

## Native animals prove a hit with tourists

**CALM's interactive display with joeys, snakes and birds of prey proved irresistible to national and international visitors at the recent Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) 2005 held in Perth.**

The Department's Parks, Policy and Services Marketing Officer, Michelle Tilbrook, said hundreds of delegates took the opportunity to cuddle and have their photos taken with the native animals.

Michelle said CALM's popular display promoted the conservation message through tourism and featured native wildlife, national parks and park passes.

"ATE also provided a fantastic opportunity to promote the

Department's professionalism to the world through the pre and post familiarisation program which visited many CALM-managed lands and attractions throughout the State," she said.

ATE 2005, the largest tourism trade show in the southern hemisphere, provided a forum for Australian tourism businesses (sellers) to meet with international wholesalers (buyers).

More than 1700 national tourism operators attended the event, held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, plus 600 of the world's top tourism buyers and more than 50 international and Australian media representatives.

## NAIDOC celebrations at Kensington

**ABORIGINAL dance and cultural awareness workshops were on offer at CALM's Kensington office as part of July's NAIDOC Week celebrations.**

They were organised by the Department's Indigenous Heritage Unit and Risk Management Section.

CALM IHU Project Officer, Denise Griffith, said the dance workshop was conducted by well-known Aboriginal dance instructor Justina Smith, while the cultural awareness sessions were conducted by CALM IHU Indigenous Heritage Officer, Delvene Cornwall, and community consultants.

"We learnt dances such as the wardong or crow dance and the spirit dance," Denise said. "This was not only great exercise but a lot of fun as well."

IHU Cultural and Community Coordinator, Koodah Cornwall, also gave a talk on Indigenous dance from a male perspective and how dance connected to the land.

He also spoke about how important it was for all people to find their own spiritual connection to the land.

Yanchep National Park also conducted NAIDOC Week celebrations with a special day of activities on 10 July.

Cultural activities included tool making, a bush tucker walk, boomerang painting, spear and boomerang throwing and a didgeridoo and dance performance.



CALM's Evelyn McGough (right) plaits sedges under the guidance of the Indigenous Heritage Unit's Delvene Cornwall at a NAIDOC celebration at Kensington. Photo - Rhianna Mooney

## Meeting discusses cultural significance

CALM's Urban Nature program and the Indigenous Heritage Unit recently met at Swan View's Talbot Road bushland to discuss the Aboriginal cultural significance of the site, particularly Blackadder Creek.

Kate Brown and Renee Miles (Urban Nature) met with Koodah Cornwall (Indigenous Heritage Unit) plus two Aboriginal elders.

Blackadder Creek, which runs through Talbot Road Nature Reserve, is an important spiritual dreaming place for the

by Renee Miles

Nyoongar people.

Its connection with the Swan River is of very high cultural significance.

The Blackadder Creek section of Talbot Road has been burnt and is being invaded by watsonia and lovegrass.

These two environmental weeds have the potential to impact significantly on the creek environment and the

surrounding bushland.

The purpose of the meeting was to look at ideas about possible restoration and to develop a better understanding of the significance of the area to the Nyoongar people.

The consultation process provided Urban Nature staff with a good understanding of the creek environment, its uses and historical and cultural significance, with the exercise reinforcing the need for a better overall understanding and respect of Indigenous issues on CALM-managed lands.

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

### Contract

Teagan Renee Smith, Land for Wildlife Officer, Wildlife Conservation, Kensington; Simon Woodman, Project Officer, Parks, Policy and Services, Kensington; Eloise Tuia, Trainee Clerical Officer, Dwellingup Training Centre, Dwellingup.

### Permanent

Catherine Zwick, National Park Ranger, Midwest Region, Denham; Troy Sinclair, District Nature Conservation Coordinator, Kimberley Region, Broome.

### Promotion

Terry Cornwall, Aboriginal Cultural and Community Program Coordinator, Indigenous Heritage Unit, Kensington; Steven Collings, Regional Leader Sustainable Forest Management, South West Region, Manjimup; Erica Higginson,

Land Services Coordinator, Parks Policy and Services, Kensington; Keith Hockey, District Manager, Jurien Bay.

### Temporary deployment

Paul Tholen, Ranger, Avon Valley National Park; Glen Wilmott, District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator, Exmouth District.

### Retirement

John Blyth, Principal Ecologist, Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale.

### Contract ceased

Dianne Van Der Plank, Assistant Workforce Services Officer, People Services Branch, Kensington; Jacqui Baxter, Interpretation Officer, Planning and Visitor Services, Kensington; Philip Kindleysides, Marine Conservation Officer, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle; Warren Hudson-

Taylor, Technical Officer, WA Herbarium; Romola Stewart, Marine Conservation Officer, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle; Craig Steadman, Systems Development Officer, Park Policy and Services, Kensington; Michelle Einsaar, Resources Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Manjimup; Rodney Short, Hydrologist, Wildlife Administration, Natural Resource Branch, Kensington; Jennifer Jackson, Technical Officer, Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale.

### Resignation

Roslyn Wear, Officer, Shark Bay District, Denham; Kathryn White, National Park Ranger, Albany District; Paul Joyce, Reserves Officer, Narrogin District; Jason Smith, Regional Coastal and Marine Facilitator, South West Region, Bunbury; Rauleigh Webb, Project Coordinator, Information Services Branch, Kensington.