

Farewell to 72 years of service

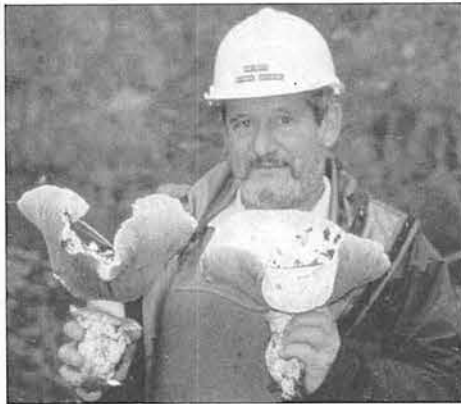
By Lachlan McCaw

CALM's Science Division Manjimup Research Centre recently farewelled two long-term employees – Senior Technical Officers Bob Smith and John Neal.

Bob started with the Forest Department at Nannup in 1969 and moved to Manjimup in 1971 as a technical officer specialising in fire research, silviculture and forest monitoring.

He played a key role in two major collaborative research projects with CSIRO (Project Aquarius and Project Vesta) aimed at better understanding the behaviour of summer fires in the jarrah forest.

Since 2001, Bob has made an important contribution to the implementation of the ForestCheck integrated monitoring project and has contributed to a significant advance in knowledge of fungal communities in Western Australian forests.



Bob Smith. Photo – CALM

John joined the Forest Department in 1981 after a number of years service with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

He also worked on a wide range of research projects related to fire, silviculture and forest

monitoring including Project Aquarius and Project Vesta.

John made a significant contribution to the administration of the Manjimup Research Centre as Safety Officer for a number of years, and as Research Centre Manager from 2003 to 2006. He also developed a successful driver education program for research centre staff and other work centres in the Warren Region.

John and Bob leave CALM after long and distinguished careers and have made major contributions to many areas, particularly bush fire research.

Their wealth of experience meant they were valuable mentors to younger staff and could turn their hands to a wide range of tasks. Their talents will be missed by many in the Science Division and other branches of CALM. Both intend to retire in the Manjimup area and pursue a variety of interests in retirement.