



Conservation News

Print post approved PP665002/00001



MAY 2006

CALM budget 2006-07

SIGNIFICANT new funding for a range of conservation initiatives has been included in CALM's 2006-07 budget.

CALM Executive Director Keiran McNamara said a highlight of the budget, brought down by Treasurer Eric Ripper on 11 May, was an \$8.25 million 'conservation dividend'. This was the first instalment of a \$14.25 million additional allocation for nature conservation over four years.

"This extra funding will enable the Department to begin new projects and expand existing ones in areas such as pest animal and weed control, dieback management, biological survey and research, conservation of threatened species and ecological communities, and protecting key biodiversity values threatened by salinity," Keiran said.

"It also will enable us to continue the State Cane Toad Initiative in the Kimberley and Northern Territory."

CALM's total budget allocation in 2006-07 is \$171.546 million compared with \$151.113 million in 2005-06, a 13.5 per cent increase.

Other key features of the 2006-07 budget are:

- a \$13.6 million Parks and Visitor Services capital works program in national parks and other conservation reserves throughout the State;
- increased funding for marine parks including an extra

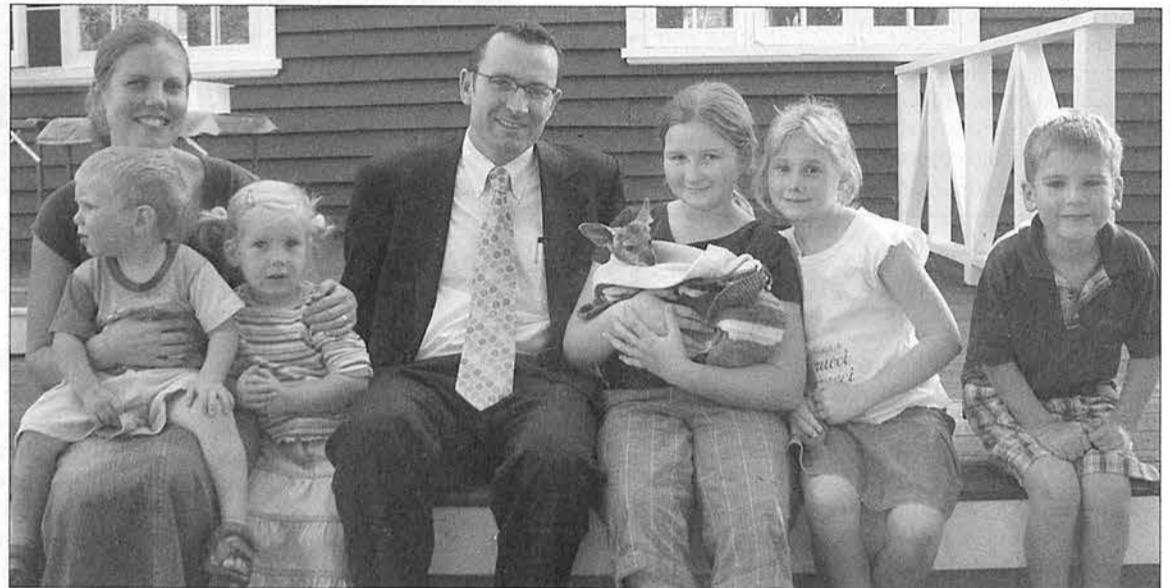
- \$1.05 million a year for Ningaloo Marine Park and the Muiron Islands Marine Management Area, an extra \$49,000 for Rowley Shoals Marine Park and \$143,000 for the Montebello-Barrow Islands marine reserves;
- an extra \$1.93 million a year for fire management, with specific increases in the budgets for all regions;
- \$120,000 a year for CALM's role in addressing heritage issues on the Burrup Peninsula;
- \$989,000 for continued environmental assessments and implementation of major project approvals processes; and

- funding for implementation of the Ord Stage 2 native title outcomes in respect of new conservation reserves and joint management.

"The 2006-07 budget also includes a significant change in our financial arrangements with the Forest Products Commission," Keiran said.

"CALM has been allocated \$7.6 million to cover the costs of the Department's work undertaken for the FPC in managing State forests and plantations. It also will enable increased fire management in pine plantations."

National parks centre is now on Perth's doorstep



Raquel Johnson and her children Dallas and Emily (left), Environment Minister Mark McGowan, Tara Adler (holding the joey), Courtney Ingvarson and Lewis Johnson outside the new Perth Hills National Parks Centre. Photo - Minister's Office

VISITORS to the Perth hills will soon be able to visit a new interpretive centre near Mundaring Weir, offering guided walks, information and activities.

Announcing the new Perth Hills National Parks Centre in Mundaring, Environment Minister Mark McGowan said an estimated 200,000 people a year visited the Mundaring National Park and surrounding areas at weekends, especially on Sundays.

Mr McGowan said the new centre, which would open in September and be located at the Hills Forest Discovery Centre in Allen Road, would boost conservation and tourism in the Perth hills area.

"Our national parks are one of our greatest assets in terms of community lifestyle and tourism," he said.

"Increasingly, people are wanting to learn more about the environment when visiting national parks and other natural attractions.

"This new centre will be a great step forward in helping people enjoy these areas and understand their distinctive natural features, especially the jarrah and wandoo forests.

"One of the main features of the new centre will be a major interpretive display based on the jarrah forest.

"This will help give people an understanding of the issues we are facing with diseases such as dieback and ways in which they can help conserve and protect the environment."

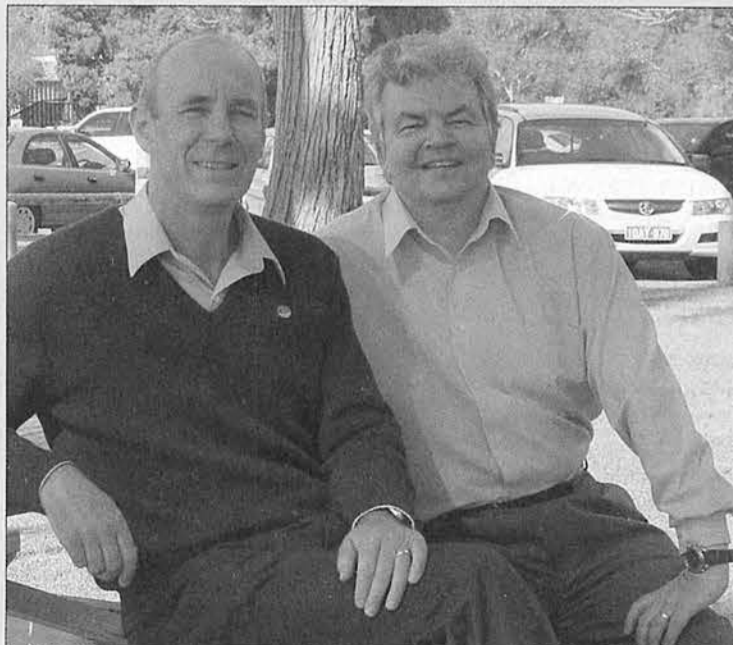
The new centre will offer guided walks and other interpretive activities at weekends as an attraction for casual visitors.

It will be open seven days a week. Visitors will be able to buy a range of information such as guides to bushwalking, cycling and other outdoor recreational activities. The centre also will feature the history, natural and cultural attractions of the area.

Five new national parks were created in the Perth Hills as a result of the State Government's *Protecting our old-growth forests* policy. They extend over 64,000 ha and are the Mundaring, Pickering Brook, Helena, Canning and Wandoo national parks.

The Minister said he expected the number of visitors to the parks would continue to increase as the Department undertook a significant capital works program to provide access and visitor facilities.

Two CALM Directors appointed



Paul Jones (left) and Gordon Wyre. Photo - Sue McKenna

TWO long-serving CALM staff have recently been appointed as Directors - Gordon Wyre and Paul Jones.

Gordon is the Director of Nature Conservation and Paul the Director of Sustainable Forest Management.

Both have high hopes for enhancing the good of the environment.

Gordon said it was exciting to be in his position because of the development of the State's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Bill.

Restructure

"The Biodiversity Conservation Bill is the first major biodiversity conservation legislation in WA for more than 50 years so this is a good time to be here and to help steer it through," he said.

He added the Nature Conservation Division had almost completed a

complete restructure in preparation for the implementation of the new legislation and strategy. Managers had recently been confirmed for the new branches in the Division - Species and Communities, Nature Protection and Environmental Management. The new Marine Policy and Planning Branch had been established, with a new Marine Science Program established in the Science Division.

Marine

He said changes to the marine area would enhance marine science and marine planning, while the Natural Resources Branch was continuing its focus on landscape recovery, with projects such as oil mallees and other native species. New staff in this branch were also helping with the management of the Department's other Salinity Strategy

projects.

"Industries such as mallee farming are new on the world stage, so it is exciting to be managing the research associated with it," Gordon said.

Rolling plans

"Across the Department we have developed initial three-year rolling nature conservation plans and I intend to augment these with similar plans across the Nature Conservation Division.

"It is my hope that in five years, we will be better resourced and better focused in delivering nature conservation. Our rolling three-year plans will certainly help us deliver this goal."

His area will focus on threatened species, communities, feral animals and weeds in the next two years.

Continued page 2

Working Together

On 11 May the State Government budget for 2006/07 was announced.

The Government has continued to provide increased support for the services that CALM provides to the WA community. In particular the State's strong economy has delivered an \$8.25 million "conservation dividend" for 2006/07. This extra funding for biodiversity will continue our cane toad program and allow for new and expanded projects to address a variety of threats to our flora and fauna, and to help the recovery of critically endangered species such as Gilbert's potaroo.

Extra funding has also been provided for fire management, with a strong emphasis on ecological as well as community and asset protection outcomes, and for marine park management.

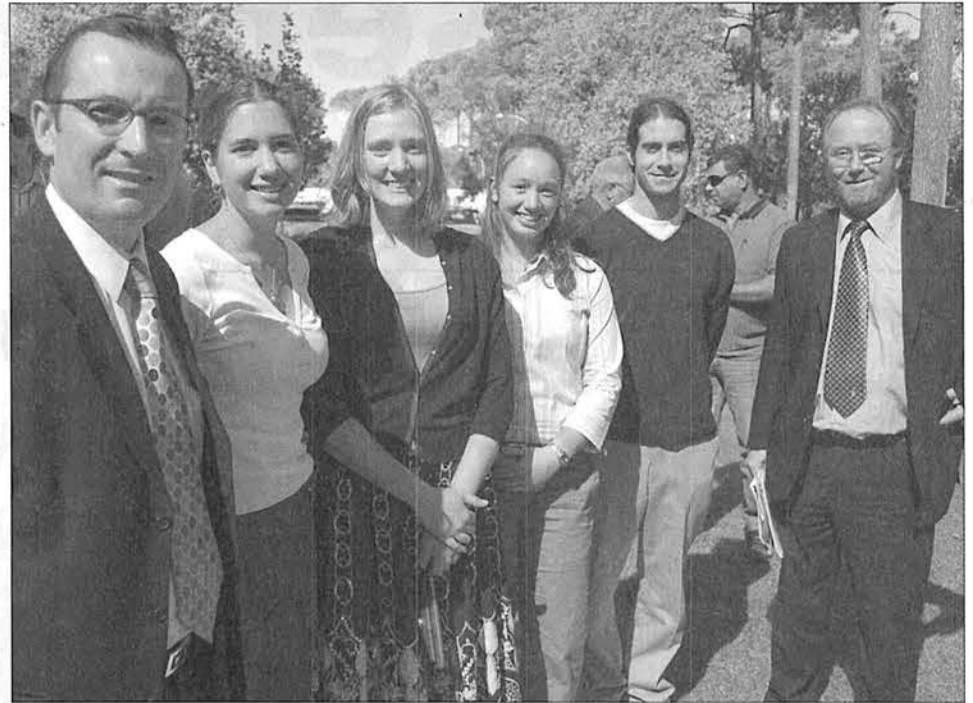
The extra funding for pest animal and weed control (out of the "conservation dividend") and for fire management will assist greatly in delivering on the Good Neighbour Policy, which is currently the subject of a series of consultative forums with neighbouring landowners in selected country centres.

An initiative we commenced following last year's budget was a more structured program of temporarily deploying teams of conservation employees from the south-west to carry out projects in other regions where we have fewer staff. There has been great feedback from both the staff involved and recipient regions. The latest budget increases will allow us to build on the program to get the best value out of the funds available to us and at the same time offer staff a variety of challenges and opportunities.

Keiran McNamara, Executive Director



Foreign exchange deals



Minister Mark McGowan and CALM Executive Director Keiran McNamara met with exchangees (left to right) Emily Palmquist, Wendy Sicard, Collin Shephard and Dominic DiPaolo from the US Bureau of Land Management at Kensington earlier in the year. Photo - Rhianna King

Bush Ranger joins CALM

By Tracy Peacock

CHRIS Stewart believes his eight-year stint with the CALM Bush Rangers program has helped shape him as a person and provided a kick-start to a career in conservation.

The 20-year-old is now part of the graduate recruit training program - the first person to complete the CALM Bush Rangers program and move into the Department.

Chris became a field officer with the Walpole Office in February, a role he's relishing.

"I'm absolutely loving it. It's really good," he said. "I'm enjoying the variety of work and the people that I work with."

Chris, who has a TAFE diploma in environmental science and management, was part of the CALM Bush Rangers program at Rossmoyne Senior High School from 1998-2002.

After completing Year 12 he continued as an instructor till early this year.

He reflects fondly on his participation in the long-running program.

"It was great. It's the highlight so far of my life," he said.

"I went on to be an instructor because I'd

had such a great experience and I wanted to give back something to the program."

Chris lists various conservation projects around his former school, fire training camps and trapping at Perup Reserve as activities he found extremely rewarding.

He said from the time he was in Year 10 he knew he wanted to work in conservation, a career inspired by being in the program.

Chris is now keen to gain as much experience as he can and is looking forward to furthering his conservation career with CALM.

Conservation News May 2006

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

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

By Rhianna King

FOUR Americans are experiencing 'life down under' in the first of what is hoped to be a series of exchange placements.

The visitors, who come from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) around the US, are working with CALM in a range of science and field-based positions.

Learning and Development Manager, Alan Byrne, said he hoped these trial placements were the beginning of a long-term exchange program.

"We're planning to send CALM staff over to the US in March 2007," he said.

"This would be the first of its kind for CALM even though staff have travelled to other countries on exchange before. Mostly they organised these themselves."

Expressions of interest in the program will be called for later in the year.

Alan said the objectives of the program were to provide an opportunity for CALM staff to expand their professional experience and expertise, which they would then bring back to their work with CALM.

Collin Shephard, an ecologist who spent time working in New York State and New Mexico, is based in Dwellingup.

"I wasn't sure what to expect of Western Australia, but when I arrived from below freezing temperatures I found a diverse and beautiful place with a pleasantly warm climate," she said.

"I grew up in a forested area of New York State that has a similar structure to the forests of Dwellingup but of course the species, most noticeably the fauna, are very different.

"So far I've learnt about safe work practices, nature conservation, dieback, parks and visitor services programs, the ecology and monitoring of the western ringtail possum, and will be assessing proximity telemetry, a novel technology applicable to the Northern Jarrah Forest Fauna Recovery Program, and will be involved in western ringtail possum translocation research.

"I've even learnt how to drive a manual vehicle on the left side of the road and that the indicator is on the right side of the steering wheel!"

The other exchangees are based in Esperance, Geraldton and Manjimup.

Interstate collaboration to produce cat baits

A MOVE to develop baits to control feral cats across Australia got a step closer this month with a visit to WA from two Victorian research scientists collaborating with CALM.

The Victorian and CALM scientists have been working on feral cat bait production for more than a decade.

Feral cat baits are injected with the toxin 1080. The baits are smaller and moister than fox baits and potentially pose a risk to a number of native species.

Staff from CALM's Woodvale Research Centre - Senior Research Scientist Dave Algar and Technical Officers Stefanie Hilmer and Neil Taylor - spent three weeks working with research scientists from Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment's Arthur Rylah Research Institute, Michael Johnston and Michael Lindeman, to develop the baits further.

Part of the bait development was to minimise the potential exposure of native species to the baits.



Victorian scientists Michael Lindeman (left) and Michael Johnston. Photo - Sue McKenna

A new compound called para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) is being used as the toxin. With symptoms similar to those of carbon monoxide poisoning, PAPP causes feral cats to progress quickly from being fully alert to lethargic and lapsing into unconsciousness before death.

A chemist contracted by the Federal Department of the Environment and Heritage under the Commonwealth's Threat Abatement Program prepared a variety of PAPP formulations that were assessed at Woodvale.

A key factor in reducing the risk to wildlife species is how PAPP is put into the bait. The most successful form is to put it in a hard pellet.

"We found that feral cats swallow large pieces of bait containing the pellet without chewing, while native animals spit out the pellet," Michael Johnston said.

He and Michael Lindeman visited Dryandra Woodland in the wheatbelt to find out more about how native mammals such as bilbies and boddies reacted to the baits.

Two CALM Directors appointed

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He said he would like to thank everyone in the Department for their help, advice and assistance.

"When you get a promotion such as this, you get it with the help of many others," he said.

Paul Jones said that he was trying to get a sense of order in the manner in which the Sustainable Forest Management Division fulfilled its responsibilities and achieved its objectives.

In particular, he wanted to establish an agreed framework as to how CALM operated in regard to timber harvesting.

"The CALM/Forest Products Commission split was done in a fair degree of haste, with the new roles and responsibilities for CALM not explicitly explained and defined.

"Within the next year I expect to have a more clearly defined role for SFM, with the systems in place to effectively implement that role.

"Outside that, there is a suite of SFM issues to address, including those surrounding the Montreal Indicators, which cover soil condition in forests, which is a major focus at present," he said.

In addition to the existing Forest Management Branch, his Division has established a new Policy and Practices Branch that is addressing many of the Forest Management Plan implementation issues.

"There are more than 200 actions in the FMP that CALM is required to implement, or to be involved in their implementation," he said.

CALM marine restructure

CALM's Marine Conservation Branch has been restructured into two areas covering science, and policy and planning.

There is now a Marine Science Program in Science Division and a Marine Policy and Planning Branch in Nature Conservation Division.

Executive Director Keiran McNamara said the State's marine parks and reserves system had been expanded, and further marine parks were planned.

"There have also been new developments in marine science, as well as increasing demands in relation to regional marine planning which involves stakeholders and the community," he said.

"The Government has provided increased funds to CALM for our marine parks and reserves responsibilities, as well as significant funding for the establishment of the WA Marine Science Institution." He said he was confident that a stronger marine capacity would enable CALM to continue the rollout of a world-class system of marine parks and reserves, and ensure that their management was well planned, supported by the community and based on good science and monitoring.

The Marine Science Program will be led by the Manager of the former Marine Conservation Branch, Chris Simpson. The new program will receive funds to employ staff, conduct research or gain access to research through other research providers.

Peter Dans will be Acting Manager of the Marine Policy and Planning Branch. Additional resources will be allocated to the branch to deliver CALM's input into regional marine planning on the south coast.

Keiran thanked Chris Simpson and his staff for the amazing contribution they had made over recent years to marine conservation.

CALM and Fisheries join forces

CALM staff and Department of Fisheries officers are walking the same beat – or should that be beach – to forge closer working relationships between departments.

One of their first tasks this tourist season was a joint five-day patrol along Ningaloo Marine Park beaches.

Michelle Hughes, Acting Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator from CALM's Exmouth Office, said the five-day patrol from Gnaraloo to Tantabiddi saw two CALM officers, two fisheries officers and an officer from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure patrolling the coast by vehicle and vessel.

Their mission was to educate campers and fishers about new rules on sanctuary zones, new fishing rules, boat safety, camping requirements, moorings and fish that may or may not be taken in the recently-extended marine park.

Michelle said the patrol was a success.

"We have a really marvellous relationship with fisheries staff up here – we're fortunate to have such a good rapport," she said.

"It was great to be able to communicate with the public about the extended marine park on a united basis."

CALM officers now have power to gather evidence about fishing



CALM Nature Conservation Officer Kim Onton, from the Exmouth office, measures a fish as part of the new collaborative training. Photo - CALM Exmouth

offences in marine parks while fisheries officers have the power to deal with CALM regulations in relation to marine park offences.

The closer relationship between CALM and DoF stems from a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministers for Fisheries and the Environment in September last year that seeks to

establish principles of cooperation and integration in the management of the State's marine protected areas.

An inter-departmental committee chaired in rotation by CALM Executive Director Keiran McNamara and DoF CEO Peter Rogers is developing effective information sharing, planning and

management arrangements between the agencies.

Ningaloo, Jurien Bay and Marmion marine parks now have joint work plans that set out how the departments will collaborate where there are shared responsibilities or an overlap of management responsibility. Planning for other parks is well under way.

Penguin Island gets \$70,000 upgrade

THE home of WA's largest little penguin breeding colony - Penguin Island - has received a \$70,000 upgrade to improve public access.

Environment Minister Mark McGowan officially opened the extension to the island's northern boardwalk and met some of the 60 local volunteers who have been working at the island for the past 18 years.

Mr McGowan said Penguin Island was a tourist icon for Perth's southern corridor and it was important that facilities were of a high standard.

The island is home to about 1200 little penguins and attracts close to 70,000 visitors a year.

Since 1985, CALM has worked in partnership with the local community to restore and protect Penguin Island's flora and fauna.

"Part of this approach has been to maintain and improve public access to this very special place by integrating conservation with recreation and tourism," Mr McGowan said.

"The universal access boardwalk project is an excellent example of this approach as it not only provides visitors with an elevated 300 m walk among the most scenic parts of the island, it also protects the fragile sand-dune vegetation and provides extra nesting habitat for the penguins."

Mr McGowan said CALM had worked on a number of projects which had increased the island's profile, including the development of the popular Penguin Island Discovery Centre and Research Facility.

"Other works include the construction of eco toilets, interpretive

signage, a new jetty and boardwalk, the removal of holiday shacks, revegetation and the upgrading of the picnic area," he said.

"About \$250,000 was spent last year to repair jetty damage resulting from winter storms and a further \$250,000 will be spent next financial year to replenish beach sand on the island's southern beach.

"In addition, \$150,000 has been committed in 2006-07 to upgrade the southern boardwalk.

"This will complete access for visitors, enabling people to continue to enjoy the magnificent scenery, birdlife and ecology.

"Volunteers do a wonderful job assisting CALM in conducting research, managing the island's values and assisting with the education and management of visitors," the Minister said.

Cane toads hit the television

A NEW television advertisement warning of the impact of cane toads on WA began to air in Perth and the south-west late last month.

Using an Indigenous actor, they warn travellers and residents about how cane toads can get to WA, and outline measures to keep them out.

The advertisements are part of the State Government's \$500,000 cane toad community awareness campaign.

They were aired in the north west first, complemented by radio and local press advertisements.

They precede a new cane toad control strategy to be put into place at the start of the next wet season.

Environment Minister Mark McGowan visited the cane toad 'front' last month.

Kalbarri feral animal control

By Mike Paxman

ABOUT 1400 goats and 40 pigs were destroyed recently at Kalbarri National Park as part of an aerial goat control campaign.

Nine CALM staff including local park rangers, gatekeepers and Midwest Region staff, plus four Wanneroo District conservation employees took part.

A privately chartered helicopter, a fixed wing aircraft, two Department of Agriculture and Food marksmen and three pilots were also involved.

In the interests of public safety, the park's inland zone was closed during the shoot and staff were posted at several key locations to

help ensure public compliance with closures.

With the Murchison River flowing strongly, the park's upstream boundary was also patrolled to stop errant canoeists from straying into the shoot zone.

Starting at first light and ending at dusk, several aerial sorties were flown each day with the fixed wing aircraft providing spotting information to the helicopter which was operating at lower altitude.

Goats were shot by a Department of Agriculture and Food marksman seated in the front of the helicopter.

The combined skills of chopper pilot and shooter allowed goats to be readily targeted.

It's believed that the 1400 goats shot represent a significant propor-

tion of the park's goat population and reduced numbers will help minimise their environmental impact, particularly in the unique and fragile Murchison Gorge.

The program's success was due in large part to the fantastic spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm displayed by all participants, in spite of long hours and often arduous conditions including 42 degree C temperatures and plagues of sandflies and flies.

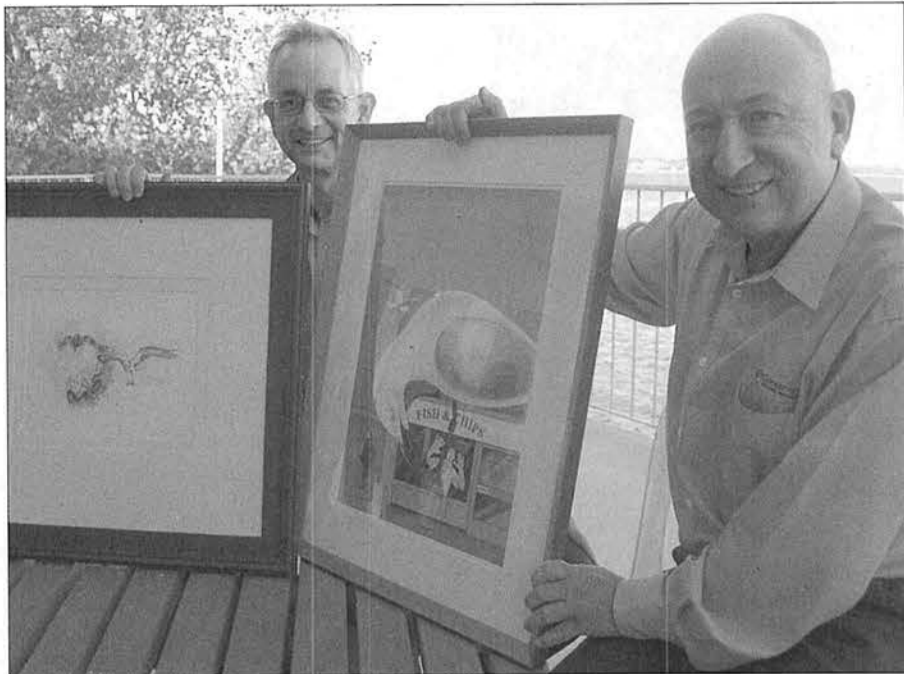
The support and understanding of commercial tour operators and the public is also gratefully acknowledged.

Park staff will monitor goat numbers over the coming months and it is intended that further shoots will be conducted in future years to keep numbers in check.



Taking part in the aerial goat control campaign were, (from back left) James Sheehan (Department of Agriculture and Food), Adam Williams (conservation employee), Chris Peacock (conservation employee), Barry Curnuck (conservation employee), Geoff Hughes (park gatekeeper), Bill Tolson (park gatekeeper) and Butch Maher (chopper pilot), and (front row from left) Russell Asplund (ranger), Garth Coetzee (pilot), Ralph Herbert (conservation employee), Mike Paxman (senior ranger), James Mellor (pilot) and Andrew Longbottom (Department of Agriculture and Food). Photo - CALM Kalbarri

Urban Antics book launch



John Hunter (right) was presented with the framed artwork of the cover of his book, while Senior Graphic Designer Gooitzen Van Der Meer was presented with a framed illustration of an osprey that he painted for LANDSCOPE magazine. Photo - Rhianna King

"I NEVER wanted to be a public servant," lamented Perth naturalist and writer John Hunter at the launch of his book Urban Antics.

"Anyway, I've spent almost half a century as one!" he said, adding that he had always wanted to be a teacher who educated children about nature.

"I wanted to do that very badly, but in the end, it is almost what has happened – although not in a classroom," he said.

Urban Antics is a compilation of 68 personal anecdotes of John's observations of living and working in Perth suburbs during the past 60 years.

It is divided into four sections, each covering a season and the associated changes in nature. John's words are skilfully accompanied by illustrations by CALM Senior Graphic Designer, Gooitzen Van Der Meer, while the colourful cover art is the work of cartoonist Neil Elliot.

Though based around nature, these colourful stories are about life and perceptions in a simpler time, when family influences were more valued and the primeval urge of children to explore and learn start-

ed in the backyard or the bush across the road.

John has had a long association with national parks and wildlife that began in childhood and continued with his life-long employment in WA's National Parks and Wildlife authorities, which later became part of CALM.

The soft-covered book will have readers reminiscing about their own childhoods and the spiders, birds, insects and other animals they experienced during their lives, and John's irreverent and humorous writing style will have them smiling well before the first page has been turned.

The book is a compilation of the best stories written by John for his greatly-loved Urban Antics column in CALM's award winning nature magazine LANDSCOPE.

It costs \$16.95 and is available to staff at a 20 per cent discount from CALM offices. It is also available at a wide range of bookshops and can be purchased on-line at CALM's website NatureBase at www.naturebase.net

Conservation briefs

Bird flu

Bird flu will be discussed at a special interest topics series hosted by Parks and Visitor Services' Community Involvement Section in late June.

The new series is aimed at volunteers who work with wildlife and covers a range of current and interesting subjects.

The development of Avian Influenza (AI) throughout the world is of increasing interest to Australia. This disease is particularly relevant to staff and wildlife rehabilitators who have direct contact with sick and injured birds.

Dr Sarah Wylie, Senior Veterinary Officer at the Department of Agriculture and Food, will address the workshop, to be held on Saturday 24 June in CALM's Training Centre at Kensington from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

A registration form is on the NatureBase website www.calm.wa.gov.au For further details contact Michelle Rouffignac on michellero@calm.wa.gov.au or 9334 0582.

Camping show display

CALM's display at the annual Perth Caravan and Camping Show at Ascot Racecourse recently was a great success.

It provided information on visitor facilities and services throughout CALM-managed lands.

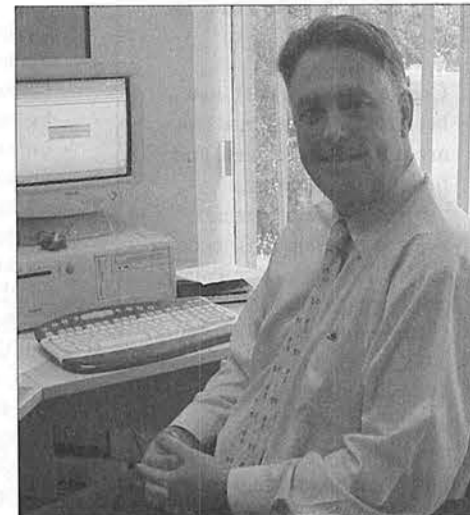
CALM Park Policy and Services Marketing Officer, Michelle Tilbrook, said more than 35,000 people attended the show.

"The response from the public was very positive with a strong interest in northern national parks with Karijini, Millstream-Chichester, Cape Range, Mount Augustus and Kennedy Range being the most popular," she said.

"Other popular individual parks included Fitzgerald River, Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid.

"We also had positive comments about the facilities and universal access provided in parks, particularly Purnululu, Walpole and Fernhook Falls, as well as interest and requests for further information on pastoral leases and station acquisitions in the Midwest and Goldfields."

New PeopleServices manager on board



Graham Edwards, Manager of PeopleServices. Photo - Sue McKenna

PEOPLE power is the driving force behind our new Manager of PeopleServices, Graham Edwards.

His door is always open and he welcomes comments and ideas from staff.

"People are the most important part of any organisation and the benefit of having a committed and contented workforce is well acknowledged," he said.

His last positions were an acting role as Director of Workforce Services for WA Country Health Services and as Human Resources Manager for the Department of Health.

"I'm looking forward to working here because CALM has a completely different focus from my other employers," he said.

His role will be to manage the people services functions, with a key task of overseeing the implementation of the new shared services scheme.

His passion is for surfing, he enjoys camping and the outdoors, and he keeps active by playing veterans basketball. He is married with two daughters, aged 13 and 10.

"I'm a committed family man and am very involved in family activities," he said.

He hopes to visit several CALM locations for an overview of how the organisation works and to gain an appreciation of the "people issues".

And after just a few days in the office, he was already setting himself some goals. Stay tuned!

The Wright stuff...

WHEN Witchcliffe dairy farmer Ted Wright passed away on Good Friday, CALM lost one of its most valuable friends and supporters in the south-west.

Ted has for decades willingly provided his hospitality, boat and expertise as skipper for wildlife conservation purposes, since he first met and became close friends with Peter Lambert – then a wildlife officer with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife – in 1980.

When the three mass stranding events at Flinders Bay in the late 1980s occurred – false killer whales in 1986 and 1988 and striped dolphins in 1989 – Peter immediately contacted Ted and asked for his assistance with the rescues because of his extensive knowledge of the area and local conditions.

Without hesitation Ted and his wife Glenys offered the use of their house at Flinders Bay as a control point for the 1986 rescue. Ted worked tirelessly throughout the rescue, ferrying whales across the Blackwood with his small boat to where they were being held near the Flinders Bay boat ramp.

Ted was the first to notice the recolonisation of three New Zealand fur seals on one of the islands at Flinders Bay in 1982, after they had been wiped out from the area by sealers operating in the 1850s. This discovery ultimately led to the declaration of islands in Flinders Bay that had not previously been given nature reserve status.

Over the years, Ted has helped with the protection of the islands and the various plant and animal species that lived on them, including providing accommodation and his boat for annual wildlife surveys.

"When Ted took me out to the islands in February this year, there were 96 fur seals, including six newborn pups, so it just shows you how the population has flourished since we recorded the first three animals," Peter said.

Ted also generously shared one of his secret dive sites for inclusion in CALM's book *More dive and snorkel sites in Western Australia* and, once again, provided his boat, expertise as skipper and diving expertise on a voluntary basis to help CALM out. The site was dubbed Wrights Rocks, for want of an official name.

In more recent years, Ted became involved in work to save a rare pea plant – *Augusta kennedia* (*Kennedia macrophylla*) – from extinction. He involved the local community and the Augusta-Margaret River Shire in a CALM relocation recovery program for the plant, which is threatened by plans for a new development and marina at Flinders Bay.

He will be sadly missed by all in CALM who knew him and participated in field trips, mass whale strandings and other wildlife rescue operations alongside him. The Department offers heartfelt sympathy to wife Glenys and son Peter.

Staff changes . . . Staff changes . . .

Contract

Graham Loewenthal, Project Officer, Forest Management Branch, Kensington; Ewan Buckley, Project Officer, Corporate Services Division, Kensington; Simon McGee, Research Officer (Remote Sensing), Fire Management Branch, Kensington; Mal Harper, Land for Wildlife Officer, Merredin; Kathleen O'Brien, Land for Wildlife Officer, Katanning; Julie Cox, Project Officer, Broome District; Suzanne Long, Marine Ecologist, Marine Science Program, Kensington; Erinca Ferris, Assistant Conservation Officer, Flora, Collie; Wendy Thompson, Conservation Officer, Goldfields Region, Kalgoorlie.

Promotion

Ian Anderson, Ranger, Exmouth; Timothy Grubba, Marine Parks Coordinator, Shark Bay District; Ken Atkins, Manager, Species and Communities Branch, Kensington; Alison Pritchard, Visitor Services Officer (Marketing Coordinator), Yanchep National Park; Julie Patten, Project Coordinator, Regional Services Division, Kalgoorlie; Frank Colyer, Senior Operations Officer, Collie.

Permanent

Leon Taylor, Information Management Officer, Corporate Information Section, Kensington; Cherie Potaczala, Officer, Pilbara Region, Exmouth; Lisa Franklin, Clerical Officer, Esperance; Jeanette Kirkby, Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator, Exmouth District; Kym Pearce, Operations Officer, Perth Hills District, Dwellingup.

Resignation

Rebecca Dillon, Technical Officer, Science Division, Kensington; Melanie Baister, Technical Officer, WA Herbarium; Steve Altham, Nearer to Nature Manager, Perth Hills District; Michael Bodsworth, Landscape Architect/Planner, Regional Parks Unit, Fremantle; Chris Mather, Ranger, Swan Coastal District; Cathlin Jakovcevic, Finance and Administration Officer, Nature Resources Branch; Robert Smith, Senior Technical Officer, Forest and Tree Crops Group, Manjimup; Sandra Hohlock, Field Officer, Regional Parks Unit, Fremantle.

Contract ceased

Kalyee Prince, Assistant Environmental Officer, Pilbara Region, Karratha.

Temporary deployment

Maree Stinton, Project Officer, Parks and Visitor Services Division, Kensington; Sophie Bishop, Conservation Estate Officer, Regional Parks, Fremantle to Parks and Visitor Services Division, Kensington; Cathy Birch, Nearer to Nature Manager, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs to Perth Hills District, Mundaring.

Transfer

Paul Udinga, Ranger, Karijini National Park to Moora District.

Leave without pay

Sonja Brunt, Policy Advisor, Corporate Headquarters, Crawley.

Correction

Adam Peck is a Technical Officer for the Natural Resources Branch in Kensington. He has not resigned, as was stated in March Conservation News.