



Conservation News

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JUNE 2006

CALM and DoE to form new agency

THE new Department of Environment and Conservation heralds a new and exciting era for protecting and conserving our environment and the nature of Western Australia.

CALM and the Department of Environment will amalgamate to become the new Department on 1 July 2006.

The departments have many strengths which, when combined, will be able to be built on.

The new Department will provide many benefits, including:

- improved policy coordination and advice to Government;
- a stronger and more robust agency that will be better equipped to address new and emerging issues;
- a more streamlined regulatory and approvals process that will provide a 'single entry point' for the community and industry;
- elimination of duplication, for example in delivering natural resource management programs;
- improved efficiencies in areas such as scientific research, community information and education, mapping systems and databases; and
- greater career opportunities for staff in a larger and broader agency.

It will be the genesis of a more vibrant, energetic and dynamic conservation and environmental protection agency, said CALM Executive Director, Keiran McNamara, who is being appoint-

ed as the new agency's Director General.

"We will deliver better services at the environment level, the State level and the national level, delivering leadership on greenhouse and sustainability," he said.

"This is not about saving money or job cuts," he told staff in presentations following the initial announcement.

Smooth transition

"The aim is for a smooth transition for staff and stakeholders using the strong links that already exist between the two merging agencies.

"It will be a stronger organisation that will reduce duplication of services in salinity, natural resource management and wetland projects," he said.

"Both existing agencies have many strengths which, combined, will enable us to build on our record of achievement.

"The Minister for the Environment has emphasised he wants these strengths to be maintained during the amalgamation process and into the future."

Two Acting Deputy Director Generals have been announced. They are Kim Taylor, the Acting Director General of DoE, who will become Acting Deputy Director General of Environment, and Jim Sharp, CALM's Director of Parks and Visitor Services, who will be Acting Deputy Director General of Parks and Conservation.

Keiran said a new corporate plan would be based on corporate plans already drawn up by CALM and DoE.

He said the new Department would provide a clearer focus for pressing environmental priorities such as sustainable use of our natural resources; climate change and greenhouse; introduced pest plants, animals and diseases; salinity and other land and water quality issues.

"We want to provide the best outcomes for WA in terms of protecting and conserving our environment, and the nature of WA," he said.

"We will maintain our strong regional presence and strengthen it across the breadth of the agency."

The new Department would service the Environmental Protection Authority as well as the Swan River Trust, Waste Management Board, Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Conservation Commission of WA and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

"Staff will be kept informed of everything that happens," he said.

"This will be a Department that will listen to the community so that together, partnerships are created to enhance the environmental health of WA."

Golden times for trainees



Clockwise, from top left, Indigenous trainee mentors Ross Lynch and Anthony Richardson are helping to train Tina Smith and Luke Puertollano. Photo - Kalgoorlie Miner

INDIGENOUS trainees Tina Smith and Luke Puertollano agree that being out in the bush is one of the biggest pluses of their job.

The pair started with CALM in August last year and graduated with their Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management last month.

Working for CALM's Goldfields Region's Kalgoorlie office has exposed them to a variety of tasks.

Goldfields Region Parks and Visitors Services Regional Leader,

Barry Hooper, said Tina and Luke were enjoying the diversity of work the Goldfields region offered.

"They've both done really well," he said.

Twenty-one-year-old Luke said he enjoyed the different courses, learning about animals and working with a great team of people.

"I also like going to the Dwellingup Training Centre for our training blocks and catching up with the other graduates," he said.

Continued page 5

\$64,000 for community tuart conservation

GRANTS totalling \$64,000 were allocated to community and environmental groups involved in tuart woodland conservation.

They were awarded under the State Government's Tuart Community Grants Scheme.

Tuart vegetation along the Swan Coastal Plain has declined by more than 65 per cent because of urban, industrial and agricultural development. Remaining tuart woodlands are disturbed by grazing, altered fire regimes and past timber harvesting.

The eight grants presented this month were:

- \$6248 to the Scarborough Rotary Club for its *tuart forest* project;
- \$9000 to the Foundation Christian College for the *Tuart Grove Environmental Study Area* project;
- \$12,104 to the Conservation Council of WA for the public forum *A Future for the Tuart Woodland*;
- \$10,000 to the Friends of

Marlee Reserve for the *Tuart Rehabilitation - Marlee Reserve* project;

- \$10,000 to The Men of the Trees' Rockingham Branch for the *Restoration of Lake Cooloongup Regional Park* project;
- \$8250 to the Lower Moore River Working Group for its *Investigating the Tuarts of the Lower Moore River* project;
- \$6000 to The Friends of Trigg Bushland for its *Trigg Reserve Tuart Conservation* project; and
- \$2700 to the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre for the *Ludlow Tuart Forest Awareness* project.

WA established a State Tuart Response Group in 2001. Since then the group has prepared a tuart status report, conducted collaborative research into the decline of tuart health, published an accurate tuart atlas and prepared a Government strategy to protect tuart remnants.

Arbor Day at Yanchep



ROSTRATA Primary School's Year 6 and 7 students met at Yanchep National Park to celebrate this year's Arbor Day on 9 June.

They were pictured rehabilitating a park site with native vegetation as part of Yanchep's School Recovery Project. Helping them were Dianne

Guise MLA, Member for Wanneroo (second from left), and CALM's Swan Regional Manager Alan Sands (left).

Working Together

I joined CALM in July 1985, four months after the Department started, having moved across the country from Canberra to take up a position working with the Director of Nature Conservation, Barry Wilson.

There is of course some sense of sadness in today writing my last column for the staff newspaper of CALM. Don't get me wrong – I have every confidence that we will go from strength to strength in the new Department of Environment and Conservation, and that DEC will deliver real and sustained benefits for the environment, our staff, and the community of WA.

In looking back over 21 years of CALM, I think every one of us, including staff past and present, our volunteers, our other partners, and the members of the CALM Act statutory bodies, should take great pride in what we have together delivered for conservation and for the State (and indeed the nation) – in our parks and forests, conserving biodiversity, scientific research, community protection, nature-based tourism and recreation, indigenous engagement and so on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has contributed to what CALM has achieved over the last 21 years, and for the great support provided to me and to my two predecessors as Executive Director of CALM, Syd Shea and Wally Cox.

I look forward to our future in DEC with optimism and confidence, and am sure that all our staff and partners in conservation will continue with their enthusiasm and dedication for the important work that we do.



Keiran McNamara, Executive Director

Volunteers provide fortnight's assistance



The Woody Island project team members were (standing, left to right) Tom Fitzgerald Frazer, Christopher (Kit) Fagg, CALM Project Supervisor Graham Bedford, Seasonal Ranger David Chadwick, Harriet Thacker, Sarah Vant and (seated, left to right) Mutsuko Araki, Eriko Yamamori, Sophie Faupel and CVA Team Supervisor Alan Bennett. Photo – Klaus Tiedemann

By Klaus Tiedemann

A CREW of nine Conservation Volunteer Australia (CVA) team members, who came from a range of countries, provided a valuable fortnight's assistance to the Esperance District.

They undertook project work on both Woody Island Nature Reserve and in Cape Le Grand National Park.

Project support was provided by CALM Seasonal Ranger David Chadwick, Acting Senior Ranger Peter Masters, Conservation Employee Mick Rose and District Manager Klaus Tiedemann.

On Woody Island the team surveyed, located and marked introduced African boxthorn plants. Their efforts followed previous voluntary eradication work by individual members of the Conservation Council of WA. The new work will allow the district to achieve its objective of controlling – if not totally eradicating – boxthorn from the island.

The second project saw the CVA team assist CALM staff with fire prevention work along a dual purpose track. The work will allow the district to instigate future small scale fuel reduction burns along the perimeter of the firebreak.

A third project at both Woody Island and in Cape Le Grand National Park involved path maintenance. On Woody Island the team

involved itself in various tasks on the Island Top Walk Trail and the trail to Skinny Dip Bay, and in Cape Le Grand the crew undertook various tasks along the 15 km coastal trail.

Work included trimming protruding vegetation, installing new markers, building new steps and repairing path water erosion damage.

Klaus Tiedemann thanked CVA team members for their assistance and acknowledged the valuable contribution that the many other regular volunteers made towards achieving both nature conservation and park and visitor services goals in the district.

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Marine science a priority



Marine ecologists Kevin Bancroft, Shannon Armstrong (centre) and Suzanne Long from CALM's new Marine Science Program. Photo – Sue McKenna

CONSERVING WA's marine biodiversity needs good science to guide the way humans enjoy and interact with the natural environment.

CALM has a new Marine Science Program to promote a better understanding of WA's marine environment and provide information to help conserve marine biodiversity.

It will strive to ensure that everyone continues to enjoy and appreciate natural areas and that there is 'best practice' management of tourism and recreational activities.

Staff members are enthusiastic about the potential to improve the scientific information that will form the basis of managing marine protected areas and conserve the State's marine biodiversity.

Program Leader Chris Simpson – formerly Branch Manager of CALM's Marine Conservation Branch for 10 years – said the program would take a cooperative and collaborative approach to marine research, monitoring and communication.

"The best management requires a good understanding of the ecology and sociology of marine areas," he said.

Chris and his team will work with the Department's regional staff and external science organisations to gather information to ensure the marine environment is managed in the best way.

"We will also gather the information needed for marine policy development and initiatives such as regional marine planning.

"As well we will assist regional staff with delivering local science communication and community monitoring programs."

The program will have a lead role in the Managing and Conserving the Marine State node (Node 3) of the WA Marine Science Institution, which includes the \$5 million Ningaloo Research Program.

Projects being considered for 2006/07 include:

- monitoring the coral-eating marine snail, *Drupella cornus*, in Ningaloo Marine Park;
- studying coral reef recovery following mortality events in Ningaloo Marine Park and Barrow Island Marine Management Area;
- mapping habitat and establishing monitoring sites in the Barrow Island Marine Management Area; and
- marine biodiversity surveys of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

The development of regionally integrated marine science plans for the proposed marine conservation reserves in the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston area, the South-West Capes region and the Walpole/Nornalup Inlets will also be a priority.

Chris said that a key longer-term objective of the Marine Science Program will be the development of a significant internal marine scientific capability. This will be achieved, in part, by employing young scientists and ensuring that rewarding careers in marine science were available to them in CALM.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at Yanchep National Park



Pictured at the morning tea were (left to right) Linda Cockman (CALM), Sue Scott (volunteer), Sherylee Randall (CALM), Sue Dash (proprietor of Chocolate Drops), and Chocolate Drops staff Mikey Fallows, Dale Nichols and Bernadette Puls. Photo – CALM

MORE than 40 people took time out to indulge their tastes at Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at Yanchep National Park at the end of last month.

They turned up to Chocolate Drops, in the park's tearooms, which was one of 2140 hosts to hold morning teas across the State in support of the Cancer Council of Western Australia's fundraising event.

Chocolate Drops owner Sue Dash said the morning tea was a terrific experience and she was looking forward to being involved again next year.

All proceeds from the tea and coffee sales were donated directly to the Cancer Council.

The Cancer Council hopes that more than \$565,000 will be raised from the morning tea sales.

Congratulations CALM graduates and trainees

CEREMONY MAY 2006

Everyone's a winner...

By Rhianna King

LAST month's Graduation and Award Ceremony marked a range of achievements, all of them outstanding.

The ceremony honoured the 23 young men and women who completed CALM's 12-week Graduate Recruit Training Program that taught them various skills in a range of topics.

When presenting the awards, the Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp said 255 people had graduated from the program since it was developed in 1995 and all the 2006 graduates had gained employment positions with CALM.

"The 2006 graduates were chosen from 375 applicants," Jim said.

"This level of interest is very encouraging because the future of

WA depends on the enthusiasm of our young people."

While the efforts of all the graduates were praised, Nikki Rouse and Murray Baker were singled out for their outstanding performance and achievement in the course – Nikki as recipient of the Keynes Memorial Award and Murray as the recipient of the Executive Director's Merit Award.

Best job...

Nikki, who thinks her job of trekking through the forest is one of the best jobs imaginable, said that the Graduate Recruit Training Program gave her and the other graduates the skills and confidence to undertake a range of work.

Murray added that the course was a small but significant step in their careers, which could not have been done without the support of their friends, family and staff at the Dwellingup Training Centre.

Indigenous trainees

The graduates in certificates II, III and IV in Conservation and Land Management were also honoured at the ceremony and a special mention given to Ross Lynch for his high achievement in all three of his certificates.

Ross was awarded the Aboriginal Trainee of the Year award, sponsored by the Fremantle Football Club, and said the traineeship had kick-started his life in the right direction.

This award is part of CALM's Mentoring Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES), which aims to see 10 to 15 per cent of the CALM workforce made up of Aboriginal people by 2013.

Many of the award recipients acknowledged the support they received from CALM staff in the Dwellingup Training Centre and in their districts and regions. Barry Hooper, Goldfields Regional



Representatives from BHP Billiton, CALM's funding partner for the Mentored Aboriginal Training Scheme in the Pilbara, were (back row, left) Ben Loffler; (front row, left) Suzanne Moseley and (front row, second from left) Stedman Ellis pictured with CALM's Alan Byrne (back row, centre left), Glen Camille (back row, centre right), Hardy Dershow (back row, right), Laura Sinclair (front row, centre right) and CALM's Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp (front row, right).



Twenty years after he received the Keynes Memorial Award, CALM Ministerial Liaison Officer, Murray Carter, presented the 2006 Keynes Memorial Award to Threatened Flora Officer, Nikki Rouse.

Leader for Parks and Visitor Services, was honoured as the Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year for his dedication and commitment to two graduates in his region.

"I have been involved in the MATES program from the beginning and it's great to see its development. Its success is mainly because of the support from the Dwellingup Training Centre staff and all the staff in the regions," he said.

Further learning

Jim encouraged all the graduates to view the ceremony as a milestone in a long path of learning and, when he presented the scholarships and study assistance awards, said CALM was committed to supporting its staff's ongoing learning and training.

Peter Holland received the Executive Director's Scholarship for Study Assistance and said he would use it to continue undertaking a Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management.

Nick Phillips and Michelle Widmer were joint recipients of the Leadership Scholarship in memory of Seamus Mulholland. According to his sister Kathleen Mulholland who presented the award, Seamus believed it was important to be a well rounded individual.

Michelle said she had the opportunity to work with Seamus in the 1990s.

"Seamus was a great leader, who made an impact on CALM's management in person and now through this scholarship," she said.

The work of another great leader, June Craig, WA's first female Minister with a conservation-related portfolio and the second female Cabinet Minister, was acknowledged at the ceremony when the recipients of the Scholarship for all CALM women in honour of June Craig were named.

Amanda Moncrieff has used the scholarship to travel to British Columbia in Canada to complete a six-month work placement while Cherylene Ehlers plans to travel to the annual weeds conference in South Australia and then to Kangaroo Island to work with the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.



Pictured with the Graduate Recruits were Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp (back row, left), Consultant Learning Programs Peter Hill (back row, third from right) and Manager Learning and Development Alan Byrne (back row, right). The graduates were (back row, left to right) Ashley Millar; Renee Claire-Hartley, Joseph Grehan, Tristan Farmer, Kate Fitzgerald, Murray Baker; Kimberley Onton, Aarron Grant, Renee Miles, (front row, left to right) Marissa Maher, Chontarle Pitulej, Suzanne Sayers, Elisa Skillen, Vanessa Clarke, Nikki Rouse, Josie Dean, Zara Kivell, Kym Pearce, Melissa Marzilla, Emma Adams, Heather Taylor, Holly Smith and Frances Kirchner.



Pictured with the Aboriginal Trainees were Learning and Development Officer Sharon Ferguson (back row, left), Project Officer Beth McKernan (back row, second from left), the Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp (back row, fourth from left), Project Officer – Learning Programs Pauline Southgate (back row, centre left), South West Aboriginal Training Supervisor Karim Khan (back row, fifth from right), Acting Coordinator Traineeships and Cadetship Programs Laura Sinclair (back row, fourth from right), Learning Development Officer Ashley Millar (back row, third from right), Kimberley Aboriginal Training Officer Kevin Lockyer (back row, second from right), Manager Learning and Development Alan Byrne (back row, right) and Pilbara Aboriginal Training Officer (front row, right) Hardy Derschow. The trainees pictured were (back row, left to right) Ross Lynch, Daniel Cock, Gareth Hoare, Craig Hart, Dylan McKenzie, Kris Hayden, Glen Camille, Anthony Richardson (front row, left to right) Edwards Wilkes, Ian Michael, Anthony Aiken, Luke Puertollano, Sara Scanlan, Vanessa Smart, Tina Smith, Leon Taylor.



Cherylene Ehlers, Fire Assistant in the Donnelly and Frankland districts, received the Scholarship for all CALM women in honour of June Craig that will help her travel to the 15th Annual Weeds Conference in South Australia and then to Kangaroo Island. The other recipient, Amanda Moncrieff, was not at the ceremony because her scholarship has already assisted her travels to British Columbia in Canada to complete a six-month work placement with the Provincial Government's Ministry of Environment.



Kathleen Mulholland (centre) presented the Leadership Scholarship in memory of Seamus Mulholland to Nick Phillips, who is undertaking an MBA, and Michelle Widmer, who will use the scholarship to complete a Graduate Certificate in an Executive Development Program, run by the Australian Institute of Police Management and sponsored by the Australasian Fire Authorities Council.



Lee Walker (left) from the Fremantle Football Club presented Ross Lynch (centre) with the Aboriginal Trainee of the Year award, which the Dockers have sponsored since 2002.



After 20 years in the maritime and diving industries Peter Holland (left) made a sea change and joined CALM as a conservation employee. He received the Executive Director's Scholarship for Study Assistance to continue his Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management.



Barry Hooper, Regional Leader for Parks and Visitor Services in the Goldfields Region, is responsible for the development of the region's Aboriginal trainees and was honoured with the Aboriginal Trainee Supervisor of the Year Award, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Employfast.



Jim Sharp presented Murray Baker (right), Parks and Visitor Services Project Officer, with the Executive Director's Merit Award.

Turtles to be protected

SIX species of marine turtles living or nesting in WA will be further protected this year – the Year of the Turtle – with help from Indigenous people, the community and industry.

CALM is hosting videoconference meetings with the new C Turtle Advisory Group (C-tag) to develop plans to protect the leatherback, green, hawksbill, flatback, loggerhead and olive ridley turtles.

Guidelines for commercial fishers, exploration companies, the community and tourists are being drafted.

Coordinator of the group, CALM Marine Scientist Fran Stanley, said C-tag representatives came from Broome, Port Hedland, Exmouth, Denham and Perth.

"The last meeting was very successful," she said.

"We called for expressions of interest to nominate for the group and received 35 applications, from which we chose 12 representative groups.

"We also email the other applicants with the latest details," she said.

Members of C-tag included representatives from the Cape Conservation Group from Exmouth, the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation from the Pilbara, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, academia, the Exmouth Tourism Industry, Pilbara Iron, Environs Kimberley, the Kimberley

Wankinying mia mia a place to relax

By Denise Griffith

IN THE spirit of the new space, CALM staff came together last month for some sharing and relaxing at the Wankinying mia mia (talking place).

The Wankinying mia mia is located in the courtyard beside CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit Kensington office and is available for people to come to relax, share and ask questions about Aboriginal culture in a non-threatening and comfortable environment.

CALM Cultural and Community Coordinator, Koodah Cornwall said the area could be used for meetings, de-stressing, to inspire healthy minds in healthy people or for people to just come and have a sit down in an enjoyable and relaxing environment.

"The courtyard has all the ingredients of mother nature, including, Aboriginal story telling artwork, a water feature, a meeting circle where you can take your shoes off to get connected to mother earth, and the Indigenous Heritage Unit can even provide you with kangaroo skins for sitting on," Koodah said.

"Also, there's a spot for making fires in the middle of the circle, which represents family and family gatherings."

CALM staff, members of the



Koodah Cornwall (front) enjoying the new space with (left to right) Jim Maher, Denise Griffith, Bob Merson, Lorna Charlton, Daniella Hanf, Delvene Cornwall, Karen Shaddock and Kevin Hill. Photo – Rhianna King

Aboriginal community and the wider community are welcome to use the Wankinying mia mia for specific meetings or just for general relaxing, in line with CALM's commitment to Danj-oo Dabacaan (working together steady steady).

Staff at CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit are happy to discuss the importance of the Wankinying

mia mia with your group, or any other cultural issues that you might have. Please contact Denise Griffith on 9334 0564 or by email (deniseg@calm.wa.gov.au) who will coordinate the availability of the Wankinying mia mia space.

Everyone is welcome to bring a native plant up to the Wankinying mia mia but will need to be

responsible for caring for it.

Koodah said he would like to thank the Indigenous Heritage Unit staff and the Director of Corporate Services, John Byrne, and acknowledged Bob Merson for all the hard work he contributed to making this project and event happen.

Please note this area is a smoke-free zone... except for the balgas!

Golden times for trainees

From page 1

Tina (30) also lists her work colleagues, training and learning about the environment as parts of her work she really enjoys.

"I also enjoy the field trips. We spend one week per month out in the field," she said.

Another work bonus has been the support of workplace mentors and former trainees, Ross Lynch and Anthony Richardson.

"Both Anthony and Ross have set a benchmark for me by both being awarded trainees of the year," Luke said.

"Hopefully I could be the next to win!"

Barry agreed. "Ross and Anthony, who are now full-time assistant reserves officers, have acted as mentors to our new trainees.

"This has worked well because they know what the trainees go through. They've built up a strong relationship."

WA's Swedish plant connection

WA's plants have a Swedish connection... and a link with a scientific revolution that began the other side of the world two and a half centuries ago.

The link is Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, who created a system to name and classify all plant and animal life into kingdoms, orders, genera and species.

More than 200 species of native WA plants were first named by Linnaeus, although he was working well before the major period of Australian exploration.

When the Swedish historical ship Götheborg docked at Fremantle Harbour this month, CALM's WA Herbarium Botanist Alex Chapman was called on to provide an Australian link to the scientific projects commemorating Linnaeus.

The travelling exhibition 'Herbarium Amoris – a tribute to Carl Linnaeus' was by Swedish pho-

tographer Edvard Koinberg, whose artistic plant 'portraits' were interspersed with snippets of Linnaeus' descriptive prose about plants.

Alex said Linnaeus used flowery, mid-eighteenth century language to describe plants' reproductive habits in a way that people would understand.

"His artificial system classified all plants according to the number of sexual parts within their flowers," Alex told invited guests at the Kidogo Arthouse in Fremantle.

Linnaeus also popularised the binomial method for accurately naming and placing organisms using genus and species names, a fundamental scientific method still used for organising our knowledge of the natural world.

Alex said the artificial classification introduced by Linnaeus was later replaced by French botanist Antoine Laurent de Jussieu, who developed a new classification system.

West Cape Howe supporters meet



West Cape Howe National Park Association members pictured on site were (from left) Brendan Jelley (CALM), Phil Marshall (WCHNPA), Sonia and Lawrence Emery (WCHNPA), Simon Thwaites (local community), Jude Trigwell (WCPNPA) and Jude Allan (CALM). Photo – CALM

By Jude Allan

THE West Cape Howe National Park Association (WCHNPA) recently visited West Cape Howe National Park to inspect sites and discuss current issues.

Established in 1989 by local residents, the group has assisted CALM with track rehabilitation, weeding, erecting information signs and organising guided botanical walks.

The group met at Shelley Lookout and travelled to The Gap and Dunsy's Beach.

Steep sections of these tracks have been stabilised with conveyor belting and ongoing maintenance carried out. Further maintenance is proposed.

Rehabilitation of unnecessary tracks in WCHNP has been very successful, with many now almost invisible.

Other issues considered during the field visit included car parking, vegetation degradation, and vehicle access to Dingo Beach.

West Cape Howe National Park will be one of the parks considered in the Conservation Reserves of the Albany Coast Draft Management Plan being developed by CALM's South Coast Region.

The issues and potential solutions raised by WCHNPA members during the field trip will be considered by the planning team, along with all other public submissions and input.

A Have Your Say brochure can be found on CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net.

The plan will also consider Torndirrup and Waychinicup National Parks, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and other coastal reserves managed by CALM within the City of Albany local government area.

Wildlife Officer wins top award

ALLAN Madgwick has won Challenger TAFE's Student of the Year and the college's top vocational award.

The CALM Nature Protection Branch Wildlife Officer was presented with the awards at the annual graduation ceremony last month.

He has completed his Certificates II, III and IV in Conservation and Land Management and is part of CALM's Graduate Recruit Training Program.

Allan (33) said he enjoyed his job.

"In any given week, I contribute something back to the environment," he said.

"I'm involved with the protection and conservation of native flora and fauna, whether I'm sharing infor-

mation with another State on exotic or native species, investigating the illegal taking or keeping of protected and endangered species or assisting with marine animal issues or strandings.

"Basically, it's all in a day's work!"

Allan is still keen to further his education.

"Now I'm going to take advantage of every educational opportunity that comes my way so I can increase my expertise in all kinds of areas," he said.

"When I look at all the different speciality areas at CALM I know that although I've come a long way, I've still got a long way to go. And that's a great way to keep inspired on a daily basis!"



Allan Madgwick received his award from Education Minister Ljiljana Ravlich. Photo – TAFE

Farewell to 72 years of service

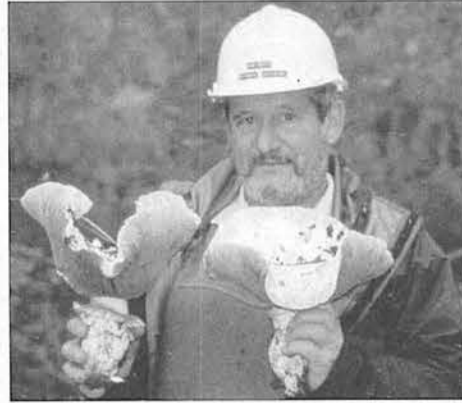
By Lachlan McCaw

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.

Conservation briefs

Helpline volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for CALM's Wildcare Helpline.

The helpline is a 24 hour telephone operating service staffed by volunteers to provide support and service to the public for all matters relating to sick, injured or 'unwelcome' wildlife in WA.

This year the helpline received more than 5500 calls from members of the public requesting help with problems ranging from emus wandering into petrol stations to orphaned kangaroo joeys.

Daytime volunteers are needed for two shifts: 9 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm.

The line operates from an office at CALM's Operational Headquarters in Kensington. Experience in wildlife is not essential as full training and support is provided.

If you, a friend or family member is interested in volunteering on the Wildcare Helpline, contact CALM's Community Involvement Unit on 9334 0279.

Big Brook Relay's 20th

This year is the Big Brook Relay's twentieth anniversary.

The Donnelly District is inviting as many teams as possible to this year's event on Saturday 11 November at the Big Brook Dam near Pemberton. Please mark this day in your diary now.

This year's event will be held on Remembrance Day – a significant day for our war heroes and a significant day for the relay as it is likely to be the last Big Brook Relay.

If you haven't been to a Big Brook Relay before or you haven't been for a while, come and make this relay the best ever and most attended. Teams are welcome from all CALM and FPC areas.

Direct your enquiries to David Meehan at the Pemberton Office on 9776 1207 or via email on davidme@calm.wa.gov.au

Vale John Webb

By Martin Rayner

CALM Forest Management Branch Field Officer, John Webb, died recently after a long career with the Department.

Born in 1944, John joined the Forest Department after emigrating from England in 1969.

Initially based at Tone River and Wheatley, he lived in the settlements and undertook field work as part of the crews. In 1974 he joined the Manjimup Working Plans Office, the forerunner of the Forest Management Branch.

Over the ensuing 32 years until his death in 2006, John undertook specialist forest measurement and aerial photography duties within the southern forests of the State.

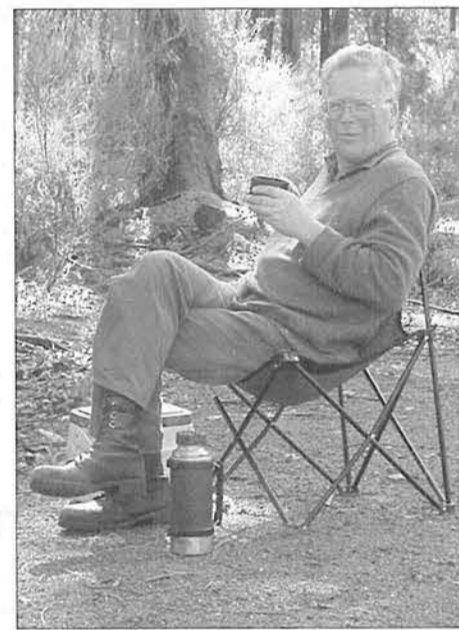
This included timber inventory in the jarrah and karri forests, which in the 1970s involved extended camping out for many days traversing survey and assessment lines through some of the densest vegetation in WA.

John was also involved in numerous research projects that contributed to mapping the extent of old-growth forest, the development of growth models to project stand growth for jarrah, karri and plantation species, investigations into dendrochronology and numerous silvicultural trials.

His skill in aerial photography, and competence as a photo-interpreter, was applied in various vegetation mapping and forest stratification projects.

Our capacity to assemble large datasets that build knowledge and generate information for land management relies upon meticulous measurement standards being maintained over the years.

John was invaluable in this role – he was meticulous, reliable and possessed very practical bush skills. The success of many projects relied on the capacity of John and his colleagues to come up with practical solutions to measuring, shifting, accessing, falling or



John Webb. Photo – Martin Rayner

counting trees and vegetation.

It's difficult to imagine the size of the measurement and spatial datasets we have assembled based on John's input over three decades; suffice to say it would be into the 100,000s of measurements.

He leaves us a solid legacy of improved information upon which to understand forest functioning, to design reserves and management regimes, and to regulate the yields of timber removed from the forest.

Beyond work, John was a very active and highly valued member of the Manjimup community.

In addition to his periods of service in the Army Reserve, John contributed in various capacities as a member or organiser in a variety of groups, including the Scout movement, SES, the pistol club, and the Veteran Motorcycle Club.

He will be sorely missed by the Department and the community we serve.

CALM in 'top spots' on CSIRO web

CALM scientific papers have been among the most read of the CSIRO-published journals able to be downloaded from the net since 2000.

Papers about feral cats, salinity, eucalypt woodlands, burning, bats, logging and burning impacts on bird species richness, acacia, truffles and dieback, written by CALM scientists, took out the most read sections in five journals.

Number one spot in the *Australian Journal of Botany* journal was a paper by CALM scientist Colin Yates and academic research partner Richard Hobbs about eucalypt woodlands and a review of their status. Further down the list, at number 13, was a paper about salinisation and the prospects

for biodiversity in rivers and wetlands in south-west WA by CALM scientists Stuart Halse and Adrian Pinder.

In the *Wildlife Research* journal, CALM scientist Ian Abbott's paper about the origin and spread of the feral cat held number one spot, with another of his papers, written with partners Amanda Mellican, Michael Craig, Matthew Williams, Graeme Liddelow and Ian Wheeler, on the short-term logging and burning impacts on species richness of birds in jarrah forest, at number 16.

At number 12 in the *Australasian Plant Pathology* journal was a paper by CALM scientist Bryan Shearer, CALM threatened flora officer Sarah Barrett and academic research partner Giles Hardy about the use of phos-

phite as a fungicide to control dieback, while number 16 was a paper by the same authors on the success of using phosphite to inoculate banksia trees against dieback.

In the *Australian Journal of Zoology* journal, CALM scientist Norm McKenzie and research partner Bob Bullen's paper about bat flight was at number 14.

In the *Australian Systematic Botany* journal a paper by CALM scientist Bruce Maslin and research partners J.T. Miller and D.S. Seigler about the generic status of acacia was at number four, followed at number nine by a paper by CALM (then CSIRO) scientist Neale Bougher and research partner Teresa Level on truffle-like fungi of Australia and New Zealand.

Staff changes . . .

Contract

Simon Cherriman, Field Officer, Albany District; Fiona Kirkpatrick, Assistant Conservation Officer (Fauna), Wellington District, Collie; Ian Steward, GIS Analyst, Wheatbelt Region, Northam; Tanya Hosie, Administration Assistant, Wheatbelt Region, Northam; Ben Lullfitz, Technical Officer, Nature Protection Branch, Kensington; Judy Dunlop, Technical Officer, Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale; Russell Palmer, Technical Officer, Science Division, Kensington; Huw Dilley, Ranger, Pilbara Region.

Reclassification

Verna Tunsell, Technical Officer, Science Division, Manjimup; Lily Simpson, Administrative Assistant, Forest Management Branch, Manjimup.

Resignation

Lara McLachlan, Officer – Apiary, Park Policy and Services, Kensington; Julian Fox, Project Officer, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; John Neal, Senior Technical Officer, Manjimup Regional Headquarters; Richard Tomlinson, Project Leader – GIS Development, Geographic Information Services Section, Kensington; Neil Moncrieff, Landscape Architect, Recreation and Landscape Unit, Kensington; Leonie Swinton, Workforce Services Officer, People Services Branch, Kensington.

Promotion

Ken Lewis, Bank Reconciliation Officer, Financial Services Branch, Kensington; Dave Mell, Manager, Nature Protection Branch, Kensington; Norm Caporn, Manager, Environmental Management Branch, Kensington; Geoff Harnett, Senior Ranger, Torndirrup National Park, Albany; Paul Jones, Director of Forests, Corporate Executive, Crawley.

Temporary deployment

Jill Francis, Programs Coordinator, EcoEducation to Nearer to Nature, Perth Hills National Parks Centre; John Rooney, Corporate Firearms Officer, Science Division, Manjimup Research Centre to Science Division, Manjimup; Stephen Queterio, Officer, Financial Services Branch to Project Officer (Wetlands), Species and Communities Branch, Nature Conservation Division, Kensington; Peter Dans, Manager, Corporate Headquarters to Marine Policy and Planning Branch, Fremantle; Belinda Catcheside, Coordinator EcoEducation, Park Policy and Tourism to Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Perth Hills National Park Centre.

Retired

Graeme Hutchinson, Manager, Radio Communications Branch, Kensington; Susan Patrick, Research Scientist, Biological Information Group, WA Herbarium.

Permanent

Wendy Johnston, Conservation Officer (Flora), Merredin District; Gert Botha, Reserves Officer, Merredin District; Pia Courtsi, Regional Wildlife Officer, Goldfields Region; David Frew, Astronomer, Perth Observatory; Jason Barnetson, Senior Ranger, Exmouth District.

Contract ceased

Ben Cross, Executive Officer, Kimberley Region, Kununurra.

Transfer

Mark True, Senior Ranger, Shark Bay District to Two Peoples Bay, Albany; Chris Simpson, Manager, Marine Conservation Branch to Program Leader, Marine Science Program, Science Division, Kensington; Beth McKernan, Project Officer, Environmental Protection Branch to Midwest Region, Geraldton; Debra Rule, Manager, Information Management Branch to Shared Services, Cannington.

Seconded

Peter Morris, Senior Ranger, Karijini National Park to Wellington District.

Leave without pay

Murray Baker, Project Officer, Swan Region; Wendy Thompson, Conservation Officer, Goldfields Region, Kalgoorlie.