



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 research officer 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.



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 and some of the wildfires have been put out, we are moving into a formal planning phase.

We have already initiated moves to develop policy in such critical areas as training, public participation and land management planning, but we need to put these elements of policy into the context of an overall plan for the Department.

Over the next several months, you will have the opportunity to comment on specific elements of Departmental policy and you will also be asked to input into successive drafts of an overall plan for the Department.

Your contribution towards the development of a Departmental plan is essential because if the staff of the Department do not "own" the plan, in my opinion, we might just as well not have one.

Some people might have difficulties in making suggestions on policy because they are intimidated by hierarchies.

At a meeting I attended in the wheatbelt, Arthur Kesners suggested that one way of overcoming this is to use the old 'suggestion box' technique.

The Policy Group have adopted this suggestion.

One way in which you can ensure that your ideas about policy, or any other problem of the Department, are heard by the Policy Group, is to address a memo to Dexter Johnston, Manager of the Policy Directorate at Matilda Bay, marked to the attention of the Policy Group, signed or unsigned.

This will ensure that your ideas are considered.

SYD SHEA
Executive Director.

Seminar highlights problems

THE RECOVERY rate of coral reef after natural disasters was the major topic at the 5th International Coral Reef Congress held in Tahiti recently.

What came out of the Congress is that marine park managers know little about the reproductive ecology of corals and reef creatures.

While foresters, for example, have centuries of experience to draw upon in relation to forest management, at the present time coral reef managers rarely know which of the reef inhabitants breed by sexual means, and which have planktonic larvae and are dispersed by ocean currents.

In many cases they don't know when spawning occurs.



Information on recruitment, mortality and growth rates are available for very few species and even fewer localities.

The Congress was told by a group of James Cook University students that most corals in the region of Townsville spawn all together on two or three successive nights of the year in November.

This is important and exciting information for coral reef managers, more

so because mass spawning has been observed in other places, including the north coast of WA, but at different times of the year.

The idea that coral reefs need managing might surprise some people, but like a forest, or any other ecosystem, a coral reef is a dynamic system into which energy and nutrients flow and which is capable of only limited productions.

Problems arise when humans demand too much from a coral reef or do things that upset its productive capacity.

Many Congress delegates from island countries spoke of degraded coral reefs and declining fish stocks and other resources.

In others, volumes are maintained through an increase in numbers which sizes have decreased.

This is a danger sign.

The fishermen's response to slower pro-

duction is to use more effective catching methods and the use of explosives is endemic throughout French Polynesia.

While this method catches fish, it wrecks the reefs and destroys the fishery.

While mining is another cause of reef degradation, perhaps the most serious problem comes from agricultural development on the high islands.

Sediment and nutrients are discharged into lagoons, which, in places like Tahiti, are often unfit for swimming.

The crux of the problem seems to be the current prevailing cultural outlook and social stan-

dards among the island nations.

Strictly speaking, it is not the coral reefs which need managing but the people.

Population growth coupled to a breakdown of traditional cultures and social systems result in excessive and unwise use of natural resources.

However, there is evidence that where island people assume western attitudes, they desert the smaller islands in favour of the more "civilized" centres.

While this exacerbates the environmental problems in the larger centres, it might be the saviour of the smaller, remoter coral reefs.

Farewell Tom

A FOREST worker based at Ludlow for more than 21 years, Tom Hutchins will retire in August.

Busselton District is organizing a farewell party for Tom and his wife Dot, and his work friends and their partners are invited.

The get-together will be held in the Ludlow Lecture Hall on Friday, August 23, from 4.30 p.m.

Light savouries and refreshments will be served.

Tickets (\$6 each) can be bought from Anne or Debbie at the Busselton office by Friday, August 16.



● 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.

RARE NATIVE PLANT FOUND

A RARE and endangered native plant has been found at Dowerin for the first time.

The discovery of the Wongan cactus was made by Agriculture Protection Board district officer Rod Randell.

According to Rod the discovery is the furthest the plant has been found from its normal location — Wongan Hills.

He noticed the cactus plants on a roadside in the Dowerin shire after inspecting a reserve.

The plants were spread over about 500m.

"It was a surprise to find a rare native plant rather than another introduced weed," he said.

"I caught a glimpse of a spindly green plant as I was driving past and stopped to investigate.

"This find considerably extends the known range of the plant and gives us some clue as to its distribution before clearing for agriculture.

"The plants are green and wiry with leaves which have been reduced to tiny spines.

"It is not really a cactus but a legume which has evolved to look like a cactus."

Species harvest planned

KINGS PARK botanists have used tissue culture to ensure the survival of a rare and endangered shrub rediscovered in 1980.

There are now several hundred seedlings of Drummondia ericoides and the researchers expect to be able to harvest some blooms next year.

The shrub has elongated yellow flowers, grows to a metre high and could have potential in the horticultural trade.

It was rediscovered by a research officer, Greg Keighery, and Wildlife officer David Mell in the Moresby Range near Geraldton.

They found only three plants, but a later search revealed about 200 shrubs.

Kings Park researchers have now used tissue culture to propagate about 10 species of rare and endangered flora.

Not all the plants cloned have a horticultural value, but the method plays an important role in the saving of species on the rare and endangered list.

STAFF COURSES IN TRAINING MANUAL

A COMPREHENSIVE list of CALM's training courses has been published in a manual to inform staff of personal development possibilities.

Prepared by the Department's Training Committee, the manual includes a calendar for the period from July 1, 1985, to June, 1986, and a set of course outlines.

Included is a month by month statement of courses for which dates have been determined.

The course serial number, in date sequence, will enable the

course outline to be readily identified.

The first section lists courses for which there is a generally agreed training need, and for which dates have been determined.

The second section lists courses which are available if a training need is identified. These additional courses will be pro-

grammed as required.

Programmed courses for August include driving instruction, white water canoeing, fire protection and weather, and training for overseers.

Responsibility for issuing course joining instructions lies with the Region, Branch, or Officer initiating the course.

For some courses, trainees have been selected to attend.

For other courses, interested Departmental staff will be invited to apply through their O.I.C.'s.



If interested staff do not obtain a course vacancy they should use the staff appraisal procedure to discuss with their O.I.C. their future participation in similar courses.

Any proposed alterations to the manual or suggestions for future additions should be discussed with Training Officer, Frank Pridlam at Dwellingup.

Lane-Poole initiatives

THE State Government has announced a series of initiatives designed to meet increased pressures on the Lane Poole reserve.

The 55,000 hectare reserve is the largest and most significant in the Northern Jarrah Forest.

Outlined by the Premier, Mr Burke, at a public meeting in Dwellingup the moves include: the purchase of the 164-hectare Icy Creek property in the centre of the reserve for \$310,000; the initiation of a draft environmental and recreational management plan for the reserve; and the appointment of a ranger in the near future.

Mr Burke said the inclusion of the Icy Creek property, an area of high quality jarrah, in the reserve would enable fire boundaries to be better located and would give greater control of dieback.

The Government's decision recognises the contribution the reserve has made towards recreation.

More than 100,000 people visit the area each year.

The reserve is also a valuable research and education resource.

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 planning team and ex-officio Authority members, Syd Shea, Peter Hewett and Chris Haynes, the group visited Windy Harbour, Broke Inlet, Lake Maringup, Coodamurup Beach, the Yeagarup Dunes and the lower Donnelly River.

The project planning team, consisting of team leader Alan Walker, Paul Llewellyn, Richard May and Wayne Schmidt, brought Authority members up to date with the planning process and issues which have arisen regarding park management.

Most issues concern the existing use of the area, such as beach and rock fishing, private

huts on crown land, recreational use of dunes and inland waters, and the industrial and commercial use of the area's resources by wildflower pickers, tour operators and pastoral lessees.

Other issues have arisen because of differing public perceptions and beliefs about the area's conservation values, and the need and appropriate ways to protect them.

An initial planning document about the D'Entrecasteaux Park and the contiguous Shannon Forest, titled "A Strategy for Management Planning", was issued publicly last September.

About two hundred individually written submissions were received in response to the strategy.

Many contained detailed and technically useful information about the Park; all contained useful statements of belief on how the Park should be planned and managed.



These submissions are being analysed for the project team by Richard McKellar, employed for this purpose under the C.E.P. Scheme.

More than 4000 signed pre-printed submissions and petitions supporting various more detailed submissions have also been received.

After analysing the submissions the Project Team expects to have the Draft Management Plan prepared for public comment within two months.

Following another round of public input a final Management Plan will be approved and adopted so that appropriate use of the area can be facilitated while conservation values are protected.

Tourist tree search

PEMBERTON foresters are looking for a suitable karri to replace WA's famous Gloucester Tree.

A major tourist attraction in the district, the 400-year-old tree is slowly dying of old age and will eventually have to be closed to climbers.

The 70m karri was a fire lookout tower before it became a tourist attraction.

About 50,000 visitors have had the courage to make the climb to the top.

According to the Department's General Manager Roger Underwood, the lookout would cost about \$100,000 to replace.

"No decision has been made to close the climb as the tree is still considered safe," he said.

"Engineers have stabilized the lookout cabin by anchoring metal struts to the tree below the cabin.

"Closing the tree climb may extend the life of the tree but this is difficult to predict.

"In the meantime the search is on."

The Gloucester Tree was the main fire lookout in the karri forest from 1948 to 1975, and is still used occasionally on days of extreme fire danger.

Originally 80m tall, the tree was topped to make way for the lookout cabin.

The first cabin was replaced about 10 years ago when some of the upper branches started to deteriorate.



THE joys of winter motoring. A vehicle bogged on Tragedy Track during the D'Entrecasteaux safari had to be given a helping hand.

Industrial training at Harvey

THE new milling facilities at Harvey will be used as a training centre by the timber industry.

A steering committee to organize the details was set up after an initial meeting of industry representatives on Wednesday, June 12.

The committee comprises Tim Reed (Chairman) and Ray Shepherdson of the WA Timber Industry Training Committee, Norman Hoath (Bunning Bros), Ray Harris and Peter Man (Department of Employment and Training), Rod McInnes (Wesfipine), Kevin Caimonos (Secretary, WA Timber Industry Industrial Union of Workers), and Phil Shedley, Des Donnelly and Les Mathews from CALM.



On the day the committee was formed a conducted tour of the new mill was organized by Phil Shedley, the co-ordinator of the Harvey Wood Utilization Research Centre.

Phil said that it was hoped that the facility would become the focal point of the industry's mill training programme.

"We plan to coordinate our training with the TAFE system," he said.

"Courses such as grading and bench work will earn certifica-

tion and we expect that the mill will introduce the most up-to-date technology so that the graduates are in the front line of industrial progress."

N.W. ISLAND PATROL

There were no sightings of feral goats during a recent survey of Bernier Island, an important nature reserve about 50km offshore from Carnarvon.

The inspection was to check on the effectiveness of a 1984 eradication programme.

During April, Research Officer Keith Morris and Wildlife Officer Kevin Marshall checked the island from a helicopter.

An east-west, north-south pattern was flown on separate days of the two-day survey.

Flying at an altitude of about 60m gave excellent vision for evidence of goat tracks, pads or animal observations.

Dense tree and bush thickets were inspected and any uncertain tracks



ARPAD MENCSELYI (Forest Products Association), Tim Reed (Bunning Bros.), Peter Man (Department of Employment and Training), and Mike Morgan (Bunning Bros.) inspect pine planks cut by bandsaw from small radiata logs at the Harvey mill.

No sign of feral goats

or animal pads were checked out on foot.

Caves and rock crevices with access were also traversed by foot, while the remaining regions (mainly on the western portion) required hovering below the cliff edge.

Remaining uncertain areas were covered on foot which allowed Keith and Kevin to closely inspect for signs of grazed shrubs and trees.

Twelve hours of flying time were needed to complete the inspection.

No live goats were located and no fresh evidence of feral goats were observed.

Several goat carcasses were seen in caves and crevices, some towards

the centre of Bernier Island. All were quite old.

The only animals observed on the nature reserve were large numbers of the native Banded Hare-wallaby, Western Hare-wallaby and Little Barred Bandicoot.

Tracks and scats from these mammals appeared over most areas of the island.

When uncertain tracks were closely inspected, they invariably turned out to be tracks which had filled with debris, creating a false impression.

Fisherman and holidaymakers using the Red Bluff anchorage on the island were asked if they had seen any signs of goats.

They said feral goats and tracks were nearly always seen before the 1984 eradication programme.

They had not seen any evidence of goats since.

However, Kevin and Keith were told by the Carnarvon District Wildlife Officer that eight feral goats had been seen near Cape Couturer at the southern extremity of the Island.

The sightings were in February 1985 by a party of amateur fishermen.

The goats were seen on two separate occasions, with one sighting of two animals and the second involving the remainder.

Kevin Morrison said that such reports leave an obvious question mark, but he believes that such numbers would have left some evidence of their movements and activities.

He hopes an answer will be provided in future follow-up inspections. — KEVIN MARSHALL.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA BY EXTERNAL STUDIES

The Higher Education Board has recently approved the external offering of the post graduate diploma in Environmental Management.

Registrations of interest in the course are invited from graduates in any field who wish to pursue environmental studies for vocational or educational reasons.

For further information write to

Dr D.C. Goldney
The Chairman
Environmental Management Committee
C/o School of Maths & Applied Science
and Planning,
Mitchell CAE, Bathurst 2795



First conservationist battled bureaucracy

By ANDREW CRIBB

JOHN EDNIE-BROWN was the first trained forester to be employed by the Western Australian Government, and in his "Report on the Forests of Western Australia" in 1896 he made the first scathing criticisms of the way in which forest areas were being managed.

He argued strongly for the dedication of forest as State forest so that it might be managed both to produce timber, and to allow other options for the future, instead of being cut-over, then cleared for farming as was then the case.

Ednie-Brown wrote: "This thirst for opening up of the land, to the detriment of the forests, is not always productive of the national good, and ought not, therefore, to be always listened to. To my certain knowledge, it has been the ruination of some magnificent natural forest country in some of the other colonies."

In the same report he pinpointed the prime cause of failure in the ambitious land settlement and group settlement

schemes of the 1920s, yet to come.

"I have more than once stated in this document that much of the forest land in this colony is unfit for cultivation.

"For ploughing and ordinary agriculture a large percentage is absolutely worthless; and although, no doubt, this might be improved by ringbarking for pastoral purposes —

the gain derived therefrom by the growing of a few more blades of grass — the loss to the State in the absolute destruction of the forest is a matter of grave responsibility to those who carry it out, or even countenance it in any way."

His was a voice crying in the wilderness.

The Government of the day, under Premier John Forrest, had little interest in restricting such a valuable export as timber, and even less in what they saw as allowing useful farmland to lie idle under forest.

The Woods and Forests Department had neither the money, nor the judicial support to step up and maintain forest management programmes — they could only advise.

The Department's initial establishment con-

sisted of one Conservator, three forest rangers, one clerk, one nurseryman, and an annual budget of 2,210 pounds — roughly the price of 200 sawlogs — in the era when the State cut amounted to some 151,000 trees a year.

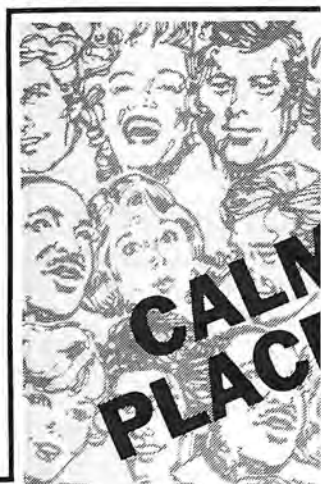
After completing his report, Ednie-Brown started the long battle to control exploitation of the forest, and redirect use to regeneration, and conservation.

In 1899 he died of a heart attack and, without his drive and expertise, the Woods and Forests Department became an emasculated shadow of its founder's vision.

Two decades passed before any further attempts at conserving and managing the State's natural resources were made.



CAUGHT by our roving photographer, John Ednie-Brown, WA's first salaried conservationist, is frozen on film in his government vehicle as he tours the forest of 1896.



• 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 wandoo 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.

BLACKWOOD MARATHON BUILD-UP

MANJIMUP research officer Greg Strelein is co-ordinating CALM's assault on this year's Blackwood Marathon.

Now in its seventh year, the popular team event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 26.

Last year, a record 10,000 people gathered on the normally deserted banks of the Blackwood River near Bridgetown to watch.

Two hundred and sixty four five-member relay teams ran, paddled, swam, rode and cycled their way along the 56.3km course between Boyup Brook and Bridgetown.

Three Forests Department teams contested the event and there were a few starters in other teams.

Team placings were 24th, 68th and 73rd, and many of the competitors are keen to try again.

Greg wants to hear from anybody with particular marathon skills who would like to be included.

"There are lots of support crew and cheer squad members to help each team member to finish and recuperate," said Greg.

"After each leg there is still plenty of interest left in the day for competitors and their families.

Recreating

LIFE isn't getting any easier in Pemberton.

South of the arch, deep in the heart of big bulch country, gang workers employed on the SERPA scheme were put back to work in the sawpits of another era; recreating a piece of forest history for visitors.

The Brockman S discovered by forestry 1972, has been a pop tion site for over 10 y

The sawpit, though originally been in use was reconstructed in t show how the first housing and fencing the dark days before sawmills.

CALM News is the Department of Conservation and Land Management's new monthly staff newspaper.

We hope you will become involved in its publication by sending articles (up to 400 words), letters, photographs (with captions), minutes from meetings and items of interest to:

Address to Ian Kay, Editor, CALM News, Department Conservation and Land Management Como WA 6152 — or phoen HQ OHQ ext 328.

Floral study by WA artist

ON July 13 Miss Ida Richardson, a benefactor of the Forests Department, was 104 years old.

Miss Richardson, an Albany artist, began painting in 1926 specialising in Australian flora.

In 1935 she collaborated with a local photographer to produce one of the first books on WA wildflowers.

Miss Richardson later donated several works to the Forests Department and her paintings of native flora were displayed in the old offices at the R & I Bank, Cathedral Avenue.

Over the years the collection, which grew to more than 70 studies, has been loaned out for display purposes and has now been divided among several divisions of the Department.



• TWO of Miss Ida Richardson's floral studies, one of which is a word processor

PEN PICTURES BY NEWCOMER

AS the second most recent addition to the Planning Branch, I have been given the 'challenging' job of introducing CALM News readers to the who and what of the Planning Section.

It is not an easy task I can assure you but, the exercise has been designed to help you and me find out what makes the Planning Section tick.

The Branch exists to produce management plans and has an interesting collection of individuals.

Some of them had to be cajoled, outwitted and flattered before any information was forthcoming, while others (well, one) was more than willing to give me 'the life story'.

Heading the Branch is

Jim Williamson who has a list of qualifications as long as your arm and work experience to match.

Jim has had some 26 accident free (not incident free) years with the Forests Department working in areas such as hardwood and pine forest surveys, a dieback interpretation programme, the sandalwood survey and

fire control.

He now has the exciting job of setting up the Planning Branch.

Permanent planning officers on Jim's staff include Sue Moore, Richard May and Barry Muir.

Sue's work experience and expertise lies in reserve management including policy writing and management plans, as well as mowing turf (but I don't think I'm supposed to say that).

At present, Sue is writing management plans for reserves in the Wheatbelt, Central Forest, Pilbara and Metropolitan Regions.

Richard May proved a little difficult to extract information from.

Richard told me he was a very busy man and was on his way out (I think he meant out of the office).

He said he wouldn't be back until Christmas but didn't say which one!

Richard is working on proposals for the Ningaloo Reef Marine Park and the Shannon D'Entrecasteaux management plan.

Barry Muir has done enough for me to write volumes.

To cut a long story short, Barry has been involved with research for the National Parks' Authority and the Museum of W.A.

Barry is presently detailing management plans for the Lane-Poole Reserve and is assisted by Matt Cavana and Richard Hulajko, two temporary technical officers.

The branch also has a number of planning officers on secondment and contract.

Owen Nichols has been seconded from Alcoa to lead the Lane-Poole Reserve project.

Owen's area of expertise is zoology, although he would be the first to tell you this is only one of his areas of expertise (Sorry Owen, not enough room for the life story).

Also on secondment to review the Rottneest Island draft management plan are Paul Frewer from the Town Planning Department and Simon Whitehouse from the Education Department.

Simon always had to make an urgent telephone

call when he saw me coming.

Ian Parker, acting Environmental Officer, is also working on the Rottneest project.

Ian's job includes preparation for the implementation of the management plan.

Last but not least, planning officer Paul Llewellyn has been contracted to work on the Shannon d'Entrecasteaux management plan.

It was tough getting that much information, but I have since discovered that Paul's interests lie in land resource management and regional planning.

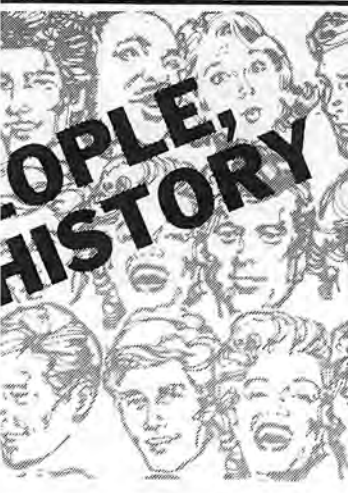
Under the 'others' heading I will have to include Wayne Schmidt.

I haven't yet met Wayne, but he is the Branch Manager of Recreation and Landscape section and he is also involved in the Shannon plan.

Jackie Brown is a temporary Technical Officer presently working on the Bungle Bungles; Steve Csaba is an architectural draftsman re-deployed from the PWD who turns his hand to anything; Kate Kirwan and Adrienne North (the newest member of the team) are our two typists; and that leaves me.

Hello, I'm Jennie Bartle, a Technical Officer new to Perth (one of those eastern staters).

I am also new to CALM and particularly interested in environmental education and public participation.



The past

A scarcity of original photographs from the era prompted Paul Nolan and his gang to restage the process of pit-sawing.

Their faded sepia portraits will now adorn a historical display installed in the new shelter at the Brockman site — scarcely distinguishable from their forebears — and from the look of t, still cutting the same log. —



• UNDER the critical gaze of overseer Tom Lindley, SERPA crew members slave in the sawpit. Paul Nolan captured them on sepia for posterity.



's floral studies are displayed by Carlene Pearson. Carlene is in the Publications Section, and she was particularly impressed by the detail in the paintings.

Community plans to save lake

A TREE planting project is underway on land surrounding Toolibin Lake near Wickepin.

The project is designed to slow down the degradation of timber on the Toolibin Lake Reserve and to minimize the salinization of the lake.

There is local enthusiasm for the project which benefits both the community and farmers.

On June 18, 400 children from schools in the Narrogin and Wickepin area planted more than 24,000 trees.

The trees have been sited on 50cm high ridges 25m apart, formed using Shire equipment.

By the time the project is completed in 1987, 222 kilometres of ridges will have been graded and 46,000 trees planted, requiring 28km of protective fencing.

The salt watertable under the affected land is at about 150cm.

Evidence indicates that mature trees may lower the watertable by 30-40cm.

In addition, the trees will shade the soil and

minimize evaporation and salt crusting.

The trees leaves should also have a valuable mulching effect.

Tree species being used are mainly Flat-topped Yate on the barley grass land and Salt Sheoak on the bare salt.

These trees will be

planted 10m apart, and between the Yates and Sheoaks, Wattles and Tamarisks will be planted to provide a source of browse forage for sheep.

It is also intended to encourage the farmers to sow Puccinellia and salt bush seed on the 25m strip

between the trees.

The north Toolibin Lake tree planting project is a co-operative venture between seven farmers, the Wickepin Shire Council, the Wickepin Soil Conservation District, Alcoa, Greening Australia and the Department of Agriculture.

Project management

THE Department's Inventory Section provides an essential service to policy makers and to regional Forest Managers through regional Planning Officers.

Much of the work is "project oriented" and is similar in style to computer system development work.

Data Processing Manager, Trevor Morgan, recently gave Inventory System Managers and Project Officers a training session on project management.

The idea was to adapt computer project management principles to Inventory project management, including the aspect of phased system development.

The Inventory Section Managers are considering giving a trial run to Trevor's recommendations, in a slightly modified form, prior to full endorsement.

The documentation necessary for this system to operate may help to overcome the problems associated with the frequent "changeover" of junior professional staff within the section.

Current Inventory projects include the pine inventory method investigation, the karri regrowth prediction and associated systems, the use of hand held micro computers to record inventory data in the field, the investigation of bauxite mine rehabilitation tree growth, the pine inventory system, and jarrah taper prediction. — WARWICK BOARDMAN

Planting trees to cut wind damage

THE WIND at Lancelin dominates land management and local farmer Jim Mazza plans to modify its influence with trees.

With the assistance of Geoff Anderson, experimental scientist with the animal production section of the CSIRO, and the willing support of his farm manager, Bob Wilson, Mr Mazza started a major planting project earlier this year.

Already more than 190ha of Pinus pinaster have been planted in twin rowed strips designed to cut the prevailing wind's force.

Cropping and grazing will continue between the widely spaced strips on the 2020ha property.

At a field day on the property last month Geoff Anderson told local farmers and visiting forestry officers about the benefits and problems of tree plantations.

Bob Wilson explained the planting techniques and the problems encountered.

Mr Anderson said the trees would provide shelter for livestock and would help control erosion and conserve moisture.

Tests have shown that the retention of moisture increased pasture life by seven to 10 days.

The increase in shelter and the availability of more feed assisted sheep growth dramatically.

The trees are being planted using a tractor pulled ripper on ground that has been previously sprayed to reduce pasture competition.

With the tree's end use as millable timber clearly in mind a programme of annual pruning will be introduced within four years.

Some tree rows will be left unpruned to maintain the benefits of the wind breaks.

Later, Mr Mazza intends to mill crop trees on the property, to generate

income that could be used when other sources were suffering lean periods.

On the farm's lighter soils Mr Mazza has been advised to plant tagasaste (sometimes known as tree Lucerne) using direct seeding techniques.

Tagasaste is a highly nutritional stock food with about twice the value of oaten hay.

The sheep are also expected to eat the pinaster needles from branches after pruning and thinning operations.



● Farm Manager, Bob Wilson, explains the techniques needed to plant the pinaster pines.

TOURISM TALKS HELD

DISCUSSIONS concerning the interaction of Aboriginals and National Parks, and how tourism and the parks can be managed so as to incorporate Aboriginal ideas and aspirations were held in Kununurra last month.

Visitors attending the gathering were from Oombulgurri, Kununurra,

Turkey Creek, Halls Creek, Kalumbarru and the Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.

The group was addressed by Tourism Commissioner, Alan Grose, and a consultant to the Minister for Employment and Training, Helen McFarlane.

Also at the meeting were the Kimberley's Regional Manager Chris Done, and the Director of National Parks and Recreation, Chris Haynes.

The focus of the discus-

sion was on the Bungle Bungle area of the Kimberley, which is likely to be given National Park status soon.

Alan Grose spoke about the inevitability of tourism in the Bungle Bungle and of the Government's development and marketing ideas.

Helen McFarlane told of her past experiences with American Indians in similar circumstances.

She explained how tourism as an industry could benefit Aboriginal people both financially and culturally.

Visitors eager to learn and see North West culture would gladly pay to observe such things as the gathering of yams, mustering of cattle and catching goannas, and to taste billy tea and damper.

Chris Haynes, with experience gained at Kakadu National Park, explained that making the Bungle Bungle area National Park would allow people to visit the area under management conditions.

Under joint management he said, Aboriginals would still be allowed to

live there, under agreed conditions.

He further pointed out that there would be more and more Park visitors each dry season and it was necessary to plan for the future now, so that the National Parks and the Aboriginals of the region could cope.

After the talks Chris Done and I proceeded to nearby Hidden Valley National Park to collect photos and information for a forthcoming publication.

JOHN HUNTER

RANGER PLAN FOR N.W.

ABORIGINAL people with tribal ties to areas of National Parks in the Pilbara are to become involved in the management of the parks.

A training scheme for Aboriginal Rangers will be established as part of a joint venture between the Commonwealth and State governments.

Recent talks between the Aboriginal Community at Roebourne, the Department and the Australian National Parks

and Wildlife Service have endorsed the scheme.

The scheme will be based at the Millstream National Park and trainees will work at both that park and the Hamersley Range National Park.

It is hoped that participating Aboriginals will gain experience in Ranger work at Millstream before the formal training starts, and that a bi-cultural learning process will occur with

the trainees teaching others about Aboriginal aspects of the land, its use, and its cultural importance.

The new rangers will work in both parks once they have completed the course.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service will provide a training officer for the scheme.

The Service has considerable experience in training Aboriginal rangers in the Northern Territory.

The Policy Director National Parks, Chris Haynes, said he was particularly pleased with the Aboriginal community's response to the project, and acknowledged the liaison work initiated by Mary Colreavy, formerly the training officer for the National Parks Authority.

Chris said: "The project was initiated under Mary's direction and without her hard work the project would not be up to the stage it has now reached."

RETIREMENTS

DAVE HILL LEAVES HIS MARK

DAVE HILL celebrated his last day of work with his colleagues on June 28 after 24 years service as a National Park Ranger.

Director of National Parks and Reserves, Chris Haynes, and Administration Officer Harry Gorringe, reflected on Dave's past work and thanked him for his contributions to the Ranger Corps and Park management.

Dave started with the Authority as a ranger at John Forrest National Park.

He later spent seven years as Resident Ranger of Matilda Bay Reserve, living in a house on the Swan River foreshore.

He went to live in his own home in the suburbs when the old cottage was demolished to make more recreation space for visitors.

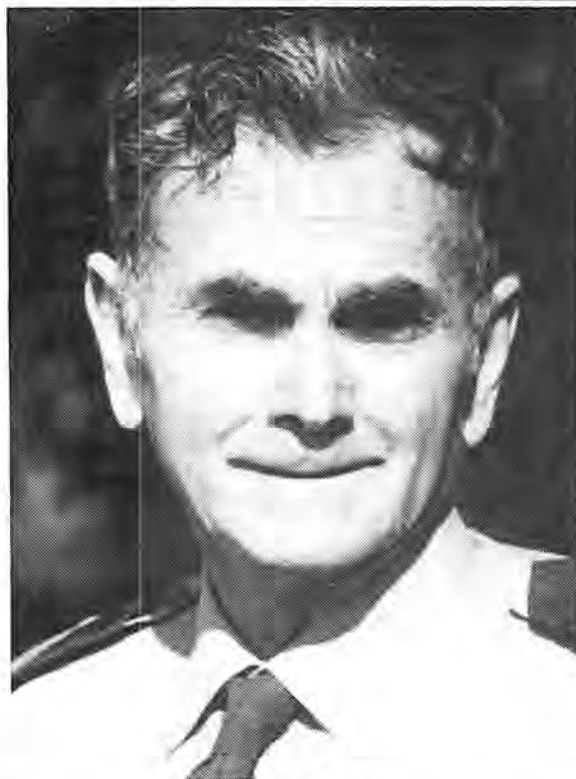
As courier for the executive of the old National Parks Authority Dave was often seen in many Government Departments throughout the city, resplendent in his Ranger uniform and always with a ready smile.

The Department wishes him and Mrs Hill a long and happy retirement.

Dave has already travelled extensively overseas and plans to spend his time at home.

"I'll miss the public involvement," he said.

"I like meeting people and helping them out with information about the parks."



● David Hill.

Nannup nursery overseer bows out

NANNUP's nursery man Ted Lorkiewicz retired from the Department on July 26 after more than 20 years service.

Ted arrived in Australia in 1949 and moved to WA looking for work.

After two years in the wheatbelt he moved to Bridgetown to work on a dairy farm and, after a lot of hard work, bought his own Nannup farm in 1954.

In 1960 Ted joined the

A STALWART of the Forests Department, Len Nicol retired in June, after more than 40 years service.

Len started on wages in 1940 at Manjimup and progressed to the most senior field staff position — that of Senior Timber Inspector in 1973.

The position was later reclassified as Chief Utilization Officer in 1982.

One of Len's earliest achievements was to assist George Reynolds peg, lop and construct the Gloucester Tree lookout at Pemberton.

Although Len was highly regarded by all members of the Department in the various posi-

tions he occupied, it was in his role of Senior Forester Fire Control that he made the greatest impact.

At the time aircraft were being used to burn the heavy mixed fuels of the karri region.

Although there was some information available there were many gaps in our knowledge and carrying out these initial burns with adjacent heavy fuels on all sides required a highly organized suppression operation.

Len calls it a day

Len was invaluable in ensuring disasters did not develop from these early burns — a man of less capacity would have been overwhelmed by the situation.

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In addition to aircraft burning, the regeneration burning programme increased in both area and intensity during this period.

Again the Department was fortunate that this development coincided with Len's period as Senior Forester Fire Control at Manjimup.

Although the Forest Department's Large Fire Organization was initiated following the Dwellingup fires of 1961, the field work was developed to a high degree of efficiency during Len's period as Senior Fire Control Forester.

In most of the large fires of the 1960s and 1970s Len was the Fire Boss during the most critical stages, and at the last really big single fire — Boorara in 1970 — Len was one of the main Fire Bosses.

Len was an aggressive Fire Boss without peer in his day.

For health reasons, Len asked to be excused from a retirement function, but the Department is making a collection so that a suitable memento can be presented to mark the occasion.

Contributions should be forwarded to the 'Presentation Fund' c/- Jim Adams at State Operations HQ.

Ted's farewell was held in the Nannup Community Hall on Saturday, July 27.

Ted still has his farm in Nannup, but he and his wife intend to retire to Mundaring.

From their family of five the three sons have all pursued 'forest' careers.

Richard is a mechanic at Wanneroo, Alf is in I & P at Bunbury, and Victor works contract on felling and pruning.

Club Sundowner



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



● **ABOVE:** Birthday girl Barbara Munro shares her celebration with Elin Ryan and Jenny Doelle (L), and Julie Cook (R).
● **LEFT:** Don Keene and Jon Murch keeping a 'fatherly' eye on Josephine Nesbitt-Hawes.



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.



C.E.P. workers Steve Williams and Dave McNamara near the summit of Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Range National Park. Steve and Dave are putting the finishing touches to a newly aligned footpath up the mountain — the highest point in the south of the State. Photo: JOHN WATSON

Noisy scrub birds move to new home

MORE than 20 volunteers answered the Department's call to help move noisy scrub birds from Two Peoples Bay to Mt Many Peaks, about 20km away.

Working seven days a week in teams of six, they are helping departmental officers find and trap the birds on the rugged terrain round Mt Gardiner.

Other tasks include the collection of thousands of insects to keep the birds well fed until they are released.

The programme began last month and will continue for two months.

Three females and six male birds have been released in their new habitat and another will probably follow this week.

By the end of the season it is hoped 10 new pairs will have settled in.

So far four of the males have re-established territories and have been clearly heard calling for their mates.

The noisy scrub bird, one of the rarest birds in

the world, was confined to the small Two Peoples Bay reserve.

It was rediscovered in 1961 after having been thought extinct for nearly

a century.

The reserve officer, Mr Graeme Folley, told CALM News that at the last census 130 calling males were counted at

Two Peoples Bay.

But with all the birds on the one reserve the population was very vulnerable, especially to fire.

ADOPT-A-PARK

AN innovative programme to spread the responsibility for amenities and services relating to parks and reserves has been started by the City of Stirling.

The unique concept, the first in Australia devised on a total marketing approach, will involve service organizations, specialist groups and individuals prepared to contribute cash or services to help develop and maintain the numerous reserves within the city's boundaries.

The objective of the project is to encourage private enterprise to become involved in joint programmes with the City.

Business people will be given the opportunity to sponsor a whole reserve or an amenity within a reserve, by giving cash or by supplying materials or labour.

In return for their investment, sponsors will be given recognition on specially designed signs which will identify reserves.

There will be additional benefits for the business sponsor.

With Council approval they may be permitted to hold a product display, promotional activity, staff function or something similar.

There would be small recognition plaques on donated items, but no big advertising signs.

The Consultant coordinating Adopt-a-Park, Mr Gary Bryant, says that several businesses and service clubs have already expressed interest in participating in the project.

The programme is expected to make a significant contribution towards containing the City of Stirling's rising costs of maintaining parks and reserves.

TREE SPONSORS SOUGHT

THE Balingup Tree Committee is looking for tree sponsors to continue the development of the town's Golden Valley Tree Park.

The tree park is a joint community-CALM project.

Over the last 12 months work has concentrated on the construction of an information shelter now nearing completion.

During the next 12 months it is planned to complete this shelter and to start construction of toilets and walk trails.

This planting season a further 150 trees will be established within the park.

A number of trees to be established this year and some already established are available for sponsorship.

Sponsorship costs \$25 a tree which helps cover its purchase and the erection of tree guards.

In return, a small plaque will be placed adjacent to the sponsored tree with the name of the sponsor or person(s) elected by the sponsor engraved upon it.

Trees available for sponsorship are:

- Ginkgo — *Ginkgo biloba*;
- Larch — *Larix decidua*;
- Chinese poplar — *yunanensis*;
- Giant sequoia — *Sequoiadendron giganteum*;
- Silver birch — *Betula pendula*;
- Cutleaf birch — *Betula pendula 'dalecarlica'*;
- Paper bark birch — *Betula papyrifera*;
- Evergreen alder — *Alnus jorullensis*;

- Judas tree — *Cercis silquastrum*;
- Tansy leaf thorn — *Crataegus tanacetifolia*;
- Dwarf elm — *Ulmus pumila*;
- Chinese nettle — *Celtis sinensis*;
- Black locust 'frisia' — *Robinia pseudo-acacia 'frisia'*;
- Desert ash — *Fraxinus oxycarpa*;
- Pine oak — *Quercus palustris*;
- Oriental plane — *Platanus orientalis*;
- Osage orange — *Maclura pomifera*;
- Zelkova — *Zelkova serrata*;
- Stone pine — *Pinus pinea*.

If you are interested please fill in the details below and send to:

The Tree Committee
C/- PO Box 27
BALINGUP 6253

Name:.....
Address:.....

Name on plaque:.....
Choice of Tree:
(in order of preference)

1.....
2.....
3.....
NOTE: Choice cannot be guaranteed if there is more than one applicant for the same tree.

Biologists plan to save marsupial

A TEAM of CALM biologists are giving Mother Nature a hand in protecting a breed of small marsupials which once populated the South-West.

According to Research Manager Per Christensen, the woylie was widespread throughout southern Australia until the introduction of foxes 50 years ago.

"It seems a coincidence that when the fox found its way over to WA the numbers of woylies dropped dramatically," he said.

When the Forests Department began its research programme in 1971 the only known surviving woylies in Australia were found around Perup, near Manjimup.

The small marsupials, which weigh about 2.5kg, seek out dense bushland to hide from predators such as foxes.

In the last five years the biologists have resettled more than 100 of the remnant population in quite dense land near Collie and Nannup.

"Areas of dense bushland have been separated by farms and so we are giving nature a hand by reintroducing the woylies to certain areas," Per said.

While the resettlement of woylies in a protected

area near Perup has been hailed as successful, experiments elsewhere have been disappointing so far.

But, the biologists still hold hope of success at the Collie river.

Four years ago about 40 of the endangered animals were transported to Collie.

Trapping and monitoring of the marsupial's weights and number of young were initially disappointing.

"From previous work we found there is always a big drop in numbers after immediate release," Per said.

"The marsupials gradually settle down. We can't yet estimate the population in the Collie area — perhaps they have spread over a bigger area.

"We know the population fluctuates and at present in the Perup region is quite high."

Per said the Perup studies had shown the need to check long-term cycles in native animal populations so that burning was avoided when numbers reached a trough

and species were most vulnerable.

As more details become known about the rise and decline in numbers, future fire management programmes will have to take these new facts into consideration.

Rescue seminar held at Albany

WA'S FIRST mountain and cliff rescue seminar was held at Albany last month.

The two-day seminar was organized by CALM, the W.A. Police and the State Emergency Service.

The South Coast's Regional Manager, John Watson, said the seminar was highly successful and would become a regular event.

It was attended by national park rangers, police, SES volunteers, rock climbers, the Albany fire brigade and members of the Great Southern Tracking Group from Walpole, Jerramungup, Denmark, Mt Barker, Cranbrook and Gnowangerup.

About 20 people took part in practical



Rangers Phil Gray and Steve Keelan assist local rock climber, Barry Geldard in lowering "patient" Dave McNamara over the edge.

rescue demonstrations at The Gap on the South Coast.

Ten days after the seminar the Gnowangerup Police and local CALM officers were involved in the rescue of a boy scout lost overnight on Toolbrunup Peak.



Five months earlier a New Year bush walker was lost for three days on Bluff Knoll.

According to John Watson the two incidents in the Stirling Range could have been more serious, and only luck with the weather averted a potential tragedy on each occasion.

He said that it was inevitable that CALM staff, especially park rangers, would be involved in search and rescue operations, particularly in the early stages before the police arrived to take control.

"There will continue to be an emphasis on SAR training for all staff in the South Coast Region," said John.

He said CALM's involvement in SAR operations could increase as adventure activities in national parks become more popular.



Cliff rescue training near The Gap, Torndirrup National Park. Rangers, SES volunteers and climbers preparing to lower stretcher. David McNamara (CEP employee, Stirling Range National Park) is the "patient".

RARE PLANT FOUND

PLANTS believed to be unique in the world are growing on the Narrogin golf course.

The plants were identified as *Pultinenaea pauciflora* Scott by a Wildlife Officer, Leon Sylvester.

The last recorded sighting of the plant was in 1914, and it has been thought to be extinct.

Botanists will investigate the plant cluster and any burning off or other work near it will in future require Departmental involvement.

Policy Director urges . . .

SAVE MARINE RESERVE VALUES

MARINE reserves, like land reserves, should be managed to preserve the values that made them attractive to people, according to the Department's director of nature conservation Dr Barry Wilson.

Barry took this message to a recent Department workshop on a management plan for a proposed marine reserve between Trigg Island and Ocean Beach boat harbour.

"Reserve management needs a multi-level approach, similar to that used in the jarrah forests," he said.

He said that there were two reasons for reserves: the preservation of species and the conservation of resources that were to be utilized.

Nature reserves for preservation or conservation used areas which could sustain representative populations of flora and fauna and which could be properly managed.

"People are just beginning to think of sustainable yields in recreational areas.

"These reserves also have to be regulated or they will become degraded."

He said that the motive and management for the two types of reserves were different.

The first issue was to decide the area's primary use.

If it were recreation, managers had to look at the kind of activities that were destructive and ban them.

In a marine Reserve, Barry said that recreation, fishing and shell

collecting were not necessarily objectionable, but these activities had to be controlled so that the resources could be sustained.

He said that he saw the proposed marine reserve as primarily recreational.

"It also has a good potential for education and conservation, and fishing would be acceptable as long as it was managed."

Export ban on birds to stay

WILDLIFE administration and national parks management were the main subjects discussed at a recent meeting of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM), held at Norfolk Island.

The Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, and the Divisional Manager Administration and Finance, Alex Errington, attended. One discussion of particular

interest to staff members located in the fruit-growing areas of the State related to the long-standing ban on the overseas export of live Australian fauna.

The present ban has existed since January 1960.

Although the debate over the issue has regularly surfaced over the last 24 years, it appears that the ban will remain indefinitely.

The fact that it would require legislation to amend the Commonwealth's Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act makes a change in policy unlikely.

Arguments advanced in support of an export industry in-

clude the idea that farmers' problems of crop damage would be reduced or even solved by the reduction of the offending bird population, and that export is a more desirable method of control than shooting.

Many people also feel that a valuable resource which could generate income and employment is being wasted, and that the legal export of birds would destroy the lucrative smuggling trade which occurs.

However, Australia is a signatory to an international convention which recommends that birds not be taken from the wild for pet trade, and there is

no evidence to suggest that the trapping and export of birds will solve farmers' problems, where shooting is ineffective.

As well, pest species from Australia would have the potential to cause damage overseas and their export could be regarded as irresponsible by other governments.

The Conference was also told that statistics indicate that smuggling rarely involves pest species (the demand overseas is for the less common species) and the cost of administering an effective export system would be substantial. — ALEX ERRINGTON.