



Crawley protest

DIEBACK PROTECTION PLAN FOR SOUTH COAST

By KEITH LOW

A project team is working on a dieback protection plan for CALM land in the South Coast Region.

The Region includes a number of National Parks and Nature Reserves which are of great value for their spectacular scenery, recreation opportunity, and wildlife habitat, but perhaps most of all because they harbour one of the richest, and most diverse floral communities in Australia.

The importance of these communities is heightened by the fact that many of the species are endemic to the Region, or even to very specific areas within a single Park.

Dieback, caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, could have a devastating effect on these plants and, in turn, each of the other values of the Region.

The disease has already demonstrated that it affects some of the largest and most important plant families in the Region.

Dieback occurs to a varying extent in all the most popular Parks and Reserves in the Region, so a strategy to minimise the spread and impact of the disease has been given priority by CALM.

A benefit of the amalgamation is that the project team is able to draw on the whole range of expertise necessary to tackle the problem, which previously was not available within any one of the constituent Departments.

The team consists of Frank Batini, Environmental Protection (Convenor); John Watson, South Coast Region; Kevin Goss, Information;

Joanna Tippett, Research; Greg Keighery, Research; Sue Moore, Planning; and Keith Low, Environmental Protection.

To date the team has assigned responsibilities and is accumulating the data bank required for formulation of the plan.

Visits to the area and discussions with Ranger staff have been useful.

It is intended that by the end of the year, an overall regional dieback protection plan outlining broad management strategies and explaining policy decisions, will be produced.

By the same target date a number of specific protection plans, including resource information and detailed management strategies, are to be produced for some Parks and Reserves in the Region.

The priority classification for this purpose, based on various criteria, is close to completion.

The dieback protection plan is seen as an interim document, much of which would be suitable for inclusion in a regional management plan at a later date.

Nature Reserve survey

ON the weekend of September 7 and 8, 1985, Jackie Brown and Sue Moore from Planning and Jeni Alford, Louise Boscecci, Judith Brown and Alan Burbridge from Wildlife Research combined forces with the WA Naturalists' Club (led by Otto Mueller) to survey the Clackline Nature Reserve.

This nature reserve, with an area of 460ha, lies just to the east of Bakers Hill on the Great Eastern Highway.

It is geologically and floristically very interesting, being on the rugged boundary between the Darling Range and Avon Valley.

It is also the only nature reserve on which the rare Shy Spider Orchid *Calandenia triangularis* has been recorded.

The two days revealed a wealth of fauna, with four snake, three legless lizard, five skink, four gecko, one dragon and one monitor species of reptile being recorded.

Five frog species were also noted.

Grey kangaroos and echidnas were common.

Forty-two species of birds were observed, including two nocturnal species, the Boobook Owl and Tawny Frogmouth.

This information will provide good baseline data for the management plan for nature reserves in the Shires of York and Northam.

Clackline is one of the six nature reserves in this area.

— SUE MOORE



Conservation Council members protested outside CALM's Crawley office on Friday, September 13. The protest was against "a proposal to mine for gold in the Hamersley Range National Park . . ." A meeting of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority was being held at Crawley at the time.

Turtle haven off Dampier

By KEITH MORRIS

The use of beaches in the Dampier Archipelago by marine turtles for nesting was one of the main reasons for these islands becoming Nature Reserves in 1980.

Presently 26 of the 40 islands within a 45km radius of Dampier are Nature Reserves, and four species of turtle have been recorded nesting on them.

These are the Green, Hawksbill, Flatback and Loggerhead Turtle.

The beaches are also used by the public from the towns of Dampier, Karratha, Wickham and Roebourne for recreational activities.

Since 1983 regular aerial counts of turtle tracks

on beaches have been undertaken to determine the extent of turtles and distribution of turtle nesting on the islands.

This work has been supported by ground surveys, and, as each species has its own characteristic track pattern, a species nesting distribution has also been determined.

The Green turtle is the most common in the Archipelago, and nests on most beaches.

The Loggerhead and Flatback turtles prefer

beaches on the limestone based islands nearer to deep water.

Between 400 and 600 female turtles come ashore each night to lay their eggs during the nesting season from September to April.

Most turtle nesting activity appears to occur during neap tides when there is less difference between high and low tides.

Up to 150 eggs at a time may be laid by a female turtle, and she may come ashore to lay

four to six times in a nesting season.

Turtle eggs require an incubation temperature of at least 24 degrees C before development will commence, and the sex of the hatchling is determined by the incubation temperature.

For the Green turtle, eggs incubated between 24 degrees and 27.5 degrees will develop into males, and between 28 and 31.5 degrees they develop into females.

This means that eggs laid early in the season will probably develop into males, while those laid later in the season will develop into females.

Incubation temperatures above 32 degrees C are usually lethal.

Some preliminary work on nest temperatures on Barrow Island and the Dampier Archipelago show that the incubation temperature for a particular nest remains relatively constant despite ground temperature ranges of 22 degrees to 40 degrees.

Much of the data obtained on turtle utilization of the islands will be used in the preparation of a Draft Management Plan for the Nature Reserves in the Dampier Archipelago.

istics of operations in the Gascoyne Region were re-considered.

Kim's background is in marine research in WA.

Responsibility for Gascoyne Region will now be shared between Regional Managers Greenough (West Gascoyne) and Pibara (East Gascoyne).

Jeff and Kim's duties in the Gascoyne include working with Planning Officer Richard May in the development of Ningaloo Marine Park.

—PETER KIMBER

Greenough region staff

GREENOUGH Region became staffed and operational on September 9 when Regional Manager Geoff Mercer started work.

Geoff comes to the Department from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and brings with him extensive experience of both marine and terrestrial park management.

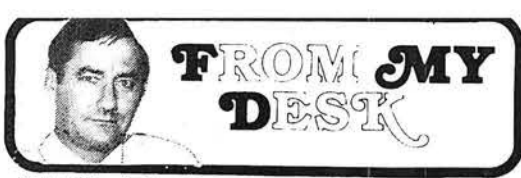
He is stationed at Geraldton.

Kelly Gillan, District Manager Moora, joined us on September 2.

Kelly worked at the Forests Department's Dwellingup Research Station until 1979 when he left to take a post as biologist with Dampier Salt Ltd.

Kim Nardi swelled the ranks of Regional staff on September 16 when he started as Operations Officer, Geraldton.

Kim was formerly appointed to Carnarvon, but this was altered to Geraldton when the log-



FROM MY DESK
STAFF of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, probably more than most people in the workforce, know that every job has its compensations: there are good moments and bad ones.

In a good job, the former outweigh the latter, and by this definition, I think that most of us feel we are in a pretty good job in this Department.

I was in a mood to doubt all this one evening last week when I returned home late from a very trying day as "Acting Syd". (Have you ever tried to act like Syd? The pipe smoking alone could kill you!).

The day had included a prolonged session on Talk-back Radio in the morning, with the host and a string of callers haranguing me about woodchipping and clearfelling, and then a ream of curly Parliamentary Questions in the afternoon.

The questions had all been of the type where special information is required and is possessed only by officers away in the bush for a week, on leave, or attending conferences in Townsville.

As I say, a trying day.

But I had hardly got in the front door at home, ready to take it all out on wife, children and cat, when the phone rang.

It was Southcoast Mobile Ranger, Richard Pemberton.

"Just ringing to let you know the whales are back in the bay beneath the Rangers' Station," he said.

There were six of them in "his bay" and many more reported by other rangers "further up the coast".

Richard gave me a three-minute story about their size, species and activities and compared this year's numbers (favourably) with last year's, before ringing off.

The thrilling image of these beautiful animals enjoying themselves, and providing pleasure to rangers and others as they lolled about in the bays of the southcoast parks, cleansed and uplifted my spirits.

It would have been something to be there.

But short of this, hearing and thinking about them was still very good.

It was more than compensation for me on the job that day.

Thanks, Richard.

ROGER UNDERWOOD

General Manager

Syd Shea is in Canada attending the 12th Commonwealth Forestry Conference.

Harnessing plantation wildfires

By G.W. VAN DIDDEN

THIS year further trials were carried out in the Wanneroo District, using a helicopter for carrying out fuel reductions by prescribed burning over large areas in pine plantations.

The reason behind these trials is that the annual task of burning fuel reduced buffer breaks under pine trees in the Wanneroo District has now reached 5000 hectares per annum.

The total area of plantation protected in the District in this way has reached 20,000 hectares.

The purpose of these fuel-reduced buffer areas is to minimise the spread of, and damage from, the many wildfires that can and do occur during the summer, which could wipe out a complete plantation.

Traditionally the task of prescribed burning under pine has been carried out by small three-person crews using light four-wheel-drive vehicles.

This growing task of fuel hazard reduction was becoming increasingly more difficult to achieve due to:

- * the size of the task.
- * the relatively low production rates achieved by manual ground lighting techniques (34 hectares per 3 person team per day).
- * the limited number of suitable days for burning during the winter months.

To meet the increasing demands of this task of burning fuel reduced buffer areas, the option of using a helicopter to increase the production rate during the limited number of days with suitable weather conditions was again tried.

In the Wanneroo trial on September 3, 1985, a three-man crew in the helicopter lit up 346 hectares with an operational flight time of 1hr 55 min, achieving a production rate of 180 hectares per hour.

The crew carrying out this operation consisted of pilot John Little from Westcoast Helicopters, navigator Tom Kenneally and bombardier Steve Campbell from Department of Conservation and Land Management, Wanneroo.

The crew worked under the direction of District Forester Ted Cracknell, with additional ground support staff from the Wanneroo district to ensure the fire stayed within the prescribed boundaries.

The helicopter used for the trial was a Bell 206B Jetranger hired from the local firm of Westcoast Helicopters.

wildfires

machine is installed, the speed must be reduced below 128 km/hr for safety reasons.

The incendiary machine used was a Mark IV FVC obtained on loan from the Victorian Forests Commission.

This particular unit was designed to operate in a

helicopter or fixed wing.

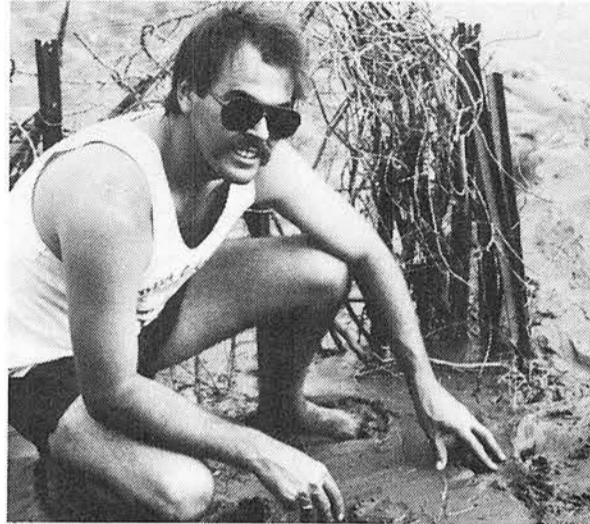
The ejection rate can be varied from one incendiary every second to 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 or 3 second intervals to give the desired ground ignition spacing.

During the trial the best operational speed was found to be 50 knots while operating at an ejection rate of 1 second intervals.

Ground ignition spacing at this speed gave a spot distance of 26 metres.

Reports from the aircrew stated that the helicopter proved to be an ideal platform for dropping incendiary devices and provided excellent visibility for navigation at 50 knots.

Incendiaries could be placed very accurately along the flightlines or next to selected boundaries.



Rogue croc still loose

WYNDHAM Wildlife Officer Mike Osborne deals with native fauna the hard way.

No furry little numbats that delicately lap up termites in his territory — just the odd 7m "rogue" estuarine crocodile that terrorizes local barramundi fishermen.

For the rogue's own protection, and for the safety of the fishermen the Department decided that it should be moved to the new Crocodile Park at Broome.

Mike was trying to trap the rogue at Collins Creek in the lower Ord River, when a 4.5m female "saltie" took the bait instead.

The park, which opened a few weeks ago, provides the public with a chance to see crocodiles in safety, but among the 30 or 50 crocs, there is a shortage of mature females.

When this pretty amphibian strayed into the trap set for the big one, film maker/entrepreneur Malcolm Douglas, who runs the crocodile park, asked CALM's permission to re-locate her at Broome — CLIFF WINFIELD

Draft management plan for reserve

A MANAGEMENT plan is currently being prepared for the Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve, 30km south of Perth.

The Reserve is one of the most important waterbird conservation areas in Western Australia.

At times, up to 63 species of birds have been observed, 19 of which use the lake as a breeding ground.

Although it is only a small lake, more than 27,000 birds have been recorded at one time, satisfying criteria for nomination as a wetland of international significance.

Among the birds observed, a number of migratory species have been recorded, some from as far away as Siberia and Japan.

There has been growing concern that the lake's value for wildlife conservation is under threat and management of this particular reserve is seen as a priority in the Metropolitan Region.

Some of the concerns expressed include:

- * Bullrush encroachment,
- * midge control,
- * weed invasion,
- * water quality control and
- * use of the reserve by off-road vehicles and horse riders.

All interested individuals and groups, such as

reserve neighbours and conservation groups, are being encouraged to become involved in the formulation of the draft plan.

A newsletter has been sent to residents in the area and to groups that may have an interest in the reserve, inviting them to let the Department know what their major concerns are.

Subsequent newsletters will give interested parties the opportunity to discuss their concerns and management ideas at length.

Using this information a draft management plan will be produced and released for public comment for a minimum of two months.

The draft will be reviewed in light of comments received and an amended draft and summary of public submissions produced.

The draft and summary of public submissions will then be submitted to the National Parks and Nature Conservation and Land Management and to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, for comment and approval.

Once approved, the plan will be published in its final form.



ERICA MARSHALL (right) with graphic artists John Goodlad and Trish Ryder.

Human resource studies

THE Public Service Board, in conjunction with the Western Australian Institute of Technology, recently arranged for a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management to be mounted for a group of 32 government offices, the majority of whom are employed under the Public Service Act.

The one-year course started on July 22, 1985, and subjects to be studied include personnel management, industrial law, management accounting, computer studies and government administration.

The Diploma course has been designed to incorporate both academic and practical studies.

Trainee Human Resource Managers (as the students are titled) have been placed with a wide cross section of Public Service departments for the practical component of the course.

CALM's trainee is Erica Marshall who

will be working on a two day a week basis in the Department until the end of the 1985 academic year.

During the long vacation she will be working full time in CALM undertaking a personnel related project that is expected to be of value to the Department (as well as contribute to her course marks).

Erica will be working under the supervision of Jim Edwards in the Personnel Branch.

Before starting the traineeship, Erica worked for almost 12½ years for the Public Service Board, principally on personnel and establishment/classification duties.

Before being recruited into the Public Service she worked in insurance companies and libraries.

Erica has a B.A. (Hons.) degree from the University of Western Australia.

APPOINTMENTS

FIFTY new personnel have joined the Department since its formation in March this year.

New appointments peaked at an average of 11 per month for May, June and July and tapered off to five in August and two in September.

New Staff to CALM are:

MARCH

Tenardi DJ	Como Engineering Clerk
Errington AG	Como Administration Div Manager

APRIL

Adams SE	Harvey	Cler Officer
Hatwell BA	Woodvale Library	Clerk
Algaba PL	Como Staff	Clerk
Simmonds LM	Manjimup	Cler Officer
Saunders DA	Como Communications	Forest Ranger

Evans PD	Como Stores	Clerk
Ward JC	Wildlife Res. Centre	Clerk

Sharp JR	Crawley	Scientific Adviser
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MAY

Sapsworth PA	Crawley	Sec/Stenog
Rankin TA	Como Records	Clerk
Sinclair MC	Como Records	Clerk
Robless SP	Como Accounts	Clerk
Cawthorn LM	Como Accounts	Clerk
Ablett JF	Como Records	Clerk
Morris JA	Wildlife Investigations	Typist

Webb AL	Como Records	Cler Assist
Cooper RG	Como Personnel	Asst Manager
Bennett AM	Crawley	Sec/Stenog
Marrable LW	Como	Chief Clerk
Sermon MJ	Crawley	Admin Assist

JUNE

Boscacci LJ	Wildlife Res. Centre	Tech Officer
Fantozzi S	Como Timber Production	Typist

Parvin KP	Como Accounts	Clerk
Rene JR	Como Accounts	Clerk
Atkinson JE	Como Registration	Clerk
Raymond R	Como Registration	Clerk
Goss KF	Como Information	Manager
Tonts SR	Narrogin	Cler Officer
Howe SS	Katanning	Clerk/Typist
Parker IN	Murdoch House	Grad Assist
Pearson CM	Como Information	Typist

Attracting tourists again . . .

MINISTER REOPENS GLOUCESTER TREE

The Gloucester Tree at Pemberton is back on the list of highlights for tourists to the area.

The Minister assisting the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Dave Evans, officially reopened the tree to the public at a special function on Friday, September 13.

Mr Evans said he was pleased the tree had been made safe for the public to enjoy the experience of climbing one of the few remaining lookout trees in the South West.

The tree attracts about 130,000 visitors a year and about 10,000 people make the 61m climb to the viewing platform.

Mr Evans said the number of visitors had doubled in the past 10 years and the tree was Pemberton's best known tourist attraction.

"Tree lookouts are a unique chapter in Western Australia's history," he said.

"The Gloucester Tree is the tallest fire lookout tree in the world and has been used as a lookout continuously from 1946 until 1975.

"However, even in recent times it has been used on a number of occasions and will remain a back-up fire lookout for use in emergencies."

Mr Evans paid a special tribute to the foresters who pioneered the lookout trees.

Don Stewart, who later became Conservator of Forests, was intrigued by the exploits of Pemberton's dare-devil axeman, Dick Sprouge, who drove pegs into karri trees, climbed to the top and chopped through the upper stem about 60m off the ground.

Mr Stewart hit on the idea of using trees as fire lookouts and in 1937 the first tree lookout was established on the Alco ridge north of Manjimup.

"There were two axemen, in particular, who later helped set up other tree lookouts," Mr Evans said.

"Jack Watson climbed likely trees to evaluate their suitability as lookouts, and George Reynolds built the ladderways and the towerman's cabin."

Mr Evans said nine tree lookouts were built in the Karri forest between 1936 and 1952.

Kangaroo seminar held at Carnarvon

MORE than 80 people took part in a seminar on 'Kangaroos in Rangelands' held in Carnarvon on August 23, 1985.

Kangaroo conservation and management is an important part of CALM's wildlife activities, involving considerable interactions with a range of primary producer, industry and community groups.

The seminar was organised by the West Gascoyne Branch of the Australian Rangeland Society and those attending included pastoralists, professional kangaroo shooters, kangaroo processors, and Government scientists and officials.

It provided a timely opportunity for the various interest groups to get together and exchange views on some contentious issues which have become a focus of attention for national and international conservation and animal welfare groups.

CALM was represented by Keiran McNamara (Scientific Adviser to the Director of Nature Conservation) and Jim Wilson (District Wildlife Officer in Carnarvon).

Keiran presented a paper outlining the Department's kangaroo management program.

He told the seminar that the Department's primary concern is the conservation of kangaroo populations over their natural ranges.

At the same time the Department is responsive to the needs of pastoralists whose livelihood is affected when kangaroo numbers are excessive.

To meet the need for damage mitigation, culling is carried out and commercial use is made of the products.

The industry is the tool of management, aimed at keeping kangaroo numbers within limits tolerable to landholders.

It is carefully regulated so that it does not threaten the survival of kangaroo populations.

The Department's approach is based on scientific knowledge and sound practical experience.

Keiran noted that it has worked well over many years, with kangaroos remaining widespread and abundant while at the same time relief is available to those who make their living from the land.



PETER MASTERS replaces a climbing peg at the base of Pemberton's Gloucester Tree. John Jackway looks on.

John enjoys the West

IF history is cyclical then John Blyth, (Scientific Adviser, Nature Conservation) should be employed with CALM for 12 years.

That has been the cycle of the past two phases in his life.

The first was as a farmer outside Melbourne.

While he loved the outdoors, a combination of long hours, back breaking work and poor returns, over which he had little control, forced him off the land and into the lecture theatre.

The second phase included the gaining of an honours degree in zoology and genetics from Latrobe University, and employment with the Museum of Victoria.

John comes to CALM from the Museum's Biological Survey Department where he conducted and

supervised research on aquatic invertebrates, especially the impact of human activities on them.

He spent a lot of his time with the museum developing methods of sampling large rivers.

His enthusiasm for innovation was dulled by an accident in a swollen river in which he almost drowned.

John hopes that W.A.'s rivers, like its climate, will be more hospitable.

While he has been here for several months, his family — school teacher wife Judy and teenage daughters Sally and Kathy — are finishing the school year in Victoria.

John's first impressions of W.A. are most favourable, and he looks like becoming a long term, if not permanent, resident.

As a keen cyclist he is looking for a home within "pushing" distance

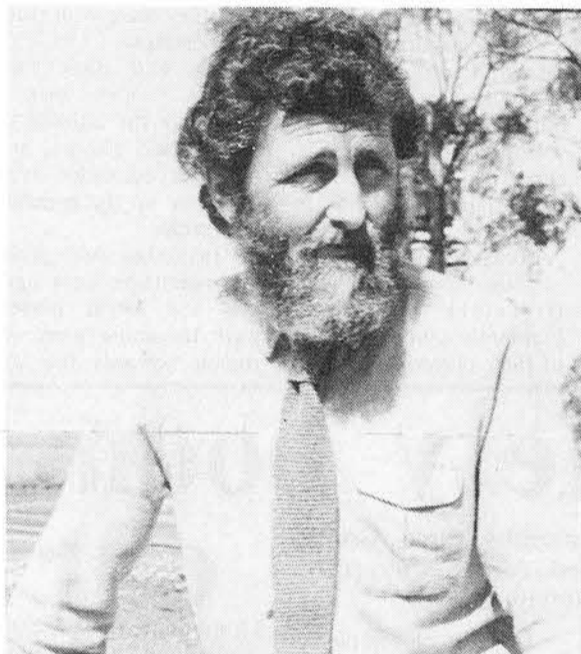
to work, and once the family has settled here they will be making use of Perth's cycleways, especially those around the Swan River.

With hobbies such as bird watching and native plants, he has quickly gained an appreciation of the wetlands and bush areas that are located close to the city.

These features, as well as Perth's smaller population — about a third the size of Melbourne — have so far outweighed Melbourne's cultural attractions (and the loss of the Age).

He is also interested in acting as a link between amateur conservation groups and CALM.

His work at CALM covers the provision of scientific background on many issues relating to the influence of land management on conservation values.



JOHN BLYTH

CHALLENGING CONVENTION

By JENNI BARTLE

RECENTLY, a number of departmental staff, including myself, spent a couple of days attending an 'acclimatization' workshop run by Professor Steve Van Matre from Chicago, US, who presented a range of ideas and techniques to stimulate conventional 'environmental educators'.

Here are some of the ideas presented and some of my feelings about the workshop.

First of all, what is acclimatization (ARACC)?

Well, it is "a program which helps people of all ages build a sense of relationship, in both feelings and understandings, with the natural world".

The program includes: solitude experiences — to help sharpen up non-verbal skills and get in touch with the environment; use of senses; development of knowledge and understanding of basic ecological concepts

— how does life function, how we are connected to the system, how are we going to make changes; the mechanics of how we learn, focussing on carefully planned, sequential, cumulative knowledge; and last, but not least, the ingredient that provides the motivation, and the bit I think most people like best, some 'magic'!

We heard lots of stories — happy ones, funny ones, and sad ones.

We got grubby and we got tired, probably because my room-mates snored and talked in their sleep and kept me awake most of the night — the

joys of dormitory accommodation.

We shared our experience and a bit of the magic; we looked at things in the bush in ways most of us hadn't done for many years, if ever; we had fun (well, I did); and we watched and we learnt.

It was really cold, the breakfast was ordinary (the rest of the meals were good) and cleaning up the mess at the end is always a drag, but I was impressed with the ACC philosophy and approach to learning, and hope to practice some of the techniques some time.

CALM News is the Department of Conservation and Land Management's 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: Richard Grant, Editor, CALM News. Department Conservation and Land Management Como WA 6152 — or phone 367 6333 — ext 325. HQ OHQ ext 328.



COURSE coordinator, Bruce Harvey, addresses overseers at Busselton's Geographe Hotel.

Managers' role

THE role of the supervisor and good management practices was the essence of two two-day courses held for overseers in Busselton recently.

Twenty-three overseers representing most forest districts attended the courses which were opened by Steve Quain, Divisional Manager of Operations and Don Grace, Manager of Protection.

Instead of having one lecturer conducting all the training sessions, the course was structured so that nine guest speakers from the Department each delivered a lecture.

Subjects covered included the overseers role in regard to accident prevention, people management, technical aspects,

information, record keeping training and the interface of the overseer with personnel above and below him.

Bruce Harvey, course co-ordinator from Central Forest Region, said that the overseer was the key person in the management of a forest district.

"In the past very little training resources were given to overseers," he said.

Last year, for the first time, a course was held for 12 overseers mainly from the Central Forest Region.

"This year we doubled that number and hopefully before long, all overseers of prospective overseers will have had the benefit of training sessions."



BRETT YORGEY (centre) gets a demonstration of the finer points of handballing from Rod Mell (right) and Lindsay McAllan.

BRETT COPS IT SWEET

BRETT YORGEY cops it sweet most Mondays during the football season.

Having a pleasant, friendly personality, the "ribbing" is often unwarranted but Brett, a courier attached to CALM's Stores Branch, plays league football for Perth.

As far as supporters are concerned Perth have been in the bottom half of the premiership table for far too long, and the players have to bear the brunt of the blame.

Because he can't do anything else, Brett grins and bears it, but he believes that Perth's for-

position, and this is a good omen for next season."

Brett was recruited by Perth from the Sydney Swans and, when fit, is a regular league player. Injury has restricted his league appearances to 40 games in the past three seasons, and he missed 10 games this year.

However, his 11 Sandover Medal votes from eight league games stamps him as a class player.

Brett is looking towards an injury-free season next year.

He has already started training and is running between six and 12km five times a week as well as doing beach work.

both on and off the field, even if most of it is bluff," Brett said.

"The trait has been evident in Swans for about five years during which time they have won three premierships.

"In the past two seasons I have seen a change in the attitude of the Subiaco players, and this has coincided with their rise up the premiership table.

"In our last three games this year there were signs that the Perth players were becoming more arrogant towards the op-

position, and this is a good omen for next season."

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Information a tool for management

By IAN HERFORD

WHETHER supplied or withheld information is a powerful tool in all forms of land management.

As an agency managing public lands, CALM must also manage the public using those lands.

An informed and interested public can be of great assistance in ensuring that management objectives are successfully attained: to be "well in-

formed", the public require information.

Visitors to CALM Land appreciate the value of information in enhancing their enjoyment of natural areas.

Signs, brochures and other interpretive information make the public more aware of the significance of what they

are seeing and thus add value to their experience.

But, the value of selective information used as a medium for managing land has not always been recognized.

A sign saying "KEEP TO THE PATHWAY" is far more likely to be obeyed by members of the public if it also tells them that if they walk on other areas, fragile regrowth vegetation will be destroyed.

If visitor pressure in a particular part of a National Park forces managers to close the area off, public resistance to the change could be greatly reduced by the provision of information at the site explaining both why the closure is necessary and how the visitors' co-operation will assist.

Facilities damaged by vandals can give a poor impression of management standards.

This in turn can lead to an attitude of "If they don't care neither do I", among visitors to the area.

On the job

TWELVE second year Field Cadets have just returned to Dwellingup after a week of work experience with Wildlife Officers or Park Rangers.

This is part of a program to acquaint them with the work of these officers, and wherever possible, to enable them to be of practical assistance.

Cadets saw and assisted in a wide range of activity, from Wongan Hills to the South Coast.

In addition to experiencing routine work, such as fauna and flora inspection, guided tours, maintenance of roads and picnic sights, several unexpected high spots were recorded.

One cadet even made the front page of the Albany Advertiser through being involved with Wildlife Officer Peter Collins in a whale measuring assignment.

Cadets acknowledge their appreciation of this work experience and wish to thank the officers concerned, for answering their questions and for providing enjoyable inductions.



Safety boom for our staff

IN the past two months three CALM Districts have qualified for the Executive Director's Individual Safety Award.

Manjimup, Walpole, and Wanneroo all made the grade by working 12 consecutive months without a lost time accident.

The Acting Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Dave Evans, presenting the Safety Award to Manjimup District, said that an effective safety program not only prevents a great deal of physical suffering and personal hardship, but also saves money for use in other areas.

The cost of compensation premiums and lost working days saved by the Department's safety record in 1983/84 paid the wages of over 200 workers.

The largest employer of any district in the Department, Manjimup has 137 men and women working in a great range of jobs, from field crews and mechanics, to pilots and administrators.

With Manjimup's achievement, Southern Forest passed the

12-month safety milestone as a Region on September 6.

A total of 450,000 manhours without a lost time accident had been worked by the 234 members of the entire Region.

A new helmet sticker for years of safe service was awarded to those who have had the best run.

Topping the list in the south, with over 30 years of accident-free work behind each of them, were Clarry Benson (low-loader driver), Allan Miles (overseer), and Tony Anells (research).

STAFF who have noticed that the lawns at Como have been dug up recently may spare a little sympathy for overseer Des Carter.

Des's headaches began when workmen, using a power trench cutter, cut a narrow trench 24 inches deep from the south side of the modules to the new Fire Protection Board modules to the north.

The workmen, who were laying the trench for electric cables, were not aware that the Como reticulation system is buried 18 inches below the surface.

Des organised plumbers to repair the broken lines. But as soon as they thought they had repaired them all another leak would become evident.

To date 10 broken pipes have been replaced. Here, Des (right) looks disconsolately at leak number nine.



A simple sign explaining that the facility is temporarily out of order due to damage by vandals will not only inform visitors that the managers DO care about the damage, but could also encourage public participation in curbing acts of vandalism.

Information can also be used to discourage inappropriate uses of land.

A brochure outlining the detrimental effects of uncontrolled off-road vehicle use in forest areas for example could be circulated to four-wheel-drive clubs etc to help foster a more responsible attitude to the use of these vehicles.

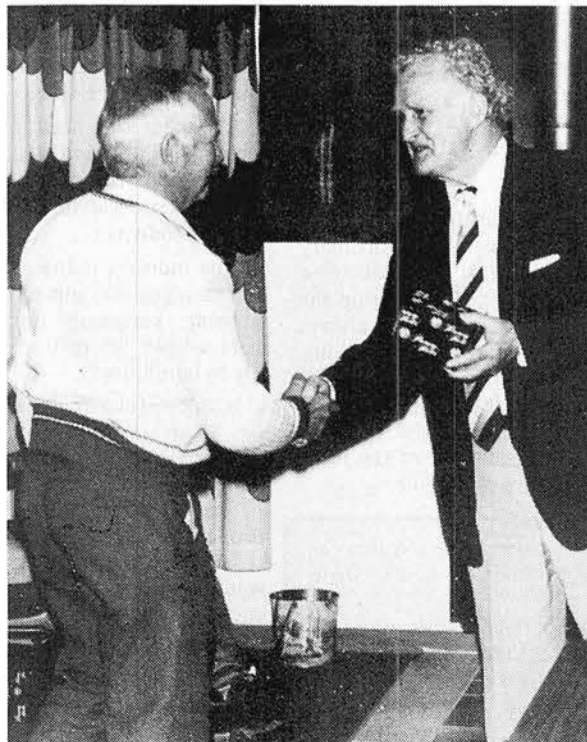
A ban on fishing in a heavily exploited river is more likely to be successful if the public is made aware of the effects of continued fishing pressure.

In certain cases, it may be advantageous to selectively withhold information in order to aid management.

If a particular day-use picnic site has deteriorated due to extreme visitor pressure the site could be omitted from future recreation directories.

This would minimise the number of new visitors to the site and, in conjunction with information for current users, could significantly reduce site pressures.

Once rehabilitation is complete, the area could again be listed in directories along with information to assist visitors in minimising their impact on the site.



DAVE EVANS makes a presentation to Lionel Gunson at the Walpole presentation ceremony.

IAN KAY RESIGNS

IAN KAY resigned last month after two years with the Forests Department and CALM.

Ian joined the department after fleeing a massive pine afforestation program with the New Zealand Forest Service, and he brought with him a fresh outlook and 10 years experience in tourist and union newspapers.

In his short time with the Department he edited Forest Focus, Bush Telegraph, and a variety of research publications; authored innumerable press releases and articles in local newspapers; devised

and wrote pamphlets; and still found time to talk to people and photograph them from one end of the forest to the other.

Ian, with other Information Branch officers, also extended and improved the Department's public image through local and state media contact.

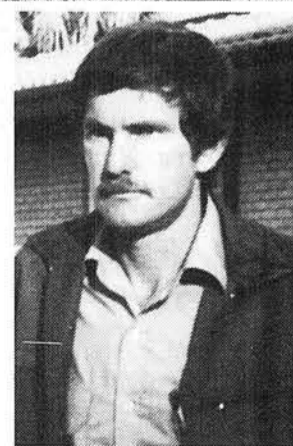
From his friends and workmates in Information Branch, we wish Ian the best of kiwi luck in his new career as Information Officer with Bunnings — and we understand how a new car, an expense account, and a 50 per cent increase in salary can tempt the strongest of men.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

To the Editor
May I use the Department's staff newsletter to thank everybody for their friendship and support during my two years as editor — first of Bush Telegraph and latterly of CALM News.

My new responsibilities will involve liaison with the Department and travel in the South West, so I hope to be able to continue the contact and build on it.

IAN KAY
Information Officer
Bunnings



LES DONALD, who recently joined CALM as a metrobased mobile ranger can count on a lot more than the usual amount of moral support. Not only can he count on CALM staff for support, but even closer to home than that, he can count on his wife for on-the-job advice. Not that rangers cannot generally expect help from their wives, it is just that Les' wife happens to be an ex-ranger from the Northern Territory.