

IAN SOLOMON (left), Steve Strachan, Alyn Yates and Peter Collins (obscured) sort out knotting during the south coast Search and Rescue Seminar at Torndirrup National Park.

## RESCUE TRAINING FOR FIELD STAFF

**VISITOR safety is always of concern for CALM field staff.**

The Northern regions breathe a sigh of relief as the busy tourist season draws to a close with only two major rescues this year (both at the Hamersley Range National Park) and no fatalities.

Further south, however, as summer approaches, visitor numbers increase daily and rescue teams prepare for standby.

Most of our national parks boast scenic attractions such as coastal cliffs, rocky outcrops or river gorges.

The spectacular views of this country also hold dangers for the inexperienced, unwary or just plain unlucky visitor.

About half of the national park rangers had had rescue training.



For the past few years, officers of the Special Air Service Training Squadron have provided expert instruction in ropes and knots, the raising and lowering of stretchers and coordination of a rescue operation.

One of the benefits CALM has is the large network of personnel available in an emergency.

A number of small scale briefing sessions have taken place throughout the State and two major courses have been conducted this year.

In October, two forest officers joined four national park rangers in a four-day training session at Statham Quarry, Perth.

Under the watchful eyes of W.O. McCalman and Sgt Herrick, the six developed the skill and confidence to successfully organise and carry out a

By MARY COLREAVY and JOHN WATSON

mock rescue on the final day.

A "patient" was given emergency first aid, lowered over an overhang and down a 30m cliff.

He was carried across the gully and then raised, with an escort guiding the stretcher's progress, up a 25m rock face to safety.

Two weeks later, a Search and Rescue Seminar was held in the South Coast Region.

The seminar was designed by the SAS officers in consultation with Regional Manager John Watson.

The course included basic map reading techniques, compass work, search theory, call out procedures, stretcher raising and lowering, cave rescue techniques and a full scale search and rescue exercise on the final day.

Grid searching and rope and stretcher exercises were held in Torndirrup National Park.

On the last day, participants were called out at 3am to locate and rescue a "missing" fisherman injured at the base of the sea cliffs at West Cape Howe, 30km west of Albany.

**THE AUSTRALIAN National Parks and Wildlife Services has appointed a training officer for the Aboriginal Ranger Training Programme.**

He is Steve Szabo, who has been teaching at Roebourne since 1981.

Steve was involved in the planning and establishment of the Roebourne Youth Development Centre, a secondary and adult education unit.

He taught secondary school subjects, vocational courses and an adult literacy programme.

The training scheme will be jointly run by the Commonwealth and State Governments and will be based at the Millstream-Chichester National Park in the Pilbara.

Four trainees were selected this week to begin their training on January 6.

The programme will continue for 12 months.

It was a difficult course which all participants survived, some only just.

The mock rescue highlighted the logistical and technical difficulties of carrying out rescues in hazardous terrain.

Overall, the seminar was felt to have been very successful by the National Park Rangers, Wildlife Officer, Safety Officer (Como) and Albany and Esperance Office staff attending.

## Softwood scheme popular

By ROSS YOUNG  
THE POSITIVE community support being given to the Softwood Share-farming Scheme has exceeded our wildest dreams, and reflects great credit on the CALM personnel who have given 100 per cent to the scheme.

The Softwood Share-farming Scheme revved up a couple of notches this week with Premier Brian Burke announcing that it would be expanded to South West Shires outside Manjimup.

The Elders Weekly headlines "Tasting the Cake Before it's Baked" this week, is certain to give real impetus to our expanding programme.

The article gives unqualified support to the programme, and a rush of interest is bound to develop from this very enthusiastic publicity.

Undoubtedly farmers will have to be asked to have some patience with our site assessment processing team, because the one experienced team of field assessors, Paul Jones, Martin Rayner & Co, are flat out processing the first few sites to establish the

necessary bench marks from which future teams can be trained and operate.

The first sites should be completed by late January, and include two areas in excess of 200ha of plantable soils.

From then onwards, a steady flow of contracts should be completed.

Many very large and successful property owners have indicated a positive interest in the scheme.

They are only holding off offering their land for the scheme until they see the level of annuities that will be paid for the different classes of country.

This could be a negative

### EXCITING ISLAND FIND . . .

## Survey team traps dibbler on Boullanger

A SMALL rat-sized marsupial, whose elusiveness over the last 150 years has concerned biologists about its long-term conservation, has been found on an island north of Perth.

*Parantechinus apicalis*, commonly known as the dibbler, was found this week on Boullanger Island, south of Jurien Bay, by a CALM biological survey team.

CALM's Principal Wildlife Research Officer, Dr Andrew Burbidge, said it was the first time this century that the carnivorous marsupial had been found near the west coast, and the first time it had been found on an island.

Earlier this year, the dibbler was found during biological research in the Fitzgerald River National Park on the south coast.

It was first discovered near New Norcia in 1838, and recorded from Moore River to Albany during the State's early settlement and development.

Fossils indicate that it was even more widespread.

Clearing of the land and the introduction of predators like the domestic cat and foxes are believed responsible for the decline in numbers.

The discovery of the marsupial at Cheyne Beach near Albany in 1967, the first sighting for 83 years, led to increased searches along the south coast.

Seven animals were recorded at Cheyne Beach up to 1981, and two dead animals — one caught by a domestic cat — were found at Jerdacuttup, near Hopton, in 1976.

The rarity of sightings led biologists to believe that the dibbler faced extinction, which makes this

discovery of major significance.

Andrew said the female dibbler was trapped on Boullanger Island after small mammal tracks were found by the survey team.

He said the lack of predators on the island enhanced its chances of survival.

With little known about the dibbler, further discoveries on the island could see it becoming a laboratory for scientists to study the animal.

Andrew said the survey

team was examining the islands between Lancelin and Dongara to develop a draft management plan for the area.

These islands are valuable nature reserves because they protect breeding colonies of sea lions and several species of sea birds.

With increased public use of the offshore islands, and the discovery of the dibbler on Boullanger, a management plan would reconcile conservation needs and recreation activities.

## RARE MARSUPIAL IN W.A. DESERT

The Sandhill Dunnart, an extremely rare mouse-like marsupial, only captured twice before in Australia, has been discovered in WA.

Five animals were captured in the Great Victoria Desert east of Kalgoorlie recently by Dr Ray Hart, who was conducting an environmental impact study for a mining company.

The Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) has been captured once in South Australia and once in the Northern Territory.

The animal, largest of all the dunnarts, is grey with black markings on its head and around its eyes.

Its long tail is muscular and tapered toward the end.

With the discovery of the Sandhill Dunnart in WA, the State rare and endangered species list will be updated and published in the Government Gazette.

Although the Agriculture Protection Board was asked by CALM to set live traps soon after the initial capture, no more individuals have been collected.

An expedition is planned to search for populations of the Sandhill Dunnart in the near future, according

to Wildlife Research Centre Director, Dr Andrew Burbidge.

Andrew said any live animals found would be used to establish a breeding colony.

Little is known about the Sandhill Dunnart because of its rarity.

However, judging from the previous captures, it is assumed the marsupial prefers low parallel sand ridges capped by hummocks of porcupine grass with wide swales.

It is thought the Sandhill Dunnart nests or shelters beneath these hummocks.

The male Sandhill Dunnart captured in South Australia was active in the late afternoon and foraged intermittently until dawn, eating a variety of adult and larval insects, spiders and chopped offal.

It was agile and adept at evading danger, but if cornered, would crouch in a defensive posture and threaten its assailant with open mouth and throaty hisses.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

A DRAFT management plan is being drawn up for the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.

The public and interested groups are invited to make submissions to the draft plan, which is for the management of the Park for the next 10 years.

Public submissions will ensure that all points of view, all activities and all land uses are considered.

A project team, coordinated by CALM's Planning Branch, will prepare the draft management plan.

It will also take into account other management proposals currently being considered, including a Departmental regional plan for the area.

Once the draft plan is completed it will be available for public comment for at least two months.



## From my Desk

IT IS predictable (maybe boring) but nonetheless appropriate that at this time of the year we do indulge in some navel gazing.

While there is nothing worse than an individual or an organisation that continually heaps self-praise on himself or itself, I also believe it is important occasionally to record what has been achieved.

It is very easy for an organisation like ours which has a huge charter to be constantly concerned with the problems we face and the insatiable demand for our services.

So it is important occasionally to look back and measure our progress.

Firstly, contrary to what our most vehement critics would have us believe, the national park visitation has increased, the trees are still growing and the numbats are still breeding (in fact, there appears to have been a virtual explosion of dibblers in the past two weeks).

But in addition to surviving as an organisation, there have been some very major achievements, such as development of a substantially improved communication system throughout the State, major progress in timber utilisation, the development of core field staff training programs, the launching of the softwood sharefarming scheme, the virtual replacement of the national park vehicle fleet, completion of a number of draft management plans in very difficult and often controversial areas, and the acquisition of an additional seventy-three talented staff.

Obviously, despite these achievements there are still problems.

If there is one area of disappointment, it is in the lack of feedback to me and other Policy Directors from the Department as a whole.

Only a few officers have come forward with issues and ideas.

Despite the fact that there have been numerous invitations, there seems to be some barrier to the flow of information, whether it be criticisms or suggestions to senior members of the Department.

While it is all very well for us to feel a sense of purpose and cohesion about our Department and our functions, I strongly believe that we should promote vigorous debate so that we can benefit from the diversity of opinions and talents of our staff.

I believe the new year will see us being involved in many new initiatives.

For example, marine parks will be coming on board; there will be a major development in the area of public participation; the training and career paths programme should be established and functioning; there will be a major review of three south west regions involving a detailed assessment of the future of the timber industry; and I hope we can begin to develop an ecosystem approach to research and management practices.

We hope also to be able to take major initiatives in national park planning and interpretation.

I take the opportunity of thanking all staff for putting up with the trials and tribulations of the new Department and I wish you and your families the compliments of the season.

SYD SHEA Executive Director

## Estuary working party set up

A MANAGEMENT working party has been set up to look at conservation areas and their management around the Peel-Harvey estuary.

The estuary is recognised as of international significance for water birds, and as an important breeding ground for fish and other aquatic animals.

CALM's Scientific Adviser, Nature Conservation, John Blythe, said the area was coming under increasing pressure from tourism and housing developments.

He said various activities planned for the estuary would have a direct influence on its conservation values.

The working party comprises representatives of CALM, the Department of Conservation and Environment, the Waterways Commission, the Peel Inlet Management Authority, and the State Planning Commission.

It is convened by CALM.

It will consult closely with local government authorities, special interest groups, and developers and the public.

The working party will prepare a study of conservation needs around the Peel-Harvey estuary, especially in the Mandurah and Murray River areas.

It will also liaise with local authorities and developers over the short-term needs for conservation areas and their eventual transfer to CALM.

The Committee will also keep the Government informed of its activities.

# SHORTER DUCK SEASON FOR '86

THERE will be a restricted duck-shooting season for the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions for 1986.

The season will open at 6am on Sunday, January 12 and close four weeks later at 11.59pm on Sunday, February 9.

The daily bag limit is five birds of any declared game species.

Unlike previous years, mountain ducks have been included in the five-bird limit, in order to reduce pressure on other game species.

It is necessary to restrict the season because of low rainfall and generally poor breeding conditions for ducks over much of the South-West.

A short season is possible because 1983 and 1984 were years of average or better than average conditions for waterfowl breeding.

Unless there is a significant increase in rainfall next year, it is unlikely that a duck-shooting season will be declared in 1987.

In the past 10 years there have been bans on duck shooting in 1977, 1979 and 1980. There have been four restricted seasons and three open ones.

CALM's Scientific Adviser, Nature Conservation, Keiran McNamara, said "It was important that breeding stocks were maintained for the future, and the continued co-operation of shooters in observing restrictions and bag limits was essential."



He said mountain ducks were in large numbers throughout farming areas where they damage crops and fowl dams.

Before and after the main duck-shooting season, mountain duck would continue to be subject to an open season on private property within the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions, where they caused damage.

Over the next year, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, in consultation with the Agriculture Protection Board and other interested parties, will conduct a review of the need for this extended open season for mountain ducks.

Keiran said in the Kimberley, North-West and Eastern Land Divisions, there would continue to be a full-year season, with a daily bag limit of 10 ducks of any declared game species.

Licenses and booklets detailing the regulations applying to duck hunting will be available shortly from offices of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, as well as from the Clerk of Courts at some centres.

Previously licenses were available from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.



PETER HEWETT presents Val Storey with a pewter while other Kununurra staff look on.

## Safety presentation

THE KIMBERLEY Region was awarded the Executive Director's individual safety award in September for achieving two years without a lost time injury accident.

The Region's 18 officers who are based at Kununurra, Broome and Fitzroy Crossing, were presented with pewters by the Director of Forests, Peter Hewett, to mark the occasion.

The achievement was considered outstanding because of the diversity of operations in the region, which included the activities of Wildlife Officers and Rangers.

These activities cover a large area and the officers often work along in difficult and diverse climatic conditions.

Peter said that to achieve this result needed a positive attitude and a commitment by all to work safely for so long.

He said injuries not only caused suffering but also reduced earnings and disrupted family life.

## WANNEROO STAFF AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL safety awards for number of years worked without a lost time injury were given to 74 men and women from Wanneroo District recently by CALM's Executive Director, Syd Shea.

The longest time worked without an accident was by Eric Hombrecht with 34 years, but there were many other CALM officers with more than 10 years without a lost time injury.

Syd spoke about the safety programme and its importance.

"The safety record of people in the organisation has been an important improvement," he said.

"One aspect of the improvement is that it saves money, but that is really the least important aspect.

"We're most concerned about the people who work with us."

While individual welfare was the primary concern of the safety programme, Syd also lauded the programme for its ability to bring people together and to make them feel part of the Department.

"The safety programme is the most important example of people working together to achieve a common end," he said.

"We're working together in this programme as a team to cross any barriers.

"You at Wanneroo have worked extremely hard and have done a good job."

# Aerial burning course a first

By GERARD van DIDDEN

THE first navigator and incendiary machine operator training course, designed to reduce the previous shortage in the supply of trained aircrew for aerial prescribed burning, was held in Busselton in September.

Before attending the course, 21 volunteers who were chosen from the 42 applicants underwent a rigorous preselection flight and appraisal.

The preselection was a test of the constitution of their stomachs and the ability of their minds to control the contents.

Thirteen navigators and 10 incendiary machine operators were selected to attend.

This included a representative from the WA Bush Fires Board and an interstate visitor from the Bush Fires Council of Northern Territory.

Lectures were given by CALM officers and included speakers Max Speer, Wages Employee from Wanneroo, and outside experts Mr T.E. Green, Operations Manager for Perth Air Charters, Mr T. Jones, Senior Pilot for Perth Air Charters and Mr T. Talbot, Chief Flying Instructor for Bunbury Aero Club.

The course was designed to provide basic entry-level air navigation training and an understanding of incendiary dropping operations for navigators and also train incendiary machine operators in the safe operation, care and maintenance of the WAM 82 incendiary machine.

Participants were: Navigation — John Carter, Jarrahdale; Allan Davies, BFC Darwin; Stephen Dut-

ton, Grimwade; Mark Giblett, Dwellingup; Neville Holland, Walpole; Kylie Kau, Busselton; Thomas Kenneally, Wanneroo; Ray Meager, BFB Manjimup; Brian Moss, Manjimup; Leon Price, Harvey; Jamie Ridley, Mundaring; and Mark Read, Manjimup.

Incendiary Machine Operators — Alan Brown, Harvey; Bradley Bourke, Nannup; Steve Campbell, Wanneroo; Ian Fitzgerald, Mundaring; Christopher Hodgson, Dwellingup; Gary Hulton, Yanchepe; David King, Nannup; Peter Masters, Pemberton; John Mowday, Harvey;

and Brian Taylor, Harvey. The success of this course has assured a long-needed supply of trained aircrew to enable the workload to be spread more equitably throughout the three forest regions.

Availability rosters have been drawn up so each of the trained aircrew is given an opportunity to demonstrate newly learned skills and take part in the coming year's aerial prescribed burning programme.

The programme will consist of some 70 burns covering 220,000ha and requiring almost 110 lightings to cover the main forest fuel types.



## Ross Bandmill trials

The Ross Bandmill, a portable sawmill/resaw, designed and patented by Warren Ross in New Hampshire, U.S., was demonstrated at the Wood Utilization Research Centre at Harvey recently.

The machine successfully cut regrowth jarrah, marri and karri, Pinus radiata, Pinus pinaster and W.A. Sheoak.

In additional trials, the sawmill cut banksia, jacaranda and jarrah burls. Providing this material can be satisfactorily seasoned, it will be suitable for manufacturing high grade furniture.

Some of the features of the bandmill include:

● it is designed for one man operation;

- it is simple to transport and set up in the forest;
- logs are milled on site, therefore no machinery is required for snigging logs to a bush landing;
- small kerf (1.5mm) allows more yield per log and reduces the sawdust production;
- it can mill logs from 7.5cm to 44cm diameter over bark and lengths from 0.2m to infinite (depending on the size of the log deck);
- the standard log check is 6.0m which will handle logs from 0.2m to 4.9m;
- the mill runs efficiently on a five horsepower petrol motor and can be set up on a slope to allow the mill to cut into the wood under its own inertia; and
- a range of products can be cut including boards (square and tapered), veneer, scantling and shingles.

A number of CALM officers have inspected the bandmill, and were impressed.

The ease of operation, setting up and the sawn quality of the finished product, gives the bandmill advantages over other portable sawmills.

The potential of this machine to be used by small salvage operators, farmers, cabinet and joinery manufacturers is enormous.

A number of hardwood logs are currently below hardwood milling specification.

The bandmill has the potential to utilise these small sawlogs and if the timber is seasoned, furniture grade timber may possible be recovered.

The bandmill has been reviewed by the Australian Forest Industries Journal and will be featured in the February 1986 publication.



FIRST AID certificate recipients are (from left to right) back row: Glen Wilmott, Joe Zappia, Guy Serafino, Rick Donovan, Alan Brown and Alan Jones. Front row: Tom Wood, Trevor Bames, John Clarke, Lindsay Armstrong, Peter Henderson and Trevor Smith.

# CERTIFICATES AWARDED

TWELVE staff from Harvey District received St John Ambulance Association First Aid certificates from Jim Edwards, manager personnel, at Harvey on November 27.

Trevor Smith, Tom Wood, John Clarke, Lindsay Armstrong, Trevor Bames, Rick Donovan, Alan Brown, Glen Wilmott, Guy Serafino, Joe Zappia, Alan Jones and Peter Henderson were congratulated for their efforts.

Jim told the people present that the Department's prime resource is people, and after the amalgamation, we have lots of people to look after.

"First Aid qualifications have another benefit too," he said.

"We can look after people in the bush, particularly where there is a large number of visitors to an area where accidents are likely to happen."

District Manager John Clarke, a First Aid certificate recipient, spoke of the importance the certificate had for him in that he now knew what to do with accident victims to help save their lives.



CALM Safety Officer Arthur Kesners receives a framed certificate of achievement and a pendant from Minister for Employment and Training, Peter Dowding.

# It's Bunbury or the bush

By PETER HANLY

STAFF of the Bunbury Regional Office knew the change from the Forests Department to the Department of Conservation and Land Management would mean a broadening scope of work.

However, some aspects of wildlife management could not have been anticipated.

After a recent call from Bunbury residents, a troop of foresters (trying to look like wildlife officers) set out to trap a kangaroo that was bounding around the streets of Bunbury.

There were many voluntary advisers with tech-

niques for catching kangaroos, but for the foresters who had to make the capture, it was obvious the advisers did not speak from personal experience.

Ingenious improvisation and weight of numbers (four officers to one kangaroo) finally led to a successful capture.

The kangaroo was put in the boot of the car and

taken to a more traditional bushland home.

When it was released, the "grateful" kangaroo made a fierce charge toward its liberators, who beat a hasty retreat to the car.

It rammed the side of the car until the officers moved the car 50m away.

The four foresters learned three things from their after hours exploit:

1. Don't try to catch a kangaroo unless you are prepared for a degree of humiliation.
2. Don't expect the kangaroo to be grateful for being returned where it belongs.
3. Those incidents involving vehicles and kangaroos are not accidents — they are premeditated attacks from kangaroos trying to get cars out of the bush and back to their urban homes.

The story doesn't end here.

It appears the new Department has attracted a lot of interest from wildlife.

The first visitor was a small tortoise who was gleefully welcomed and shown around the office.

The next visitor was not so warmly welcomed, although a large number of staff turned out to see the uninvited guest off.

A one-metre tiger snake crawled under a door that had been closed in its path and made a beeline for the filing cabinets in the main office reception area.

Some clerical officers, who shall remain anonymous, made a hasty retreat to the far end of the corridor and remained there until their safety could be assured.

Once again, there was a large gathering of advisers

as tactics were devised for the snake's removal.

Bob Chandler eventually enticed the snake into the comfort of a dark Postpak cylinder.

The lid was sealed and the troop of advisers piped up with suggestions of where the Postpak should be sent. To avoid repercussions, these suggestions are not stated here.

In true conservation spirit, the snake was set free on the golf driving range where it was shot with Canon AE7 and Minolta cameras.

The snake was last seen heading north, straight for the Bunbury office.

A week later, a dugite snake crawled under a door, through the Protection wing of the office and out another door.

All doors now have weather strips.

CALM's successful safety programme has been recognised by the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention.

Thirty-four divisions were awarded Safe Way '85 certificates and pendants for achieving six months without a lost time injury or a percentage reduction in lost time injuries.

The IFAP awards were made at the Merlin Hotel on November 28.

Arthur Kesners, CALM's Safety Officer, accepted them.

Those divisions that achieved six months without lost time injuries were: Cadet Training School; Manjimup District, Nursery, Headquarters gang, Gang No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, District Staff, Workshop Personnel and Inventory and Planning; Narrogin District; Yanchep Headquarters and National Park; Gnaragara Head-

## Safety program success

quarters; Wanneroo Headquarters, Officers and Staff, District and District Workshop; Fire Protection Branch; Communications Branch; Research Branch; Information Branch; Inventory and Planning Branch; Pemberton District; Walpole District; Kirup District; Northern Forest Regional Staff; Central Forest Regional Staff; Nannup Fire Crew (Overseer McKittrick's gang), Fire Crew (Acting Overseer Shelley's gang) and Workshop, Headquarters and Nursery Crew.

Harvey District received recognition for a 25 per cent reduction in lost time injuries over the past six months.



WAYNE TAYLOR (left) and Jim Maher inspect public facilities on Garden Island.

## Island job a family affair

GARDEN ISLAND has a new Ranger, but the appointee is keeping the job in the family.

Wayne Taylor, who took up his position as Naval Ranger in November, takes over from his brother Kerry, who recently resigned from CALM after four years at Garden Island.

Wayne, who was Ranger-in-charge at the Stirling Range National Park for the previous 11 months and had six years at Nambung National Park, will be seconded to the Royal Australian Navy to look after the environmental aspects of the island.

The Taylor family — which includes Wayne's wife Judy and daughters Nicole (15) and Lisa (13) — will live at Rockingham.

Wayne is particularly looking forward to liaising with the University of WA and the CSIRO on research projects, particularly on the tammars on the island and marine research (he's a keen diver).

He said the Navy was particularly aware of its environmental responsibilities on Garden Island, which will make his job easier.

Wayne's duties include crowd control on the island — one of WA's most popular boating and fishing spots during the summer — and to maintain the public facilities provided.

Despite the naval presence on the island, parts of it are open to the public during the day.

## TEAM SHOWS ITS SKILL

In October, a team from Mundaring District pitted its skills against the local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades in the Radford Shield Competition.

Bruce Telfer, Bob Thompson, Wayne Rhodes, Russell Adams, Harry Casey and Brad Walters used their combination of youth and experience to great effect, competing with teams from Stoneville (the Shire's No. 1 team), Parkerville, Mt Helena, Glen Forrest, Mundaring and Chidlow.

A support crew of Jamie Ridley, Bill Adams, Brian Selkirk, wives and girlfriends made us a very competitive unit.

The CALM team finished eighth in a close



competition, while competing safely and within all the given rules.

A lot of "gamesmanship" was evident within the Volunteer Brigades, using the guidelines of the competition to their absolute limit.

The unit presented in the competition was a Toyota Landcruiser long wheel base and was the best looking unit there and a credit to the Department.

One of the events conducted was a relay, which involved raking a 4 by 1m trail, chopping through a log, filling a tin with a pakspray and changing a tyre on the vehicle.

A creditable time of just over 4min for this event.

A drum rolling event over a course 50m long round a marker and back

again was completed in only 53sec.

An obstacle event which included driving through a gate, reversing through a tricky course and putting out a burning bag soaked in diesel and kerosene, saw our teams only 3sec behind the leaders (Stoneville) with no loss of penalty points.

The team was handicapped in this event by having to get in and out of the unit because no running boards were on the back of the unit for the crew to stand on.

Volunteer units all had this facility.

The last event involved filling a pakspray 15m from the unit and putting out another bag, diesel and kero mixture with the pakspray.

Considering the amount of "funny" water the number one side used (which was the limit of gamesmanship), the CALM crew performed very well.

Not one injury was sustained by the team and it was performed on a volunteer basis.

Next year, the placings will be different.

We thank the Mundaring Shire for inviting us to compete and the support the team received on the day.

Well done!

**BUSSELTON** forest worker Rex Kelly is retiring after 22 years with the Department. Workmates and friends are invited to farewell Rex on January 10 at the Ludlow Lecture Hall. Rex started work in the District as a pine feller, but for the last 15 years has been involved in research. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Ann or Debbie at Busselton on (097) 52 1677 by January 3.

## Familiarization seminar

By RAE BURROWS

GETTING to know each other and the roles and duties of the various sections of the amalgamated department was the objective of a recent Southern Forest Region seminar.

The meeting was convened by Acting Regional Manager Greg Heberle, who stressed the importance of working as a team.

Other speakers included Robert Coughran, District Wildlife Officer, Alan Sands, Parks and Reserves Officer, National Park

rangers Karl Mucjanko and Rick France and other section representatives.

All explained the responsibilities of their branch of the department and fielded questions from fellow employees — some of whom they may never before have met.

There are 235 people employed by CALM in the Southern Forest Region.

On October 19, Collie won their second consecutive indoor cricket premiership.

Since its conception in 1982, instigated by Bob Hagan, Collie has won this prestigious award three times with Kirup the winner in 1983.

Every year the grand final has been played between Kirup and Collie.



DES MUIR

## DES ENJOYS DIVERSITY

DES MUIR, senior cartographic draftsman in Mapping at Como, has celebrated 36 years of service with CALM and is far from retiring.

Des started in the Forestry Department as a cadet. His father had worked 20 years in the Department as an overseer.

"I can honestly say that I have enjoyed it," Des said.

"The change and the rate of change daily is what I find most interesting."

The changes are in the methods and the subject areas he has had contact with in Mapping.

"We're forever working out new ways to do things."

"For example, dieback mapping is far more advanced than it was originally," he said.

"It's now more purposeful and meaningful due to the results of continuous research on the subject," Des said.

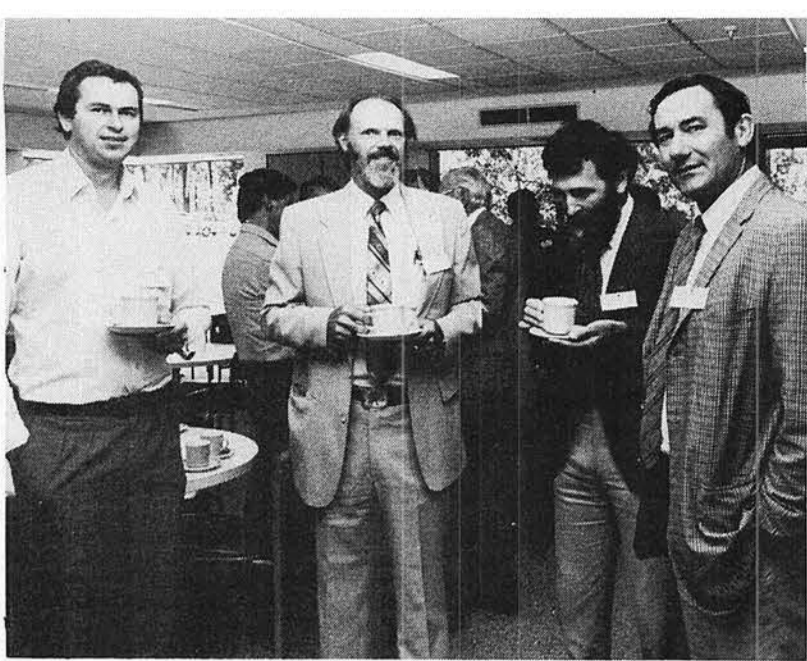
His own area of interest has been aerial photography and he is now working on the development of a new system of shadowless photography for dieback interpretation.

In the sporting field, he enjoys rowing, running and tennis.

He's an avid reader of the classics (presently Gulliver's Travels).

"My only fear is that there is not enough time to do all the things I want to do," Des said.

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: Colleen Henry-Hall. Department Conservation and Land Management Como WA 6152 — phone 367 6333 — ext 325. EDITOR: Richard Grant 386 8811.



STEVE HOPPER (left), Dr Robbin Thorp (from the University of California), John Blythe and Roger Underwood enjoy a tea break at the Beekeepers' Workshop.

## Beekeeping workshop . . .

# Consultative committee established

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

A CONSULTATIVE committee comprising CALM officers, members of the Primary Industry Association and officers from the apiary section of the Department of Agriculture has been set up following a one-day workshop on beekeeping and land use.

The workshop aimed at providing an insight into CALM's management of public lands and the beekeeping industry, which is affected by the Department's use of State land.

Beekeeping has recently come under fire after research has shown that introduced bees compete with native pollinators such as the Honey Possum, Native bees and honeyeaters.

Before the amalgamation, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife began excluding beekeepers

from national parks and nature reserves because of these adverse effects.

The commercial beekeepers, numbering about 90 in WA, have approached CALM to try to work out some agreement on the use of public land for honey production.

The Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Ron Davies, opened the workshop, saying that there must be no loss of diversity of flora and fauna occurring on land under the Department's control,

but added that the beekeeping industry, though small, is significant and its dependence on State land must be considered.

CALM members of the committee are John Blythe, scientific adviser, David Hampton and Norm Caporn, Forester in environmental protection.

The consultative committee will meet for the first time in February to discuss the options and compromises available.

Subjects that may be discussed that were brought up at the workshop are: controlling demand for apiary sites through licensing; changing the regulations for applying for sites;

and reducing the distance between hives to increase the number per hectare.

Action from CALM that may be discussed by the committee which was brought up at the workshop includes: looking at quarantine situations with dieback; burning practices that decrease the flora available for pollen; and land use that is compatible with beekeeping to allow more land to be used for that purpose.

Hardwood silviculture and rehabilitation were covered on the second day by researchers Geoff Stone-man on jarrah silviculture; Richard Breidahl, improving karri regrowth productivity through breeding and silviculture; Gary Brennan,

# Production forestry research conference

By PER CHRISTENSEN

A TWO-DAY conference on CALM research drew members of the Department from all branches, scientists from other organisations and members of the public.

The conference focused on production forestry, a topic of much importance to the Department, according to Joe Havel, director of research, who opened the conference.

Dr Frank McKinnell, in his keynote address, said the world faces a shortage of wood and wood products and that WA needs to become self-sufficient in this area because supplies from other nations cannot be relied upon.

He stressed the need for improved wood production

from the ever decreasing areas set aside for timber.

There is also a need for improved wood utilisation, especially of small logs from regrowth forests of karri and jarrah.

Papers were presented on softwood production on the first day of the conference.

Researchers in this area who participated in the conference were Ray Fremelin on *P. radiata* silviculture; Trevor Butcher, *P. pinaster* silviculture and *P. radiata* breeding; Richard Moore, agroforestry; Luisa de Braganca, second rotation; John McGrath, *P. radiata* fertilisation; and Graeme Siemon, improving utilisation of pine logs.

Their reports included the enormous gains made in tree form and vigour with the *P. pinaster* improvement programme and an initiative to put into practice the results of the *P. radiata* breeding programme, which involves growing and planting stock from cuttings and the establishment of a hedge artificially pollinated seed orchard (HAPSO) at Manjimup.

Neil Burrows reported on fire and the loss of timber value.

improving utilisation of hardwood logs; and John Bartle, hardwood forest rehabilitation.

Their reports included news of an important breakthrough in the early thinning of karri regrowth stands, which is showing the way to commercial thinning in these forests.

The production potential of the regrowth forests of karri and jarrah were highlighted.

The utilisation of the small diameter logs poses some problems, but these are being addressed at the CALM Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey.

Aspects of protection of the Department's wood resources were also covered, including fire protection in young karri regrowth stands by Lachlan McCaw and dieback research by Joanna Tippett.

Finally, the economics of both softwood and hardwood production were tackled by Govanna Clark and Hamish Crawford, respectively.

The conservative economic picture painted by Dr George Malajczuk gives much hope for the future

of production forestry in WA.

Executive Director Syd Shea spoke at the end of the conference, congratulating speakers and emphasising the importance of production and protection research.

On a sadder note, this is the last research conference the present Director of Research, Joe Havel, will preside over, as he announced his retirement at the end of the year.

Dr Shea paid tribute to Mr Havel's contribution on both State and international levels, saying Mr Havel's work has made an outstanding contribution to research.

Mr Havel has left his mark indelibly on the Department, not only as a researcher, but also as a person of outstanding integrity.

Although he will be missed, Mr Havel has left the Department with an efficient and well-trained research branch which, I have every confidence, will carry on the good work.

We would all like to wish Joe the best for the future, and extend to him a standing invitation to future research conferences.

# CONCOM workshop focuses on islands

By ANDREW BURBIDGE

WITHOUT offshore islands, 10 species of mammal which formerly occurred on the Australian mainland and six species of birds from the north and south islands of New Zealand would have become extinct, a technical workshop held on Barrow Island concluded recently.

The meeting, convened by the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers, brought together 17 experts from Australia and New Zealand to discuss issues related to the management of the more than 3,000 islands in their regions.

Our islands are crucial to worldwide nature conservation because they are major breeding grounds for seals, seabirds and turtles.

Islands also have recreational, educational and scientific values and protect remnant populations of species and undisturbed habitat.

However, some islands have been seriously degraded through the introduction of exotic animals or inappropriate developments.

Examples of degraded islands discussed included: Rottnest Island WA, where in the past the lack of any management plans for the natural environment of the island has resulted in physical damage to the point where major rehabilitation programs need to be undertaken; the Ashmore Reef Islands in the Timor Sea where Indonesian

fishermen are depleting seabird and turtle rookeries; the continuing misuse of Fraser Island in the Moreton Bay Islands in Queensland in the absence of management planning procedures involving public consultation; and several New Zealand islands where the introduction of rats, cats, stoats and predatory birds have led to the extinction of several endemic species.

The workshop discussed techniques for enhancing the conservation values of islands.

These include the preparation of management plans with full public participation, the eradication of problem animals, translocation and re-establishment of endangered species and preparation of educational material to increase the understanding of the role of islands in conservation.

Case studies from around the region were discussed.

Good examples are the saving of the Chatham Island (NZ) Black Robin which had dropped to five individuals, the successful eradication of feral goats

on Bernier Island, WA, which is the home of several endangered mammals, and the development of a management plan for Rottnest Island.

Western Australian petroleum's conservation consultant, Harry Butler, used Barrow Island as an example to demonstrate that certain uses of islands need not have a deleterious effect if properly managed.

Barrow Island is one of the most important Australian islands for the conservation of endangered mammals and has supported a commercial oil field since 1964, but the management techniques followed by Wapet have prevented the introduction of exotic plants and animals and its full suite of mammals remains intact.

The workshop concluded that islands are of critical significance to nature conservation but are facing increasing threats.

Failure to recognise the problems deriving from these threats and failure to deal with them effectively, could result in further serious degradation of islands and extinction of many Australasian species.

## Marine Park a first

WA's first marine park will be established from Trigg Island to Burns Beach.

It will cover about 10,500ha of coastal waters, and become a multi-purpose area for recreation, conservation, education and scientific research.

The initial step to establish the Park follows an extensive scientific study of the area and the publication of a draft management plan.

CALM will take overall responsibility for the management of the park, and local authorities will continue to manage offshore areas within their jurisdiction.

Marine Park Rangers will advise the public and educate them about conservation priorities.

An education resource centre will be a focal point of the Park.



INTERNATIONAL mountaineer-photographer John Cleare (left) admires the Stirling Range with National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority member Ian Maley.

## MOUNTAINEER'S VISIT

Well-known English mountaineer, John Cleare, recently visited WA during a tour of Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to presenting a lecture in Perth, John travelled to Albany with a member of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, Ian Maley.

Here they linked up with local climbers to spend a day at the sea cliffs of West Cape Howe, and a day on Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Range National Park.

John also found time to present a slide lecture covering his career in mountaineering, which includes many of the early BBC documentaries such as the Old Man of Hoy (1967) and Kilnsey Main Overhang and the 1965 televised centenary ascent of the Matterhorn.

He also described his work with Clint Eastwood in filming the "Eiger Sanction" on location on the North Face of the Eiger, and his experiences as a member of various Everest expeditions.

John was very impressed with what he saw in the south — no doubt he will return one day and some photographs of his visit may well appear in one of his future books on world mountaineering and climbing. — JOHN WATSON

CALM workers at Nan-nup repaired pipes in Folly Plantation that had been eroded and washed out after some heavy winter rains.

The crossing was reconstructed while the stream was still running.

Reinforcement of cement and sand bags was set at the end of the pipes to stop future erosion.

The men were helped by Forest Ranger Matthew Lamont.

A similar problem has occurred at Harvey.

## GOLDFIELDS' REGIONAL ROUNDUP

There have been a number of activities and staff changes in the Goldfields recently.

Forester Norm Caporn has transferred to Environmental Protection Como and Assistant Forester Mike Tagliaferri was appointed as his replacement. Congratulations, Mike.

Research Officer (Aboriginal Liaison) David Pearson has begun work at Woodvale and will trans-

fer to Kalgoorlie in the New Year.

Before joining CALM, David worked for the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory as a ranger at Cobourg Peninsula and Kakadu National Park.

Technical Officer (Aboriginal Liaison) Dan Grace started work at Kalgoorlie in mid-October, after a long move with his wife Bev and four children from Bathurst in NSW.

Dan and Dave (locally known as Dad and Dave) will be working on disturbance ecology in the Central Desert Nature Reserves.

District Wildlife Officer Bob Fitzgerald, who transferred to replace Peter Collins, has settled in well.

Bob's wife Ellen presented him with a son, Edward John Ross, on September 27 — only six weeks after arriving. Congratulations, Bob and Ellen. — IAN KEALLEY