



CALM News

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Official newspaper of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Vol 2 No 14 April 1986



Snake tales at Como

WILDLIFE Officer Doug Coughran shows Como staff how friendly (and big) a snake can be.

This Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) measures three metres.

The Olive Python and a Carpet Python (*Python spilotes*) were seized by wildlife officers after being held illegally.

Both species are gazetted rare and the maximum penalty for illegal possession is \$10,000.

The snakes were sent to Perth for positive identification by the WA Museum and then released in their habitats: the Olive Python in the Pilbara and the Carpet Python in the South West.

Logging Update

COMPUTER MONITORS OPERATIONS

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

A HARDWOOD Logging Computer System that will monitor all forestry operations in the State more efficiently, more quickly and more easily, has been developed by CALM.

Developed by John Sclater, Inspector Hardwood Utilisation, the computerised accounting system replaces the system that has been used since the 1920s.

The computer system was tested for five months before being introduced.

District staff in the three forest regions have access to computer facilities to record information relating to their operations.

John said the new system was based on the belief that one piece of paper is all you should need to do any job and if you're using more, something is wrong.

The old system was built on paperwork — a "piece of paper" for each buyer and seller — which was sent to Head Office, where the information would be held.

"What the computer does is change the focus of the recording function, moving the bulk of the information from Head Office to the field," John said.

Because district officers have direct access to operations' records through the computer, they have a more complete understanding and a more meaningful concept of forest management, he said.

Another benefit is the time saved in completing the report on a forest operation.

Where it used to take three to four weeks after the end of the month to complete a report, the new system has cut the time to about five days.

"Because we're working off one piece of paper, all the records for mills and contractors' obligations can be viewed by local officers and that information is on hand for them to use for management operations," John said.

To make the switch, district staff underwent informal, on-the-job training.

John praises all the people now using the comput-

ing system for their efforts.

"During those four months of trial running, the staff had to use two systems, which meant they had to do twice as much work," he said.

"They were very, very good about it.

"One of the most important aspects about this system is that people who have had almost no experience in computers have shown a high level of accuracy and enthusiasm."

The system is only partly developed in terms of covering CALM's forestry operations.

At present it records all sawlog and chipwood operations.

It will be extended to cover poles, bridge timber, minor forest produce and some management reporting areas.

"Developing the new system has forced us to look at every aspect of our logging operations, financial accounting and management," John said.

"In some ways these were absolutely horrendous: badly fragmented, loosely organised and carrying problems that were almost decades old.

"The old system, based on the historic idea that logging companies were free to do their own thing in the forest, didn't allow for the fact that the Department now has a greater say in what is allowed."

Softwood accounting has been done by computer since 1980.

GRADUATE WINS AWARD

PAUL BRENNAN, a recent forestry graduate from the Australian National University and now a Forest Officer at Wanneroo, has been awarded the Timbin Prize.

The award is made upon graduation to the student who has achieved the best results in forest utilisation.

The award is sponsored by the Timber Industries Institute of NSW.

Paul received a medal and a \$200 cash prize.

RARE BIRDS FOUND IN SOUTH WEST

CALM officers John Clarke (District Manager, Harvey) and Allan Burbidge (Research Officer, Wildlife Research Centre) made exciting bird discoveries in the South West recently.

Walking along the shoreline of the Vasse estuary in early January, John flushed a female Painted Snipe from dense grass.

Although the Painted Snipe was once reasonably common in the South West, being known from a number of localities including Herdsman Lake, John's sighting appears to be the first in the region for about 30 years.

This find adds further evidence to the suggestion that the Vasse estuary is an internationally important wetland.

The Barn Swallow seen at Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve by Allan Burbidge in January was also an exciting find.

Apart from a single record in 1860, this northern hemisphere breeding species has only been known in Australia since 1960.

It is now known to occur regularly in small numbers as a summer migrant in northern Australia.

The Thomsons Lake sighting was the first for South-western Australia — previous sightings are from north of Carnarvon.

However, the Barn Swallow is similar to the familiar Welcome Swallow which is common throughout the South West, and could be easily overlooked if occurring in small numbers.

It will be interesting to see if this sighting is a rare event, or the species is extending its range southwards.



THIS female Painted Snipe became entangled in a barbed wire fence after being flushed from the bush by John Clarke. John photographed the Snipe and released it unharmed.

Public release of Forrestdale plan

THE Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve draft management plan was released for public comment at a public meeting on March 17.

The draft management plan was compiled by CALM officers Jenni Bartle, Gordon Graham, Jim Lane and Sue Moore.

Forrestdale Lake, 23km south of Perth in Armadale, is an important waterbird conservation area.

The draft plan describes the biological and physical resources, existing uses and conservation values of the

Reserve, and management objectives and strategies.

During the compilation of the draft plan, local residents and interest groups were encouraged through newsletters, field days and small group meetings to contribute their ideas and knowledge.

Jenni Bartle said contributions were invaluable, particularly from groups such as the Royal Australia-

sian Ornithologists Union (RAOU), who highlighted the importance of the wetland, and the Waterbird Conservation Group.

Jenni said Reserve neighbours also play an important role in keeping tabs on day-to-day activities at the Reserve.

More than 10,000 waterbirds, including many rare Long-toed Stilts and 15 other species protected under the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement Treaty, use the lake.

Many wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain have been filled or drained for agriculture or urban development, and Forrestdale Lake is one of the most important remaining lakes.

All interested parties have been invited to comment on the plan.

The draft plan will be reviewed, taking into consideration the submissions received, and a management plan will be produced.

AN exclusive club was launched at the annual Work Safety Week at Como recently.

The Allegator Club (deliberately misspelled to emphasise the "leg") aims to keep its membership small.

To date it has been restricted to four — forestry workers whose legs have been saved from amputation or serious injury by wearing safety trousers.

Club members are Robert Mylum, Michael Mc-

Club launch

Laren, Alf Sariago and Arnold Dearle.

The club is sponsored by Stihl Chain Saw (Australia) Pty Ltd, manufacturers of the protective trousers that are padded with ballistic nylon which deflects the saw.

The idea for the club came from CALM Safety Coordinator Arthur Keners and joins three other similar IFAP clubs: the

Wise Owl Club (eyes saved by safety glasses), the Tortoise Club (head injuries avoided by safety helmets) and the Intactoes Club (foot injuries avoided by wearing safety boots).

CALM's Accident Investigation Manual was also launched at the Work Safety Week, which was organised by the Industrial Foundation for Accident

Prevention.

The procedures manual will assist accident investigation and reporting in CALM's safety programme.

Executive Director Syd Shea said the new system was "practical, understandable and acceptable".

He said it provided for a systematic way of investigating and reporting accidents, which would lead to a reduction in CALM's accident rate and more efficient management of the Department.

From my Desk

RECENTLY I attended a seminar at the Woodvale Wildlife Research Laboratory on the application of population genetics to flora conservation.

That was a thought-provoking exercise.

The point was made that one of the prime objectives in managing species for long-term survival is to ensure that genetic diversity is maintained.

Species which become inbred and lacking in variety are in danger of extinction because they lose the capacity to respond to changing conditions.

The same principle applies to ecosystems.

Loss of species from a community may reduce options for response to short-term fluctuations or long-term drifts in environmental conditions.

These principles are fundamental to wildlife and environmental management, ie management to maintain genetic diversity within species and species diversity within ecosystems.

Is it too trite to argue that the principle applies to management of an organisation like CALM as well?

We are all familiar with the concept of "future shock".

The rate of social change in our society is so great that many of us have a hard time coping.

Humans are not good at coping with change.

Our thought processes, attitudes and behaviour patterns become set fairly early in our lives and it is difficult to disconnect out-dated loops in our minds and wire up new circuits to meet new circumstances.

The establishment of CALM has required just that, however, from many of us.

I haven't had the chance before so I would like to say now that I am very impressed by the effort people have made to respond positively to the different (as well as increasing) demands upon them in the new organisation.

It hasn't been easy.

The level of individual responses is, in large measure, the reason why the department is quickly shaping up so well to a whole new approach to land and wildlife management.

But there is another factor.

The new Department now encompasses an extraordinary variety of talent, knowledge and skills and this is its primary strength.

Homogeneity risks mediocrity.

Variety may bring tensions and conflicts but from that process comes the best prospects for excellence.

BARRY WILSON

Director of Nature Conservation

LAKE is to be classified an "A" Class Reserve and developed as a regional park for wildlife conservation and public recreation.

The upgrading of the lake's status will ensure its long-term protection and help create a world class wildlife sanctuary.

Currently Herdsman Lake is controlled by the State Planning Commission under a number of holdings.

These will be amalgamated to form

HERDSMAN LAKE STATUS UPGRADED

an "A" Class reserve which will be progressively handed over to the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority over the next two years.

The aim of making Herdsman Lake a regional park is to provide for the conservation of wildlife and public recreation, through wildlife appreciation and observation, quiet enjoyment, education

and scientific study.

Management will provide for drainage waters to be used for greater public benefit through its use for wildlife management including the enhancement of wildlife habitat to provide greater populations and species of wildlife.

CALM will establish an advisory committee to help manage the Park, and a draft management plan will

be written because of concern about urban pressures on the lake's biological and recreational values.

The public will be invited to make submissions to the draft plan.

Works undertaken under a Metropolitan Region Planning Authority concept plan since 1979 were aimed at protecting the central wetland for wildlife

providing public access.

The development stage will be completed in two years, and the responsibility to manage the area would be handed over to CALM, which was recommended by the System Six Study.

CALM will enter into joint arrangements with local government authorities to manage the peripheral parks and gardens.

It is believed that Herdsman Lake has the potential to become a model for wildlife management in urban areas.

CEP lake project

PATH, PLATFORM PROVIDE ACCESS

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

VISITORS to the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre will have a bird's eye view of the lake after a walkway and landscaping project is completed by CALM.

The \$107,000 CEP project includes planting stands of flooded gums, melaleuca and acacias around the Centre to block unsightly views of developed areas, and the installation of a 200m bitumenised limestone path and a raised viewing platform.

CALM Metropolitan Region Operations Officer Gordon Graham said there were excellent viewing facilities within the Centre, but it had not

been possible to take groups of school children into the lake area because of the terrain and the presence of tiger snakes.

able to take groups of school children into the lake area because of the terrain and the presence of tiger snakes.

The walk and platform will enable visitors to see examples of most types of the lake's vegetation.

The path will also provide access for firefighters.

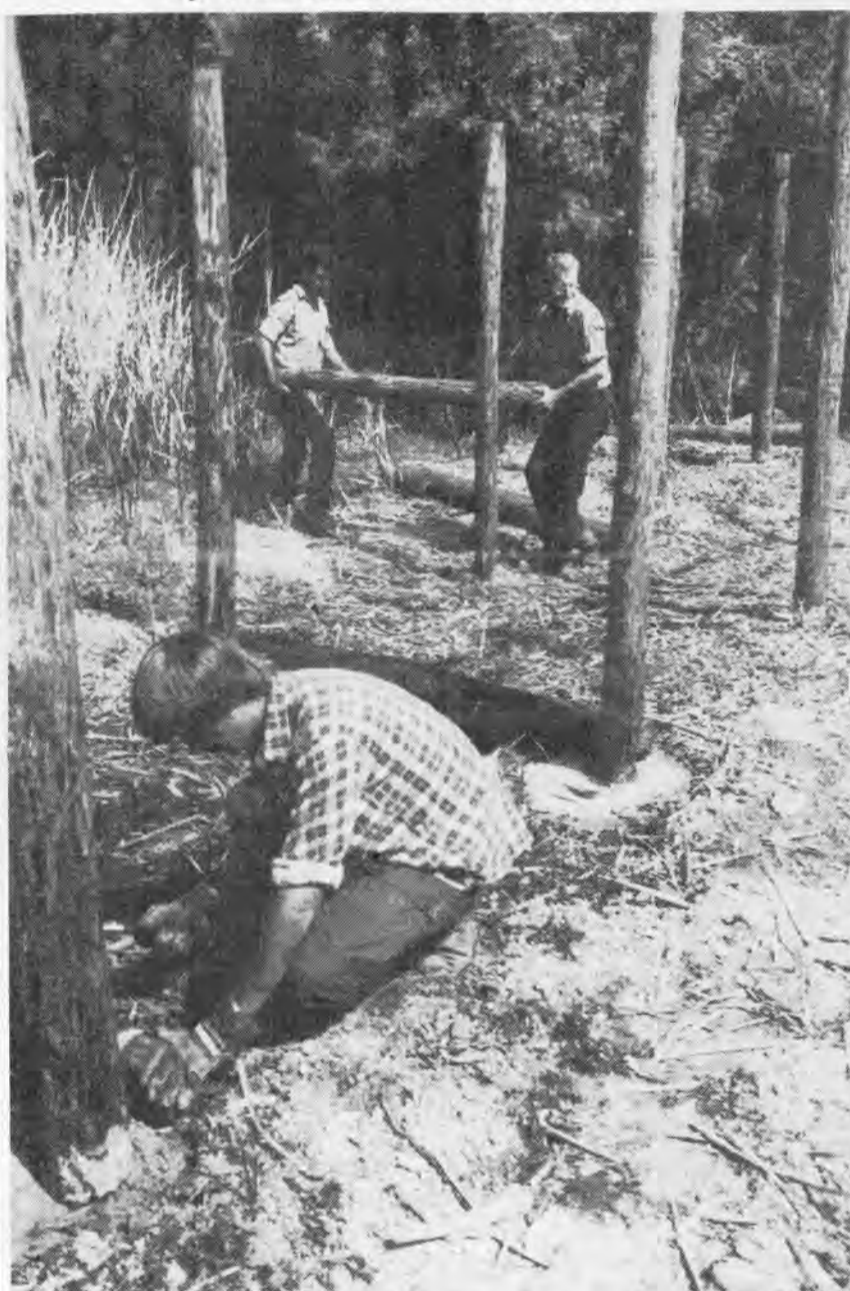
Gordon said work on the project had been delayed by unseasonable rain that caused the lake's water level to rise.

The Herdsman Wildlife Centre is vested with CALM and run by the Gould League.

The area is important for waterbird breeding, nesting and feeding.

It also has an education value as it serves as an introduction to wildlife for many school children because of its location in the metropolitan area.

CALM also has appointed former Mobile Ranger John Arkey as full-time ranger at Herdsman.



CEP worker Joe Swann (foreground) nails a crosspiece to the base of the elevated walkway, while CEP worker Joe Audino (left) helps Supervisor Otto Mueller move another into place during work at Herdsman Lake.

Staff efforts praised

Dear Mr Underwood,
Last Saturday we held the inaugural Stihl Chain Saw Championships in conjunction with the Dwellingup Fair.

The objective of the competition was to reward the abilities of the professional faller as well as to display to the public that bushmen are true professionals at their craft.

As this event was the first of its kind, it was particularly important that it be run efficiently, as our future involvement in these Championships was dependent on its success.

The fact that the event proved to be an outstanding success was due to the commitment displayed by your staff at Dwellingup.

Arthur Holland, Allan Scott and Kevin Haylock,

LETTER

in conjunction with Buntings, were magnificent in their support.

They had arranged to have the logs available at the oval, and as each heat was completed, the fallen timber was removed and machinery brought up to relocate new poles into the ground in readiness for the next heat.

I take this opportunity

of thanking CALM for their support, and in particular Arthur and his staff who contributed so well on the day.

This has assured our future involvement in promoting the Stihl Chain Saw Championships for the betterment of the fallers in our industry.

Stihl Chain Saw (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.
P.J. Burton,
State Manager.

Christian fellowship

CALM Christians meet Wednesdays at 12.30 pm in the Information Branch Conference Room at Como.

The purpose is to provide Christian fellowship and encouragement.

The first Wednesday of each month is a casual get-together when the group meet for lunch.

The idea of starting a group came

about through conversation between Steve Grasso (formerly of Manjimup, now with Personnel Branch) and Sylvia Philippkowski (Como Administration).

The next luncheon will be held at 12.30pm June 7 at Como.

For more details, contact Sylvia on extension 237 or Steve on extension 397.



UP went the sign and down it came when it was realised the writing was upside down (right). It's a job well done (above). Clockwise (from left), are Geoff Hanley, Ted White, Dennis Hilder, Don Noble, Neil Taylor, Don Spriggins and Peter Lambert.

ISLAND WILDLIFE SURVEY

ST ALOUARN and Seal islands near Augusta were subjects of a recent wildlife survey by Busselton District Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert.

Peter was accompanied on a one-day excursion to the islands by Don Spriggins, Central Forest Regional Manager, Dennis Hilder, Busselton District Manager, and Neil Taylor, Parks and Reserves

Officer for Central Forest Region.

Peter and local naturalist Ted White spotted New Zealand Fur Seals on the rocks surrounding the islands in 1982.

The sighting was the first since seal hunters, who began coming from Albany in the 1850s, hunted out the area's population.

Following Peter and Ted's discovery, it is proposed to include the rocks as part of a nature

reserve that includes the islands.

The New Zealand Fur Seal is now a rare and endangered species, and one aim of the recent survey was to find any presence of the animal.

None were found, but Ted has since sighted a fur seal in the area.

Signs declaring the islands as nature reserves were erected during the visit.

Because access to the islands is difficult, Peter said there is usually little pressure on the islands' bird populations.

Several juvenile Little Shearwaters, nesting Fairy Penguins, Bridled Terns, and seagulls were sighted.

Mobile Rangers Geoff Hanley and Don Noble, who patrol with CALM's power boat, and Ted White, who provided a second boat, made the expedition possible.

Peter said the survey was part of a continuing survey of the islands' flora and fauna which will ensure continual management of these important environments.

INSTITUTE SUPPORTS JARRAH RESEARCH IN WA



MELODY SERENA and Todd Soderquist test radiotracking equipment used in their population ecology study of the chuditch.

Americans study unique chuditch

AMERICANS Melody Serena and Todd Soderquist have come halfway around the world to study a unique Western Australian marsupial — the Western Native Cat, or chuditch.

Melody and Todd will undertake a seven-month study into the population ecology of the chuditch, and hope to provide information that will help conserve WA's largest carnivorous marsupial.

The chuditch's range used to be throughout the interior desert to the dividing range, but is now restricted to small areas of the South West.

Melody, with a doctorate in biology, and Todd, who worked with the Arizona Fish and Game Department as a wildlife manager, are based at CALM's Dwellingup office.

They will generally concentrate their study on the Lane-Poole jarrah reserve where a chuditch population has been located.

They trap and earmark individuals and check their reproductive and physical conditions before fitting them with a radio collar and releasing them.

"We can look at the size of home range and the changes an individual goes through in a year," Melody said.

"One of the main reasons we chose to study this animal is that there has been so little done on it," Todd said.

Melody said, "Everything we find out is new and that makes the study exciting."

Todd added, "We gain something in the surprise of new information, but we lose by not being able to compare our data with other studies."

They talked about the project for two years before deciding to quit their jobs and come to Australia.

"Australia is a fantastic place for a biologist. We've been more than amply repaid by the experience we have had here," Melody said.

She said it has been important for them, raised as North Americans, to be exposed to other ecosystems and wildlife.

They said they expect to be in Australia for at least two years, and would like to continue working in wildlife conservation, perhaps in other parts of the world.

SEMINAR SERIES

CALM'S 1986 Seminar series will be held in the Training Centre in the Head Office complex at 50 Hayman Road Como, at 4pm.

Seminars are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month.

April 17: Dr B. Dell — Environmental and Life Sciences, Murdoch University.

May 15: Dr AM O'Connell — Division of Forest Research, CSIRO Floreat, nutrient dynamics in the litter layer of regenerating Karri forest.

June 19: Mr G Inions — CALM, Research Branch Manjimup, interactions between possums, "habitat trees", and fire.

July 17: Dr D Coates — Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale, conservation of genetic resources.

August 21: DR B Shearer and Mr D Ward — CALM, Research Branch Dwellingup and Como, predicting the impact of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

September 18: Mr G Stoneman — CALM, Research Branch Dwellingup, effects of thinning on water yield in jarrah forest.

October 16: Mr G Strelein — CALM, Research Branch Manjimup, site classification in the southern jarrah forest.

November 20: Dr I Abbott — CALM Research Branch Como, the insect problem in the southern jarrah forest.

Enquiries to John McGrath, Como Research, 367 6333 Ext 323.



Geoff Mercer

RESEARCH IN WA

THE Australian Timber Research Institute is supporting research into the seasoning of jarrah in WA.

The Institute has awarded a \$10,000 research grant to Whittakers Ltd, a company involved in the harvesting, utilisation and marketing of timber in WA.

The project supplements CALM's wood utilisation research at the Harvey Timber Centre, which recently received a \$4.7 million Government boost.

Whittakers research aims to establish some of the basic properties of jarrah, which could be used in a Tasmanian developed mathematical model that simulates the drying of timber.

The model enables re-

searchers to study the drying process of timber and to develop drying techniques to increase the production of furniture grade timber.

Cracking and warping are major problems during the seasoning of jarrah.

Furniture grade timber is currently worth more than \$2,000 a cubic metre, and the worldwide demand has increased dramatically.

The Whittakers' project

has important long-term implications for the State's timber industry.

Besides the benefits expected from the research, it is also the first WA project to be funded by the Australian Timber Research Institute.

The project will be supervised by Whittakers' research scientist, Mr Hiski Kippo, at the company's Welshpool facilities.

The results will be reported to the Institute which will make the information available to other researchers.

Timber museum

THE restoration of the Donnelly Timber Mill Museum is progressing. A new roof was installed over the boiler house and the main mill roof has been repaired and painted.

Walkways have been safety fenced and the lighting replaced. Special points of interest have been spotlighted and signposted.

The next stage is signwriting to explain the stages of timber processing.

Bunnings ceased operations at the mill 1978 and later sold its mill town site to tourism interests.

Crater name spelling change

EVER wonder how those early explorers came up with the name Wolf Creek in a country which has never seen a wolf?

After much research, P. Bridge, owner of Hesperian Press in Perth, has found that Wolf Creek was named after Robert T.S. Wolfe, and because Wolf was used on plans of the area in 1897, the incorrect spelling has been used to this day.

The Nomenclature Advisory Committee of the Office of the Surveyor General has approved the name change to Wolfe to make it historically accurate.

The Shire of Halls Creek, in which Wolfe Creek Crater is located, will be updating its publications and road signs as finances permit.

Mr Wolfe worked on Denison Downs Station and was chairman of the Kimberley Goldfields Road Board in 1890 when the newly discovered crater was named after him.

Mr Wolfe later became well-known as a digger and storekeeper. He died in 1940.

Wheatbelt plant study

RARE wheatbelt plants will be studied by CALM researchers under a three-year grant from the Australian Heritage Commission worth \$27,350.

Research Officer Dr Steve Hopper said grants worth about \$100,000 have been awarded by the Commission and by the Australian Biological Resources Study to the Department's Wildlife Research Centre since 1982.

The wheatbelt and surrounding areas contain many rare plants or plants

not found elsewhere whose conservation status is uncertain, Steve said.

Consultant biologists will map the locations of rare plant populations, review the literature on each species surveyed, take photographs and give detailed accounts of the circumstances in which the plants exist.

Steve said the survey will provide important information essential for management planning and conservation of rare plants.



OFFICE OPENING

ABOUT 20 CALM personnel were present recently at the "office warming" party to open the new South Coast Regional office of Albany.

Ranger staff from throughout the Albany District joined with the regional office staff and together entertained visitors from other government departments with whom they had been closely associated in the past.

Two members of the Esperance District Office and two members of the CALM Planning Branch were also present.

RESOLVING CONFLICTS

A CHALLENGE

WITH the Ningaloo Marine Park, the Abrolhos Islands and Shark Bay under his wing, it's fitting that Greenough Regional Manager Geoff Mercer has a strong background in marine science.

Geoff, who has dived in waters from the Torres Strait to Jervis Bay, NSW, understands the problems facing fragile marine areas.

He said the biggest challenge before him as Regional Manager is to resolve conflicts of interest among users of these areas.

"There are many users in one area, each believing his use is the most important," Geoff said.

"We must try to accommodate all these uses while protecting the resource.

"Sometimes it's an impossible task, but we'll have fun trying."

Geoff took up his position as Regional Manager in October.

He has spent most of his time finding his "land legs" — learning how to deal with the hundreds of square kilometres of the Greenough and part of the Gascoyne regions for which he is responsible.

"The heath land here possibly has the highest number of rare and endangered plants in Australia," Geoff said.

He has learnt quickly the rudiments of fire control and he said he "would be nothing without the help of the expert staff" in the region, on whom he depends for advice.

Geoff previously worked with Queensland's Fisheries Service in estuarine management and, more recently, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Marine Parks section.

Geoff has a Bachelor of

Applied Science in physics and a graduate diploma in environmental studies from the Queensland Institute of Technology.

He has also earned a teaching diploma from Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education.

His research work in-

cludes more than 11 years studying turtles, mostly Loggerheads and Green Turtles, with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Another major project was the tagging of reef fish to determine their life histories, important spawning grounds and territories for marine park management purposes.

CYCLING CHAMP

WA'S top amateur cyclist is a CALM cartographic draftsman by trade.

Ray Lawrie, Mapping Branch at Como, has come a long way in a short time.

Two years ago, at the age of 31, he started cycling to work just to keep fit.

Then, early in March, 1985, he took up competitive cycling and by August he was the State Amateur Road Champion, later representing WA in the Australian Road Championships.

He was the cycling nominee for the WA Sportsman of the Year Award.

Ray has also done a television advertisement for Emu Export beer.

He won the Summer Criterium Championship series, which led to his being selected to represent the State in the Australian Championships recently held in Tasmania.

CAPTURING KARRI FOREST REGROWTH ON CAMERA

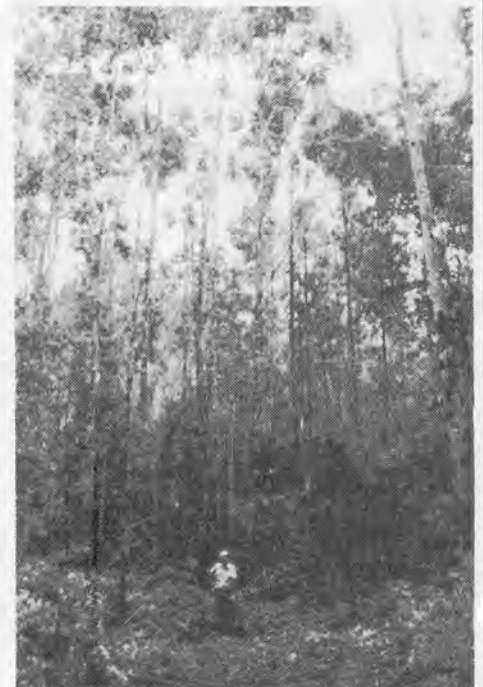
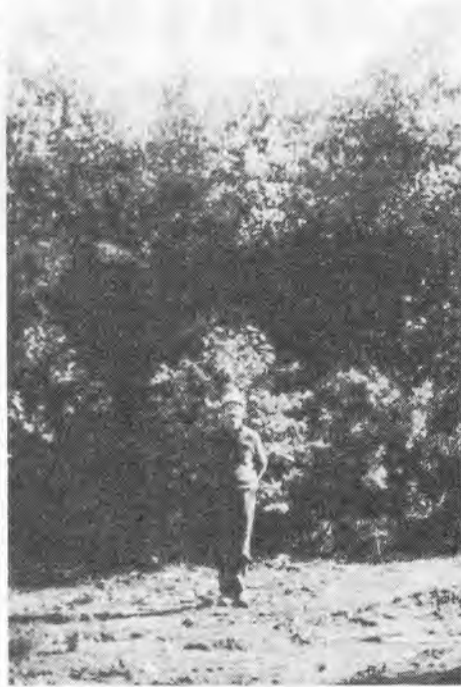
THESE photographs, taken at the same location over a 15 year period, show the rapid development of regrowth karri forest following clearfelling.

The area is in Boorara Block, cut over in the mid 1960s to provide logs for the Northcliffe Mill, and reforested in 1969.

District Forester Ron Kitson supervised the logging and reforestation and has taken a personal interest in the area since.

Ron is standing in front of the new forest when it is aged three, seven and 15 years.

The next photo in the sequence is scheduled for 1989.



ANNA LEWANDOWSKI and Bruce Beggs try out Anna's new garden furniture, a going away present from Como staff.

LAST CUPPA POURED ...

THERE'S a saying that the most important person in any office is the tea lady.

But Anna Lewandowski was not just any tea lady, and the 100 people who crammed into the Como canteen to farewell her recently proved it.

Anna retired after 10 years of trundling her tea trolley among the staff at State Headquarters, remembering who takes sugar and who drinks coffee.

She said, "I'm leaving a lot of friends, people I can joke with.

"But you have to make the decision sometime, and 10 years is enough, don't you think?"

Anna, a great cook, would bring in a cake to share with her friends whenever the notion took her.

But that wasn't the reason she was so well-loved here: she seemed always to have something funny or friendly to say, a joke to share or a story, usually about her grandson, to tell.

Bruce Beggs, former Conservator of Forests and now Chairman of the Lands and Forests Commission, was at the party to give Anna a going-away present from staff of jarrah outdoor furniture and to thank Anna for her many contributions to the Department.

Anna has served tea at most of the meetings and conferences held here and Mr Beggs spoke of Anna, in her inimitable way, of serving State ministers and the like: "Okay you guys, what do you want to drink?"

THE DEATH of Bob Thompson at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital on March 20, severed a link with the early days of the forestry and left a void in the ranks of the Mundaring staff that cannot be filled.

Bob spent his entire working life with the Forests Department, and all except the first two years of it at "The Weir".

He was two in 1929 when his father, Sam, transferred from Harvey to Mundaring as Overseer.

The Thompson family lived for several years in a lonely overseer's house at "The Beraking" and later moved into a similarly isolated house at Helena.

It was at those forestry outstations in the Helena Valley that Bob grew up.

He never attended school, but was educated by his mother, a former school teacher.

Bob Thompson's death severs forestry link

By LEN TALBOT

In 1941, when he was 14, Bob commenced his 45-year career with the Department as a member of his father's gang.

However, according to some old hands, whose memories go back that far, he often accompanied his father to work years before that as unofficial "Billy Boy".

Not surprisingly, Bob knew every nook and cranny in the jarrah and pine forests in the Mundaring district, and had anecdotes to relate about most of them.

Once I chanced to meet him on the site of his old home at Helena and during the lunch hour we shared there, he showed me around.

There were still some old stables and a windmill stand among the watties.

The house had been on a high hill from where there were splendid views of Helena and Darkin Valleys.

Bob explained that there had been a lookout platform on the roof of the house, from which, as well as spotting smokes, the towerman at Mount Dale could be signalled by heliograph when the bush telephone line was out of order.

When the men were absent, his mother carried out these duties.

He told me, too, that as a lad and living at the "Beraking" house he often accompanied his father on weekly calls to Mount Dale Tower.

The storekeeper from Sawyers Valley would

deliver stores to the Thompsons and after arriving home from work and eating his evening meal, Bob's father would harness the horse into the Spring Cart and set off on the 10km trip to the summit of Mount Dale to deliver the towerman's meat, stores and mail.

After sharing a billy of tea and a few yarns with the towerman they would set off again on the down hill trip, usually arriving home about midnight.

All part of an overseer's duties in those days.

In 1955, Bob became an overseer himself, in charge of a plantation gang.

He had an excellent memory and could recall the names and details of most of the men who have worked in his gang since then and generally had an

Lane-Poole Travel Award ...

E.S. RADIO SERVICES INSPECTED

GRAEME HUTCHINSON, Regional Forester, Communications, recently inspected radio communication systems and facilities used by Eastern States' forests and fire services.

Graeme, the recipient of the Lane-Poole Travel Award, visited Tasmania, Victoria, the ACT and NSW.

In Tasmania, he found that all emergency services have a common radio frequency.

He said this was unique in Australia, and was developed to improve liaison between emergency services following severe bushfires in 1967.

Graeme assisted the Tasmania Fire Service and Forests Commission to replace a radio mast at Mt King William in Central Tasmania which had been damaged by ice.

He said helicopters were used for this type of work and several of their radio installations were only accessible by helicopter.

In Victoria, he visited the CFA and Conservation, Forests and Lands

Department before heading to the ACT.

In Canberra, he was given the rare opportunity to view Telecom's facilities in the Black Mountain radio tower.

In addition to viewing how other organisations work, Graeme also visited radio manufacturers such as Philips and AWA to see the latest in radio technology.

Graeme said future developments for CALM's radio system could include a system of funding whereby the user pays for the equipment used.

This would be similar to the system used in the Department for vehicles.

Such a system would ensure that only those in need of radio communication would request it, decreasing the demand on the communications branch's financial resources.

The user pay system is also being considered by the Victorian Conservation, Forests and Lands Department.

"Our communication is sound, but we can refine it and be more efficient," Graeme said.

Those refinements might include radio pagers for an entire area or a Telecom hook-up, enabling contact through telephone to field vehicles.



A helicopter is used to site an aerial in Tasmania.



ROGER Edmiston explains to farmers a trial investigating the use of acacias as fodder trees.



Roger demonstrates hand planting of pine trees.

SERVICE COMBATS EROSION

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

THE wind wreaks havoc on the Allanooka Sandplain farmland around Geraldton.

It blows away topsoil, stunts crops and makes living hard, so finding a way to slow down the wind is important to landholders here.

The establishment of trees on farms as windbreaks and shelter and as fodder was the subject of two field days near Dongara in which CALM participated recently.

As part of his duties as

Extensions Officer for the Greenough Region, Pat Ryan advises farmers on the type of trees to plant, and where and how to plant them.

"The establishment of eucalypts as windbreaks and shelter and of pines as a potential windbreak species" was Pat's concern during one Field Day at which about 40 people were shown a recent planting of eucalypts on private property.

"The main result shown was that the trees have grown well without supplementary water except for a small quantity given at planting time," Pat said.

Field Day participants were also shown mechanised tree planting equipment.

The machinery used for planting eucalypts is a deep ripper (a backblade to remove weeds and weed seed) and a tree planter, in this case, a Nufab model, in which a person sits and places trees into the furrows.

Extensions Officer Roger Edmiston explained to about 70 farmers the results of preliminary trials on the establishment of various acacias as fodder.

The trials, carried out in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and CSIRO, assessed growth, palatability to stock, survival after severe

cutting and food value of five acacia species and tagasaste.

"Depending on how these test trials work out, we will be looking at using large-scale trials to follow up findings," Roger said.

He said farmers need a food source that grows in summer when other feed is scarce, and of the species tested, A. saligna and A. rostellifera look promising.

Also as part of the Field Days, Research Officer Ray Fremlin discussed preliminary results of two trials on the use of herbicides on pines in the sandplains.

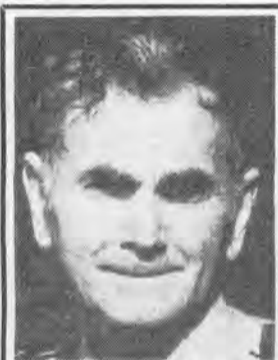
The trials used varying ratios of the herbicides atrazine and amatrole and hexazinone on one-year P. radiata and P. pinaster and two-year P. pinaster.

Some trees were hand-weeded while others received no weed control to compare growth in each situation.

Preliminary results, as reported to Field Day participants, showed that high rates of atrazine, the residual component of the mixture, was necessary to ensure weed-free conditions throughout the first year.

In addition, the fertiliser effect of atrazine was demonstrated.

The results showed dramatically that pines were unable to compete with weeds.



Dave Hill

FORMER RANGER DIES

DAVE HILL, who recently retired as a National Park Ranger after 24 years with the Department, died in hospital recently.

Dave began work as a ranger at John Forrest National Park, and later worked for seven years as resident ranger of Matilda Bay Reserve.

As courier for the executive of the former National Parks Authority, Dave was often seen in many Government departments throughout the city, in ranger uniform and always with a ready smile.

Plan for Reserves

A management plan for seven nature reserves in the Shire of Wyalkatchem has been approved by the State Government, and adopted by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Wyalkatchem is 170km north-east of Perth and lies in the northern part of the wheatbelt.

Four of the seven reserves are jointly vested in the Shire and the Authority, and the other three vested solely in the Authority.

The plan covers a range of habitats in the northern wheatbelt region ranging from granite gum woodlands to salmon gum woodlands and salt lakes.

The reserves are important refuges for many wheatbelt plants, birds and animals.

The management plan, which was drafted by a project team more than 18 months ago, incor-



EXTENSIONS Officer Pat Ryan, right, discusses the operation of the tree planter with a Department of Agriculture representative.

Battling nor'west elements a trial

FOR Noel Nannup, also known as the Hero of Fitzroy Crossing these days, the hardest part of dealing with cyclones is "waiting and wondering when the flood would peak".

Noel, CALM Ranger at Fitzroy Crossing, worked 18 hours a day, battering things down before the flood and keeping an eye on folks who didn't want to leave their homes during the worst of it.

"They were long days, but the situation the way it was, there's nothing you can do," Noel said.

"You reach a point

when you're not worried about it anymore and you just go and crash when you can."

At one point, some houses on lower ground had just their roofs above water.

That's where Noel came in — taking people from their flooded houses in his dinghy and ferrying them to solid ground.

Noel's house is about

7km from Fitzroy Crossing, close to the river.

His only form of transport at one time was the dinghy tied to his front gate.

Noel said, "There's always the danger of flooding here.

"It's nature — you

don't argue with nature. You've got it whether you like it or not."

His duty journal included these entries:

20 January — Stack all gear up high as I am sure of big flood. Listen to Flying Doctor reports, record 127mm of rain.

22 January — Prepare dinghy for launching. Evacuate my wife and son to accommodation in Fitzroy Crossing. Continue flood watch, inform other residents this side of town that they should move out. Record 153mm of rain.

23 January — Flood water still rising. Pick up two people from Bob Walters' flooded house and take them to Fitzroy Crossing. House sinking.

24 January — Flood water still rising. House foundations have given out and house is

GRAEME FOLLEY TO RETIRE

A MAN who has played an important role in CALM's wildlife conservation efforts will retire soon.

Graeme Folley, Reserves Officer at Two Peoples Bay for more than seven years, said he has "done what he set out to do down here".

"I have seen the population of the Noisy Scrub Bird double and participated in the successful establishment of a second colony of birds."

Graeme has been involved since the relocation of a population of the Noisy Scrub Bird at Mt Gardner Reserve, 25km from Mt Many Peaks, started.

The bird is classified as a rare and endangered species. It was rediscovered in 1961 after having been believed extinct for 70 years.

have been so successful that there was practically no unoccupied habitat at Two Peoples Bay in 1983.

"After such a hectic period, I would like to spend some time by myself," Graeme said.

That time will be on his farm in Denmark.

"I'm originally from the country and I've had a lifelong interest in flora and fauna. I've been chasing birds and flowers ever since I can remember," he said.

Before joining Fisheries and Wildlife, Graeme was a cartographer with the Department of Mines.

He said that with the amalgamation, the availability of resources had greatly improved.

For example, he was given an assistant recently and the general resource management projects were "miles in

Snake ID poser

WILDLIFE Officer Peter Lambert's early morning visit to the hospital to identify a snake has convinced him of the need for doctors to have other methods of identification.

Peter, who is based in Busselton, was called at 3am recently to tell doctors at Bunbury Regional Hospital that what had bitten a patient was a legless lizard, harmless to man.

It isn't the lost sleep Peter is worried about, but the liability in the possible case of a wildlife officer making a wrong identification.

"This season is one of the worst on record for snakes occurring in urban areas," he said.

Dugites and tiger snakes have appeared in Busselton and Bunbury, and wildlife officers are often called for advice on what to do with them.

Peter said he tells people to put on a pair of wellies and gloves, carefully remove everything from around the snake and fumigate.

AUCTION SYSTEM SUCCESS

THE USE of an auction system to provide sawlogs to private sawmillers has proven successful, says Don Keene, Manager Timber Production.

The auction system is a relatively new method used by CALM to distribute unallocated sawlogs.

The auctions are held in the areas from which the timber is cut.

Don said the auction system made available to smaller sawmillers parcels of jarrah, karri and marri salvage logs that were not suitable for use by larger sawmills.

In addition to being equitable, the auction system enables price to be determined by the free

market, giving the Department an indication of the timber's true value.

Information gathered from the auctions will be taken into account in an upcoming royalty review, he said.

Don said that while the relatively small parcels of between 250 and 6,000 cubic metres could not be considered an absolute criterion in deciding the value of timber, it serves as a good guide, particularly as more auctions were held.

He said the auction system also gave an indication of the minimum quality of sawlog acceptable to sawmills, as some parcels of logs have been passed in after bids failed to reach the reserve price.

About two percent of the total available logs had been sold in the six auctions held to date.

He said the auctions had been well attended, with between four and 13 sawmill representatives at each.



Numbat's bite worse ...

THIS photograph should dispel the myth forever that numbats are furry, sweet-natured marsupials.

This animal was distressed at being faced with life in the wild and it let its benefactor, Tony Friend, know what it thought about the situation with a bite on the finger. Tony, along with Technical Assistants Bruce Turner, left, and Neil Thomas, centre, was releasing a group of numbats in the Dryandra State Forest.

Aerial photography a challenge

AFTER 40 years in the Mapping Branch, Denis Cox has seen it all — from the first use of aerial photography in forest management to the present technological advances in his profession.

Denis joined the Department in 1945 as a junior draftsman, received a diploma in cartography from Perth Technical College in 1950 and is about to retire as CALM's Assistant Chief Draftsman.

The development of aerial photography and its use in WA's forest management began in the 1940s.

aerial section for quite awhile.

Using the few aerial photographs available, the Mapping Branch began to "work out methods of interpreting the bush".

Determining scale was

a basic task, because "there was nothing to go on at that time", Denis said.

In 1979, Denis took up his present administrative position.

He will travel to England in the next few months to visit his son.

"Then I would like to see a bit of my own State, particularly the North."

Denis spends his spare time designing and flying radio-controlled airplanes and sailing his catamaran.

"I've been around here for a long time and I'll miss the work relations I've had here," Denis said.

THERE was plenty of mumbling and grumbling at Como HQ on Friday, April 4.

Many staff were reduced to taking their tea or coffee without milk — the reason, an early morning thief made off with almost the entire milk delivery.



CALM Registrar Jim Adams, left, conducts a recent sawlog auction at Manjimup. At centre is Chris Marmion, Clerk-in-charge of Registration and, right, Alan Walker, Southern Forest Regional Manager



Denis Cox

Busselton District Overseer Retires

BUSSELTON District Overseer Ron Sparrow has retired after 30 years with the Department.

Most of those years were spent at Nannup, where he began work in 1956 as a plant operator.

Ron was involved in the construction of roads and culverts in Folly Plantation at Nannup.

In 1984 he was transferred to Ludlow to oversee crews involved in softwood tending.

His training of his crews in the proper use of tools, first aid and firefighting techniques, was praised by Busselton District Manager, Dennis Hilder.

Ron's achievement of working 30 years without a lost-time accident was rewarded with the Safety Award of Merit at a farewell function attended by workmates and friends.

CARTOGRAPHERS WAIT GRADUATES

COMO Mapping Branch's Mike Wright and Graeme Behn recently received degrees in cartography from the WA Institute of Technology.

Mike also walked away with two cartographic awards: the DCL Surveying Instruments Prize for the best general project in cartography, and the Australian Institute of Cartographers WA Division Special Prize for the best graduating student in cartography.

Mike, at present acting officer in charge of the computer mapping section, joined the Department in 1976.

His project, done in conjunction with CALM Senior Landscape Ar-

chitect Wayne Schmidt, concerned the evaluation and mapping of the visual landscape, which involved data capture, computer programming and data analysis techniques.

Graeme completed the three-year degree programme in four years of part-time study.

Graeme's work at CALM is in the research and development of cartographic techniques.

He is currently involved in the revamping of the 1:50,000 map series.

The new system is based on the use of 1:100,000 maps for management purposes and 1:25,000 for operational purposes instead of using the 1:50,000 map for both.



WAIT cartography graduates Mike Wright (left) and Graeme Behn.

INCREASE IN MAMMALS ENCOURAGING

By GRANT WARDELL-JOHNSON

THE NUMBER of Woylies and some other mammals in the Dryandra and Perup State forests has increased over the past few years.

This was indicated by a survey completed recently by Manjimup research staff.

In June, 1984, a three-week field survey was carried out to investigate the role of fire in the maintenance of ecological processes in the Dryandra forest.

Because fire is the chief means of environmental manipulation available to the manager of a fire-prone environment, the survey was designed to provide information to managers and enable the production of a detailed management plan.

The survey revealed that the fire originating from Dryandra forest has not posed a threat to surrounding farmers in the past.

Low fuel loadings and accumulation rates and the distribution and structure of fuels confirms that fire control criteria are considerably different in Dryandra than in the jarrah and karri forest, but there is still the need to prevent wildfires.

The very slow response of rootstock species, the poor crown recovery of trees, the high proportion of fire sensitive species and the slow rates of ground litter accumulation suggest the relative infrequency of fire in this environment.

Hence, frequent fires have serious implications for some important vegetation associations in Dryandra.

Many rare species of marsupials depend on the variety and pattern in the vegetation of Dryandra forest.

In the survey, trapping was carried out to obtain species lists and relative abundances of some species in different vegetation types.

The Woylie is readily trapped in those areas where it occurs at any time of the year, so the survey team was able to compare trapping success with other years, seasons and areas for this species.

Previous trapping revealed low numbers of Woylies in Dryandra.

Trapping rates of only 2.8 percent were obtained in Dryandra in 1971-72 and no animals were caught

during 158 trap nights in 1975.

The recent survey had relatively high capture rates of 9.7 percent, with a 15.3 percent rate in lateritic upland areas.

Woylies have been trapped regularly since 1972 in the Perup forest, 40km east of Manjimup.

Populations have been increasing since 1977 and are now at a relatively high level.

The periods of low and high numbers in the Perup correspond with previous low and high captures in Dryandra.

Other species in the Perup are currently higher than in previous years and when the population of one species is high, many others may also be high.

During the survey at Dryandra, high capture rates of several species were experienced: 30 Phascogales (Phascogale calura), 25 Mardos (Antechinus flavipes) and 4 Brush-tailed Possums (Trichosurus vulpecula).

The high rates for several species not usually caught in large numbers in Perup should not lead us to complacency.

If populations have been low at one time, they can be low again.

There is much less flexibility in management when animals are at low population densities.

If populations of these species change, it is important to know at what level populations exist when carrying out management operations that are likely to affect them.

Monitoring of populations through trapping will, therefore, become an important responsibility for a manager.

Specialist branches would assist with establishing the operation and

with interpreting the data.

Regular monitoring and a historical perspective will provide a valuable insight into the state of environmental health of the forest.

It also improves the managers' knowledge and understanding of the ecology of their forest.

CRICKET VICTORY

ON April 6, CALM Collie was challenged by Greening Australia to a limited overs cricket match.

CALM won the toss and sent the Greenies into bat and struggled hard to dismiss the opening pair.

Once this was achieved wickets tumbled regularly and the Greenies were all out for 107.

The best contributors for the Greenies was their skipper John Hughes who made 29 and wided 25.

CALM's innings started well with an opening partnership of 21.

From this point on the batsmen took complete control and a top score of 40 by John McKenzie Sr. was followed by Mark Humble on 32, Charlie Chapman on 29, Peter Conlan on 24, with all others getting reasonable scores.

CALM was dismissed for 197.

A great day was had by all and as usual the victory keg followed which was most enjoyable after a long day in the field.

SWDA tours forest

THE South West Development Authority advisory committee was taken on a familiarisation tour of the karri forest and an inspection of bush and mill operations by the Forest Products Association this month.

SWDA advisory committee chairman John Mumme said he was satisfied that all the community's interests were catered for in the forests of the South West.

Mr Mumme said the tour was most worthwhile as it placed the advisory committee members in a better position to give first hand advice on timber industry matters.



ASSISTANT District Manager Roger "Duck" Hearn (left) was transferred recently from Dwellingup District to Mundaring. Roger is pictured discussing his future prospects with District Manager Kevin Vear at his send-off.

State-Federal initiatives

THE Federal and State Governments have announced that formal agreement has been reached between their governments for the joint declaration later this year of the Ningaloo Marine Park off Western Australia's North-West coast.

The park will encompass the outstanding reef between North-West Cape and Amherst Point and extend 10 nautical miles out to sea.

The park will be declared under both Commonwealth and State legislation because Commonwealth and State waters are included.

However, the park will be managed by CALM.

The Park contains rich and diverse coral reef fauna and flora and has outstanding conservation values.

It also offers exceptional

recreational opportunities.

Funds totalling about \$1.2 million would be provided by the two governments under the bi-centennial commemorative projects programme to develop interpretation and information facilities in the park.

An advisory committee appointed last year by the State Government is overseeing the production of a management plan for the park in consultation with the Exmouth and Carnarvon Shire Councils.

The target date for declaration of the park is November, 1986.

on Ningaloo Marine Park

MOORADUNG PLAN

A MANAGEMENT Plan has been approved for the Mooradung Nature Reserve, about 12km south-east of Boddington, near the eastern edge of the Darling Range.

Despite being small in size, covering an area of about 630ha, the reserve is important because of its location and the diversity of wildlife it contains.

The plan covers a range of flora and fauna, providing a sample of wildlife between the forested Darling Range, and woodlands in the lower rainfall areas to the east.

The greater part of the reserve comprises upland country and its associated gravel soils.

Flora and fauna recorded in the reserve include species gazetted as rare and endangered, or being regionally uncommon.

The management plan is designed to maintain the wildlife conservation values of the Reserve, and its management is compatible with the adjoining farmland.

N.W. visit

CHRIS HAYNES, Director of National Parks (left) and Ranger Dave Milne inspect the Fortescue River at Millstream.

The fact that the river was flowing at the time of year was significant.

A good flow from time to time is essential to recharge the Millstream aquifer, from which water is pumped to Pilbara townsites, and to maintain the beautiful Millstream oasis.



BUNBURY CAPTURES FESTIVE SPIRIT

BUNBURY held its Christmas function at Regional Headquarters on December 20.

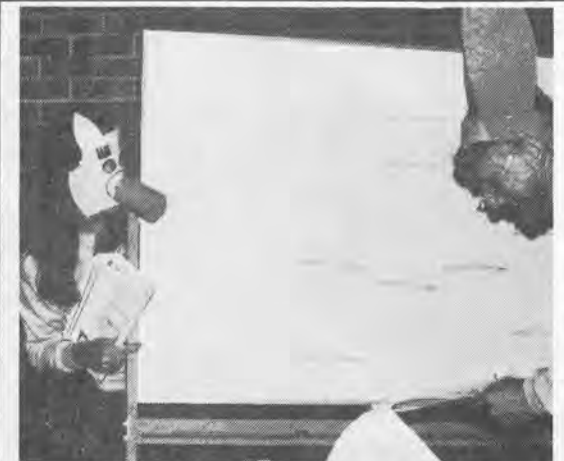
Apart from an impromptu get-together of some of the office's musical talent — with mixed results, staff volunteers participated in two unrehearsed skits.

They were from Roald Dahls' "Revolting Rhymes".

The presentation of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs" had the audience in fits of laughter.

Special praise goes to Sharon Sanderson for producing the very fitting masks and costumes.

NB all Regional and District staff: Send your news and photographs in each month to keep the rest of the staff informed of your activities.



THE "Big Bad Wolf" (alias Frank Quicke) doesn't appear too aggressive as he confronts Pig No 2 (alias Colleen Clements) in her house of sticks.



LOCAL musical talent (from left) Alf Lorkiewicz, Frank Quicke, Alf's wife Beth, and Graham Ellis-Smith get into the swing of the festive season.

INTERPRETERS VITAL IN DIEBACK CONTROL

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

LAND managers need to be aware of the presence of dieback to plan operations that will reduce the risk of the disease spreading.



AERIAL interpreters (from left to right) Malcolm Grant, Mike Meinema, Ivor Deas, Abe van de Sande and Larry Hantler.

According to District Forester Tony Brandis, the hygiene map, the dieback free map and the dieback impact map help to make decisions about operations and possible effect on jarrah dieback spread.

Tony, who has helped develop CALM's jarrah dieback interpretation methods since 1979, said information for the maps was collected by a team of 10 carefully selected "interpreters".

Interpreters identify dead plants known to be susceptible to dieback from aerial photographs.

Then, working in teams of two, they find the plants to determine if they had been attacked by the fungus.

The factors that help determine the presence of dieback are many.

Tony said the first clue, which comes from the photograph, was if dead susceptible plants, called indicator species, occur in isolation, were scattered through an area, or were in groups.

The dead plants were plotted on a map used in field investigations.

The tricky part of interpretation was to find each of the plants and determine if it was dieback-infested.

"It's a skill that requires practical training of at least a month in all types of forest before an interpreter is capable in identifying the disease," Tony said.

In the field, interpreters rely on visual symptoms to locate dieback.

He then plots a boundary around the dead plants and enters the information on the photograph.



If the interpreter is undecided about how the plant died, a soil and tissue sample is sent to Dwellingup Research to be analysed.

When all dead plants in an area have been diagnosed and plotted on the photograph, a process that can take many months, the information is used to make the three maps.

The dieback free map shows areas free of die-

back, dieback suspect, and areas that are uninterpretable due to a lack of indicator species.

The dieback impact map categorises the infected areas by extent of the damage done by dieback.

The hygiene map is perhaps the most used of the three because it allows predictions to be made about what will happen in a certain area over time.

Being able to predict the impact of dieback on a site is one of the most important benefits to managers.

"The maps result in better long-term management of the forest, so that we limit the artificial spread of dieback," Tony said.

A new system of aerial photography based on a 230mm camera was being phased in by CALM and would eventually replace the present 70mm system, Tony said.

The switch would have some effect on interpretation methods, he added.

Financial reporting changes introduced

THE production of financial reports for regions, districts and specialist sections has been modified in accordance with requirements of the Conservation and Land Management Act.

The first of these modifications is the production of a new classification of accounts, copies of which have already been distributed.

Modelled on new statutory reporting requirements, this new classification more accurately reflects the expanded operations of CALM.

Secondly, a major modification will allow the general ledger system the facility to report to a greatly expanded range of cost centres.

This will allow incorporation of new districts and regions into the one basic system as well as providing clear autonomy for many

of the specialist sections formerly catered for through head office budgets.

Using the new classification of accounts as the basis, standardised reports — at job level, within budget item and budget category — will be produced for all cost centres fortnightly.

Summary reports will also be produced for regional and departmental use.

In all cases, these reports will show budget, year to date expenditure, variance, monthly expenditure and unit costing when applicable.

Other specialist reports will also be available and listings for voucher infor-

mation will be distributed.

Cost centres with video display units and printers will be able to print their own reports and will have

access to various on-line enquiries.

The modified system should be in place for the 1986-87 financial year.



BRIAN Brody, Personnel Officer at Como, holds his granddaughter Caitlin, who was the first baby born in Perth in the new year. Caitlin arrived at the Attadale Hospital at 12.04am. Brian's daughter Sue Davis and her husband Craig, from Manjimun, are Caitlin's parents.



Harry Gorringe

Harry Gorringe calls it a day

WHEN Harry Gorringe joined the National Parks Authority in 1968, land set aside in WA for national parks totalled 324,000ha.

First as administrative assistant, and then as managing secretary of the Authority, and finally as National Parks Administrator with CALM, Harry saw the State's area of national park land increase to more than four million hectares.

"That was the most enjoyable period of my service with the Authority," Harry said.

Harry is retiring from CALM after 18 years with the Department.

"The satisfaction came from doing something, being a part of having areas declared national parks and putting them aside for future generations," he said.

Harry joined the public service in 1957 with the Public Works Department.

Following his retirement, Harry will continue working with the Rottnest Island Board.

PLANNERS ON SOUTH COAST

JOHN WATSON, South Coast Regional Manager, points out an interesting feature of his region to Planning Officers Barry Muir and Sue Moore.

The occasion was the first meeting with Regional CALM staff to discuss the South Coast Regional Management Plan being coordinated by Barry and Sue.

Data collection on all CALM land in the Region is underway and is expected to be completed in 3 to 5 months.

The plan will provide priorities for management attention and examine local application of Departmental policy in the Region.

