



# CALM News

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## Kamikaze cuckoo recovers

A FANTAILED cuckoo that flew into some trouble with the navy on Garden Island recovered after a couple of days R and R at ranger Jim Maher's Herdsman Lake home.

The bird made a direct hit on a glass window of a naval administration building at HMAS Stirling.

Dazed, and unable to render its normal mournful trill, it was handed over to the navy.

Jim, the officer in charge of wildlife on the island while naval ranger Wayne Taylor is on leave, was called to pass sentence.

He diagnosed the symptoms as being similar to a sailor's after a night out at the island's mess.

The cuckoo was given time to recover before a decision was made on its fate.

Its recovery was aided by the CEP workers who collected the bird's favourite food — caterpillars — white clearing brush on the island.

It is now back in HMAS Stirling air space.



JIM MAHER and the fantailed cuckoo.

## After three years work . . .

# RECREATION SITE OPENS AT SHANNON

By ANDREW CRIBB

THREE years of planning and hard work in the Southern Forests Region culminated on May 1 when the Shannon recreation site was opened by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge.

At the same time a draft management plan for the Shannon Park and D'Entrecasteaux National Park was released for public comment.

Mr Hodge said that the Shannon project showed that the State Government could successfully meet the twin commitments of reservation for conservation and recreation, and reservation for timber production in the south-west forests.

The Shannon became a major area of land-use conflict during the last decade, when its reservation for conservation was first suggested by the Conservation through Reserves Committee.

Concern was expressed about the effect that reducing the hardwood cut would have on local employment and the timber industry.

Mr Hodge reiterated the State Government's commitment to ensure a sufficient resource to maintain the industry at levels planned before logging was stopped in the Shannon.

After the release of a Strategy for Management Planning in 1984, local residents also expressed fears about prohibitive management planning which could affect the use of their traditional recreation areas.

A planning group, coordinated by Regional Manager Alan Walker, was set up to formulate a draft management plan incorporating feed-back from local and community groups.

At the same time, development in the parks started under the SERPA and CEP schemes.

In the course of the project the State and Federal Governments provided more than \$720,000 towards the wages of more than 30 people, and the construction and maintenance of public information and recreation facilities.



BARRY HODGE

At the opening, Alan Walker said that the key to the future success of management in the area will be successful communication and co-operation between CALM and the community.

An example of the kind of co-operation needed was a clean-up held in April, involving CALM and the Keep Our Coasts Open Committee (KOCO), during which beaches and tracks in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park were scoured by volunteers from KOCO, and the rubbish collected was trucked out by CALM.

The management plan for the Shannon/D'Entrecasteaux is a first for CALM, and many of its features will be incorporated in plans for national parks and conservation reserves elsewhere in the State.

# Tackling lake problem with a punt

By Colleen Henry-Hall

A MARVEL of innovation and design, this punt, designed by John Malone, could soon be clearing the bullrush-choked shores of lakes and ponds.

John (CALM Engineering Services) worked from colour slides of a similar Tasmanian model. It was constructed by the workshop crew at Mundaring District.

Equipped with a set of hydraulic "teeth" on its bow, the boat attacks clusters of bullrush or yanget (*Typha orientalis*), cutting them off below the surface of the water so they rot before regenerating.

Although the plant provides some shelter to waterbirds, it colonises any shallow water aggressively, according to Scientific Adviser John Blyth.

He cited Herdsman Lake as an example.

Photographs taken in the 1920s show an open water bed, but before recent dredging, it was a solid bed of Typha.

The same fate awaits Forrestdale Lake if the plant is not controlled, John said.

CALM Officers from the Metropolitan Region have been testing the boat to work out a few bugs.

The teeth on the 3.6m punt are a reciprocating blade hay mower, which can be raised or lowered to different depths.

With buoyancy tanks welded to both sides of the craft, the punt can operate in less than 100mm of water.

The punt has been designed for one-man operation with all the control mounted on a central console.

When perfected and working efficiently, the punt may be hired to shires and councils for use in lakes under their control.

CALM hopes to use the boat at Forrestdale Lake and possibly Herdsman Lake, along with other lakes under CALM control.

In a recent trial, the boat, operated by one person, cut an area of Typha in one tenth the time normally needed by three people cutting by hand.



RANGER Ric Stone and consultant Doug Watkins test the punt at Yangebup Lake.

## CALM — Timber Bureau merger

THE Timber Bureau has been incorporated into CALM.

This move was recommended by the honorary royal commission into the Department of Conservation and Land Management and endorsed by the State Government.

The Timber Bureau was established 12 months ago to liaise between the State Government and the timber industry.

A Division of Forest Resources will be established within the Department to handle the Bureau's activities.

It will also combine the functions of the present branches of silviculture, inventory and timber production.

The former Director of the Timber Bureau, Pat McNamara, has retired. He will act as a consultant to CALM.

## RANGERS RECLASSIFIED

THE work of three National Park Rangers was recognised recently when they were reclassified to a higher grade.

Trevor Smith, Yalgorup National Park, has been promoted to Grade 1; Bruce Bond, Walpole-Nornalup National Park, to Grade 2; and Tony Smith, Hamersley National Park, to Grade 2.

Each of the rangers has had a different and interesting park career.

Trevor Smith began as a Ranger Grade 4 at Matilda Bay Reserve 14 years ago and then worked at the Walpole-Nornalup, Kalbarri and Leeuwin-Naturaliste national parks before becoming the sole resident ranger at Yalgorup. Situated on the coastal plain south of

Mandurah, this park contains an important system of parallel lakes known for their bird life and geological features.

Bruce Bond's park ranger career began at Yanchep seven years ago.

He worked at the Stirling Ranges National Park before his last move to Walpole-Nornalup.

His ranger's residence is 15km west of Walpole, where Ranger-in-Charge Chris Hart is based, which leaves Bruce to concentrate on the western section of the park and as far as Broke Inlet in the Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux Park area.

Tony Smith, who also began his park ranger career at Yanchep more than six years ago, spent one and a half years at Kalbarri National Park before moving to Hamersley last year.



## From my Desk

LAST month Barry Wilson wrote about the importance of diversity within this Department.

I would like to follow with some thoughts on inspirations and heroes.

For several years before coming to WA I had responsibility for Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.

It's a place of grand rock formations, vast wetlands and many other features of beauty and interest.

For me and other staff, it also represented plenty of hard work, long hours and at times frustration and heartache.

Once in a while we all wondered if we could keep up with the pace, and at times like that the beauty of the place itself was an inspiration.

Many of us in this Department are in a position to enjoy country of great beauty in the same way — and we should use those opportunities whenever we can.

Inspirations also come from other people, and although Australians are supposed to revel in "cutting down the tall poppies", I believe that most of us have our secret heroes.

One of mine is very visible in the private sector — Bob Ansett.

Bob has built up his own company with some ideas and a style which I find refreshing.

For example, he does his own TV advertising; he has taken a prominent role in promotion of fitness and health, and in development of staff training; and he requires senior executives take their turn on the front desk once a month — to keep in touch with the business of providing a service.

It is not always easy to fit the systems of a very competitive part of private enterprise into part of the public sector such as CALM.

Because we are a public organisation, many initiatives are stifled or modified by public opinion in the political process.

We are looking at a different market from the private sector, but we are without question operating in the marketplace.

In our case we are marketing a service.

I am really glad to say that as I have travelled around the State I have been inspired by the way in which CALM staff are operating in their own section of the marketplace, often against many odds.

You might find it strange to be thought of as a hero — but that is how you might be.

Such things cannot be pushed, but they are noticed and they are valued.

And they must be valued if CALM is to take its place as an organisation which strives to provide excellent service in the public sector.

Another car firm says 'we try harder'.

We may not face the cut throat competition of the car rental industry, but we face other pressures which you know, and so that slogan will become a way of life to us.

CHRIS HAYNES

Director National Parks and Recreation

## TREE SCHEME FOR SANDPLAIN TRIAL

AN arboretum near Geraldton will enable rural advisory officers to determine which tree species grow best on the Eradu sandplain.

Greenough Regional Rural Advisory Officer Pat Ryan said that by the end of the planting season in June, 2300 trees of 50 different species will have been planted on the 11ha site at Mullewa.

Pat said the yellow sandplain was subject to wind erosion, so trees have an important role to play in stabilising the soils in the area.

He said the 1000 trees planted last year in the arboretum have done quite well, with some reaching a height of two metres.

The trees have received no treatment apart from water applied at the time of planting and fertilisation with a compact fertiliser.

The trees, mostly eucalypts from throughout Australia, and a few exotic species, must be established for about 10 years before any conclusions can

be drawn from their performance, Pat said.

"The sandplain appears to hold enough moisture to grow large trees, even though there were only small trees here before farming and clearing started," he said.

### Committee formed

Members of the Marmion Marine Park Consultative Committee have been appointed.

It comprises a representative from the departments of Conservation and Land Management, Marine and Harbours, Sport and Recreation, and Fisheries, and two from the Wanneroo and Stirling city councils.

These agencies currently have management responsibilities in the area of the proposed marine park, and will continue to do so once it is established.

The committee comprises Dr Barry Wilson (CALM), chairman, Mr B White (CALM), Cr D King and Mr O Drescher (City of Wanneroo), Cr J. Bombak and Mr R Godwin (City of Stirling), Mr N McLaughlan (Department of Fisheries), Mr J Fuhrmann (Department of Sport and Recreation), and Dr W Andrew (Department of Transport and Regional Development).

## National Park Plan for BUNGLE BUNGLE

THE BUNGLE BUNGLE massif and surrounding area in the Kimberley is to be declared a national park.

Arrangements are currently being made to transfer the control of the area from the Agriculture Department to the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

CALM will prepare a draft management plan and define the area of the proposed park.

While the draft man-

agement plan is expected to take at least 12 months to complete, immediate action would be taken to protect the area.

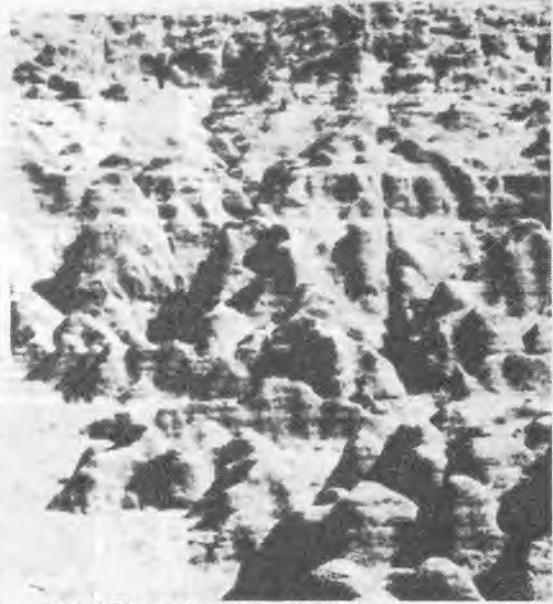
This included the appointment of rangers to protect the environment and to maintain access to and movement within the park.

The draft management plan will consider the best ways to involve the tourist industry, local government and the

Kawarra community which represents the Aboriginal people who have traditional ties to the area.

In particular, CALM will develop training and employment schemes to involve Aborigines in the park's management.

The public will be given the opportunity to contribute to the draft management plan once an advisory committee had been set up.



PART of the Bungle Bungle massif.

## Equipment commissioned

IMPORTED timber processing equipment worth almost \$3 million was officially commissioned in Perth recently by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge.

The ceremony at Bunnings' Welshpool Production Centre was part of an on-site field day for more than 80 people, including parliamentarians and representatives of Government, forest industries and associates.

Bunnings' Forest Products Managing Director, Mr Bob Bunning, said that the principal objectives of the re-equipment programme were to add value to WA's quality hardwood and to improve its utilisation.

"This can only be done

with the purchase of high technology equipment," he said.

"It requires a significant expenditure of capital and must also be backed by sophisticated marketing."

Late last year, Bunnings bought new high technology wood machining and handling equipment from Germany.

These new production lines, two for Welshpool and two for the South-West Production Centre at Manjimup, cost \$3.2 million.

The lines are now installed and are expected to greatly improve the quantity and quality of wood products manufactured by the Company.

Western Australian hardwood and pine will be used to manufacture a variety of high quality mouldings, flooring and furniture components, as well as decking and framing products.



BARRY HODGE (centre), Bob Bunning and Syd Shea inspect the new equipment.

## Ranger host to penguin

MOBILE Ranger Bill Badcock and wife Diane were recently hosts to a Rockhopper Penguin they called Percival.

Percy was found near Augusta when he was moulting, a time when penguins are especially vulnerable because they do not feed or go into the water.

Left to his own devices, Percy would have fared quite well.

However, the person who found him probably thought he was sick or injured and contacted CALM.

Bill and Diane gave Percy a home for a few weeks until his moult was over and he was strong enough to be released.

The problem was convincing Percy, who had developed a habit of following Bill around the house, that it was time to head to sea.

Bill had to wade into the water near the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse three or four times before Percy finally got the right idea and stayed where he belonged.

Busselton Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert said that if all goes well for Percy, he should be making his way back to the Antarctic.

The Rockhopper Penguin is not common to WA waters.

Three, including Percy, were reported to Peter in 1985-86, three in 1983 and two in 1982.

The birds breed on islands in the sub-Antarctic zone and the ones that show up in WA use St Paul and Amsterdam Islands, Peter said.

The Rockhopper Penguin has a number of enemies: Southern Skuas and Giant Petrels take eggs and young from breeding islands; Leopard Seals, fur seals, sea lions and Albatrosses take the birds at sea.

When the birds arrive to moult, they will usually hole up under granite rocks or other secure places where they stay for four to six weeks.

Once they have moulted, they return to the water to feed, and rapidly put back the weight they have lost, Peter said.



BILL BADCOCK releases Percy from his cage on a sandy beach near the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse.

## CHECKING OUT CARNAC

THERE is a legend about Carnac Island's tiger snakes.

Years ago, a man had a travelling show which featured tiger snakes.

One day his wife was bitten by a snake and died, and the authorities demanded he get rid of the reptiles.

He couldn't bring himself to destroy the snakes, so he took them to Carnac Island and let them loose.

Whether the story is true or not, there are tiger snakes on Carnac Island, the

management of which is the concern of CALM.

A group consisting of Roger Underwood, Gordon Graham, Greg Keighrey, Leon Griffiths, Jenny Alford and Ric Stone visited the island recently to survey flora and fauna, maintain signs and trails and collect rubbish.

The trip also was an orientation for Roger who had not previously been to the island.

CALM visits the island about two times a year to do maintenance work.





# PLANNING, MANAGEMENT CAN RESOLVE CONFLICT

LAND use conflicts at Shark Bay can be resolved by planning and management, according to CALM's Director of Nature Conservation, Dr Barry Wilson.

Dr Wilson recently told a seminar of people with interests in the Shark Bay area that the conflict was an important environmental and social issue urgently needing resolution.

"A resolution is necessary before the situation becomes more complex and more difficult to deal with," he said.

"However, I believe we are early enough to get it right from the beginning."

The seminar was organised by the Shark Bay Study Group.

Dr Wilson told the seminar that the Shark Bay area contained both marine and terrestrial conservation values of world importance.

He said there was also a small, but long-standing, community which rightly expected to continue to earn a living in the area and develop the area's economy and culture.

Besides the obvious conflict, some of Shark Bay's wildlife and environmental resources were significant

attractions for visitors.

As such, there was considerable scope to develop tourism as an income-earning industry.

But as this industry developed, management was needed to protect and sustain the resources as people pressure to the arid coastal environment increased.

However, management resources were expensive, particularly in remote, and sparsely populated areas.

Dr Wilson said that while it was possible to resolve the land-use conflict, there was another problem: who would pay the cost of management.

He said to protect Shark Bay's resources would require both money and people.

"The town of Denham and the Shire of Shark Bay are essential to achieve the acknowledged conservation objectives," Dr Wilson said.

"Furthermore, the Shire of Shark Bay must be financially viable, and

capable of contributing, as a partner, in the management of the area.

"That means it must have a rateable base."

Dr Wilson said to make the entire western part of Shark Bay area a National Park would destroy the financial viability of the Shire, and leave the management bill to the State.

He said the preferred option was to compromise by preserving the conservation values while preserving the economic basis of the community and the financial viability of the Shire.

The user pays principle should be applied to tourists to help defray the management costs created by them.

Dr Wilson said he saw no other way of achieving the conservation objective.

● **Dr Wilson is chairman of the Shark Bay Conservation Committee, set up by the Government to resolve these complex issues.**

## Prisoner role in clean-up

**MINIMUM security prisoners from Barton's Mill and Karnet are taking part in a trial work programme with CALM.**

The programme is a joint one between CALM and the Prisons Department.

A team from each prison had started working in January under the supervision of Prison's Department staff.

CALM had set work programmes, provided training and established work standards.

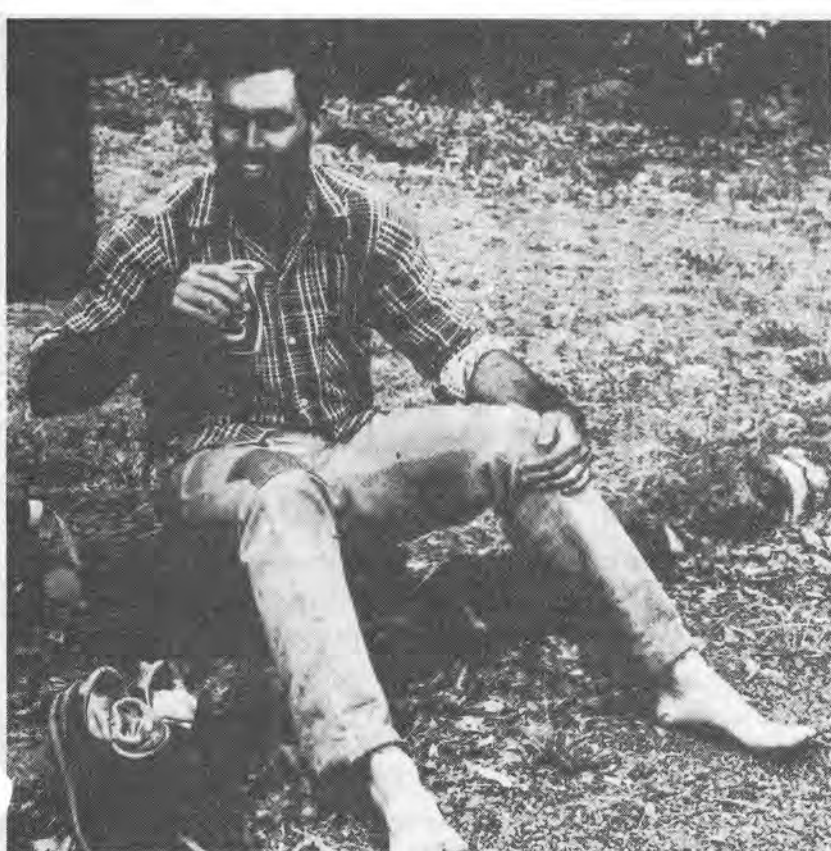
The prisoners have been involved in cleaning-up operations and weed control programmes in State Forest in the Mundaring area and at the Serpentine National Park.

At Serpentine the prisoners have been removing *Watsonia*, an introduced plant, which has been a problem for many years.

It is an extremely difficult weed to eradicate, and weedicides are not used because of their effect on native flora.

At Mundaring, the prisoners have cleaned up the Barton's block, which included removing rubbish dumped in the Sala Road area.

They are also building recreation facilities and sign posting at the prisons.



GARY ANGEL relaxes with a drink after finishing a 450km walk on the Bibbulman track.

## Bibbulman trek

WHEN Gary Angel, 26, hobbled off the Bibbulman Track at Kalamunda recently, he had earned the can of Coca Cola he asked for.

Gary had finished a 450km, 14-day trek on the Bibbulman Track.

The Murdoch University biology student raised more than \$500 for the Campaign To Save Native Forests from people who sponsored his walk.

Drew Griffiths, CALM Recreation Projects Officer, met Gary at Kalamunda.

Drew presented him with a copy of the new Bibbulman Track Guidebook, which Drew has been compiling.

The guidebook was inscribed by CALM Director of Forests Peter Hewett, the driving force behind the establishment of the Bibbulman Track.

Drew said he hopes to design a certificate of accomplishment which could be presented by CALM to future long-distance walkers of the Track.

## Wandoo decline under scrutiny

A STUDY of the decline of wandoo in the Upper Great Southern region will be undertaken by CALM's research branch and funded by the Rural Credits Development Fund.

Wandoo decline is causing salinity problems in the region which is an important grazing and cereal production area.

An applied science graduate from WAIT, Paul Albone, has been employed to work on the project.

He will be stationed at the Tree Research Centre at Narrogin and will work with Research Officer Paul Brown.

Research Officer Joanna Tippett, who wrote the project proposal with Paul Brown, said it would identify symptoms and assess damage caused by insects and fungi.

It was expected to take up to six months to complete.

Paul, who is also a keen photographer, will compile a photographic record of his research.

The project will look at the associations between types of damage to the

wandoo and environmental conditions.

Individual trees at different sites, on different soil types, and at various densities will be examined.

Joanna said most surveys of rural tree decline in Australia have not made detailed descriptions of symptoms in diagnosing reasons for their decline.

In some areas, environmental factors such as drought, salinity and fire have been given as the only reasons for the decline while insects have been implicated in other areas.

Joanna said this study differs from other rural tree surveys because of the greater emphasis being placed on accurate diagnosis which required detailed examination of trees and dissections.

She said there was a number of factors that can affect the health of wandoo and the relative importance of these must be assessed.

## PLAN FOR RESERVES

A DRAFT management plan for six nature reserves in the Shires of York and Northam has been released for public comment.

The reserves are at Clackline, Meenaar, Mokine, Throssell, St Ronans and Wambyn.

They represented the sandplain flora and fauna communities on the eastern edge of the Darling Range, and are rich in reptile and bird species.

They are used by tertiary institutions as an outdoor laboratory as well as by the WA Naturalist Club and the Wildflower Society.

The reserves also contain a diversity of vegetation types found in the Darling Range, including a gazetted rare species of Spider Orchid.

Management of the six nature reserves will be directed towards maintaining and enhancing the area's nature conservation values.

In particular, the draft management plan considers fire protection, rehabilitation of degraded areas, pests and dieback, management of public use, research and monitoring.

## MOVES are being made to safeguard workers using tools that could damage their hearing.

A six-point hearing conservation programme at CALM is underway to, among other things, measure the level of noise in various work environments and the hearing ability of workers in hazardous areas.

The hearing conservation programme was set up under the Noise Abatement (Hearing Conservation in Work-

## Hearing survey

places) Regulations, a legislative statute to protect hearing in industrial work situations.

CALM noise officers Tom Wood, Harold Pears and Len Marshall are measuring the level of noise emitted by such things as chainsaws, aircraft, and sawmill and workshop equipment.

When the survey is finished, workers found exposed to a high noise level will be registered, according to Safety Officer Arthur Kensors

and coordinator of the hearing programme.

Harold Pears is also travelling throughout the districts to give workers hearing tests.

The testing is required for all people working in noisy areas, but other CALM staff can also have their hearing tested, Arthur said.

Any questions about the overall programme should go to Arthur at Como.

# COOPERATION IN TREE RESEARCH

RECENTLY there has been a great deal of cooperation among scientists working for CSIRO, ALCOA, University of WA, Murdoch University and CALM.

These organisations are involved in a tree propagation programme which aims to locate and clone seed from trees that are

particularly salt-tolerant or able to withstand waterlogged conditions.

Individuals and groups both within Australia and overseas are interested in such trees.

Jerry Cole, of the CSIRO's Tree Seed Centre, receives requests from all over the world.

In case you're considering popping next door for half a cup of tree seed, however, be warned it could grow 20,000-30,000 trees!

Acting on information supplied by CALM researchers such as Per Christensen, Jerry Cole and his colleague Maurice MacDonald go on field trips to collect seed.

They are looking at 12 species — mostly eucalypts such as *E. microtheca* — that are known to be salt or water tolerant.

They collect 10 samples of each species from eight locations.

Back in Perth these seed are tested for viability, then they go to researchers at UWA, Murdoch, Alcoa and CSIRO for trials.

Dr Paul Van der Moezel, of UWA, is testing the seedlings' resistance to salt and waterlogging.

Genetic strains which show the highest resistance will be tissue-cultured by Dr Jenny McComb and Ian Bennett at Murdoch.

It is likely that CALM

will be involved in trial plantings of the resulting seedlings.

The tree propagation programme is part of the National Biotechnology Program Research Grants Scheme, which is funded by the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce.

The results of this cooperative venture will benefit farmers, foresters and land managers the world over.



JERRY COLE (left), Maurice MacDonald, Barry Rockel and Paul van der Moezel discuss *Eucalyptus microtheca* seeds drying in the sun at CSIRO's headquarters.

## NURSERYMAN'S VISIT

PETER BOLTON, Manager of New Zealand's largest Nursery at Kaingaroa, visited WA recently.

Peter was in Australia principally to study nursery technique, although he was interested in all aspects of pine silviculture, particularly advances in pruning methods and fire hazard reduction in plantations.

Gnangarra Nursery was his first stop, where he met with Mick Law, Ray Flanagan and John Kaye.

Of particular interest was Peter's comments on open bed propagation of pine cuttings (the Forest Research Institute of New Zealand has been in the forefront of research into vegetative propagation of pines).

This was followed by a visit to the seed

store where he inspected part of CALM's seed extraction, cleaning and storage facilities.

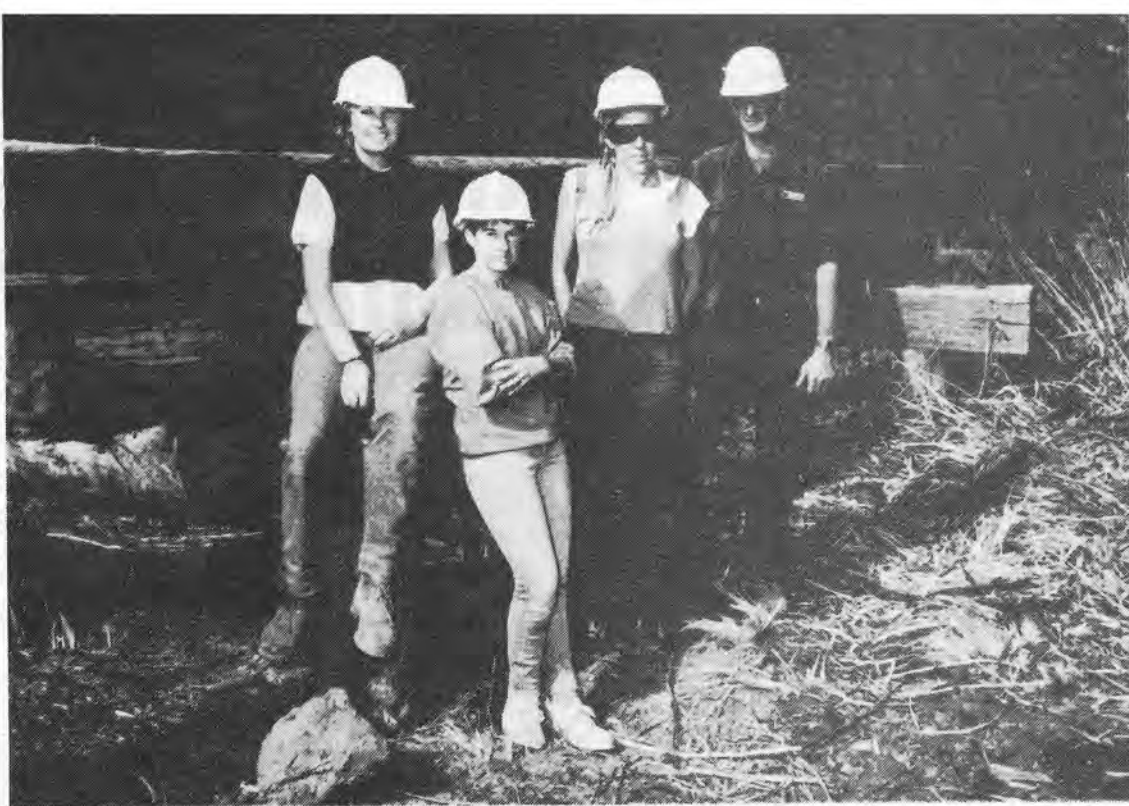
His tour of the South-West included a visit to the Manjimup nursery where glasshouse techniques for striking pine cuttings are being perfected by Lindsey Bunn under the direction of District Manager Chris Muller.

Following an inspection of high pruning equipment, Peter spoke to staff from the Central Forest Region.

Peter visited Australia under the New Zealand-Australia Forester Exchange Scheme.

The scheme enables Foresters from each country to visit the other and encourages a cross-flow of information and ideas. — RAY FREMLIN





OVERSEER Bruce Withnell, right, and CEP workers (from left) Carol Strain, Denise Forster and Lyn Minson take a break from working at Hoffman Mill. Other project workers are Peter Mayborne, Joan Pillion and Michael Tomey.

# RECREATION SITE GETS A FACELIFT

The popular camping and barbecue spot of Hoffman Mill in the Harvey Valley is getting a much-needed facelift under a Community Employment Programme project.

The six people employed under the grant have been working since January building bridges, constructing a walk trail, installing toilets and upgrading campsites, barbecues and picnic tables.

Officer-in-Charge Barry Jordan, said the site is well-used for recreation purposes.

About 2km west off the South Western Highway north of Harvey, Hoffman Mill is an old mill site where remnants of the concrete foundations are still standing.

"The upgrading is the first step in a plan to upgrade the upper Harvey Valley," Barry said.

So far, it is the only such project that has been approved by the WA Water Authority, which has control of the area.

Other projects will be submitted for their approval as they are devised by the staff at Harvey District.

One of the highlights of the project is "Formation Trail", a three kilometre walk so named because it follows the old railway formations surrounding the mill.

The trail passes along old railway formations, continues along the Harvey River and through a black-butt regeneration area before going past the Hoffman Mill Oval and through virgin jarrah bush, Barry said.

Workers, supervised by Overseer Bruce Withnell, have also upgraded two bridges over which the walk trail passes.

The area is not signposted at present, so project plans include the placement of direction signs and information signs at the site.

"One of the biggest problems will be vandalism," Barry said.

It is hoped that there will be enough resources in the future to establish a weekend patrol of the area, he said.

## Commercial thinning under way

Busselton District is conducting the first commercial thinning of its Jarrahwood pine plantation in the Sunlands.

The contractors, Pine Hauliers, are producing rails (1.8m to 4.8m lengths), fence posts (1.8m) and strainers (1.8m) at about 45 cubic metres a hectare, said Officer-in-charge Ron Newman.

Thinning of the plantations is required under the silviculture regime, and the radiata pines planted in 1974 at 1100 stems a hectare are being thinned to 250 stems a hectare.

Previously these thinnings have been delayed, producing material suitable for particle board, but the District has found a market for pine rounds which has proven more profitable and meets silvicultural requirements on time, Ron said.

The work is done using manual falling and a Kockums forwarder to remove the pine rounds to the roadside.

"One consideration we're looking at is the continuation of the operation on a year-round basis depending on environmental constraints," Ron said.

# Park fire role to be studied

By GRANT WARDELL-JOHNSON

CALM staff and volunteers worked together to survey the flora and fauna of Walpole-Nornalup National Park during December 1985.

The survey will continue during 1986 to provide a picture of animal activity and abundance in relation to season, vegetation and seral age (age since being burnt) in the Hilltop section of the Park.

A management plan, now being prepared for the Park, will look at the role of fire, especially its effect on flora and fauna.

Fire is the main tool used to modify the habitat of an area to favour particular species or communities, and the deliberate exclusion of fire in a fire-prone environment is an important option in habitat modification.

Fire is also the most appropriate tool for fuel reduction purposes and, in some situations, conflict may arise between these two uses of fire.

It was felt a survey was required to explore the relationship between fire and the different species and communities in the Hilltop Block, the area of greatest pressure and interest.

Routine monitoring of

animal populations and habitats is an important part of park management, and can be compared with monitoring of prescribed burns or assessment of planting success in karri coupes.

Several national park rangers at Walpole, who took part in ecological studies at the Perup MPA, used the survey to practise their skills.

Eight amateur ornithologists with considerable experience with the birds of the district will continue to census during each season, and also introduce people with lesser experience to survey techniques.

A major aim in the first two weeks of the survey, which was largely carried out by Manjimup Research staff, was to get detailed information on the structure and floristics of the vegetation.

Work on the animals of the area included trapping, bird censusing and searching.

These activities will be followed up in each season.

However, vegetation

data has not been analysed and it is not appropriate to make any conclusions from a single season of trapping data.

A great many animals were caught, albeit if only a few species.

Although it is too early to gauge the importance of survey findings, success can be measured in the public's involvement and

the participation of the district staff.

Public involvement increases peoples' awareness and interest in their local parks, as well as providing the necessary information to researchers who are attempting to gain a year-round pattern of animal activity and abundance.

The value to research of the district's and volun-

teers' work lies in the follow-up trapping and bird census work to be done over three seasons.

In return, research aims to ensure that managers have the most up-to-date knowledge of the way in which the animals and environment interact to ensure that any operation done is for a purpose and that the purpose is clearly understood.

## BOB'S SEEN ALL THE CHANGES

IN his 35 years with the Department, Ludlow mechanic Bob Symanski, has seen many changes.

Among them, he says, is a much greater emphasis on safety.

"Fifteen, 20 years ago, no one even talked about safety," Bob says.

But perhaps the biggest change for Bob, who works on "anything from chainsaws to bulldozers" is in the equipment he has used and repaired in those 35 years.

When he was first employed with the Forests

Department at Margaret River in 1950 as a tree feller, he did it with a cross-cut saw and axe.

He plowed firebreaks with two horses and a grader, a job that could take up to a whole year to complete.

"Yes, there has been quite a bit of change, but it's been for the better, really," Bob said.

"There is more work to do but the work tends to be lighter."

Bob picked up his trade

as he went along, taking courses in mechanics on the way.

With four kids, Bob thinks Ludlow was a good place to raise a family.

Now that the family is raised and gone, Bob and his wife live in Busselton, where he plans to do odd mechanic jobs when he retires in five years.

"I've got something in my blood, I can't get away from fixing things," he said.

## Grubs cause forest damage

LARGE areas of forest around Donnelly, Nyamup and south of Lake Muir are showing the effects of the Gum Leaf Skeletoniser grub.

This native insect began causing widespread damage to the jarrah-marri forest in 1983.

Since then, annual attacks in December and January have left large areas of forest stripped of leaves and have killed some trees.

According to CALM Research Officer Greg Strelein, the insect larvae are the cause of the problem.

They eat the soft leaf tissue leaving only the supporting "skeleton".

This remaining tissue then turns brown and gives the leaf a scorched appearance.

Many people, including long-time local residents, have mistaken this new pest for the more familiar Jarrah Leaf Miner.

As the skeletoniser grubs grow, the remaining part of the leaf, except for the mid rib, is eaten.

CALM has been monitoring the behaviour and life cycle of this insect since 1983.

A more detailed survey of the region has been implemented this year by Greg and CALM Entomologist Dr Ian Abbott.

This knowledge will help decide what measures can be taken to control the destructive skeletoniser.

At this time, it appears that prescribed burning of affected areas during the insect's egg or pupation stage may be effective in controlling populations.

— RAF BURROWS



BOB SYMANSKI

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.

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CRAWLEY clerical assistant Danny Flynn was hospitalised for a week in April. Danny had plenty of visitors and he appreciated the visits by his workmates. He is photographed with Crawley staff Debbie Jones (left), Shani Owens and Garry Quin.