



BUCKET BRIGADE . . . a volunteer digs sand away from a whale's flipper as other rescuers collect water at the Augusta Town Beach.

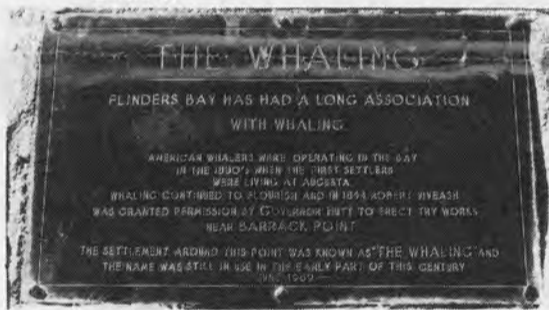


A WHALE is lowered onto a truck for transport to the safe holding area.

WHALE RESCUE

THE recent whale rescue at Augusta has been acknowledged as the most successful ever attempted.

RIGHT: The irony of the whale rescue.



BELOW: Ranger Rory Neal keeps a close eye on proceedings.



CALM's chief Wildlife Officer, David Mell, who coordinated the rescue, said that 97 of the original 114 False Killer Whales that were stranded on the Augusta Town Beach were successfully returned to the sea.

He said that 17 whales had died.

Post mortems were carried out on these animals and valuable scientific information collected.

This information could also provide clues as to the cause of the beachings.

Mr Mell said the decision to move the whales from the shallow water of the beaching site to a safe holding area with access to deeper water was justified.

He said the original

beaching site was gently sloping with some distance to deep water, and therefore, unsuitable as a site to herd the whales and attempt to return them to the sea.

The movement of whales is likely to become standard practice in future whale strandings depending on the topography of the stranding site.

Mr Mell said words could not express the efforts and sacrifices made by the many volunteers and CALM staff during the three-day rescue.

He said without the volunteers from Augusta and from throughout the region, the Augusta Sea Search and Rescue group, the State Emergency Serv-

Dr Syd Shea
Executive Director
Department of Conservation
and Land Management

Dear Syd,
Please accept my personal congratulations and thanks for the splendid efforts by both yourself and the Department in the rescue of the whales stranded near Augusta.

The operation's success reflects much credit upon the ability and dedication of all officers of the Department, and particularly those directly involved with the rescue.

I would like to make special mention of David Mell, whose contribution to the exercise resulted in this being the most successful rescue attempt in the world.

I would be obliged if you could convey to David, and all the other members of your Department involved in the rescue, my thanks and recognition of their work.

Yours sincerely,
Barry Hodge, MLA
Minister for Conservation and Land Management

ice, St John Ambulance, police, Shire Council employees, local doctors and veterinarians, the rescue would not have been a success.

The cooperation of radio stations and TV in the area who relayed calls for volunteers was also an integral part of the operation.

Mr Mell said the procedures adopted by CALM were similar to those employed during major bush fires and the Department's ability to quickly assemble equipment and personnel to coordinate the rescue and move the whales to the holding area was significant in the success of the operation.

He said the bringing together of the various groups in CALM — Wildlife Officers, National Park Rangers, Foresters, Metropolitan, Regional and District staff — indicated the immense talent that the Department had at its disposal to cope with possible disasters.

The rescue showed that

foresters who control the large fire organisation have great experience in handling emergency situations, and other staff saw first hand the smoothness of this operation.

Likewise, these people worked in closely with Wildlife Officers and Rangers and gained an appreciation of the people and the work in which they were involved.

Mr Mell said a public meeting involving more than 140 people was held at Augusta on Friday night after the last of the whales had been herded out to sea.

The discussion covered the entire rescue operation and along with information from a CALM debriefing would be included in a report on the rescue, to be prepared by the Department.

The report will be distributed to authorities in other States.

Mr Mell said he hoped the experience at Augusta will aid future whale rescues and increase the number of animals saved.



A STATE Emergency Service worker makes sandwiches for hungry whale rescuers.



HUMAN WALL . . . volunteers prevent the whales from re-beaching at the safe holding area.

From my Desk

The whale rescue exercise is just one example (admittedly a very dramatic one) of a number of events that have occurred in the last three or four months which provide tangible evidence that CALM is making real progress. Apart from the feedback that I have obtained from members of the Department, there has also been a steady trickle of laudatory letters to the Department and our public image, as reflected in media coverages, has been consistently positive. That's the good news.

Unfortunately, just as the Department is taking off, we are confronted with major financial constraints. Anybody who has read the newspapers doesn't need me to tell them that we are facing tough times. Just as the state of economy affects our personal finances, it also affects the Department's finances.

We don't know what the Departmental allocation will be from the budget. We do know that we will be expected to exercise severe constraints on expenditure. In anticipation of this, we have carried out a preliminary internal functional review of the Department to identify areas where we can save money, and functions which have a low priority. We have also made a vigorous attempt to increase our revenue base. (This year we expect that our revenue will increase by 50 per cent.) The preliminary functional review has identified a number of areas where undoubtedly we can make major savings over the next three years.

There are also some functions which, as hard as it may be for us to give up, strictly do not belong in this Department and we can no longer afford to perform them. We will be presenting to the Minister a number of options to reduce our expenditure, and increase our revenue over the next two or three months.

It is also important that we commence reducing our expenditure immediately. The budget will not be brought down for several weeks and we do not want to be in a position where we have to accommodate reductions in expenditure with only nine months of the year to absorb them. Consequently some decisions have been and will be made in the next few weeks which reflect this need for constraint.

I appreciate that this places an additional burden on everybody in the Department. I am also concerned that the "uncertainty" about the outcome from the budget is not conducive to good management or good morale.

But the fact is, this is the real world and we cannot escape it. I just ask everybody to bear with the current situation. I am confident that we will come out of a rigorous review of our functions and efficiency with a greater capacity to perform our job.

There is no doubt that this Department can perform as a team and produce results under the most difficult circumstances as the recent whale rescue demonstrated.

Relief map a scene stealer

GEOFF WHEELER'S 'MASTERPIECE'



GEOFF WHEELER and his relief map.

BRILLIANTLY coloured, impossible to ignore, and an invaluable way to get a feel for the lay of the land, Geoff Wheeler's relief maps are making a hit along the South Coast.

Geoff is a drafting assistant in Mapping Branch at Como.

His relief map of the Stirling Ranges has one newspaper columnist in particular throwing around words such as "masterpiece".

The map, in the Information Centre at the Bluff Knoll Turnoff, was praised recently by Ted Furlong in the Great South News, along with the recent renovation of the facilities at the Turnoff.

Geoff has so far done West Cape Howe, Torndirrup, the Stirling Ranges, Fitzgerald River and Stokes Inlet.

The Fitzgerald and Stokes maps were on display in the SOHQ canteen for a few weeks before being sent to Albany.

Soon after the two maps made their debut, signs saying "Please Do Not Touch" had to be placed on them; the maps are so like giant toys that one often can't resist doing just that.

Geoff is now working on maps for Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid national parks.

Each map takes about six weeks to complete.

Geoff makes the maps at the request of each region, and these last two maps are all that he has lined up.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed that something else will come up soon," Geoff said.

South Coast Regional Manager, John Watson said the maps will be used in information shelters in the parks and also in the regional office at Albany for display.



As well as these public information maps, Geoff has done about 40 block plans which are used by districts and regions for planning and training.

One of his maps is in the Shannon Park Information Centre and one, of the Leschenault Peninsula-Kemerton area, is in the Bunbury Regional Office for display.

SOCIAL CLUB SEEKS SUPPORT

NEW NAME? Different activities? What does the CALM Social Club need to be a dynamic, fun organisation for all people throughout CALM?

These are some of the questions that face the newly elected Social Club committee.

At its Annual General Meeting, club members decided to draft a letter calling for a meeting of managers, or Officers in Charge.

The reaction of manage-

ment at the meeting will decide whether the club continues or is disbanded.

Committee members typically spend two weeks per year working on club activities and they are often not supported by their OICs in taking this time, said Gary Robinson, past president.

Elected to the Social Club Committee for the upcoming year are: Drew Griffiths, President; Chris Simms, Vice-President; Bob Simpson, Treasurer; Debbie Greaves, Secretary; Robyn Freer, Carolyn Mil-

ligan, Leon Griffiths, Les Marrable, Cheryl Watters, Mick Sermon and Colleen Henry-Hall.

Drew said as president he wants to get the club into shape through input from management and support from the rank and file.

"The problem in the past has been that we have had full support at the top and bottom, but we're missing people in the middle," Drew said.

Anyone with suggestions for the Social Club should contact Drew on 364 9666.



BARRY HODGE addresses Mundaring staff at the safety presentation.

Police training

A TRAINING session for WA police operating in large and campaign fire organisations was held recently by CALM.

Twenty policemen participated in the one-day course at SOHQ and the Bush Fires Board office.

CALM sees police involved in three areas: public safety and security; traffic control; and intelligence.

Police would be responsible for removing spectators from the scene.

The police also will evacuate any homes or settlements and provide security for those places, although the decision to evacuate is up to the Incident Controller (the person in charge in a disaster situation) in consultation with the police.

Police will be in charge of traffic control, which may include closing roads to give heavy equipment and fire crews easy access to the fire or for safety reasons if smoke reduces visibility.

In the area of intelligence, it was decided that since assessing a fire requires considerable training, the police should pass on information of fire location to the first available CALM or Bush Fires Brigade officer.



PAUL ROSE, Walpole Acting District Manager, (left) and Merv Smith, Walpole Overseer, hold the IFAP Award of Merit.

Praise deserved

CONSERVATION and Land Management Minister, Barry Hodge, and CALM's Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, were on hand at the Mundaring Weir Hotel recently to congratulate and present individual safety awards to staff of Mundaring District.

It was Mr Hodge's first attendance at a CALM safety presentation.

He congratulated the 85 people — forest officers, national parks rangers, wages workers and CEP

workers — who had gone one year without a lost time accident.

"This district contains 200,000 hectares and is one of the most complex to manage," he said.

"In this division, you must deal with recreation, national park work, timber production, fire and a general range of all that CALM manages.

"None better than this district has accommodated all the new stresses of the Department."

Safety Officer Arthur

Kesners and the district's safety committee came up for special praise in obtaining the objectives set in safety and health in CALM.

Also attending the presentation were Northern Forest Region Manager, George Peet, and Executive Director of the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention, Mr Dennis Glennon.

Mr Glennon presented the District with an IFAP Award of Merit for their safety efforts.

AWARD TO WALPOLE

WALPOLE District, the most successful safety unit in CALM, was awarded the Executive Director's Individual Safety Award recently for two years without a lost time accident.

The 44 people in the District, who are national park rangers, forest workers, casual and wages staff, also received an award of merit from the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention.

Dr Syd Shea was to be

on hand to give the awards, but because of bad weather conditions, could not make the flight.

Instead, Bill Stret/ MLA, made the presentations, while Safety Officer Arthur Kesners gave the IFAP Award to Acting District Manager Paul Rose.

In the last 15 years, Walpole has had only two lost time accidents.

In 1981, the District had chalked up 10 years without a lost time accident — an unsurpassed record.

Library News

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the library services please feel free to voice them through your Library Committee.

Representatives are: Andrew Burbidge (Chairman) — Principal Research Officer, Wildlife, Woodvale; John Bartle — Research Officer, Production and Protection, Como; Kevin Goss — Information Branch Manager, Como; Peter Kimber — Chief Science Officer, General Manager's Office, Como; Elisabeth Lazo — Librarian-in-charge, Woodvale; Jim Sharp — Scientific Adviser, Director of National Parks, Crawley; Jim Williamson — Planning Branch Manager, Canning Bridge.

2-DAY SAFETY SCHOOL

REGIONAL Managers, research officers, branch heads, parks and reserves officers: it was a mixed bunch that gathered in Busselton at the end of May for CALM's two-day Safety Training Course.

But the mix was a good one and the ideas and questions that came from the session gave an extra dimension to the lessons on occupational health and safety legislation, accident causation and investigation, and others.

The course, the last of five held for various groups

of CALM officers this year, was conducted by Denis Glennon, Executive Director of the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention.

The wearing of safety helmets was a heated dinner table discussion, with varying opinions on who should be required to wear them and when.

The course focused on safety management more than on safety practices, and one lesson in particular made all participants explore their attitudes of accident responsibility.

Exciting desert discoveries, but . . .

Futile search for the Rufous Hare-wallaby

by ANDREW BURBIDGE

IN 1930-31 the WA Government sent an expedition out to repair wells on the Canning Stock Route.

Attached to this party was a WA Museum employee, Otto Lipfert, whose now antiquated title was "taxidermist".

In his report, which is published in full in Wildlife Research Bulletin No. 12 "The Wildlife of the Great Sandy Desert", Lipfert said that the Rufous Hare-wallaby was "the most common animal" along the stock route, and he collected nine specimens.

Over the past 10 years, staff from the WA Wildlife Research Centre have conducted a series of biological surveys in the State's desert areas.

In addition, Phil Fuller and I have interviewed almost 100 groups of Aborigines from desert communities to try and learn some of their wealth of knowledge about the wildlife of their traditional lands.

We have confirmed one of the world's greatest extinctions — almost all the medium-sized mammals (mean adult body weight 35g to 5kg) that once inhabited these areas are now totally or locally extinct or are in danger of becoming so.

The Rufous Hare-wallaby, *Lagorchestes hirsutus*, still occurs in a remnant colony near The Granites, in the Tanami Desert, Northern Territory.

This small population, of less than 200 animals, lives around a chain of salt lakes and it has been postulated that the lakes have acted as natural fire barriers, breaking up the large summer wildfires, and preventing all the country being burnt out at one time.

Previously, patch burning by Aborigines had stopped extensive fires developing, but when they left the desert for European settlements, the fire regimes changed drastically.

There are several major salt lakes and lake chains in WA's Great Sandy and Little Sandy Deserts and some of the country along them is very similar to that near The Granites.

We thought that there was a chance that remnant groups of hare-wallabies might survive in this State also.

We decided that the only effective way to search the vast, inaccessible areas involved, would be from a helicopter.

The cost of charter was beyond our budget and accordingly we sought a grant from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service under their States Assistance Scheme.

Our application was successful and the search took place in June, 1986.

Five CALM staff took part in the search — Phil Fuller and me from the Wildlife Research Centre, David Pearson and Dan Grace from wildlife research at Kalgoorlie and Ric Stone from Metro Region.

We were accompanied by Dr Gerry Maynes from ANPWS and Lorna Charlton from the Mammal Department at the WA Museum.

We used a Bell 206B Jet Ranger, chartered from West

Coast Helicopters, which was ably piloted by Stuart Janes.

Ric, as well as taking part in the search, drove the Metro Region's Isuzu four-wheel-drive truck, which was an essential piece of equipment, carrying our fuel and water.

We worked along the Percival Lakes chain and around Lake Disappointment.

Searching was carried out in two ways.

The most effective was to search from the helicopter.

This involved flying at about five to 10 metres from the ground at speeds from five to 30 knots.

Both rear doors were removed from the helicopter, giving excellent vision.

The search speed and height were worked out by David Pearson, who carried out some experiments over the Tanami Desert colony with the cooperation of Dr Ken Johnson of the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory.

We were able to identify lizard, snake and bustard tracks quite easily from the air and would not have missed the distinctive tracks and tail drag marks of the Rufous Hare-

wallaby had we flown near any.

The air searches were supplemented with ground traverses.

Parties of two people walked through likely habitat, covering up to 20km each day, often climbing 30 or more sand dunes before being picked up by the helicopter before dark.

The expedition did make one most valuable discovery.

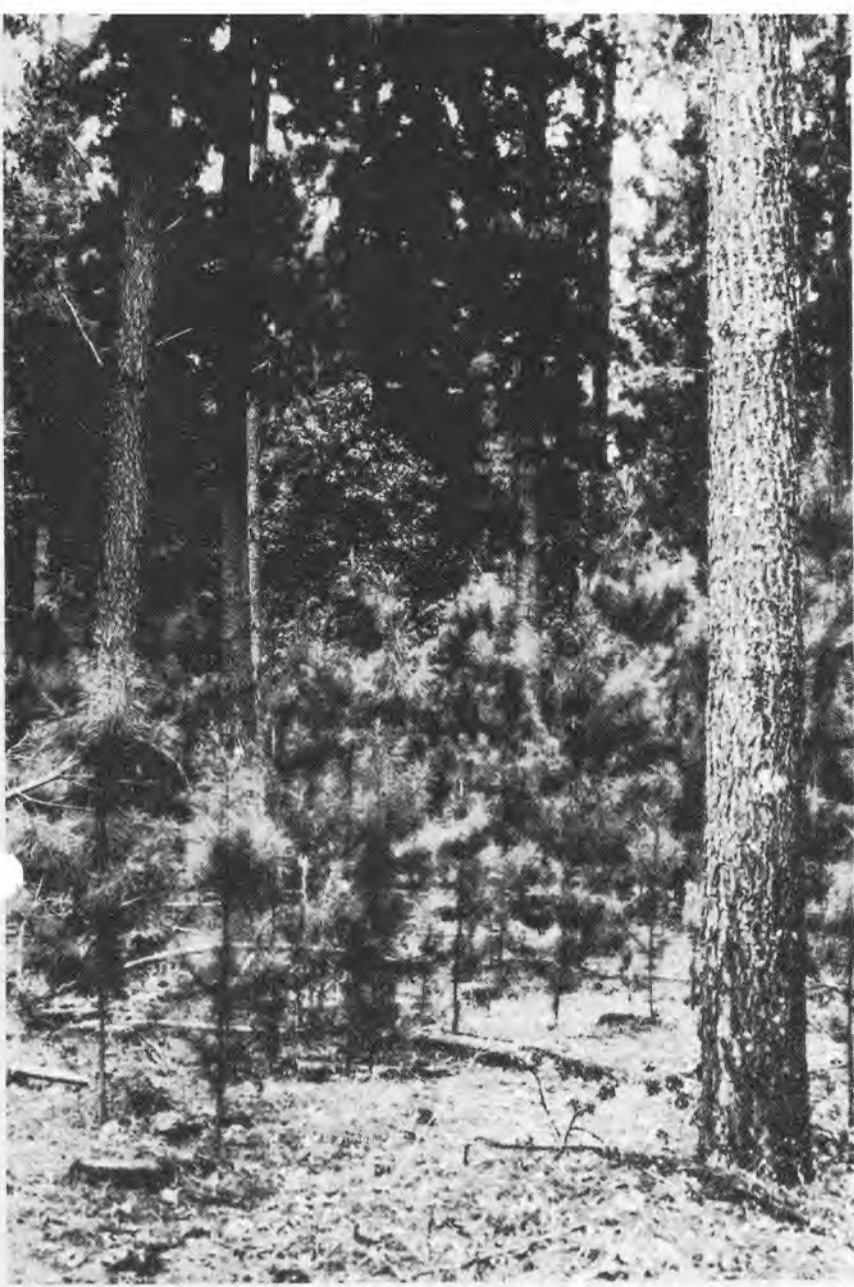
We found the largest colonies of the Dalgyte (or Bilby) known in the State and probably the largest anywhere in Australia.

The best place for Dalgytes was in an area recommended as a Nature Reserve in 1983, after extensive biological surveys in the Great Sandy Desert.

Unfortunately this area, and others recommended for reservation at the same time, have not been declared.

Why are there no Rufous Hare-wallabies associated with salt lakes in WA?

The answer is unclear, but we did find large numbers of foxes in places where the habitat otherwise seemed suitable.



SMALL but rapidly growing pine wildings beneath mature P. radiata trees in a Nannup District plantation.

CONTROLLING PINE WILDINGS

By NEIL BURROWS

DELIBERATELY setting fire to radiata pine plantations to kill pine trees sounds like the act of a vandal.

But it was CALM researchers and District staff who set fire in Folly Plantation near Nannup in March.

No, not a case of CALM officers run amuck; they set fire in the plantation to study the use of prescribed fire to control pine wildings.

Pine wildings are trees that have regenerated naturally beneath the planted pines.

The South West's warm,

dry summers cause pine cones on the original trees to spill thousands of winged seeds onto the ground.

These germinate, and if the conditions are right, develop into saplings and larger trees.

In the worst situation, up to 10,000 wildings could grow per hectare, some reaching 10m.

A task force, headed by Bruce Harvey (Bunbury

Regional Office) and made up of District staff from Nannup, Harvey, Collier and Kirup and Research Staff from Manjimup and Busselton, has been examining the extent of the pine wilding problem in southern plantations.

The pine wildings create a wildfire control problem if they develop into dense thickets.

A highly flammable fuel, they enable wildfires to burn more ferociously and increase the chance of the most dangerous type of wildfire — crown fire.

The wildings also hinder access to the plantation, whether for wildfire control or for stand improvement operations.

The wildings also compete strongly with crop trees for nutrients and moisture.

Many techniques for the control of wildings are being tried, including: mechanical slashing, crushing, poisoning, commercial harvesting and burning.

Results from experimental fires conducted in plantations in Nannup and Kirup districts are very promising.

Fires set under stable but dry conditions in March killed a high proportion (up to 85 per cent) of the wilding populations.

The level of mortality varied according to fire intensity and the size of the wildings.

If it can be shown that such fires do not cause unacceptable bole damage to the valuable crop trees, then prescribed fire is a cheap and effective method of controlling pine wildings.

The reason that this planting holds such significance is

SAM RETIRES

HARVEY forestry worker Keith "Sam" Taylor has retired after 20 years in forestry.

Sam joined the Department in 1966, but before that ran a carrier business with his father, Sid.

They worked closely with the Harvey forestry transporting pines and other heavy items for 19 years.

Sam began work for the Department at Myalup and was there eight years before the centre closed down.

He and his wife Rene then moved to Harvey.

BUSY BEE AT SALMON HOLES

ABOUT 20 volunteers, including local fisher persons and Albany CALM staff, recently held a busy bee to clean up Bornholm Salmon Holes beach at West Cape Howe National Park, and to erect signs and rubbish bins.

Cans, stubbies and other refuse were collected and taken out of the park, and fish heads were gathered up and buried at the back of the beach.

The busy bee was followed by some fishing in which Terry Passmore landed two fine salmon.

Thanks to all concerned. — John Watson



Volunteers clean up rubbish at the top of the cliff near Bornholm Salmon Holes in West Cape Howe National Park.

Office Opening

KIMBERLEY Regional staff have moved into a new office at Kununurra.

The building, which also houses the departments of Health, Lands, Community Services and the Building Management Authority, was opened by WA Premier Brian Burke on July 21.

A two-storey structure built for \$1.9 million by Keywest Building Company, the building was designed to fit in with the special environment of the Kimberley.

Regional Manager Chris Done said: "The new offices mean that it is now possible to have the region's Wildlife Officer, Mike Osborn, and the East Kimberley Ranger-In-Charge, Bob Taylor, work out of the same office as our other officers, myself, Forester Dave Rose and Clerical Officer Val Storey."

The postal address is the same, but the phone number is now 680200.

NATURE RESERVE REHABILITATED

THE first phase of a new venture in land rehabilitation by CALM's Narrogin District ended on July 2.

This was the planting of local native trees in an area around Lake Dulbinning Nature Reserve in the Shire of Wickelipin.

The reason that this planting holds such significance is

that the trees were local stock and are being planted onto this conservation area in an attempt to recreate a vegetation compatible with the conservation status of this Nature Reserve.

According to the District Manager, Ken Atkins, the expertise and experience now available in the amalgamated Department of Conservation and Land Management has made this more positive approach to Nature Reserve rehabilitation more possible.

"Departmental staff first collected seed from the surrounding bush areas for growing in our own nurseries," he said.

This seed was required for the growing of the plants because it was the genetic stock for these Nature Reserves, and would therefore maintain the integrity of these areas for the future for scientific reference and a source of particular plant provenances.

"Importing new species for

rehabilitation work is always a risky business as we just do not know how they will react when they become established.

"Many bad weed problems, here and overseas, have been created in this manner."

The plants grown for this work were the swamp sheoak for around the lake and in wetter or more salt affected areas; wandoo for the higher areas that would not be prone to recurrent flooding; and york gum for the intermediate areas.

Local ti tree or broombush (*Melaleuca*) seed was also collected and will be broadcast over the area to produce an understorey and therefore begin to recreate the original plant community.

The work is intended to revegetate the cleared area of this Nature Reserve, but more importantly it is part of the programme to save the adjoining Lake Toolibin.

CEP PROJECT

SERPENTINE Falls, a popular recreation site about 50km south-east of Perth, will be upgraded through a Community Employment Programme project.

Jarrahdale District Manager Denise Allen said most of the work carried out at the Falls will be the removal of weeds, especially the species *Watsonia*.

Committee conserves corridors

by JOHN BLYTH

NATIVE plants along roadsides often provide the traveller's first contact with Western Australia's world famous wildflowers and stately trees.

Over much of the State, roadsides are reservoirs of plant species that have been cleared from the surrounding countryside.

They also provide important habitats for many animals: a home for resident species and a hospitable corridor for migratory and nomadic species.

Despite a wide recognition of its value, and many attempts over the years to protect roadside vegetation, a lack of knowledge and of coordination of management have led to its gradual depletion.

The Roadside Vegetation Conservation Committee (RVCC) was formed in 1985 in response to concern expressed by local communities, the tourism industry, and the conservation movement over the

deterioration of roadside vegetation. Originally established under the WA Land Resource Policy Council within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the RVCC is now convened by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

It replaces the Road Verge Conservation Committee which discussed similar issues between 1968 and 1983.

The Committee has a representative from the Departments of Conservation and Land Management, Main Roads and Agriculture, Westrail, two from the Country Shires' Association, one from the voluntary organisation Greening Australia, and one representing broad conservation interests.

For the first time in the history of roadside conservation committees, the RVCC will have money to employ a full-time Executive Officer, and to fund some practical research on roadside vegetation.

Funds are contributed by the Main Roads Department and Premiers Department, and the Chairman and administrative assistance are provided by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The newly appointed Executive Officer is Miss Penny Hussey, an honours graduate in botany, who has for many years had a deep interest in Western Australia's flora, and its protection along roadsides. She was a member of the National Parks Authority of

Western Australia for nine years, and is an active naturalist and conservationist.

Penny will be based in the Lands and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

She will have a varied and demanding job liaising between the public, RVCC and road managers, arranging and carrying out field inspections, acting as the secretary of the RVCC, and helping to develop guidelines for protection of native vegetation on various types of roads.

Working within the confines of its limited resources, the Committee will identify and classify roads with special conservation values such as those through national parks, State forests and national estate areas.

It also provides guidelines on how to manage roadsides to best protect their native vegetation.

It currently meets at least five times a year, with two of the meetings in country centres.

Meetings usually last a half-day, although country meetings incorporate a field inspection of road verges and require at least a full day.

The RVCC seeks to foster communication and cooperation between the various groups involved and interest in the management of roadsides.

In this way, the beauty and significance of our roadside vegetation can be protected without adversely affecting the safety or efficiency of the road network.



Ranger Jim Maher (right) gives Ken Westenholme a lesson in joey care. The six-month old female was rescued from its mother's pouch after she had been hit by a car. Ken drove from 20km south of Carnarvon to Perth non-stop to get the right food and necessary instructions from Jim at SOHQ.

Walyunga car plan a success

EVERY year, Avon Descent spectators, participants and their cars cause damage in Walyunga National Park.

Last year 1200 cars lined both sides of the road in the Park and crowded the car-parks, laying waste to much of the Park's roadside vegetation. Determined not to see it

Competed in Descent

CALM's Dave Hogg, Senior Clerk Fauna, and Rod Martin, Senior Clerk Flora, competed in this year's Avon Descent.

Rod, a third-time competitor, finished the race in his single kayak, but Dave, who was in the race for the first time, pulled out about halfway through.

"Put it down to exhaustion and a lack of experience," Dave said.

"It was a great trip, but I used my brains rather than my brawn and pulled out early because I didn't want to endanger someone else by having to be rescued later on."

happen again this year, National Park rangers, CEP crews and CALM officers worked all day on the Sunday to limit the number of cars entering the Park and to ensure the cars that were allowed in parked correctly.

The parking arrangements, which allowed a maximum of 400 cars, not including support vehicles, into the Park, were hailed a success by almost everyone involved.

The overflow was parked in a paddock near the entrance gate, and for a parking fee of \$4, spectators had free shuttle bus service to and from the action and entrance to the Park.

The Swan Districts Apex Club coordinated the parking and all proceeds will go to charity.

CALM Parks and Reserves Officer Ian Herford, Walyunga Ranger John Wheeler and Mundaring District Manager Tony Raven organised the parking arrangements and were there on the day to see that everything went smoothly.

National Park Rangers came from all over the Northern Forest Region to give a hand: Rex Walker, Phil Bastian, David Briggs, Alan O'Farrell, Rod Annear and

a success

Lance Jackson helped park cars or patrolled the Park.

The unenviable job of telling people where they had to park went to CEP workers Kaye Husking, Susan Morton, Paula Ward, Vern Passey, Ray McCaughtrie, Sandro Geracitano, Lino Tenardi, James Hammond and Martin Varischetti.

David Hampton, Manager Wildlife and Lands Branch, and Parks Supervisor Ron Waterhouse were also on hand to help out.

A debriefing session with most of the people involved will provide refinements for the parking arrangements, which will be used again next year.

Pintail sightings

THE first Australian sighting of the Northern Pintail was recorded recently at Chandala Swamp Nature Reserve, between Muchea and Gingin.

The Northern Pintail breeds across the top of the northern hemisphere and migrates south to Africa, Central America and South-east Asia during the northern winter.

The bird was spotted by ornithologist George Agar, who has been counting waterbirds for the RAOU at Chandala Swamp for more than four years as part of the RAOU's survey of over 250 wetlands in southern WA.

The studies are funded by CALM.

Two other RAOU observers, Roger Jaensch and Rodney Vervest, confirmed George's sighting three days later.

The bird was a male in full breeding plumage: predominantly white and grey with a dark brown head and long black tail streamers (pointed tail feathers).

Chandala Swamp is second only to Toolibin Lake among nature reserves in southwestern WA in terms of number of waterbird species recorded breeding, of which there are 20.



YANCHEP ranger Rod Annear directs visitors to Syd's Rapids in Walyunga National Park during the Avon Descent.

Exmouth workshops

PUBLIC workshops attended by fishermen, businessmen and tourists have given CALM officers an idea of the issues most people consider important to managing the proposed Ningaloo Marine Park.

The outcome of the workshops will be taken into consideration by Departmental planners when they draw up draft management plans for the water adjacent to Ningaloo Reef and the coastal region between Tantabiddy and Bundegi.

More than 50 people attended workshop and general discussion sessions on recreation and fishing aspects of the proposed Park.

Two major issues to come from the recreation workshop were how the Department will

police and manage the area with currently low resources of staff and money, and how the natural environment of the area will be protected.

Professional fishermen were concerned about the potential loss of access to traditional fishing grounds and restrictions that may be placed on fishing practices.

They also discussed policing amateur fishermen who tend to overfish the area.

Information Manager Kevin Goss said the workshops enabled concerned people to discuss the proposed Park with CALM officers, and provide input in deciding the future management of the area.

The workshops were organised by Planning Officer Richard May, and much of the presentation was done by the Director of Conservation Dr Barry Wilson.

GNANGARA FAREWELL

WITH raised glasses and laughter, which go with all good wakes, the people who have lived and worked at the Gngangara settlement bid the old place goodbye recently.

The settlement, once a busy centre when the pine plantations of Wanneroo District were being established, is being closed and its buildings sold and moved.

About 100 people who gathered for the Gngangara wake had fond memories of the settlement.

They were a close-knit community and shared many things: the wake was also a chance for many to renew old friendships.

Small groups wandered through the dusty streets, picking out the settlement houses they once lived in.

Some of the houses were already gone, dissembled or torn down, and nothing but memories marked the spot where a family had spent years while working for the Department.

But the wake was a happy occasion, with stories passed around as freely as the beer.

Dick Perry, who was at Gngangara almost from the first, attended the wake.

Mr Perry directed the establishment of all the trial plots in Wanneroo, and on the basis of his work, the plantations have been developed to their present state.

The settlement was established in 1926.

In 1933, when Peter Staley

was in charge of Gngangara, there were six houses in the settlement, no electricity, "thunderboxes" and no running water.

At its height, Gngangara had 22 houses, a regional workshop and single men's quarters and provided all the manpower for operations in the 23,000 hectares of pine.

Ted Cracknell, District Forester at Wanneroo, said the crew at Gngangara once loaded around 100 tonnes of wood by hand.

"Gngangara was a lively and fine place to be," Ted said.

The parties in the Gngangara Hall seemed to prove it — the old floor is patched in one spot with new boards where someone fell through during one of those parties.

"Let's shed a tear for the old place tonight," Ted said.

The celebration received a donation of money from Pine Hauliers, a firm that had been involved in the operations at Gngangara for many years.

Yanchep golf course

LETTER

ing in its present condition. G.D. CAIRNS for: Yanchep Golf Scroungers

HAVING in the past said many critical things about the Yanchep Golf Course, we are also desirous of acknowledging any improvements which enhance the playing facilities.

The praise which all our players expressed on the condition of the greens in the past week or so was tremendous.

For the work carried out we are very grateful and wish to thank all who have made these improvements, and we look forward to the course continu-

ON behalf of the Wednesday Ladies Golf, I would like to express our appreciation of the work being done on the Yanchep Golf Course.

The greens are a pleasure to putt on; the best they have

been for the three years our small club has been meeting (no longer can anyone blame the greens for bad putting!)

We sincerely trust that this work can continue, as the Yanchep Golf Course is part of our life up here; after all where else can one play a round of golf and have a nature study at the same time?

To all who are involved in the work done, thank you once again.

LEY CAIRNS for: Butterflies Golf Girls