



CALM Minister Barry Hodge (right) unveils a plaque to open Manjimup's new offices. With him are Roger Underwood (left) and Alan Walker.

## Manjimup office opening

WITH its pastel-coloured carpets, wood panelled walls and a piece of modern sculpture in the foyer, the new Southern Forest Region Office at Manjimup puts paid to the usual image of forestry.

The Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge, officially opened the office October 10.

Mr Hodge said "the building represents the new im-

age of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

"And, with the community playing a larger role in the management of State land, this building makes us more accessible to the public."

Mr Hodge reported that there had been a noticeable increase in the number of people calling in for information and to talk to CALM officers.

The office, one of the few two storey buildings in Manjimup, has made it possible for

regional staff in forestry, wildlife and national parks to work from the same place, sealing the amalgamation of the three, Mr Hodge said.

About 200 people attended the opening, held in the car park outside the main entrance.

Also attending the ceremony were the Chairman of the Lands and Forests Commission, Bruce Beggs, General Manager Roger Underwood, Director of Forests Peter Hewett, Warren MLA Dave

Evans, and MLC Bill Stretch.

Construction of the building began in August 1985 under the supervision of Acting Deputy Regional Manager Alan Lush.

Regional Manager Alan Walker said the working conditions were marvellous, and the level of work performance has already increased.

The opening included tours through the office and demonstrations by staff of the different functions and responsibilities of CALM.

## Agroforestry boost

**PARTICIPANTS in the National Agroforestry Conference held in Perth recently drew up a series of recommendations to advance and promote agroforestry in Australia.**

Conference Organiser Richard Moore, who is CALM's Research Scientist at Busselton, said the recommendations would be presented to the standing committees on Forestry and Agriculture, which report to Parliament.

Those recommendations included one that would see a "tree person" based in each regional office of agricultural departments to make public access to information easier.

Another was to set up demonstration areas on private farmland, run by farmers but with close cooperation with agriculture and forestry departments.

Such areas would speed up the acceptance of trees on farms, Richard said.

The conference was a gathering of forestry and agriculture representatives

from each State who have done extensive work in the area of agroforestry.

Richard said the conference provided an opportunity for agroforestry researchers from throughout Australia to make contacts, get an update on the work of their colleagues and exchange technical information.

Richard said: "The conference was very important in bringing together people from all over Australia who have done work in agroforestry."

"Agriculture and forestry

were in separate 'boxes' until recent times, and getting the two together will mean being able to manage agricultural land better."

Participants included Stuart Margetts, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Victoria, and co-convenor of the National Corresponding Working Group on Agroforestry; and Mr John Kellas, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, Victoria, also co-convenor of

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## CAPE RANGE PLAN

A DRAFT management plan outlining the proposed management of Cape Range National Park has been released.

It is the first of three management plans covering three parks in the area that will be managed integrally.

The second plan will cover Ningaloo Marine Park, and the third will cover State lands for a coastal park for recreation and foreshore management, jointly vested in CALM and the Shire of Exmouth.

Public submissions on the plan's proposals are invited until 24 December, after which time the draft will be reviewed to take into account public comment, and submitted for approval to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management.

An interpretation centre is proposed for Milyering in Cape Range National Park for visitor reception, orientation and education, and there will be on-site information and interpretation material at points of interest.

## Harvest rate rises FERTILISER A BOON TO PINE GROWTH

ON a visit to South Australia's Woods and Forests Department's pine plantations four years ago Central Forest Region Manager Don Spriggins was impressed with the increased growth rates of older pines that had been fertilised.

Since then the Central Forest Region has been advocating fertilising of older pine in WA, but it has proved difficult to get the necessary funds to do the job.

One problem was the lack of sufficient research data to establish that fertilising old pines would be effective here.

Early this year preliminary results of comprehensive trials by Research Scientist John McGrath and a cost benefit study by the Economics Division at Crawley showed that fertilising would be very worthwhile.

The aim of fertilising older pines is to increase the growth rate of trees so they yield large sawlogs much quicker than they would under natural conditions.

In May, CALM Executive Director, Syd Shea, and the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge, approved the transfer of \$1.8 million from funds for land purchase for pine plantations to a fertiliser programme.

An immediate problem was finding enough contractors to spread the huge amount of fertiliser before the winter rains ceased.

In June, with a downturn in the demand for pine chiplogs and sawlogs, CALM's pine logging contractors faced extensive downtime for forwarders and unemployment for some of their machine operators.

But with encouragement from CALM, Pine Hauliers Pty Ltd and Brookes Transport Company each equipped a forwarder machine to spread fertiliser.

These changes involved redesigning the feed-drive of a Marshall large-capacity gypsum spreader mounted directly on the chassis of the forwarders.

The two forwarders, with their greater height of spreader and ability to handle debris-covered terrain when com-



This section cut from a 25-year-old radiata pine at Grimwade shows the increase in volume resulting from fertiliser application.

pared with conventional tractor-spreaders, have proven a most successful addition to this year's fertilising programme.

Under the watchful eye of Harvey Forester Murray Love, the forwarder fertiliser operation was trialled at Tallanalla Pine Plantation.

Murray was pleased with the minimal impact on the forest floor that the forwarders made in their one-pass operation and was very impressed with their ability to negotiate logging debris and spread the fertiliser evenly.

The forwarder operation was extended through the Harvey District pine forests in the Harvey Weir, Brunswick, Myalup and McLarty plantations.

The ability of this ground application operation to continue through a consistently wet winter has been an advantage when aerial spreading operations were often interrupted by poor flying conditions.

In total, the Pine Hauliers and Brookes Transport forwarders have spread Agras fertiliser over 1400ha of thinned pine forests at Harvey, Collie and Nannup districts.

Conventional tractor spreaders have spread fertiliser

over about 2140ha of "flat" ground while aerial contractors have covered 3019ha of steeper ground.

In total, about 6600 tonnes of fertiliser, mainly Agras, a nitrogen-phosphate mix, was spread.

All fertiliser contracts were decided by tender at AOHQ or regional level and involved a complex coordination of operations to ensure the programme was finished before the winter rains ended.

The programme was completed by the end of September.

Don Spriggins said credit for the successful coordination and completion of the operation must go to John Kruger and Bruce Harvey from the Regional office and also the excellent efforts of staff in Nannup, Kirup, Collie and Harvey districts who supervised this work along with their existing duties.

The efforts of CALM staff and contract spreaders will be rewarded in the coming years with the greatly increased vigour and growth of Radiata pine forests in the Central Forest Region.

Hopefully funds will continue to be made available to allow a regular fertiliser programme to be carried out.

## Harvey thinning

HARVEY DISTRICT recently completed one of its largest pine thinning operations.

About 300ha underwent a first thinning and 100ha a second thinning in the Myalup and McLarty plantations.

Assistant Forester Barry Jordan said that at the height of production, two crews contracted from Pine Hauliers were thinning 50ha a week using 11 machines.

Because of the relatively dry soil in the Harvey District, work was carried out through the winter, from June to the end of October.

Chip logs from the thinning operations went to Dardanup Particle Board Mill and the mill logs went to Westfi, Barry said.

The plantations yielded two truckloads of SEC poles, which were taken to the pole dump at Worsley.

"These operations brought the Harvey District's first thinnings up to date, which is a pretty good achievement," Barry said.

The fact that Harvey is the only major area loggable in winter helped greatly, he said.

All pine operations in the Harvey District are the responsibility of Forester Murray Love.

Murray is assisted in his duties by Barry and Forest Ranger Leon Price.



A gypsum spreader is attached to a forwarder to spread fertiliser in pine plantations.



## From my Desk

I HAVE been advised that parts of the Bibbulmun Bushwalking Track are to become part of the system of Heritage Trails.

The trails are being developed in conjunction with Australia's Bicentenary celebrations for 1988 and it is of particular interest to me, since I was heavily involved in development of the Bibbulmun.

There has been a good deal of misunderstanding about the track and its name, so I would like to set the record straight.

The original idea for a marked, long distance walking track came from Geoff Schafer of Perth Bushwalkers, in 1972, and the first concept was for a track connecting Lancelin and Albany.

It was to be called the Perth-Albany Trail, but for a number of logical reasons it became obvious that a start in Perth and a finish in Albany was not very practical. It was then shortened to stretch from Kalamunda to Boorara Tree, and we concluded that a new name was required.

The name Bibbulmun was suggested by a number of people and supported by the WA Museum and Professor Arndt at the University of WA, since the Bibbulmun people were believed to have been prodigious walkers, and had formerly dominated the country between Perth and Walpole.

To the best of my knowledge none of the marked track was ever used by the Bibbulmun people, but a lot of track users believed it was.

By the way, there are many different ways of spelling Bibbulmun (Bibelmen, Pippelmun etc) so if you have trouble pronouncing it, or spelling it, you are in good company.

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In forestry circles over the past few months, the main activity has been the arduous task of completing a major review of timber royalties.

It is always difficult to arrive at a royalty figure that is "right" and it is always likely that the purchaser will object to any kind of increase.

This year we went to some pains to involve elements of the timber industry in at least some of the discussion about rates and our methods of calculation — a new experience from both the Departmental staff and industry — and although we still differ on the long-term target royalties, there is a measure of agreement with the principle that log royalties should cover the cost of growing a new forest.

Interim increases have been applied and the next stage is being considered in relation to the general level of economic activity and of the timber industry in particular.

The whole process was rather taxing on the staff involved and this was one of the reasons for sending Syd Shea to China to check the migratory habits of the freckled Peking Duck.

PETER HEWETT  
Director of Forests

A HERITAGE Trails Network grant has been approved for CALM's South Coast Region.

The \$29,000 grant will employ one person for one year to research information on the area's early explorers.

That information will then be used to create a number of interpretive sites throughout the Region's parks.

A book, based on the information gathered by the researcher, will be

# Heritage trails for South Coast Region

published so people can "pick one up and follow the routes of the area's explorers," South Coast Regional Manager John Watson said.

He said most of the explorations were done fol-

lowing the coast line, and most of that land is under CALM's control.

"The funding will pay for the person to gather the information and CALM will contribute the establishment of the

interpretive points, the construction of some small loop trails and the interpretation of some lookout areas," John said.

Small information shelters may also be con-

structed if resources are available.

"There were three waves of explorations in the South," John said.

The first was the coastal explorations from Albany to places like the Stirling Ranges and the Porongorups.

And finally, in the mid 1800's, the Albany to Adelaide trails.

"The project will cover all the exploration and development that occurred on the south coast," John said.

# FIRE STAFF READY

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

DESPITE WA's recent unseasonable rain, CALM fire staff are ready for the fire season.

To bring the Department's preparedness to a peak three fire courses were held recently, two intermediate and one advanced.

Rick Sneeuwjagt, Inspector Fire Protection, said: "The three-day intermediate course was aimed at bringing younger Forest Rangers, National Park Rangers and specialist officers up to an even knowledge of fire prevention and suppression procedures."

The course included a practical exercise in a Large Fire Organisation.

Participants in the advanced course were senior field staff, professional foresters and regional managers, who play key roles in an LFO, Rick said.

"The main goal of the course was to acquaint them with the amended

structure of running an LFO," he said.

The LFO structure was reworked following the large fire last year near Yancheop.

The week-long advanced course is more demanding with participants forced to think about priorities and

then decide how to solve problems.

The course included sessions on updated fire management policy and planning for fire protection, the legal aspects of liability, and a refresher course on the use of fire behaviour tables.

A new training device,

called "Hot Slides", shows participants a number of photographic slides of fires, which they discuss to devise tactics for each situation.

A field exercise broke up the lengthy donference and enabled participants to get practical experience in fire control.

Part of the field day was spent inspecting and evaluating a fire trail constructed earlier by fire protection officers.

Rick also reviewed fuel measurement techniques and then let the participants loose to assess the amount of fuel on a block, an exercise that standardises the approach and the results of fuel measurement.



ADVANCED fire course participants inspected Yallingup's fire protection requirements as part of the course field day.

## SW naturalists overwhelm Leon

AS ONE of the organisers for the Central South Naturalists' Club inaugural meeting, CALM Wildlife Officer Leon Silvester said he would have been satisfied had six people shown up.

Instead, about 350 people crowded into the new Information shelter, Irabina, at Dryandra, and overflowed outside to huddle under trees in the rain and listen to the proceedings through loudspeakers.

The organisers may have had a bigger than usual drawing card, however.

Harry Butler had agreed to be guest speaker for the day, but health problems prevented his attendance.

Leon said: "Luckily, Mr John Dell, head of the Department of Biogeography and Ecology at the WA Museum, agreed to speak in his place."

According to another organiser, Lyn Carroll, the aim of the club "will be to encourage interest in and knowledge of the natural environment in the Central South region."

At the meeting, Leon was elected president, Ted Lyneham vice president, and Lyn Carrol secretary treasurer.

Leon said: "I see my involvement in things like this as just part of my duties as a wildlife officer."

"Apart from having a good deal of knowledge in the area, I am interested in helping people learn more about the environment, and that's what I think the club will do."

Receipts were issued for 30 family memberships and six single memberships at the meeting.

## Agroforestry boost

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the agroforestry working group.

New Zealand, although not a member of the national agroforestry group, was invited to send representatives because of the country's advanced work in agroforestry.

Leith Knowles, Forestry Research Institute, and Neil Percival, Ministry of

Agriculture and Fisheries, represented New Zealand.

The three-day conference included tours of agroforestry trial areas throughout the South West.

Conference participants were shown pine agroforestry trials investigating the combination of pine trees and grazing on farms, and a number of other trials including work on shelter belts, fodder trees and salinity control.

## FACELIFT FOR SERPENTINE

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

Three people employed under the \$40,000 grant will work for 26 weeks to improve the area.

The main attraction at the site is the waterfall which in wet weather rushes over a sheer granite rockface.

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

Barbecues, recreation facilities and signs will be renovated and the walk trail to the Falls will be upgraded.

Denise said a brochure on the area may also be

produced under the CEP grant.

## Award winner

MURRAY Broadbent won the Goldworthy Mining Ltd Award for the Best Final Year Welding Apprentice.

Murray, who has worked in the Manjimup Workshop for the past four years, learned his welding skill through the Technical Extension Service.

He recently attended an Awards and Prizes evening at South Perth to be presented with his prize.



## John moves to Herdsman

NATIONAL Park Ranger John Arkey is temporarily in from the bush to watch over Herdsman Lake.

As the ranger currently assigned to Herdsman Lake, John is keeping tabs on how the reserve is coping with nearby development, what problems there are, and giving advice on how to deal with them.

A CALM staff member at Herdsman Lake is part of the two-year programme to hand over control of Herdsman Lake from the State Planning Commission to CALM.

John's park career has been spent in almost every WA national park as a mobile ranger.

"I'd for days on end not seeing anyone, and when I did see someone it was usually to pull them out when they got bogged," John said.

Now John's days are filled with dealing with the public, and he's enjoying his new role.

## Forest worker killed in Yancheop accident

MICHAEL Leslie Marchesano died on October 5 in Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital from injuries sustained in a grader accident at the Yancheop Forest Settlement.

Michael was a Workshop Apprentice at Gnaragara from January 5, 1978, to March 12, 1982.

His employment was then terminated but he returned to the Department on December 2, 1982.

He was employed as a forest worker, again at Gnaragara.

Michael was a very dedicated, hard working young man, capable of most tasks as a forest workman.

The tragic loss of such a fine workmate and friend has been deeply felt by all who knew him.

Michael is survived by his wife Sandra and three young children Samantha, Melinda and Cody.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Michael's family.





PHIL SHEDLEY (left) and Roy Button inspect the clock

## Masters combine talents for Leeuwin

A FORESTER, who knows his woods, and a furniture maker, who knows how to use the wood, have combined their talents to create a clock mounting that will grace a deck of the barquentine STS Leeuwin.

CALM's Inspector Utilisation, Phil Shedley, was consulted by the Premier's Office to recommend a wood that

could be used as the base of a clock, to be presented by the WA Government to the Tall Ships Association.

Phil also recommended the craftsman who could do the wood justice.

His recommendations: Birdseye jarrah and Roy Button of Scott

Brothers' Handcrafted Jarrah.

"Birdseye" describes the occurrence of dormant buds which grow out with the wood, and in the finished timber resemble eyes.

The Leeuwin will be chartered during the America's Cup by the Barrack House Group.

But from April next

year the \$2m yacht will be used as a training and adventure vessel to teach people from 16 to 25 years old the art of sailing.

The same wood will be used to construct a committee table for the Prime Minister's suite at the new Parliament House in Canberra, also a gift from the WA Government.

The wood for both items was donated by Bunnings.

## BOTANIST FINDS 'EXTINCT' PLANT

ANOTHER "extinct" plant has re-entered the botanical record after having been found on a road verge north of Bindoon.

*Trymalium urceolare*, a relative of one of the most common plants of the karri understorey, was found by Sue Patrick, a CALM botany consultant.

Sue has been working on the extinct plants of the wheatbelt, and she recently made a drawing of the plant from type specimens while doing research in Melbourne.

laterite and loam on a high hilly area.

Sue said woodland inside the bordering fence is grazed and she saw no other plants apart from those on the side of the road.

The species forms a rounded shrub that grows to about one metre and the plants were flowering profusely in early September.



*Trymalium urceolare*

## ... rare one too

A RECENT survey by CALM officers confirmed the existence of 14 *Urocarpus niveus* (Bindoon starbush) on a site north of Bindoon.

The plant is an extremely rare wildflower with considerable horticultural potential.

Officers from the Kings Park Board have recently taken propagation material from the plants to tissue culture the species.

The plants were in flower when found and in good condition.

The population is located within the road reserve, and is the only known location of the species.

Departmental botanist Dr Stephen Hopper will mark the site and monitor the plants to follow fluctuations in numbers.

Studies on the reproductive biology of the species are planned for 1987 so that appropriate management can be implemented.

Wildlife officers also will carry out regular inspections of the site to ensure that no disturbance or illegal activity occurs in the area.

## Public responds to road closures

RESPONSE to the closure of roads along the South Coast has been "excellent", according to Environmental Protection Manager Frank Batini.

The Department closed roads over the winter in a number of the Region's national parks and nature

reserves as part of its dieback protection programme.

Frank said there had been few breaches of the closures and few complaints, and even some supportive letters.

The situation had recently been reviewed by the Department and it was decided to not open

the roads for the school holidays.

The entire programme is under review, during which the Department will decide a firm position on road closures.

Frank said meetings with local shires will follow and negotiations will take place on future road closures.

# Concom report . . . WORLD-WIDE INTEREST IN WILDERNESS

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

A RECENT report by a CONCOM working group on management of national parks is the first move to develop a consistent approach to setting aside and managing wilderness areas in Australia.

The report gives a general statement of philosophy and policy, and criteria for wilderness identification and management.

According to the report, there is increasing world-wide interest in and demand for secure wilderness areas.

But the availability of areas that are undisturbed by man has declined since European settlement in Australia.

The report suggests that the 1988 Bicentenary is an appropriate target date for identifying and declaring wilderness areas.

According to the report, the criteria for choosing a wilderness area are its remoteness and size and that it have minimal evidence of having been altered by modern technology.

In managing a wilderness area the report says the primary objective should be to protect wilderness quality, both physical and social.

Use of the area must be regulated to minimise impact and maintain the

quality of the environment and the wilderness experience.

Criteria for management include: no motor vehicle access or use of animals for transport, except for essential management purposes where no other practical way is available; the impact of recreation on the ecology of the area should be monitored and managed, if necessary; no permanent structures should be kept except those with historical or archeological value or those necessary to protect the environment.

The report concludes that although most States make some provision for establishing wilderness areas, management policies differ and legislative provisions vary considerably.

There is, therefore, a need for a consistent approach to select and manage these areas.

The working group urges States and other land agencies to consider an active programme of wilderness area identification and reservation.

## PROTECTING YOUNG TREES FROM FIRES

YOUNG trees on rehabilitated bauxite pits must be protected from fire for at least 15 years after their establishment.

CALM, working with Alcoa, has developed guidelines to ensure these fragile areas are not damaged by fire.

Forest Officers Ian Rotherman and Les Robson drew up the guidelines, which will be incorporated with the Alcoa Working Arrangements.

Broad-scale fuel reduction burning is not possible for many years because of the risk of fire entering these areas.

The guidelines list alternative burning procedures.

Fire protection will be provided by prescribed burning by hand of small areas of unmined forest, creating and maintaining buffers to stop a run of fire, and having good access roads, water points

and fire control points.

To completely isolate and protect the rehabilitated areas, semi-permanent, broad, strategic fuel reduced buffers of at least one km in width will be established.

Also, fuel reduced cell buffers of at least 200m width will be put in.

For fire fighting, four different classes of roads will be defined: arterial roads, sub-arterial roads, firelines and unused roads.

The guidelines came out of a series of meetings and field visits by CALM District, Regional, Research, and Protection Branch officers and ALCO representatives.

The working arrangements will be reviewed in May 1987.

## Work hazard overcome

A dangerous practice — used only because it had always been done that way — has been made safe following an accident investigation along lines outlined in CALM's new safety manual.

CALM rangers are responsible for emptying

burning barrels of rubbish at Cape Le Grand National Park.

In the past rangers leaned over the edge of the rubbish tip while holding the sides of the barrel to empty them.

Ranger Kevin Hughes injured his back when he overbalanced and fell into the tip.

## Friends groups prove popular

AS part of its public participation aim, CALM is involved with the establishment of "Friends of National Parks" groups in WA.

A friends group is formed to bring together people who share an interest in a particular area or resource.

Projects Officer Mary Coleavy, who has helped get many of the groups off the ground, said members are usually people who want to learn more about the natural environment and want to contribute actively to its management.

Mary said most members are families who live close to the park.

People of all ages, occupations and backgrounds have joined these groups, she said.

At the first meeting of each group, two or three volunteers are sought as coordinators; their positions are reviewed in six months.

The coordinators organise their own meetings to run the group, collect membership fees and prepare newsletters and other publicity.

With help from other members, coordinators also organise a calendar of events, with the friends meeting once a month in the park to take part in an activity.

Mary said the activities may be social, recreational, educational or work projects.

All group projects should be approved in advance by the CALM regional or district manager and shouldn't supplant the work done by CALM employees.



# FARMERS KEEN ON SOFTWOOD SCHEME

CALM has recently secured two contracts with South West landowners for the Department's Softwood Sharefarming Scheme.

One hundred and 91 ha will be planted with pines in the near future, according to Ross Young, Field Liaison Officer for the programme.

Another three properties, totalling about 600 ha, are likely to be accepted into the scheme soon, as negotiations with landowners near completion, Ross said.

And another 3000 ha have been soil surveyed, with more land awaiting final calculations on anticipated returns.

Ross said: "There's been a fresh wave of interest from farmers who were waiting to see what the final offers will be on properties we've done soil surveys on."

The sharefarming scheme, originally established for the Manjimup

## 191 Hectares Laid

area, has been extended throughout the South West from Pinjarra to Albany.

Currently 36 properties in the Southern Region have been offered to the Department for the programme, 25 in the Central Region and 28 in Albany.

Of those properties, 22 were unsuitable for pine planting in the Southern Region, 10 in the Central and five in Albany.

Four properties are at soil survey stage in the

Southern Region, three in the Central and 17 in Albany.

Three properties are at the management plan stage in the Southern Region, one in the Central and six in Albany.

Ross said one offer has been made — to a landowner in the Southern Region — but at least 10 more properties of 3000 ha of plantable soils will have firm offers made to the landowners in the next two or three months.



LEOPOLD is comforted by CALM's Kylie Kau.

## Leopold's a long way from home

THREE metres of Leopard Seal is not easy to handle, ask CALM Bunbury and Busselton Officers.

"Leopold", as the *Hydrurga leptonyx* was dubbed by his rescuers, was stranded on the beach near Bunbury recently.

A visitor from the Antarctica, he was suffering from wounds to the mouth and underside and was exhausted.

The seal had been sighted several times on the beaches of Geographe Bay the previous week, suffering from wounds caused by either a set-line, fishing net or boat propeller.

Bunbury officers Bruce Harvey, Ian Scott and John Gillard decided the giant seal should be rescued and taken to Atlantis to recover.

The Busselton FAWNA group and CALM staff from Busselton travelled to the beach with a special Atlantis horsefloat designed for marine animal rescues.

Leopard Seals have a fierce temperament and slashing teeth, but Leopold was too ex-

hausted to offer much resistance.

A sedative from Busselton veterinarian Cathy Sargent also helped take the bite out of Leopold's natural aggression.

Rita Watts, Amy Cocker and Rob Lynch, from FAWNA, comforted the seal until it was wrapped in a large fishing net to keep it from injuring itself on the trip to Yanchep.

It took 10 people to lift Leopold into the horse float.

Busselton Forester Andrew Darbyshire, chosen to tow the rescue van to Atlantis, had a surprise when Leopold came out of sedation on the way north, chewed free of the fishing net and attacked the walls of the van.

So vigorous and powerful is the species that even sedated Leopold was able to smash one of the windows of the horse float.

But Andrew managed to reach Atlantis without too much damage to the float or the seal.

Last reports are that Leopold is making a good recovery and is a companion for Neptune, another Leopard Seal rescued six weeks ago on a Perth beach.



GREG Pobar has good reason to grimace. The humpback whale he is inspecting had probably been dead for two weeks before it came ashore at Marmion Beach. Greg, CALM's Marmion Marine Park Manager, had few words

to properly describe the smell. Efforts to remove the whale had to wait until high tide when it was dragged off the reef and deposited on the shore for Wanneroo Shire maintenance workers to take to the rubbish tip.

## SOUTH COAST SURVEY

CALM Research Scientist Greg Keighery, who has transferred temporarily to the South Coast Region to conduct vegetation surveys, reports from that far-flung outpost that things are going well.

Although he laments that there are only seven days in the week, Greg has accomplished quite a bit in his few months down south.

Torndirrup, West Cape Howe and Waychinicup, the national parks most lacking in data on their flora, are being intensively surveyed.

Greg has established 14 vegetation formations and compiled a list of more than 350 species in Torndirrup, with similar results for the other two parks.

Waychinicup is much more diverse than either of the other parks and will probably have a flora list of more than 1000 species.

Greg's surveys of existing rare flora have found new populations of three species — *Baeckea arbuscular*, *Hibertia bracteosa* and *Brachysema Subcordatum*.

Two rare species of plants are being located to find out if dieback is present in their populations and the effect of the disease.

Greg also is compiling a field guide to the flora of the South Coast and he said compilation continues as photos and drawings are made of as many species as possible.

The guide will be the first guide to plants of any major tourist park in WA.



CONSERVATION and Land Management Minister, Barry Hodge, announced the winners of the 1986 Lane Poole Award at Crawley recently. Gerard van Didden (centre left) and Tony Brandis (unable to attend because of illness) will do study tours next year under the award. Graeme Hutchinson (left), winner of the 1985 Lane Poole Award, was represented

with his certificate of incorporation as a fellow of trust by Mr Hodge. The award was established by Mr Dennis Cullity (right), whose father worked with Forest Conservator C.E. Lane-Poole. At the presentation, Mr Hodge said the award is a valuable opportunity for field staff to increase their knowledge and skill in their jobs.

## Reserve clear of dieback

LAKE MAGENTA, a nature reserve in the south of the Wheatbelt Region, has no signs of dieback infection.

A survey was carried out by Research Scientist Greg Keighery and Research Assistant Tom Hill, as part of a project to establish the

boundary of dieback in the region.

The two looked at most of the susceptible plants in the reserve and found no signs of dying vegetation.

Vegetation is mostly a variety of mallee associations, with yate and salmon gum woodlands.

The report states that the likelihood of dieback occurring there is minimal because of a few susceptible species on the reserve.

The reserve's even topography and low annual rainfall reduces further the likelihood of dieback.

## Burmese professor on tour

THE DIRECTOR of Burma's Forest Research Institute, Professor Ral Lian Sum, recently visited WA on the first leg of a month-long study tour of Australia.

For Mr Sum, who received a degree in forestry from the Australian National University in Canberra in the 1950s, his visit was a chance to catch up with classmates and meet fellow ANU graduates.

But he was most interested in seeing how forestry research is carried out in WA, and in his four days here he covered much ground.

He was briefed on the organisation and management of the Research Branch, policies and forest/timber research priorities in CALM and the overall organisation



Per Christensen, left, explains Karri clearfelling operations to Mr Sum.

of the Department.

He viewed research in progress at Dwellingup with Dr Joanna Tippett and toured the Wood Utilisation Research

Centre at Harvey with Graeme Siemon.

Then it was south to tour the pine plantations of the Blackwood Valley

and softwood plantation research, and on to Manjimup to look at research in the karri forest with Dr Per Christensen.

## Pilbara nursery achieves success

THE propagation of *Eremophila* species has eluded horticulturists ever since its value as a landscaping plant was noticed.

The plants grow well in arid conditions and have attractive flowers.

CALM Nursery staff in the Pilbara Region have been working on methods of large-scale propagation of these species since 1982.

They had limited success in growing *Eremophila maculata* from seed, while attempting to produce other species from cutting material.

Recently Chief Scientific Officer Peter Kimber suggested the roof of the misthouse be lowered to increase humidity.

This change brought enormous success and species never produced from cuttings are now available in large numbers for planting in Pilbara gardens.

Some of the species are on the rare and endangered list, and other have never been used in a garden setting.

Of the species grown, *E. sepens*, *E. glabra* and *E. leucophylla* "take" 100 percent of the time.

Others, such as *E. maculata*, *E. latrobbii*, *E. margaretha* and *E. compacta* "take" be-

tween 50 and 80 percent of the time.

Other experiments using different hormone solutions and varying temperatures are

## Visitors impressed

COLIN BRINE and Gerry Brunner, South Australian counterparts to our wildlife officers, recently visited WA to view our wildlife enforcement system and take back ideas to improve their operations.

Called law enforcement officers, but with the same duties as a CALM wildlife officer, the men spent about two weeks here on an exchange programme.

Chief Wildlife Officer Dave Mell said the programme's aim was personal development for the two officers and exposure to the techniques and methods and problems here.

They participated in day-to-day wildlife officer activities, which included visiting flora dealers, licensed private agriculturalists, kangaroo processing plants, bird dealers and wildlife parks.

They also took part in a three-day regional patrol from

underway at the nursery and results should be available by the end of the cutting season.

— DAVID McMILLAN

Perth to the Northern Sandplain and out to Three Springs. Colin and Gerry shared their knowledge with CALM wildlife officers too, explaining their function and role in South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Dave is seeking approval to send two CALM wildlife officers to South Australia under the exchange programme.

In their report on the visit, the South Australians said they were impressed with the professionalism of the Wildlife Branch, the quick response capability of wildlife officers' ability to identify rare flora and their knowledge of the areas they patrol.