



*CALM's Director Nature Conservation Barry Wilson (right) and Marine Park Manager Greg Pobar (left) discuss a park display with Barry Hodge.*

# CONFERENCE STUDIES MAMMALS

By **TONY FRIEND**

**SCIENTISTS** studying mammals in all parts of Australia came together at Karri Valley Lodge, near Pemberton, recently for the 33rd Scientific Meeting of the Australian Mammal Society.

This annual conference, which had not been held in WA for 13 years, was organised by several local members of the society.

It ran from May 12 to 15 and had an attendance of 28 from the eastern states and 58 from WA including a strong CALM contingent, several of whom

presented results of their recent research.

Andrew Burbidge and Norm McKenzie (Woodvale) outlined "The conservation implications of patterns in the recent decline of WA's mammal fauna".

Jack Kinnear (Woodvale) presented the results

## CALM staff key speakers

of his research on "The Red Fox: a major threat to the conservation of Australian mammals".

Norm McKenzie (Woodvale) and Tony Start (Karratha) gave a paper entitled "Structure of insectivorous bat guilds in Pilbara mangroves".

In a theme session on mammals of offshore islands, Tony Friend (Woodvale) spoke on "The Western Barred Bandicoot on Dorre Island, WA" and Keith Morris (Karratha) on "Rodents of the Dampier Archipelago".

A second theme session concerned mammal data bases and atlases around Australia.

Between sessions, a mid-conference tour of regenerating karri forest around Pemberton was led by Graeme Liddelow (Mannjimup) and Per Christensen (Como).

After the conference, 37 of the registrants were taken on a two-day tour to those outstanding conservation areas, the Perup and Dryandra Forests conducted by Garry Inions (Mannjimup) and Tony Friend (Woodvale).

With the help of Neil Thomas and Bruce Turner (Woodvale) Garry and Tony amazed the visiting scientists by producing so many rare mammals — woylies, numbats, and both brush-tailed and red-tailed phascogales (wambengers).

The conference was a valuable and educational experience for mammalogists from both sides of the continent, and it is to be hoped that another 13 years don't pass before the next meeting is held in the west.

## OILY SOLUTION

**CALM is responsible for WA's islands and marine parks and the animals and plants that inhabit them.**

These face destruction in the event of an oil spill and it's important that CALM managers know how to deal with such a situation.

Marmion Marine Park Manager Greg Pobar and Metropolitan Planning Officer Leon Griffiths recently attended a two-day workshop on mopping up oil spills.

The workshop was organised by the Fremantle

The second day was purely hands-on, with demonstrations of oil clean-up machines: skimmers, booms, and spray dispersants.

Greg said: "An oil spill is like a fire.

"The object is getting to it quickly before it spreads, predicting where it will go, and trying to keep it contained."