



Talk's all on wildlife

COMMUNITY ACTS ON RESERVE



WILDLIFE Officers from throughout WA were in Perth recently for their annual conference. (See story page 4). Leon Silvester (left), Geoff Hanley, Alan Shields, Peter Trembath and Les Coyne share a joke during a tea break.

By ALEX ERRINGTON

A JOINT effort involving the local community and CALM has resulted in the enlargement of the Wongamine Nature Reserve.

The area of the Reserve, which is situated 12 km north east of Toodyay, has been increased by 86 ha to about 300 ha.

In September 1985 the Secretary of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club wrote to the Minister suggesting that the Department purchase an area of uncleared bushland immediately to the north of the Reserve.

It was indicated to the Minister that the property on which the uncleared area occurred was for sale and

the Club feared that if the farm was sold the bushland might be cleared by a new owner.

It was the Club's view that this area would be a valuable addition to the Reserve.

Wildlife Officer Laurie Anderson subsequently inspected the area and supported the Club's suggestion.

The area was shown not only to be a natural extension of the existing reserve, but it possessed topographical features and flora species which did not occur in the Reserve.

The Department's Conservation Lands Acquisition Committee agreed that this was a high priority purchase and gave the green light to

acquisition negotiations being commenced.

Negotiations were opened with the real estate agents handling the property and agreement was reached on a deal which would result in the property being subdivided and the uncleared area purchased by CALM.

The proposal and the funds were subsequently approved by the Minister, the boundaries of the uncleared area were surveyed, the area subdivided and the uncleared portion added to the Reserve.

The final chapter in this good-news story is that His Excellency the Governor recently approved the whole of the enlarged reserve being classified as Class "A".

Research a priority for new manager

DR ANDREW Burbidge won't be giving up his research work just because he's taken on the top administrative position in CALM's Research Division.

Andrew, recently appointed Divisional Manager Research, said, "I'm a firm believer in continuing research work even if you're in a management position."

"It's assumed you promote your best scientists to be leaders, and if they don't continue doing some research, then you're stopping your best workers from producing new information."

"Also, I think research administrators should do

some research to keep their feet on the ground so they understand the difficulties of doing, interpreting and writing up research."

Andrew said the new research structure will allow scientists to pursue their career within the Division, whereas in the past, some scientists and technical staff had to leave research for administration or operations to move up the ladder.

"Already in place is a system for people to be

promoted on merit within the Division, where research can be a career with people specialising in this area of work if they wish."

He said he sees the challenges of his job as Chief of Research as the same challenges facing the Research Division as a whole: working to meet the research demands of the Department.

CALM Research was recently reorganised, and Andrew's work in the near

future will focus on setting up the necessary corporate team to direct research.

"The reorganisation set up a corporate team of five people, and only two of those are in place, myself as Divisional Manager and Per Christensen as Senior Principal Research Scientist."

The team is comprised of another SPRS and two Principal Research Scientists, positions that are in the process of being filled.

Andrew said he sees no

dichotomy between conservation research and production research.

"I use the definition of conservation in the World, National and State Conservation Strategies."

"This involves ensuring the sustainable utilisation of species as well as maintaining and preserving genetic diversity."

He said it was up to the Policy Directorate to define overall priorities for research, not the Research Division.

Descent goes off without a hitch

THE Large Fire Organisation is proving itself invaluable and adaptable to many situations.

Last year it was used at the Augusta Whale Rescue, and this year at the Avon Descent.

The 1987 Descent went without a hitch from CALM's point of view.

Park Supervisor Ron Waterhouse said the LFO,

complete with CALM control points, a controller, radio operator and sector bosses, "helped quite a bit".

It was the second year that buses were used to shuttle spectators into Walyunga National Park, and the first year that all cars, except for those of support crews, had to park outside the Park.

Ron said 650 cars were parked in a paddock near the entrance, and people bussed into the Park.

"All the Mundaring District staff were called on to work over the weekend, plus backup from Wanneroo," he said.

CALM officers controlled traffic, looked after the spectators and patrolled the Park.

Ron said: "The experience of dealing with so many people was a new one for many of the forest officers, but reports from most of them are that they appreciated the experience and learned quite a bit from it".

Also a first for this year was a display prepared by CALM Publications that was set up in Walyunga for the Descent.

"It was definitely value for money in terms of promoting CALM, and it received quite a bit of interest from people waiting for buses after the race".

He said the same arrangements will be in place next year, but that a better system of parking in Avon Valley National Park would be looked into.

NEW MEASURING SYSTEM

By DON DAAMS

A REVOLUTIONARY micro photogrammetric system designed for mensuration and mapping from small format (35mm and 70mm) photography recently developed at the Technology Park, is being evaluated by CALM's Mapping Branch.

The evaluation is being done with a view to departmental applications.

The MPS 2 was designed to reduce the complexity, bulk and cost of photogrammetric hardware, and to supplement the requirement for large format, precision cameras.

Its operation is automated by two internal microprocessors and a dedicated numeric data processor.

Menu driven software provides a user friendly device for operation directly as a sophisticated system.

The MPS2 is a self-contained analytical photogrammetric measuring system.

A mathematical model is set up in a computer to represent relationships between points in the terrain and images on the photograph.

The application of numerical analysis to the models solves problems relating to lens and film distortions, camera orientation and calibration of the total system.

Photogrammetric measurement can be done using cameras and equipment "off the shelf".

The instrument was used in the following projects while at CALM:

- * Calculation of volume of woodchips in the pile at Bunbury;
- * Obtaining height measurements/bole volumes in plots used in conjunction with a timber inventory;
- * Plotting changes to layout at Foresters Wood; and
- * Measuring material removed from gravel pits in the Mundaring District.

The results of the evaluation will be available after the completion of this last project.



CARTOGRAPHIC Draftsman Mark Laming uses the MPS2 to calculate the volume of woodchips in a pile. The entire system weighs only 10kg, making it easily portable.



ROGER and Ellen Underwood (left) and Ron and Ethel Giles were on hand for the official opening of Lol Gray Tree recently.

HISTORIC LOL GRAY LOOKOUT RESTORED

As young foresters in the Southern Forest, both Roger Underwood and Jack Bradshaw worked in fire lookout trees.

Perched atop the karri forest for hours at a time, their imaginations were captured by the men who had made these lookouts.

So when they came across Lol Gray Tree, an abandoned lookout tree in the Dryandra Forest a couple of years ago while on holidays with their families, they decided to restore the tree to its former working glory.

Roger had seen a photograph of the tree shortly before and they worked from that.

The Powderback Wandoo is much shorter than the surrounding vegetation, which has grown up in the years since the 1930s when it was in use, but Lol Gray Tree is still impressive as a piece of history.

Narrogin Overseer Ron Giles remembers the tree well because his mother was the lookout for many years. Roger and Jack, and their wives Ellen and Sue, spent several weekends and holidays on the project, for which CALM supplied the materials.

Roger said: "We cheated a bit, because the original platform was out of hand-hewn wandoo, the bolt holes were made with a hand auger and the lopping was done with an axe. "We did it with green sawn jarrah, an electric drill and a small chainsaw."

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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"LEAVES from the Forest", "Stories from the lives of West Australian foresters" would sit comfortably on a bookshelf in the company of Albert Facey's "A Fortunate Life", a collection of Henry Lawson's short stories and the "New History of Western Australia".

It's not that this collection of vignettes, anecdotes, yarns and biographical snippets has any literary pretensions or sets out to give an historical account of forestry in this State.

I don't think that was the editor's intention.

Mr Underwood, it seems, wanted to record the memories and experiences of his and his fellow foresters, but I wonder if he thought about the collected impact of "Leaves from the Forest".

As I read these stories I was struck by the unmistakable sense of history, as foresters developed a major industry and managed the forest to sustain that industry.

The history comes through those people whose lives are intrinsically woven into forestry, like Geoff Chandler's "great

triumvirate: Kessell, Stoaite and Shedley . . .", as well as those nameless accountants, lawyers and farmers who were forced to take up an axe during the 1930's depression.

There are those unique individuals, like Conservator Stoaite, as described by Dave Lejeune, who was equally capable at "swamping" for a dozer driver building a fire-line as he was in carrying out the research for which he was well known.

The history also comes through the various places where the writers worked, the jobs they did, the huts and tents they lived in and shared, as well as their ingenuity and resourcefulness, their toughness and independence.

While there is no chronological order to the stories, you can trace the evolution of transport in the bush, from Dick Perry's horse Ginger, to the motorcycle and the much hated sidecar (especially by Bruce Beggs), to the utility like Phil Barnett's

Bedford "Discretion", the Willys Jeep and the aeroplane. These individual recollections and experiences of "Leaves from the Forest" capture the nuance of the Australian bush — the hardship and mateship.

The hardship is depicted in personal struggles, like Joe Havel's story which relates the difficulties he faced in becoming a forester, and that of Jack Bradshaw's young chainman, " . . . his compass, hagamer and end of the chain held high above his head, standing up to his armpits in the icy, black waters of the Treen Brook".

Despite the hardship there is no bitterness. Joe's diction indicates his love for the bush — "glorious days", "glorious bush" — and it's not surprising that he achieved his goal and became a highly respected forester.

Alongside the history and the hardship is the life: this bubbles away on every page and spills over to flavour the whole publication.

Take Peter Hewett's pen pic-



CHIEF mourner at the wake was Ian Old.

Hardwood research seminar . . . COMPUTER MODELS, PROCESSING TOPICS

AN expert in the sawmilling of regrowth hardwood shared his research findings with CALM officers and members of the WA timber industry recently.

Gary Waugh, from the CSIRO's Division of Chemical and Wood Technology, is developing mathematical computer models for sawmilling regrowth hardwood.

He discussed the processing of small eucalypt logs, which pose many problems to sawmillers.

The Manager of the Wood Utilisation Research Centre, Phil Shedley, said:

"We need to know how to overcome these problems most efficiently, which includes developing the right

equipment at the Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey."

Principal Research Scientist Graeme Siemon said: "With the increasing volume of regrowth hardwood on the market, it was important to hear from an expert on the subject."

Gary was taken to the Harvey research centre and shown the work that is being done there.

The seminar was also a forum for Dr John Davis, Senior Lecturer at the Chisholm Institute of Tech-

nology and recipient of the 1986 travel award from the Gottstein Trust Fund and the Institute of Wood Science.

John has developed a method for internally scanning timber for defects with computerised tomography.

Computerised tomography enables quantitative three-dimension image formations to be obtained from solid objects using either x-ray or gamma radiation, and can locate defects in timber, for example in power transmission poles.

Jarrah export market strategy

A FIVE-YEAR strategy prepared by the Guild of Furniture Manufacturers, the Forest Products Association, CALM and the Department of Industrial Development would aid the development of the export market for jarrah furniture.

This is the recommendation of CALM's Inspector Utilisation Hardwood, Phil Shedley.

Phil and senior members of the WA furniture manufacturing industry have recently returned from a study tour of Europe and Singapore organised by the Guild and the Italian/Australian Businessman's Association.

Phil said the strategy plan should include the following points:

- ★ Promote jarrah as a fine furniture timber in Europe through displays at furniture fairs;

- ★ Strengthen education courses for design and manufacture of furniture;

- ★ Provide facilities for the testing of materials, finishes, joints and complete furniture items;

- ★ Expand research into jarrah and karri veneer production and application by modifying techniques developed for other species;

- ★ Cooperate fully with Austrade offices in Milan and Frankfurt for the promotion of WA Timbers;

- ★ Encourage local manufacturers to visit recognised international fairs.

Phil said: "We didn't find anyone who knew what jarrah was and we need to maintain a promotion campaign if we're going to get into the European market."

"I was most impressed with the efficiency of the Italian furniture industry, which imports most of its timber and exports most of its products."

"We can't expect to sell timber into these markets without marketing and creating an image and, I believe, that the Government, as the principal grower of jarrah and seller of jarrah, should be involved in this promotion."

Awards

THE Trustees of the Lane Poole Memorial Trust have decided to make two awards available to CALM staff for 1987-88.

Last year awards were given to Tony Brandis and Gerard Van Didden.

Nominations will be called for in the next few weeks.

For further information, contact Paul Jones on 386 8811.

Foresters Wood plantings

THE first major planting at foresters Wood saw about 3000 trees of 23 native species go into the ground.

About 100 people — CALM staff, IFA members and their families, gathered for the two-day event, and despite the rain and hail had a good time.

Foresters Wood, near Manjimup, was established by the WA division of the Institute of Foresters in dedication to famous trees of commerce, culture, legend and literature.

The Wood, which was opened in 1985, will be a place for visitors to learn about the trees that have helped to shape civilisation, and experience the atmosphere of a variety of different forests, each with its own special quality.

The Wood is located on an old tobacco farm, owned by CALM and leased to the IFA.

Future plantings will see Western Red Cedar, Apple, Sequoia, Lodge Pole Pine, Willow, Plane Tree, Douglas Fir, Sugar Maple and Yew go into the Wood.

PINE PLANTINGS END WITH WAKE

THE last establishment pine planting in the Wanneroo District was an occasion that called for a wake, complete with forester Ian Old as master of ceremonies in long, black cape and top hat.

Wanneroo District staff, some appropriately dressed for mourning, gathered at P87, north of Yanchep National Park, where the last pine seedling in the Wanneroo District had been put into the ground recently.

The audience heard from three people who have had a long involvement with pine planting there: Dave Lejeune, former Regional Leader, Operations for Northern Region; Ted Cracknell, Wanneroo District Forester, Operations; and Ted Hadrell, Overseer at Yanchep.

A tiny pine coffin, crafted by District Carpenter Ken Hanson, was carried by four pall bearers to a site at the edge of the plantation.

Inside were 14 pine seedlings, which were planted by various people who have been associated with the pine planting in the area.

Dave Lejeune, Ted Cracknell, Ted Hadrell, Sam Cappiello (who has planted pines in the district for 19 years, or "from Perth to Sydney and back again"), Joe Havel, Karen Hayman, Wanneroo Clerical Officer, Roger Hearn (in Dick Perry's place, who couldn't attend the ceremonies), Peter Staley, former District Forester at Wanneroo, and Mick Law, Wanneroo Forester, were a few of the planters.

Foresters' memories in print

By RICHARD GRANT

Book Review

Then there were the eccentrics like the fellow who walked out of the darkness at 2am one morning, approached a couple of weary fire fighters in Len Talbot and Jack Rate and offered them a "snort". Considering the place and the circumstances, Len and Jack were poured a glass of scotch and water with the type of service often missing in our better class restaurants. Because the fire fighters had

no objection he poured himself one before disappearing once again into the darkness.

That character would be at home in a Henry Lawson story, as would the fellow recruited for fire fighting duties and fronted — "the worse for wear" — with a waterbag filled with six bottles of Penfolds port and a gallon of water.

The recruit didn't last long, and in the company of thirsty fire fighters neither did his "waterbag".

Len Talbot's recollection of these incidents, and his memory of the "quaint speech mannerisms or turns of language" like his malapropisms will endure as long as Mrs Malaprop after whom that delightful quirk in our language is named.

Being about the bush and bush characters, humour pervades throughout. Stories like Dick Perry's "The Missing Melon Mystery", incidents like Biddy (the horse) pinning Harry Smith's foot to the ground, and the colloquial language that is sprinkled

throughout the pages enrich this publication.

While talking about humour, the unforgettable Anthony Edgerton-Green, Esq, recalled (or perhaps created) in Bob Chandler's "Flying Foresters" (or "Retch for the Sky") — must rate a mention.

Can you imagine the response of the ex-squadron leader and World War II Spitfire pilot who was over the jarrah forest mapping dieback when he was buzzed by an F111?

Bob Chandler recalls: "With bristling handlebar moustache and livid countenance there came 'cheeky young bastards' . . . I think I noticed his thumb repeatedly pressing the top of the control column in an instinctively remembered but frustrated response".

Roger Underwood has expressed concern that "Leaves from the Forest" might not appeal to the non forester. I don't think he has to worry about that.

This enterprising publication — the cost of printing being covered by an IFA grant and personal donations — can be bought from Paul Jones at Crawley for \$12.50.

But hurry, there's only 1000 copies in print.

