



CALM News

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DWELLINGUP Forest Ranger Nick Woolfrey receives his certificate of attendance from Bruce Harvey at the recent Supervisor's Courses.

Ningaloo Marine Park ...

OFFICIAL OPENING AT EXMOUTH

For the locals it was worth the wait. When CALM Minister Barry Hodge officially opened the Ningaloo Marine Park at the Exmouth Recreation Centre on August 28 after several months of delays for numerous reasons, including a Federal election, more than 150 people were there to celebrate the occasion.

Among the locals there was an air of expectancy as to the benefits that will flow from the marine park, including a huge increase in the number of visitors to the area.

They won't be disappointed.

The 4300 square kilometres of the Ningaloo Marine Park that stretch along WA's coastline from North West Cape southwards for 260km to Amherst Point and 10km offshore is a unique marine environment.

The uniqueness of Australia's longest coastal fringing system of coral reefs was recognised by both the Federal and State governments as far back as 1975, and a joint initiative was undertaken to ensure that the reef is managed to preserve the environment while maintaining access for visitors.

At Mangrove Bay inside the marine park, trans migratory wading birds take refuge and feed among an isolated community of mangroves during their long flights often from as far away as the Arctic Circle.

Humpback whales, which were once hunted along this part of the coast, can be seen on the outside of the reef during their annual migration, while the rare and endangered dugong can be seen swimming in the lagoon.

Currently a management plan is being drafted for the Ningaloo Marine Park which will address such issues as fishing, recreation and research, as well as the needs of park visitors.

Executive Director Syd Shea said he had received a letter of appreciation from the Minister congratulating all the staff that were involved in the Ningaloo opening.

The Minister said that the Exmouth Shire President, Mr Bob Burkett, had advised the Premier of the Shire's appreciation of CALM's efforts

THE memory of Pilbara pastoralist the late Edgar Lefroy has been honoured with the naming of a patrol vessel for use in the State's newest marine park, Ningaloo.

The "Edgar Lefroy" was christened by Mr Lefroy's widow, Mrs Billy Lefroy, in a ceremony at the Tantabiddi boat ramp near Exmouth.

Edgar Lefroy, the long-time resident of Ningaloo Station from which the park gained its name, was one of the first to recognise the fragile nature of the Ningaloo coastline.

CALM Minister Barry Hodge said: "He helped preserve the intrinsic value of the area by promoting a strong conservation ethic in the local community."

The new patrol vessel will be used for general surveillance duties in the Ningaloo Marine Park as well as research, and search and rescue work.

The "Edgar Lefroy" had cost about \$15,000 to commission, and would patrol the 4,300 square kilometre park.

Busselton Venue for Supervisors' Course

By BRUCE HARVEY

SUPERVISORS from various front-line areas of work attended this year's Supervisor Courses at Busselton in mid-August.

These schools, formerly called Overseers Schools, have seen mainly forest overseers and potential overseers attend in past years.

But this year also attending the two two-day courses held at the Geographe Motel were six mechanics in charge, two park rangers-in-charge, two nurserymen and seven forest rangers.

Work areas from Manangara to Walpole were represented by the 23 participants.

Participation by all attendants was particularly good.

At these schools, discussion and group work is focused on the role of the front-line supervisor in

CALM work and includes such topics as people management, supervision, record keeping, communicating information, teamwork, training, security, technical knowledge and accident prevention.

This year the subject of motivation was introduced to the course and selected video tapes from the New Age Thinking Programme were viewed along with other management films promoting a positive at-

titude to supervision.

An evaluation by all attendants indicated success in providing those attending with a clearly defined role in supervision and the skills and knowledge required in the proper management of our human resource in CALM.

Topic leaders included regular speakers, such as Peter Keppel (Supervision), Cameron Schuster (People Management), Tom Wood (Accident Prevention), Bruce Harvey (Motivating Safe Behaviour), Rod Burton (Record Keeping), Alan Walker (Information), Charles Broadbent

(Technician), and John McKenzie (Security).

New speakers were Kevin White (Teamwork), Alan Scott (Training), and Rod Simmonds (A District Manager's Viewpoint).

Several options for next year's courses have been put to the Department Training and Career Development Committee for consideration for the continuing development of our front-line supervisors.

Managers within CALM are encouraged to use these valuable one-hour presentations at District and Branch level by contacting either the Training Committee or Course Coordinator Bruce Harvey.

NURSERY LEAVES A LEGACY

THE Karratha Nursery, recently closed in a rationalisation of CALM's nursery programme, has left a legacy of trees and an acceptance of low-water gardening in the arid environment of the Pilbara and Gascoyne.

Water is a precious commodity in the North-west, and the modern settlement of the Pilbara by mining companies brought with it Europeans who were us-

ed to gardens more appropriate to high rainfall areas.

The former Forests Department, with its nursery in Karratha, set out to help reduce the amount of water used domestically, which accounts for over half of the water consumed in the Pilbara.

The approach was based on stopping overwatering, redesigning gardens using appropriate arid area plants and eliminating water demanding species; and promoting water conservation technology such as the use of mulch, tap timers and trickle reticulation.

The nursery was established in 1975 and was first controlled by the Public Works Department, then passed to the Roeburne Shire, the Department of the North-West, and finally the Forests Department in 1982.

There were four staff at the Karratha Nursery: two tradespersons and two forest work persons.

Both tradespersons were trained at the nursery, and one, Michael Hughes, is the first Aboriginal graduate from the Pilbara.

Popularity

Ningaloo's popularity — 50,000 people visited the adjacent Cape Range National Park last year, many driving the 1500km from Perth — is based on the diversity of pursuits offered, such as camping, fishing, boating, surfing, diving, snorkelling, bird-watching, hiking, and photography.

These pursuits are undertaken in close proximity to the coral reef which in places is within 100m of white sandy beaches, and never more than 7km.

The crystal clear lagoon inside the reef is not silted by runoff from the nearby Cape Range, and the closeness of the continental shelf ensures the reef and lagoon are fed with nutrient rich ocean waters.

Because of this Ningaloo Reef supports a diverse marine life of scientific interest, and includes more than 200 species of corals, more than 460 species of tropical fish, and more than 600 species of molluscs.

There are many other attractions.

We're creating safety records

CALM's safety programme has broken new records this year, and in doing so has saved the Department more than \$250,000.

The new all-time records were achieved with the lowest figure ever recorded in the combined lost time and medical treatment accident frequency rate.

This year's frequency rate was 60 compared to 92 last year.

The lost-time accident frequency rate was also the lowest ever recorded in the history of the occupational health, safety and welfare programme which was introduced in 1966.

Many safety practitioners believe that a lost-time accident figure of ten or less for a year is an outstanding achievement.

CALM's current rate is 9.5, nearly half the previous year's figure.

Safety Officer Tom Wood is delighted with the result. Tom said of the Department's 25 regional and district safety groups, 12 recorded a zero frequency rate this year.

The saving of more than \$250,000 was achieved through lower workers' compensation payments, increased productivity, and reduced medical payments.

Let's keep on breaking safety records.

GAZETTAL OF RARE PLANTS

PROTECTION of species diversity is an important part of CALM's work.

Following recent research by Steve Hopper and his colleagues, 124 species of native plants have been added to WA's list of declared rare flora and 30 species no longer considered endangered have been removed.

There are now 226 plant species considered rare, in danger of extinction, or in need of special protection in WA.

The additions include a recently discovered banksia that, along with two other banksia species, closely resembles a dryandra.

Botanists consider that these banksia may be the "missing link" between the two plant groups.

The list includes 16 species that have been discovered in the last 10 years, and six species that have been presumed extinct but have been rediscovered.

Gazettal of a species as protected makes it illegal to take that species without the approval of the Minister. "Taking" includes destruction by roadworks, sand and gravel mining, clearing and general disturbance to a plant.

The gazettal of the protected species on September 25 was the first in five years.

In future the list would be gazetted every two years to ensure that it included new findings.

Recent research by CALM scientists into the occurrence and distribution of populations of rare species has led to the updating of the declared rare flora list.

Research into plants thought to be endangered will continue and if considered necessary they will be included in future rare flora lists.

Friends adopt park

A GROUP of interested locals have banded together to befriend Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association, "by adding to the knowledge of the Park's structure and ecology, and increasing public awareness of its conservation values, will contribute to the protection of its landscape, wildlife and recreational assets for the enjoyment of our and future generations."

The inaugural meeting was held in May, and CALM was represented by Southern Forest Region Manager Alan Walker.

Officers were elected and a constitution adopted.

Subsequent session have included a CALM Information Evening, with Walpole District

Manager Peter Hanly explaining the changes that would come about with the adoption of the Draft Management plan for the Southern Forest Region and the draft Timber Strategy.

Issues discussed with Peter included salinity levels, burning programmes, clear felling, refuges, stream reserves, overseeing of logging operations, adequacy of current staffing levels, jarrah poisoning, growth rates of regenerating forests, concern for protection of tangles, current waste in production and changes in reserves in the Southern Forest Region.

The Association's first field trip was to Circular Pool, and the next planned is a fungi field weekend for the collection and identification of fungi.

RETIREd forester Andrew Selkirk, 74, highly regarded by CALM foresters for his love of the forest, practical control of pine plantation establishment and pine conversion, died at his home in Kalamunda on September 3.

Andy retired nine years ago at 65.

Before and after his retirement, he was actively interested in recreation landscaping and cultivating native plants and trees.

Andy enjoyed the scenic beauty of the land-

VALE ANDY SELKIRK

By GERARD VAN DIDDEN

scape in which he worked hard in his early days as a timber cutter.

He first started in the timber industry at Ashendon in the 1930s when he was 18.

He then worked as a firewood cutter supplying fuel for the Mundaring Weir Pumping Station until he enlisted in the Army in 1941.

In the Army he worked as an instructor in jungle survival training at

Canungara in Queensland and the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Training School at Pukapanjal in Victoria until discharged in 1945.

Andy was asked by the Department to return to his former skills of firewood cutting at Mundaring Weir, to increase the production of fuel for the pumping station.

For a brief time he worked as faller at Mundaring and Pemberton

and then as overseer at East Kirup.

Andy was then promoted and transferred to assistant forester at Manjimup in 1947.

His hankering for the Northern Forest paid off and he received a transfer to Mundaring Weir where he worked for about 25 years under Forester Mallumby, ADFO Peter Hewett and Forester Brian Cowcher.

The hard work of the 30s and 40s took its toll in

the early 1960s when Andy suffered a heart complaint.

His lifelong interest was realised in 1974 when he was transferred to Extension Branch to work with Frank Batini on catchment hydrology.

Andy retired in 1977 and took up his hobby of consulting in landscaping and tree planting.

He is survived by his widow and four children.

His son Robert Selkirk continues the family forestry tradition as a forester in the Fire Branch.

Tuart Forest loses a long-time friend

WITH the retirement of Dave Rowe a lot of knowledge about our unique tuart forest will go as well.

Dave, Assistant Forester, Operations, at Busselton, has been with the Department since 1950.

He has worked on tuart regeneration in the Ludlow Tuart Forest since 1974 when the Department started its programme there.

Dave said: "We didn't know much about tuart regeneration in the initial stages.

"We've been gradually putting together the programme over the last few years."

Dave joined the Forests Department as a forest worker at Margaret River.

He was the first benchman when the sawmill was built in 1951, breaking logs down then cutting timber from them with a bench saw.

In 1956 he became overseer at Willcock Plantation near Busselton, and was transferred to Mundaring in 1959.

In 1960 he went to Dwellingup for two years of cadet training.

After graduation, he went to Tallanalla near Harvey, then back to Willcock in 1963, but this time as assistant forester OIC.

"When I was there the first time, I had someone working out the programme for me," Dave said.

"Now I had to do that all myself, along with treemaking, permit control, timber inspection, and control burning."

Willcock was closed in 1970, and Dave became second in charge at Ludlow.

In 1974 he moved to Busselton and started the work he would continue for the rest of his career: caring for the unique tuart of the Ludlow Tuart Forest.

A wildfire in January 1974 went through part of the forest, and heaps of debris became ashbeds perfect for the regeneration of tuart, and "that was the starting point of our programme."

Now, 13 years later, Dave walks through the tuart forest, eager to show a visitor his pride and joy, the efforts of his work over the years.

He has supervised the natural regeneration of more than 400ha of this forest.

His mortal enemy has been the peppermint tree, which competes with the young seedlings for light and food.

He said two things must be done to ensure the regeneration programme is successful: keep the peppermints down and work out a controlled burning programme specifically for tuart.

Another threat is the mining tenement that exists on 600ha of the forest, which would destroy seven per cent of the tuart.

"It doesn't sound like much, but it's a fair part of the tuart and it happens to be in the prime section," Dave said.

During his years at Busselton, he was also safety officer for the district.

Dave, a keen fisherman, who is looking forward to taking his boat out, is also a woodworker, and he and his wife are planning a caravan tour of WA.

He said: "I only succeeded in this field because of my understanding wife and family that put up with moving around so much.

"Without their support, I couldn't have achieved what I did."



DAVE ROWE stands beside one of his pride and joys, a strong, healthy, straight-stemmed young tuart in the Ludlow Forest.

POLE AXED

BETS were on that two new flagpoles at SOHQ would have to come down to make way for work being done on the sewer line.

They did come down (pictured right), and on the very day that the flags arrived.

QUOTE of the month comes from Kevin Year, speaking at the Young Managers' Seminar held at Como recently: "Let's not get bogged down in reality."



YANCHEP RANGER CALLS IT A DAY

NORM BENTLEY, National Park Ranger at Yanchep, made the switch from forester to ranger about midway through his career and only regrets that he didn't do it sooner.

Norm, a ranger at Yanchep for 18 years, recently retired.

He started with the Forests Department as a forest workman in the Gnaragara plantation, later moving to Yanchep, where he and another forester pioneered Yanchep forestry.

Norm said: "We were the first two people to ever come and live on the Yanchep forestry site.

"The plantation was not really off the ground yet

and we started the ball rolling here."

He said: "There's variety in the work, dealing with the public, I like that.

"There is a lot of satisfaction in showing people the best places in the Park."

Norm's specialty was as cave ranger, and he has lots of stories to tell about people in caves.

Like the little girl, halfway down the stairs with people packed in behind her, turning around and fighting her way back up because she'd forgotten to give Norm her ticket.

"How could I get upset, it was such a marvellous thing to do," he said.

Norm has seen a change in the situation for rangers recently, he said.

For instance, years ago the rangers at Yanchep had more public duties like taking care of the golf course, the launch and the rowing boats.

He said rangers are becoming rangers now, where they were maintenance men before.

He said Yanchep appeals

to the tourists, who are usually on a package trip of two days.

"It's a once in a lifetime trip for them, so it's vitally important that Yanchep doesn't lose its status as a major tourist attraction."

Norm says his retirement includes gardening and taking his fishing boat out.



NORM BENTLEY discovered this giant blackboy years ago while fighting a fire in Yanchep National Park.



DICK WYLD enjoys the easy life of retirement.

Dick Wyld retires

BUSSELTON District Forest Worker Dick Wyld got a taste of freedom when he took his long service leave, and when it came time to return, he decided to retire three months early.

He's now enjoying the easy life at his home in Margaret River, doing a bit of fishing and gardening when he feels like it.

Dick started as a forest worker at Nannup in 1960, and remembers one of the longest jobs he's ever done: laying the 12-mile Nannup to Barley Brook telephone line.

He was transferred to Margaret River in 1963, where he has been ever since.

His job there involved "much the same work" — tending pines, building roads and bridges.

"I learnt how to use a broad axe then, because in

those days there was some idea that logs wouldn't last as long if they were cut with a chainsaw."

Dick said he'll miss the comradeship of his mates from work, but he'll enjoy waving to them from his easy chair as they come home after a hard day.

CALM Research Scientist Dr Joanna Tippett has been elected president of the Royal Society of Western Australia.

Joanna, who had served on the council of the Royal Society for a number of years, will serve as president for one year.

The Royal Society is a multidisciplinary scientific group of about 300 members.

Its objectives are to promote and assist in the advancement of science in all its branches.

GNANGARA BURN A FIRST

A RECENT aerial burn of pines using a fixed wing aircraft is believed to be the first in Australia.

According to Gerard van Didden, the use of a fixed wing aircraft to put a controlled burn into pines at Wanneroo's Gnangara plantations was successful.

Wanneroo Forester Bill Muir was navigator on the 650ha burn in Gnangara plantation, and Gary Hutton the incendiary machine operator.

A total of 66 flight lines were put in on the first of two such burns.

About three quarters of the area burned at 85 per cent, and the remaining quarter at 55 to 60 per cent.

The cost of burning and the availability of the light aircraft were the motivating factor behind the decision to do the experiment.

Burning

Burning in pines is usually done by hand, and occasionally by helicopter.

This aerial burn cost \$2.64 a ha, less than half of what a hand burn would cost, and about half of the cost of using a helicopter.

Using a fixed wing is tricky because pine plantation runs are small and a plane flies faster than a helicopter, leaving less room for navigation error.

Bill's four years of navigation experience on fixed wing aerial hardwood burns meant he was well-suited to the challenge of putting this burn into the pines.

Bill said the programme was still in the experimental stage, but that there was a definite place for fixed wing aerial burning in Wanneroo, mostly because of the district's flat terrain, even-aged fuel and even-aged stands.

Test for disabled

MANJIMUP Assistant Forest Officer Alex Moylet is giving the paths at the New One-Tree Bridge — Glenoran Pool development a trial to see if they're suitable for the disabled.

Parks and Reserves Officer Alan Sands thought it a good idea to test the paths as the recently-renovated site will be advertised as being accessible to the disabled.

Apart from the mirth arising from the antics of unskilled wheelchair operators, the session highlighted a number of small problems.

Loose stones in the paths, woodchips near the entrance of the toilets, sand washed from exposed areas requiring rehabilitation: all impeded the progress of the wheeled wonders.

Now that the problem areas have been identified, they will be fixed before the new site is formally opened to the public. —

RAE BURROWS.



ALEX MOYLET testing a bridge

DRA logging operation takes time

PLANNING a logging operation is a bit like the countdown for a space shuttle blast-off except it's done in years not seconds.

Logging in a disease risk area of jarrah forest requires even more extensive planning, so the countdown takes longer.

Manjimup Assistant District Forest Officer Scott Wood said that a DRA logging planning process starts seven years before the first tree is cut.

"From the beginning, a potential coupe is analyzed silviculturally to decide how best to treat it," Scott said.

The countdown starts seven years before the first tree is cut when the district does the first controlled burn in the selected area.

"This gives CALM dieback interpreters at least three-year-old vegetation to examine in order to map the area for dieback."

Two years before cutting starts the area is photographed aerially and dieback areas are demarcated.

About one year before, an advanced burn is done to remove old fuel because logging will increase debris, and with less fuel on the ground it's safer and easier for fellers to move through the forest.

Scott said the boundaries of the coupe are marked.

"Less than one year before cutting starts, the countdown is done by months," he said.

"The 'Seven-Way Test' is applied to all forest operations that involve the movement of soil.

"It's an extensive examination of the hygiene measures required, the risk

of dieback fungus, the landform and vegetation, the likely impact on this vegetation, land use, and consequences on land use if hygiene is successful or fails."

Once the test is completed by the forest officer overseeing the logging operation, the coupe is considered by the District Manager and the Regional Manager.

Ten to 12 months before cutting starts the roads are put into the coupe, taking into consideration possible dieback spread.

One month from the start and the treemarkers apply the cutting prescription to each stand or part, using Jack Bradshaw's jarrah silviculture prescriptions.

At the same time, logging details about the coupe are entered into CALM's hardwood logging computer system.

Scott said that contract harvesters do the cutting but always under the watchful eye of CALM foresters to ensure the operation is carried out correctly, that the logs are well-utilised and that all the unmarked trees have been taken.

"Such regulation is time consuming task," he said.

"Once cutting is completed, a light burn is done to get rid of logging debris."

Scott said with many coupes at different planning stages throughout the district, foresters have their hands full.

Computer trained

A personal computer at the Cadet School at Dwellingup will ensure CALM cadets are computer-literate when they graduate.

Training Officer Alan Scott said: "This was one of the few areas where cadets were not given any practical experience, and its such an obvious part of departmental activities these days."

Cadets receive some computer training in their first year at the South-West College at Bunbury.

The new computer will enable them to apply that knowledge to systems they'll be using as field officers, such as the hardwood logging computer system, softwood logging computer system, general ledger and fire behaviour.



CADET Peter Bamiss tries out the new computer at the Cadet School, with the help of Training Officer Alan Scott.

Spotter operations successful

SPOTTER surveillance operations in 1986-87 were largely successful, with a number of experienced pilots re-employed and pilots new to the task showing a high standard of competence.

Twenty pilots using nine aircraft clocked up 6996 hours of fire detection during the fire season.

Protection Branch manager Jock Smart said: "The whole operation went well, and Max Folks (CALM Aircraft Manager)

and the pilots are to be congratulated."

Word from the districts is that they're satisfied with pilot performance, that plotting standards were satisfactory to excellent and that senior pilots con-

tributed greatly to the success of the operation.

In his report, Max said that refresher courses at the beginning of the fire season had resulted in a higher standard of surveillance, since being introduced in 1985.

South Coast seminar

THE South Coast Region has held its unique annual seminar, where all officers from throughout the region get together for a week of training and watching up with what everyone is doing.

Acting Regional Manager Hugh Chevis said: "We have few chances to get together socially, so the social side of the week is emphasised with indoor cricket, dinners and other activities."

But it wasn't all fun, and the CALM officers also learnt about impact management, the theme of this year's seminar.



Impact management includes dealing with weeds, feral animals, dieback and mining, and a number of visitors from outside the region spoke to the participants.

Syd Shea, Ron Sokolowski, Jack Kinneer, Michael Wright, Frank Batini, Rick Sneeuwjagt, Lachlan McCaw, Gordon Styles, Jim Edwards, Tom Wood and Sue Moore all contributed to the week's activities, Hugh said.

The middle of the week saw officers put through their fire fighting paces as they conducted a mock LFO exercise.

Hugh said: "The Shire, the police and the SES were involved, and now the locals know how we fight fires on CALM land.

"It was also good for the staff because some are not familiar with fire control and they now know their roles and what to do in such a situation."

Woodman Point . . . JOINT EFFORT TO CONSERVE AREA'S VALUES

By HELEN FORDHAM

WOODMAN POINT, just south of Fremantle, is important for its recreation and conservation values, so important that CALM and the Department of Sport and Recreation have joined forces to co-operatively manage the area.

Woodman Point's history has had little to do with either recreation or conservation.

It was gazetted as a quarantine station in 1876 and in 1904 the rest of the peninsula became an explosives reserve.

The area was fenced off, isolating it from the rapidly expanding southern corridor.

For nearly 100 years the area has been untouched, retaining its historical and ecological values.

Woodman Point has played an important part in local history.

World War I troops passed through the quarantine station on their way home, as did thousands of new Australians who arrived in the 1950s.

Hidden deep within the nature reserve are a former crematorium, leper colony and the remains of the station cemetery.

Rubble and the occasional exposed foundation is all that remains of the shanty towns built in 1918, when a naval base was planned for the peninsula.

Ecologically, Woodman Point is outstanding: it has long been unburnt and therefore has plant and tree varieties and growth forms not commonly found in the metropolitan area.

Woodman Point contains some fine stands of Rottneest Cypress, which is

rare elsewhere on the coastal plain.

The area was Commonwealth property until 1979 when it was handed back to the State Government.

In 1984, the Department of Sport and Recreation was made interim manager.

The M90 Plan recognised the conservation value of the area and proposed that sections of Woodman Point be made A class reserve and the rest of the area developed for recreation.

Sport and Recreation and CALM's Metropolitan Region have an excellent working relationship, liaising over a number of issues including the placement of the Jervoise Bay Sailing Club and location of the caravan park.

Agreement has been reached between the two on the boundary of the conservation area and Sport and Recreation is happy to leave the proposed reserve to CALM's control.

A caravan site has been approved for Woodman Point which will require an increase in the area's active recreational facilities.

CALM's aim is to promote the passive aspect of recreational activities.

A bio-historical walk trail is planned for the area, along with advisory and interpretive signs.

CALM will continue managing the conservation area while serving as adviser for other areas of Woodman Point.



Alan Danks (left), Alan Rose (centre) and Ian Wheeler examine an Elliot trap and drift fence used to catch Noisy Scrub-Birds at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Noisy Scrub-bird

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

on move

THE rain was pouring down at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

It was going to be a slow day, an oddity for the people working on the latest translocation of the Noisy Scrub-bird.

Although the lack of wind would have been perfect for catching male Scrub-Birds with the mist net, Project Coordinator and Reserve Manager Alan Danks will not handle the birds if they get wet because they lose body heat quickly.

The translocation of this rare species of almost flightless bird will establish colonies away from the main population at Two Peoples Bay.

This is the third translocation: the first, to Manypeaks in 1985, the second to Nuyts Wilderness in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park in 1986, and the third this year to a different spot in the park.

It's an operation that would be impossible without the help of many dedicated volunteers and CALM staff over six weeks, 12 hours a day, seven days a week, of hard, sloggy work.

The "help" on this day and over many of the last few weeks came from Manjimup Forest Ranger Ian Wheeler, Stirling National Park Ranger Alan Rose, Otto Mueller and Arvy Pocock.

Alan said people volunteer to help because they're interested in working with birds and intrigued by the fact that these are an endangered species.

They also want to learn about the unique management techniques used on the reserve, and because "it's an oppor-

tunity to see Two Peoples from a different point of view."

The work requires fitness — many hours are spent in the bush looking for nests (necessary for the capture of female Scrub-Birds), and at release, it's often a half-day's walk in the bush with a bird in a box strapped on your back.

It requires patience — a capture method for the male Scrub-Bird uses a tape-recorded territorial call to lure the bird to the net, which often means 10 to 15 minutes of absolute stillness followed by instant action when the bird is in the right spot.

It is laborious — to set up the mist net, a 2m line of scrub has to be cleared; a metres-long drift fence must be set up in another capture method.

But talk to anyone who has worked on a translocation and you'll know it is all worth it. Ian talked about the Sunday they released the five birds: "It was great because as soon as I let this male out, he sang."

Singing establishes male territory, and setting up territories will be a key factor in the birds' survival in their new home.

There is the tension and excitement of crouching in the bush, waiting for a small, rare bird to launch itself into your mistnet.

Alan Danks said: "Once you miss, there's no second try, because that male is unlikely to make the same mistake twice."

Alan likes to have a core of people who come back year after year, people who do the demanding job of mistnet capture.

First-time volunteers look after the birds that have been captured, tend the drift lines, look for nests.

Ideally they should spend the entire six weeks working on the project; if they can spend only one or two weeks, they don't have enough time to learn all they should.

Each volunteer requires intensive induction and supervision, so Alan wants only a few first-time volunteers.

He said: "It's an excellent opportunity for people to become involved in and see the

Reserve and do work they wouldn't normally be doing.

Here too they have contact with a species that has a place in the folklore and history of WA.

The success of this year's translocation of 15 birds, eight male and seven female, won't be known for at least a couple of years: only by monitoring the area for male song will Alan be able to tell if territories have been set up.

The first job after releasing them is to find them, Alan said, and that has proven difficult in Walpole-Nornalup.

"This will be the last lot to the Park until we get evidence of their breeding there," he said.

TREE-RATS STUDY IN N-W

By GORDON FRIEND

WILDLIFE researchers from three States recently teamed up to study three species of tree-rat in a remote area of the Kimberley.

I joined Anne Kerle, Mike Fleming (N.T. Conservation Commission, Alice Springs), Cath Kemper (S.A. Museum) and Marie Senn (University of Adelaide) for three weeks in the Mitchell Plateau area where populations of the Brush-tailed Rabbit-rat, Golden-backed Tree-rat and Black-footed

Tree-rat occur.

Although these species had been recorded from the area in earlier surveys by CALM and WA Museum personnel, detailed information on the species' respective habitat preferences, nest sites and feeding and general behaviour in the wild was lacking.

The team located relatively large populations of the Brush-tailed and Golden-backed species, and four individuals (2 male, 2 female) of the latter species were fitted with radio-collars and tracked for about a week.

This provided valuable new information and showed that the Golden-backed Tree-rats in the study area were living in hollows in old *Eucalyptus miniata* trees, but feeding in fruiting trees along a scree slope bordering deciduous vine thicket.

The Brush-tailed species was most common in low open *Eucalyptus* woodland with a sparse to dense grassy understorey.

With knowledge of the Black-footed species' habitat preferences in the Top End of

SEA LION ELUDES RESCUERS

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

A young male sea-lion with a plastic strap stuck around its neck has been eluding capture for months.

Wildlife Officer Geoff Hanley became so involved in the animal's capture that he took part in the latest capture attempt at Carnac when he should have been home in bed.

Supervising Wildlife Officer Doug Coughran had orchestrated the lead up to the capture all week, and on Friday he had managed to get seven or eight other able-bodied CALM staff, a vet and two vet students from Murdoch University and me, the recorder, on the island for the capture.

Doug hadn't thought to contact the sea-lion to make sure he was going to be there, but he showed up anyway.

The forces gathered from all points: the first boatload of Wildlife Officers — with Trevor Walley, Matt Warnock and Geoff Hanley on board — left Fremantle at 10am, to see if the sea-lion was on the island.

The boat then headed back to pick up Doug, the vet and the students.

Meanwhile, Marmion Marine Park Manager Greg Pobar, Metropolitan Operations Officer Gordon Graham and two Metropolitan wages staff were coming from Woodman Point to help out.

After many discussions on how to catch the sea-lion, and one aborted try when he became alarmed at the mass of people moving toward him stealthily, it was decided Doug and the vet would don wetsuits and creep up on the sea-lion from the water.

It almost worked. Doug got the net over the lunging animal, but with one flip of its nose it dislodged the net and the two grown men and headed for the water, where it stopped to look back with wary distrust at all the people on the beach.

Skiing

Doug said afterward that he was sure he would have gone barefoot skiing had he held on much longer.

Another attempt was made a week later.

The Wildlife Officer put one foot on Carnac Island and the sea-lion was into the water.

But the wildlife officers don't give up easily, and they'll try again soon, this time using a net, approaching by water, and flinging it over him when the sea-lion charges for the water, as it will inevitably do.

What was that about barefoot skiing, Doug?

Aerial forest survey

By PAUL BIGGS

HOW much timber is in the jarrah forest?

That's the brief for CALM's Inventory Branch as they start an extensive inventory of timber volumes in the jarrah forest, a task to be completed by 1991.

The inventory will cover 1.25 million hectares of production forest, a job that would exceed the four-year deadline using the usual methods of sample plots measured by assessors on the ground.

So something much quicker and cheaper was needed, something using a combination of ground plots and measurement of trees from aerial photographs.

A project team, led by myself, with Mapping Branch's Peter Bowen and Des Muir, and Fire Protection's Gerard van Diden and Bob Selkirk, is investigating the possibilities.

The system required for these aerial photographs is based on twin cameras fired simultaneously to give a stereo pair of photographs.

The scale of the photographs can be accurately calculated without any ground measurements since the camera separation is known.

The photographic system was tested in August using a hired helicopter and mounts for the cameras borrowed from Telecom.

The aim was to test the feasibility of the twin camera system before investing in manufacturing larger mounts of our own.

Field work was done in September to see whether the measurements made on the photographs checked out on the ground.

A final analysis of the system should be completed by November.

STAFF NEWS —

NEW APPOINTMENTS
David Gorddard, who completed a Forestry cadetship in 1986 was appointed as Assistant District Forest Officer, Silviculture Branch, Manjimup.

Cornelia Ill as Clerical Officer, Collie and Colette Ware to a similar position in Karratha.

Darryl Glover as Forest Ranger (Ops) at Nannup and Kerri McDonald as Analyst/Programmer at Como.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Drew Haswell, Manager, Metro Region has been awarded the degree of Master of Science.

PROMOTIONS
Ian Kealley to Manager,

Goldfields Region; Paul Frewer to Planning Officer, Planning Branch; Cleve Mathews to Admin Assistant, Woodvale Research Centre; Drew Griffiths to Projects Officer, Recreation and Landscape Management Branch; Mark Brabazon to Private Secretary to the Hon Minister.

Sharon Sanderson to Forest Ranger (Tech), Bunbury Inventory; Ross Mead to District Forester, Fire Protection Branch and Dave McMillan is leaving Karratha on promotion to Forester, Goldfields Region. Wayne Keals to Forester, Timber Production, Manjimup. Jim Shugg to Forester, Production.

RETIREMENTS

Frank Townsend, Forester (Admin), Central Forest Region retired from the Bunbury office on September 2 after 26 years with CALM, all of which time was spent in the South West.

TRANSFERS

During August, Bob Hagan transferred from Pemberton to District Manager, Manjimup and Keith Sclater replaced him as District Manager, Pemberton. Robert Germantse transferred to Districts Manager, Katanning and Ken Wallace Manager, Wheatbelt Region relocated to Narrogin.

John Rooney, Forester, Goldfields Region transferred to Manjimup Research.

