



CALM News

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JIM MAHER and Josie are the centre of attention at the Mediterranean Restaurant.

Josie's Juanita's Jewel

KANGAROO Josie became an overnight celebrity recently when Ranger Jim Maher took her out to wine and dine at the Mediterranean Restaurant in Subiaco.

Jim received a call from the *Western Mail's* social writer Juanita Walsh asking if he had a kangaroo to show some English visitors from the House of Gar-

rard, the makers of the crown jewels.

Juanita had organised for them to see a kangaroo, but these arrangements fell through at the last minute.

Unperturbed, she called Jim at his Herdsman Lake home asking for help.

Fortunately, Josie, an 18-month old Euro who had been abandoned by her mother, was staying with Jim at the time.

So Josie spruced herself up for

the occasion, hopped into a taxi and headed off to meet Juanita and her English guests.

Josie, who was on her best behaviour, captured the visitors' hearts as well as surprising the other restaurant patrons.

She received an autographed book that outlines the company's activities and details the history of the crown jewels.

The inscription was "To Josie the prettiest kangaroo in the world".

National Fire Workshop

FOCUS ON RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea told a national workshop on fire management on native conservation lands that fire had been a major factor in shaping Australia's flora and fauna long before human occupation of the continent.

Dr Shea said Aboriginals also recognised that fire was a powerful land management tool.

"Somewhat belatedly, European land managers have come to the same conclusion," he said.

"We have successfully learnt to use fire to reduce fire hazards and as a forest regeneration tool.

"We are now entering a new and exciting phase — the planned use of fire to create habitat, control disease, increase diversity and growth of plant species and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems."

Dr Shea said that over the last 20 years forest managers' understanding of the effects of fire on flora and fauna had increased dramatically, and that the capacity to use fire as a management tool had become awesome.

He said that CALM had the capacity to implement prescribed burning over thousands of hectares of an increasingly wide range of vegetation accurately, safely and efficiently.

"Two decades ago, nobody would have dreamt that there was a complex and delicate relationship between ants, legume seed, understory composition, fungi and animal habitat and food supply in the jarrah forest, which is profoundly affected by the fire regime," Dr Shea said.

"We are now on the threshold of being able to duplicate fire regimes that had a large part in evolving

the complex and bizarre ecosystems we have in Australia."

Dr Shea was giving the opening address to the workshop which was held at Busselton recently.

More than 65 participants, including some

of Australia's leading fire researchers and managers, took part.

Dr Shea said it was appropriate that the workshop was held in WA because CALM was a world leader in fire research and application.

Benger Swamp acquisition a first . . .

By ALEX ERRINGTON

THE recent transfer of ownership of a small block of land within Benger Swamp represented another step in the long-term plan to have the whole of the Swamp made a nature reserve.

Benger Swamp is situated about 2km west of the South Western Highway, between Harvey and Bunbury, and is one of the most important wetlands in the south-west.

Because of its value for waterbird conservation it was one of the first nature reserves nominated for the preparation of a management plan when the CALM Act came into effect.

A draft management plan was released for public comment in December 1986.

Finalisation of the plan is in the last stages and the final plan will be available in the near future.

One of the interesting aspects of the Swamp's history was the intensive subdivisions which occurred in 1914 and 1929, so that it became a mosaic of more than 150 blocks as small as 2ha, in the hands of numerous owners.

Since the early 1970s a policy of progressively acquiring the privately-owned blocks as they came onto the market has been followed.

All have been acquired from willing sellers.

However, gaining control of Lot 44 presented quite a challenge.

The legal owner of this block died in 1979 and

under his will the block passed to his three sons.

However, the legal transfer to his sons was never completed.

In 1983 the son appointed Executor of the will offered the land to the State, but no funds were available and the sale did not proceed.

In 1984 that son died.

Negotiations with the family were resumed in 1985, but the complications made acquisition seem unlikely.

It was only a 2ha block and it appeared that all the proceeds from the sale would have to go to meet the family's legal costs of transferring ownership.

Under those circumstances there was little incentive for them to sell.

A breakthrough eventually came in the form of Crown Law advice that we should consider compulsory resumption of the land.

While that advice offered advantages, compulsory acquisition had never been a practice for obtaining conservation land.

However, that approach was put to the family; they agreed and we now have processed our first "agreed resumption" of conservation land.

Rare island species protected

CALM has taken action that will enhance the protection of the rare and endangered species of mammals on Dorre and Bernier islands in Shark Bay.

This includes the gazetting of Dorre Island as a prohibited area and Bernier Island as a limited access area under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The Shark Bay Shire Council also supports the World Heritage listing because of the local recognition of their high conservation value.

The two islands are classified as A-class reserves.

A number of mammals inhabiting the islands were either extinct or were classified as being very rare on the mainland.

Mammals only found on the islands were the Banded Hare-wallaby, the Barred Bandicoot and the Shark Bay Mouse, while the Rufous Hare-wallaby and the Boodie were also found on the mainland but were declared rare species.

The islands also support a number of important

bird species including the White-Breasted Sea Eagle, the Osprey and two species of Wren whose forms were distinctive to these islands.

Dorre and Bernier islands possess a fragile ecosystem that could easily be damaged by fire, the

introduction of feral animals and rubbish.

The absence of feral predators, such as foxes and cats, had produced a situation where the last viable breeding populations of a number of animals were now

restricted to these islands.

Also the absence of settlement and the restrictions imposed on public access had limited these potential disruptions and probably accounted for the ability of the rare fauna to survive.

Regrowth Karri Contract

AGREEMENT has been reached with Monier Limited for CALM to supply the company's sawmill near Busselton with small karri regrowth logs on a long-term basis.

A contract guaranteeing 15,000 cubic metres of small karri logs a year for an initial 10 years was signed recently.

In announcing the agreement, CALM Minister Barry Hodge congratulated the company for its confidence in the future of Western Australia's timber industry by installing new sawmilling equipment worth more than \$500 000 at

its mill.

Monier's new equipment will improve the recovery of sawn material for use as tile battens from small logs supplied from thinning regrowth karri forests.

The company had also obtained markets for the sale of sawmill residues.

These improvements mean the company was now in a position to pay the target royalty set by the Government for small karri logs.

Monier has pioneered the sawmilling of small karri logs from regrowth forests after winning a tender for logs in 1968.

As a result of their early initiative

CALM is confident that further supplies of small logs from thinning operations in the regrowth karri forests could be placed on the market.

Two other companies are at present investing in new mills to process similar material.

The use of logs from thinning operations will reduce the pressure to harvest logs from mature forests in the future.

The agreement with Moniers is the first long-term contract resulting from a recent review of the structure of the timber industry.

FROM MY DESK

ONE of CALM's important clients is the tourism industry.

Unfortunately, we have no definitive figures on the contribution that CALM makes to tourism in WA.

However, judging by the numbers of brochures produced by the industry which feature CALM land, it is very significant.

While we have put a lot of effort into providing facilities and information that are attractive to tourists, we have not as yet worked systematically with the industry.

Contrast the effort we put into the tourism industry with that of the timber industry.

While the timber industry is a very important client and should be serviced, tourism is an even more important job creator.

Recently we have been making direct contact with the tourism industry so that we may obtain a better understanding of them and they of us.

In addition to the fact that we manage many areas of lands and waters that are attractive to tourists, we also have within our Department a body of knowledge which is almost as valuable.

I am convinced that the obvious tourist attractions of the land and waters of WA could be significantly enhanced by the provision of information explaining and discussing land forms, animals, plants etc.

This type of enhancement, of course, comes at no cost to the environment; by providing this information we markedly increase the quality of the tourist experience.

Apart from the fact that we are obliged to provide a service for all the people of WA, including tourists, there is an added potential benefit of developing our relationship with the tourism industry.

Currently, many of the services we provide to the tourism industry are free of charge.

Most of the tourist people that I have established contact with recognise that their future depends on us being able to maintain the land and water we manage in such a way that tourists want to visit these areas.

Consequently, they are not unresponsive to the idea that there should be some mechanism by which the tourism industry can contribute funds to ensure that that management occurs.

It is essential that we have a good data base when we enter into discussions with the tourist industry.

Chris Haynes, Jim Sharp and Luisa de Braganza have developed plans to obtain this data by asking regions and districts to collect visitor numbers.

Although this is an additional task that has to be borne by the regions, I believe the investment of your time by assisting us to collect these numbers will be well worth it in the long term.

SYD SHEA
Executive Director



Robin Price (right) receives his award from National President Keith Smith as WA Division President Don Edwards announces the award.

Mapping award

MAPPING graduate Robin Price received a Macquarie's Atlas from the WA Division of the Cartographers Institute of Australia for having the highest average pass marks over 75 percent with no failures.

Robin was a diploma student at Wembley Technical College.

The award was presented by Keith Smith, National President of the Cartographers Institute, during a recent get-together of Institute members at Observation City.

The evening also included the opportunity to view the Institute's Australia-wide mapping display that has since been sent to the International Conference in Mexico.

The WA event was organised by WA Division President Don Edwards, manager of CALM's Mapping Branch, with the help of Secretary Don Daams and Treasurer Chris Symms, both of CALM's Mapping Branch.

FORESTER VISITS CHINA

A CALM forester was in a party of nine Australians who recently spent two weeks in China studying agroforestry.

The visit was part of the Australia-China exchange programme for members of the International Tree Crop Institute.

Richard Moore, an agroforestry research scientist at Busselton, said he was most impressed with the incredible hospitality extended to the group, and the extent of the agroforestry work the Chinese have done.

The aim was to study both flood-plain agroforestry in Shandong and Anhui provinces, and dry-country agroforestry in Inner Mongolia.

China currently has about 20 million hectares of land under agroforestry in these provinces, and the study had relevance to agroforestry developments in Australia.

Richard travelled with part of the group to Inner Mongolia where trees are planted to make farming possible in this semi-arid environment.

Inner Mongolia has strong winds and loose soils, conditions similar to those found in parts of WA.

Trees were used to control the erosion and provide shelter for crops.

Richard saw the Great Green Wall of the North, millions of trees stretching for hundreds of kilometres across the face of the advancing Gobi Desert, the scale of which made the planting operations of the most most interesting aspects of Chinese agroforestry.

Seven Chinese foresters will visit Australia, including WA, in November as part of the exchange programme.



RITA WATTS, a volunteer who cares for disabled wildlife, helps a Fiordland Penguin out of the bath. The penguin, a species rarely seen in this area, was found on the beach near Busselton, and Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert put it into Rita's expert care. It has since fully recovered and been released at Cape Leeuwin.

C'mittee approves names

Pilots chosen

SPOTTER aircraft pilots have been hired for the 1987-88 fire season.

CALM employs 16 seasonal pilots and four full-time pilots.

CALM's Max Folks said 14 of the 16 pilots had worked for CALM in the past, and the other two, George Murphy and Jacqueline Toole, were new to fire spotting with CALM.

The 14 with previous experience with CALM were hired upon receipt of their applications.

The two new pilots were chosen from a field of 53 applicants.

The new pilots will participate in a one-day induction course at Como, and complete most of their training in the districts where they are based.

THE recently reactivated CALM Nomenclature Committee approved a number of new names for nature reserves in the Greenough Region.

Early in 1987, the committee decided to meet three times a year, and have recently had their second meeting for 1987.

The committee also approved new names for areas and roads around Big Brook Reservoir near Pemberton, including a road named in honour of Paddy Evans, a long-serving storeman at

THEY'RE WINNERS

DIANE JOHNS, SOHQ Receptionist, and Mick Sermon, Pemberton District Administration Officer, have won trips to the Bungle Bungles for selling the most Landscape subscriptions.

Diane and Mick will travel to the Bungles in April for their working holiday.

Final plans for the visit are being made now, but Diane and Mick will probably help Kimberley staff gear up for the influx of visitors to the Bungle Bungles as their visit will coincide with the start of next year's tourist season.

Four thousand Landscape magazines are sold through subscription and 3500 are distributed to sales outlets.

Pemberton District who recently died.

The committee also recently confirmed that former Conservator C.E. Lane Poole's name is not hyphenated.

Decisions made by the committee are forwarded to the policy directorate for approval.

Mapping Branch Manager Don Edwards chairs the committee.

Other members are Planning Branch Manager Jim Williamson, Information Branch Manager Kevin Goss, Metropolitan Region Manager Drew Haswell, Senior Wildlife

Clerk Robert Powell, and Assistant Administrative Officer Shane Knapp.

Kevin Goss said, "The committee provides a way of naming all the different areas we control with consistency, and ensuring that we adhere to the conventions set down by the State Nomenclature Advisory Committee."

Penguin in safe hands



Safe in Manjimup are (from left) Matt Lawson, Fred Simmonds, Carl Cicchini, Wayne Eaton, Ron Trovorrow, Geoff Pears, Mario Betti (above), Peter Battilana, Paul Martin, District Manager Chris Muller, Dave Broadbent, Rodney Tenardi, Adrian Lawrie, and Vince Fazioli.

WORKSHOP SHOWS WAY

IN a recent CALM News, Safety Officer Tom Wood reported that CALM staff had scored zero lost time accidents in November 1986 and March 1987.

Now meet some of the people responsible for this remarkable feat for the past 13 years — or 279,660 working hours.

The staff at the Manjimup District Workshop have not had a lost time accident since April 2, 1974.

This would be quite an achievement for any group, but for people constantly working with equipment and heavy machinery, this is an excellent achievement.

The men attribute their accident-free success to their commitment to the Department's Safety and Health Programme.

And they intend to notch up several thousand more hours in the same way. — RAE BURROWS.

LETTER

IT is very refreshing to read the Executive Director's thoughts on Revenue the Department earns on behalf of the State.

I for one enjoy saying to people: "not only do we look after all the State's forests, parks and reserves, but we earn significant amounts of revenue at the same time".

However, I say this knowing that, despite our renewed efforts to generate revenue whenever and from wherever we can, the bulk of our revenue comes from the sale of log products produced on only 10 percent of the total area of land we manage: our hardwood production forests and pine plantations.

In fact, of the \$42.4 million the Department is expected to earn in 1987-88, \$40 million, or 94 percent, will come from the sale of sawlogs, chiplogs, particleboard logs, poles, bridge timbers, fencing and other minor forest products.

And, while I'm talking to people about the forest I also enjoy saying: "our forest management practices are a guarantee that we can count on earning at least that \$40 million every year".

J Clarke
September 7, 1987

Staff News

APPOINTMENTS

Stephen Raper's appointment as Forest Ranger (Technical) at the Harvey Wood Utilisation Research Centre has been confirmed; also that of Ashleigh Kenneth-Smith, Forest Ranger (Technical) at Dwellingup Research Centre.

Jim Rolfe, Technical Officer, Woodvale and Tammie Byrne, Clerical Officer, Albany, have also joined the Department.

PROMOTIONS

Jock Sclater's promotion to Manager, Tim-

ber Production, Como is now official. Other promotions recently finalised are Bob Cooper, Manager, Personnel Branch; George Gedleing, Senior District Inspector, Bunbury; and Kevin Pollock, now Forester (Operations), Mundaring.

TRANSFERS

Bruce Harvey, Regional Leader (Operations) from Bunbury to Kelmscott.

RETIREMENTS

Arthur Burns, Fire Protection Branch, Bunbury, retired at the end of September after 28 years of

service. In this time he helped in the developments of improved protection techniques as well as audio-visual material for training and public education purposes. Arthur was at one time the Departmental expert on bush telephone lines.

Jim Wilson, District Wildlife Officer, retired in October after more than 20 years service. Formerly with Fisheries and Wildlife, Jim worked from many bases in WA, his last location at Carnarvon.

Ranger's barbecue breakthrough

KALBARRI National Park Ranger Roy Harris has come up with a cheap, workable design for a gas barbecue that removes much of the fire threat and the need for wood supplies.

Its rugged, innovative construction means that it needs little maintenance.

Roy said it has only been since the amalgamation that he has had the time and the resources to look for alternatives to the way things have been done in the Park in the past.

"We still try to encourage people to bring their own gas stoves in-

to the Park, but there is this option for people who didn't bring their own," Roy said.

Roy estimated that it costs \$350 to supply gas to run the barbecue for a year, while it costs four to five times that amount to supply a wood barbecue.

Gas cylinders and a burner below a steel plate are surrounded by a wire mesh frame to ensure the cylinders stay put.

Its features include the absence of brick and tile, which quickly becomes greasy, and a sloped plate that lets the fat run onto the ground at the back.

Roy built the prototype of the

gas barbecue himself.

Apart from the burner, bottles and plate, the materials he used were found lying around the workshop.

The first barbecue is in Kalbarri National Park, with more scheduled to be built when its performance has been proven.

The barbecue design has also been picked up by rangers in Nambung National Park.

Roy said: "I've had positive feedback from the public, and have even found people walking around with coins and trying to find someone to pay."

PINE TREES STEEPED IN HISTORY

By ALAN WILLS

THE recent felling of five pines at SOHQ to make room for proposed extensions to the Como Research Building aroused interest among research staff about the origins and early history of the Collier Pine Plantation.

Planting the area with pines was first proposed by the Conservator of Forests in July 1924.

Clearing for the nursery began in February 1925 on the edge of the swamp behind what is now the South Perth rubbish transfer facility.

Sowing the nursery and construction of accommodation for the assistant forester in charge were completed that year.

The first plantings were in July 1926 about where the Department of Agriculture is sited.

Planting continued annually until 1937 when the last pines were planted in what is now the southwestern corner of Curtin campus.

By 1937 about 400ha of pines had been planted.

During the early 1930s, while Australia was succumbing to the postwar Depression, unemployed workers planted the pines under the direction of experienced Forests Department personnel.

The seed for the plantings were derived from Portuguese and French strains of the Maritime pine, *Pinus pinaster*.

The pines recently felled near the Research Building were Leiria, a Portuguese strain planted in 1929.

The growth rings of these trees indicate the problems faced by pines growing on poor sandy soils.

The trees were planted very densely by today's standards at about 1000 trees per acre.

Thinning in 1947-48 and 1956 had no noticeable effect on growth ring size, a testament to the intense competition for resources.

Subsequent to clearing for the Research Building

site in 1965, and later establishment of lawns and reticulation, the growth ring size increased dramatically.

This growth increase was such that the trees produced about eight times the amount of wood in their last 22 years compared to their first 36.

In this light, it is somewhat ironic that the trees derived great benefit from the earlier building programme, yet met their destruction for a building programme now shelved.

When considering present developments in the lands once constituting the Collier Pine Plantation it is useful to also consider attitudes to the plantation at the time of its planting.

An article from *The West Australian*, on October 8, 1931, said that "the area at South Perth would have a very special interest and value in future years as a suburban pine forest which may rival Kings Park as one of the attractions of the metropolitan area."

While the area has not become an idyllic parkland, the plantation holds manifold value for the area, with its principal value derived from the many public facilities it now contains.

No less important is the relief it provides from the surrounding high density residential suburbs.

Their expertise is in great demand by farmers, particularly in tree planting, direct seeding and regeneration for soil conservation.

"The Esperance Tree Book" is available at CALM and Agriculture Department offices at Esperance, and from Como, at \$4 a copy.

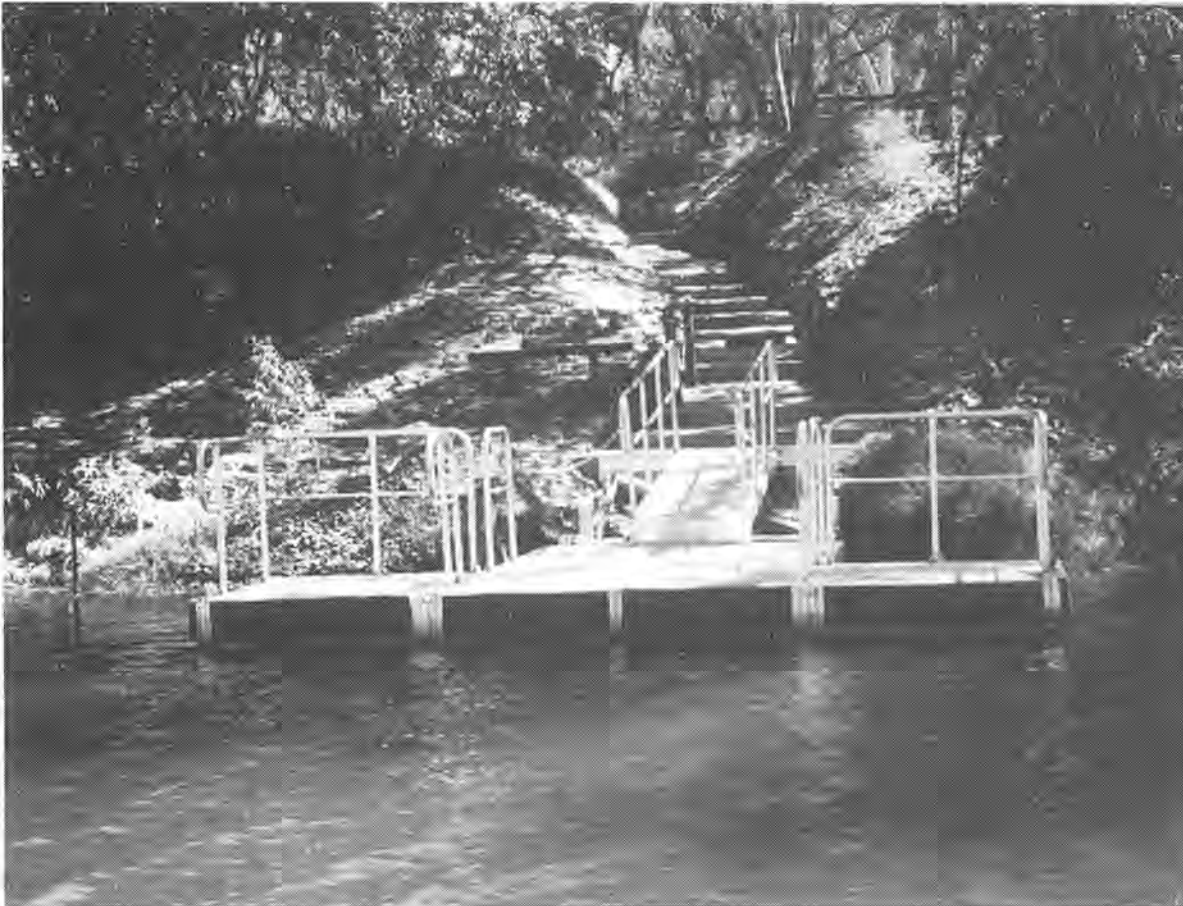
Kimberley dock replaced

AFTER many years of service, the old makeshift boat landing at Geikie Gorge National Park has been replaced by a much needed new docking facility.

The old landing was an ingenious improvisation of two old tour boats, coupled together and decked with plywood.

This was only a temporary arrangement that remained in use much longer than intended and was getting pretty dilapidated.

The new pontoon-type landing, which is constructed entirely of aluminium and attached to a concrete anchor block by a hinged walkway is, by contrast, a very up-to-date facility which offers easy access to the tour boats and is a pleasure to work on. — REX WAKER.



NEWS UPDATE FROM THE NORTH

By ROSALIE HOLLANDS

WITH the tourist season drawing to a close in the Kimberleys, it's a good time for a few words on the activities in Geikie Gorge and Windjana Gorge National Parks.

The very light wet this year meant the tourists started arriving early and came in exceptionally large numbers.

Ranger Ron Hollands was in charge of both parks, and there were four mobiles at Geikie: Kevin Hughes, Rex Walker, Gerry Deegan and Jim Wolfenden, and two mobiles at Windjana: Neil Scott and Ernie Fagan.

A new house and large shed in Fitzroy Crossing has enabled the office work and storage of boats and equipment to be more manageable, remembering that we are often high and dry from the floods.

The usual bouts of minor equipment breakdown and irate tourists when the showers and water went "on strike" were endured by all rangers with great stoicism.

A new boat landing arrived and after much puzzling thought by the staff, it was found some alterations were needed to adapt it to the depth of the river.

It is now much admired and very safe for the boating tourists to use.

We had a flow of Como staff coming through (wonder why they always come during the winter months?) and a recreation course was held here during May with all Kimberley staff joining in.

The Auditors arrived in July and Peter Kimber has just left us.

Communications Branch sent Gery Robinson up to check out the radios while Landscape Architect Richard Hammond has visited us twice and now we're in the midst of having a new camping

area laid out, and after all these years, Geikie will have blacktop roads in the park.

The MRD has realigned and sealed some sections of the road out to Geikie as well.

The "bara" are starting to bite again and there have been some good ones caught.

Ernie Fagan and Neil Scott have also been busy over at Windjana with two very nice mobile pads being built with all mod cons.

New shower blocks are on the rise and they have had the park camping areas refenced and a grid put in, information bays have been erected and stone

portals also at Windjana and Tunnel Creek.

Tourists have also been prolific here this season.

With the busy season over, it's time for these rangers who have been working so hard to take well earned holidays, and we hope all enjoy their time off.

Tree book 'a showcase'

THE recently published "Esperance Tree Book" not only will help in the conservation of soil, but serves as a showcase for the expertise of CALM's advisory officers.

The book covers everything anyone ever wanted to know about tree planting around

Esperance. Klaus Tiedemann, Officer in Charge at Esperance, helped compile and edit the book with a local farmer, as well as writing a chapter on tree planting and appendices on species selection and their uses.

Peter Richmond, a CALM forester who retired last year, wrote the introduction in which he recalled the contribution that foresters have made to tree planting schemes in the region.

Richard Moore wrote a comprehensive chapter on agroforestry and the prospect for pine production.

The book was funded by the National Soil Conservation Project with assistance from CALM and the Department of Agriculture.

CALM has specialist ad-

visory officers based at Como, Narrogin, Geraldton and Manjimup, and other officers who handle extension enquiries part-time at many district and regional offices and nurseries.

Cycleway relocated

By CORRINA CARR

THE public cycleway that winds its way through the Alfred Cove Nature Reserve is being relocated.

The old cycleway, though a little overgrown, is frequently used by the public.

CALM staff working on the project are Terry Bloomer, Glen Hughs, Ray Underwood and Richard Stone, with Planning Officer Leon Griffiths supervising.

The old cycleway will be turned back into natural vegetation.

The new cycleway will have 2000 trees

planted along the outer edge, and a black coated PVC fence to keep children and dogs out of the reserve area.

The limestone foundation took a week to lay before contractors bitumenised the surface.

Four truck loads of crushed limestone were needed for the job, then a 2m wide strip of bitumen was put on then rolled and levelled.

The CALM staff used a small roller to compact the limestone, and the contractors used their machinery.

The whole project will be a benefit to the cyclists who use the cycleway as it is wider and a lot less hazardous.

ATTACK ON ISLAND LILY

CALM is trying to rid Garden Island of the Arum lily.

This flower was very popular during the 1940s and 50s when it was transported to Garden Island as a house plant.

The lily has spread around the island because of their rapid growth and adaptation to adverse environmental conditions.

It seems a beautiful flower, however, it competes for space occupied by

LILY

By JENNY CARGEEG

native flora and disturbs the habitats of island fauna.

This is the first time CALM has tried to control the lily.

Garden Island Ranger

Wayne Taylor and forester Bob Selkirk, both who have expertise in aerial interpretation, flew in a naval helicopter to observe the distribution of the lily while in flower.

The flowering lilies will be sprayed by hand.

Jenny Cargeeg is a Year 10 student from Corpus Christi College who did a week's work experience with CALM's Publication Branch.



WELCOME HOME

CALM welcomes home its Vietnam Veterans: Leon Griffiths, Metropolitan Region; Roy Harris, Geenough Region; Logan Stace, Wheatbelt Region; Brian Mahony, Southern Forest Region; Lance Jackson, Northern Forest Region; Robert Selkirk, Como; Bernie Haberley, South Coast Region; Kevin Morrison, Como; Karl Mucjanko, Southern Forest Region; Rick

France, Southern Forest Region; Jim Shugg, Southern Forest Region; Brian Otway, Southern Forest Region; Greg Kelly, Central Forest Region.

We apologise if we left any Vietnam Veteran off the list, and will be glad to welcome you home in the next edition of CALM News if you get in touch with Richard Grant at Crawley on (09) 386 8811.



SAS and regular troops take time off for a concert at Luscombe Base, Nui Dat, during the Vietnam war.

Vietnam—experience will be remembered

By JOHN HUNTER

APRIL 1968, Saigon had just experienced a bloody Tet offensive by Viet Cong, Australian Adviser Major Peter Badcoe had recently been killed, and our troops were on full alert.

I had been chosen with eight other entertainers to be the first Australian party to perform on major Allied bases in South Vietnam.

The rush induction in the forces was painful and exhausting.

A dozen of the worst vaccinations imaginable, briefing on self-preservation and protocol, and frantic rehearsing preceded a presentation of dog tags, temporary officer status and will forms.

I thought at the time, "My God, what have I volunteered for?"

No pay, only five months married, already suffering a mild dose of typhoid and the possibility of flying into oblivion.

I didn't fly into oblivion, however, and for a month I enjoyed that other side of war business in an occupied country.

The roller coaster ride to many bases, some just fox holes with sand bags, dirt, grime, sweat, insects, mortar explosions and machine guns always ended with happy, laughing gatherings and story swapping.

In hindsight it was a tonic to performers and soldiers alike.

The occupation forces of American and Australian soldiers were not unlike the Romans in Britain; a call to duty and a job to be done.

Australian soldiers were a minor force in number but were a potent brew with a high head price.

I can see those thousands of faces now, boyish, fun-loving young conscripts and wizened, expressionless old warriors doing another stint in the game

they knew best.

In truth, I can't forget some of the officers, and contrary to what you hear, they were overworked, they overcares and they carried their frustrations magnificently.

The tour party travelled to many varied sites from the seething four-million people metropolis of Saigon, to the quiet palatial French summer retreats of Vung Tua, to the cool green mountains at Pleiku, to the hot dusty Australian

base in a rubber plantation at Nui Dat.

It was typical of that conflict in Vietnam that you could live in tropical splendour on one side of the mountain and die in a miserable ditch on the other.

I enjoyed the company and the enthusiastic new friends I met in 1968, but home is where the heart is.

It is time to let those episodes dwindle to nostalgic gatherings of old soldiers and performers.

FACELIFT FOR ARBORETUM

A \$20 000 facelift has been given to the Kalgoorlie Arboretum as recommended in the 1985 Goldfield Regional Tourism Development Plan.

The new facilities, which include a walk trail, scenic drive through, picnic facilities and carpark, were opened by Conservation and Land Management Minister Barry Hodge recently.

The Arboretum will serve as a demonstration area for arid area tree species, an aesthetic area for public recreation and education and an area for research into arid area tree planting.

The Arboretum has been called a legacy to the foresight and hard work of the foresters who planned the arboretum in the 1950s, and planted and maintained the trees since.

Those foresters include George Brockway, Bob Donovan, Phil Barret, Bill Brennan, Peter Richmond and Norm Caporn.

A site for the Arboretum was proposed in 1952 and the planting of trees began in 1954, with 25 trees of six species.

In 1959, 50 species were planted, mainly local species of eucalyptus.

A further 10 species were planted, including the Dundas Mahogany, completing the second phase in 1960.

The remainder of the Arboretum was planted in 1973, using the new 0.5ha group plantings.

The Arboretum has 50 species ranging from local

eucalyptus to trial planting of river gums from throughout Australia.

In 1985, with the amalgamation of the Department, the development of the Arboretum as a recreation and education facility began.

In addition to the carpark, walk trail, scenic drive circuit and picnic facilities, work has been done on landscaping, drainage and some shrub

planting, signposting and fencing.

As Kalgoorlie grows the Arboretum and its facilities will provide people with an educational and recreational environment.

Goldfields Regional Manager Ian Kealley said CALM has received recognition from the residents and the people using the facilities who appreciate the efforts in developing and managing the area.

WA venue for IFA conference

IT had been 19 years since the last Institute of Foresters Conference was held in Perth, and although there was no earthquake as there was on that opening day years ago, the most recent conference was still memorable.

More than 300 people involved in forestry throughout Australia gathered in Perth for a week of talks, papers, social gatherings and plain catching up with old friends.

The Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, opened the biannual conference.

The theme this year was Forest Management in Australia.

According to CALM Senior Fire Control Officer Rick Sneeuwjagt, the theme brought relevance and immediacy to the conference as speakers addressed state of the art forest management throughout Australia.

"All the experts in the field were brought together here to discuss the practicalities of forestry as used in the major forest types in Australia," Rick said.

The papers presented at the conference, which Rick said were professional and well-delivered, will be published as a reference book.

The National Forestry Policy, IFA's policy on the

management of forest lands in Australia, was launched by Minister Kay Hallahan on the Premier's behalf on the last day of the conference.

Rick said: "The policy included many examples of WA forestry, which indicated that CALM is a leader in many management fields, including timber production, fire control and public participation."

As with every conference, the social programme was almost as important as the business programme.

The week included a family picnic in King park; a hospitality evening by Perth-based foresters; a river cruise during which Roger Underwood's book, 'Leaves of the Forest', was launched; a formal banquet at the Parmelia Hilton, with the 1987 Max Jacobs oration given by NZ forester John Groome; and a closing luncheon on Friday with the launch of the National Forestry Policy.

Granite outcrop study clears orienteering

ORIENTEERING, a cross-country navigation competition done on foot, has little impact on lichen-covered granite outcrops.

FIRE SEASON EARLY

CALM declared its fire season more than a month early in October because of extreme fire conditions that exist in the South-West.

Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, said that levels of forest fuel were high and the bush extremely dry, conditions that could cause an intense fire to spread quickly.

He said that in farming areas despite the greenness of paddocks, combustibility was also extremely high.

Dr Shea said that the fire behaviour of routine prescribed aerial burns carried out by the Department recently was similar to those normally experienced in late November and December.

Farmers and landowners planning to conduct burning off activities are reminded of the risks and the need to follow all the relevant precautions.

CALM has asked people picnicking or recreating in the bush to use only properly constructed barbecues and to ensure that fires were completely extinguished before leaving a site.

This is the finding of a study by the Orienteering Association of WA on the effects of orienteering on granite outcrops.

CALM Northern Region Parks and Reserves Officer Ian Herford requested the study be done because of his concern for these fragile environments.

The study, which involved 30 members of the club walking and running the length of a low granite outcrop during a competition, was devised by Sue Moore, CALM Senior Planning Officer, acting on behalf of the Orienteering Association, of which she is a member.

Sue said that because

there was a possible conflict of interest with the Orienteering Association evaluating the effects of orienteering on granite outcrops, it was important that the study be scientifically sound.

"We were very concerned about the methodology and objectiveness, which is why we talked to the scientists to get expert advice.

"Wildlife Research helped with the methodology, then we went to Dave Ward, at Como who helped with statistics, so it was a study that involved the efforts of the Northern Region, the Orienteering Association, and Research," she said.

The study showed that the impact of the runners over a small granite outcrop covered in lichen resulted in less than one per cent of the surface being disturbed.

The study proposed guidelines to absolutely minimise the impact of orienteering on lichen-covered surfaces:

- Locate check points to avoid vegetated rock surfaces;
- Wear soft-soled shoes;
- Educate orienteers through their clubs about sensitive environments; and
- Include the first recommendation as a guideline in the course setter's handbook.

FUR SEAL SPOTTED

CALM Supervising Wildlife Officer Doug Coughran has spotted a Subantarctic Fur Seal in waters close to Perth.

Subantarctic Fur Seals live on isolated islands that lie north of the Antarctic convergence where cold Antarctic water sinks below warmer subantarctic water.

Doug has sent photographs of the animal to the CSIRO for positive identification.

The fur seal was first spotted in Cockburn Sound during a patrol by Wildlife Officers.

It was seen again in the Sound, and Doug recently saw it outside Hillarys boat harbour while on holidays.

The adult male Subantarctic Fur Seal is a dark

greyish brown with a grey-coloured belly.

The chest, nose and face to above the eyes are white to orange.

Adult female fur seals are similar in colour.

The first recorded visit to our part of the ocean by this species was about 12 months ago, according to Chief Wildlife Officer

OVER the next six months, a project team co-ordinated by Senior Planning Officer Sue Moore will be collecting information and comments on conservation and recreation in the Fitzgerald River National Park.

This information will provide a basis for a draft management plan.

All information gathered will be carefully considered and, in consultation with the local community, another six

months will be spent preparing the draft.

Once released, the plan will be available for public comment for two months.

Other members of the project team are Hugh Chevis, Martin Lloyd and Chris Hart, Albany; Wayne Schmidt, Recreation and Landscape; and Steve Hopper, Wildlife Research.

If you have any information or comments, please contact Hugh Chevis or Sue Moore.

