

# Funds for Tree

# Program

By JOHN BARTLE

CALM has recently received a \$1.12 million grant under the Federal Government's National Afforestation Programme.

The programme was set-up to foster large scale tree planting to achieve both rehabilitation and production objectives on Australian farms.

The grant will be used for a three-year project designed to improve the technical basis of the hardwood sharefarming scheme which was recently established by CALM, and to stimulate the scheme's expansion.

The hardwood sharefarming scheme applies the successful sharefarming formula to commercially valuable eucalypts which

also have potential for rehabilitation of water quality problems.

These problems include salinity in water supply catchments and the phosphorus pollution of wetlands and estuaries.

The eucalypts with commercial value include *E. globulus*, the Tasmanian bluegum.

These species have rapid early growth (up to about 10 years) but then suffer a check in growth and become prone to drought death.

**THE first five park rangers trained to join CALM under its new traineeship scheme have been appointed.**

Their traineeship period is for two years and in that time they will study for the Certificate in National Park Management while gaining practical work experience in different parks.

At the completion of their course the trainees will be eligible to become permanent park rangers.

The traineeship scheme is a recent CALM initiative designed to provide a sound grounding for future park rangers and to reinforce the standard of personnel entering the National Park work force.

Signifying another milestone for the Department, one of the trainees, Ms Anne Greig, is set to become the first female National Park ranger in WA.

Anne, who last worked as a horticulturist, and is about to complete a diploma of horticulture, will begin her traineeship at John Forrest.

The other four trainees and their starting locations are — Michael Paxman, Cape le Grande; Geoff Passmore and Mark True, Torndirrup; and Arvid Hogstrom, Yanchep.

They had, therefore, been discounted as suitable for rehabilitation plantings.

However, recent research has shown that their rehabilitation value during rapid growth is good.

As young trees they also produce high quality wood pulp currently in strong demand on world markets.

As a short-rotation crop they could serve a valuable role in our agricultural systems in the wetter (greater than 600mm rainfall) areas of the south-west.

The National Afforestation project will establish two large 'demonstration farms' and about 50 plots of 10ha distributed across the south west.

These will be used to explore ways in which tree farming can be meshed-in with conventional agriculture, to determine the on-farm productivity and economics of combined tree/conventional farming and to measure the water quality benefits.

The plots will be used as the focus for a major publicity campaign.

The Department of

Agriculture and the Water Authority of W.A. are partners with CALM in this project.

The six staff positions for the project have recently been advertised.

## Repl

**A SITE along the Quairading-Bruce Rock road has been replanted with the rare and endangered *Banksia cuneata*.**

The site is one of only six known locations where the plant grows, and there were probably less than 400 plants surviving in the wild before this project was undertaken.

The plant, which forms a magnificent display along the roadside when in flower in October, has been adopted as the Quairading Shire Council's emblem.

The history of the project goes back to early in 1987 when the Roadside Conser-