



CALM News

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& LAND MANAGEMENT
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PROTECTION Branch's Brian Cornell briefs CALM officers on how to set up the new control point caravan.

A new caravan, designed by CALM's Fire Protection Branch, is specially equipped to help cope with the control point pressures that come with a campaign fire organisation.

Fire Protection Manager Rick Sneeuw-jagt said: "When a large fire organisation becomes a campaign fire, officers and gangs from other districts are called in, along with other organisations like the Bush Fire Board, the State Emergency

Fire fighters control point

Services, Shires, and volunteer brigades."

A bigger caravan than the district control point caravan was needed.

Rick said the caravan will house the controller, the intelligence officer and liaison officer, and the district van will be-

come the communication centre and despatch centre.

There is also an annexe on the caravan, which can be used by the supply officer.

Inside the spacious caravan are map tables, white boards and desks,

making briefings much easier.

The unit, which is air-conditioned, is a comfortable, quiet, working area for the controller to make decisions about what the fire is going to do and how to fight it.

The caravan is kept at Como, with a vehicle ready to tow it at all times.

A number of CALM staff have been trained to set the caravan and annexe up, and ensure that everything is running properly.

Plantation bears fruit . . .

HARVESTING STARTS AT MILWARD

By ROGER ARMSTRONG

NESTLED behind Nannup in the South West, is a pine plantation called Milward.

In the winters of 1957-59 Nannup crews planted thousands of pine seedlings that now form the impressive stands of Milward.

Milward was the 663ha embryo of a plantation estate now totalling 62,000ha statewide.

Most of the men who planted Milward are long gone, as are the isolated outstations in which they lived.

Alan (Bull) Guthridge is one of the few remaining that was there at the birth of this plantation.

His memories of planting in the middle of a Nannup winter are mixed.

In the "good old days" all planting was done by hand using a spade and carrying seedlings in an old kerosene tin.

Being covered in mud, drenched by rain and being whipped by a chilling wind were all part of the job.

But then so was the joking and comradeship around the billyfire, the one-upmanship of the planting races and the sense of satisfaction at a job well done at the end of the season.

All that work is now coming to fruition. Milward is being clearfelled.

Six truckloads a hectare (approx. 18 cubic metres) of sawlog and one truckload a hectare of particle-board (approx 35 cubic metres) are being produced from this operation.

This represents an income of about \$8600 a hectare (\$5.6 million for the plantation) to the public of WA, not to mention the employment and income produced directly and indirectly.

(20,000 people are employed in WA as a result of timber based industries).

The cycle will now begin again with Nannup crews replanting Milward for the next rotation.

The timber from Milward has supplied houses and furniture to this generation.

Milward will again supply materials for our children.

Assistance aids study

CALM will receive \$140,000 this year for six projects under the State's Co-operative Assistance Programme.

The programme, administered by the ANPWS, provides funding to State and Territory nature conservation authorities for projects of national and international significance.

Since it was initiated in 1983, nearly \$3 million has been made available to the States.

This year \$25,000 will go towards continuing research in the Ningaloo Marine Park, including the study of current flow, atmospheric influences, population and distribution of fish species, diversity and cover of coral as well as preparation of habitat maps.

Stage two of the Western Australian Endangered Eucalypt Survey receives a grant of \$44,000 to enable

CALM to continue the study begun last year to expand knowledge of rare and endangered Eucalypts in Western Australia.

Work this year will include setting up a computer data base and co-ordinating field surveys.

A grant of \$18,200 will support a conservation project for two species of Kangaroo Paw — the Black Kangaroo Paw and the Yellow Kangaroo Paw.

This research will seek to determine factors influencing pollination, seed set, germination and seedling establishment of these plants.

It will specifically examine the impact of commercial activity on the wild populations of species popular in the cut flower trade.

An analysis of data from banded ducks will receive \$18,000.

The analysis will cover the movement and survival rates of wild ducks, seasonal weight changes and moulting activity.

From this an attempt will be made to assess hunting mortality and data will be supplied to the Australian Bird Banding Scheme.

\$13,000 will be provided to help set up a captive breeding program for the Western Swamp Tortoise, a species restricted to one locality near Perth, and having a wild population of less than 20.

Herdsman Lake plan underway

By HELEN FORDHAM

TWELVE years after the Concept Plan for Herdsman Lake was first released, a management plan is now underway.

Environmental consultants Maunsells, have been selected to work with a CALM project team to produce a Draft Management Plan for this suburban wetland.

Herdsman Lake is certainly not pristine, but it is a unique environment in the Metropolitan Region.

More than 81 species of bird have been listed at the lake and the wetland plays an important role in migratory and breeding bird patterns.

The conservation value of the area has been widely acknowledged.

As early as 1950 the Stephenson/Hepburn Report suggested the area be maintained for its conservation values, and this was endorsed by the World Wildlife Fund in 1979.

A concept plan for the Wetland Area was produced by the MRPA in 1976 which provided a framework for the development of the lake.

The Plan recommended the amalgamation of Crown, MRPA and privately owned land into an

A Class reserve for wildlife conservation and passive recreation.

The major objectives were the maintenance of the area as a flood plain and drainage system for the surrounding area, the protection of bird habitat, and the building of a Nature Study Centre.

This last objective was achieved in 1976 when the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre has opened, managed by the Gould League.

Previously, formal management of the area has been impossible due to the complex tenure patterns and number of vested interest groups.

There are four government departments with an interest, not to mention local councils, community groups and conservation bodies.

In an effort to facilitate the diversity of demands on the area a Herdsman Lake Advisory Committee was appointed in 1986 which has formulated a series of recommended

policies for incorporation in the management plan.

A draft management plan is expected to be finished by September and will address a whole range of issues including the use of heptachlor on Argentine Ants, the mining of diatomaceous earth, fire, drainage and water quality.

The recreation potential

of Herdsman Lake will also be explored.

The SPC are the current managers and CALM is implementing an improvement Plan for the area.

However, it is envisaged that by mid 1988 Herdsman Lake will have been vested in NPNCA and managed by CALM's Metropolitan Region.

REIGN OF "TERROR" OVER

By CHRIS DONE

On the lower reaches of the Ord River adjacent to CALM's Parry's Lagoons Nature Reserve a large crocodile had for some time been terrorising Agriculture Protection Board employees.

In the course of their duties the A.P.B. crew would regularly travel by small boat to the opposite side of the river where they would spend the day controlling outbreaks of the noxious weed Noogoora Burr.

At the end of the day they would then use the punt to return to their camp.

"Terror" as the 13 foot (or is it 3.95 metres) croc was later called, became increasingly interested in these regular cross river trips and even came up and nudged the punt on a number of occasions.

Discussions between Wildlife Officer Mike Osborn and the A.P.B. crew indicated that it would not be easy to reduce the regularity of their river crossing so it was decided to relocate the crocodile to the Broome Crocodile Park.

An attempt was made to trap the crocodile last year to no avail.

However, when Mike set up two traps 10 days before Easter there was an almost immediate response.

On the first night a much smaller crocodile was captured and as it

was obviously not "Terror", it was released.

The second night resulted in "Terror's" capture in the arc — mesh trap and Mike Osborn and Dave Rose, with the assistance of the A.P.B. crew, lifted the croc trap and all onto our trailer which was then taken back to Kununurra.

"Terror" was then picked up by Mark Johnson from the Broome Crocodile Park and taken direct to Broome.

From capture to relocation in a secure pond in Broome some 1200km distant by road took only two days.

"Terror" and his new girlfriend "Crookjaw" are now getting to know each other and are apparently enjoying the good life.

FROM MY DESK

I'm not actually writing this from 'my desk', but one normally occupied by Chris Haynes who is on holidays.

It is a belief among some who have a concern for the natural environment, that tourists or "terrorists" as called in some parts are great despoilers.

This negative view is reinforced by recent examples of some insensitive tourist "developments" in this State.

It pleased me to read a recently published, tourism industry sponsored report on tourism in the Kimberley Region.

That report recognised the need to conserve the environment of the Kimberley, in fact, the top priority was to "preserve the Kimberley's unspoilt wilderness".

The report is indicative of a growing awareness in that industry of the symbiotic relationship between tourism and the protection and maintenance of our unique flora, fauna and landscapes.

Indeed, that industry in many respects has the potential to become a strong ally in helping us conserve our natural heritage.

The changing attitudes in the tourism industry are no doubt due, in part, to the positive influence of CALM staff in bringing an awareness of the need (and benefits) of protecting the natural environment (i.e. the uniqueness which attracts people to experience and appreciate).

It is another example of where working closely and co-operatively with people can result in attitude change.

Hopefully the tourist industry, which brings great economic and social benefits to the State, will continue to see positive attitudes to tourism from CALM staff as we endeavour to match the objective of conserving our natural environment with the enjoyment and appreciation of the same.

JIM SHARP

Acting Director of National Parks

STAFF NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

Sue Osborne has been appointed Marine Park Manager for Ningaloo (temporarily at Como). Other appointments were Andrew Chapman, Operations Officer, Kalgoorlie; Peter Whitehead, Systems Programmer, Computer Services, Como; Tim Langford-Smith, Marketing Officer, Information Branch, Como; Stan Bellgard, Forest Ranger (Technician), Dwellingup Research; and Judy Jackson Officer, Karratha. Stephanie Hutson, Officer, Como and Vicki Morgan, Officer, Albany are now permanent staff members.

PROMOTIONS

John Bartle to Principal Research Scientist, Como; Stuart Halse to Senior Research Scientist, Woodvale; Brad Cockman, former Ranger-in-Charge, Stirling Range National

Park to Senior Ranger, Busselton. Two similar Senior Ranger promotions were George Duxbury, from Cape Range to John Forrest National Park, and Ron Shimmion at Yanchep National Park.

TRANSFERS

Mike Cantelo, Forester, Margaret River to Ludlow; Stephen Dutton, Forest Ranger, Kirup to Bunbury; Kingsley Miller, Special Investigations Officer, Wildlife Protection, Geraldton to Como; Hardy Derschow, Ranger, Walpole to Yanchep National Park, and Nathan McQuoid, Ranger Yanchep National Park is now a Mobile Ranger.

RETIREMENTS

Ken Gibbs, Ranger, Yanchep National Park, retired after 30 years of park work, all of it spent at Yanchep.

Safety Success for staff

THE number of Districts qualifying for the Executive Directors Personal Award scheme has been increasing and Dr Shea is having a busy time scheduling all the presentations into his busy work itinerary.

To close the 1987 year presentation ceremonies were held on the December 9 at Jarrahdale and Mundaring.

Both groups successfully achieving one year without a lost time injury accident.

After the presentation of rechargeable torches at Jarrahdale a delightful lunch was supplied by the District and enjoyed by all employees and visitors.

It was then on the road to Mundaring for a mid afternoon presentation at which all employees received a beach towel.

On February 11, the Executive Director accompanied by staff from Crawley and Como flew into the Grimwade Airstrip to be met by the Kirup District Manager and staff.

Flying into the strip for the first time was an experience in itself with several concerned passengers wondering about the virtues of flying.

The presentation ceremony was held in the Kirup office lawns.

All employees agreed to donate their award to the benefit of the Donnybrook Fire Brigade and St John's Ambulance for

THE draft management plans for the Waroona Reservoir and Logue Brook Reservoir, and their catchment areas, were jointly released on March 15 by the Minister for Water Resources, Ernie Bridge, and the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge.

These are the first management plans prepared jointly by CALM and the Water Authority.

They were prepared by a project team comprising Jim Williamson, CALM, Manager Planning Branch; Ian Wood, Water Authority, Environmental Officer;

Ministers release draft plans for SW reservoirs

Bowman, Bishaw and Associates, Consultants; Peter Henderson, CALM, District Manager, Harvey.

The plans indicate the increasing cooperation between Government departments.

They were prepared by the above project team in close consultation with Waroona and Harvey Shires as well as the Department of Marine and Harbours, and the South

West Development Authority.

Consultation, discussion and public participation has been achieved in the following form:

* Regular meetings of the project team.

* Three meetings of the steering committee comprising representatives from CALM, Water Authority, Waroona and Harvey Shires, South West Development

Authority and Marine and Harbours.

* Structured workshop at Waroona.

* Written submissions from interested people — general public.

* Written response from CALM branches.

* Comment from CALM policy directorate.

Separate plans have been prepared for Waroona and for Logue Brook, although the content is almost identical.

The plans recommend

that recreational use of the dams and catchments should continue at about the present level, with zoning to minimise potential conflicts between users.

The plans also recommend greater co-operation between the rangers and field officers from the shires, Water Authority, CALM and Marine and Harbours.

This was one of the recommendations that came from a successful public workshop held during the preparation of the plan, and will be achieved under the auspices of a consultative committee.

The two draft plans will be available for public comment until May 13.

MIXED FORTUNES AT YANCHEP

By ALLAN BURBIDGE

A MIXTURE of good news and bad news has been the order of the day during recent biological survey work at Yanchep National Park.

Major sampling sessions for the survey, which is being carried out by officers from Research Division with assistance from local Park Ranger staff, began in October and is being concluded currently.

National Park rangers at Yanchep have assisted with digging holes for the 138 pit traps used in the survey, and have also assisted in the trapping sessions.

The good news is that the reptiles and frogs seem to be doing well and we have been able to add several species to the list of species known for Yanchep.

Interesting finds included turtle frogs which were caught in pit traps after rain and the endangered Carpet Python which Park Rangers occasionally record in the Park.

A number of interesting plants have come to light, including the second known population of a declared rare eucalypt which is so "new" that it hasn't been named yet — and it is only about 50km from the GPO!

The bad news is that some of the native mammals seem not to be faring very well.

The diminutive Honey Possum is still abundant but we have not yet caught any of several other species of mammals which have

been recorded in the Park in the past.

The only rodents we have found so far are the introduced Black Rat and the House Mouse.

One of the objects of the current (autumn) trapping session is to determine whether the native Bush Rat, which was once common in the Park, is still present.

The Brush-tailed Possum has also declined in numbers and is now possibly extinct in the Park.

We have not seen it in the Park and it has not been recorded by Ranger staff in recent years.

Three other mammals known to have occurred in Yanchep and not recorded in recent years are the Chuditch, Ash-grey Mouse and Western Pygmy-possum.



Jim Rolfe (Research Division) and Terry Goodlich (Yanchep National Park) drilling a hole for a pit trap for the Yanchep biological survey.



PROBLEM LOOMS AT MILLSTREAM

THE main features of Millstream are the four large riverine pools surrounded by Cajeput forest.

Each pool rests in a depression dammed up by alluvial debris at the downstream end.

On this alluvium are reeds, Cajeput trees and in some cases, Millstream Palms.

From time to time this alluvium is eroded away by river floods, the trees swept away and the pools set up at a new level.

This dynamic process is happening at the bottom end of Crossing Pool but was halted by sand bagging in winter 1987 by the Water Authority.

A strong river flow in January 1988 has swept away the sand bags (see picture) and most of the reeds (foreground).

Another flow could see erosion of the reeds and the pool will drop two metres.

If this happens, the Cajeput forest and camping ground near Crossing Pool could be starved of water and the tr collapse.

At the instigation of the Policy Directorate, Water Authority Engineers from Karratha are investigating the possibility of damming the Crossing Pool outflow channels to maintain the current status of Crossing Pool.

I ENJOYED Barry Wilson's short article on conservation philosophy, especially his vivid images of boiled numbats, squashed invertebrates and Hindu kangaroo stew — delicious!

His final paragraph, however, sent a slight shiver down my spine.

Barry suggested that decisions on environmental matters should be based on "scientific principles", and that other perspectives should be tolerated, but presumably not taken into serious consideration. This seems to me to

Science Sound, but . . .

propose a cold, logical positivist approach to decision making and that is full of dangers.

While working scientists may choose to exclude ethics, aesthetics and metaphysics from their thinking, it is important that those who direct scientists and make environmental decisions should give strong emphasis to these three areas of thought, perhaps even more than to the epistemology and logic of empirical science.

Otherwise we may end up making some decisions which are "scientifically" sound, but atrocious in humanitarian terms — the essence of ecofacism, where a small fanatical group may impose their views on society at large.

The hostility of some timber workers to the "greenies" can be interpreted as resistance to this cold, narrow, "scientific" approach to environmental decision making. Let us develop a

philosophy of conservation and land management which is firstly human and secondly scientific.

Logic is a great tool, but as our master it robs us of our humanity.

Remember the late Dr. Mengler?

I hope I misunderstood Barry's outlook on environmental decision making.

DAVID WARD

In the spirit of a healthy debate Barry Wilson will respond to this article in the next issue of CALM News.

WANTED: Copy for next edition of CALM News. Contact Richard Grant 386 8811.

BJ's Blessed

On a hot Sunday in February former Regional Manager of the Metropolitan Region Barney White; now happily retired, joined Marine Park staff in the field off Marmion. Patrol work was briefly interrupted when the Department's vessel — named after Barney, joined a flotilla of pennant clad craft in the new Hillarys Boat Harbour for the blessing of the fleet. The ceremony was conducted by Father Brian Morrison and his entourage of Naval Cadets. After a few safe words and a dash of Holy water hitting the spray curtain, it was back out in the field for a busy afternoon.



GREG POBAR and Barney White prepare for the blessing by Fr Brian.

SATELLITE IMAGERY AID TO MANAGEMENT

By CHRIS DONE

SATELLITE Imagery has been used sporadically over the years for a number of management purposes in the Kimberley Region.

The first use that the then Forests Department was able to put it to was to interpret and measure areas of so called "fringing forests" around Lake Argyle.

These forests featured in a Landscape article and Jim Williamson of Planning Branch was able to recognise 11,000 ha of area which could potentially become fringing forests.

Much less than this has so far been established, however.

Following this work I was interested in using the same techniques as a fire management tool and was able to plot the progress of a huge fire in the north Kimberley over a four-month period from July to November 1980.

The fire burnt out a massive 11,000 sq km which was about half the land area on the particular image scene and probably extended to much more than this on adjacent scenes.

(Another interesting observation was that most areas did not burn in two successive years even despite rapid grass growth during the wet season. This observation has subsequently been confirmed by other studies).

This particular fire started on a pastoral lease and eventually burnt out much of the lease on which it started, the Drysdale River National Park, large areas of Aboriginal Reserve and portions of several other stations.

The information gained convinced the (former) Forests Department that a Bush Fires Board presence

should be sought for the Kimberley and this cause was taken up by the Pastoralists and Grazier Association, resulting in an Aerial Prescribed Burning Programme being commenced in 1987, to provide buffers against fires and a full time B.F.B. liaison officer being appointed to the area in January 1988.

Satellites have since been used extensively to map rainforest occurrences, and this work under Norm McKenzie from CALM's Research Centre at Woodvale is proving so sensitive that at one stage a backyard size patch of mango trees and bananas was picked up from the imagery.

This work is still progressing.

Recent satellite imagery has been used by the Bush Fires Board to determine the effectiveness of the aerial prescribed burning programme in 1987.

These images can also give us a good idea of fuel ages in our large and remote reserves such as the Prince Regent River Nature Reserve and the Drysdale River National Park.

Curtin University Graduate, Paul Harris, carried out a study of the Drysdale River National Park area using Landsat Images and his work has given us valuable leads on fire management issues.

The use of satellite imagery appears to be one way that staff of remote regions such as the Kimberley, with limited staff and very poor access to many areas, can build up a much more comprehensive information base.

Fox baiting to help mammals

THREATENED native mammals like the woylie and the numbat will have increased chances of survival through a baiting programme aimed at the introduced fox.

The 1080 baiting programme will be carried out by CALM in selected areas throughout WA.

Fox control research by CALM, conducted over several years, has shown a dramatic increase in the population of marsupials with the removal of foxes.

Areas selected for the programme are important habitats for threatened marsupials, whose populations have suffered from fox predation.

Areas in the Wheatbelt

include Dryandra, Boyagin, Tutanning, Nangeen Hill, Mt Caroline, Tutakin Rock, Sales Rock, Mt Stirling and Yornaning, where the woylie, the tamar wallaby, the rock wallaby and the red-tailed phascogale are in danger.

On the south coast, the North Fitzgerald River area is included in the programme, to safeguard the tamar, the ground parrot and the heath rat.

By removing foxes from Perup in the Southern Forest, the woylie and tamar will be protected.

In the metropolitan area, Ellen Brook will be part of the programme to ensure the only small population of the short-necked tortoise is not wiped out.

Baiting will be conducted regularly and the impacts of baiting closely monitored by CALM, with the help of the Agriculture Protection Board, for at least a year.

The programme will then be reviewed and, if necessary, redesigned.

Swan River report review

THREE important reserves on the Swan River will be protected from future development and their integrity maintained if the proposals in the Swan River Management Strategy are adopted by the State Government.

The report sets down management strategies which will be used by other agencies to prepare detailed management plans for the Swan-Canning Estuary.

These relatively large areas — Alfred Cove, Pelican Point and Milyu Nature Reserves — are important habitat for many species of waterbirds.

Metropolitan Region Planning Officer Leon Griffiths and Planning Branch Manager Jim Williamson spent many hours in consultation with the Swan River Management Strategy Taskforce to ensure the environmental aspects of the Swan were recognised.

The report also refers to other areas where wildlife might be considered to be important.

It emphasises the need for one agency to liaise closely with all Government agencies involved in the management of the Swan River.

The report also recommends that regional parks be formed to cater for the management of open spaces associated with the river and foreshore.

The public submission period for the report has closed, with 65 substantial submissions received.

The draft will be amended, then submitted to a five-member Cabinet committee headed by Conservation and Land Management Minister Barry Hodge for consideration.

Fauna policy

A working group has been formed to prepare a draft Departmental Policy on Declared Rare Fauna.

The group aims to:
* Develop a draft policy on declared rare fauna
* Revise the current list of species

* Consider licensing in relation to declared rare fauna.

The working group is chaired by Andrew Burbidge.

Bardi community Ranger training

FOUR Aboriginal Community Rangers from One Arm Point visited Perth from April 18 to 22.

These men, along with another 11 Aboriginal Rangers in four communities in the north and west Kimberley, have recently commenced a Ranger training programme devised and co-ordinated by ANPWS Training Officer, Steve Szabo.

The expertise of CALM regional staff will be drawn upon to provide the bulk of skills training for these programmes.

Additional training will be provided through other agencies including the AAPA, WA Museum Aboriginal Sites Department, DEET and TAFE.

These community Ranger training programmes differ from other Aboriginal Ranger training as occurred at Millstream and is underway in the Bungle Bungle.

Firstly, these men are employed by their own communities and are answerable to their Community Councils.

The land they are managing and operating on is not a CALM responsibility, but leasehold land held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust on behalf of their communities.

The third significant difference is the method by which training occurs.

In an endeavour to make the best use of available training personnel, there is no resident training officer.

engaged in an on-going works programme based on their own area's needs with training activities of 3 to 5 days occurring throughout the 12-month training period.

The onus for maintaining the programme and overseeing the progress and performance of trainees thus falls largely on the individual communities.

The One Arm Point Rangers are members of the Bardi Tribe who traditionally occupied the islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago and the northern end of the Dampierland Peninsula.

They still depend on the resources of their marine environment and have a depth of accumulated knowledge of the islands and natural and cultural history of this region.

The purpose of their visit is twofold.

During their five days in Perth they gained first hand knowledge of CALM's role and functions through meeting key staff and visiting a number of CALM establishments and operations in the metropolitan area.

Their other objective while in Perth was to finalise the selection of a workboat to facilitate their management of the islands and reefs of the Buccaneer Archipelago.

It is envisaged that the boat will be used to assist in wildlife research and monitoring projects such as turtle tagging and dugong counts.

Community members have participated in such project with Dr Bob Prince from CALM's Research

Division.

This involvement will be expanded and developed through this programme.

The Rangers will also have responsibility to patrol the area and police the activities of professional fishermen, recreational fishermen and locals.

Their presence may even discourage entry of Indonesian fishing boats which have threatened the local trochus shelling enterprise.

Funding for the boat has been provided for this purpose through the Aboriginal

Affairs Planning Authority in Perth.

Coxswain training will commence for the four Rangers as soon as the new boat arrives at One Arm Point.

The area of the Buccaneer Archipelago has enormous nature conservation significance, excellent tourist potential and a rich and living cultural history.

The appointment and training of Aboriginal Rangers goes a long way toward balancing these potentially incompatible values.

• DIRECTOR of Nature Conservation, Dr Barry Wilson, and I spent an interesting weekend on the Dampier Peninsula north of Broome recently.

There were several objectives of the trip which included dialogue between the Aboriginal communities and CALM about the conservation of dugong and turtles, Aboriginal conservation training programme and the formation of (terrestrial & marine) National Parks in the area.

The opportunity was also taken to inspect proposed nature reserves in the Cape Leveque, Cape Bonda and Deepwater Point areas.

The peninsular, adjacent islands and reef systems are an extremely important area for both nature conservation and tourism.

CALM can look forward to an ever-increasing role in the area. — CHRIS DONE.

WILDLIFE SHOW ATTRACTION

ON March 26 Metropolitan Region Supervising Ranger Jim Maher was approached to set up a Wildlife Show with live native animals at the Star of the Sea School fete.

Through the Fauna Rehabilitation Foundation and with the assistance of Barbara Poor, Jim managed to acquire a Tawny Frogmouth Owl, Magpie, Kookaburra and a five-month-old female Euro.

These animals were on display along with a selection of CALM brochures and posters.

The Wildlife Show proved an enormous success with the area constantly crowded throughout the afternoon.

Jim was inundated with enquiries about local flora and fauna and more particularly questions about future developments on Penguin and Seal Islands, Shoalwater Bay and surrounding inland wetlands.

The positive attitude to CALM and Conservation in general was very encouraging.

The fete was financially rewarding for the school with \$7,500 being raised, and Jim Maher's menagerie, as the stars of the show, were invited back for a repeat performance next year.



WAYNE SCHMIDT (left) and Jim Sharp explain the purpose of the recreation workshop to the participants.

Trench stops fire near Lake Muir

CALM's Southern Region staff recently adopted unusual methods to contain a large peat fire in the Tordit Gurrup Nature Reserve near Lake Muir.

This involved digging a trench in the peat to halt the spread of the fire, which was burning through rushes and dry peat.

District Manager at Manjimup, Bob Hagen explained that this fire started in early October from an escape from a private property clearing burn.

"At this time the fire burnt in heavy rushes and these were sufficiently dense for the fire to burn over the surface water of the lake," he said.

CALM's initial attempts at suppressing this fire were severely hampered by the wet and boggy conditions.

It was hoped at the time that once the fire had burnt the rushes it would go out.

"As the area dried out it was evident that the fire had not gone out.

"A close watch was kept on the activities of the smouldering peat and rushes.

"Precautionary fire suppression action involving grading of nearby tracks and the burning of strategic buffers was undertaken periodically over the last few months, to reduce the risk of escape.

"The suppression methods were kept as low key as possible due to the environmentally sensitive nature of the Reserve."

Several weeks ago the fire behaviour in the peat increased dramatically and following an on-site inspection of the area it was resolved to attempt to control the fire using a trenched fire break.

This was initially carried out by hand over two days, with about 1.5 kilometre of trench completed.

This proved successful in halting the spread of the fire on the peat, however it was not successful in the wet rushes.

CALM Fire Protection Officer, Greg Mair explained that despite halting the spread of the fire in the peat, the rushes continued to burn and eventually threatened private property and the neighbouring Nature Reserve.

"It was decided to attempt to use trenching machinery on the peat," Greg said.

Several trenching machines were trialled on the peat, including a low ground pressure excavator,

and a self propelled trenching machine.

"Both these proved unsuitable because they quickly became bogged."

A prototype all-terrain vehicle was obtained from Altrack in Perth with the intention of hauling water out onto the peat to extinguish the fire.

This machine proved very successful for traversing the peat but was not suitable for carting water because of its small size and configuration.

Following these machine trials, it was decided that the only suppression option left to CALM was to construct the trench in the dry peat to completely surround the fire.

Trench construction was undertaken on February 25 by 30 staff from the Manjimup District.

These men were able to dig approximately 3km of trench through the peat in four hours.

Greg said that since the construction of this fire-break, the fire has largely burnt itself out and there are few signs of continued fire activity on the peat.

"We are hopeful that the considerable efforts of our staff will contain the fire until the winter rains finally extinguish the fire for us," he said.

Bob Hagen said: "We regularly inspect the fire from the air and are able to monitor the success of our fireline from the air.

"This has removed the need for our staff to inspect the area daily on-site, and has enabled our staff to attend to other duties within the District."

CONSERVATION THEME FOR CONFERENCE

THE W.A. group of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects this year hosts their Institute's National Conference, which is now a biennial event.

The venue is the restored Town Hall in the City of Fremantle, and the event runs for two days, Saturday and Sunday 3 and 4 September.

The theme for the Conference, "Conservation for Development — The Challenge and the Opportunity" addresses the important issue of relating development to sound conservation principles, thus creating a situation which is sustainable and, at the same time, vital.

The programme has been drawn up to cover a range of areas including:

- * An overview of Conservation and Development issues.
- * The Urban Framework.
- * Development in the Natural Environment and Rural Areas.
- * The Social and Political Perspective.

Keynote speakers are Justin Murphy a Science Journalist with Channel 9 in Sydney, and Barry Carbon along with Don Viol of the E.P.A. in W.A.

They will address, respectively, Changing So-

Northern Forest Region

RECREATION PLAN TAKES STEP FORWARD

By COLLEEN HENRY-HALL

THE first step has been taken toward developing a recreation plan for the Northern Forest Region with a recent workshop attended by "recreators" and CALM staff.

Ian Herford, the region's Parks and Reserves Officer and the workshop coordinator, said: "The regional management plan has set out certain guidelines for recreation management in the region, and it seemed to be a logical time to develop a recreation plan."

The workshop was similar to public participation workshops held in the past, except that invitations were open to anyone, rather than just representatives of interested recreation groups.

Ian said: "We had about 50 people, and although they couldn't possibly have represented all interests, we had a good spread."

One of the greatest things he said he felt the workshop achieved was "putting faces to the recreators and to CALM staff, who had just been names before."

In the one-day workshop, the participants were briefed on recreational planning by CALM Landscape and Recreation Branch Manager Wayne Schmidt.

The workshop was opened by General Manager Roger Under-

wood, and chaired by National Parks Adviser Jim Sharp.

Behind the scenes coordination was provided by Jill Southgate and John Butts, both of Mundaring District.

Ian said another benefit of the workshop was that the participants got a feel for the complexity of the recreation planning task.

"In the syndicate exer-

cise they began to realise that it's not an easy thing to allocate bits of land to lots of different activities."

The participants also left the workshop with a better understanding of what other people do for recreation, and what their requirements are.

The next stage is to analyse the responses to the syndicate exercise of the workshop.



GENERAL Manager Roger Underwood opened the workshop, and later spoke to some of the participants over a cup of tea.

Bungle Bungle talks fruitful, eventful

DIRECTOR of National Parks Chris Haynes and Kimberley Regional Manager, Chris Done, made an eventful trip into Bungle Bungle recently to discuss progress with management proposals for the Bungle Bungle — Purnululu National Park.

The trip was made more eventful by heavy rain which forced cancellation of plans to fly in and necessitated a five hour trip over slippery bush tracks.

Discussions continued for some three to four hours but had to be terminated when the rain got heavier and threatened to trap the visitors in there for a long stay.

Considerable progress was made towards finalising an agreement which will allow the traditional owners

of the area a meaningful say in the long-term management of the park, in matters which are of special significance to them.

The visitors were also able to advise that work is progressing on the management plan and it is hoped that this will be finalised this year.

A work experience programme has begun under the direction of CALM's training officer Peter McGlew before the start of a formal training programme for Aboriginal Rangers in July.

Other topics discussed included the proposed road maintenance programme, various visitor management strategies, staffing (including the proposal to appoint a full-time manager for the park), siting of camp-

Conservation and Economic Issues and the Conservation Strategy Programme, its Progress and Relevance to Planning Issues.

Other topics from local and interstate speakers, who come from a range of backgrounds include:

- * Expanding Urban Development Opportunities and Creativity in Planning: Some Perspectives Learnt in Transport Energy Conservation.
- * Coastal Planning.
- * The Environmental Op-

Urban Stormwater Quality Management.

* Agenda for Landscape Architects in Residential Areas in Australian Cities.

* Settlement Planning in the Natural Environment.

* Conservation and Development Implications for the Future Wildflower/Horticultural Industry.

* Coastal Planning.

* The Environmental Op-

portunities of Tourism.

* Conservation and Development in the Kimberley Region.

* Conservation for Development: A Social and Political Perspective. All readers are invited to attend the Conference. Full details are available from the Conference Organisers: Annie Ottaway & Associates, G.P.O. Box T1 777, PERTH W.A., 6001. Telephone (09) 322 6730.

CALM to the rescue

THERE were some anxious moments for the driver of this truck as he courageously drove it out of the B.P.

fuel depot at Fitzroy Crossing after it caught fire under the dash, due to an electrical fault.

His presence of mind

and quick action, averted what would have been a very dangerous situation.

This is one of two fires that C.A.L.M. staff at Fitzroy Crossing responded to in less than 12 hours.

The other call was to a bushfire that was threatening houses in the old Fitzroy Crossing townsite area.

Among the houses under threat, was the old National Park Rangers residence, office, and associated buildings.

This fire was soon brought under control with the assistance of the local police sergeant and some of his men — REX

