



Pilbara Regional Manager Tony Start examines the mystery camel driver's grave.

Mystery grave in Chichester Range

By TONY START

THIS is the grave of a camel driver, the last resting place of a pioneer.

He was one of the tough breed of men who provided transport for the earliest station folk in the Pilbara, long before the advent of trucks in that remote region.

They carted stores inland on camel-drawn wagons and returned to the coast laden with wool to be exported through the port of Cossack.

Although these men played a vital role in the opening of the interior, little is recorded about them.

Many were Afghans, others were not although they were frequently referred to as Afghans or simply 'Ghans regardless of their origins.

Mystery surrounds this grave which is no more than a few metres off the Roebourne to Wittenoom road where it climbs the Chichester scarp in Millstream-Chichester National Park.

(This road, the second alignment up the scarp,

was built by hand in the 1890's for the camel wagons. Almost the only modification today is a thin layer of bitumen on the original foundations, but the vehicles that use it have changed!)

It is commonly held that the man who is buried there died when his wagon rolled back onto him, some say, as he was trying to apply the brake.

Some people say he was a German, others insist he was an Afghan, but no-one seems to know who he really was.

The cross at the head of the grave does not help to solve the mystery because it was made and erected in the 1970's by an artist, Gordon Binsted, who spent many months painting in the Chichesters.

Gordon's words are a fine tribute to a pioneer but they don't mention his name.

CALM staff in the Pilbara would like to know more about the man who is buried there because, apart from anything else, termites have all but demolished the cross leaving little more than a shell of white paint.

We, therefore, want to provide a more durable inscription to mark the grave.

Their problem is that, not knowing whether the camel driver was German (and therefore probably Christian) or Afghan (and therefore probably Muslim) or someone quite different, they are not sure whether he would have wanted a Christian cross or something else to mark his grave.

If you know anymore of

the history of this grave, the CALM staff in the Pilbara would be delighted to hear from you.

The termites have ensured that Gordon Binsted's cross will have to be replaced and we would like the new, termite-proof plaque to be appropriate to the man who is buried here.

By Richard Grant

CALM is developing an operations research model that is expected to assist in the planning of harvesting, processing, manufacture and marketing of WA's hardwoods.

The model will incorporate information on log recoveries and the marketing of sawn timber which are the subject of separate studies.

The model, to be computer based and developed on economic — mathematical principles, is expected to take 12 months to develop by a research project team supervised by the Department's Chief Economist, Dr George Malajczuk.

Computer Modeller Diane Gibson is working on the operations research model, another computer

modeller Cecil Scott will research log recoveries, and Don Challis will carry out the market research.

George said the model would be based on sophisticated analytical techniques, most of which were developed during and after the second World War, especially in the movement of war materials.

The principles of the operation research models were developed by Nobel Prize winning economists, Professor Tjalling Koopmans, who George studied under at Yale University (US), and Russian Leonid Kantorovich.

George said the operations system model and another being developed by the Economics Branch to assist softwood management planning incorporated a large number of management elements in their frameworks.

Harmony in the bush...

GOLDFIELDS' TIMBERS MAKE MUSIC

By IAN KEALLEY

GOLDFIELDS' timbers are currently being evaluated to assess their potential for manufacture of thin-wall flutes and other woodwind instruments.

The work is being done by Felix Skowronek, who is a Professor in the School of Music, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Professor Skowronek spent a month in Kalgoorlie from mid-April working with CALM staff collecting timber samples and logs of prospective species.

Some samples were sawn, dressed and turned at the Kalgoorlie College carpentry shop to allow quality, density and workability tests.

Logs of prospective timbers were then shipped to Washington.

Flutes were traditionally manufactured from "Cocuswood" or "West Indian Ebony" (*Brya ebe-*

nus) and "African Blackwood" or "Grendadilla" (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*).

With both these timbers difficult or impossible to obtain and Professor Skowronek's interest in reviving the manufacture and use of wooden flutes, a search for viable substitute woods of value to flute making as well as the entire woodwind instrument industry is underway.

Interest in Australian timbers was aroused through a casual contact with a W.A. Forester studying at the University.

Sample logs were subsequently sent, showed promise and created interest.

After years of planning and literature searches Professor Skowronek is now visiting Australia to view and collect timbers.

He is very impressed with the quality, diversity and suitability of the wide range of Goldfields' timbers.

To date, 25 Eucalypt species, six *Acacia* species and nine other species have been collected and tested.

Promising species include, Jam (*Acacia acuminata*), Mulga (*Acacia aneura*), Red Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*), Black Oak (*Casuarina cristata*), Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*), and Buree (*Melaleuca paupiflora*).

Many other species, especially the heavy hard Goldfields eucalypts also show potential.

The research will provide valuable data on timber properties and quality and provide an alternative use to the currently published "used or would be suitable for firewood and mining timber".

With a completed wooden flute costing around U.S. \$6000 it provides a potential high value product for our unique hardwoods, with interesting spinoffs for specialist uses.



Professor Felix Skowronek and Regional Manager Ian Kealley examining samples of the Goldfields' timbers being tested.

HARDWOOD MODEL RESEARCH

production of new products and markets?

The separate research into log recoveries will develop a model to describe the possible occurrence of internal defects, as well as developing a log grading system.

Market research will describe present markets and production in terms of volume and value, identify new products and markets, look at wood substitutes, and predict future hardwood demands.

The results of the log and market research will be included in the systems model.

Once completed the project aims to provide guidelines for hardwood utilisation so as to maximise the socio-economic benefits to the State.

Once developed the systems model will be made available to industry.

Current work on the hardwood model aims to simulate production processes, and any production strategy will be able to be fed into the computer and tested in terms of costs incurred and volumes of product produced.

By simulating a number of strategies and evaluating them the best strategy for improving the utilisation of the resource while meeting consumer needs, can be found.

George said the systems model would answer such questions as:

- ☆ How should log supplies be allocated to existing sawmills?
- ☆ How would greater economic and social benefits result in the long term from new processing and marketing investment, including the expansion of existing plants, adoption of new technologies, expansion of existing markets and

FROM MY DESK

PEOPLE quite often don't appreciate our democratic system of government and wonder about the justification of criticism of the public service until they see an alternative system in action.

When I was in South America recently, I was very impressed with the ability of middle level managers to make significant progress with important projects despite the fact that they were dealing with military dictatorships.

For example, at Aracruz in Brazil a major pulp mill has been established over a period of several years which employs more than 7000 people and earns an annual export income of more than \$400 million.

Some of the difficulties this company faced in getting the various government approvals necessary for the project make the system of checks and balances we have in Western Australia pale into insignificance.

It was interesting though that when asked the question of whether they preferred a civilian or military government, they were unanimous in their choice of a civilian government, even though it is quite obvious that civilian governments in South America are less efficient than military regimes.

We are very fortunate in Australia that we do not suffer the vagaries of changing governments that the South Americans experience.

Talking to these people made me realise how important the Public Service is in ensuring that the Westminster system of democracy operates.

It is very easy to become cynical about the Westminster process, but as somebody once said —

"The only thing running for the democratic system is that the alternatives are far worse."

I think one of the key elements to the Westminster system is the Public Service, an organisation that has integrity and is professionally competent.

Although I understand the frustrations that many public servants experience in dealing with the government and the general public, it is important that we recognise that we have a key role in making this system work.

CALM, in particular, has a high public profile and obviously deals with all levels of government throughout the State.

Despite occasional lapses, which are understandable, I think we do a very good job in interacting with government and the general public.

But it is important that we resist the temptation to become cynical and remember that it's our job to make the system work.

SYD SHEA,
Executive Director.

By **ROSS
YOUNG**

THIRTEEN land-owners whose agricultural properties total 2076ha have signed agreements for CALM to plant more than two million bluegums during the next two months as part of the State Government's hardwood sharefarming scheme.

The plantations will range in size from demonstration plots of 4ha to large commercial programmes of 650ha. The response to the

Start to Bluegum project

scheme from farmers has been excellent. Most land-owners believe that the returns from the scheme are more than comparable with the net profits from livestock, except for wool production at present.

To obtain the 13 plantation sites CALM staff inspected about 55 properties for inclusion in the scheme.

The main criteria for selection of 1988 planting sites was minimal site preparations work due to the time limitations for any major site works.

Several other properties already inspected will be planted in 1989 if funds are available for an ongoing programme next year.

Of the 2076ha, 1440ha were in the Peel-Harvey Estuary, 100ha in the Wellington catchment, and the rest at various locations throughout the south-west.

Almost all CALM district offices throughout the south-west will be involved in the bluegum planting programme in the next few months, some on a larger scale than others.

Quality control will be an important ingredient to the success of the project because most of the larger planting in the Pinjarra-Waroona area and Southern Forest Region will be undertaken by contractors using CALM planting machines.

The principal people now responsible for finalising the bluegum programme possess a wide range of skills.

They include Jim Adams who is handling landown-

er contracts; Annette Turpin and Dave Holmes from Mapping Branch who are preparing management maps; Ian Scott and Russell Walter who are supervising field operations at Bunbury and Manjimup respectively; John Kruger and Peter Grimes who are arranging various contracts and their supervision; Lindsay Bunn who is growing the seedlings at Manjimup nursery; and John Brealey who is organising the despatch of seedlings.

In all it is going to be a team effort to complete the 1988 planting programme successfully by the end of July.

Yanchep looks to future

A draft management plan for one of WA's most popular national parks, Yanchep National Park, was released for public comment by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge, recently.

In releasing the plan Mr Hodge said it was not surprising that more than 250,000 people visited the park each year considering the diversity of recreation opportunities available at the park, which included cave tours, bushwalking, birdwatching, picnicking, swimming, rowing and golf.

Mr Hodge said Yanchep also had great natural assets including seven vegetation communities and four relatively undisturbed wetlands that provided a habitat and refuge for a large range of flora and fauna.

He said the draft plan would set new directions for management in the park to meet the demands of the public during the next decade.

Mr Hodge said with

Yanchep National Park being doubled in size with the inclusion of Ridges State Forest, State Forest No 65, and the Pipidiny Swamp, the draft plan tried to balance the environmental and recreational needs while aiming to retain the essential uniqueness and character of the park.

The draft would set guidelines for tourist development and ensure that these developments don't threaten the park's natural bushland or disturb the surrounding delicate ecosystem.

It proposes a variety of recreation activities in the Loch McNess area, while other passive activities would be encouraged in the park's natural bushland.

These include viewing hides and walk trails.

Mr Hodge said intense recreation activities would be confined to the recreation area and that the park's essential character and uniqueness would remain.

He pointed out, however, that the park was designed in the 1930's and that this design did not meet the public's needs in the 1980's.

Some of the suggestions in the draft plan included the establishment of pedestrian corridors to separate vehicles and walkers; the koalas would be relocated; a camping area would be established; and some facilities would be leased out.

A visitor information centre and expanded interpretation programmes were also proposed.



Barry Hodge

SENIOR CITIZEN SUCCESS

THERE was an overwhelming response to the tour of Yanchep National Park offered as part of Senior Citizen's Week.

Originally, 45 places were made available by booking, on a bus provided by Transperth (CALM paid drivers' salaries only), taking senior citizens to Yanchep for two guided interpretation activities.

Owing to the demand, that offer was extended to two buses, catering for 90 people, and still a large number of people missed out.

Those who were successful were accompanied by Park Rangers Rolly Hill and Colin Gibbs, who joined the participants on the bus from the Transperth Central Station.

On arrival at the park, the groups went in two directions, one looking at the natural features of Boomerang Gorge, led by Ranger Rod Annear, and the other looking at the historical and cultural features of the park, led by Ranger Russell McKay (that tour finished with a short visit to the Museum in Gloucester Lodge provided free).

The groups swapped over in the afternoon after a picnic lunch by the shores of Loch McNess, with some adjourning to the Yanchep Inn for a counter lunch.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm and interest

shown by the senior citizens, to the extent that they were late leaving for the return journey to Perth, again escorted by Rangers Hill and Gibbs.

All the staff involved were overwhelmed by the level of appreciation expressed by the participants.

The great response to this offering for Senior Citizen's Week demonstrates the interest that senior citizens have in our

natural areas, national parks in particular.

It also indicates the importance of providing transport as a means of access for such people to outer metropolitan areas.

It also shows the abilities within CALM to provide quality interpretive programmes.

Thanks are extended to all who were involved in making the day the success that it was.



Ranger Roly Smith takes the park visitors on a guided tour of Yanchep.

AFDI Conference held at Albury

THE International Bicentenary Conference of the Australian Forest Development Institute was held in Albury, NSW from April 25 to April 30, 1988.

There were 30 countries represented among the 500 delegates, including Northern and Southern America, UK, Europe, Africa, Turkey, India and Malaysia.

Highlights of the Conference included the opening by the Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephen, and

the presentation (in Melbourne) of the inaugural Queen's Award for Forestry by Her Majesty, to Dr John Wright Turnbull of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra.

Dr Wright Turnbull has been very active in the introduction of Australian species, especially Eucalypt, Acacia, and Casuarina into a wide range of countries in sub-tropical arid zones.

The runner-up for the award was Dr Don Gil-

mour of Queensland who is manager for the Nepal-Australia Forestry Project.

Western Australian was well represented at the Conference, with personnel from CALM, WA Chip & Pulp, Softwoods, and the Forest Products Association.

Richard Moore of CALM, Busselton presented an excellent paper on Agroforestry.

The five volumes of conference papers will be placed in the "branch" Library at Crawley. — PETER HEWETT.

Outlook misunderstood

By **Barry Wilson**

DAVID WARD (CALM News 3 No.37) has indeed misunderstood my outlook on environmental decision-making.

My words (CALM News 3 No.36) to which he took exception were "In these circumstances there is no room for dogma."

The daily modus operandi must be to stand by the scientific principles we know as best we can, but be tolerant towards those who use different criteria.

From this David derives the conclusion that I meant "other perspectives should be tolerated, but presumably not taken into serious consideration."

That is an unfair extension of my words.

It is quite counter to the thrust of my article. "Ecofascism" is an exercise in dogma which I categorically reject.

My plea for rejection of dogma, and the application of reason and tolerance in environmental decision-making, cannot be interpreted as a step towards Ecofascism.

I began my article with a statement to the effect that as humans we pride ourselves for both our sentience and our reason.

Both are part of our humanity.

I disagree absolutely with David's view that logic robs us of our humanity if it becomes our master.

Without logic (ie. application of reason) we would be reduced to shouting divergent assertions at each other when we are in

dispute and be unable to make any progress on understanding ourselves and our world.

By tolerance I mean willingness to consider points of view other than our own, and information which may be new to us.

By scientific principles I mean those processes of problem-solving which assemble and assess all available information and keeping an open mind until this is done.

Ethics and aesthetics are certainly part of the information field (but I must admit that I draw the line at metaphysics).

I intended my article to convey the idea that decision-making in the environmental field is made particularly difficult by the very wide range of attitude and opinion among ourselves and the people we deal with.

"Staff News"

TRANSFERS

Richard Ford, Cartographic Draftsman, joined the Mapping Branch, Como, from Mines Department; Andrew Norris, Forest Ranger, Mundaring, transferred to KelmScott; John Gillard, Forester, Bunbury to Nanup; Howard Manning, Forester, Kirup to Pemberton; Peter Moore, ADFO, Bunbury to District Manager, Collie.

Jim Smith, Ranger-in-Charge, Lane Poole Reserve, moved to Yanchep National Park and Lance Jackson, Ranger, Yanchep to Lane Poole (temporary only); Peter Morris, Ranger, Yanchep to Torndirrup National Park.



Sixty feet (from a 1936 blueprint) of forest protection. A traditional fire tower build for the Timber Park at Manjimup. (Photo courtesy Warren Blackwood Times)

Community pitch in to build fire tower

FIRE towers may be a thing of the past because of aerial spotting but that didn't stop Alan Lush, Deputy Regional Manager at Manjimup and about 40 voluntary helpers from building another one.

Alan said that people from CALM, the local Shire, busi-

nesses around town and the Timbers Workers Union freely gave their time because they care for the bush.

He said that protecting our forests, parks and reserves is only part of a very satisfying job.

Working with so many generous people who also

wanted to use and protect them was an added bonus.

"Just as foresters and others in the past have lived their work and enjoyed looking after the bush, so they do today," Mr Lush said.

The tower is an added attraction at the historic Timber Park at Manjimup.

More than 50,000 visitors

passed through it last year and with continued co-operation between individuals and organisations, it will continue to grow.

Alan said that he expects the Park to attract more visitors to the district and to give them a better understanding of the bush and its custodians.

PINE PESTS POSE POTENTIAL PROBLEM

By DENNIS HILDER

CALM staff involved in pine plantation management, and private pine plantation owners and managers attended a seminar at Bunbury on May 4, about "boring" insects and rot in pine trees.

The seminar was convened by the Environmental Protection Branch to alert pine plantation managers of the need to be vigilant for any signs of the potentially devastating *Sirex noctilio* (Sirex wood wasp) — a severe pest of *Pinus radiata* which fortunately has not yet reached W.A.

The wood wasp has progressively become established in New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and recently in South Australia.

Dr David Morgan from the University of Adelaide's Waite Research Institute spoke about the biology of the wasp and demonstrated the visual symptoms of its presence, with pine wood samples.

Exit holes (4-5mm in

diam.) left by the emerging adult wasps and a banding of yellow and brown staining in the sapwood under the inner bark are usually the first indications of the presence of Sirex.

Sound plantation management including early heavy thinning, a regular monitoring system (using "trap trees"), and a pre-planned strategy for establishing the Wood Wasp's natural parasites and predators as soon as possible if Sirex does arrive, are the main control measures available.

Introduction of the pest from inter-state is a real possibility since there is currently no inspection and quarantine of dunnage boards on semi-trailer trucks crossing into W.A. from S.A.

Kiln dried timber can be regarded as safe, but pupae have been shown to be able to survive CCA treatment in pine rounds, and emerge as fully developed adult wasps.

Dr Morgan also shared his research knowledge of *Ips grandicollis* (five-spined bark beetle) and biological methods for its control.

He has been instrumental in establishing populations of parasitoid populations at Gnaragar, Kirup, Grimwade, and Bridgetown.

Unfortunately, these biological control agents won't have increased their populations sufficiently to successfully impact on Ips for another 3-4 years.

WA presently has massive Ips attack in the Blackwood Valley plantations where many trees were windthrown in early Summer, 1987.

Dr Ian Abbott of CALM's Research Branch presented draft prescriptions for establishing a "trap-tree" network to

monitor for the presence of Sirex; and for introducing parasites and parasitoids of Sirex according to a pre-planned strategy.

Participants at the seminar also heard from Dr Elaine Davison about *Sphaeropsis sapinea* (formerly *Diplodea pinea*) recoveries from the Department's nurseries at Gnaragar and Nannup, and in plantations at Gleneagle, Grimwade and Manjimup.

This fungus has not been formally recorded as being present in W.A. before.

Dr Davison made the point that a thorough survey needs to be carried out to ascertain which fungi are already present in our plantations.

Pathogens with the potential to cause significant debilitation of our pines could be present at low levels. Better records would allow us to be better prepared to implement control measures should they be necessary.

Colourful addition to cafeteria

STAFF at Como are presently dining in perhaps the most colourful cafeteria in Perth.

An imposing 5m by 3m 'mural' depicting the 'Range to Reef' story is on display for a couple of months awaiting the completion of the Milyering Visitor Centre at Cape Range National Park.

The mural will occupy one entire wall of the Visitor Centre and stand an additional 800mm from the floor when supportive display cabinets are built beneath it.

These display cabinets will contain behind vertical acrylic sheets the colourful visual textures of the landscape transect depicted in the mural — the coral rubble of the reef, sand and shell grit of the beach, red sands from the coastal plain and the coloured

sands of the canyons of Cape Range.

An aquarium at each extremity of the display cabinet will act as windows into the range and reef communities with their associated fish species.

It is also planned to incorporate sounds to complement the mural community scenes.

The songs of humpback-whales and children's nature songs are presently under consideration.

Gil Field, who is coordinating the Milyering Visitor Centre project, says, "The mural and associated display, cabinet components are part of the 'family room' zone within the Visitor Centre — hence the caricature of the fauna species.

"We contacted John Douglas to work up the

rough of my design, then John Goodlad (CALM Productions Officer), Margaret Watkins and John Douglas collaborated to paint the finished mural.

"Later we will identify the species using a series of desktop style lift up panels with a photo reproduction of the character from the mural on top and beneath, a photograph of the real thing, with a caption that

tells a little of its lifestyle.

"Hopefully the visitors will associate the wildlife with their communities found within Cape Range and Ningaloo Reef.

"The mural's visual interpretation of the Range-to-Reef story will be contrasted with an ecology display of the same theme at the opposite end of the main display room.

"Comments on the mural are welcome.

"Although it's supposed to be a caricature, we want the scene to be acceptable biologically too.

"We have already had some good feedback on species identification and behaviour and vegetation density."

Gil Field can be contacted in the Information Branch.



One's tripe, another's delight

CALM Officers in the field have been heard to say that what emanates from Head Office is a "load of old tripe".

Such comments intimate a dull, grey, slithery mass of no real value, or at least beneath the standards of the recipients.

Something someone might expect from a place colloquially referred to as Bull . . . Castle.

Such comments may have been made about Environmental Protection Branch, but if so they have done a grave injustice to the Manager, Frank Batini.

It may have been tripe served up, but it most certainly was not your old common tripe. Frank, it has been revealed, is somewhat of a connoisseur of tripe.

Splashed at the bottom of page 56 of the April 26 edition of "The West Australian" is Frank's favourite tripe recipe. No, it's not a prescription for Ministerials or Policy summary sheets, it's the genuine article.

Tripe — alla Romana reveals that fine Italian hand so evident in Frank's more earthy activities in CALM.

We reproduce the recipe for the benefit of readers.

If, on making it, you find it not to your liking, don't throw it away.

One adult serving (when fresh) can be used to sterilise a heavy duty tank of water. A child's serve will do for a light duty.

Frank's example has put the acid on other Branch Managers.

Next edition we may be able to coax the other protection Manager, John Smart, to part with his favourite Haggis recipe.

Maybe Andrew Burbidge will give us his tortoise soup recipe, thus revealing the true reason behind his years of study and the decline of the said animal.

— Anonymous contribution.

Frank and Irene Batini supplied their favourite way of serving tripe — alla Romana.

Cut 500g of tripe into 4cm strips. Place the pieces in a large saucepan and cover with water. Add one chopped onion, two chopped carrots, a celery stalk and a little salt. Simmer all for one hour until almost tender, but not completely cooked.

Saute a second chopped onion and two or three rashers of bacon in two tablespoons of olive oil. Add half cup of chopped parsley, a crushed clove of garlic, two slices of smoked ham and two tablespoons of tomato paste mixed with half cup of water. Simmer five minutes before adding the tripe. Simmer another half-hour. Taste. The tripe should be cooked, but not too soft. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and a few leaves of chopped mint.

From The West Australian, April 26.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

TEN graduates from the Department's Cadet Training School received formal recognition of their hard work in successfully completing the Certificate in Conservation and Land Management when certificates and prizes were awarded at a ceremony held at the Bunbury Regional Office on April 22.

The graduates, who completed their training in December 1987, were appointed as Forest Rangers and posted to various Districts on January 11, 1988.

The graduates and their postings are: Peter Bames, Kirup; Jefferey Boulton, Pemberton; Wayne Burton, Albany; Ian Freeman, Dwellingup (Research); Sean Hazelden, Wanneroo; Brian Ingles, Dwellingup; Dennis McDonald, Narrogin (Research); Geoff Rolland, Kalgoorlie; Glenn Willmott, Mundaring; and Nevin Wittbar, Harvey.

Parents and friends of the graduating class of Field Officers travelled to Bunbury to witness the ceremony.

The Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge, gave an address and presented Certificates and the Keynes Memorial Prize.

This prize was awarded to Geoff Rolland for his high level of achievement throughout the course and took the form of an inscribed shield and a book.

The Director of the South West College, Mr Frank Whitmore, presented the graduates with their Certificates in Conservation and Land Management.

The Executive Director, Dr Shea, gave an address and presented the Executive Director's Merit Award to Wayne Burton.

Wayne, who was the recipient of the inaugural Executive Director's scholarship, won the Merit Award for the best all round performance in the second year of the course.

The Senior Safety Officer, Tom Wood, congratulated the graduates and presented them with rechargeable torches for successfully achieving two years without a lost time injury accident.

— ALLAN SCOTT.



Members of the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee are briefed on the potential impact of dieback on the vegetation of the Fitzgerald River National Park. The advisory committee had held a series of field inspections within the park in conjunction with specialist CALM staff including Chris Haynes, Director of National Parks, Frank Batini and Dennis Hilder, Environmental Protection Branch (pictured above), and Wayne Schmidt, Recreation and Landscape Branch.

Ningaloo Marine Park Plan

PLANNING Branch have just created a new era in planning with the first release of only half a plan, but it can hardly be called a Claytons version of a plan.

The draft management plan for the Ningaloo Marine Park has just been released for public discussion.

After a number of years and countless thousands of hours of negotiation, discussion and deliberation, the plan is finally off the drawing board, even if it is only half a plan.

Like any partnership, reference is often made to "the other half", and so it is with Ningaloo.

The draft plan deals with the State component of the Park which is vested in the NPNC and includes the State territorial waters and portion of the coastal land in the southern half of the Park.

Our "other half" comprises the outer waters which are reserved by the Commonwealth National Parks and Wildlife Service.

A plan of management is being prepared by the ANPWS for their "half", with management of the whole being carried out by CALM.

Rather than a management partnership it is polygamous, because there are actually four separate plans within the one (eventual) plan.

With separate plans for the two components of Ningaloo, a plan already formulated and approved for Cape Range National Park, and a fourth to be prepared for a coastal recreation reserve north of Cape Range will make the "Ningaloo" plan one of the most diverse and complex plans produced for "one" area.

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Richard May has been formulating and co-ordinating the plans with Barry Wilson, Stephan Fritz, Ian Parker and Geoff Mercer contributing and providing advice.

At present there are about 4300 square kilometres of reserve in the whole of Ningaloo which, when fully reserved, will be around 500 square kilometres, with about 224 kilometres in State waters.

With 260 kilometres of coast and waters out to around 10 nautical miles with depths down to around 1200 metres, that means in anyone's language a lot of water between all those fish which everyone seems to want to catch.

Add to that about 51,000ha of national park and coastal marine park, and recreation management of pastoral leases, you end up with a complex series of management issues. Some would say a Pandora's box.

Little wonder that, with Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park directly adjacent, that Stephan Fritz the District Manager in Exmouth and Sue Osbourne the Marine Park Manager and ranger staff, have their job cut out with one of the biggest and most complex parks in the State to manage.

The plan endeavours to identify most of the principal issues which will affect management of the Park for up to 10 years.

It is, however, highly unlikely that the plan will reach that age before it becomes senile and due for review, like any "over-mature" bureaucrat!

With an annual rise in visitation over 20 percent and the expectation that the park will

become internationally renowned (it is after all, Western Australia's answer to the Great Barrier Reef), the whole demography and intensity of visitor use could change dramatically.

It will then, without doubt, become the major contributor to economic development of the region and be the window for the community into the purpose and value of marine parks.

A visitor information centre has been built at Milyering in Cape Range National Park, which overlooks the coral reef and lagoon of Ningaloo.

This project has been jointly funded by the State and the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

The Centre will serve as an important focal point where visitors can gain an understanding of processes, values and ethics for use in the Park, before they literally launch themselves into the waters of the Park.

In this sense, the plan aims to integrate management of all the activities that occur on the coast (where the major impacts occur) with management of the waters of the Park, (principal attraction).

With adjacent tenure as diverse as a National Park, a small townsite, pastoral leases, a jointly vested coastal recreation reserve and a commonwealth bombing range and defence facility, management will provide an even bigger challenge than has been the task of planning.

For the first time, we will test the reaction of the community towards management of marine parks in the context of a plan and in particular, the application of a management zoning system in marine waters.

TOUR OPERATORS' SEMINAR

By PAUL BRENNAN

A tour operators forum was held between April 18 and 20 in the Purnululu Bungle Bungle National Park.

Regional Seminar at Porongorup

THE Fifth Annual South Coast Regional Seminar is to be held in August at the Porongorup National Park.

Regional Manager, John Watson, said that the first Regional Seminar was held at Albany in 1983 and that for the last two years the seminar had taken place in Esperance.

John said that the idea behind the seminars was three fold.

First they provide a training opportunity with most of the regional staff together at one time to hear updates and developments in various aspects of the department's work.

Second they provide an opportunity for departmental staff from outside the region to get to know regional staff better and vice versa.

And third, they enable the regional staff to develop camaraderie through social events including evening activities and a dinner with various presentations and prizes.

The themes for the 1988 seminar are to be: the visitor, interpretation and footpath management.

Field workshops and syndicate exercises will take place at the Porongorup and Stirling Range national Parks.

By good luck the seminar coincides with a visit to WA by George Stankey and Tony Veal, overseas experts in recreation management and visitor surveys respectively, and it is hoped that both researchers will contribute to the seminar for part of the week.

It was designed as an on-site meeting for tour operators and the Department to discuss management of the area and allowed the industry to express its views about the many issues involved.

In all 16 people from the tourism industry attended, representing eleven companies operating "safari" tours in the park.

This was a little disappointing considering that more than 30 separate companies (Australia wide) are now to offer the Bungle Bungle as a destination in their 4WD "top end"

and Kimberley tour itineraries.

Executive director Dr Syde Shea and Regional Staff led the operators on an itinerary to:

- ☆ familiarize all involved with permitted access zones, camping areas and so on;
- ☆ elaborate on particular management issues such as soil erosion and feral animal control;
- ☆ point out geological features, examine flora and fauna; and
- ☆ emphasize the important role of tour operators

as custodians of the area's natural assets.

Overall, the event was successful and discussions were lively.

Much was learnt from the operators about their concerns by the regional and head office staff attending and this valuable input will assist in preparing the management plan for the area.

Despite the difficulties involved in organizing the trip, the results were encouraging enough to convince Chris Done (Regional Manager, Kimberley) to think about doing it all again in 1989.

Professor's link with Esperance

ONE of the special guest speakers at the AFDI Bicentenary Forestry Conference in Albury from April 25 to 30 was John Helms, Professor of Forestry University of California, Berkeley.

His subject was "Introduction of Eucalypts to California — their current status and future prospects".

It may seem strange to have a Professor of Forestry from Berkeley giving a paper on Eucalypts, but John Helms' association with Eucalypts goes very deep.

He is the son of Danish forester Andy D Helms who worked in WA for the Forests Department and with the Esperance Pines Co. which planted the first pines at Esperance in the late 1920's.

Andy later became a respected lecturer at the Australian Forestry School in Canberra for many years.

John Helms was, in fact, born in Esperance and ob-

tained his forestry degree at the Canberra school.

He then worked for a while in Tasmania before taking a post-graduate degree in the USA, where he has been ever since.

I was pleased to be able to bring John up to date with the Helms Arboretum at Esperance and to tell him how it came to be so-named.

Although the Esperance Pines venture was a failure, Andy Helms did some pioneering work with trace elements which had a profound influence on early attempts to establish legume pastures on the infertile Esperance plains.

When Peter Richmond (then OIC Kalgoorlie) established the arboretum on the site of the remains of the Esperance Pine plantation in 1972, he quizzed the old local identities to get ideas for a name for the Arboretum.

To his surprise, most of them said it should be named after Andy Helms and that is why we have the Helms Arboretum today. — PETER HEWETT.



Peter Longe and Keith Morris inspect a mutton bird nesting site on Serrurier Island.

BIRDS MONITORED

By KEITH MORRIS

SEVERAL Island Nature Reserves off the NW coast near Onslow are important breeding sites for the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*).

A portion of one of these islands, Airlie Island, has recently been used for the construction of an oil base by Westminco.

Oil from an offshore oilfield 60km to the north is pumped to the island and stored in large (250,000 brel) tanks, prior to shipping to refineries.

Construction of the oil base destroyed about 200 of the 2000 shearwater burrows on the island, however it was undertaken at a time when the burrows were not occupied by birds.

To determine the response of the shearwater population on Airlie Island to this disturbance, an intensive monitoring programme was undertaken by consultants Peter and Vicki Long of Astron Engineering.

This work, which was performed in close liaison with CALM officers from Karratha involved assessing the numbers of burrows prior to the after the construction phase, and the banding of birds from the disturbed area.

In addition control quadrats were established on the relatively undisturbed Serrurier Island.

NW Rangers' training session

AN interpretive activities training session was held at Yanchep National Park from Wednesday March 16 to Friday 18 and representatives from the Pilbara and Kimberley.

The training session was coordinated and conducted by Gil Field, Interpretation

Officer, with contribution from Information Branch Manager Kevin Goss and Audio visual Communications Officer Cliff Winfield.

Assistance in the practical demonstrations of interpretive activities were

provided by Trevor Wally (Wildlife Officer) who conducted an evening spotlighting walk, and Ranger David Lamont and Rod Anear who conducted guided walks and children's activities.

The response from participants was most pleasing

to the session leaders who found them an active and involved audience.

The true evaluation of the training session will be in its transfer to interpretive activities programmes for visitors to the Parks in the Pilbara and Kimberley.