

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE
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Senior Ranger George Duxbury and trainee Anne Greig — at home in the bush and quite comfortable working together.

Pine contracts signed —

FORESTRY BOOST IN SOUTH WEST

MAJOR pine milling contracts, worth \$100 million in Royalties to the State Government over 10 years, were signed by CALM's Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, late last month.

As part of the deal it was announced that three new softwood sawmills costing about \$40 million would be built in the Mundijong, Donnybrook and Greenbushes regions in the next five years.

The contracts, with Bunnings Forest Products Pty Ltd and Western Pine Associates, represent the first step in implementing the softwood component of CALM's Timber Strategy.

The Managing Director of Bunnings Forest Products, Mr Bob Bunning, said the new strategy had enabled his company to plan its pine operations with confidence.

"Our investment in pine milling over the next seven years is expected to be more than \$26 million and will make a major contribution to the development of the south-west region," he said.

Dr Shea said the strategy involved reducing the cutting of hardwood forest while increasing pine production.

"The strategy aims to encourage greater use of softwood for structural timber, particularly in housing, while reserving hardwoods for high value products such as furniture," he said.

"The timber will be drawn from plantations owned by Bunnings, CALM and private growers."

Dr Shea said the contracts would ensure there was a valuable market for private growers while the State had an assured market for pine forests in the 21st century.

"Pine production is expected to quadruple in 10 years, enabling CALM to earn money to repay the loans used to establish the pine plantations," he said.

Dr Shea paid tribute to the CALM officers involved in negotiating the contracts.

"These contracts represent the summation of more than 40 years work and planning," he said.

"Now all that work has paid off largely due to the efforts of Don Keene, Manager Forest Resources Division, John Sclater, Manager of Timber Production Branch, and Timber Contracts Officer Jim Adams.

"More recently, Shirley Dennett patiently typed and retyped the contracts."

Dr Shea also paid tribute to the efforts of the Department's Regional and District staff who planted and tended the plantations over many years.

"Without these people and their efforts it would not have been possible to have the softwood available," he said.

Dr Shea said the State Government's decision to provide funds to fertilise pine plantations had overcome a potentially severe log supply problem.

He said the new sawmills and associated logging were expected to create more than 500 new jobs when they were operating at full capacity.

Dr Shea said that those people who were now suggesting that the State Government should plant softwoods as an alternative to hardwoods were 30 to 40 years behind the times.

Meeting for the ministers

ON Thursday and Friday, July 21, 22, the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge, hosted the Australian Forestry Council meeting in Fremantle.

The Council is made up of State and Commonwealth Ministers responsible for forest and forest resource management in Australia.

Chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Senator Cook, the council discussed issues in forest management of common concern to all States.

With each Minister accompanied by his permanent head and a secretary the visiting party numbered about 30.

Following the formal meeting on Thursday, CALM hosted a field trip on the Friday.

The participants visited a bauxite rehabilitation site at Dwellingup, the Lane Poole Reserve recreation development, the Harvey Wood Utilisation Research Centre and the recent globulus plantings in the Peel Harvey area.

The Australian Forestry Council meets once a year.

Trainee rangers on duty

A LOT of youngsters dream about becoming national park rangers — and that dream has come true for CALM's five newest trainee park rangers.

While all of them are no doubt excited about their new posts, one of them is perhaps a little more excited than the others.

Her name is Anne Greig and she has been appointed to John Forrest National Park as CALM's first female park ranger trainee.

Anne — together with Arvid Hogstrom (Yanchep), Michael Paxman (Cape Le Grand), Geoffrey Passmore and Mark True (Albany district) — will undergo a two-year traineeship, which involves on-the-job training and external study for a Certificate in National Park Management.

The five met for the first time at a fire training school in June.

"We tried to find a common denominator, but there wasn't one," says 25-year-old Anne.

"We all come from different backgrounds."

So what is Anne's background? She completed her Tertiary Admissions Examinations at Applecross Senior High School before enrolling in a Diploma of Teaching course at the Nedlands College of Advanced Education.

However, realising she didn't want to make a career of teaching, Anne

dropped out of college and travelled for a while before taking up a position with the Town of Claremont as a groundsperson.

While working there, she started studying toward a Certificate in Horticulture at Bentley TAFE — a course she has almost finished.

Anne believes it is this

broad base of skills and experience which has given her the opportunity to make her dream of becoming a park ranger come true.

"I had thought I might be the token woman," she admits.

"But after meeting the others, I realised I was just as qualified as they were."

During her first year's

training, Anne will be under the watchful eye of Senior Ranger George Duxbury.

For the second year, Anne and Arvid will be transferred from the city parks to the south coast while Michael, Geoffrey and Mark will get some experience in the more visitor-intensive John Forrest and Yanchep Parks.

Lifting lid on rainforest

THIRTY scientists, most of them from CALM, spent three weeks in June in the most rugged and remote areas of the Kimberley studying rainforests.

The expedition — the State's largest and most diverse biological survey — was conducted as part of the National Rainforest Program (WA).

Some of the State's Senior Scientists volunteered to take part in the expedition, including Emeritus Professor Bert Main (formerly of the University of Western Australia), Bill McArthur (formerly of CSIRO's soils division) and Trevor Stoneman (formerly of the WA Department of Agriculture).

Other expedition members included Alan Anderson of CSIRO's Division of Entomology in Darwin; Tom Weir and Ian Newman of the National Insect Collection in Canberra; Bernie Hyland of CSIRO's Tropical

Forest Research Centre in Atherton, Queensland; and John Majer from Murdoch University.

The scientists collected detailed data on 16 of the 83 patches of rainforest surveyed in the first year of the National Rainforest Programme.

Aspects covered included geomorphology and soils, spiders, ants, beetles, reptiles and mammals, as well as a more detailed appraisal of plants and birds.

The extra detail will allow these patches to be used as benchmarks for monitoring the persistence of the rainforest communities in the long term.

Expedition members will now spend the next year sorting and analysing the enormous array of data and specimens which were collected and a report will be compiled.

Among the more notable results are records of the rare and endangered Golden Bandicoot, the Timor Pipistrelle, Ghost Bat, and the first WA

record of the tree *Sterculea holtzei* and the climbing vines *Mucuna gigantea* and *Salacia chinensis*.

The expedition vehicles left Perth at the end of May with the first base being set up on the banks of the King Edward River near Mitchell Plateau.

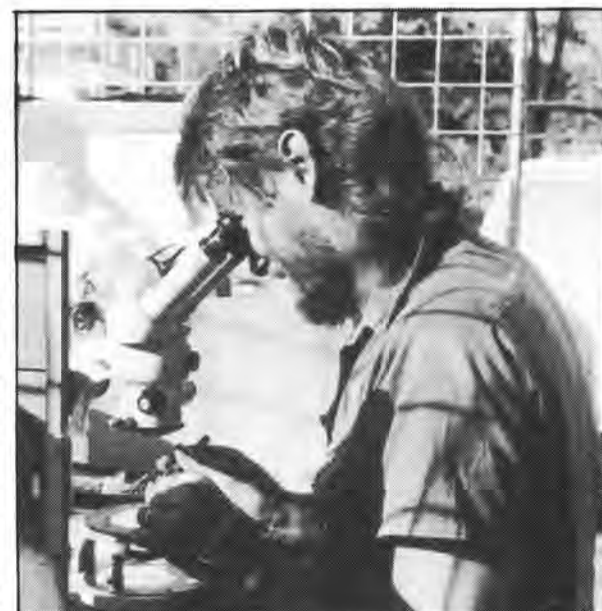
The scientists were then flown from Derby to Doongan Station on May 31, before completing their journey by vehicle to the base camp.

The next day was spent preparing equipment and discussing programmes. A briefing on expedition procedures, including radio schedules and safety, was held.

This was vital as each of the four teams relied totally on radios for communication with base camp for three weeks.

A helicopter had been chartered to transport the teams due to the exceedingly rugged and remote nature of the North Kimberley and the large num-

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CSIRO's Alan Anderson studies a specimen under the microscope.

