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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

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,"

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

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

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

"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

"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 Conserva-tion and Land Manage-ment, 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 Common-wealth 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.



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

Trainee rangers

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 famale park ranger trainee.

Anne — together with rvid 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 dif-

ferent backgrounds. So what is Anne's background? She completed her Tertiary Admissions Ex-aminations 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.

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

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

During her first year's Yanchep Parks.

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 visitorintensive John Forrest and

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 sur-- 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

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 com-munication with base camp for three

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-

Continued page 3



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

FROM MY DESK

I RECENTLY had two happy experiences at

CALM staff and the growing linkages between them.

On a weekend in mid-June, I worked as a volunteer planting trees at the Foresters Wood at Manjimup alongside many other CALM staff, including Director of Forests, Peter Hewett, and Director of National Parks, Chris Haynes (and a throng of others and their spouses and children).

Two great days were spent at the very satisfying task of planting tree seedlings, interspersed with yarning by the fire with a mug of tea and shaking freezing rain from jackets and out of gum boots.

Two days later, I found myself in mature natural Kimberleys.

I caught the very tail-end of CALM's biological survey of north-west rainforests, a two-year project Woodyale.

tific and technical staff, plus scientists from other agencies and volunteers.

entomologists and soil scientists.

participants.

It was not all fun and games either. They were working very long hours in very rough country.

However, like planting rainforest on a dark, freezing winter's day at Manjimup, so it is with surveying rainforest on blazing rock screes and the spider and midge infested slopes of the Leopold Ranges when you love your work just about anything is fun!

I give full marks to the research people and also to all those in the Branches (mapping, computing, engineering, etc) who miss out on the glamour, but who provide the backup every successful mission

I also give full marks to CALM's tree planting crews in south west districts, each of whom put thousands of trees into the ground every winter.

A mere two days of fairly easy planting has reminded me how tough the professionals are, compared to we amateurs from Head Office!

different ends of the State.

These highlighted to me the diverse interests of

At one stage, I helped to plant a rainforest grove at the western end of the Wood (we designated it a "Future World Heritage Area" at the end of the day).

rainforest on a visit to our research team in the west

under the control of Norm McKenzie from His staff included a wide range of CALM's scien-

The group included zoologists, botanists, foresters,

I was deeply impressed by the efficient organisation, cooperative approach and the commitment of

ROGER UNDERWOOD. General Manager.

STAFF NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

Brent Johnson, Forester (Admin), Dwellingup; Grahame Rowland, Reserves Officer, Murdoch House; Neil Thomas, Technical Officer, Woodvale; Greg Hodgson, Forest Ranger (ops), Walpole; Mathew Cavana, Technical Officer, Planning Branch; and Stan Finney, Park Maintenance Worker, Yanchep, have joined the permanent staff. Also appointed were Pam O'Shea, Officer, Crawley, and

Brian Morgan, Forest Ranger (Tech), Dwellingup.

PROMOTIONS

Alan Scott to Senior Training Officer, Bunbury.

TRANSFERS

Keith Morris, Research Officer, to Woodvale; Steve Strachan, Ranger-in-Charge, to Cape Range National Park; Lance Jackson, Lane-Poole Reserve to Yanchep.

RETIREMENTS

Mick Evans, Forester, Bunbury, who worked in State Saw Mills, Pemberton before joining the Forests Department in 1949 has retired; also Audie Kern, Forester, Dwellingup who began as a Forest Workman in the Pimelea Dis-

Closed

PENGUIN Island has been

The combination of high

closed to the public because of

lets, shelters and barbecue areas, as well as fences, have

been undermined by the ocean

hampered by the storms in get-ting to the island to prevent fur-

ther damage and the loss of

habitat for the Little Penguin which breeds on the island.

winter occurrence, the loss of public facilities and the con-

tinued threat to important sea

bird habitat means that major

til facilities for the public have

been improvised and areas of

dune and beach erosion are

The island will be closed un-

While erosion is a normal

CALM officers have been

and have collapsed

works are required.

fenced or stabilised.

extensive storm damage.

DY DAYID KUSE THE first fully opera-

tional prescribed burning programme has been completed in the Kimberley.

Both hand and aerial burning techniques were used to burn almost 9000ha of land, including 300km of strategic buffer strips.

The primary aim of the month-long burning programme was to establish buffer strips to protect CALM land from wildfires.

These fires usually occur throughout the Kimberley late in the dry season (September to December).

trict the burn to a specific

They are caused by lightning strikes from diurnal thunderstorm activity which is generated by extreme temperatures (40 degrees or more).

Kimberley

Records show these wildfires can burn for up to five months before being extin-guished by rain or lack of

Buffer strip burning is a technique which uses natural landform features and weather conditions to res-

study centre with some

sity of landscapes and vege-

The reserve has a diver-

camping facilities.

This usually entails a single line of lighting between a creek and a ridge top.

Low night time temperatures and heavy dew will generally extinguish the fire by the next day.

CALM carries out all its prescribed burning early in the dry season when temperatures drop to about 30-35 degrees and before the grasses have cured.

This latest programme included aerial burns in the Prince Regent Reserve and Drysdale River National Park, which have no vehic-

ular access or firebreaks.

Hand burns were carried out in the Hidden Valley, Windjana Gorge and Bungle Bungle National Parks and the Kununurra Arboretum Reserve

Rangers helped with the burn in their parks while trainee Aboriginal rangers

Meanwhile, the Bush Fires Board was busy carrying out prescribed burning for pastoralists.

Bungle burn.

CALM liaised closely with the Bush Fire Brigade to ensure maximum benefit was gained through rationalisation of burn boundaries.

The Bush Fire Brigade chartered and equipped a Britton Norman Islander for its programme, which CALM also used.

In future, it is hoped that burning regimes similar to those used by Aborigines can be developed.

And the bush has friends to meet him, and their kindly voices greet him

In the murmur of the breezes and the river on its bars, And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains ex-

And at night the wondrous glory of the everlasting stars. I am sitting in my dingy little office, where a stingy Ray of sunlight struggles feebly down between the houses

And the foetid air and gritty of the dusty, dirty city, Through the open window floating, spreads its foulness over all

From Clancy of the Overflow A.B. Patterson

Sound familiar! Are you bored with your normal holiday routine?

Do you long for "something completely different' as well as productive?

Come and see the "real" Australia, the arid interior, not the exotic coastal fringe

The Goldfields regional staff invite any CALM staff member and family, who have a sense of adventure, to participate in a camping holiday, working bee and survey, at the Wanjarri Nature Reserve field study centre from October 2 to 7.

Wanjarri Nature Reserve (53,200ha) is located between Leinster and Wiluna (5hrs north of Kalgoorlie) with good 2WD access on sealed and dirt roads.

Wanjarri was formerly a pastoral station until purchased in 1970, and converted to a Nature Reserve.

The old shearing shed has been converted to a field tation including Mulga woodland, Lateritic breakaways, Granite rocks, Spinfex grasslands, sand dunes and major creeks.

The diversity is reflected in a range of flora and fauna (especially birds).

Essential reserve management work, biological survey, inspection, upgrading and maintenance of the field study centre involves regular inspections and an annual visit.

During this year's trip, staff will be involved in

maintenance and reserve inspection, removal of rubbish and old fences and biological survey work, (spotlighting, fauna surveys and flora identification).

Visitors are welcome to assist, explore or just relax.

The reserve contains historic sites, Aboriginal sites, rockholes and has easily accessible wildflowers and fauna observing.

Anyone interested in joining us for the week or even part of the time, will need to be self contained with camping gear (tents,

caravans etc), food and fuel.

Water and basic campir. facilities including a shower, cooking facilities and pit toilet, are available at the centre.

If you are interested in a different holiday and the opportunity to learn about management of CALM's arid area nature reserves contact the Goldfields Region staff and reserve a

We will send you further information if required.

— IAN KEALLEY



Enjoy a holiday with a difference at the Wanjarri Nature Reserve field study centre.



Patience has paid off in the bid to buy this 188ha block in Cape Le Grand National Park.

Patience

ONE of CALM's most important conservation land purchases was finalised early in August.

Purchase 188-hectare block in the Cape Le Grand National Park was recommended in the EPA's 1976 System Three Report.

However, the block was then jointly owned by four people and an agreement could not be reached with all four.

Negotiations have continued for the past eight years, but agreement was reached only recently.

Alex Errington, Chairman of CALM's Conserva ion Lands Ac Committee, said the Cape Le Grand purchase was one of the most satisfying he has been involved in.

He said a number of officers had been involved in negotiations over the years and as soon as the transfer papers had been registered, he telephoned them to pass on the good news.

Two who had retired were contacted and were delighted that the area will at last become part of the

national park.

for some social competitions and the golf course is still open for anybody who would

like to swing a club. Meanwhile, old photos or bits of memorabilia are needed for a display in the Shannon facility hall. Put your name and address on the back of photos and memorabilia and send them to Glenys Panetta (nee Bingham), Lot 2 Myalup Road, Harvey 6220.

For further information, call Glenys on (097) 29 2077.

Island Take a bow the book

winds, tides and heavy seas has caused erosion on all beaches on the island in Shoalwater Bay WE'RE wondering if **Publications Section now** near Safety Bay. Public facilities, such as toi-

qualifies as a wild place? One thing is certain - it hasn't been a quiet place since the latest glossy book on the south-west's natural attractions made its debut.

"Wild Places, Quiet Places" was officially launched by CALM Minister Barry Hodge at the Matilda Bay Restaurant on August 10.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, addressing media representatives and other invited guests at the metropolitan launch, congratulated the publications team for producing a high-

Once this has been carried out the ferry service to the is-He also paid tribute to land will operate again. district and regional staff all the information contained in the book

Judging from initial reac-tions, "Wild Places, Quiet Places" will get a positive response from the public.

The book — packed with exceptional, full-colour photographs by Jiri and Marie Lochman of Lochman Photographics - is a comprehensive guide to the State's south-west.

It includes vegetation keys, details of camping etiquette, maps and survival information as well as de-tails of some of the region's most beautiful camping spots.

It is a credit to editors Andrew Cribb and Colleen Henry-Hall and the support network in Publications and in the field.

The book will retail at a recommended price of \$14.95 and is the perfect gift for veteran or novice campers and visitors to the south-west.

CALM staff get a special deal — they can buy the book for \$10 and the poster for \$3.

TESS WILLIAMS.

Ground Parrot Study

CALM recently received a grant of \$22,000 from World Wildlife Fund for a study on the microhabitat preferences of the Ground Parrot in the Fitzgerald River area.

The Ground Parrot has undergone a drastic decline in numbers

in WA and is now known in this State from only a few localities along the South Coast, and is clearly endangered. In order to manage the species effectively, we need much more

information on the bird's habitat preferences and response to fire. However, the birds are extremely secretive and difficult to observe as they walk through the dense heathlands to feed. Much of the grant money will therefore be used to carry out a radio-tracking study to discover basic information about the

feeding and habitat requirements of the Ground Parrot. Field work for this study will be done by consultant biologist Dong Watkins in co-operation with staff from the Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale.

ALLAN BURBIDGE.

Calling former Shannon people

IF you've ever lived at Shannon and don't mind indulging in the odd bit of nostalgia, then Sunday, November 20, is your day. That's the day of the "Back to Shannon' picnic and organisers are expecting many

Some people are planning to camp at Shannon for the weekend. There are toilets and hot showers at the old forestry site for those who want to pitch a tent.

former residents to make an appearance.

Organisers also ask people to bring cricket bats, footballs or any other sporting gear

Manager for Shark Bay SOLDIER'S

CALM has been given the go-ahead to appoint a District Manager at Shark Bay (Denham).

The go-ahead, announced recently by Conservation and Land Management Minister, Barry Hodge, will be made as part of the first stage of the Shark Bay Region Plan, which was recently approved by Cabinet.

The new district manager will

be responsible for a number of national parks and marine and island reserves proposed in the plan.

The manager will take up the appointment later this year when housing, which is already under construction, is completed.

Mr Hodge said the creation of the district manager's position is in line with the Government's commitment to preserve and protect the State's natural environment.

"The Shark Bay region deserves special attention because of its tourism and conservation value,"

"It must be properly managed as it becomes an increasingly popular tourist destination."

Mr Hodge said the appointment of a District Manager and the implementation of the management plan will ensure that the region's natural beauty is preserved for future generations.

DEATH A **MYSTERY**

The Woodman Point

It was the first stop for Perth's earliest pioneers,

and later temporary home to many of this country's newest Australians.

It has been a racecourse,

The area has also had its share of mysteries, and perhaps the most puzzling story of all is that of Private

Stanley Hamilton Tallent.

Stanley was one of 1156 soldiers on board the "Dor-

set", an army transport ship which docked at Fremantle

Harbour on May 28, 1919.

fought valiantly on the fields of France, had suc-

cumbed to Spanish influen-

Stanley died on the same day the "Dorset" docked

and after being transferred

to the quarantine station

was buried somewhere in

the Woodman Point Reserve, along with 34 of

CALM's Metropolitan

Region recently received a letter from the descendants

of Mr Tallent asking assistance to locate his

Attached to this request was a copy of the Quarantine Station Chaplain's letter to Stanley's mother, dated May, 1919, which described how Stanley had

died and had been buried in

his comrades.

gravesite.

za on their way home.

These soldiers who had

an explosive reserve, a quarantine station and a

graveyard.

Conservation Area has

had a rather chequered

By HELEN FORDHAM

Pouring CALM oiled waters

QUICK action by CALM staff, police and emergency services personnel averted a potential disaster when a train derailment dumped thousands of litres of diesel oil into a Pinjarra creek on

Booms placed in the Murray River on Saturday night stopped the diesel slick from spreading.

CALM's Richard McAlinden and Alan Byrne were among those who kept vigil on the river that night to make sure the booms remained intact and that boats didn't spread the oil.

Richard and Alan were on the water in a boat until ved by SES volunteers.

On Sunday, a second boom was placed across the Murray River at Ravenswood Bridge to stop the spread of diesel into the Peel-Harvey Inlet which could have been a threat to Nature Reserves in the area.

These Nature Reserves are important sites for water birds, especially trans equatorial migratory waders.

The Delta of the Murray River is also an important breeding site for water birds such as cormorants.

The 110-tonne Westrail locomotive plunged into the creek on its way from the Pinjarra alumina refinery to Kwinana.

The train was eventually lifted from the creek on Monday, July 11, and taken to the Westrail workshop.



COMMUNICATIONS staff at Como aren't throwing in the towel as far as safety is concerned. Here, they give the thumbs-up to their safe working record after receiving their awards from CALM's Executive Director Syd Shea (centre).

Small branch, big achievement

IT WAS no accident that CALM's Communications Branch at Como won a safety award recently.

In fact, notching up two years free from lost time injury accidents earned the branch staff a Certificate of Merit from the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention and individual awards from CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd

Dr Shea was on hand last month to present his awards — huge green and gold "Australia" towels — to the

communications staff. Those to receive the awards were Graeme

Hutchinson, Gary Robin-

son, Mike Welch, Bill Ar-bery, Tim Walby, Robyn Freer and Max Speer, Absent on the day were Mike Chan, Mike Jubb and Roger Foxlee.

At the same time, John Ireland from Personnel, acting on behalf of Senior Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Officer Tom Woods, presented the IFAP certificate to officer-incharge of Communications Branch, Graeme Hutchinson

In an informal address, Dr Shea paid tribute to the staff for their outstanding safety record.

"Two years without a lost time injury is no mean achievement, no matter how large or small the group is," he said.

Staff in the Kelmscott

region and Nannup and Walpole districts also qualified for safety awards recently.

July 29 marked two years free from lost time injury accidents in the Kelmscott region while Nannup and Walpole notched up one lost time accident free year on June 15 and July 7, respectively.

the Catholic section of the cemetery at Woodman There is an existing cemetery in the reserve

which has two remaining headstones which belong to Rosa O'Kane and H. Williams, who both died in 1919, nursing returned soldiers.

An old map indicated a second cemetery behind the hospital isolation block, but despite an intensive search, no trace of the graveyard has been found.

Our quest for the final place of Stanley led me to the State Archives where I stumbled across the first of many deadends.

Stanley Tallent was not listed as a passenger on the "Dorset".

His name was not on any official list of those who died at Woodman Point; neither was there any record of him being reburied at either Fremantle or Karrakatta Cemeteries.

Interestingly, at the Registry of Births and Deaths, Stanley's death cer-tificate listed Woodman Point as the place of burial.

The story was becoming more and more curious.

Military Historian Mr Brad Manera accessed information for me from the Central Army Records Office (CARO) in Melbourne and discovered that Stanley was a Gunner with the Second Australian Di-

He served as part of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front near the French/Belgian Border 1917-1919.

It appears that the Spanish Influenza that took Tallent's life wiped out 100,000 diggers returning from the First World War.

Indeed, Queensland had refused to let any infected transport ships dock be-cause of the contagiousness of the disease.

Fremantle was the first port of call and any soldiers that had not died at sea, but looked like dying before the next port was reached, were put off at Woodman Point.

There is a suggestion that because of the contagiousness of the disease the soldiers, along with Tallent, were buried in a mass grave.

However, this doesn't answer why we have been unable to locate the second cemetery or why Tallent's name wasn't on any official list of those buried at Woodman Point.

Whatever occured, there is not doubt that the likelihood of finding the remains of Private Stanley Hamilton Tallent are extremely remote, and whether he came to rest in the Catholic section of a forgotten cemetery is a matter of historical con-

Woodman Point will keep its secret now.

Leafminer faces fire

By IAN ABBOTT

THE benefits of using a moderateintensity fire in Autumn to control the jarrah leafminer plague in the lower northern jarrah forest are now being researched.

The Forest Entomology Research Team from the Como Research Centre recently marked out transects and set up special traps in Proprietary Block, Collie District.

The hypothesis under test is that a single Autumn fire, entailing scorch of every jarrah crown, will set back the leafminer by at least one year and permit each tree to develop a dense crown

The experiment will also provide detailed data about the rate of re-infestation of leafminer after such a fire and any subsequent deterioration in crown condition.

Collie District staff will conduct the Au-

tumn 1989 fire over an area of 240ha, the first time in WA that forest entomological research has experimented at an operational scale.

Another first was that technical assistants Paul Van Heurck and Tom Burbidge used wheelbarrows to distribute 90 bulky leafminer traps over 4.8km of transects.

Fortunately, the sandy soils of the Collie Basin were an ideal substrate.

CALM News copy to Kylie Byfield, at Como, extension 322.

CITY WORKERS' *GREAT ESCAPE*

IT'S not every day city people can escape to the country in their lunch hour - but CALM is doing something to change that.

CALM Minister Barry Hodge recently launched a display which brings the beauty of WA's national parks and forests to the city.

The six-week display. mounted in the National Trust's Old Perth Boys' School in St George's Terrace, aims to show city people what CALM is doing to present forests, parks and reserves to the public and to educate visitors to these

The display, which consists of 10 information panels, focuses on the south-west, presenting details of the region's history and information about the

tuart forest, the wetlands and the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Leeuwin-

This region is currently in the spotlight with approval of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park management plan expected soon and a possible announcement on a joint CALM-National Trust project to develop and protect the historic Ellensbrook Homestead at Willyabrup.

The display panels — produced by the Central Forest Region's Interpretation Officer Kim Williams in association with Gil Field and John Goodlad from Information Branch and Tess Williams from Publications will eventually be in-stalled in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park

and the new Tuart Forest

National Park at Ludlow

near Busselton.

Rainforest survey

From page 1

ber of personnel and volume of equipment.

At dawn the next day, the first team was airlifted into a patch of rainforest below the Carson Escarp-ment, 160km east of the base camp.

Several flights were needed and it took two days to airlift all four teams.

The scientists did not see base camp again for 18 days. During this time, their only contact with the outside world was by radio while the helicopter supplied food, water and equipment as necessary.

The teams were shifted to a new site every four days before the expedition wound up at Mt Hart Station on June 22.

Epedition members benefited from Geoffrey Mungulmurra's encycloped ic knowledge of the north Kimberley - the traditional lands of his ancestors. He lives in the Kalumburu Aboriginal community.

Alex Harris and Graeme Dalton from The West Australian newspaper also joined the scientists for several days to get first-hand experience of the expedition.

Showing the ropes

By LEE-ANNE MARTIN

CALM Goldfields Regional staff were recently involved in a Careers Evening organised by the two local high schools in Kalgoorlie, Eastern Goldfields Senior High School and John Paul College.

The evening was held in the Kalgoorlie Town Hall and an estimated 1300 parents and students attended to seek first hand information on future trade, professional or business careers.

This is the first time CALM Kalgoorlie has been involved in something like this and the response was very enthusiastic.

Most questions from parents and students were along the lines of how to join CALM, what careers could be gained in CALM, how much money could be earned, opportunities for

girls as against boys and educational qualifications

We also had many queries from girls wanting to be a National Park Ranger like Kathy Hayden from "A Country Practice".

It was also interesting to note that the public did not fully understand CALM's role in the Goldfields, mainly due to the low profile we have here.

Both parents and students were also unaware that there were so many fields of work offered by

CALM from carpenters to computing services and botanists to graphic artists.

A big draw card at our display was a Western Pygmy Possum. Although chose to sleep through the entire evening, people were amazed at just how tiny she was for a possum.

All in all, the four officers who participated in the Careers Evening came away feeling overwhelmed at how the evening had been a success and feeling that we had promoted CALM in the Goldfields region.

TEAM EFFORT

TRIUMPHS FOR

AVON DESCENT

By BILL ADAMS

it was for competitors and CALM staff alike during this year'

WHEN the going gets tough, the tough get going — and so



CALM staff in the action during the Avon Descent.

Fences protect our By KEN ATKINS By KEN ATKINS THE flora of WA's Wheatbelt Region is one of the richest in the world and many species are unique to the area.

to the area.

The highest concentrations of rare and threatened native plants in Australia occur in this region.

The widespread clearing of vegetation in the WA Wheatbelt has taken its toll on the flora of this region.

The main refuges left are the remnants of bush found in the system of conservation reserves, other reserves including road and rail reserves and an assortment of bush pockets that have survived on farmland.

With only three percent of the wheltbelt set aside as reserves for wildlife conservation, the other remnants of native vegetation play an important role in the preser-

vation of the region's flora. In particular, those areas of private bush have a sig-nificant conservation factor, being of comparable size in total to that which is set aside as public reserve.

Encouragement and advice are always eagerly given to landowners to preserve their areas of bushland, but at present there are not many financial incentives to undertake such

Where declared rare flora is found on private property the landowner is restricted in his operations so that the flora is not disturbed.

This usually means that the flora needs to be fenced off to prevent stock grazing.

The first and most notable case of rare flora fenc-ing was back in 1978, when the only population of Darwina carnea was fenced by the landowner.

Since then the number of plants in this population has grown from six to more than 80.

In the past fencing necessitated the establishment of goodwill followed by a financial burden on the landowner.

Now this has changed

with funds being made available from CALM to assist the landowners in fencing off the bushland areas containing rare flora.

Recently in the Wheatbelt Region 10 areas of bushland totalling 16.6ha have been fenced off, protecting 14 populations of rare flora.

A total of 4.9km of fenc-ing materials has been provided, with CALM staff assisting in some instances to erect the fence.

The response from the landholders on fencing rare flora has generally been encouraging.

In one instance at Dowerin, the rare flora Verticordia hughanii occupied one hectare, and 400m of fencing material was paid for.

The landowner, however, used this to help fence off 54ha, thus preserving a larger amount of bush in addition to the rare flora.

Ross Boyer of Brookton provides an insight into the sort of person eager to fence off the bush.

Ross at 73 is still farming

the land after 60 years. He farmed at Moora and Perenjori before moving to Brookton 35 years ago.

Having experienced different parts of the wheatbelt Ross knew the value of vegetation on the land, and this was as much the case at Brookton where much of his farm has a mantle of white sand.

Ross took up tree planting mainly in his latter years, becoming a keen tree planter in 1980.

Sometimes the going was

In places the ground was so hard that he could not chisel plough it.

Instead, at the tender age of his late 60's Ross would use a spade and crowbar to dig a suitable hole to plant

New groves of trees cut across his farm forming not only effective windbreaks, but also a pleasant view.

Ross and his wife also had natural vegetation strips running across the

One of these strips was sandplain vegetation which they both loved for its wildflowers. The Boyers had wanted to fence it off, but that was expensive.

As it turned out the strip contained the major known private property occurrence of the rare plant Hakea aculeata.

CALM has now helped fulfil the Boyer's wish of fencing this area off by supplying the two kilometres of fencing material needed.

This has helped to

preserve the rare column hakea, and a representation of the white sandplain vegetation.

Ross summed up the general feeling in these situations with his statement: "I am very pleased to have it (the hakea) on my property and also pleased to receive the fencing material to fence it off with".

Unfortunately too many species of flora have been lost from the wheatbelt, and many again are in danger of extinction, especially where they are associated with agricultural soils.

It is hoped that the current fencing programme will assist the conservation of some of these populations that occur on private World War II airstrip and bussed to within 200m of

Forest workmen and park rangers worked side by side prior to the race to upgrade road surfaces, re-deck a bridge, erect signs and build pathways over the rail

The competitors had a tough time due to a low river - the lowest for about five years - over Emu Falls and Syds Rapids. The river peaked at 2.7m in Walyunga on July 26 and was falling from then on. public.

Nevertheless, it was a spectacular race with some exciting white-water action.

Avon Descent.

While the canoes and power boats struggled

through the white water, CALM personnel were

busy coping with the vehicles and crowds which

swamped the Avon Valley and Walyunga National

Parks.

Meanwhile, in what was a remarkable team effort, CALM staff controlled the estimated 4500-5000 people who flocked to see the

This was the third year that buses have been used in Walyunga National Park, but fresh ground was broken this year in the Avon National Park.

The crowd which usually parks, argues and blocks the only entry road to the park was this year methodically parked on the old the river.

Steady liaison was also maintained with the Avon Descent Committee and the

Volunteer organisations ran the buses and controlled parking on the day while forest officers and rangers manned bus terminal points, road junctions, rail crossings, patrolled roads, maintained facilities and generally directed and in-formed the public.

Wanneroo district staff, who gave invaluable help throughout the weekend, cooked a barbecue after the

Staff generally said they had enjoyed the day and appreciated the opportunity it gave them to work as a team and to work so closely with the public.

recreation values will be

taken into account by the

planning team which con-sists of Planning Officer Vanessa Smith, Regional

Parks and Reserves Officer

Bluegum plantings

a success

THE 1988 pilot hardwood Sharefarming programme resulted in 2200ha of Tasmanian bluegums being planted on 19 properties in the south-west.

Most of the plantings (1421ha) were in the Peel-Harvey area with the remainder at various locations, with contractors planting about 90 percent of the area under the supervision of a CALM regional taskforce.

The preparation and planting under the taskforce manage-ment system allowed contractors, who were working over a wide area, to be coordinated, thus reducing costs, providing uniform planting standards and generally streamlining

This proved to be an important factor in the success of the 1988 plantings.

The short time available for site preparation and planting from when the scheme was approved placed an extra burden on all preparation and planting work such as the number of plants available at our nursery, as well as the hiring of contractors to complete the work.

The contractors involved, however, responded to the challenge and their efforts were often supplemented by participating landowners who undertook some of the tasks themselves.

In all 16 contractors were involved in site preparation including ripping, mounding, furrowing and spraying.

Eight contractors planted more than two million seedlings either by hand or machine in six weeks.

Of the total, CALM produced 1.6 million seedlings and Alcoa 480,000, while others were bought from pri-

vate nurseries. Problems associated with plantings included the wet weather, which affected spraying operations and increased the

incidence of weather botrytis in nurseries A caterpillar infestation led to 20ha being replanted on one

property. The management of the

operation was equivalent to a wildfire situation with quick decisions being required, and following reassessment of objectives and strategies rapid implementation was needed. All the CALM officers in-

volved responded to the project in a positive manner and many overcame the time constraints by working extra hours including weekends.

A review of the 1988 pilot scheme was held in early August.

It was acknowledged that the 1988 pilot scheme was important for the experience gained which will prove invaluable when the Hardwood Sharefarming Scheme kicks off in earnest later this year.

START MADE ON PARK PLAN

WORK on a draft management plan for the Walpole-Nornalup National Park got off to a positive start at a public meeting in Walpole late last month.

More than 30 people turned out for the meeting, signalling a high level of public interest in the plan's preparation.

The meeting, chaired by Southern Forest Regional Manager Alan Walker, was designed to introduce the planning team to the community and outline the planning process.

Plan coordinator Vanessa Smith said it also provided a forum for members of the public to raise issues which they believe the plan ought to address.

"It was a very successful exercise," Vanessa said after the meeting.

"It was a good opportu-nity for us to meet the local community and some very constructive suggestions were made."

"Issues raised included vehicle access to Nuyts Wilderness Area, whether dogs should be allowed on beaches, fire management, the status of park estuarys and possible park additions.

"There is a lot of local interest in the management plan and we want to en-courage that," Vanessa said.

The meeting was the first in a series of exercises in-

Qanger

volving the public. Leaflets will be distributed and a user survey and public workshop will be conducted before the draft plan is finished in the middle of

Public comment on the park's conservation and

THE JOYS OF BEING A RANGER

Nº 11 PROSECUTING WILDLIFE CRIMINALS.

next year.

Alan Sands, Walpole's Dis-trict Manager Peter Hanley, and the park's Ranger-In-Charge Rod Annear.

THE opening of the new northward extension of the Mitchell Freeway has made access to Woodvale Wildlife Research Centre and the library easier.

The Freeway now extends to Ocean Reef Road, Woodvale. Woodvale Nature Reserve, in which the Research Centre and Library are situated, is on the corner of the Freeway and Ocean Reef Road. The interchange construction meant that a new access

route to the front gate had to be built. If you are going to Woodvale from the city, drive to the

end of the freeway and turn right. The Woodvale entrance is the first turn to the right, about 600m from the freeway. Travelling time from Como has been reduced to about 25

REFRESH

MEMORY !!

PERHAPS THIS WILL

ANAGING F

A WEEK long Fire Management Course held at Busselton in late June. was attended by 29 CALM staff from as far away as the Pilbara and Goldfields regions.

Fred Richardson, a Fire Officer with the S.E.C., also attended.

The aim of the course was to give participants a knowledge of fire behaviour, fire fighting methods and safety procedures.

Three practical sessions in pump use, fuel sampling and raking fire lines were held in forests close to Busselton.

An innovation at the course was a series of tests and examinations to gauge the level of knowledge assimilated and special mention must be made of the people who passed with distinction.

They were Joe Kinnal, Alan Sands, Bill Taplin, Kelly Cooke, Scott Howson, Carol Dymond, Murray Carter and David Goddard.

In addition Russel Smith, newly appointed to Fire Protection at Bunbury and Trainee National Park Ranger Mike Paxman, both obtained passes with distinction which is a remarkable performance at their very first CALM course.

- JOHN SMART