



Recreation Seminar

JANUARY

TARGET FOR YANCHEP PLAN RELEASE



PLANNING officer Vanessa Smith, Recreation Branch's Pat Page and scientific adviser Jim Sharp chat to world renowned recreation planner Tony Veal (with glasses).

By ALAN SANDS

TWO world renowned recreation planners generated much enthusiasm for new ways of managing CALM's recreation areas at workshops in Como and Albany in August.

The two sessions, arranged by CALM's Jim Sharp, were conducted by England's Tony Veal and the American George Stankey, both of whom now work in Australia.

Visitors stimulate management debate

Dr Stankey discussed alternative ways of managing recreation areas.

The focus of this session was on the concept of Limits of Acceptable Change which requires the land manager to set quality standards and then work toward achieving them.

It appears to be a much more achievable method than trying to describe and plan for carrying capacity.

Dr Stankey also stressed the importance of management through education and information rather than regulation and control.

In his session, Tony Veal

outlined the values and methods of forecasting.

He stressed that forecasting was primarily used to minimise uncertainty rather than make definitive statements about the future.

The discussion also covered techniques for assessing the economic value of such features as wilderness, recreation, forests and parks.

Research into visitor user requirements also highlighted a new work area for CALM managers.

THE final management plan for the Yanchep National Park should be released early next year.

This follows an extensive public participation programme conducted during formulation of the draft plan.

This included a visitor survey, 300 letters sent to the public and interested groups, liaison with the City of Wanneroo, a public workshop and advertisements in local and State newspapers.

Comments were sought from park visitors and the general public as well as conservation and tourism groups and community organisations.

The park has a high con-

servation value as much of the Swan Coastal Plain has been cleared for houses and farming and many wetlands have consequently been filled in or subjected to pressures such as pollution and clearing.

This has reduced the number of fauna habitats and some species have been greatly reduced in number or have left the area altogether.

The park also has many caves, some of which are scientifically important and need protection.

A 2799ha area within the park provides a sanctuary

where this natural environment can be preserved.

Equally important is the park's recreation value. It attracts more than 250,000 visitors each year — 36 per cent of whom are interstate and overseas tourists.

The developed nature of the recreation area together with the high visitor numbers produced a range of management issues which had to be addressed in the plan.

To help resolve these issues, two landscape architect consultants worked closely with the planning team.

The plan recommends that intensive recreation activities be confined to the existing development area and that some of the natural areas be promoted in the future.

The plan also recommends that Ridges State Forest — part of State Forest No. 65 and part of Pipidiny Swamp — be added to the park, more than doubling its size.

A major revamping of the recreation area is proposed within a master plan. This includes improving car-parking and vehicle circulation and rationalising many of the existing facilities and buildings.

Another of the draft plan's major recommendations is that those facilities not normally provided in a national park be leased to private concessions.

These include the swimming pool, golf course, row boats and tennis courts.

This will enable CALM resources to be channelled into more appropriate uses such as managing the natural environment, education and interpretation.

During the three months for public comment on the draft plan, 80 submissions were received as well as two petitions containing 374 signatures.

'Extinct' WA shrub found

By STEVE HOPPER

ANOTHER of the State's presumed extinct plants has been rediscovered.

Tetratheca deltoidea, a small scrambling shrub with nodding dark pink flowers, was first collected by a Miss G. Sewell in 1889.

Miss Sewell found the plant on or near Mt Caroline in the central wheatbelt.

She sent her pressed specimens to Baron von Mueller, the leading Australian botanist of the day, who placed the collections in the Melbourne Herbarium.

There they lay neglected until the 1970s when Joy Thompson of the National Herbarium in Sydney examined them as part of a taxonomic revision of *Tetratheca*.

Ms Thompson used Miss Sewell's specimens as type material to name the new species *T. deltoidea*, which was published in 1976.

The author noted that "in spite of the fragmentary nature of all the specimens this species is quite distinct and does not seem to bear a close relationship to any other."

Two years later, I commenced a series of studies on the conservation status and biology of *Eucalyptus caesia*, the type of which

was also collected from Mt Caroline but by the famous colonial botanist James Drummond.

Over the past 10 years I have spent several periods on Mt Caroline studying the pollination of *E. caesia* by birds.

In July of this year I was searching for orchids at the base of a tree in the middle of my main study patch and noticed a few small flowers on a *Tetratheca* that was scrambling through dense sedges and up the base of the *E. caesia*.

Remembering that Jenni Alford from Woodvale Research Centre was interested in tetrathecas and had mentioned one presumed extinct from the Mt Caroline area, I made a small collection and took several photographs.

After close comparison of my specimens with Joy Thompson's description of *T. deltoidea*, plus examining an excellent drawing of Miss Sewell's material made by WA Herbarium botanist Sue Patrick, there seems little doubt that the species is alive and well.

Early in August, I returned to Mt Caroline

with consultant botanist Stephen Van Leeuwen and technical officer Andrew Brown to search out and map the *Tetratheca*.

We found the species confined to three small soil pockets, each of less than a hectare and containing a total of about 150 plants.

The species is confined to shaded sites beneath *E. caesia* in dense tall sedges close to the edge of massive granite.

Tetratheca deltoidea now needs further survey to establish its distribution and abundance.

There are many other large granite outcrops near Mt Caroline, in an area famous for its rock wallaby populations and the elegant experiments on fox control conducted by Dr Jack Kinneer and his team.

The rediscovery of *T. deltoidea* emphasises the outstanding conservation values of many of our granite outcrops.

Maybe in future I'll look a bit closer at what's on the ground elsewhere beneath the trees that I've studied for a long time!

Scholarship value is increased

IN 1986 and 1987, CALM offered a Scholarship to a qualified employee to participate in the second year of a CALM Field Officer Cadetship.

This year the value of the Scholarship has been increased from \$5000 to \$6000.

The Scholarship, which was a personal initiative of Dr Shea was offered to encourage eligible wages staff to participate in the cadet programme without suffering undue economic hardship.

When launching the inaugural Scholarship in 1986 the Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea said: "I believe there are people on our staff who have much to contribute, but for various reasons, have not had the opportunity."

The Executive Director's Scholarship is open to all CALM employees who have had at least five years of service by the closing ap-

plication date, have the minimum academic qualifications, are well recommended by their District Manager, and supply evidence of medical fitness.

The cadetship year runs from early January to early December.

The Scholarship will be awarded before the end of 1988 and will apply to the second year of the Cadetship commencing in January 1989, at the Dwellingup Cadet School.

It will be additional to the ordinary allowance of the cadet agreement.

The selection of the recipient will be by a selection panel and approved by the Executive Director.

Application forms are available at all CALM offices and should be lodged at SOHQ no later than 5pm on October 28, 1988.

Further information is available from Tony Brandis on (097) 29 1104 or by interview.



GEOFF and Mark build an information bay at the start of a heritage trail on Stony Hill in Torndirrup National Park.

Learning the ropes

BEING a trainee ranger is no picnic — just ask Mark True and Geoff Passmore.

The pair have been hard at work in the Albany district since starting their two-year traineeship earlier this year.

To date, they have been involved in park hygiene, simple constructions, prescribed burns, heritage trail construction, walk trail repairs, fauna surveys, collecting flora specimens for the park's herbarium, preparing job prescriptions and report writing.

They have also been busy studying externally through TAFE for their Certificate in National Park Management.

The trainee ranger programme provides a sound grounding for future park rangers and Mark and Geoff are progressing well — and enjoying it.

FROM MY DESK

One of the most critical factors which will determine the success of CALM is internal communication. It might seem strange that such an abstract thing as communication is so important, but it is vital, not the least because it is impossible to correct problems if we don't know what they are.

It is an incredibly difficult task to ensure that everybody in the Department knows what we are doing and in what direction we are going, simply because of the diversity of functions we perform, our geographical separation and the rate of change that is occurring. I try to communicate from my end in a variety of ways. I find one of the most effective is in the face-to-face contact situation provided by the safety award system. It is at meetings like that I get direct feedback on what's going right with the Department, but also very importantly what's going wrong. It also gives me the opportunity to give an overview of where the Department is going.

CALM News is also a major vehicle for internal communication. I urge everybody to use it. Every region and district should be contributing at least one item in each edition.

Despite the effort we put into internal communication I think we have got a long way to go. We are looking at a variety of other ways by which we can provide information about what's happening in the Department. This includes more active use of direct mailing and the production of special information bulletins. We are also exploring the possibility of producing a video on departmental activities which would be available to all staff on a regular basis.

But communication is a two-way process. It is not only important that all staff know what is going on in the policy area. It is also essential that I know what's happening in the districts and regions and it's also important that other districts and regions know the activities of their neighbours.

I can't over emphasise how vital it is for us to improve our internal communication and I am very receptive to anybody who's got any ideas as to how we can do it.

Dr Syd Shea

STAFF NEWS

Appointments

Gregory Oliver, Reserves Officer, Karratha and Paul De Tores, Reserves Management Officer, Harvey have joined the permanent staff.

Appointed to temporary staff were Geoffrey Wheeler, Officer, Mapping Branch; Trevor Duncanson, Technical Assistant, Como Research; Drewe Vincent, Forest Ranger (Tech) Esperance; Karen Addison, Graphic Designer, Information Branch, and Dianne Wear, Officer, Human Resources Branch.

Promotions

Carolyn Thomson to Publications Officer, Information Branch from Department of Local Government; Stephan Fritz to Environmental and Rehabilitation Officer, Department of Mines; Alan Byrne to District Forester (Training) Dwellingup; Kathryn Andrews to Personnel Officer, Treasury; George Sommerville to Timber contracts officer, Forest Resources Branch from Crown Law; Beng Mahon to Librarian, Herbarium; Michelle Pree to Administrative Assistant, Manjimup Research, and John Clarke to Senior Procurement Officer — Hardwood, Forest Resources Branch.

Transfers

Bob Rickman, Ranger to Yallingup and Tony Smith, Ranger-in-Charge to Stirling Range National Park.

Degrees Conferred

Jim Goodsell, Master of Science.

Retirements

Jim Adams joined the Forests Department as a Trainee Junior Clerk in 1948. He has recently retired as Timber Contracts Officer, Timber Production, Como.

Reclassifications

Peter Pedretti, District Inspector, Manjimup; George Gedling, Senior District Inspector, Bunbury and Robert Fyfe, District Inspector, Bunbury.

Reclassified as Forester Grade 1 were Bill Towie, Dwellingup; Klaus Tiedemann, Esperance; Michael Tagliaferri, Kalgoorlie; Peter White, Broome; Russell Walter, Manjimup; John Brealey, Manjimup; Brad Commins, Margaret River; Mick Law, Wanneroo; Lindon Piggott, Nannup; Kevin Pollock, Mundaring; Barney Quicke, Harvey; David Rose, Kununurra and Ralph Smith, Jarrahdale.

The following were reclassified Senior Forester: Terry Ashcroft, Jarrahdale; Bill Adams, Mundaring; Charlie Broadbent, Busselton; Roger Banks, Nannup; Terry Court, Pemberton; Wally Edgecombe, Karratha; Bevan Forster, Kirup; Steve Gorton, Narrogin; Murray Love, Dwellingup; Terry Maher, Albany; John McKenzie, Collie; Rod Simmonds, Manjimup and Geoff Young, Walpole.

Seminar a success

CALM's 5th Annual South Coast Regional Seminar, held at Karri Bank in the Porongurup area, has been hailed as a great success.

The week got off to an inspirational start with workshop sessions conducted by world renowned recreation planners George Stanley (US) and Tony Veal (UK).

These were followed on day three by an excellent field trip to the Stirling Range National Park.

Executive Director Syd Shea addressed the seminar the following day and presented safety awards to Esperance staff for two years without a lost time injury accident.

Director of National Parks Chris Haynes arrived later in the day and was guest of honour at the regional dinner.

Chris gave a stimulating presentation on park management in North America on day five of the seminar.

The themes of visitation, recreation opportunity, footpath erosion and interpretation flowed logically from one to another.

This year's Meritorious Award went to Esperance district wildlife officer Bernie Haberley.

The "golden arrow" award — generally awarded to the park or reserve with the worst fire season record — went to Regional Manager John Watson.

As there was no outstanding candidate in the "field division" this year, the duty officer scoring the worst fires had the dubious honour of receiving the 1988 award — by default.

By DAVID ROSE

SATELLITE technology is becoming a valuable fire management tool for CALM in the Kimberley.

In the last edition of CALM News, I described how, by using various burning techniques to establish buffers, we could help protect CALM land in the Kimberley from wildfire.

The Kimberley region does not have the same facilities as some south-west districts, which use spotter aircraft and towers to monitor fire activities.

The cost-effectiveness and practicality of such a system has prohibited its introduction in the north, so a new system using satellite imagery is currently being evaluated.

This system — a joint development between CALM,

Managing fires with satellite technology

the Bush Fires Board and the Remote Sensing Unit of the Department of Land Administration — involves the interpretation of information received from a French weather satellite, NOAA.

The information is received at Curtin University and from there is transferred to the Remote Sensing Unit for rectification, interpretation and storage.

Information is received daily and is obtained on request.

Originally, the interpretation programme used Landsat imagery but this proved

too expensive. NOAA was chosen simply because it is the cheapest, although the image resolution isn't as clear.

Early interpretation work aimed to develop a system for determining curing rates and biomass of grasses so burning programmes could be drawn up.

A recent spin-off has been the capacity to detect and monitor fire activity.

We are now able to accurately map our buffer burning as well as monitor large wildfires threatening CALM land.

Over a recent two-month period, we were able to mo-

nitior and track a large wildfire in the North Kimberley.

The fire started on pastoral property about 70km east of the Prince Regent Nature Reserve.

A series of satellite imagery prints showed the fire started on or about June 1 and travelled west toward the reserve.

The prints also clearly showed the established buffer burn along the reserve's northern, eastern and part of the southern boundary.

This was prescribed burnt by aircraft in May this year.

By about June 20, the wildfire had reached the

outlet but south-easterly winds deflected it north.

On July 17, it had travelled the entire length of the eastern and northern buffers and had extinguished itself to the south — a distance of 200km in a month and still going.

The buffer strips protected the Prince Regent Reserve from the fire.

More work is being done to fully evaluate and refine the system.

The Bush Fires Board is continuing its work on curing rates and biomass of grasses with promising results.

Satellite imagery is proving to be a valuable and vital tool in Kimberley fire management and other remote areas of the CALM estate will also benefit from its introduction.

PINE BREEDING PLAN

By CLAYTON SANDERS

MOST Australian States and New Zealand have become self-sufficient in radiata seed production by planting seed orchards.

These orchards, which contain grafted trees that have evolved through intensive tree-breeding programmes, are managed solely for the collection of their cones.

The cones contain superior seed for plantation use.

CALM's West Manjimup seed orchard satisfies all our radiata seed needs.

It is currently being expanded with grafts of improved genetic material, reflecting the advances which have been made in our tree breeding programme.

Tree breeding has been actively pursued in WA since 1960. Most of the early effort was directed toward *Pinus*

pinaster and large gains in growth rate and tree form were achieved.

The focus is now on improving growth rate, tree form and disease tolerance of *Pinus radiata*.

A genetic gains trial, using different seedlots, is one way of gauging tree improvement.

Early genetic gain trials of radiata were planted at Kirup and Grimwade in 1973 and these have shown modest gains in growth rate and tree form.

Since these trials were established, *Pinus radiata* has improved considerably by breeding.

New genetic gain trials were planned with the exchange of orchard seedlots between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to monitor the performance of the improved breed in each of these areas.

Wanneroo Research established these trials in July — one on a dieback-free site in the Kirup dis-

trict and another on a dieback-infested site in the Busselton district.

The Busselton crew which planted the trials had to plant on a precise grid, spacing more than 9000 seedlings in large treatment plots.

The orchard seedlots being studied include the range of New Zealand breeds as well as current seedlots from Australian and South African orchards and the special WA breed which has tolerance to *Phy-*

tographora cinnamomi.

An unselected plantation seedlot from Nannup plantations was also included in the test to highlight the improvement made since the species was introduced to Australia.



Still managing to smile after the Kirup planting trial are (left to right) Jeff Johnstone, John Bopp, Hap Hoes, Les Baldwin, Rob Crabb, Fred Cotton, George Calvert, Tom Gillard, Alan McKittrich, Fred Blurton, and Lindsay Belotti.



DR SHEA proudly shows off *Wild Places, Quiet Places* to Jill Wiseman (left) from the Manjimup Tourist Bureau, and Judy Smith, from Pemberton bureau.

Busy schedule

ANYONE who has tried to keep up with CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea for a day knows it is no easy task.

And when he visits CALM's country offices, his schedule doesn't get any less busy.

Two regional launches for the department's new book — *Wild Places, Quiet Places* — provided opportunities which weren't to be missed.

On August 24, Dr Shea flew to Bunbury to launch the book at 9.30am then was immediately whisked away to the Golden West Network studios for a half-hour radio talk-back show.

Following that was a television interview then a brief respite over lunch at the Lord Forrest Hotel.

Early in the afternoon, Dr Shea had again boarded the plane and was winging his way to Manjimup for the second book launch of the day after addressing 20 small sawmill owners.

Then he had to survive a newspaper interview and give an address to a Manjimup Hoo Hoo Club dinner.

Post Script...

The high and lowlights of the seminar were committed to poetry by the Region's Poet-in-Residence, Barry Jordan.

Barry's rendition at the dinner on Thursday night was in itself a highlight of the seminar.

Excerpts from Barry's poem: It was that time of year When we all pack our gear And to the Regional Seminar do go.

For the current event To Karri Bank we went The reason — nobody knows Ray's an expert on whales And this never fails To create interest in everyone's eyes.

About Hopetoun's brief shower We heard from old Noah An effort that none could despise

One thing can't be ignored

Is that word 'Duckboard' It's all that Dan Grace seems to say, Maybe Dan you should make

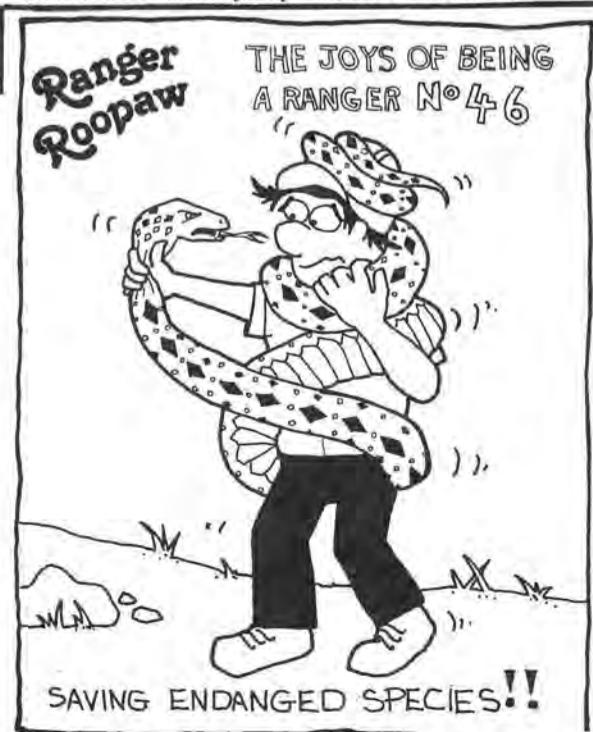
Some you can take To your duck farm at Two Peoples Bay

I can't leave out Hugh Whose weak efforts to Bury the drum were quite slack

Instead of Hugh Chevis Becoming Huge Crevasse I reckon we should call him Hugh Crack

So keep out of danger Forests, Wildlife and Ranger Remember Syd's rousing reply

On Safety we're great Look after yourselves mates Good luck, good driving, goodbye



Weeds Society symposium

A Weeds Science Society of Victoria symposium was convened in May to provide a forum for discussing aspects of weed control on public lands.

A wide cross-section of interest groups was represented, including timber production foresters, conservation land managers, national park managers, urban recreation area managers, ecologists, research scientists, and community interest (conservation) groups.

Some points which were made either in presented papers or in informal discussion were:

- The Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands manages all public land (38 per cent of Victoria). \$6 million per annum is expended on weed control on public land.

- Main problem weeds (with extensive distribution) are blackberry, oneseed and ragwort.

- Rapid increase in area of land now declared national park has forced reconsideration of traditional methods of weed control. There is a need to maximise control effectiveness from limited financial and staff resources.

By DENNIS HILDER

(On public land managed for commercial purposes, e.g. timber production — funds are generally more readily available. Expenditure is considered worthwhile, as a necessary cost of producing a saleable product. Bulldozer mounted systems to spray steep plantations; and helicopter application of herbicides to control backlog situations are being used.)

- Biological control of St Johns Wort, Skeleton Weed, Silverleaf Nightshade, Boneseed and Bitou Bush are being actively researched at K.T.R.I.

Application has been made to the Commonwealth Government authorities to release more virulent strains of the Blackberry rust, *Phragmidium violaceum*. There are no indications that the approvals will be given promptly.

Trials are being conducted to assess the performance of herbicides

against Blackberry already affected by the illegally introduced rust.

- Inventory systems which record the location of weeds and the results of management activities, are being developed by C.F. & L.

- The impact of "alien plants" on conservation values of endemic vegetation is being studied by researchers. Gene mixing and hybridisation are of concern.

- Effective weed control on public land can only be assured if communities are supportive of programmes and wherever possible, participate. ("Friends" groups, etc).

Management plans must be prepared which identify objectives for use of the land as well as the strategies for weed control.

Involvement by the public in the preparation of the management plans helps foster commitment by community groups to contributing to the control strategies which are identified.

An example of this approach being put into practice, is the "Ragwort Action Plan" developed by C.F. & L., 1987.

TEAM EXPLORES REMOTE DESERT RANGES

THE Alfred and Marie Range is a little known range of residual mesa-like hills in the Gibson Desert which were named by Ernest Giles in 1874 after their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

The Range is of interest to CALM because it is within the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve which at 1.8 million ha is one of the largest and remotest nature reserves in W.A.

This reserve is also the site of the department's ongoing fire research and ecology of desert ecosystems. (See CALM NEWS Vol 4, No. 40.)

The Alfred and Marie Range and the nearby Clutterbuck Hills were visited by operations staff Mike Tagliaferri and Andrew Chapman, and Research Scientist David Pearson from the Kalgoorlie office in July 1988.

Desert ranges always attract biological attention because they are effectively islands; small isolates of different habitat and topography in a vast sea of spinifex.

Therefore most of their biota are isolated genetically.

Our particular interests were whether Rock Wallabies were or are present in the Clutterbuck Hills — the possibility had been raised by previous visitors on the basis of appropriate habitat and the numerous scats.

Elusive

The presence of Long-tailed Dunnarts, a rare and elusive desert marsupial, in the Alfred and Marie Range was also possible.

An exciting possibility was the chance to relocate *Eucalyptus rameliana*, one of Australia's rarest eucalypts, last collected by Ernest Giles in 1876.

Although the rare species always attract most attention, an important aspect of reserve management is accumulation of information on distribution and abundance within reserves of all species including the common ones.

As far as plants are concerned we were lucky in this

respect as extensive rains in the desert in April and May had resulted in vigorous growth of ephemeral species and many small shrubs were flowering.

The effect of these rains had not become apparent on fauna except that Crinson Chats and Masked Woodswallows were abundant and the former were breeding in profusion.

A small looping caterpillar was also very common and Chats, Pied Honeyeaters and Horsfield Bronze Cuckoos were all feeding on these larvae.

Our mammal trapping results were disappointing; only two Sandy Inland Mice were trapped in the Clutterbuck Hills and no Rock Wallabies or Dunnarts were found. But as so often is the case with fauna work, a nil result is not necessarily a negative one; as Charles Kingsley said "to say water babies do not exist, one must see them not existing, which is quite a different thing from not seeing water babies!"

It is entirely likely that further rainfall or a greater lead time is required for mammal populations to become high enough to be detected in short term trapping surveys.

Dead

Indeed the only large mammals seen were two Red Kangaroos.

The Euros we saw were all dead; no doubt attesting to dry conditions prevailing here prior to April/May.

Previously abundant here but presumed extinct now, were Stick Nest Rats.

Curious Stick Nests cemented together with their excreta, are indicators of their former presence.

As well as recording data on flora and fauna, another reason for this recon-

naissance survey was the operational aspect of reserve management.

For example, to manage a reserve we need to know how accessible it is.

How well mapped? Are there any trig. points or unmapped airstrips?

Has there been any mineral exploration or other activity which could be inimical to reserve management?

To facilitate effective management operations staff need "hands on-been there" experience of the reserves under their control.

For example, as a result of this reconnaissance we are aware of an un-named range halfway between the Clutterbuck Hills and the Alfred Marie Range.

Future

Although this un-named range is not as extensive as the latter, it is nevertheless an imposing feature of the landscape, very different geologically from the Clutterbuck Hills.

It is a salutary lesson in desert travel that a map distance of some 12km can take 4-5 hours and maybe 26 vehicle kms to traverse.

Distance is an elusive quality in the desert; the general topography is so flat and "ranges" are little more than subdued hills. The effect of this is that a range which appears to be on the horizon may only be a low line of hills some 15kms away.

As a result of this trip we can say, with some confidence — in spite of Charles Kingsley's warning — that *Eucalyptus rameliana* does not occur within the Alfred and Marie Range.

Its rediscovery with the Gibson Desert vastness must await another day.



THE ACF's Jim Muir and forester Sonny Cave with the Yate seed capsules.

CALM and the Australian Conservation Foundation's Bunbury Branch joined forces recently in a tree-planting project.

About 40 people planted 180 trees at the old rifle range in the tuart forest.

It was the first stage of a three-year rehabilitation programme for the area.

South West Province MLC Doug Wenn said it was excellent to see CALM and the ACF cooperating in such a worthwhile project.

Busselton's District Manager Tony Raven said it was great to see so many people help with the

Tree planting a team effort

planting.

"This type of community involvement in practical conservation projects is what CALM is very keen to foster," he said.

The ACF's Adrian Colley agreed: "The number of people involved reflects the level of concern for the environment in the south-west."

The Yate seedlings were raised by the ACF's Jim

Muir from seed collected from naturally occurring Yate trees in the area.

Tuart and Peppermint will be planted next year and the remaining area will be regenerated to Tuart in 1990.

Yate, *Eucalyptus cornuta*, is a medium-sized tree found mainly in a belt which stretches along the south coast from Busselton to slightly east of Albany.

It usually occurs in association with other species such as tuart in the Busselton area or flooded gum in swampy areas toward Albany.

The timber of Yate is probably one of the strongest in the world.

Some tests have shown that its ultimate tension strength approaches that of wrought iron.

It was formerly used for wheelwright work but has been in very short supply in recent years.

Yate was the first WA eucalypt to be scientifically named. It was first collected by botanists in 1792 and named in 1799.

CALM hosts CSIRO visitor

CALM played host to Dr Jill Landsberg from CSIRO's Division of Forestry and Forest Products in Canberra recently.

Jill, who has worked on rural tree decline in Queensland and NSW for the past eight years, was in WA to attend an Ecological Society of Australia conference in Geraldton from August 28 to September 3.

Before travelling to Geraldton for the conference, Jill addressed a workshop on insect-related eucalypt decline at CALM's Como headquarters.

Other speakers at the workshop were John Casotti (Murdoch University), Dr Jon Majer (Curtin University), Dr Richard Hobbs (CSIRO), and CALM's Paul Brown and Dr Ian Abbott.

During her WA visit, Jill had discussions with entomologists at CSIRO and Murdoch University as well as with CALM's Ian Abbott and Stuart Crombie (Como), Bryan Shearer (Dwellingup) and Per Christensen and Janet Farr (Manjimup).

— ELAINE DAVIDSON

More than 70 CALM staff and cadets from throughout WA attended a two-day declared rare flora management workshop at Como in August.

The workshop, organised by Woodvale Research Centre's Senior Technical Officer Ron Sokolowski, was conducted in line with CALM's strategies for conserving declared rare flora in the wild.

Strategy 4.1 of Policy Statement No. 9 states that staff will undertake training in departmental obligation to conserve and manage endangered flora.

Papers presented during the workshop focussed on a range of issues from legislation to diseases threatening rare flora.

Workshop participants were also involved in practical exercises and toured the WA Herbarium.



"Getting fenceposts from CALM land has never been easier, eh Bert?"

MYSTERY OF MISSING BUILDING, FENCES

FIREWOOD isn't the only thing members of the public collect from CALM lands at weekends — they also occasionally snaffle the odd shed or section of fence.

It's hard to imagine the offenders creeping stealthily in at night and making off with a shed or two, but these rural thieves are no ordinary cat burglars.

Slowly, piece by piece, they dismantle the sheds and fences and cart them away.

The buildings, located on what was formerly private property, are literally disappearing — trailer load by trailer load —

over several weekends.

In one case, a full-size shearing shed mysteriously vanished.

It's certainly no laughing matter for Kirup's Alan Seymour, who has to find a solution to this perplexing problem.

"The properties are, in most cases, very isolated and impossible to police," he said.

"But people think anything that can be moved is up for grabs."

The only way to solve the problem, says Alan, is to sell the buildings and fences off to the highest bidder before the daring rural thieves can get to them.



GARY MUIR puts pencil to paper and his Manjimup workmates sometimes fall victim to his quick sense of humour.

Forest officer Gary Muir is a funny guy — something his Manjimup workmates have known for years.

So they thought it was high time other CALM staff got to share Gary's sense of humour. The result is the cartoon on this page.

Gary, who has worked for CALM for four years, started doodling at age 16 when a serious car accident landed him in hospital for three months.

Now 23, Gary — nick-named "Snap" — has a quick wit and an equally quick drawing hand.

Some of his cartoons, featuring unsuspecting CALM staff, are pinned on his office wall.

He has lots of other hobbies including squash, water-skiing, fishing and golf, although he sadly admits that his golfing ability, unlike his talent for drawing, leaves a bit to be desired.

Watch for Gary's cartoons in future editions of CALM News.

TWO-WHEEL Kimberley tourist

By CHRIS DONE

FOUR-wheel-drives are prohibited at Piccaninny Creek in the Kimberley — but that didn't bother paraplegic tourist Harvey Martin in the slightest.

He only ever intended going on two wheels, although a wheelchair is not the mode of transport every tourist would choose.

Harvey, a Vietnam veteran from Modesto, California was on his way around Australia when he met up with Ranger Bob Taylor and myself.

He helped man our display at the Kununurra Agricultural Society Show, after which he accepted our invitation to visit the Bungle Bungle area.

He was most impressed with the scenery and has taken up a new pastime — bird-watching.

He was fascinated by the display of more than 20 species of birds which came to Ranger Jim Wolfenden's camp at Kurrajong and Gerry Deegan's camp at Bellburn.

Harvey also plays basketball, snorkels, is in the world archery team, and competes in swimming, iron-man and weightlifting events.



HARVEY goes two-wheel-driving through Piccaninny Creek.

Albany venue for oil spill workshop

CALM personnel recently took part in a four-day oil spills contingency planning workshop and a one-day oil spill equipment operator's course in Albany.

The equipment operator's course involved lectures on the national plan for oil spills and an introduction to the control and recovery of oil, the use of dispersants and sorbents, and foreshore cleaning techniques.

After lunch, and in wet and windy conditions, various booms and skimmers to remove oil were demonstrated alongside the Albany Town Jetty.

CALM staff attending the course included wildlife officers, Albany's park ranger, the Environmental Protection Branch Manager and the South Coast Regional Manager.

The four-day contingency plans workshop, presented by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Communications, was attended by Environmental Protection Branch Manager, Frank Batini and South Coast Regional Manager, John Watson.

This was an excellent course restricted to about 20 personnel from all over Australia.

Eight local participants were drawn from local government authorities, the Albany Port Authority, Marine and Harbours, Fisheries, Police and CALM.

The other participants were drawn from various port and management agencies.

After introductory sessions, the workshop split into three syndicates which each prepared a contingency plan for the WA coastline between Boat Harbour

(west of Denmark) and Cheyne Beach (east of Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve).

Syndicates then used their contingency plan to deal with a hypothetical oil spill incident in the area.

In all instances, CALM parks or reserves and wildlife impact had to be assessed.

The three contingency plans will be edited into one document in Canberra and

then returned to the Albany Harbour Master for further checking and refinement.

The eight local workshop participants intend to then reconvene to ensure that the best possible oil spill contingency plan for Albany and its environs is finally prepared.

This was an extremely valuable course and it is hoped future WA courses will be attended by CALM personnel.



PARTICIPANTS in the oil spills contingency planning workshop take a tour of Albany's port environs and King George Sound.

Recreation Management School

A BALANCE of new ideas and techniques complemented the many tried and true procedures which were presented at CALM's inaugural Advanced Recreation Management School in August.

During the five-day course, 29 participants from Kununurra to Walpole were bombarded with a wealth of information which is now being directed into local recreation projects.

Topics ranged from the

philosophy of leisure and recreation through to planning, interpretation and design, and construction and maintenance.

Skills learnt were put to use immediately during a syndicate exercise based on redevelopment of Penguin Island near Rockingham.

THERE are a few young emus running around the south-west which owe their lives to Harvey forest ranger Bryan Doust.

Bryan was tree marking in the coastal pine forests prior to logging operations when he stumbled upon two emu nests

The five syndicates presented their proposals to Metropolitan Branch staff who in turn will present them to the Penguin Island Advisory Committee.

The final management plan for the island is likely to incorporate many of these ideas.

with eggs.

A check with Chief Wildlife Officer Dave Mell revealed that the eggs were due to hatch within two weeks.

Without further ado, the pine logging operations were diverted from that area until the eggs had hatched.

Recreation and Landscape Branch Manager, Wayne Schmidt, and the 12 other session leaders will conduct the same course next year.

It is hoped many of the new ideas put forward at next year's course will come from participants in the 1988 course.

— ALAN SANDS

LERP OUTBREAK CAUSES CONCERN

By JANET FARR

AN outbreak of lerps (*Cardiaspina brunnea*) on flat-topped yate has concerned growers in the Lower Great Southern area since 1980.

Lerps to the uninitiated are tiny creatures which live on leaves under a sugary roof and tap into the plant's phloem, much like aphids.

The flat-topped yate is important in lowering water table levels in order to reduce salinity in the southern cereal-sheep growing region of WA.

The lerp outbreak was first recorded in June 1982 at Kebaringup and since then severe damage has been evident throughout the range of flat-topped yate.

Tree crowns turn brown and appear as if they have been scorched by fire.

Dr Ian Abbott, John Humphries and I visited the outbreak area during July 4

to 8, to investigate the progress and severity of the festation.

Areas visited included Mount Barker, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Ongerup, Gnowangerup, Tambellup, Cranbrook and Fitzgerald.

Trees were inspected on farm properties and along roadside verges, and severe damage was observed in 1986 foliage.

In many areas older trees had responded to the severity of lerp attack by producing a high proportion of epicormic growth.

Only minor damage was observed on the 1987 leaves and few lerp juveniles were collected on the trip.

However, from

knowledge of lerp outbreaks in the Eastern States, future outbreaks in the Lower Great Southern region are very likely to occur.

This history and extent of the outbreak was discussed with the Soil Conservation Advisory Committee for Jerramungup and local farmers.

It was the opinion of most farmers that the outbreak was the result of low rainfall in past years.

Correlation of the outbreak with spraying for grasshopper control was also mentioned.

The farmers were enthusiastic concerning CALM's proposed research programme on the lerp.

Research of the lerp's biology and the cause of outbreaks will be conducted by CALM's Entomology team based in Manjimup.

The programme will incorporate monitoring lerp populations on flat-topped yate stands situated on a number of cereal-sheep properties and in the Stirling Ranges and Fitzgerald National Park.

Mapping issue relay challenge

THE gauntlet is down and the challenge is on for CALM's second Big Brook Relay on October 15.

Mapping Maniacs are joining the fray this year and, fresh from a win in the Tabloid Olympics, are confident of success.

"We didn't put a team in last year, but we're odds-on favourites for this year," boasted John Forster.

But the squad — which consists of Forster, Steve Jones, Ray Lawrie, Steve Rowlands, Chris Simms and Des Muir — obviously isn't taking the competition lightly.

They have been spotted in the Como grounds around lunchtime sweating it out with a cross-cut saw.

Information Branch, however, seems to believe it will get through on pure natural talent.

They are not at all concerned about last year's result when they claimed the inaugural Derriere trophy.

In fact, says Information Branch onlooker John Hunter, they wouldn't mind being the wooden-spooners again this year so they can

get the bowl to match 1987's toilet seat shield.

Manjimup District, on the other hand, will be striving hard to keep their crown and the Karri All Sports Trophy.

Whoever wins — or loses — there is one thing for certain: all the competitors and spectators are going to have an action-packed, fun-filled day.

Organised by Southern Forest Region, the relay is the biggest non-work gathering of CALM staff.

The relay consists of a 7.5km run, a 12km cycle ride on gravel, a 900m swim (wetsuits are allowed), a 3km paddle in a two-man Canadian canoe and, finally, some cross-cut sawing (5 x 300mm diameter jarrah rings.)

The sporting action will be followed by a barbecue while other activities such as frisbee golf, BMX races, windsurfing, fishing and a tug-o-war will keep the kids — and other kids-at-heart — entertained throughout the day.

For more information, contact Alan Sands at Manjimup on (097) 71 1988.

Bio-loo turns out a trump

IT'S a far cry from the thunderboxes of old but a self-composting toilet — or "bio-loo" as it is affectionately known — has given Harvey's District Manager Peter Henderson a few laughs.

The aerobic loo (so-named because it operates with air), has been erected at the Stirling Dam picnic site.

Peter says it is an expensive piece of equipment which works something like this: a large tank, split up into many compartments, is filled with soil and sawdust.

It is erected on a slope so as the organic waste goes in, it slides down the slope from compartment to compartment. What comes out at the other end, some months later, is moist organic compost which has no odour.

An ingenious idea indeed, but one which was "canned" by a certain shire employee — that is, until he and his family were caught in a rather desperate situation during a Sunday picnic at the dam.

Peter, who also happened to be enjoying a day out with friends, swears it was the smoke from the barbecue which brought the tears to his eyes.

Memories for Mike

BUSSELTON'S Mike Batchelor retired recently after 19 years as a park ranger.

Mike was the Cape Range National Park's first ranger — a position he took up in October 1972.

Four years later, he moved south to become the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park's first ranger.

When he took up that position in November 1976, he covered an area from Cape Naturaliste to Augusta — an area now covered by five rangers.

With extra time on his hands, Mike has moved to Augusta to do a spot of fishing.

CALM News copy

SEND copy for CALM News to Kylie Byfield, Publications Section, Como, by the first Friday of every month.

Kylie can be contacted on 367 0324.



ALBANY District Officer Barry Jordan receives the safety award from CALM Minister Barry Hodge.

CALM Minister Barry Hodge took time out during a visit to Albany last month to present safety awards to district staff.

Mr Hodge was in town to launch the department's

new book — Wild Places, Quiet Places.

Immediately after launching the book he presented the safety awards to staff who had notched up one year free from lost time injury accidents.