



Milyering Visitor Centre opened

Conservation and Land Management Minister, Barry Hodge, officially opened the Milyering Bicentennial Visitor Centre in Cape Range National Park on September 17.

Designed by the Building Management Authority and built at a cost of \$1.7 million, the centre was jointly funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the State Government.

The building features thick rammed earth walls made from local soil allowing the building to blend in with the surrounding landscape, while reducing fluctuations between day and night temperatures.

The building has wide verandahs and a corrugated iron roof, both typical features of colonial homesteads.

The centre is powered by solar energy, a cost efficient method of lighting.

In his opening address, Mr Hodge said that the Milyering Centre sets new standards in educational and vi-

sitor facilities in national parks and it would highlight the conservation importance of Cape Range and the nearby Ningaloo Marine Park.

He said the centre would also be an educational resource for schools and local people wanting to have a better understanding of the natural environment and coral reef system.

The opening of the Milyering Centre coincides with increasing interest in the Ningaloo Reef by holiday makers and scientists.

Mr Hodge said a few marine scientists and a few local people had known the existence of the reef, but until recently it had remained unappreciated and unacknowledged by most Western Australians.

He said that in scientific terms the reef was one of the world's major coral reef systems forming a barrier

along the coast for much of its 260km length.

With the unusual mix of an arid landscape, a stretch of spectacular coastline and a superb coral reef that offer examples of Australia's terrestrial and marine native flora and fauna in their natural habitat, the Ningaloo Marine Park was becoming increasingly popular with tourists.

Mr Hodge said the State Government wanted to encourage managed tourist growth so more people could experience and appreciate this unique area.

He said the Milyering Centre was built to cater for the expected increase in visitors.

CALM will develop the educational resources at the centre, and provide outdoor facilities including underwater nature trails, wildlife observation lookouts and nature trails.

At the same time as opening the Milyering Centre, Mr Hodge also launched the CALM publication "Range to Reef".

Management burn

DESERT RESEARCH PROJECT

By ROGER UNDERWOOD

EXPLORER David Carnegie called the Gibson Desert "the great undulating desert of gravel".

He described it as a "cheerless and waterless region" and could not conceive of any future interest in the area.

Yet 92 years later almost to the day, 18 CALM staff camped at the very place Carnegie camped, at the Young Range.

They were conducting aerial burning trials and research aimed at conserving the animals Carnegie found to be so abundant, but which are today so rare.

"It was a momentous occasion," said CALM's Gibson Desert Project Leader, Neil Burrows.

"After our disappointment in May when we were rained out and the aircraft was unable to even leave Perth, it was great to see all our planning come to fruition."

Three aerial burns were completed with patches of various sizes being burnt within an area of 75,000ha of spinifex and mulga country in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.

The aim was to produce a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country with a minimum of ground support and this was achieved.

Research projects on the effects of fire on plants, birds, reptiles and mammals have commenced.

Neil paid special tribute to Ian Kealley and his Goldfields Region staff who organised all the logistics for the project and who controlled the aerial burning, and to aircrew Sue Folkes, Gerry van Didden and Steve Dutton who quickly adapted their well-known skills to the very different conditions prevailing in the desert.

CALM's Chief of Research, Andrew Burbridge, was particularly pleased to be part of this project, having promoted the need for ecological burning in the deserts for many years.

"I see this project as the start of active ecological management of inland areas," he said.

"CALM manages many millions of hectares of valuable desert land, much of which needs similar research and operational burning.

"Our challenge now is to carry out this work before the desert loses more plants and animals."



Inside the Milyering centre, CALM Minister Barry Hodge inspects a model of Cape Range.

Well done!

S Shea
Executive Director
Department of Conservation and
Land Management

Dear Syd

First, I want to thank you for accompanying me to Augusta today to see first hand the rescue operation mounted by the Department to save the stranded false killer whales.

Although I arrived on the beach before 9.00am and the whales were only first spotted late yesterday, it was incredible the precision and scale of the operation which CALM officers had mounted.

Not only had a plan of action been decided but personnel, equipment and logistical support were in place and the loading and transport of the whales had begun.

Even more noteworthy is the fact that by the time I had to leave just before noon, CALM had safely transported by land and sea over a quarter of the beached whales, returning them to the ocean to be held by volunteers.

Considering the distances involved, the transport problems, the need to supervise volunteers and negotiate spectators, this morning's events marked what I'm sure will go down as one of the most effective mobilisations of manpower ever undertaken by a Government department.



Will you please pass on to all your officers my sincere thanks on behalf of the Government.

The work they are doing at Augusta is historic and the people of this State are willing them to succeed.

It is pleasing that the officers of CALM, through their compassion, skill and expertise at Augusta today, have reinforced to Western Australians the very high calibre of the Government's employees throughout the State.

Again, my sincere thanks and best wishes for a successful rescue to all.

Yours sincerely
Barry Hodge, MLA
Minister for Conservation
and Land Management
September 30, 1988.

Whale rescue a triumph

THE rescue of 32 false killer whales at Augusta on October 1 was a triumph not only for CALM officers who coordinated the exercise, but also for the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to return the whales back to their natural environment.

The three-day operation was reminiscent of a similar rescue at Augusta in 1986 when 96 false killer whales were saved.

The alarm was raised at 4pm on Thursday September 29, 1988. A large pod of false killer whales had stranded 10-15km east of the mouth of the Blackwood River, near Augusta.

From past experience, our wildlife officers knew that speed was vital and so a rescue operation was immediately swung into action.

The strategy included the setting up of a Large Fire Organisation — a plan developed to fight bushfires but which had all the essential ingredients for a successful whale rescue.

Specialised staff and equipment were despatched to the stranding site.

While Busselton District Manager, Tony Raven, was

moving men and organising equipment a team of wildlife officers from Perth, headed by David Mell, and accompanied by Dr Nick Gales, the Department's veterinary consultant, was on its way to Augusta within hours of the stranding being reported.

The rescue strategy was similar to the one deployed in 1980. With a gentle sloping seabed and a surf line about 80m from the beach, the whales could not be returned to the sea at the stranding site.

They would have to be moved to a safe holding bay with access to deeper water.

The 60km route along the Brockman and Bussell Highways back to the beach at Storm Bay on the other side of the river was too long so it was decided to transport the whales along the beach, across the

mouth of the Blackwood River and then another 2km to the safe holding bay.

The logistics tested CALM's organisational skills and reserves.

An army of volunteers was needed along with equipment and machinery to move the distressed whales.

Busselton Forestry Officer, Charlie Broadbent, set up communication links, and organised food, drinks and other facilities for the volunteers.

As the operation moved into top gear, an urgent plea for help was broadcast on radio and television throughout the State.

Simultaneously, machinery — including front-end loaders, trucks, a backhoe and other vehicles — were despatched from CALM offices at Nannup, Margaret River and Busselton.

A control point was set up at

Scott River Station at the head of a sandy four-wheel-drive track which led to the beach about 4km away.

The first volunteers were checking in at the control point when Dave Mell and his Perth crew arrived at 2am on Friday with two whale rescue kits.

In the dark of night, CALM officers and volunteers dragged the whales out of the surf, supported them in the sand, poured water over them to prevent dehydration and applied first aid where necessary.

Sadly, help had arrived too late for 19 of the 60 whales scattered over 4km of beach.

The task of loading and transporting the animals along the beach to the mouth of the Blackwood River began at first light.

FROM MY DESK

Hon B. J. Hodge, MLA
Minister for Conservation and Land Management
Dear Barry,

Like many throughout Western Australia, and indeed the world I was very much impressed by the hardwork, skills and devotion which was evident throughout those days and nights when officers of your Department battled to save the lives of the whales at Augusta.

I know there is still a concern among us all that we do not know enough about the beachings of whales, but I hope that the establishment of the emergency procedures will alleviate some of the problems if the need arises again.

Above all, I would like you to thank Dr Syd Shea and his staff for doing the job so efficiently and so successfully in such trying circumstances.

I noted your public expression of thanks to the public and all those who helped, and I wanted to make absolutely sure that you and everyone in CALM was aware of my gratitude, which I know expresses the feelings of our Government and people of the State as well.

Your officers gave us reason to be proud that in our community there are skilled men and women who are able to reach the highest standards in service and are willing to endure the most trying circumstances, physically, mentally and emotionally in their response to the needs of fellow creatures.

I would be grateful if you would pass on my thanks and good wishes to all those concerned.

Peter Dowding, LL.B., M.L.A.
PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

\$3000 recently for attempting to smuggle cockatoo eggs out of Australia.

Daniel Bottlang was arrested at Perth airport after an intense three-day operation by CALM wildlife officers, police and Customs Department officers.

The drama began at Three Springs on Wednesday, October 5 when a local farmer reported a man acting suspiciously.

Geraldton wildlife officers Kevin Marshall and Matt Warnock made initial investigations while local police began to monitor his movements.

Swiss man fined for bird smuggling

Senior wildlife officers at Como were advised so when Bottlang headed to Perth on Thursday afternoon, his every movement was being monitored.

In Perth, CALM's Peter Pennings and Kingsley Miller worked in conjunction with police until Bottlang had consigned two boxes carrying the eggs through Qantas air cargo.

Customs officials then got in on the act. With CALM's Peter Pennings and Kingsley Miller, they inspected the boxes, finding eight eggs snugly packaged in two battery-powered incubators.

After two earlier court appearances, Bottlang was eventually fined on October 18.

He was ordered to pay two fines of \$500 and one of \$800 for three charges made under Section 16A(1) of WA's Wildlife Conservation Act for possessing protected fauna.

He was also fined \$1250 under the Commonwealth Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982.

Federal police also laid a charge under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act for consigning dangerous goods (the two batteries powering the incubators) aboard an aircraft.

Bottlang was fined \$250 on that charge and ordered to pay almost \$200 in costs.

He was lucky to get off so lightly: maximum penalties under the Commonwealth Wildlife Protection Act are \$100,000 or five years' imprisonment.

Under the State Act, the maximum penalty is \$4000 for the unlawful possession of protected fauna.

SAFETY PAYS OFF AT NANNUP

CALM's Nannup District recently achieved the distinction of working 12 consecutive months without a lost time accident.

This is an excellent effort considering the work environment and tasks carried out.

All personnel were presented with an award for their contribution to achieving this goal at a presentation held in the Nannup Community Centre.

The presentation was made by CALM's Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, who highlighted the benefits to the individual and the community for working safely and reinforced CALM's commitment to an active safety programme.

Special mention was made of the Nannup Workshop's safety record.

The workshop staff have worked 24 years without a

lost time accident which is outstanding.

In addition to an individual award all personnel participated in tours to other districts to gain an appreciation of CALM activities in other areas.

One group visited Busselton District to look at coastal management, and the provision of visitor facilities in a high use area. A second group visited Harvey District to look at the Wood

Utilisation Research Centre and then Wesfi's particle-board plant at Dardanup.

A third group visited the Southern Forest Region and looked at current and proposed management strategies for the karri forest, karri silviculture and WACAP's woodchip plant.

The visits were highly successful and promoted a greater understanding of CALM's operations in other areas.

Well done Walpole

WALPOLE district is also doing well in the safety stakes, notching up one year free from lost time accidents on July 7.

Executive Director Syd Shea flew to the town recently to present the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention's Certificate of Merit to district manager Peter Hanly.

He also presented the Executive Director's Individual Safety Awards to all district staff.



SYD SHEA presents the IFAP certificate to Walpole's district manager Peter Hanly
Picture: TERRY GOODLICH.

STAFF NEWS

APPOINTMENTS

Trevor Carboon, Senior Training Officer, Fire Protection, Como, Joni Sandford, Officer, Manjimup and Julie Atherton, Officer, Kirup have joined the Department.

PROMOTIONS

Hugh Chevis, to Regional Manager, Pilbara; Peter Bowen to Manager, Land Information Systems, Como. Diane Knight, previously Records Branch, Como has joined the Department of Employment and Training as its Record Management Officer.

Earlier promotions — Keith Mungham to Cartographic Draftsperson, Mapping Branch, Como; Jillian Pryde to Personal Secretary, Woodvale.

TRANSFERS

Gavin Butcher to Hardwood Silviculturist, Manjimup; Peter Walsh to Senior Computer Operator, Como; Peter Jeffs to Ranger-in-Charge, Porongorup National Park.

District Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert transferred to Murdoch House; Ray Smith to Bunbury and Peter Trembath to Broome.

RETIREMENT

Bob McAlinden, Forest Ranger, Narrogin has retired after 33 years of work at Dryandra and Narrogin.



"Victim" Dave McMillan and Peter Hutchison.



Bob Fitzgerald and Andrew Chapman



Peter Hutchison



Ian Kealley

Goldfields tied up

CALM Goldfields Regional Staff have been really tied up in the last couple of months with one thing or another, but in some cases literally!

CALM First Aid Instructor, Harold Pears, spent three full days with Kalgoorlie staff training them in basic first aid.

All of Harold's students passed and the presentation of certificates was held in September to coincide with CALM Minister Barry Hodge's visit to Kalgoorlie. LEE-ANNE MARTIN.

Publications Update

YOU thought nobody loved you didn't you, especially that darn John Hunter, who forgot to send you your free copies of all our new books and brochures.

Relax — from now on we're going to advise what's new in Publications and Information in CALM NEWS.

WHAT'S NEW

- Wild Places, Quiet Places (\$14.95 retail) All the recreation spots (with coloured pictures and maps) from Perth to Eucla.
- Voices of the Bush (\$8.95 retail) In colour, depicting the heritage trail through the WA Wheatbelt.
- Range to Reef (\$4.95 retail) A coloured booklet on the features of Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park.
- A Guide to the Bibbulmun Track (\$14.95 retail) Coloured maps, pictures and descriptions of WA's 650km walk trail.
- Landscape Vol. 4 No. 1 (\$2.95 retail)
- Technical Report No. 20. Prescribed burning slash fuel in Pinus

Radiata plantations in Western Australia. • Wood Utilization Research Centre Report No. 6.

- Penetration of copper — chrome — arsenic preservative into regrowth jarrah logs.
- Poster (\$4.95) Featuring the cover of Wild Places, Quiet Places.
- Poster The CALM logo interpreted.

WHAT'S CHANGED

- The price of Landscape (single copy \$2.95)
 - The price of Beating about the Bush (now \$9.95 ea)
- PS: Don't forget, if any documents (brochures, leaflets, etc.) are published by or in the Regions, then we are legally required to deposit with the State and Federal Library and three copies should be provided to CALM's Library Woodvale.
- Could you therefore supply John Hunter, Como with 30 copies — he will make the necessary arrangements.

1990 Churchill Fellowships for overseas study

The Churchill Trust invites applications from Australians, of 18 years and over from all walks of life who wish to be considered for a Churchill Fellowship to undertake, during 1990, an overseas study project that will enhance their usefulness to the Australian community.

No prescribed qualifications are required, merit being the primary test, whether based on past achievements or demonstrated ability for future achievement.

Fellowships are awarded annually to those who have already established themselves in their calling. They are not awarded for the purpose of obtaining higher academic or formal qualifications.

Details may be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to:

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon,
ACT 2601.

Completed application forms and reports from three referees must be submitted by Tuesday 28 February 1989.



Old forester pays a visit

AN absence of 50 years has not dimmed the love of the karri forest in retired forester Geoff Chandler.

Mr Chandler studied forestry under the legendary Charles Lane Poole and then worked in WA forests throughout the 1930s, mainly in the Margaret River, Jarrahdale and Harvey districts.

On a recent visit from Victoria, where he has lived since 1946, Mr Chandler visited Manjimup and Pemberton and inspected the

karri forests he last saw in 1938.

In particular, Mr Chandler wanted to see the Treen Brook forest again.

"When I last saw it, the area had just been clearfelled and regeneration operations were commencing under the direction of one of my great friends, forester Don Stewart," Mr Chandler said.

"He would be proud to see it now. The new forest is simply magnificent."

The old forester was also delighted by the regrowth forests he saw at Big Brook.



WHICH way, fellas? Mapping's Bob Symons and Steve Jones must have been reading the guidebook upside-down, much to the amusement of Chris Simms.

Bibbulmun track upgraded

WHEN you're talking about teams, CALM must have one of the best.

And when it comes to teamwork, nobody does it better — just ask Recreation Branch's Drew Griffiths.

Drew, project coordinator for the Bibbulmun Track upgrade, sighed with relief and heaped praise on CALM staff after the track reopening on September 30. "It was a magnificent team effort," he said.

"Now, thousands of people will be able to walk on and enjoy the track — and all because of a lot of cooperation between a lot of people."

That "cooperation" began at the top many years

ago when Director of Forests Peter Hewett — now known as the Father of the Track — took a germ of an idea and turned it into reality.

More recently, it spread throughout the regions, districts and branches and hundreds of people became involved.

There were the planners

One of the intrepid first...

By CAROLYN THOMSON

in Perth who painstakingly devised the whole plan; there were the people in the field who put the plan into action; then there were the Mapping Branch staff and publications team who put together the new track guide so the plan will provide enjoyment for many others.

"And the biggest thrill was seeing it all come off when the track was reopened," says Drew.

"It was a top effort!" But what else would you expect from a top team?

I was one of the intrepid crew from Publications, along with our mates from Mapping, who tackled the Bibbulmun Track at its recent reopening.

We were part of a group of about 30-40 people who staggered the 10km from Kalamunda to Mt Gungin, which forms the track's first three sections.

Like most of the CALM participants, I decided to walk because helping to produce the new Bibbulmun Track guide had stimulated my interest in the track and the beauty of its bush surroundings.

Others were there simply for the fun of it.

The track was opened by Labour Minister Gavan Troy, who stepped in to do the honours when CALM Minister Barry Hodge flew

to Augusta at the last minute to support the whale rescue.

When Mr Troy gave the nod, groups of walkers along the track — from Kalamunda to Walpole — started walking.

Jim Freeman, who had walked the track many times, led our group.

He was one of the core group which was to walk all the way to Icy Creek carrying a message stick carved by Ken Colbung.

The colourful Waugal markers were our guide.

Walking the track certainly made a change from my usual work routine: breathing fresh air; wending our way through tall trees and gurgling brooks; and collapsing in a heap at the end.

AN ACADEMIC FIRST FOR 'LONE RANGER'

By KYLIE BYFIELD

WHEN Cape Arid National Park's Ranger-in-Charge Richard Pemberton goes to school, there is only one student in the class, no teacher attends, and the sky is the roof of his huge classroom.

But studying externally hasn't stopped this "lone ranger" from going to the top of the class.

Richard recently won an award from TAFE External Studies College for being the most outstanding student in Environment Studies.

The subject is one of many covered by CALM rangers as they study for a Certificate in National Park Management.

A delighted Richard said although studying externally has its disadvantages, such as having no face-to-face contact with tutors, it also has its advantages, particularly with this type of course.

"Rangers are in a situation where they can work their studies in with their job," he said.

"With a subject like environmental studies, park work enables you to see what the tutor is trying to teach you."

Students sitting behind a desk in a classroom certainly wouldn't get such firsthand experience, but they also don't have to cope with the isolation experienced by many external students.

Richard admits that isolation is a problem.

"I live in the park which is 125km east of Esperance," he said.

"You can't send or receive mail every day and

sometimes it can take up to six weeks to get an assignment back after it has been sent off to be marked.

"By that time, you've already completed two or three other assignments without getting any feedback from the first one."

But Richard pays tribute to TAFE which, he says, has "come up trumps".

"You can always ring your tutor or CALM's senior training officer Tony Brandis," he says.

"They are only a phone call away so there's really no need to feel isolated."

Richard will be one of the first people to receive the certificate when he completes the course in the middle of next year.

The course itself was only accredited with TAFE in January this year.

It was the brainchild of CALM's Executive Director Syd Shea, General Manager Roger Underwood, and Director of National Parks Chris Haynes, who saw the need for a structured training programme for park rangers.

Tony Brandis took the idea and turned it into reality, designing the special course in association with an education officer from TAFE.

"Previously, there was limited opportunity for in-service training of this sort," Tony explains.

"Now, rangers must complete 10 in-service training programmes as well as eight core units to complete this course."

"Completion of the certificate will eventually be linked to the park rangers' industrial award and will be-



PARK ranger Richard Pemberton — all smiles after winning his award.

come a criteria for promotion," he said.

But, for Richard Pemberton, the prospect of promotion isn't the primary reason for wanting to complete the course.

"I hope it will open the door to a senior ranger position, but more rewarding than that is the satisfaction of having a formal qualification," he says.

"On a personal level, it boosts your morale and professionally, it improves your ability to do your job and that means the park benefits."

"It gives you a broader understanding of decisions which are made regarding the parks and the ability to cope with future problems and management issues."

And a final word to rangers struggling to cope with the demands of a full-time job and studies? "Accept it as a challenge and do it," says Richard.



LABOUR Minister and Mundaring MLA, Gavan Troy, declares the track open. Looking on is CALM's Director of Forests Peter Hewett.

Inspection of Varanus Island

By WALLY EDGECOMBE

VARANUS Island is the largest of the Lowendal Group and is situated about 15km east of Barrow Island and 120km west of Dampier.

The islands are Nature Reserves and important breeding locations for sea birds and marine turtles.

Bond Oil have a 28ha lease on Varanus Island (82ha) for their tank farm and operational support for the Harriet Oilfield.

They fly out from Karatha on an amphibious Gruman Mallard which is a World War II vintage aeroplane.

The day after we travelled out a wing broke off when an engine failed during a return journey from the island, but no one was injured.

Hawksbill Turtles began laying at the end of July 1988, and currently (September), the male muttonbirds are cleaning out burrows in preparation for nesting.

Ospreys have chicks (September) in large stick nests which are built on the rocks.



BOND'S tank farm with three 250,000 litre barrel tanks and the large emergency bund. To the top of the photo can be seen the pipeline heading out to the rig.

Bond Oil are planning the establishment of a propane extraction plant and the building of an enclosed flare tower to utilise some of the

gas which is currently all flared.

Bottled gas will be taken by barge for sale in the north-west region.

Whale rescue a team effort

From Page 1

They were then carried along the beach to the river mouth and placed in slings alongside boats and ferried across the water.

After being reloaded onto trucks, they were then taken to the safe holding area at Storm Bay.

Volunteers who responded to the appeals for help continued to arrive throughout the day and were despatched to either load whales at the mouth of the river or to support those already moved to Storm Bay.

Experience had shown that success was more likely if the whales were released collectively, so it was not until late Friday afternoon that an attempt at release was made.

Even at this time David Mell feared that some of the weaker animals may not have had enough time to recover from their ordeal.

His fears were realised and, with many whales listing and

millling around in confusion, the release attempt was aborted.

A long, cold night lay ahead for the volunteers, some who had been working for more than 18 hours and needed rest.

Plans to recruit more volunteers for the all-night vigil swung into action while the police, SES, CWA and Lions Club supplied food and hot drinks to the helpers, directed traffic and controlled a crowd of spectators who had turned out to watch the rescue bid.

Volunteers worked in shifts throughout the night: half an hour in the water and one hour out.

The shift arrangement was strictly enforced because of the threat of hypothermia in the freezing water.

At 7am on Saturday, with the whales seemingly stronger, another release attempt was made. This time they swam through the human corridor in a cohesive group, tentatively at first but gathering speed as they headed toward the open sea.

As spirits rose and the rescue

bid was being hailed a success, a report came in that the whales had rebeached 2km away at Dukes Head Beach on the west bank of the Blackwood River mouth.

CALM staff quickly rallied the volunteers to start the process all over again.

The restranding had taken its toll with three more whales dead on the beach. Another died in transit to the holding area — leaving 33 stranded whales still alive.

By 3pm the same day, the animals were all back in the holding area.

An hour later, the third release attempt was made although this time, several weaker animals were either loaded aboard a boat or strapped alongside in a sling. They were to be released with the other whales further out to sea.

The plan worked. Once through the corridor of surfboards, kayaks and canoes, the whales were 'escorted' several kilometres offshore before

heavy seas forced the escort vessels to turn back.

Unfortunately, one whale in a sling died, 32 were rescued.

There was much jubilation when more than 400 rescue coordinators and volunteers met at the Augusta town hall on Saturday night.

CALM's Director of Nature Conservation, Dr Barry Wilson, thanked the volunteers and praised their determination and untiring efforts.

But nobody was prepared for the bad news which came on Sunday morning. A helicopter patrol had discovered another 24 whales on the beach about 30km east of Augusta.

Five were dead and, after examination by two veterinarians, the others were found to be in very poor condition, suggesting they had been stranded for several days.

Clearly, on humanitarian grounds there was no alternative to euthanasia: the animals were suffering and had no chance of survival.



THE triumphant Mapping Maniacs, from Left: Des Muir, Planning Branch ring-in Jim Maher, Steve Jones, Chris Simms, Ray Lawrie, Steve Rowlands and Alan Clark.

BIG BROOK RELAY WIN TO MAPPING

THEY said they were going to do it — and they did!

Mapping Branch stormed home to take a firm grip on the Big Brook Relay crown on October 15.

The dark horse — Crawley — finished strongly to fall over the line ahead of last year's winners Manjimup District.

Bringing up the rear — laying reluctant claim to the Derriere Trophy — was Recreation/Planning Branch.

The battle ground, at the Big Brook Dam near Pemberton, was in superb condition thanks to the prior efforts of Pemberton District.

About 300 people, including CALM staff and friends and family, turned out to watch or take part in the gruelling event.

They witnessed what could only be described as an incredibly varied display of athletic skills as competitors in 13 teams battled their way through a 7.5km run, a 12km cycle on gravel, a 900m swim, a 3km canoe paddle and some cross-cut sawing.

But Mapping captain Des Muir modestly shrugged off his team's winning performance.

"The average age of our seven team members was 37 — and we had a 19-year-old in there," he boasted.

"Next year we will enter the same team and draw the names out of a hat to deter-

mine who will do which leg of the race.

"We'll still win!"

Perhaps they will, but without Ray Lawrie doing the cycling leg, their winning margin may not be so great.

Ray blitzed his opposition — so much so they thought he was on a motorcycle as he whizzed past.

A spokesperson for the organisers said Ray will be given a handicap next year: he will have to tow a log behind his bike.

But if Mapping honours its promise, Ray could end up in a canoe — and he

may be up the dam without a paddle if some Southern Forest pirates make a comeback.

Canoe crews this year came under intense missile fire from Captain Ho (alias Tammie Reid) and his crew as they sabotaged the opposition.

That's one way to win — but then winning isn't what the Big Brook Relay is all about.

It's about having fun — and if that's the case, then everybody who took part in this year's event came out a winner.

'Voices' launch tests stamina, stomach

THE multitudes who assembled recently at the Lions Village, Dryandra for the launch of new CALM publication *Voices Of The Bush* enjoyed the hearty country cuisine laid on for lunch.

A very small, select group, however, had already had their appetites somewhat blunted by morning tea.

The culinary piece de resistance was damper a la Leon Sylvester, sinfully dripping with butter, thickly topped with strawberry jam and washed down with mugs of billy tea.

Mind you, the said group had earned the privilege with a brisk walk to the top of Boyagin Rock.

Boyagin Rock marks the start of a wheatbelt heritage trail which meanders through the highlights of the region.

The guidebook, *Voices Of The Bush*, gives a background of social and natural history which brings the area alive for local people and tourists alike.

The project was the brainchild of Ken Wallace, Regional Manager for the

Wheatbelt, who wanted to promote the special charms and values of the central southern wheatbelt.

Anne Coates conducted some excellent research which was enhanced by

Ashley de Prazer's superb photography.

Liana Christensen from Publications, edited the text, written by Ken Wallace.

Publications' marketing officer Tim Langford-Smith reports that *Voices Of The*

Bush is selling well in bookstores.

The romance of the bush obviously still has a place in the urban heart.

The book retails at \$8.95 but CALM staff can buy it at the special price of \$6.



A WHEATBELT HERITAGE TRAIL

A Calm Publication
Photography by Ashley de Prazer

Honing fire skills

THREE huge bushfires burning out of control in WA's south-west provided a few tense moments in Busselton recently.

Fuelled by dry grass and trees and fanned by a stiff north-westerly breeze, the fires threatened to wipe out townships and destroy rich farm lands.

Investigations revealed the fires had been deliberately lit — but only in the imaginations of CALM's senior and experienced fire control staff taking part in a week-long fire training school at the Geopraphe Bay Motel in Busselton.

The imaginary fires were all part of a real-life scenario created to provide practise in dealing with complex fire emergency situations.

During the week, participants brushed up on their fire suppression, prevention and management skills.

Those lessons were then put to the test during the simulated exercise.

Protection Branch manager John Smart said the fire schools aim to give

CALM staff a high level of training so they can respond effectively in an emergency.



TRACING the path of the imaginary fires were, from left: Wayne Keals (Manjimup), Phil Durrell (Walpole), Mike Carter (Pemberton), Greg Napier (Wanneroo) and Don Spriggins (Regional Manager, Central Forest.)

Chivalry not dead

THE age of chivalry isn't dead yet — just ask Bunbury's John Kruger who recently went out of his way to help a damsel in distress.

In fact, John saved her life — something the long-necked swamp turtle will no doubt be eternally grateful for.

The little lady, it seems, attempted a suicidal crossing of the Bussell Highway during the morning peak hour.

Eucalyptus, food study for Graeme

EATING unshelled prawns or a fried egg with chopsticks presents something of a "logistics" problem, says Graeme Siemon, a principal research scientist at Como, who recently returned from a four-week stint in China.

But once he did manage to get the food in his mouth — and that included anything from turtle to sea cucumber — Graeme says it was delicious.

A different diet was just one of the things he had to cope with during his month in the People's Republic as part of an Australian team conducting a feasibility study for a Eucalyptus Technical Research Centre.

However, apart from the "disconcerting" experience of driving along the roads, Graeme said there were no problems.

"The Chinese people were very courteous and hospitable and the Ministry of Forestry staff went out of their way to help us," he said.

"Working seven days a week left us little time for sightseeing although we did visit the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Great Wall and Ming tombs, which were very impressive."

As part of the study, the team — which included specialists in tree-breeding,

silviculture, forest economics and management, pulp and paper and general utilisation — also visited wood processing factories which produce sawn timber, hardboard, plywood and particleboard.

"The use of very poor quality material in hardboard manufacture was noticeable," said Graeme.

The Australian team spent its final 10 days in China in discussions with the Ministry of Forestry and on preparing a detailed report for the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, which organised the study.

The Ministry had already decided to establish the ETRC in Zhanjiang City on the Leizhou Peninsula in Guangdong Province.

"Eucalyptus is seen as a very important genus although it currently constitutes only a small percentage of China's forest resources," says Graeme.

"There is great interest in eucalypts for pulp and paper and in the chemicals from the leaves.

"Our main task was to help the Chinese develop an integrated research programme and to advise on what laboratories, equipment and staff would be needed for the research centre."

She had crossed the road to lay her eggs — and got crushed under a vehicle wheel in the process.

Undaunted, she continued on and was heading home back across the road when she was spotted by John on his way to work.

A quick examination revealed she had sustained broken shell in the accident, but had no suppression injuries.

John, determined to save her life, rang Woodvale technical officer Phil Fuller for advice.

He advised John to contact Dr Bill Gaynor, a veterinarian at the Perth Zoo who is *au fait* with repairing turtles.

After a quick phone call, John and workmate Richard Ford began the life-or-death operation.

First, they scraped the moss off the broken shell with a scalpel blade before filling the cracks with antibiotic cream.

Then came the delicate part of the operation — applying a liberal coating of Araldite.

John and Richard kept the turtle in for overnight observation, then, making sure the Araldite had sealed, released her back into the creek near where she had been found.

"She'll have an edge on any hare now," boast John.

"She was pretty frisky when we let her go."

Forester passes on

DENNIS (Dinny) O'Leary, who worked for the Forests Department,

for more than 35 years, passed away on August 7.

Dinny saw much during his forestry days, starting out in the general purposes gang in the days of horses and carts and progressing through the ranks to forest ranger.

He was there when the notorious bushfires swept through Dwellingup in 1961.

Dinny spent most of his working days in Collie supervising timber cutting by local mills before retiring in 1974.