



# CALM News

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Official newspaper of the Department of Conservation and Land Management

Vol 4 No 45 November 1988



GAVAN TROY and George Duxbury (right) with some of the park rangers who constructed the trail.

## Heritage trail honours

LABOUR Minister and Mundaring MLA Gavan Troy got more than he bargained for when he opened the new John Forrest Heritage Trail late last month.

The unsuspecting MP scored a wide-brimmed ranger's hat and the distinction of becoming an honorary park ranger for a day.

Senior Ranger George Duxbury bestowed the honour on a delighted Mr Troy, who proudly wore his hat for the rest of the day.

In his opening speech, Mr Troy focused on the trail's historical significance.

He told guests that the 10.2km walk trail retraces a section of the old Eastern Railway, which operated from 1896 to 1966.

Today, the trail travels past the old Hovea and National Park stations and over bridges crossing Jane Brook, one of which was the longest wooden trestle bridge in WA at the time it was built.

It also passes through WA's only railway tunnel, past Hovea and National Park Falls, and through unique rock gardens built by workers on sustenance schemes during the Depression.

Former John Forrest National Park ranger John

Wheeler, now at Yancheep, spent many hours researching the area's history.

Walkers can catch a glimpse of what life in the area was like in the railway's early history from the many interpretive signs along the trail.

The trail was constructed

by George Duxbury and the John Forrest ranger team of David Briggs, Ross McDougall, Keith Tressider, Phil Bastion, Alan O'Farrell and trainee Anne Greig.

This latest addition to the State's heritage trail network will be a popular one.

One person who's sure to walk it is CALM's General Manager Roger Underwood, who confessed on the opening day to being something of a train buff.

## EEO Management Plan

So you think Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) is just another meaningless catchphrase?

Think again! In line with its legal requirements, CALM has prepared an EEO Management Plan and is in the process of implementing it.

The plan aims to pave the way for a working environment free from discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, marital status or political or religious conviction.

A discrimination free working environment is important for obvious reasons but is particularly important in relation to selection procedures, promotion, training and job conditions.

In the final analysis, EEO supports the principle of merit which ensures that CALM draws on the full range of available talent and selects the best person for the job.

A consultative committee, with representatives from management and a wide cross-section of CALM employees, has been formed to review and advise on the implementation of the management plan.

Its members are Erica Marshall (Chairperson), Tony Brandis, George Duxbury, Steve Grasso (EEO coordinator), John Grenfell, Stuart Hunter, Eric Jenkins (President of the Professional Forestry Officers Association), Terry McNamara (CSA councillor), Tom Wood (representing Forest Field Officers Association), Jan Sutton, Karen Shaddock, and Carolyn Thomson (CSA).

The committee represents you, and any concerns you have should be raised with a committee member or with Steve Grasso, CALM's EEO coordinator.

A copy of the management plan is available by contacting Steve Grasso on Como extension 363.

## WESFI FIBREBOARD PLAN

# BOOST TO SOFTWOOD OPERATIONS

THE recent announcement of the development of a medium density fibreboard factory in WA by WESFI Chairman, Dennis Cullity, is an important phase in CALM's management of its pine forests north of Perth.

The \$50 million investment by WESFI includes the installation of state-of-the-art equipment at the company's existing facilities at Kewdale.

Mr Cullity said production was expected to start in early 1990 with an initial output of 25,000 tonnes which would generate revenue of about \$20 million a year.

When fully operational the plant will have a capacity of 70,000 tonnes of fibreboard a year.

CALM's Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, said the WESFI move would not only enable the company to meet the growing local and export markets for this product, but it would also have an impact on the department's softwood operations.

Dr Shea said that WESFI would utilise thinnings from Pinaster plantations near Perth for fibrewood production.

He said the company would take more than 1.6 million cubic metres of thinnings to the year 2000 which would generate

about \$15 million in revenue to the State Government.

Eighty new jobs would be created in the pine forests and production factory.

Dr Shea said the production of medium density fibreboard in WA was an important additional resource for the State's furniture manufacturers.

He said the new product would be welcomed by the furniture manufacturers who were expanding local and export markets for locally made products.

The development of wood panelling of this kind had combined the technology of particleboard and hardboard production to produce a material that could be machined and moulded like timber.

Dr Shea said the WESFI investment brought to \$90 million the amount to be spent in WA over the next five years to establish softwood treating facilities to produce pine products.

He said about 600 jobs are expected to be created with the development of new pine sawmills, WES-

FI's fibreboard project and associated harvesting operations.

## Director on new committee

CALM's Dr Andrew Burbidge has been appointed to an Endangered Species Advisory Committee set up by the Commonwealth Government.

The committee will advise the Environment Minister on coordinated strategies for the conservation of endangered species and habitats.

The National Conference on the Conservation of Threatened Species, held in Sydney last year, recommended establishment of the committee.

The committee will have 11 members, including two State representatives.

The Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) nominated Dr Burbidge from CALM and Dr Jack Giles from the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service to the committee.

Other members will represent the Federal Government (2), non-government organisations (4), scientific research institutions (2), and the rural farming community (1).

Dr Burbidge's appointment reflects CALM's expertise and experience in conserving endangered species of flora and fauna.

## Greenhouse effect

THERE is a positive side to the Greenhouse effect. The publicity about rising carbon dioxide levels has led to numerous enquiries from people volunteering to plant trees to counter the effect.

Northern Forest Region Parks and Reserve Officer Ian Herford says the offers are music to his ears.

Ian has been seconded from his normal duties for six months to take a careful look at CALM's involvement with volunteers.

A draft Departmental Policy on volunteers is currently in preparation and Ian plans to complete a set of detailed guidelines for management of volunteer activities by the end of the project.

The aim will be to ensure that both CALM and the volunteers get the most out of our association.

## Bibbulmun adventurer

MARGARET RIVER woman Riv Nilsson used to do a lot of walking on her dairy farm chasing cows — and although she still walks, these days all she chases is a bit of fun and adventure.

And the fact that she's "over 60" — she won't admit to any more than that — is not about to stop her having a good time.

The sprightly woman, and some equally sprightly friends who share her passion for bushwalking, often tackle sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

The track is one of their favourite haunts so it was hardly surprising that Riv was first in line when she learnt CALM was publishing a new track guide.

She regularly made the 3km return trek from her home to CALM's Margaret River office to see whether the

book had been printed.

Many times she went home disappointed — but not when the Central Forest Region invited her to the Margaret River Tourist Bureau late last month.

When she arrived there, regional manager Don Spriggins, interpretation officer Kim Williams and district manager Brad Commins were on hand to present her with a complimentary copy of the new track guide before sitting down to a pleasant morning tea.

Riv was impressed — so much so, she promptly set about getting their autographs inside the cover of her new book.

In between mouthfuls of coffee, Riv revealed she has walked hundreds of kilometres — many of them to raise money for charity.

Her first walk in 1971 was from Margaret River to Perth, raising more than \$7000 for Nulsen Haven.

In the following years, she trekked up and down between Augusta and Perth for a variety of reasons until, in 1983, she discovered the Bibbulmun Track.

It was the beginning of a love affair which continues today.

Hundreds of kilometres of track have since passed under Riv's walking shoes and she has no intention of calling it quits.

"I've got to check out the new section down to Walpole yet," she says, a twinkle in her eye.

And with her new book and a couple of mates who are mad about bushwalking, there is absolutely no doubt she will.



WHERE to next? Regional Manager Don Spriggins flicks through the Bibbulmun Track guide with Riv Nilsson.

## FROM MY DESK

The current literature abounds with books which often feature the latest panacea for management problems of all organisations.

Obviously successful management involves a wide range of different factors and I don't believe any one single factor can be used to achieve good management.

Notwithstanding this, however, I believe that one of the most important factors which affect the morale of an organisation, and consequently its efficiency, is the application of the principle that progress and reward for individuals in the organisation should be based solely on merit.

There is nothing more devastating to the morale of anybody than to have his or her efforts not rewarded by recognitions, promotion and increased monetary return.

I also believe it is essential for an organisation to provide training opportunities so that the intrinsic qualities of individuals can be enhanced.

Over the period since CALM was formed, we have made a deliberate attempt to invoke these principles. It has not been easy.

We have been constrained by external factors, particularly those relating to the rules and regulations which emanate from the Public Service Commission.

Thankfully, many of these constraints have been, and are continuing to be, removed by the Commission.

It is also fair to say that within our own organisation there has been in some areas a reluctance to move from prior practice.

But I believe we are making excellent progress. For example, if one looks at the situation of the National Park Ranger now as compared to his position prior to the formation of CALM, there is no comparison.

We have a properly structured career pathway and most importantly we have a formal training programme for all National Park Rangers.

But the National Park Ranger programme is only part of our total training programme which has been completely revamped due in no small way to the efforts of Tony Brandis.

Much more needs to be done, but I believe that Tony has established the basic framework for a training system which is undoubtedly the best in Australia for organisations like ours.

We have also broken down some artificial barriers. The fact that Peter Keppel has been appointed as a District Forester is a significant breakthrough and is tangible proof of the Department's commitment to the principle that in the end progress within the organisation is based on merit not tickets.

However, we have failed dismally in one area. I am ashamed that this Department has not addressed quickly enough the situation of Level One positions, usually held by females in district offices throughout the State.

Everybody knows that people such as Jean Collins (Fire Protection), Shirley Dennett (Forest Resources), Val Storey (Kununurra), Jill Southgate (Mundaring), and a host of others around the State play a critical role in our organisation, yet it is only recently we have been able to achieve some recognition of their commitment.

I am personally determined that we remove this blemish from our record.

It is a good example of how management can overlook a key section of an organisation simply because they do their work without complaining.

SYD SHEA  
Executive Director

WHEN CALM conducts classes in the remote Kimberley, reading, writing and arithmetic aren't in the curriculum.

Instead, the students — Aboriginal community rangers — learn about crocodile management, turtle tagging and management, the safe use of chainsaws and tree care and maintenance.

The lessons, held at Dampierland Peninsula north of Broome, are part of a 12-month community ranger training programme being coordinated by CALM.

Already, 11 rangers from

## Class is in at One Arm Point

the One Arm Point, Djarindjin and Beagle Bay communities on the Peninsula have attended training sessions on sign routing (conducted by mobile ranger Keith Moon), first aid (from safety officer Harold Pears), marine management and the basics of diving (from Marmion Marine Park manager Greg Pobar), and intertidal reef systems (from Director of Nature Conservation Barry Wilson).

They have also visited the Millstream and Cape Range National Parks and Ningaloo Marine Park.

Department of Aboriginal Sites — have also conducted training sessions.

In recent weeks, they have learnt about safe chainsaw use from Kununurra's Dave Rose, tree care and planting from Broome's Peter White, law enforcement from Wildlife Protection Branch manager Dave Mell and senior wildlife officer Peter Pennings, and turtle tagging and management from Woodvale's Bob Prince.

Other organisations — such as TAFE and the

Programme coordinator, CALM's Mary Colreavy, said it is hoped the WA Bush Fires Board, the Agriculture Protection Board and Norforce will also run courses before the programme winds up in March next year.

CALM has been approached to help with environmental management for many Aboriginal communities throughout the State.

These rangers, who work for their own community councils, will be responsible for managing tourists and environmental issues on Aboriginal community lands," Mary explains.

"There are a number of conservation issues around the Dampierland Peninsula which are of interest to CALM, including dugongs, turtle breeding, bird colonies, remnant patches of rainforest, and important tidal reef communities as well as the islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago."

# MANAGERS MEET

CALM managers swooped on Como like a flock of birds for the recent annual managers' conference.

This event, attended by regional managers from all corners of the State, provides a forum for them to discuss common issues and solve pressing management problems.

General manager Roger Underwood said this year's conference was easily the best yet.

"I was delighted with the relaxed atmosphere and the constructive approach the managers took to tackling the issues of the day," he said.

Issues raised included quality control of operations; implementation of the Government's mining and conservation policies; the need for new policies on concessions in national parks; and the development of resources to manage new parks and reserves.



FLYING in from the State's far-flung corners were Geoff Mercer (Geraldton), Ken Wallace (Narrogin), George Peet (Kelmescott), Chris Done (Kununurra) and Ian Kealley (Kalgoorlie).

## STAFF NEWS

### APPOINTMENTS

New to the permanent staff are Bouyden Yarran, Trainee Wildlife Officer, Murdoch House; Susan Rolfe, Officer, Geraldton; Joanne Healey, Officer, Manjimup; David Rawet, Assistant District Forest Officer, Bunbury; and Margaret Langley, Technical Officer, Woodvale. Leo Avino, Cartographic Draftsperson, Como, joined the Department from WAWA.

### PROMOTIONS

John McKenzie, to Senior Forester, Wanneroo; Bob Selkirk, to Senior Forester, Harvey; David Swain, to Assistant District Forest Officer, Manjimup; Peter Walsh, to Senior Computer Operator, Como; Bob Rule, to Forester (Timber Inspection) Bunbury; David Lamont to Ranger in Charge, Serpentine National Park.

Three Perth staff gained promotions to other departments - Colin Bishop to Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, Don Challis to Transport, and Helen Fordham to the Ministry of Education.

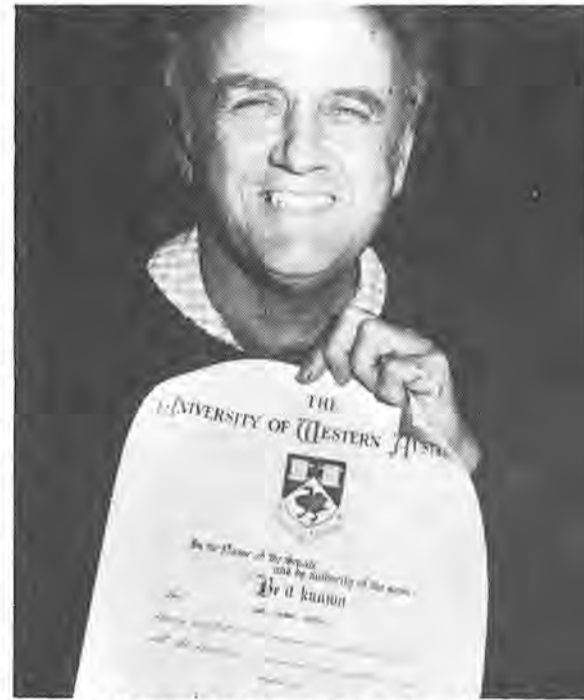
### TRANSFERS

Laurie Anderson, District Wildlife Officer to Albany; Peter Keppel to District Manager, Mundaring.

Park Ranger moves include Geoff Kregor to Hamersley Range; Jeff Kimpton to Yanchep; Bill Taplin to Leewards National Park (Margaret River).

### RETIREMENTS

Roger Edmiston, Extension Officer, Information Branch has retired after 23 years of service; Alan Hill, Manager, Finance Branch, who began with the Forests Department 31 years ago.



PERSEVERANCE paid off for Jim Goodsell and his study is now proving its worth.

## Degree research in salt effects

TROUT fishing doesn't usually go hand-in-hand with studying for a Master's degree — that is, unless you're Jim Goodsell!

In fact, it was a passion for trout fishing which enticed the former Eastern States amateur angler — now one of CALM's research scientists — to tackle a Master's degree in Zoology at UWA.

Jim explains the link: "I started working as a research officer with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1973 — a year after completing a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in natural resource management at the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

"I had my first experience with landscape salt in the wheatbelt and as a keen trout fisherman, I found the sight of salt-infected landscapes horrifying."

It was then, Jim says, he became interested in the effects of salinity on animals which lived in or on the water.

This initial curiosity was aroused even further when Jim discovered that nothing was known at that time (the 1970s) about the biological effects of salinity in south-western Australia.

The seed of thought had been sown but it wasn't until 1981 that Jim started the Master's course, planning to research the physiological reactions of freshwater crayfish — such as the yabby, koonac and marron — to salt water.

"I had realised that freshwater crayfish were ideal bi-

ological indicators of water quality," says Jim.

"These animals regulate the amount of salt in their blood so that it is always above that of the water in which they live.

"They need some salt to survive, even in very dilute water.

"On the other hand, water from about 70 per cent sea water or more kills them in a matter of hours."

Jim says freshwater crayfish better tolerate very dilute water if its pH level is high or salty water with a low pH level.

And while regulating their blood, they generate a very small electrical voltage, which can be measured only in millivolts, or one-thousandths of a volt.

In dilute water, the vol-

tage is usually about -20mV, rising to about 4mV as water salinity increases.

What this means, according to Jim, is that crayfish presence in or absence from a swamp enables us to assess the swamp's biological value.

Jim's initial studies were put to the test in the Narrogin Courthouse in 1982.

There he gave evidence when wildlife officer Leon Sylvester successfully prosecuted a land-owner for constructing a drain into Lake Toolibin.

It was an encouraging start and Jim persevered with the study for another five years.

Now, his study is providing a biological basis for the interpretation of water bird breeding in saline wetlands.

## Slip, slop, slap

WITH summer fast approaching, CALM's senior safety officer Tom Wood has issued a timely warning about sunburn and skin cancer.

He says the people most at risk are those with fair, sensitive skins which burn easily and those who work long hours outdoors.

"The long winter has reduced our tans but how many of us will throw off our winter clothes, hop into a pair of shorts and tank top and immediately proceed to soak up the sun?" he asks.

"Australians tend to break all the rules for white-skin protection from the sun.

"As a result, we have the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world."

Tom says people need extra protection if they have very fair skin, work outdoors all day, have sudden large doses of sun at weekends after working in an office all week, or are newcomers to the hot Australian summer.

To protect skin:

- \* stay out of the sun as much as possible;
- \* wear a hat and protective clothing when outdoors;
- \* use a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor;
- \* remember that noses, lips, bald heads and backs of hands need extra protection; and
- \* reapply sunscreen when outdoors for long periods.

## What's new?

\* Field officers' guide to the Hardwood Logging Computer System.

\* Golden Valley Balingup Tree Park leaflet (reprint).

\* Dieback Kills Wildflowers - RVCC brochure (reprint).

\* Softwood Sharefarming Investment Opportunity (booklet).

\* John Forrest Heritage Trail (brochure).

\* Stirling Range Heritage Trail (brochure).

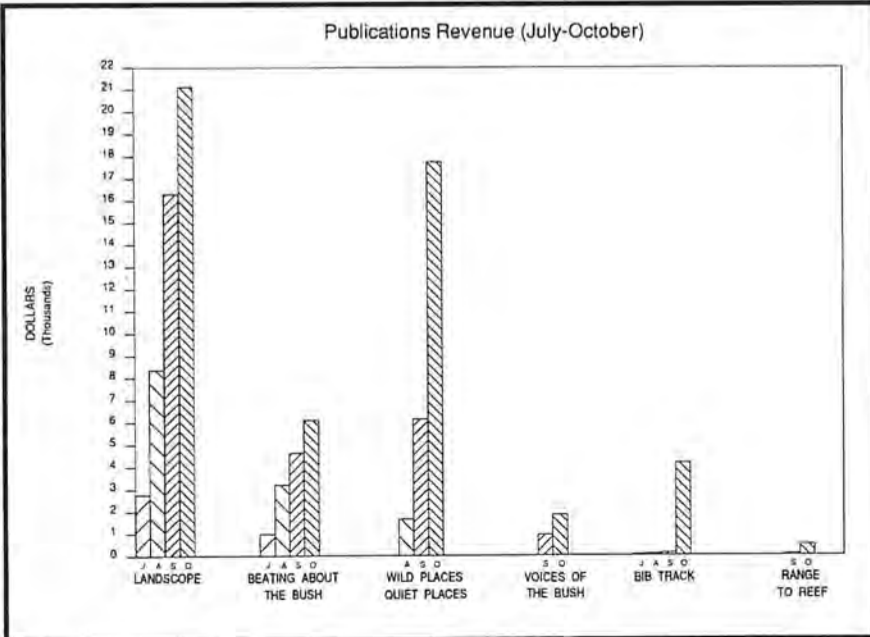
\* "Rugged Mountains, Jewelled Sea" (\$6.95). A 46-page book of sepia-tone photos with text and maps. A guide to all the heritage trails in national parks along WA's south coast.

\* Cape Arid Heritage Trail (brochure).

\* Baie des Deux Peuples Heritage Trail (brochure).

\* Stirling Range Heritage Trail (brochure).

\* Le Grand Heritage Trail (brochure).



# Super Greg's our iron man

**BUNBURY'S Greg Strelein is CALM's answer to Superman.**

But rather than being a man of steel, Greg's more of an iron man — something he proved at the recent 1988 Blackwood Marathon.

He finished second in the marathon's first iron man event, behind a physical education teacher from Mandurah.

"But I think I can beat him next year," says Greg, who now plans to join a local triathlon club to keep himself fit.

Fitness is the key to winning this gruelling event which consists of a 12km run, a 7.5km paddle, a 1km swim, a 16km horseride and a 20km cycle.

But Greg knows all that. For several years he has been in a five-member CALM team contesting the event, completing either the running, swimming or cycling leg.

A CALM team, with Roger Underwood as its cyclist, competed in the inaugural marathon 10 years ago, when 55 teams entered. They came in 12th.

This year, 15 individual athletes competed for the first time along with more than 300 teams, including two from CALM.

Unfortunately, they, along with many others, were disqualified after the horseriding leg when the animal's pulse rate failed to drop to an acceptable level.

But Greg, who describes himself as "a jack of all trades, master of none", suffered no such fate and relished the chance to tackle the event on his own. "I wanted to have a go at it before, but only teams were allowed to enter," he said.

"I started training early for this year's event — running and swimming one day, canoeing, horseriding and cycling the next."

So how did he feel after the event? "I wasn't too bad at the end of the day," he says matter-of-factly.

"Now I plan to join the local triathlon club."

"That will keep me going until next year — it will keep me fit."

# FERAL PIG CONTROL A JOINT MOVE

**THE Agriculture Protection Board's Research Section and CALM took part in a joint project earlier this year to test the use of hunting dogs to control feral pigs.**

The trial was based in Milesi plantation close to Margaret River, where feral pigs cause problems by rooting up soil and clover and eating grain put out to feed sheep.

The presence of feral pigs also attracts illegal hunters. Seven pigs were trapped, fitted with radio transmitter collars and released.

These animals provided a known sample within the local pig population.

Local hunter Neil Turner, working with trained dogs, carried out the control work.

Neil had to control pigs in the area without knowing how many collared pigs there were or where they were.

Hunting continued until the last collared pig was caught.

Neil worked on seven days in five weeks, never working for more than two consecutive days.

He hunted throughout the plantation and in surrounding jarrah forest, killing all the collared pigs and 22 others.

Of the pigs found by the hunting dogs, more than one-third escaped, although some were later caught.

About 25 percent of the pigs killed were very young or in poor condition and may well have eventually died from natural causes.

Some unmarked pigs survived in the trial area.

The APB's Peter Marsack said the feral pigs did not seem to be seriously disturbed, perhaps because the hunting was spread over several weeks.

"Most of them remained in the plantation area until they were caught," he said.

Control methods such as poisoning, trapping or shooting from helicopters can reduce pig numbers quickly but are not always practical or desirable.

This trial, says Peter, suggests that low-intensity hunting can be a useful control method as long as the population does not have to be reduced quickly.

"Further trial work is needed to see if intensive hunting is effective," he said.

"It could achieve quicker results but runs the risk of dispersing pigs."

"And if hunting is to be used as a routine control technique, it is essential to use reliable and responsible hunters."

"Some hunters are suspected of illegally releasing pigs into the wild to provide future sport."

This trial was conducted by the APB and CALM as feral pigs are a widespread pest animal in the south-west, damaging agriculture and the environment.

They can also carry serious livestock diseases which have so far been kept out of Australia.

## Satellite link in new system

**From Rally Australia to a raging bushfire — a new communications system developed by Telecom can handle the lot.**

And CALM's Communications and Protection branches are looking forward to putting the system to the test this summer.

The TINES system — Transportable Iterra Network Earth Stations — is simply a transportable satellite receiver on a trailer which can be set up in any location accessible by car.

It even has its own power supply which means it can be used anywhere in Australia no matter how remote.

What's more, the TINES system lives up to its name.

Iterra is an Aboriginal word meaning "be quick" and with two direct telephone lines — say one for a phone and one for a facsimile machine — communications are very quick indeed.

It links users into Telecom's satellite network — a link which puts them in touch with the rest of Australia and the world.

Signals are transmitted from the portable station to the A2 satellite situated over Papua New Guinea more than 36,000km away.

The signal is then retransmitted to another receiver at Bendigo, Victoria which, in turn, transmits it to the receiving station for which the communications were intended.

## Saltie sighted

The sighting of a salt-water crocodile 5km from the mouth of the De Grey River near Port Hedland recently confirms the likelihood of crocodiles on the Pilbara coast.

It brings to six the number of separate sightings reported in the past 12 months between the Turner River, south of Port Hedland, and the De Grey to the north.

While the Kimberley coast south to Broome has been regarded as the southern range of the salt-water crocodile in the north-west, crocodiles are territorial and young animals often have to travel long distances to establish their own territory.

The mangrove-lined tidal creeks of the Turner and De Grey Rivers would appear to make ideal habitats for salt-water crocodiles.

CALM will continue to monitor the situation and remove crocodiles from the area if they are a threat to people.

Mike Chan from CALM's Communications Branch has been trained to use the system and got some early practice when he was asked to set it up for the recent Rally Australia event.

But he's not the only CALM person who is excited about the development, described as the most innovative communications system since the America's Cup.

Communications chief Graeme Hutchinson and Rick Sneeuwjagt from Protection say the system would prove invaluable during a bushfire.

"Maps could be sent from a remote location — quickly and accurately — via the fax as could lists of stores and equipment," said Rick.

## WALKING WOUNDED

CALM's Como training centre looked like a disaster area recently with moaning and bandaged accident victims scattered across the floor.

But there was no cause for alarm. Collie's safety officer Harold Pears was up to his old tricks conducting a three-day first aid course.

People successfully completing the course receive a St John Ambulance Association Senior First Aid Certificate.

A small pre-fabricated mobile office parked at the back of the Como nursery is a far cry from the hallowed halls of academia.

But Professor Bob Day, who is spending his sabbatical leave from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, in WA with CALM, laughs at the lack of comforts in his current office.

This is not surprising. It is obvious that the 57-year-old Professor of Forestry is a practical man, someone more likely to get dirt under his fingernails than writer's cramp.

That he is down to earth is testified by his move in 1971 from the larger more prestigious University of Toronto to Thunder Bay so he could be closer to forests and forest-based industries.

Thunder Bay, with its population of about 135,000 people, is located in Canada's vast Boreal forest and is the centre



Mike Chan (Communications) shows Rick Sneeuwjagt (Protection) how the system works...and it works!



"VICTIM" Josh Turner (Accounts/Finance) was "tied up" for three days during the first aid course. His helpers are Kevin Morrison (Wildlife Protection) and Phil Davies (Records).

## Visiting Professor looks us over

of Ontario's pulp and paper industry.

An Oxfordian, who kept forestry in the family and followed his father's footsteps into an academic career (his father, W.R. Day, was a former Professor of Forest Pathology at Oxford), Professor Day had his first taste of life in North America when he was evacuated from England to Massachusetts, US, during World War II.

A Beaverbrook Scholarship, named after Lord Beaverbrook who was the British Minister for aircraft production in World War II, took him to the University of New Brunswick in Canada where he completed his Master of Science.

In 1965 he accepted a professorship at the University of Toronto before moving to Lake Head in 1971.

While Thunder Bay suits

Professor Day's academic interests, he has held a life-long fascination with tropical forestry and, in particular, short rotation forest crops.

To this end he has had a stint in New Guinea teaching tropical forestry at the Papua-New Guinea University of Technology at Lae in 1983, and in conjunction with an Argentinian post-graduate student from Lakehead presented a paper on the prospects of growing fast-growing pines in Argentina, which raised a few eyebrows at home.

His interest eventually brought him to WA where he has undertaken a six month project with CALM to produce an overview of the Department's Tasmanian blue gum project with a special reference to look at ways to improve the quality of planting stock.

Professor Day comes well

qualified to review the performance of our nurseries.

He has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and affiliated private contractors which grow more than 200 million seedlings a year.

CALM currently produces about two million seedlings, but this figure is expected to increase to 10 million once the blue gum project starts.

Already the blue gum research team is working on changes that will improve the quality of the nursery stock.

Professor Day believes the project has immense potential to achieve its objectives.

He said that not only would the planting of blue gums on private property provide farmers with an additional source of income, but it would also provide Western Australia with a valuable export commodity in

## ASBESTOS DISPOSED

**WITH current knowledge of the hazards associated with asbestos fibres, research staff at Manjimup were recently confronted with the task of removing some 30m of asbestos covered thermocouple wire.**

The wire had been used in fire research.

The asbestos coating had deteriorated to such an extent that dust coming from it was potentially contaminated with asbestos fibres.

Owing to the health risk involved, disposal was to be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Occupational Health Safety and Welfare safety procedures.

Staff wore protective clothing such as boots, disposable overalls, goggles,

respirators, head covering and gloves during removal.

The coupling wire and immediate vicinity was doused with water to minimise dust.

The asbestos covered wire was then cut into small lengths and placed in heavy duty plastic bags which were then sealed.

The bags were then transported to the local rubbish tip and buried under the supervision of the Shire Health Inspector — JOHN ROONEY, Safety Officer, Manjimup.

Although this happened some years ago the repercussions are still being experienced. Professor Day believes that prescribed burning is an essential part of forest management with immense benefits to the forest.

N.B. If any CALM staff would like to discuss any forestry issues with Bob Day, give him a call on 367 0316 or make an appointment through Como Research.

**CALM News  
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EXT. 324**

# MANAGEMENT TALKS WITH ABORIGINES

ON the first day in November Mary Colreavy and John Blyth from Crawley joined Ian Kealley and other members of CALM's Goldfields Region for a brief trip to Yakadunya, an Aboriginal community near the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve (GVDNR), on the northern edge of the Nullarbor Plain.

The discussions with the Yakadunya conference at Emu in the Maralinga Tjaratja plains of South Australia, which Mary, Ian and Peter Hutchinson had attended took place in June 1988.

Like the earlier meeting, this one involved not only CALM staff and the people of Yakadunya, but representatives of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, as well as members of the Oak Valley Aboriginal community, also from South Australia.

In fact, although Oak Valley and Yakadunya are separated by the State border and are over 200km apart in a straight line, they are one group.

They are people of the Maralinga, Great Victoria Desert and Northern Nullarbor area, originally resettled from the atomic testing zone at Coonana in Western Australia and Yalata in South Australia, and now moving back to their original homelands.

The meeting with the various Government agencies was requested by the Yakadunya/Oak Valley people to discuss ways of achieving closer cooperation between all parties, and to explore ways of achieving more consistent management on both sides of the border.

The day chosen for the meeting turned out to be the one on which summer 1988/89 came to the Nullarbor: temperature in the mid 40's, easterly winds probably over 50km per hour, and dust and grit everywhere.

The day was spent with small groups, including the CALM staff, scattered around a meagre stand of myalls, seeking shade or shelter could be found.

At about 5.30pm, as conditions became somewhat more bearable, the various groups assembled for the first meeting.

After such a day it was probably inevitable that the first meeting while providing the necessary background for later talks, did not reach any firm conclusions. Once agreement had been reached to meet again early the next morning, the CALM contingent, in various states of heat exhaustion, wandered back to our vehicles in the dark to set up camp.

Our spirits were considerably revived by a cool change in the evening, and by a magnificent, mysterious stew prepared by Peter Hutchinson.

The next day, with an early start, with a better understanding of the main issues, and, above all, with moderate weather, a very positive and cooperative meeting took place.

CALM's management presence in huge and isolated reserves like the GVDNR is inevitably small.

Thus, effective and cooperative working links with local communities are a high priority.



WAWA's Jeff Kite (left) looks at the display with CALM planning officer Gordon Graham. Picture courtesy Max Head, Quinns Rock Photo Academy.

A CALM display on wetlands conservation was a highlight of the Western Australian Water Authority's recent open day.

The open day, held at the Jandakot Water Treatment Plant, aimed to raise public awareness of the importance of underground water sources to Perth's public water supply and sound

## WETLAND DISPLAY

management of this resource.

Wetlands are good indicators of what is happening to groundwater because they are surface expressions of the underground water.

They are also important in filtering surface water as it travels to the groundwater system.

This, as well as the unique flora and fauna found in wetlands, indicates the importance of wetland conservation to the community.

Despite the fairly remote location of the Jandakot Plant, the open day was successful, providing a good opportunity for Metropolitan Region Planning Officer Gordon Graham to promote CALM's involvement in the management of water resources and associated environments.

Metropolitan Region is involved in developing plans for a regional park in the Jandakot, Cockburn and Kwinana area.

To be known as the Beelii Regional Park, it will encompass a number of wetlands including Bibra Lake and Thomsons Lake.

MARGARET LANGLEY.

# Forging links with the bush

COMMUNICATIONS Branch has been forging stronger links with CALM districts and regions this year.

Staff have been busy expanding the sophisticated new microwave communications system which was installed at SOHQ last year.

The system, which took three years to develop, gives CALM a better, more reliable

communications network, says branch manager Graeme Hutchinson.

"We can now receive long-range radio signals via the microwave system," he said.

"And because those signals are relayed through remote receivers, they are much clearer and without background interference."

Graeme says the new system is also more flexible, enabling the radio network to be connected to the telephone system and radio channels to be connected to other channels.

"The system can be operated from controls located at Fire, Wildlife Protection and Communications Branches," he said.

This year, repeater stations have been erected at Mount Burdett (Esperance district), Turner Hill (Dwellingup) and Smith Mill Hill (Mundaring) while Narrogin's 25m tower has been replaced with a 54m tower.

Other VHF remote control stations have been set up in the rangers' houses at Stokes, Cape Arid, William Bay, Hamersley and Millstream National Parks and in the John Forrest and Walyunga park offices.

The much-travelled Gary Robinson also installed a portable repeater station in the Hamersley Range National Park on a trial basis.

That trial has been so successful, says Graeme, that permanent stations may be erected there and in the Bungle Bungles when funds are available.

This financial year, in conjunction with police and shire authorities, other repeater stations will be erected at Jeramungup, Denbarker and Exmouth.

# Cup capers at Manjimup

HORSES for courses and snails for trails — such was the case in Manjimup on Melbourne Cup day.

While most eyes were on Empire Rose as she rounded the final turn, Manjimup regional staff had gathered in Alan Walker's backyard to witness another prestigious event — the 1988 Southern Forest Region Snail Derby.

The track was wet, the field a mixed bag, the bookies noted for ridiculous odds and the punters keen to place their bets.

In the main event on the card, Golden Slipper, owned and trained by Ian Rotheram, stormed home to win the purse by half a shell from Dave Goddard's Toxic Avenger.

After the event, the snails, adorned in their racing colours, were turned out to feast upon the Walker's garden.

However, there was drama at the track as Rob Hopkins lodged a protest with the stewards.

Rob, who could only find slugs in his garden, was bitterly disappointed after failing to claim a mount in the race but his appeal was rejected by the stewards.

The crowd then turned its attention to another first-past-the-post event and was treated to some spectacular spills as the jockeys fought to maintain control of their unforaging, three-legged, wooden nags.

Rob Hopkins had trouble staying in the saddle, Caterina Bending mastered the art of riding sidesaddle so as not to ruin her best Ascot outfit, and Alan Lush, the odds-on favourite and owner and trainer of the mounts, was left to eat dust as other jockeys developed new riding techniques.

After a luncheon, a hat contest (won by Marg Walker) and a final run on the bookie, it was business as usual back at the office.



Robyn Freer operates the radio remote control console.

## Help needed with survey

ONCE again, the Roadside Conservation Committee is asking volunteers to help with a survey to determine the conservation value of roadside flora.

Last year a pilot study involving 34 volunteers successfully surveyed some 5000km of roadside, out of the 77,000km in the south-west agricultural area.

But, as you can see, there is lots more to do.

The survey is not difficult, though it is time-consuming.

You travel along a road, ticking off on a survey sheet such things as trees, shrubs or ground layer; percent of weeds; adjoin-

ing land use and presence of SEC lines. All the factors add up to a "Conservation Score" for the road.

This data is then put onto maps a computer and will be available for the Shires and other road reserve users to assist with planning roadworks.

Already, where it has been discussed with Shires, it is proving very effective in alerting them to the conservation value of their roadsides.

Please ring Penny Hussey at Como and she would be very pleased to send you survey sheets and maps of the area you designate, showing roads which have already been surveyed.

## New society

AN Australasian Wildlife Management Society has been formed.

Membership is open to anybody with an interest in scientific wildlife management.

The new society aims to provide a forum for discussion of scientific wildlife management and support and advance the scientific basis of wildlife management.

Members will receive a quarterly newsletter, an invitation to the society's annual conference and concessional subscription to Australian Wildlife Research.

For more information, contact: Dr Peter O'Brien, Bureau of Rural Science, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, PO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2616.

