



## Film features our forest females

# CAVE COLLAPSE SPELLS DANGER



In the bush and on the job: Carol Dymond (right) with CALM's John Hanel and Peter Burton.

THERE'S no secret scientific formula for being fabulous on film, as CALM's Kylie Kau and Carol Dymond found out recently.

The pair feature in a new careers video produced by the Ministry of Education called "Science For You".

And although they just had to "be themselves", a two-day shooting schedule convinced Carol and Kylie that they're not cut out for a life in front of the cameras.

"I was exhausted by

## Cameras capture Kylie and Carol

by KYLIE BYFIELD

the end of the second day," said Kylie, a dieback interpreter in Bunbury's Inventory Branch.

So why the video and why feature Kylie and Carol?

"Simple," says Kathy Lymon, Gender Equity Consultant in the Ministry of Education's

Curriculum Policy Branch.

"The video aims to encourage girls to consider non-traditional professions, and both Carol, who has a forestry degree, and Kylie fit into that category.

"Society is changing, technology is changing and our students are going to need more skills to be able to compete in today's world," says Kathy.

"New directions in education are required to meet the changes in both the nature of work and in the roles of men and women — and that is why we decided to produce this video.

"Science needs to be presented to both boys and girls as leading to futures which are interesting, diverse and fulfilling."

No doubt Kylie and Carol agree — but how do they feel about becoming role models for tomorrow's young career women?

"If it opens up new doors for other girls, then it has achieved what it set out to do," says Kylie.

"When I was at school, I wasn't aware of the opportunities which were available — particularly in forestry."



Dieback interpreter Kylie Kau pores over a map with workmate Kevin Helyar.

CALM has closed the Pannikin Plains Cave in the Nullabor after a group of experienced cavers narrowly escaped serious injury in a cave-in last month.

The incident, which attracted national and international media attention, occurred after an incredible 100mm of rain fell in just half an hour.

Large quantities of water, soil and rock were washed into the cave, located near Cocklebidy, in the Nuytsland Nature Reserve.

Esperance District Wildlife Officer Bernie Haberley, assisted with the evacuation, in which 13 people, who were

## "Keep away" says CALM

trapped for more than 24 hours, were freed.

South Coast Regional Manager John Watson said several hundred tonnes of rock and rubble remain delicately poised near the entrance of the cave.

It is now extremely dangerous and unstable and will remain so for years.

CALM has prohibited all entry to the cave until further notice.

Signs to this effect have been erected in the vicinity of the cave and all relevant authorities, registered speleologists and cave divers have been advised of its closure.

John said the cave-in should serve as a reminder to cavers that freak weather conditions can occur in the Nullabor area and that sink holes or dolines can flood rapidly after localised rainfall.

## Barry's on the board

CALM's Director of Nature Conservation, Dr Barry Wilson, has been appointed to the Perth Zoo's new board of management.

Barry was a board member at the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens from 1979-1985 when he was Director of Victoria's National Museum.

Barry says he looks forward to his involvement with the zoo and is particularly interested in encouraging a close working relationship between CALM and the zoo as regards captive breeding of rare animals and in support-

ing the zoo's education programme.

Other board members are Bruce Collier, former Chief Commissioner of the Industrial Relations Commission; Vivien Payne, a barrister and keen conservationist; Len Kitchen, former chairman and chief executive of the WA Tourism Commission; and a zoo staff representative (yet to be appointed).

Roderick Anderson and Clyde Bant remain on the board.

## News news

DO you have a story for CALM News? Then call Kylie Byfield on 389 8644 or fax it to Public Affairs Branch on 389 8296. The deadline for the next edition is February 10.

## Curator to come from Canberra

JIM Armstrong is the Western Australian Herbarium's new curator.

Currently Assistant Director (Research) at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, Jim will take up the position in February.

## Pickers banned

THE Shire of Carnamah is the first WA council to prohibit wildflower picking from shire roadsides and other land under its control.

"Council is concerned at the prevalence of wildflower pickers in the shire, particularly in the western coastal section, and the degradation they cause," said Mr M Croft, Acting Shire Clerk.

"In terms of conservation this is a first, and CALM obviously welcomes the shire's action," said Mike O'Donoghue, CALM's Senior Clerk, Flora.

The Herbarium is the State's leading botanical research institution involved with the documentation and description of WA's native and naturalised flora.

It was transferred to CALM from the Department of Agriculture in July 1988, in recognition of its vital role in the conservation of native plants.

CALM Minister Barry Hodge said Jim was well qualified for the position having had considerable experience in leading, administering and conducting botanical research in both New South Wales and Canberra.

"The transfer of the Herbarium to CALM and the appointment of a new curator will usher in a new era for the Herbarium and ensure that its botanical research will further contribute to the State's conservation strategy," Mr Hodge said.



Professor David Bellamy (centre) with Manjimup nursery staff Dom DeLuca and Lyndsay Bunn.

## A VIP visitor

WELL known British conservationist Professor David Bellamy visited South-West forests recently.

Professor Bellamy visited several sites, including young bluegum plantations, the Manjimup nursery, regrowth karri forest at Big Brook and Warren National Park.

He was accompanied by a film crew and many of his memorable observations on the forest were recorded.

Professor Bellamy was particularly impressed with the CALM nursery and with the 60-year-old regrowth forests near Tramway Trail.

He was also impressed with Alan Walker's green CALM-monogrammed sweater. When Executive Director Syd Shea promised to order him one, Professor Bellamy undertook to wear it to his next meeting with Margaret Thatcher!

# FROM MY DESK

IT is quite exciting to return to work after an absence of six weeks or so to find out all the things that have happened during one's absence.

A quick read of CALM News probably brought me up to date more rapidly than going through a stack of papers on my desk.

From my particular viewpoint the launching of the Tree Trust was a highlight and a tribute of some intensive work over several months by the Executive Director and other staff from Crawley.

I also noticed that the Bicentennial Lookout Tree in Warren National Park had been opened and that a group of foresters from mainland China had been studying agroforestry in our south-west.

While on leave I spent some time in Hong Kong and a long day touring the nearer parts of mainland China.

In Hong Kong I met with one of our principal customers for sandalwood, who rapidly expanded my understanding of the way in which sandalwood logs and branches are converted into an expensive product for ceremonial uses by the Chinese.

The particular joss-stick shop which my wife and I visited in the Western districts of Hong Kong Island is quite small, has been owned and operated by the Tai family for more than four generations and employs about 30 people in small factories elsewhere in the colony.

They produce a very wide range of sizes and shapes of joss-sticks which are used in Buddhist temples, in Chinese homes and for particular celebrations, like weddings.

We took a one-day tour by hovercraft and bus to mainland China which included a new industrial city, Zhekou, the birth place of Dr Sun Yat Sen and the Portuguese colony of Macau.

Although the tour was primarily concerned with the industrial and social fabric of the "new" communist China, there was abundant evidence of reforestation programmes mainly with softwoods.

In addition it was reassuring to find a number of Australian species thriving in the grounds of Sun Yat Sen high school, notable Sheeks and *Euc. tereticornis*.

Further evidence of the widespread use of sandalwood joss-sticks was provided by the almost overpowering aroma of burning sandalwood in the ancient Buddhist temple in Macau.

There are now formal agreements between the Governments of Communist China and Australia for agriculture and forestry, which will lead to an increasing number of visits to Australia and to China to discuss forestry problems of mutual interest.

The next visit planned is for a Forest Fire Study Group from Australia to visit China in April/May and it is likely that CALM's John Smart will be appointed leader of that party.

**PETER HEWETT**  
Director of Forests

# Jarrahan makes a return to mines



Mike McCarthy inspects the barrel which was washed up on the beach.

## "Rock" of ages

JARRAH is now being widely planted on sites mined for bauxite.

by  
**WARREN TACEY**

Replanting has been carried out since bauxite mining began in WA in 1963.

Over the years a wide variety of tree species were replanted on the mined areas.

Species would only be chosen for replanting if they were resistant to dieback.

With the benefit of hindsight, this dependence on dieback resistance was perhaps overly pessimistic.

Just as effective dieback control procedures have been developed for the timber industry, so new techniques are being developed specifically for mining.

These recent initiatives to develop improved dieback control procedures especially applicable to mining provide the opportunity to re-introduce jarrah on a broad scale.

### Survival

Jarrahan trial stands, up to 17 years old, now exist on mined areas.

Provided suitable soils are chosen, more than 90 per cent survival is typical of new jarrah plantings.

This is comparable with the establishment success of other species.

Coupled with the evidence from past trial plantings, jarrah can now be replanted with renewed confidence.

The return of jarrah is part of an increasing trend towards replanting with local tree species.

Other species native to the jarrah forest are also being favoured for replanting.

Previously trees were selected for their potential to produce timber, water catchments and provide secondary benefits like honey production.

Many eastern-states species were planted.

Although these have the potential to produce timber, there are no established markets for the timber in Western Australia.

In addition, the day-to-day management requirements of these trees is different to the surrounding jarrah forest.

For example, many of these species are not readily able to tolerate fires like the local trees can.

Species for replanting can now be selected for:

- their compatibility with the recreation, conservation, water and timber objectives of the Regional Management Plan;

- their ease of integration with other forest management operations in the area, particularly fire; and

- the existence of established markets for the future timber products.

All of these criteria strongly favour species indigenous to the area to be replanted.

Jarrahan and blackbutt meet all of the above selection criteria.

Blackbutt and marri are also native to the region, as well as being dieback resistant, and so provide backup in case dieback might be introduced in the future.

Bullich is favoured in the small areas where swampy conditions are expected.

By approaching the replanting task with a view of what we want to achieve, rather than being limited by the perceived constraints, native species can now be used with a high degree of confidence.

Thanks to some new approaches to dieback control, jarrah can now be replanted in the jarrah forest.

## WHAT'S NEW?

THE following publications have been produced in the last month:

- Penguin Island brochure (reprint).
- Yanchep National Park brochure (reprint).
- District Clerical Officers Guide to Hardwood Logging Computer System.
- Briefing Paper 1/89: The Use of Timber in Buildings.
- Tree Trust Hardwood Afforestation Program for SW Aust.
- Conservation Reserves in the Karri Forest — a coloured booklet.
- Marine Turtle Tagging brochure (reprint).
- Calling All Squirrels — firewood collection brochure.

## Comings and goings

### APPOINTMENTS

Nine graduates from the Cadet School have been appointed as forest rangers — Caroline Brocx, Dwellingup; John Tillman, Kelmscott (Inventory); Greg Freebury, Nannup; Owen Donovan, Mundaring; Darren Graham, Narrogin; Mark Spice, Collie; Simon Watkin, Bunbury; Andrew Van Der Wacht, Murdoch House; and Ian Wilson, Manjimup.

From the same cadet class, Bill Evans has been appointed park ranger, Avon Valley National Park, and Andrew Horan and Lyle Gilbert as trainee wildlife officers, Murdoch House.

Further appointments were Jim Stoddart, Senior Research Scientist, Woodvale and Bill Frost, forest ranger, Manjimup Research.

### PROMOTIONS

Mark Barley to wildlife officer, Murdoch House; Ian Scott, Senior Forester, Bunbury; Peter Bidwell, Forester Grade 1, Walpole; Brad Daw, wildlife officer, Murdoch House; Kevin Haylock, Forester Grade 2, Kirup; Greg Mair, Forester Grade 1, Manjimup (District); Jenny Monck, administrative assistant, Herbarium, Como; and Jim Raper, Forester Grade 1, Collie. Steve Pasco, Finance Branch, Como gained promotion to Finance Systems Officer with Community Services.

### TRANSFERS

John Lloyd, ADFO from Harvey to Manjimup; Alan Scott, Senior Training Officer, Dwellingup to Como; Scott Wood, ADFO, Manjimup to Harvey; Bob Rule, forest ranger, Manjimup to Bunbury; Michael

Wright, forest ranger, Bunbury to Nannup.

Cam Schuster is now with the Authority for Intellectually Handicapped and Kevin Goss with the Agriculture Department.

### RETIREMENTS

Mick Law, Forester Grade 1, Wanneroo has retired after 32 years in forestry work; also Des Muir, Senior Cartographic Draftsperson, Mapping Como. During

almost 39 years of service, Des made a major contribution to forestry mapping.

Dr Eric Hopkins, Chief Liaison Officer, Crawley retired on 27 January.

Another retiree with more than 30 years in the forestry field, Eric made significant contributions in the areas of tree breeding (*Pinus pinaster*), resource planning and, more recently, the Geographic Information System.

It is not every day while walking along the beach that you discover something of historic significance.

## Barrel a piece of history

I thought the barrel was a remnant of the 'Parnelia' voyage or the stranding of the 'HMS Success,' Mike said.

The 'Parnelia' was beached on a hazardous sandbar off Carnac and 29 of the first settlers to arrive in the Swan River Colony in 1827 were landed on the island to lighten the load.

However, the barrel turned out to belong to a famous trading vessel the "Sepia" — which sank two nautical miles off-shore between Carnac and Garden Islands in 1898.

The ship was 170ft long and was carrying a 1200-tonne cargo to the port of Fremantle.

Survivors scrambled to safety in the rigging and spent anxious hours awaiting rescue.

"When I was first notified

## It's a tower of strength

THANKS to the enthusiasm of Alan Lush, Deputy Regional Manager for Manjimup, Hamlet Tower Fire Lookout was recently completed in Manjimup Timber Park as a reminder to the community of the many dedicated CALM staff who "keep an eye on the bush".

At the opening, a king of "towermen", Bill Simmonds (retired Forests Department employee and father of senior forester Rod Simmonds) paid tribute to CALM's tower men and women and their untiring diligence to the task of looking out for bush fires.

For the first 50 years of forestry in WA, an early warning system for forest fires depended on a network of lookout towers.

They were built about 40km apart on prominent hills and were staffed continuously throughout summer.

Every morning at two-hourly intervals the "towermen" would climb the tower to check visibility and wind direction.

Then they would scan the horizon for signs of smoke and note the position of "safe" smokes, such as from towns, mills and rubbish tips.

Bill Simmonds manned towers for 19 years and remembers vividly what life was like in the early days.

He worked on the tree towers at Gardner, Gloucester and Diamond and on



the man-made towers at Alcoa and Kepal.

Bill even holds the towerman's record for climbing Gloucester Tree in 1 min 59 sec and has climbed down in 1 min 30 sec — without missing a step.

"I saw my job of keeping an eye on the forest as a crucial one," he said.

"I knew that if I did not see smoke until sometime after it started that my mates would be out at the fire day and night, possibly for many days until the fire was safe.

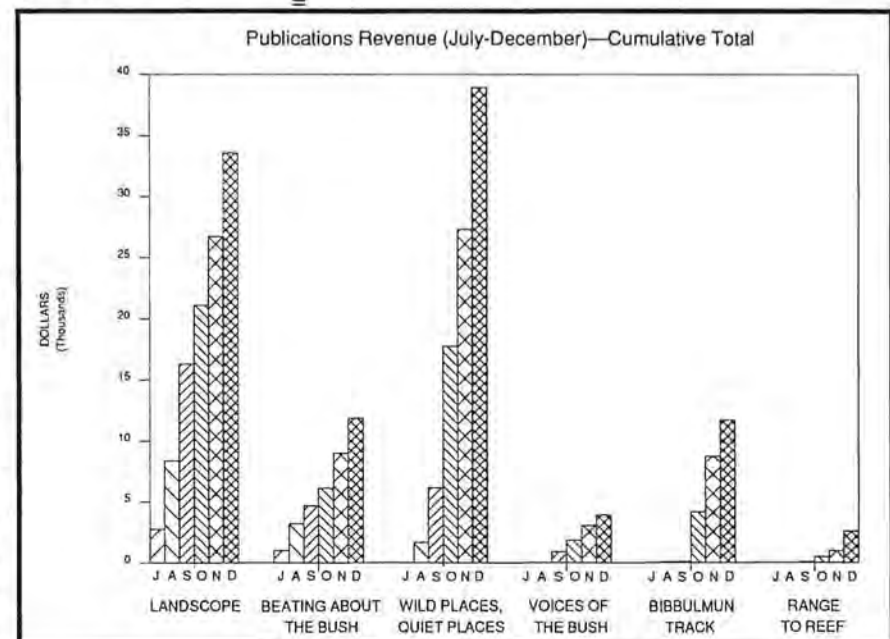
"The sooner I saw a fire the quicker they could get to it and the better their chances of controlling it."

There are many fires vivid in Bill's memory. The one he remembers most clearly and most sadly was the Ellis Creek fire.

"I was up Gloucester at the time and was the first to see its smoke.

"My sadness is because five of my mates were burnt to death in that fire. The bush recovered quickly, as it always does, but their families took a long time to recover."

Thankfully today, with radios instead of bush telephone and planes instead of towers, CALM staff have an even better chance of keeping an eye on the bush.



# The seal of approval

IT'S 8am and the CALM boat *Pseudorca* cuts its way through the choppy sea just off Perth's coast.

As we approach the shore of Carnac Island a huge sealion lumbers, like so many tonnes of blubber, into the sea, as though coming out to greet us.

However, when he reaches a suitable depth he speeds off with surprising agility.

It is early, too early for the swarms of visitors that regularly flock to the nature reserves on Carnac, Seal and Penguin Islands over summer.

But it won't be long before they arrive. "It's the silly season," as Doug Coughran, CALM's Supervising Wildlife Officer, puts it.

The Australian sea-lions on these islands are breeding males. Each year they migrate south from breeding islands further north to take the pressure off the females and young pups feeding.

However, because the population of breeding males in WA is very small, disease or other disaster could almost entirely wipe them out.

Even just a few deaths can have a major impact. "That's where CALM's management of these islands is very important. The Australian sea-lion is the rarest sea-lion in the world. It has just been placed on the special protected list," said Doug.

The visitors can place incredible pressure on the islands and lead to conflict with the native flora and fauna.

"Fortunately, on Carnac Island there is a large population of tiger snakes, and we have warning signs up. As a result, people tend not to venture off the beach," said Doug.

"You can see the difference in the vegetation between this and Seal Island.

"On Seal Island, people sometimes climb up and disturb the nesting terns. Of course, the birds fly up in the air and the nests are unprotected," he said.

As we patrol the area Doug records the number and ages of the sea-lions lazing on the beaches near the water's edge.

He is looking for marks placed on their upper bodies by Dr Nic Gales, who is spearheading research on the Australian sea-lion.

Although we spot about 50 sea-lions throughout the day, no markings are seen.

Relatively little is known

ONE midsummer week-end, CAROLYN THOMSON accompanied wildlife officers Doug Coughran and Geoff Hanley on a patrol of the nature reserves on Carnac, Seal and Penguin Islands. Their job sounds glamorous, encompassing sun,

sand and sea, but it's absolutely vital that the hordes of people who visit the islands are properly policed and the inevitable abuses to the local fauna and flora kept to a minimum. Here are her impressions of the day.

ly obliterated in just a couple of hours.

Doug says he will contact the boy's parents before deciding whether to charge him.

This is all part of a routine weekend patrol of the island nature reserves for CALM's wildlife officers.

They're at CALM's frontline. They not only manage reserves and enforce wildlife regulations, they present CALM's public face and perform a vital role educating people on how to co-exist with the native fauna.

about their behaviour. Why do they continually return to these islands, and not to others like Garden Island, where it is known they once regularly visited?

Do particular individuals favour some islands and not others? And what impact does human interference have on their behaviour and ability to survive?

The answers may prove crucial if the nature reserves, and the sea-lion population, are to be effectively managed.

On Penguin Island, Doug approaches a large family picnicing on the beach. A young boy is digging for abalone in the sand.

Doug inspects their catch

and asks them to stop after 10am (when the season closes). He wishes them an enjoyable day.

Back on Seal Island, we arrive just in time to catch a boy of 14 stoning terns, smashing their eggs, and defacing signs.

Tragically, the terns' nest-site has been complete-



## Tim has got it covered

MANJIMUP'S Tim Foley (above) is covering up — but all for a good cause.

His mission? To hide signs of human interference with the natural environment, particularly at recreation sites developed by CALM. Tim can sometimes spend days, even weeks, planning the operation — and when he's finished, you would never even know he had been.

The 25-year-old forest ranger has a keen interest in recreation and was disturbed that development at picnic and recreation sites often destroys that untouched,

bush atmosphere so many visitors seek.

So when the workers move out, Tim moves in — dragging dead branches across vehicle tracks, scattering leaves across new walk paths and generally making the site look "wild".

But these are only the finishing touches, insists Tim.

"With careful planning, we can ensure that there is minimal damage to the environment," he says.

He cites the current 4-Aces development, where a large wooden information shelter has just been built, as an example.

"At the end of the week, there were a lot of timber off-cuts lying about," he said.

"We made sure we carted all the rubbish away regularly.

"Something like that puts CALM's image at stake. If we leave our litter lying around there is not much incentive for tourists to put their rubbish in the bin."

He's got a point — but even more important, he practises what he preaches.

## Jumping for joy

MANY a CALM person has experienced the pleasure of having a "crook back" fixed by a chiropractor, but here's a new twist to the story.

Park ranger Ian Solomon and wife Eve are noted for their care of orphaned joeys.

The yard of their house at Cape LeGrand National Park is usually full of the little bouncers.

Eve nurses them to maturity and then they are released back to the bush.

Our story concerns one little fellow who appeared, when delivered to Ian, to have a serious injury.

He was "lopsided", and had great difficulty in performing the basic functions of a kangaroo.

Ian sadly concluded that he would have to put him down.

However, later that day a tourist from the park campground heard the story and offered to help.

The tourist, a chiropractor, ran his fingers up and down the joey's spine, and said "Aha!".

He pressed on a certain spot, there was a loud click and the joey bounded off with a grin on his face!

## Time was of the essence

AFTER hearing encouraging reports of the condensed one-day time management course held at Southern Forest Region, Planning Branch organised a course at Como last month.

Arranged as part of Planning Branch's continuing training programme for staff, the course was conducted very effectively and efficiently by Norman Venus of the Australian Institute of Management.

Staff from Crawley, Como, Woodvale and Murdoch House were invited to attend at the reduced price of \$300, including a comprehensive planner diary valued at \$220.

Staff from Planning Branch and Metropolitan Region took part along with Don Jennings (Computer Services), Les Marrable (Wildlife and Land Administration), Greg Beange (Engineering Services), John McGrath (Como Research), Neil Burrows (Woodvale Research), Dave Hampton (Crawley) and Peter Bowen (Land Information Section).

The word spread to Bunbury Inventory and Charlie Downs and Alf Lorkiewicz made the day trip to Como to attend.

The course included time profile (self completion exercise), the manager's job, demands, constraints and choices, goal and effectiveness areas, daily and weekly planning, realisation, and managing the demand for time.

Feedback was very positive, and it was generally agreed that effective time management is most necessary with the demands placed upon staff.

— ALAN BURNETT



Wildlife officers Geoff Hanley and Doug Coughran conduct a sea-lion census on Carnac Island while (inset) slumbering sea-lions soak up the summer sun.

## For safety's sake!

By JOHN HUNTER

I couldn't believe it! Friday the 13th: what a day for a safety presentation.

Syd Shea nestled back in his seat to read notes, pilot John Peel pushed the button and the Beechcraft baron thundered down the strip.

Bunbury regional office was our first port of call and after a buffet lunch, regional manager Don Spriggins invited Syd to speak.

He paid tribute to the Bunbury staff for their double honour: 12 months free of lost time injury and medical treatment accidents.

Mitchell MLA David Smith presented awards, with forester Gordon Styles topping the list at 39 years accident free.

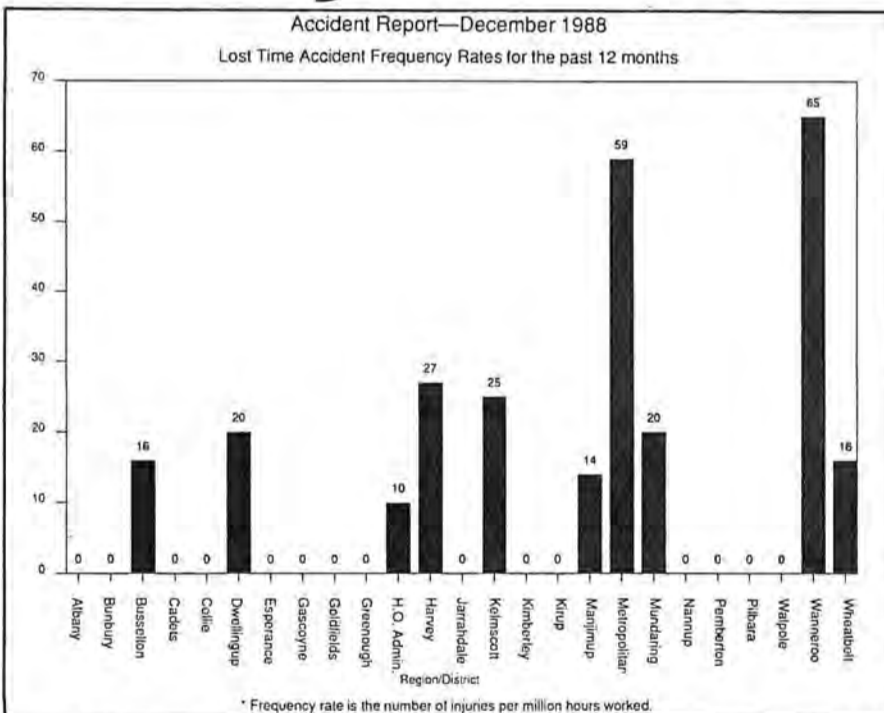
Bunbury safety officer Neil Warrel responded, saying his job was made easy by a conscientious staff.

Then it was on to Collie where district staff celebrated their seventh successive year without a lost time accident.

Several awards were made with forester Jim Raper, 34 years without a lost time accident, taking top honours.

The entertainment award went to Eddy McIntyre who asked Syd to replace his devastated pair of safety boots. (They must have been used to test land mines at Army Headquarters).

As we travelled back to Perth, I realised the social and positive aspects of camaraderie and achievement which our safety programme generates among staff. A top effort!



## A burning question

THE response to fire of WA flora vary greatly and the various regenerative methods reflect adaption to particular regimes.

In a managed environment, supplying these regimes is often part of species conservation, especially if the plant species is rare or restricted in range.

The Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 states that no Declared Rare Flora may be taken without ministerial approval.

Burning is seen as 'taking' of flora and is therefore often avoided and assumed to be detrimental.

This is not always the case and some species require specific burning regimes to survive.

Fire response data for WA flora, especially rare or restricted plants, is limited.

Neil Burrows and Karan Maisey are currently developing fire management recommendations for the State's rare flora beginning with forest regions.

The first stage of this project is to collate information on the fire responses of these flora.

They want help to document observed fire responses of plants on the Declared Rare Flora and reserve lists.

Lists and data forms have been sent to all forest region districts.

If you have any useful information contact Karan at Woodvale or Neil at Como.

# Talent in the Tucker Box

WHEN Mark Dalton gets home after a hard day's work at the Como seed store, he dips into his Tucker Box freezer.

But he doesn't emerge with a chilled can or a juicy steak to throw on the barbie.

He's more likely to be dragging out a frozen white-tailed black cockatoo or a rather cool native cat.

Rest assured, however, that 26-year-old Mark doesn't have a gourmet appetite for such creatures.

Rather, he is an accomplished taxidermist whose business is, literally, mounting.

In a makeshift studio in his Como unit, Mark devotes many of his spare hours to his unusual hobby.

And it's a hobby which is proving to be quite lucrative. Mark can earn from \$25-\$120 for each animal, depending on its size — although that's not expensive when you consider the hours of painstaking work which go into even the smallest of mounts.

First the animal is skinned, taking care not to damage its fur or feathers. Then a form, or mould, of the animal carcass is made from wire and polyurethane.

The skin is then placed over the form and "stitched up like a rag doll" before Mark adds the finishing touches such as glass eyes and artificial tongues, specially imported from America.

## Priorities

Sound simple? Not so, says Mark, who at 15 started teaching himself taxidermy from books.

"I initially wanted to learn the craft so I could become a better painter of wildlife," he says.

"Taxidermy gives you a greater understanding of animal postures, movement and the like."

Now, although also a very talented artist, Mark admits his priorities have changed.

"I discovered that taxidermy itself is an art form," he says. "It takes a special skill to make the animals look like they are alive."

Such is his talent, it is difficult to decide which craft Mark performs best,

## A beastly business for Mark

by KYLIE BYFIELD

although ultimately he wants to combine the two hobbies.

Meanwhile, he will continue to work full-time in the seed store and freelance as a taxidermist mounting animals for CALM displays and educational programmes.

And should you happen to see a remarkably life-like animal perched one day on the front desk at your office, chances are it came from Mark's Tucker Box.



Although more spectacular in colour, this black and white photograph of one of Mark's paintings shows his incredible eye for detail.



Accomplished artist and taxidermist Mark Dalton — hidden talents in the Tucker Box.

# It's a wild, wild world

YOU'VE just been out disentangling a sea-lion trapped in a fishing net. Earlier that day you apprehended a couple of bird poachers.

by DOUG COUGHRAN



• Another suburban caller insisted she had found several baby crocodiles in her yard. She said wasn't worried about the babies, but was wondering where their mother was. It again turned out to be the ever-present bobtail.

• A wildlife officer was told about a swan at Lake Monger that only had one leg. When he went out there, all the swans were standing on one leg.

• A female caller requested help to rid her lounge mantelpiece of a menacing snake with big, black eyes that was waiting to attack her. A wildlife officer removed a 7cm fence skink from the mantelpiece (for its own safety).

• A caller enthusiastically claimed there was a "seal" at Lake Monger. It turned out to be a Musk Duck.

• Another caller demanded that a wildlife officer rid Shenton Park Lake of all long-neck tortoises as they were eating the black swans right under the eyes of children.

• During the rescue and rehabilitation of a bottlenose dolphin in N 1988, a caller requested the carcass of the dolphin if it died so he could have it stuffed and put on his lounge room wall. He said it would make a good talking point.

## Men of Merit

EACH year, as part of the John Tonkin Tree Awards, the Roadside Conservation Committee gives a Roadside Certificate of Merit.

It is awarded for exceptional work in conservation, restoration or preservation of roadside vegetation.

This year it was won by Men of the Trees, who designed a corridor to link up two isolated blocks of Dryandra forest.

Presenting the award CALM Minister Barry Hodge commended MOTT for undertaking such a far-sighted project and emphasised the Government's support for revegetation projects and the work of the Roadside Conservation Committee.

## Cooperation the key in fight against fire

AN agreement between CALM and the Albany Shire Council will provide greater district fire protection and protection for pine plantations on the south coast.

As part of the agreement, CALM's Executive Director Syd Shea recently presented Albany Shire President Harry Riggs with a fully equipped, heavy duty fire truck.

It is one of a number of measures taken to protect the expanding softwood forests near Albany and Mt Barker.

Dr Shea said that under the terms of the softwood sharefarming scheme, about 1400ha of pine had been planted on private property since May 1987, and it was intended to plant about 1000ha a year in the future.

By the end of the current financial year, about \$1 million will have been spent on the scheme, and a further \$3 million will be invested over the next three years.

"Obviously, both CALM and the participating landowners have a valuable asset that needs to be protected," Dr Shea said.

"Unfortunately, CALM does not have the resources or manpower in the region to fully protect these plantations from fire.

"We are extremely grateful to have the assistance of the shire and the Bush Fires Board."

Dr Shea said the availability of a heavy duty fire truck in the region was part of an agreement with the shire that included fire training sessions for volunteers.

The presentation was made at the end of the first training session conducted by CALM and Bush Fire Board staff.

The two-day session looked at the system of attack on pine plantation fires, which are generally more intense than fires in



CALM's Executive Director Syd Shea looks on as Glen Mills of the Many Peaks Bush Fire Brigade (right) hands the keys to the fire truck to Albany Shire's Chief Bushfire Control Officer Stan Negri. Picture: JOHN WATSON.

pasture or hardwood forests.

A lot more water is usually required to extinguish a major pine fire.

The fire truck, with its greater capacity and high pressure pumping equip-

ment, would complement existing local equipment.

Dr Shea said the unit would be based in the Mt Many Peaks area and would be available for general fire control work throughout the district.

## The heat is on!

THE heat was on in Kalamunda recently when Northern Forest Region staged a simulated fire-fighting exercise.

The scenario: on a warm day with a strong easterly breeze, a CALM spotter plane reports a fire burning out of control in Kalamunda National Park.

CALM's Mundaring district — along with the Kalamunda Shire, West Australian Fire Brigade, Bush Fires Board and Police Department — must respond.

As the fire is in a national park, CALM officers must take early command of the fire-fighting operation. Mundaring's District Manager Peter Keppel is appointed fire controller.

Quickly, the size of the blaze and the threat it poses must be assessed.

The fire is heading toward a residential area so saving lives and property takes top priority. The operation swings into top gear.

A couple of hours later, the blaze is under control. The fire fighters heave a col-

lective sigh of relief and the operation is hailed a success.

Although only an imaginary fire — created in the mind of Ross Mead, Northern Forest Region's senior fire control officer — it plays a very real role in the on-going training of CALM officers.

It also puts the fire-fighting agencies to the test, both individually and collectively.

Any weaknesses which are discovered can then be corrected before a real emergency arises.

Ross said the exercise was very worthwhile.

"Its main aim was to test the multi-agency system we have developed and it worked very well," he said.

"A few headaches arose, but they will be easily rectified before we are faced with the real thing."

With the imaginary fire under control, Mundaring District swung its portable catering unit — nicknamed "Miss Maud's" into action and whipped up a lunch of steak, eggs and sausages for all those who took part.

