

# CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MAY 1989

## New minister splashes out!

# FARMERS REAP A TREE HARVEST



A new service offered by CALM is encouraging farmers to manage regrowth forest on their land.

Executive Director Syd Shea said the scheme would help landowners earn income from timber removed during thinning operations and to manage their forests for prime sawlogs in the future.

Dr Shea said the Timber Strategy recognised that hardwood forests on private property were a valuable resource which was not being managed effectively.

He said CALM has offered a contract service to harvest and sell the timber for farmers.

A pilot trial has been conducted on land owned by Wally Dunnett at Flybrook near Pemberton, where about 20ha were thinned.

The operation yielded 2000 cubic metres of logs. Mr Dunnett received 90 per

## CALM heeds call for help



Dr Syd Shea

cent of the timber's royalty value while CALM retained 10 per cent for planning, supervision and administration costs.

"The WA Farmers' Federation last year asked CALM for help with managing native hardwood forests on private land," Dr Shea said.

"I am pleased that we can offer a service that will promote conservation and timber production into the future."

The landowner, Mr Dunnett, said he was pleased with the trial's outcome.

"CALM officers came and inspected the block, marked the trees and estimated the log yield," he said.

"I told them how I want-

ed the forest managed, and they explained that thinning would improve the growth rate on retained trees.

"My interests were protected by a contract and CALM's Code of Logging practice.

"As well as getting a useful income from the timber removed, I have now got a healthy stand of karri sawlogs for the future."

Dr Shea said CALM had commercially thinned karri regrowth forests for 10 years and about 30,000ha of forest had been treated.

He said farmers were recognising that instead of clearing jarrah and karri regrowth forests, they could manage them and obtain a steady income.

Dr Shea said water quality, flora and fauna habitats and visual amenity are enhanced by keeping these forests healthy and productive.

Taking a dive to launch an underwater trail is all in a day's work for CALM Minister Ian Taylor. His children — Andrew (12) and Rosalind (6) — tagged along for the fun of it.

## Taylor launches trail

CALM Minister Ian Taylor showed he was getting into the spirit of his new job when he plunged into the waters of Marmion Marine Park to launch the Boyinaboat Underwater Nature Trail last month.

Two of his children, Andrew and Brendon, also keen snorkellers, joined him in the water.

Boyinaboat Reef lies just off Hillarys Boat Harbour and is one of the most popular dive sites around Perth.

Many marine species, normally only found in tropical waters further north, are carried there by the warm waters of the Leeuwin current.

The trail is the first of its kind in WA. Ten underwater plaques have been placed at sites around the reef to help divers learn more about marine life.

The trail takes about an hour to complete.

A great deal of work went into the trail's development. CALM's Rick Allison, Serena Sanders and Lyndon Mutter, and volunteers from the Friends of Marmion Marine Park, spent more than 100 hours underwater surveying the reef's features and fauna.

Metropolitan Region's Andrew Van Der Wacht even used his own backyard to make the concrete blocks used to mount the plaques.

He produced, painted and delivered the blocks in only 10 days, saving CALM more than \$1000.

The Western Australian Maritime Museum

by CAROLYN THOMSON

with Sea Week, divers will not be able to use the trail until next summer.

Marmion Marine Park Manager Greg Pobar said diving virtually ceases over winter because of stormy weather.

helped CALM develop the idea.

In spite of the official opening, timed to coincide

## New News is good news!

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

This is the 50th edition of CALM News and, as you may have noticed, it has doubled in size.

We also hope to double its impact by making it brighter and giving you more news about what is going on in CALM.

But to do that, we need your help. We can't be everywhere at once, so we ask you to let us know what's going on in your branch or region.

If you don't have a story, then call us anyway — or write — to tell us what you think of CALM News. After all, it is your newspaper.

We would also like to help you. You can send photographic films to us for processing. Black and white photos are preferred although clear colour prints (not negatives) can sometimes be used.

Call Kylie Byfield, Carolyn Thomson, Steve Murnane or John Hunter at Public Affairs Branch on 389 8644.

The deadline for CALM News is the first Friday of each month.

## A major three-year study of waterbird populations and wetland habitats of the Swan Coastal Plain started this month.

CALM Minister Ian Taylor said the new study follows the success of a five-year project which surveyed waterbirds in nature reserves of south-western Australia.

The \$270,000 study will examine the importance of different types of wetlands for waterbirds and will be used to assess the effects of the proposed groundwater extraction and urban developments on waterbird populations in the area from Moore River to Bunbury.

"It is essential that we have an accurate picture of the bird life in these

areas, some of which are extremely fragile or under intense pressure from urbanisation," Mr Taylor said.

"The project will be a joint effort between the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union and CALM.

## TURTLE MYSTERY

A large leatherback turtle (pictured below) was washed up on the beach about 90km east of Albany recently.

"As far as I know, the species has never been recorded in the South Coast Region," said Wildlife Officer Les Coyne.

It is normally found in temperate waters.

It is declared rare and only occasionally seen in WA, although the animal is sometimes found entangled in cray pots or nets.

Les and Flora Officer Lawrie Anderson went to the area to photograph and measure the dead turtle.

"It will make use of the massive team of volunteers recruited and trained for the RAOU five-year study which resulted in the publication of 'Waterbirds and Nature Reserves of South-Western Australia'."

Mr Taylor said the

findings of that study had been invaluable in assisting with management plans for wetlands and nature reserves, identified important areas for waterbirds and provided data which had been used for the resolution of potential conflicts over some reserves.

"The cause of its death, and the reason it was so far south, is a mystery," said Les.

The isolation of the beach where it was found caused a few complications for the men. Their attempts to leave resulted in the vehicle becoming bogged.

It was three hours before they managed to free the vehicle, and, by this time it was dark and almost impossible to see the tracks where they had entered the beach.

They eventually found their way out, however, and headed home for a hot shower, a hot meal and a cold beer — "but not necessarily in that order," laughed Les.





# FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

FROM MY DESK



CALM's exhibit at the Public Service Expo was a brilliant success and my thanks to the more than 70 people who made it so.

(By the way, I am reliably informed that the reason CALM did not win the prize for best exhibit was that the judges did not appreciate that the various outdoor displays were part of the total exhibit, and as a consequence were very apologetic.)

It is an inevitable consequence of the current political environment and the nature of the job we do that we will be constantly in the public spotlight.

If you were to plot a graph of the number of media comments which relate to our work during the last 12 months, it would show an exponential curve.

Consequently, it is important that we explain to the public, whenever we have the opportunity, what we are doing.

In the jargon of management, it is what is called "marketing". Marketing is more than advertising, it is a whole package of things which, of course, cannot work unless we are doing a good job.

I am absolutely confident that we are performing very well, but I believe we need to devote more attention to marketing than what we are presently doing.

The Public Service Expo was an example of what we can do. More than 65,000 people passed through the Expo and, during the time I was there, there was tremendous positive comment of CALM's demonstration of what it is about.

Members of CALM themselves are the most important elements of any marketing strategy. Of course, CALM members cannot be effective marketers if they do not know what is going on in the Department. That is why CALM News is so important.

The paper's prime function is to inform people, wherever they are in the Department, about what is going on and, in particular, about their colleagues. The new expanded format increases the potential for contributions from all members of the Department.

Please take advantage of it.

SYD SHEA,  
Executive Director.



CALM Minister Ian Taylor (front) took time out during his visit to Albany to walk the Stony Hill Heritage Trail with Woodvale's Senior Research Scientist Steve Hopper. Picture: JOHN WATSON.

A research program to investigate the behaviour and effect of fires in shrubland ecosystems has started in the Stirling Range National Park.

by  
LACHLAN McCRAW

Fire is a critical factor in the management of parks and reserves which contain large tracts of shrubland vegetation.

Much of it is highly flammable and capable of carrying fast-moving intense fires during dry, windy conditions.

CALM must protect park staff, visitors and neighbours from the threat of fire.

At the same time, action must be taken to ensure that fire regimes within parks and reserves are compatible with conservation.

The research program at the Stirling Ranges is centred on a study area near the southern boundary of the park.

A grid of plots, each four hectares, has been established.

It will be surrounded by a low-fuel buffer strip about 100 metres wide to prevent experimental fires escaping into adjacent bush areas.

Other sections of the park's perimeter have received similar treatment this autumn.

Fuel and vegetation characteristics within each plot will be assessed before the plot is burnt.

Experimental fires will be started over a wide range of weather conditions to monitor the fire's forward rate of spread, flame height, intensity and fire shape.

## Strategies

This data will form the basis of a fire behaviour guide for shrublands which could be used in planning strategies for suppressing wildfires, implementing fuel reduction burning in strategic buffer strips, and educating park users about the role of fire.

Experimental burning should start in late autumn and continue for several years.

Vegetation response to fire will be studied in selected plots to examine the effect of fires in different seasons.

The presence of all plant species will be recorded both before, and at intervals after, fire.

Comparable plots have also been established in the buffer strip to examine the response to this treatment.

Seed release and recruitment in selected species such as *Banksia Baxteri* will be studied after fire.

Pitfall trapping will be used to research the effect of fire on invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals, to compare responses to fires in spring and autumn, and examine faunal populations at sites with a range of past fire regimes.

In all, about 150 hectares of the park's total area of

116,000 hectares will be burnt during the research program.

Staff from the Manjimup and Woodvale Research Centres, park rangers and Albany District staff are contributing to this research.

Knowledge gained from this work will provide a solid basis for future management of the Stirling Range National Park.

## WHAT'S NEW?

The following publications have been produced by CALM:

\*WURC Report No. 9: Survey of Solid Wood Sizes used by the Furniture Industry in WA.

\*Blackwood Valley — Farmland to Forest, recreation brochure.

\*CALM in the Wheatbelt, primary objectives and role brochure.

\*Technical Report No 22: A spring reconnaissance survey of the flora and fauna of the southern Beekeepers' Reserve.

\*Roadside Vegetation Bibliography (Penny Hussey).

\*Tree Decline and Vegetation Newsletter (Penny Hussey).

\*The Perup — A Living Forest.

\*Education Resource Booklet.

\*CALM Landnote 1-89 Park Management Planning.

\*CALM Strategic Plan 1989-1993.

\*Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, Summary of Public Submissions to Management Plan No 13, \$3.

\*Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, Management Plan No. 13, \$5.

\*The South Coast Region Draft Management Plan, \$10.

\*Bungle Bungle Management Plan.

\*Shark Bay — a coloured book on the natural wonder of the area, \$5.95.

\*Hamersley Range National Park, a brochure on the geology of the gorges.

\*Walpole — a brochure on the national parks and forests.

## Comings and goings

### APPOINTMENTS

Denise Hamilton, Officer, joined Planning Branch from EPA. Lisa Wright, previously Education Department, is now Librarian, Woodvale.

Also new are Georgina Moyle, Officer, Busselton; Julian Pigott, Research Scientist, Narrogin; Ron Shepherd, District Manager, Shark Bay; Neil Gibson, Research Scientist, Woodvale; and Robyn Yates, Officer, Collie.

### PROMOTIONS

Ex-Mobile Ranger, Keith Moon, to Ranger-in-Charge, William Bay National Park.

### TRANSFERS

Graeme Gardner, Forest Ranger to Dwellingup; Allan Thomson, ADFO, Kununurra; Paul Brennan, ADFO, Busselton; Leon Price, Forest Ranger, Manjimup; Mark Read, Forest Ranger, Harvey.

### RETIREMENT

George Peet, Northern Forest Regional Manager, started work for the Forests Department in 1961. He specialised in forest fire control, visited Kenya as a fire consultant in 1980, and became regional manager in 1985.

## Speak now ... or hold your peace

CALM Minister Ian Taylor has urged staff and the public to make submissions on the Draft South Coast Management Plan.

The plan, launched by Mr Taylor in Albany early this month, is open for comment until July 31.

The South Coast Region contains 13 national parks, four State forest blocks, two timber reserves and more than 100 nature reserves, including well-known national parks Stirling Range, Torndirrup, Porongurup, Cape Arid and Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

The plan includes land use proposals, and management issues and proposed strategies for landscape, flora, fauna, cultural areas, recreation and public participation.

It is available at Como, all regional offices, and the Esperance District office. All queries should be directed to Ian Herford, Regional Planning Officer, Albany.

Plan preparation was coordinated by South Coast Regional Manager John Watson in consultation with CALM's General Manager Roger Underwood, specialist branch staff and representatives from other agencies.

BELOW: Phil Shedley (left), from CALM's Wood Utilisation Research Centre in Harvey, discusses the centre's activities with Peter and Charmaine Brown.

## ALL IN A FAIR DAY'S WURC

CALM's Wood Utilisation Research Centre (WURC) at Harvey mounted a display at the recent Perth Furniture Fair.

The fair provided a great chance to show off a new manufacturing process, developed at the Harvey centre, which allows logs from thinning operations to be used for making high quality furniture.

Phil Shedley, CALM's Senior Utilisation Officer, said that the wood, known as Valwood, is made of smaller pieces of timber glued together.

This means that jarrah timber, trimmed from the forest in thinning operations, would, instead of being used as firewood or charcoal, be put to better use.

And if three jarrah coffee tables, awarded as prizes in a competition during the fair are any indication, the process does not detract in any way from the furniture's quality.

Sandwich boards at the entrance, advertising the free competition, lured thousands of visitors to the CALM display.

Once there, they also showed keen interest in decorative wood-turned products and carvings all made from Valwood.





# Plan sets stage for the future

CALM will open one of Western Australia's most rugged and popular sections of coastline, in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, for recreation.

Improved access to the coast is proposed in the park's new management plan, released by South-West Minister David Smith in Busselton last month.

The 16,000ha park will also be extended another 3500ha to include the Boranup karri forest.

A Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park Advisory Committee, with represen-

## Improved access to coast

tatives from local government and the community, will be formed to advise on the plan's implementation.

The plan aims to establish a cave management system and develop new recreation sites.

It also focuses on erosion control, fire protection and

Aboriginal and historic sites.

A new road system will be created in the Lake Cave/Conto's Field area through the \$6m Parks Improvement Program and major improvements will be made at Ellensbrook, the site of the oldest house in the South-West.

Marine areas adjacent to the park have high conservation value, and the plan recommends examining the possibility of establishing a marine park.

The park attracts 350,000 visitors each year and is the most popular national park outside the metropolitan area.

CALM's Paul Frewer and Kate Orr, from Planning Branch, and Tony Raven, Neil Taylor, Brad Cockman and Mike Batchelor, from the Central Forest Region, formed the project team which prepared the management plan.

# Helmet sparks island mystery

Did a Japanese reconnaissance party land on Garden Island during World War Two?

That's the question being asked by CALM Ranger Wayne Taylor and Navy Public Relations Officer Vic Jeffery after Wayne stumbled upon a rusty Japanese helmet during a recent patrol of the island.

Vic says he first thought the helmet may have been used during Z-force training exercises on the island.

However, he doesn't discount the the-

ory that it may have come from a Japanese reconnaissance party landing on the island during the war.

Recent studies into wartime activities on Australia's west coast have revealed a number of Japanese landings which were never made public due to wartime security.

"We know the Japanese landed on the coast south of Perth, so they could have landed here," he said.

The helmet will eventually be placed in a museum being set up by the Navy to record all aspects of Garden Island's history.

# Locals to help survey team

CALM staff and local Aboriginals will survey the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve to help create a management plan for the region.

Elder tribesmen from the Yakatunya community on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain will act as consultants on two field trips in the next six months.

They will accompany

CALM's Operations Officer Andrew Chapman, Training Officer Peter Hutchison and Yakatunya's Community Ranger Richard Brookes.

The field trips will add to knowledge of the reserve's biological, geographical and cultural features.

The team will survey flora and fauna and look for remnant mammal and marsupial populations, especially the stick-nest rat, bilby, hare wallaby, wombat and brushtail possum.

## Impact

It will also examine the impact feral animals have had in the reserve.

The group will help preserve some of the region's human history by mapping and recording Aboriginal names of landforms and rockholes.

The project is funded by CALM and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve is situated north of the transcontinental railway line and west of Deakin.

It covers 2.5 million hectares and contains all the geological formations of the northern Nullarbor and Great Victoria Desert and their associated vegetation.



Ranger Wayne Taylor stumbled upon this rusty Japanese helmet during a patrol of Garden Island.

Picture: LSPH W. McBride RAN.

# Old sea soldier surrenders in fight for life

A sociable old sea-lion, well-known around metropolitan beaches and islands, was found dead last month.

"Old Splitnose", as he was known to CALM wildlife and Metropolitan Region officers, had a distinctive scar across his right ear and a talent for creating false alarms.

They first noticed him two years ago when he hauled out on dynamite holes, due to be blown up at 10.30am the next day, on Mindarie Keys at Quinns.

Since then, they have been called out at least half a dozen times to check public reports of a "dead" or "sick" sea-lion on isolated beaches between Yanchep and Marmion.

On each occasion, Old Splitnose was sleeping comfortably on the beach.

The condition of the affable old animal began to deteriorate sharply at Easter, and in the last few weeks CALM received numerous phone calls from members of the public who had seen him on metropolitan beaches, invariably in the early morning or late afternoon.

He was last seen on Garden Island one day last month, and died later that night.

A post-mortem has been carried out, but he is believed to have died of old age.

Another injured sea-lion, thought to have a wound in its side, has been seen on Penguin Island.

It has so far eluded CALM officers searching for it to see if it needs treatment.

— CAROLYN THOMSON



Old Splitnose doing what he was known for best; creating a false alarm while sleeping on the beach at Mindarie Keys. Picture: GREG POBAR.

# Marine group gets down to business

CALM's new Marine Working Group has wasted no time in getting down to business.

The group made five recommendations at its first business meeting in April — one of which has already been implemented.

General Manager Roger Underwood said that following the meeting, CALM's Policy Directorate has been briefed on issues concerning the protection of Ningaloo Reef from the marine snail, Drupella.

Of concern to the group were research requirements and priorities, funding, community education and management.

Chairman Drew Haswell said the group further recommended that CALM seek representation on the State committee for combating oil pollution; that a policy on human interaction with marine animals be prepared; that formal arrangements be made for after hours contact in case of marine emergencies; and that the listed items be included in a Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and the Maritime Museum regarding wreck site management in parks and reserves.

procedures for stranding organisation on a State-wide basis.

Whalewatch reports by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are also being studied to allow better interpretation of similar activities in WA.

CALM personnel can make submissions to the group on any marine conservation or recreation issue.

At its next meeting on June 2, the group will review CALM's Code of Practice for diving operations; make recommendations on draft marine regulations and management policies; look at inter-agency agreements for fisheries management and review CALM

## Visitors — your number is up!

The Visitor Information Statistics (VISTAT) Program is operating at full steam with the distribution of traffic counters to all regions.

They were purchased through the Parks Improvement Program and will collect data on the number of visitors to parks, forest areas and nature reserves throughout WA.

This information will be added to visitor observation counts, entry fees and charges, and camp fees and permits to provide data about visitor levels in different natural environments.

"I'm expecting data to flood my office," said CALM's Luisa De Braganca.

Computing Branch is working on a program to enable districts and regions to enter and access visitor data.

"We will have a tremendous flow of information on visitor use of CALM lands. This will result in better decisions being made at all levels," Luisa said.



# NEW FACES, NEW PLACES



Mark Pittavino

Doug Myers literally stormed into his Exmouth office last month. The new District Manager had been on the job for less than a week when Cyclone Orson tore through the Pilbara.

And it's not wise to make jokes about the CALM before the storm.

Doug was posted in Darwin when Cyclone Tracy struck in December 1974 and is starting to wonder whether he has some sort of cyclonic jinx!

Ironically, it was in Tracy's aftermath that Doug got experience in rehabilitation, landscape design and fire management.

He was also involved in Northern Territory forestry operations, including forest inventory surveys in Arnhem Land and Melville Island.

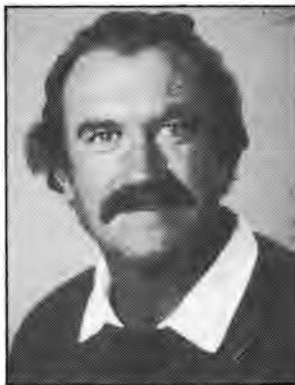
More recently, the qualified scuba diver and boat operator worked for the Engineering Division of the Department of Marine and Harbours, managing its photogrammetric data collection activities and ocean wave monitoring programme.

During his 12 years there, Doug travelled to numerous locations along the WA coastline, including Exmouth, where he was heavily involved in planning the proposed Coral Coast Marina development.

He also has broad experience in survey and mapping throughout the State, including involvement in major soil classification programs.

Also new is Shark Bay District Manager Ron Shepherd, who has transferred to CALM after three years with the Department of Agriculture.

## Doug storms into Exmouth



Doug Myers

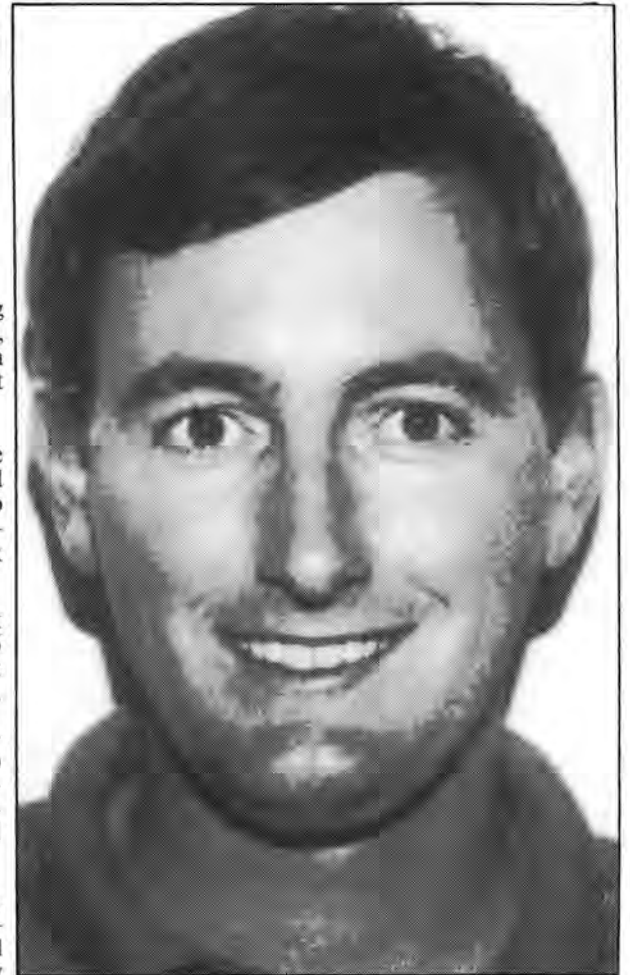
Watersports, including diving, fishing and sailing, are high on Ron's agenda while he is stationed at Shark Bay.

The Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park and Conservation Reserve also has a CALM overseer — new District Manager Mark Pittavino.

A versatile chap, Mark has worked for the past 16 years as a forester and park ranger in the Eastern States.

Now based in Kununurra, he is working to develop good relations with the Purnululu Aboriginal Corporation which has traditional affiliations with the land.

Married with one son, Mark enjoys fishing, photography, camping, and most sports, particularly squash.



Ron Shepherd

by STEVE MURNANE

A UWA science graduate with majors in geography and zoology, Ron is looking forward to managing the marine life of Shark Bay, as well as several endangered species on nearby Bernier and Dorre islands.



## Going wild about our Pilbara plan

A draft management plan for Hamersley Range National Park, the first prepared by CALM for the Pilbara, was recently adopted by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Hamersley Range is WA's second largest national park.

It conserves a large sample of the Fortescue and a small part of the Ashburton botanical districts.

The spectacular deep gorges of the northern escarpment support tall riverine trees such as cajuput and river red gum. A tree steppe of snappy gum over spinifex is found on the uplands.

Pre-existing iron ore tenements, possible mining infrastructure and the presence of asbestos tailings affect the park's management. The plan outlines how CALM will deal with these factors.

Zoning, Aboriginal contribution to management, dingo manage-

ment, fire management and visitor access and facilities were also examined. Extensive wilderness zones are proposed.

CALM's Keith Cunningham, Maitland Parker, Wally Edgcombe, Tony Start and Peter Sandell formed the planning team.

## CROCODILE CAUTION

Some unusual road signs have just been erected in the Kimberley.

CALM produced the signs to warn people they are entering crocodile country.

It is part of a wider campaign, which includes coasters, brochures and media releases, to educate people about living safely with crocodiles.

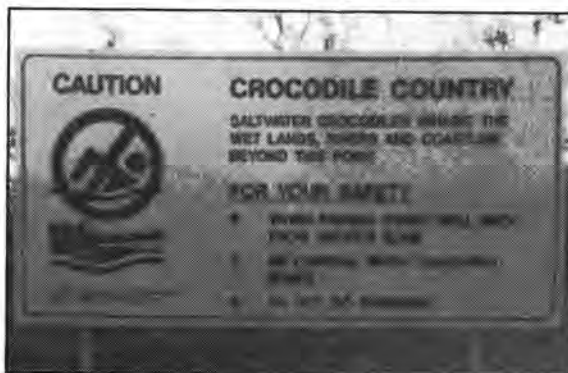
The first sign in Broome District was erected at Wilhare Bridge on the Great Northern Highway near Derby. Another will be displayed on the road to Cape Leveque, north of Broome.

Meanwhile, smaller warning signs, designed to prevent people from swimming in known crocodile areas, have proved so popular with souvenir hunters that they have been produced for sale.



The signs are available from CALM's Broome and Kununurra offices for \$8.

It is hoped this will reduce theft of signs from danger spots.



## HAVING A BALL

This year's CALM Ball will be held in the oh-so-elegant Burswood Casino Ballroom on Saturday, November 18.

Prices are \$20 single member, \$60 double member or \$90 non-member double, which includes a meal, drinks and a band so you may dance the night away at this top-class venue.

Please see your social club representative to secure your tickets. A lay-by plan for payment is available!

## Di Johns

CALM receptionist Di Johns has a habit of talking to strangers — and they love it! In fact, says Di, that is one of the most rewarding aspects of her job.

"Members of the public are very appreciative when you are able to help them," she says, "so that's very rewarding."

"Helping them" can mean anything from the sale of books and maps to answering enquiries about national parks or providing project material to young school students.

A steady stream of people pour through the front doors of CALM's Como headquarters every day, and most of them come face-to-face with Di or workmate June Ellis.

Whatever it is they want, or whoever they want to see, Di or June can usually help out.

It's not an easy job — smiling can be very trying at times — but Di has had plenty of practice.

She has worked for CALM since its inception and for the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife before that.

### Engineer

So what does Di do when the working day is over?

"I become a house engineer," she laughs, "which means I run around after a family."

"My husband Keith is a plumber so I often end up answering phone calls or unravelling the answering machine."

On weekends, Di, Keith and their three children — aged 18, 14 and 11 — enjoy heading bush for a picnic or barbecue.

But Di, who says she is "halfway to 90", admits she's not one for roughing it.

"I'm one of those people who like to take their

Illustration:  
JOHN GOODLAD  
Words:  
KYLIE BYFIELD

fan heater and microwave oven when they go camping," she says. "I like my comforts."

## Speaking of our image

It's little wonder so many people want to work for CALM.

And don't be surprised if the Human Relations Branch is suddenly inundated with job applications from overseas.

Narrogin Wildlife Officer Leon Silvester spotted an interesting snippet in January's edition of the 'Far Eastern Economic Review'.

It said: "Reading the Situations Vacant columns in the West Australian, Aloysius Koo spotted this ad."

Immediately below was an advertisement clipping which read: "Department of Conversation and Land Management — Administrative Officer, Level 3".

### Suspected

The story then went on: "Koo remarks that he has worked in several countries in Southeast Asia and now in Australia and has often suspected that whole departments in the public sectors are devoted to 'conversation', but this is the first time he has seen it confirmed in black and white."

So much for their interest in us. What we want to know now is why on earth Leon Silvester was reading the 'Far Eastern Economic Review'.

## Curtin study team seeks your help

Multiskilling will be a significant development in public sector employment.

Job redesign and multiskilling for Level One employees is being introduced to several government departments in a bid to enhance both the quality of working life and the effectiveness of organisations.

Before its introduction, a detailed objective assessment of its impact upon the service and its officers, will be done by an independent research team from Curtin University of Technology.

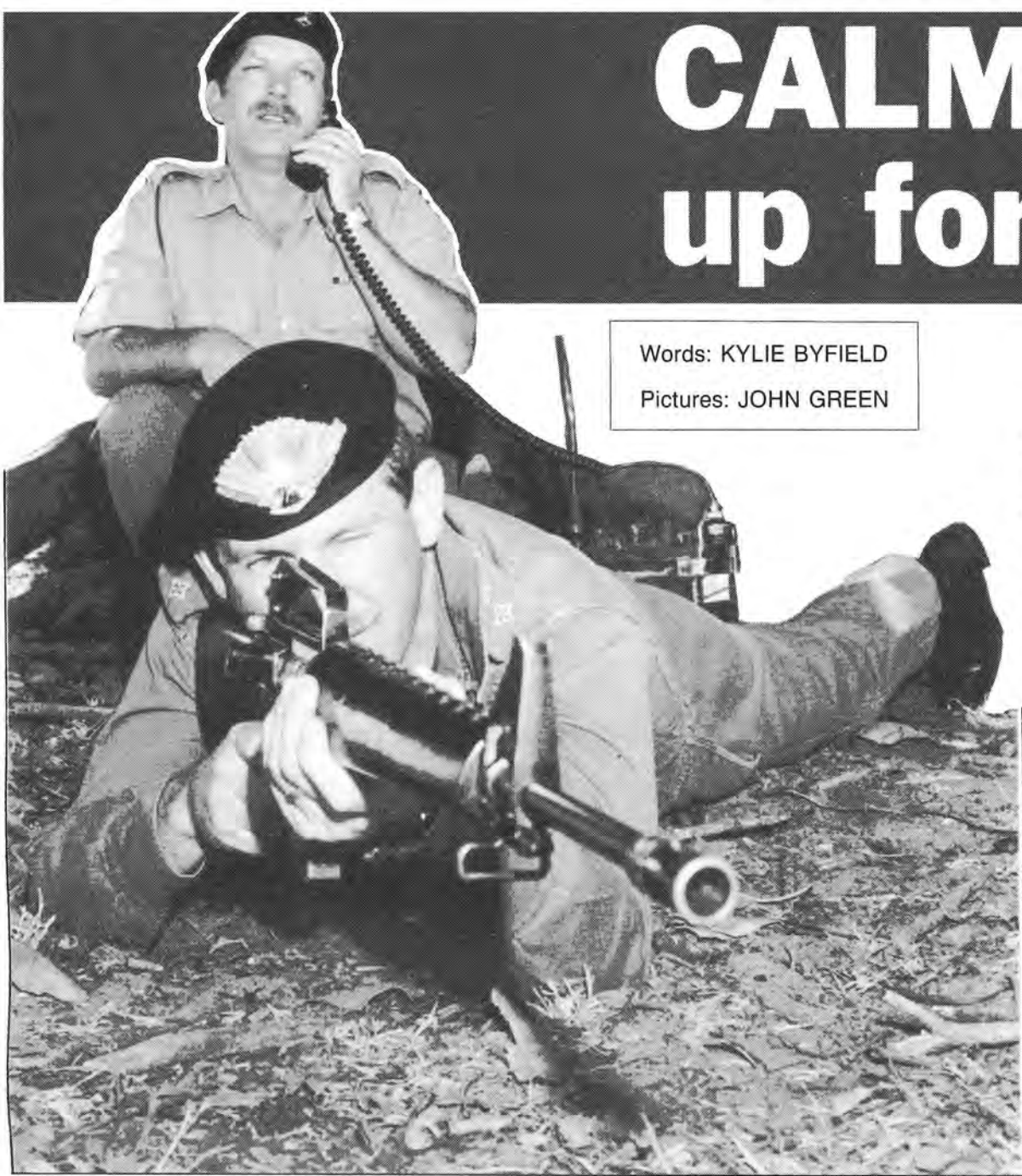
In early June, Level One officers from all departments will be asked to complete a questionnaire. This will allow information from employees in other departments to be compared with those undergoing multiskilling.

Over the next two years, the team will contact people from all levels of the service, seeking their views on work related issues. This information will be confidential and regular feedback on results will be given.

The Civil Service Association supports this study and encourages all employees to participate. Queries should be directed to Sue Lloyd at the CSA on 323 3800 or Kathryn Barton from Curtin University on 350 7945.



# CALM troops line up for the action!



Words: KYLIE BYFIELD  
Pictures: JOHN GREEN

Many CALM personnel spend their working days protecting WA's environment. Other people use their spare time to protect Australia. And some do both: they are the CALM staff who double as part-time soldiers in the Army Reserve.

Members of this dedicated band are scattered throughout CALM's branches and regions and while they agree that combining two jobs can be demanding, they also say they wouldn't miss it for the world.

So what is the Army's appeal?

"It's not the money or the glory," explains Leon Griffiths, who is, by day, Metropolitan Region's Operations Officer.

A Vietnam veteran who has served six years in the regular Army and 12 years in the Reserves, Lieutenant Leon is a member of the Survey Corps but is temporarily attached to the Army Reserve Recruiting Unit as its training officer.

"It's hard to describe," he says. "Once Army life gets in your blood, you're hooked.

"I have been to places I will never return to; primitive villages inhabited by people who have never seen a white man let alone a dinkum Aussie.

"And you are confronted with problems in the field that only you can solve and, in many cases, if you can't find an immediate solution, you are in deep trouble."

## Friends

The question of the Army's appeal posed no difficulty to Recreation Projects Officer Drew Griffiths, eight years a Reserve soldier and now a Lieutenant in 'A' Squadron, 10th Light Horse.

"You find yourself in all sorts of situations," says Drew.

"It teaches you how to cope — mentally and physically — and along the way you make friends for life."

Sergeant Bob Gray, also a Vietnam veteran, has served for 21 years in both the regular and Reserve Armies and agrees that mateship is an important part of Army life.

But there is more to it than that, says Bob, who



Mapping's Steve Jones and Leo Avino complement their civilian jobs with similar part-time careers in the Army Reserve's Survey Squadron.

## Our soldiers give thumbs-up to Army

works in CALM's Communication Branch.

"It's a chance for the young blokes to get some discipline and learn to respect authority.

"It's a whole disciplined way of life."

For Trooper Peter Wight of the 10th Light Horse, the Army Reserve gives him a chance to do something different.

"I enjoy getting out in the field," says Peter, of Finance Branch.

"I get out of the office and do totally different things to what I do all day."

Listening to these people talk it doesn't take long to realise that part-time soldiers are no less committed than their full-time counterparts.

"We are part of one army," says Leon.

"We are trained to defend Australia and Reserve soldiers do all the things regular soldiers do."

And what might they be? Reserve recruits, aged 17-35, first undergo an intense 15-day training course

to learn the basics about drill, weapon handling and firing, navigation, first aid and to improve their physical fitness.

They are then posted to a Reserve unit where they continue to develop these skills while receiving extra training in a specialist area such as mechanics, survey work, engineering or communications, to name a few.

In many cases, such work complements that performed by the soldiers in their civilian jobs.

CALM is a fine example. For instance, Steve Jones and Leo Avino from Mapping Branch are members of the Army Reserve's 5 Field Survey Squadron while Communications Branch's Bob Gray and Robyn Freer belong to the 109 Signals Squadron.

Each soldier attends an evening training session every week plus a 14-day 'bivouac' or training camp and at least three weekend training exercises each year.

## Commitment

In all, they must devote at least 26 days to the Army each year.

The rate of pay varies according to rank and specialised trades — and it's tax free.

But it is not easy money. Being a part-time or full-time soldier demands a high level of personal commitment.

The rewards, however, are great. Just ask one of CALM's part-time soldiers.

ON TARGET: Lieutenant Drew Griffiths (foreground) has a part-time Army career clearly in his sights. Sergeant Bob Gray is on the radio.



From Air Force to Army, Lance Corporal Robyn Freer is at home handling lethal weapons. Here, she checks off the weapons returned by Lieutenant Leon Griffiths and Trooper Peter Wight.

## My mummy's a soldier!

Not every child can go to school and boast: "My mummy's an Army man!"

Robyn Freer's son was one who could — and who could blame him for being a little confused? With the ratio of men to women in the Army at 4:1, many people mistakenly assume that all soldiers are male.

But how wrong they are. Robyn, and many others like her, combine motherhood and civilian jobs with a part-time career in the Army Reserve.

Joining the Reserves 11 years ago was a natural transition for Robyn, a Lance Corporal, who works in CALM's Communication Branch.

As a younger woman, she served for six years in the Air Force, eventually marrying a member of the force. Posted back to Perth, she discovered the Air Force Reserve did not accept women — so she enlisted in the Army.

Now a lone parent, Robyn says she enjoys the friendship and comradeship that comes with being a soldier in the Army Reserve.



ON PARADE: Lieutenant Leon Griffiths inspects some of CALM's part-time soldiers, front to back: Sergeant Steve Jones (Mapping), Sergeant Leo Avino (Mapping), Trooper Peter Wight (Accounts) and Lieutenant Drew Griffiths (Recreation).

For more information contact:  
The Army Reserve Recruit Unit  
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## Book provides a forest focus

**The Jarrah Forest: A complex Mediterranean ecosystem.** Edited by B. Dell, J.J. Havel & N. Malajczuk. Published by Kluwer, Dordrecht, 408 pages.

This book, long in preparation has just been published and to my knowledge represents the first concerted attempt to synthesise all that is known about a Western Australian ecosystem.

This was a feasible task because the northern jarrah forest is the best studied of all of WA's ecosystems, with plenty of information available.

The book is organised within three themes — biophysical elements (12 chapters), historical review (3 chapters) and management (5 chapters).

### Authority

Most chapters are multi-authored, adding to their authority and balanced treatment. Twelve authors are either present or former CALM/Forests Department staff, eight are from the CSIRO, five are academics, two are from Alcoa, two are from WAWA and two are unattached.

Topics covered are: soils, landforms, climate, jarrah biology, floristics, dieback, macrofungi, invertebrates, leaf-miner, vertebrates, nutrient cycling, hydrology, fire, Aborigines, European impact, land-use conflicts, silviculture, mining, and conservation. In summary, nothing important has been omitted.

This book should lead to further appreciation of the jarrah forest locally, nationally, and internationally. It is not often remembered that south-western Australia is the only Mediterranean region on earth with a forest. — IAN ABBOTT

# Island tinderbox is a fire worry

There is a familiar ring to this story, I'm sure. You know, the boss asks for a fairly simple task to be done, and you look at it and think "this will be a good one to do".

by GRAHAME ROWLAND

It's a job big enough to be a challenge and to put a bit of time into, but not too big to keep you bogged down for weeks. The one where you can get the greatest satisfaction with the least frustration.

But you probably know the answer already. Such jobs are as common as rare and endangered species.

The story revolves around a fire plan for Garden Island.

It sounded simple enough, but the island has not had a major fire since 1956 and fuel levels in the acacia/melaleuca/callitris stands are frightening.

Given the storage of torpedoes and shells, as well as expensive military installations and equipment, the

combination is literally (and politically) explosive.

The picture gets murkier. As the island is managed under a Federal/State agreement, CALM is essentially the consultant on environmental matters.

An advisory committee has the final say on such matters. CALM is represented on the committee: not as CALM but as the State representative (others being a Federal and many Navy representatives).

The Navy also has very different aims and methods for fire protection (being essentially concerned with protection of facilities) and the committee is not at all keen on controlled burning.

Things are becoming more difficult. But this is CALM! "We shall overcome..."

So back to the fire plan. Simply identify the values and the risks to formulate a hazard plan, and then work from there. No problems.

### Fragile

Now the acacias and melaleuca don't mind fire, so that's okay. The dune areas are high, inaccessible, but very fragile, okay.

These callitris are pretty unique — it's a bit like Rotto probably was in parts. So what's their silviculture? Good question. Ring around and get the low down.

But how did the fire affect them? No photos avail-

able prior to the '56 fire and, because they don't self-thin, the ages don't necessarily relate to the diameter. Hmm! Need to ring-count the stands. (I wonder how important that fire plan REALLY is?)

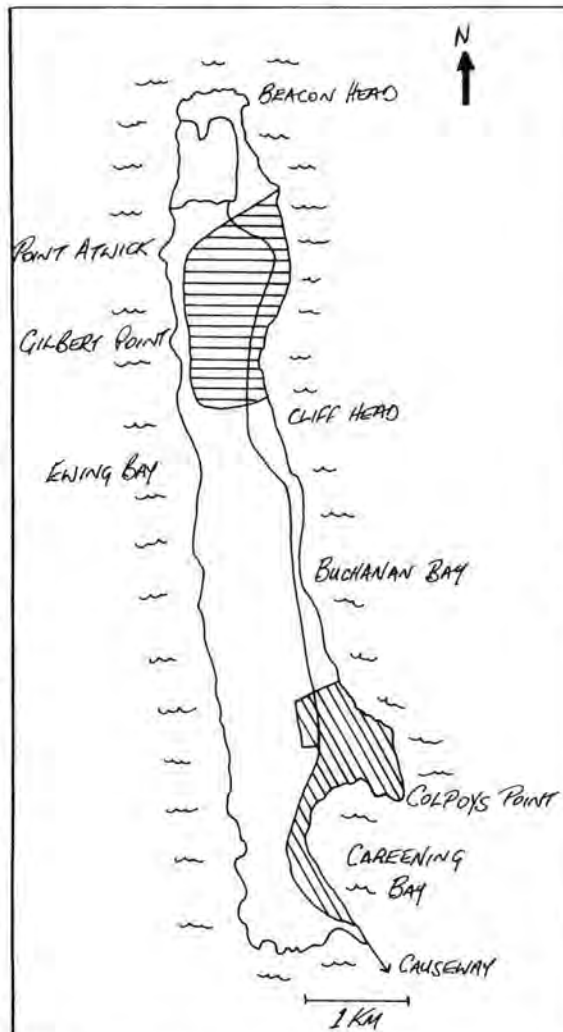
Perhaps we could get students over there? Or money for a consultant to re-assess the baseline flora data collected many years ago? What about data other than flora? Not even baseline information. Oh God! (Still it is late April and the fire season is over, so why worry?)

### Hazard

Eventually you formulate a hazard plan for the boss, who presents it to the committee, which re-iterates that it doesn't like burning, even on strategic strips.

He restates the possible consequences and things don't seem to change. You've tried for money for consultants (and it may even be available), and you've spent many hours on the phone.

All in all, you really have done quite a lot for seemingly little re... But you know that in a perfect world you would or could have done more — and that all those nagging questions could have been answered. Sound familiar?



### FUEL TYPES / HAZARD

	EXPLOSIVES COMPOUND - Big Boom
	HMAS STIRLING - Big Boom (POLITICALLY)
	ACACIA, MELALEUCA, CALLITRIS, TAMMARS } VERY FLAMMABLE
	FIREBREAKS

## Workshop puts staff on the right path

Footpaths in the Stirling Range National Park are in urgent need of management says Greg Leamon, a Tasmanian Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife officer who visited WA recently.

Greg said water flow and drainage must be controlled and on-going maintenance programs implemented.

South Coast Regional Manager John Watson said there will be a big effort in the next few years to stabilise paths in the region, especially those in the Stirling Range park.

Greg's visit was the first step in educating CALM staff on upland footpath management.

During his 10-day visit to WA, he ran a one-day workshop at Bluff Knoll, which was attended by 18 CALM staff from

Perth, Bunbury, Manjimup, Esperance and Albany.

Greg outlined the Tasmanian footpath management program and showed manuals and management plans used to address footpath erosion, construction and maintenance in that State.

The group then climbed Bluff Knoll, assessing the main tourist path and discussing path management problems as they went.

While at the summit, the group split into two and assessed path erosion problems in more detail.

On the way down, workshop participants reconstructed a section of path using a variety of hand tools.

After a social barbecue, Neil Taylor, Allan Rose and John Watson showed slides of path management work being done in their regions.



On top of the world: workshop participants pause to catch their breath after climbing Bluff Knoll. Picture: ALLAN ROSE.

## Take care — and don't look back!

Who bothers to warm up before tackling physical tasks? Who later complains of a sore back? Who cares?

Winter's approach heralds an increase in back injuries and muscle strains in CALM.

Sedentary activities such as clerical work, driving and watching TV have caused a decline in the fitness level of all age groups.

Many of us sit for long periods at desks or in vehicles and then attempt to do heavy physical work.

It makes good sense to warm up cold muscles before exercising — and this helps relax muscles and relieve everyday stress.

Poor physical fitness increases the chances of strains, particularly that of the spine during the day's activities.



by TOM WOOD

To improve fitness, we should exercise and include some aerobic activity in our routine.

### A map milestone

CALM's Land Information section has completed its biggest map, about the size of an average room.

It provides an instant overview of the entire Central Forest Region and shows districts, shires, burn-

Simply walking, jogging, swimming or cycling for at least 20 minutes without rest uses large muscle groups and increases heart and lung efficiency.

Of course, any sudden change in the nature of exercise activities should only be made in consultation with a doctor.

So, next time you're about to tackle the heavy stuff, think ahead — then there should be no looking back!

ing zones, national parks, nature reserves and other tenure.

It will be invaluable for planning, protection, operations and management.

The wall map, which measures 4.4 x 3.65 metres, is actually thirty-five 1:50000 maps joined together by velcro strips.

Frank Serafini, the carpenter at CALM's Como headquarters, will mount it on a wall at Bunbury's regional office.

The map was prepared by CALM's Geoff Wheeler and Jenny Henderson of Land Information (Mapping) section. Eric Mead from the Department of Land Administration mounted it on linen.

## Rain chases trail ceremony indoors

A heavy downfall of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of those involved in constructing the Yaberoo-Budjara Heritage Trail when it was opened last month.

The ceremony moved indoors to an old hall in Yanchep National Park.

The trail — developed by CALM, the WA Heritage Committee, and the City of Wanneroo — was a project involving Federal, State and Local Government cooperation.

It resulted in the provision of 28km walk which features Aboriginal and European historical sites.

Based on the Yellagonga tribe's movement track, later used by Europeans as a stock route, the trail links the lakes of the coastal plain.

It starts at Neil Hawkins Park, adjacent to Lake Joondalup, and travels through Neerabup National Park before ending at

Loch McNess in Yanchep National Park.

Yaberoo-Budjara means "the land of the people of the north of Perth".

Despite the wet weather, a large crowd witnessed the opening by Local MP Jackie Watkins and Wanneroo City Councillor Bill Marwick.





LEFT: "First you have to stock up on ammunition," says Jean Collins as she gleefully fills her knapsack. Her allies are Trevor Carboon and little helper Tawa Maru.



READY, SET, GO: Fire Protection's Rick Sneeuwjagt, Anna Maru, Trevor Carboon and Jean Collins start their engines (above).

THEY'RE OFF AND SPRAYING: The Fire Protection crew shoot ahead in the Knap Spray Kapers (below).



Pictures:  
NICK BUKELIS



LEFT: If you can't beat 'em, shoot 'em! Anna Maru turned on spectators during the event.

# GIANTS GO FOR GOLD!

The GM Giants, led by Captain Alex Errington, stormed home to win the Tabloid Olympics crown for 1989.

The Giants displayed their superior athletic skills in all 10 Olympic events to snatch the gold medal — or should we say shield — from the clutches of last year's winners, MAPPING (Many Amateurish People Performing Impossibly Neurotic Games).

Although beaten in the main event, the Mapping team and other competitors did score a minor victory. They caught some sunshine and a bit of exercise along with a barrel of laughs.

The competition, organised by Shane Knapp and Peter Ryan, is fashioned on the Corporate Cup events and aims to get staff out of their offices and into some exercise during their lunch break.

Now in its second year, CALM's in-house Olympics was contested by nine mixed teams — eight from Como's Operations Headquarters and, for the first time, a team from the Herbarium.

The knock-out competition is held in two stages: five events are run in spring; the remainder in autumn.

This year's events included water transfer, egg throwing, conservation cricket, darts, golf chipping, football handball, netball, volleyball, knapsack spraying and medley relay.



Les Marrable struts his stuff.



Chivalry ain't dead yet! Rick Sneeuwjagt helps the Herbarium's Jenny Monck adjust her knapsack.



## No warm welcome for birds

The American Vice President wasn't the only Dan Quayle to visit Australia last month.

Four Californian quail, one of which was named Dan, were intercepted at Perth Airport by CALM Wildlife Officer Peter Lambert.

Californian quail are in the same prohibited category as starlings and it is illegal to keep them or import them into WA.

"They were in a makeshift cage with no lock or latch," said Peter.

## Disease

"If they escaped into the wild they could become established and displace native species or possibly carry disease and threaten agriculture," he said.

CALM wildlife officers are rostered on an airport standby system to check fauna brought to Perth on domestic flights.

After the quail, imported by a bird enthusiast, had been "arrested," wildlife officers had to decide what to do with them.

They could have been deported on the next flight, but, fortunately, the South Perth Zoo agreed to take them and the birds are now settling in to their new maximum security home.

# Chinese have a Smart fire plan



China's Ministry of Forestry has decided to get Smart.

That's John Smart, Manager of CALM's Fire Protection Branch, who is currently in China to offer advice on fire protection techniques.

Peter Moore, from the NSW Forestry Commission, and Peter Johnson, from South Australia's Woods and Forests Department, have joined him for the three-week study mission.

The Ministry of Forestry invited the trio to China following a visit to Australia by Chinese foresters last year.

"The Chinese are keen to learn about fire protection," said John before his departure on May 20.

"They had a very bad fire in 1987 which burnt more than one million hectares of land, gutted 66,000 houses and killed more than 200 people.

"Now they want to get some comments on their fire protection practices."

John said his hardest task will be to convince the Chinese that prescribed burning is effective.

"I will also look at their fire detection methods, training and equipment and introduce them to some of CALM's concepts such as strategic planning and fuel reduction," he said.

"However, I'm sure I'll also learn something from them.

"You can't go to another country without learning something."



## Recreation a top priority

It will be full steam ahead on recreation site development in the Hamersley Range National Park once its management plan is finalised.

Senior Landscape Architect Richard Hammond said site development planning is proceeding rapidly within the framework of the draft management plan.

"This means that as soon as the final plan is approved, we can start work on the recreation sites," he said.

"There has been little development work done in the park recently pending the release of the management plan.

"Stop-gap measures are sufficient in the short-term but now we need to resolve some immediate problems as well as tackle the long-term issues."

The initial focus will be on rehabilitating existing recreation sites and making walk trails safer. The level and type of park use must also be examined in a bid to develop recreation sites which will satisfy public demand.

"For example," says Richard, "how many and what type of visitors use the park? Are they daytrippers or do they camp for one or more nights?"

"What facilities do those people want? Should we provide adventure trails or walks suitable for the elderly or disabled?"

"We have to find answers to these, and other, questions if we are to provide facilities which best suit the park and the people who visit it."

Richard recently spent a week in the Pilbara assessing recreation sites.

He received valuable assistance from Rangers Keith Cunningham, Maitland Parker and Geoff Kregor.

During the visit, he also worked with Rangers Noel Nannup and Bruce Woodley on a master development plan for the Millstream National Park headquarters.

"We are assessing the need for picnic facilities and walk trails at the site and improving access to the visitor centre," Richard said.

## Tag a turtle or two



Fisheries Officer Peter Johnson tags a green turtle on the Lacedpede Islands. Picture: PETER TREMBATH.

A research trip to the Lacedpede Islands late last month hatched a few surprises.

CALM Wildlife Officer Peter Trembath and Department of Fisheries Officer Peter Johnson spent three days collecting turtle hatchlings needed for research being done by the University of Brisbane.

While they were there, they took the opportunity to tag as many turtles as possible.

The two men were astounded at the large number of turtles still nesting so late in the year.

"We tagged 18 in two nights," said Peter Trembath.

He said that as far as he knew it was the first time a CALM employee had been to the Lacedpede Islands at this time of the year.

They also noticed that turtles digging their nests inadvertently helped hatchlings emerging from adjacent nests.

During their visit, Brown Boobies were nesting on the islands in their thousands.

## TELLING TALES

The ladies on the Como reception desk get all sorts of weird and wonderful enquiries. "Just the other day somebody rang to ask what sort of tree they should plant on a leach drain," says Di Johns. What else but a 'lava tree'?

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We all know how easy it is to misunderstand instructions — but one CALM officer didn't think there would be any problem when making arrangements to drive a hired ute back to Perth. His workmate said he would leave the keys under a rock in the tray of the ute. Simple, right? Little wonder there was a red face or two when, after hours of searching for the elusive keys, it was discovered that the officer concerned had left the keys in the ute tray as arranged...but in the identical ute which he was driving! The best laid plans of mice and men...

Oh! The questions we get asked... A woman rang CALM's Wildlife Officers recently asking about 'drop bears'. Apparently, while in the Augusta area, an animal with football-sized luminous eyes had dropped out of a tree on to her head as she slept. She believed she may have been mistaken for the animal's mate, as she had been told this was the sexual behaviour of 'drop bears'. She had also been told that the animals were quite dangerous and could cause serious injury. The woman was serious and seemed disappointed when the Wildlife Officer gently told her that 'drop bears' were fictitious and a ring-tailed possum had probably accidentally fallen on her.

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Contributions to this column are welcome. Phone Kylie, Carolyn or Steve on 389 8644.



## SAFETY CORNER

The number of days lost due to accidents in the 12 months to April 1989 was 622 — up 98 on the 524 days lost in the year to April 1988. Meanwhile, the number of medical treatment accidents rose to 117 in the year to April 1989, up from 105 for the previous 12 months. In April last year, there were two lost-time accidents and 17 medical treatment accidents. This year, the figures were four and 11 respectively. Back injuries are most common, followed by eye injuries.