

CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT JULY 1989

New division established

The establishment of a new division within CALM will streamline many of the department's activities.

The Parks, Recreation and Planning Division, directed by Chris Haynes, is split into three branches: Planning Branch; Recreation, Landscape and Community Education Branch; and Policy and Extension Branch.

Planning Branch, headed by Jim Williamson, has maintained its existing structure while the Recreation, Landscape and Community

Education Branch has been divided into three sections: visual resources management, recreation planning and development, and interpretation and community education. Wayne Schmidt is the branch manager.

The Policy and Extension Branch, with Jim Sharp as acting manager, also has three sections: Aboriginal and special interests, volunteer coordination, and visitor services and market research.

Director Chris Haynes said he is excited about the prospects offered by the new division.

"Its creation has given us the opportunity to bring together some CALM sections which are closely related," he said.

"In particular, we have picked up a lot of things in the recreation area and we are looking forward to working much more closely as a team.

"Most people in the division know each other well and all of them share my excitement about being formally brought together.

"Through this new division, we hope we will be able to deliver services to the rest of CALM and the public much more effectively."

FUNGICIDE EXPERIMENT ON DIEBACK

Fungicide used on fruit is being injected into endangered south-west Banksias to protect them against dieback.

By TANYIA MAXTED

CALM Senior Research Scientist Bryan Shearer is studying the applications of Phosphorous acid which could save plants like the endangered *Banksia brownii* being wiped out.

Only six populations of the species remain in the south-west.

Bryan and research officer Richard Fairman have experimented with the fungicide on jarrah and *Banksia grandis* for the past two years.

While there are still a lot of questions to be answered, Bryan says results have been encouraging enough to continue the project to protect rare flora.

So far, Phosphorous acid has inhibited lesion development in *Banksia grandis*.

Trials are also being set up on *Banksia baxteri* and *Banksia coccinea* populations.

Two of the six known populations of *Banksia brownii* will be targeted by the project, one of which is only the size of a tennis court.

The banksia has two forms — one confined to the Stirling Ranges, the other in coastal areas north and east of Albany.

It grows into small trees to six metres tall, flowering in autumn and winter.

Phosphorous has been used on avocados, pineapples, tomatoes, peaches, cocoa and clover.

The fungicide has low toxicity to plants and humans.

It is also biodegradable, cheap and readily available.

According to Bryan, the fungicide can only be used as a preventative measure and is not the cure for native plant communities already plagued by the dieback fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Care must also be taken in areas affected by *Phytophthora megasperma*, as the fungicide is not effective against this species.

(As well as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, there are *P.citricola*, *P.cryptogea*, *P.drechsleri* and *P.megasperma* infecting native plant communities. *P.cinnamomi* is the most widespread and destructive).

This is the only drawback with Phosphorous acid, as using the fungicide may give *P.megasperma* a selective advantage over *P.cinnamomi*.



Penguin researcher Barbara Wienecke and CALM Technical Officer Peter Dans (above) examine a penguin from one of the artificial wooden boxes that have been scattered around Penguin Island to encourage the birds to breed.

Barbara and Cathy Meatheral are studying the birds on the Island, which is the largest colony of Little Penguins in WA.

They have been compil-

A BIRD IN HAND FOR TWO IN BUSH

ing data on diet, breeding, body condition and so on.

Barbara wants to see if there is any correlation between body condition and the time that eggs are laid. She also hopes to compare this information with oceanographic data.

The study coincides with the penguins' breeding season, when the number of birds that come ashore begins to increase.

They nest in burrows, in sand dunes, under dense bush and in crevices or caverns in limestone rock.

Each pair usually lays two eggs, which hatch in about 36 days.

Laying begins between mid-April and the end of May and continues to about mid-October.

For the duration of the research, Barbara and Ca-

thy lead an unusual lifestyle.

They live on the Island from Wednesday to Sunday, returning to the mainland on Monday and Tuesday to collect supplies.

As penguins are nocturnal, most of the research work must be done at night.

Barbara and Cathy's findings will help CALM prepare a draft management plan for the Island.

(Photograph courtesy of the West Australian)

Put us in the picture

A picture paints a thousand words — or so the saying goes.

In the case of CALM News, it's photographs we are after. And if you can help us, we can help you. We can supply black and white film — and arrange to have it processed — for any regional staff willing to take photographs.

Simply call Kylie, Carolyn, Steve or Tanyia at Public Affairs (389 8644) and we will send you some film.

If you already have photographs, please send us the prints — not negatives! All prints will be returned after use.

Meanwhile, keep the CALM News story forms flooding in. Remember, the deadline is the first Friday of each month.

Planning for the future

Ever had a brainstorm in a think tank? How about a strategic planning workshop in a Dryandra Forest?

CALM's Human Resources Branch staff have. They met recently to examine their objectives and priorities to devise a plan with one and five-year olds.

The two-day workshop, held at the Dryandra Forest training centre, was part of CALM's Strategic Plan initiative.

By the end of the two days, the outline for the branch's strategic plan was ready. The group had produced a solution which has the result of each participant's involvement. This was satisfying for those involved, and also, it was a lot of fun.

Compare this problem-solving approach with a seminar, where single representatives from agencies sit around listening to experts talking largely of their own experiences and solutions.

Enthusiastic participation, pleasant surroundings and Southern Forest Regional Manager Alan Walker's coordinating talents contributed greatly to the workshop's success.

Seventeen staff attended, including General Manager Roger Underwood, Divisional Manager Alex Errington and Human Resources Branch Manager Bob Cooper, who chaired the meetings.

Pleasant as Como SOHQ is, the Dryandra location was certainly a change of work environment.

Research Scientist Tony Friend demonstrated radar tracking of tagged numbats, successfully locating on of the little fellows.

The "wild" beast was discovered securely tied in a bag, placed in a hollow log! (If I was tied up in a bag, in a log, I'd be pretty wild too!).

This was apparently a demonstration that even research scientists have a sense of humour.

Fortunately, several attendees spotted a numbat on the loose crossing in front of the car.

A barbecue and spirited card game ensured continued "interactive contributions" from those involved.

— DAVID GREENHILL



TEAM EFFORT.. Alan Walker (left), Alan Scott and Alan Byrne lend a hand at Dryandra's strategic planning workshop.

FROM MY DESK

Over the next two years, and probably beyond, CALM will be involved with the Resource Assessment Commission, which was recently announced by the Commonwealth Government.

The first reference to the Commission will be Australia's forest resources. The basic question revolves around a sensible balance between conservation, recreation, cultural and other non-wood forest values, and the production of timber.

No doubt the Commission will ultimately recommend that certain areas be set aside as national parks or other conservation reserves while others are left for timber production.

In CALM, we can be proud of the way in which we involved the WA public two years ago to put together a balance of land use. Everyone had equal opportunity to comment and we now have substantial new national parks and nature reserves in the forest areas.

At the same time, the timber industry has the guarantees it needs to get on with investment, production and the jobs and wealth creation which ultimately follow.

As CALM's Director of Parks, Recreation and Planning, I have most to do with CALM's conservation and recreation functions. We have tremendous responsibilities — which I share — to assist in the generation of wealth for Australia.

The forest products industry is Australia's second biggest employer and through it we share not only wealth but participate in consumption.

Newsprint, imported into WA from Tasmania, could account for the equivalent of two-thirds of the annual karri forest cut, but in fact, most of the karri goes into high value uses, while the marri chipwood produces high quality writing paper.

Unfortunately, much of the world's newsprint comes from forests which will never regenerate, or grow very slowly, and the world will have to face up to the ethical questions posed by such exploitation.

Fortunately, most of the karri goes into higher grade uses — but that pulp for newsprint has to come from somewhere. Unfortunately, some of it comes from forests which will never regenerate, or grow only slowly, and the world will have to face up to the ethical questions posed by such exploitation.

For us, with the endowment of natural resources, with decisions for balanced land use in setting aside substantial parts of them in reserves, and with excellent silvicultural programs which are improving all the time, we are doing a good bit towards global environmental responsibility.

Add to that the planting schemes in which Syd has been a driving force and we can be doubly proud.

Chris Haynes,
Director — Parks, Recreation and Planning Division.

Nominations are now open for the 1989 John Tonkin Tree Awards, which honour people who have been working to "green Australia".

Val Buchanan, from Greening Australia, said CALM staff who had made an important contribution to conservation should nominate for the award.

The John Tonkin Tree Awards are awarded to people who make a significant contribution to retaining, restoring and re-establishing native trees and shrubs.

'89 John Tonkin Awards

These people often carry out work which is time-consuming and expensive, but few receive recognition or even seek it.

There are eight categories: media, local government, student, industry, individual endeavour, farmers, community groups and government bodies.

A Gold Award, for projects of special sig-

nificance, is awarded at the judges' discretion.

Most categories in the John Tonkin Tree Awards carry a \$1000 prize and a certificate.

The categories are:

- Media: for an outstanding piece of journalism which furthers the cause of tree planting in WA.
- Local Government: to an authority for its participa-

tion in revegetation involving the community.

- Students: open to primary, secondary and tertiary students.
- Industry: for projects which display a responsible attitude to the land owned or affected by the entrant's activities.
- Individual Endeavour: emphasis is on long-term commitment and involvement in tree planting.

- Farmers: the people who do the most tree planting in the rural sector.
 - Community Groups: emphasis is given to work carried out in the local environment with native vegetation.
 - Government Departments: for responsible management of vegetation under their control.
- Nominations close on September 8th 1989 and nomination forms are available from Greening Australia, PO Box 608, CLAREMONT 6010 (phone 383 2488).

Public awareness of Greenhouse Effect

Three CALM staff spent World Environment Day (June 5) raising public awareness about the Greenhouse Effect.

They were Community Education Officers Gil Field and Carmel Staniland and Metropolitan Region Ranger John Arkey.

Forum

The WA branch of the Australian Association for Environmental Education invited CALM to contribute to a forum and information market held at the Cambridge Room opposite the Sci-Tech Discovery Centre.

Numerous community groups and other government departments were also involved.

The number of visitors

exceeded expectations. The Sunday Times had advertised the event as part of a special supplement on the environment.

Text prepared for the display showed that CALM's actions to date are relevant to the Greenhouse Effect, said Gil Field.

It encouraged people to become more conservation-minded by planting native trees, recycling and taking care not to disturb flora and fauna in its natural habitat.

He said it was hoped there would be more public participation in CALM projects when the Community Involvement Officer position was filled.

This position is part of the new Policy and Extensions Branch within the Parks, Recreation and Planning Division.



Dad's hard hat is a wee bit big for tiny tot Carly Voigt — but she's getting into practice for the day when she may be able to fill his rather large forester's boots. Dad is Manjimup Recreation Officer Greg Voigt, and mum Shelley, who has also worked for CALM, is the secretary of the Karri-D'Entrecasteaux Advisory Committee.

Canberra bound

Millstream-Chichester National Park's Ranger in Charge, Noel Nannup, has left the sunny Pilbara for the cooler climes of the ACT.

Noel will undertake an Associate Diploma in Applied Science, specialising in Cultural Heritage Management and Museum Studies, at the Canberra College of

Advanced Education.

The three-year course focuses on cultural and natural heritage such as landscapes, monuments, sites and museum and archive collections.

Noel began his career as a Ranger 11 years ago with the National Parks Authority at Yancheep. His first position was a 12-month stint

at Nambung and then he was off to Kalbarri for six weeks.

The next stop was Geikie Gorge, where Noel and his wife Cheryl spent six years, before moving to Millstream where they've been for the last two.

Although Noel's stay at Millstream was short, it was long enough to accomplish a number of major tasks.

They included stabilising the water flow at Crossing Pool, establishing the Murlunmunjunah Walk Trail from the Homestead building to Crossing Pool,

stabilising the soil at the Deep Reach camping area and constructing a number of bridges around the Lilly Pond Walk Trail.

Other tasks completed were installing gas barbecues and communal concrete fire rings, and landscaping around the Homestead building.

The rest of the Nannup family were kept busy acting as foster parents. Their backyard became a haven for orphaned kangaroos.

We look forward to seeing them back in the West at the completion of Noel's Degree.

Comings and goings

Appointments

Michelle Stirling's appointment as Officer, Narrogin, was confirmed, also Simon Penfold's, Plant Propagation Manager, Manjimup.

Promotions

Carolyn Milligan to Distribution Clerk (L2), Records, Como; Femina Metcalfe, ex Department of Land Administration to Cartographic Draftsperson, Land Information, Como; Nigel Sercombe, Forester, Grade 1 (Ops), Dwellington; Mike Jubb, Technical Officer (Rigger) Harvey; John Butts, Administrative Officer, Kelmscott; Bill Muir, Forester Grade 1 (Ops), Fire Protection, Como; and Toni Jones, to Clerk (L2), Bunbury.

Transfers

Patrick Pigott, Research Scientist to Narrogin; Alan Sands, Parks and Reserves Officer to Recreation and Landscape, Como; Peter Blankendaal, Forest Ranger (Ops) to Bunbury; Larry Hantler, Forest Ranger to Jarrahdale. Phil Gray, Ranger-in-Charge, Stokes National Park to Esperance; trainee Park Rangers Anne Greig to Esperance and Mike Paxman to John Forrest National Park.

Retirements

Terry McNamara, former Chief Clerk Finance Branch, Como retired last month. Terry joined the Forests Department in 1983 and accumulated nearly 37 years in the Public Service.



Dick Perry with one of his "babies" which he raised from seed and planted out in 1922.

Veteran's visit

Mundaring forester Len Talbot recently treated 87-year-old Dick Perry, who served part of his forestry apprenticeship at Mundaring between 1917 and 1921, to a tour of the district.

Dick inspected the results of the work he did nearly 70 years ago.

He visited the site of a nursery he helped establish in 1921 and was dwarfed by the giant pines he raised from seeds and planted in 1922.

On visiting Dale Tower, memories came flooding back of riding in with a packhorse and a week's supplies and using heliograph to signal the fire gangs.

Dick was one of the five original apprentices at the Ludlow Forestry School in the early 1920s.

Now retired, Dick still pursues an active lifestyle which includes sharing his extensive knowledge of termites along with entomology, forestry, botany, history, genetics and poetry.

He's a fascinating character and has many stories and tales of the history of our State.



CALM Kununurra's "It's A Cop-out" team (back row from left) Val Storey, Allen Grosse, Mark Pittavino, Allan Thomson, Chris Done. (front row from left) Belinda Wychstra, Sue Pittavino, Sharon Mason.

WILDLIFE WALLYS SHOW TEAM SPIRIT

CALM was well represented recently at the annual Ord Festival held on June 21.

CALM's Kununurra Regional Office produced a team of six highly spirited individuals to compete in the region's answer to "It's A Knockout".

Called "It's A Cop-Out", the games were played around a pool area with most of the town being both competitors and audience.

CALM's "Wildlife Wallys" competed in the games valiantly.

The team comprised of Val Storey, Allen Grosse, Allan Thomson, Chris Done, Mark Pittavino and wife Sue, local Sharon Mason and Belinda Wychstra, a ring-in from the Agriculture Department.

Belinda replaced Wildlife Officer Russel Gueho who unfortunately sprained an ankle on the morning of the event.

All the teams shivered as the mercury barely reached the mid 20s. A chilly day by local standards.

The number of days lost due to accidents in the 12 months to June 1989 was 939. That's 349 up on the number of days lost to June 1988. The number of medical treatment accidents rose to 132; up from the 118 for the previous 12 months. In June last year there were four lost time accidents and 13 medical treatment accidents. This year the figures were 5 and 16 respectively. Back strains are again the most common injury. — TOM WOOD

Safety news is good

CALM SOIL WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON OUR TREE PROGRAMS



The Four Aces visitor shelter, set amid the karri forest just outside Manjimup, should prove popular with tourists.

Forest Aces are trumps

The merry tune of a fiddle and songs of the forest were highlights of a ceremony held to mark the opening of Manjimup's Four Aces recreation site on July 18.

But Scott and Louisa Wise, of the Timberworkers' Music Project, had some competition.

Not to be outdone, local birds serenaded guests and CALM staff with a few of their own forest songs.

And with the karri trees in blossom, the smell of eucalypts in the air and the delicate helmet orchids in flower, it was a fitting debut for a site which promises to be as popular as Walpole's Valley of the Giants and Pemberton's Gloucester Tree.

Opening the site on behalf of CALM Minister Ian Taylor, MLC Doug Wenn said more than 70,000 people are expected to visit the area each year.

People have flocked to the site for decades to see the four giant karri trees standing side by side like a line of soldiers on parade.

By KYLIE BYFIELD

Now, an impressive visitor shelter, information panels, picnic and toilet facilities, walk trails, facilities for the disabled, and coach, caravan and car parking areas will add to its appeal.

The site was planned and constructed by Manjimup

Recreation Officer Greg Voigt, former Southern Forest Parks and Reserves Officer Alan Sands, forest ranger Tim Foley and other district staff.

Regional information officer Tammie Reid and Public Affairs' graphic designer Louise Burch prepared interesting interpre-

tive displays focusing on the forest.

The entire package should encourage visitors to pause for a while, in comfort, to enjoy the Four Aces and surrounding forest.

The Four Aces site is part of an integrated development within the proposed 640ha One Tree Bridge Conservation Park.



With tough competition from the forest birds, Scott and Louisa Wise (left and centre) entertain the crowd.

Fish survey underway

A recreational fishing survey is underway at Marmion Marine Park.

CALM wants to find out how many people are using the park, where they're fishing, what they're catching, how important the park is to anglers, how long they fish for and where they come from.

The survey will also determine how many fish are caught, what kind they are, their size, the time of day and season they are caught, and how the park's use varies at different times of the year.

The survey is presently confined to the area around Hillarys Boat Harbour, directed mainly at people angling from the harbour wall.

It will eventually be extended to include people fishing from boats in park waters.

This data will provide a baseline to monitor the park's recreation value.

CALM's Marine Scientist Dr Jim Stoddart said that Hillarys Boat Harbour is

possibly the most important recreational fishing site north of Perth.

The survey is being conducted by CALM's Marmion Marine Park staff, with help from the Fisheries Department.

Marine Ranger Rick Al-lison said he had met a wide cross-section of people while surveying on the harbour walls.

"Many are devoted regulars who I notice two or three times a week in pur-

suit of herring, tailor, garfish and other fish," he said.

"Everyone is cooperative and friendly in answering survey questions and tales of the one that got away are common."

Opportunity knocks

Winning the Lane Poole Award means much more to CALM officers than just getting a certificate to hang on their wall.

Rather, it represents an opportunity for them to gain a greater appreciation of land management issues throughout Australia.

So says Mundaring District Manager Peter Keppel, who won the 1987-88 award.

Peter visited several Australian States to see how other land management authorities organise and carry out works programs.

But he got more than he bargained for. "I picked up a lot of good ideas which may enable us to improve the way we do things here," he said.

"The authorities in other States were most cooperative and I would strongly encourage other CALM officers to nominate for this award."

Meanwhile, Manjimup forester Greg Voigt is the 1988-89 award winner.

Greg plans to attend the Institute of Foresters' conference in the Blue Mountains from September 18-22, which has the theme "Forest Planning for People".

He will then look at recreation site development in high-use areas.

Applications are now being called for the 1989-90 award.

The award, sponsored by WESFI, provides financial assistance to enable CALM officers to study anywhere in Australia and New Zealand for 3-6 weeks.

To apply, write to: Chairman of Trustees, Lane Poole Memorial Trust, State Operations Headquarters, CALM, Como.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday, September 1.

Further information: Paul Jones 386 8811.

Senior CALM Research Scientist John Bartle will convene a three-day workshop leading up to the Fifth Australian Soil Conservation Conference.

By TANYIA MAXTED

Held in mid-September, the conference will be the official launch for the Federal Government's policy initiative to declare the 1990s the "Decade of Soil Conservation."

The Como-based scientist's workshop is called the Retention and Replacement of Vegetation.

Run from September 11 to 13 in Dwellingup, the workshop is one of 10 held throughout the State before the central conference on September 14.

On the first day a field trip will take participants to Narrogin to inspect consequences of past clearing practices.

In many farming areas the original native vegetation now covers less than 10 per cent of the land, much of which is in poor condition and declining further.

Farmers want to know how to protect and rejuvenate this vegetation while still retaining access to it for farm timber.

The second field trip will visit the Wellington Catchment east of Collie to study tree planting. Here some 6000ha has been reafforested to treat stream salinity.

When the program began 10 years ago the tree species used had little commercial value.

Recently it has been shown that in this higher rainfall zone (greater than 600mm per year) fast-growing Eucalypts such as

Tasmanian Bluegum can control salinity as well as produce attractive yields of pulp wood in short rotations.

Some of the research work into developing bluegums as a farm crop will be inspected.

This will include work on genetic improvement, establishment practice and the integration of tree crops into the farming system.

Tree planting on saline soils will be inspected and schemes available to help

farmers finance commercial tree planting discussed, including those from WA Chip and Pulp and the Tree Trust.

The renowned work on replacement of forests after bauxite mining by Alcoa in the jarrah forest will also be inspected.

The workshop will look at the value of trees and natural vegetation, how they can be used to ameliorate or prevent land degradation, community attitudes and necessary strategies and incentives to encourage better use of trees.

Alice Springs Concom venue

CALM's Interpretation Officer Gil Field helped convene a national interpretation workshop at Alice Springs in May.

It was the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) Education and Interpretation Workshop Group's National Interpretation Workshop.

Topics included interpretative planning, evaluation, design, signs and cultural and historical interpretation.

Each State also provided a display of interpretative resources.

Cliff Winfield, Kim Williams and Steve Slavin also attended the workshop — but had to pay their own way.

Interpersonal communication, publications and further development in planning and evaluation were seen as future growth areas by workshop participants.

On the lighter side, it was noted that if CALM managed historic sites like many other State conservation authorities, it could be known as "CHARM!"

Dieback check

CALM disease interpreters from the Northern Forest Region are helping the Main Roads Department identify and demarcate dieback within the metropolitan area.

During the past year interpreters have surveyed the Kwinana Freeway extension and Northern Perimeter Highway, as well as running awareness courses for MRD staff in Perth and Northam.

The disease, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, affects plants in the south-west of WA as far north as Lancelin. Its spores are soil and water borne rather than being spread through the air.

Avoiding the movement of soil from affected areas to healthy, non-affected areas is therefore critical to stop the disease's spread.

Kelmescott Inventory Senior Interpreter Abraham van de Sande said CALM had received further requests for assistance on MRD projects.

Awareness courses run by the interpreters covered the biological nature of dieback and how it is spread.

CALM interpreters mostly identify diseases like dieback from aerial photographs, picking out symptoms and taking soil and tissue samples.

When dieback is recognised, affected areas are taped off and blazed.

The disease is then mapped for future records.

CALM is presently investigating ways to eradicate dieback on a small scale on the coastal plain. This research can then later be adapted for use in the forested areas.

Technical officer Tom Hill describes the disease as being like a slow-moving wildfire front, spreading one metre each year through root to root contact.

He says the eradication of dieback involves killing every plant in the affected spot with Roundup, leaving a safety margin of a few metres.

It's not known if anything can be replanted on the site. This can only be done on a small scale and is not a viable solution for the overall widespread problem.

Tom says there are some 900 species worldwide that are susceptible to dieback. WA has 150 native species at risk.



Lane Poole Award winners gain some valuable knowledge — and a certificate to hang on the wall. Here, Peter Keppel (left) receives his from Westralian Forest Industries' Graham Shepherd. Picture: GERHARD FREUDENTHALLER.



Firearms could turn this roadblock into a potentially explosive situation.

Crisis cuts Chinese study tour short

Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser may have lost his pants in Memphis but CALM's Fire Protection Manager John Smart had to leave his in Beijing.

John was in China on a three-week study mission during the recent crisis and was unable to return to Beijing to collect a formal suit he had left behind while visiting the forest regions.

But South Australia's Peter Johnson, another member of the study team, was worse off than he; the suit Peter had to leave behind was brand new and had never been worn.

Safely home again, John says the team's inability to return to Beijing had another more serious drawback.

While all the field work had been completed, the team could not meet with senior Ministry of Forestry staff in the city to tie up

By KYLIE BYFIELD

many loose ends.

The team visited China at the Ministry's invitation following a visit to Australia by Chinese foresters last year.

John said he met those foresters — Messrs Feng, Li, Lang and Xiao — while in China.

He also observed the Chinese Ministry's fire fighting and prescribed burning techniques.

"It took 190 trained fire fighters to extinguish a 100-hectare fire — and then 2500 villagers spent the following eight days mopping up after the blaze," he said.

John said a prescribed burning operation in a 24-year-old stand of Scots pine was most successful.

The stand was carrying 15 tonnes of fuel per hectare and the operation, which aimed to remove 30-80 per cent of the fuel, achieved a good result.



CALM's John Smart is welcomed by the Assistant Governor of Heilongjiang province, Mr Zhangju.

TRAINED TO HANDLE VIOLENCE

Just imagine...you are a CALM wildlife officer and pull over a vehicle, after being tipped off that the men travelling in it have been illegally shooting kangaroos. Sure enough, there are roo carcasses in the back.

As you talk to them, they begin to realise that they could be in serious trouble, and their mood changes.

One of them is holding a rifle, another is wearing a knife and the third picks up a branch in a menacing fashion and moves behind you. What do you do?

Or, you are called out to a nature reserve to investigate a fire.

A large group of locals, many of them drunk, has gathered and one of them is driving around dropping matches and setting the bush alight.

When you ask questions about what is going on the group becomes abusive.

You try to enter your vehicle to use the radio but they drag you out.

When you set off on foot about 20 people follow and surround you.

These are real life situations faced regularly by wildlife officers.

Wildlife officers are responsible for enforcing the Wildlife Conservation Act. They frequently deal

By CAROLYN THOMSON

DANGER A DAILY AFFAIR

with aggressive people who sometimes react violently when they find that their activities may lead to prosecution.

Many have had guns trained on them; others have been threatened or punched.

On average, one or two are assaulted each year; about three to six per cent of the 33 wildlife officers.

Aggression is such a concern that clinical psychologist Michael Tunnelcliffe was asked to conduct a workshop on "Difficult people and situations" at the wildlife officers' annual seminar.

Michael gave wildlife

officers hints about how to read body language and use it to defuse tricky situations. He said it was important never to show fear.

But he emphasised that officers should always have their escape route planned in advance and use it if necessary.

He said that, because their thinking processes were impaired, intoxicated people were five times more likely to become violent than people who hadn't been drinking.

If drugs have been used they are even more irrational.

In fact, drugs could have sparked one of the more unusual and humorous incidents, when one man, believed to have been using drugs, became extremely troublesome because he wasn't arrested with his two friends, even though he hadn't been involved in an offence.

Michael outlined the causes of anger and the way different people expressed it.

He said that some people showed aggression verbally or physically, while the passive aggressive type didn't show their anger immediately, but determined to get revenge later.

Many wildlife officers have experienced this "pay-back" mentality, such as the person who had a tonne of bluemetal dumped in his driveway.

Many officers, and even members of their families, have experienced some form of harassment.

SAFETY SUCCESS

Pemberton's CALM team was recently congratulated by Minister Ian Taylor for completing another year without a major accident.

It is the second consecutive time the team has been rewarded and their goal is now to make the record three years.

Mr Taylor said it was an extraordinary effort and that the CALM employees, who worked in an environment with many dangers involved, were leading the way in work safety.

CALM District Manager Keith Slater said he was proud of the team's efforts, the increase in production and conservation initiatives implemented by CALM.

Each employee received a travel bag.

CADETS ON THE JOB

CALM's second year field cadets have stepped up in the world — and gained some valuable experience along the way.

The 10 Dwellingup cadets recently revamped the recreation site at Cable Beach in Torndirrup National Park as part of their practical training.

They constructed timber steps, realigned a walkway, built timber decking and barriers, and formulated a plan for upgrading the carpark.

The two-week project was supervised by Albany District Manager Kelly Gillen, Ranger in Charge

Martin Lloyd, and training officers Mark Humble, Carl Beck and Alan Byrne.

Recreation, Landscape and Community Education Branch staff coordinated the training aspects of the job.

The cadets are David Algaba, Peter Batt, Luke

Bouman, Luke Coney, Mitch Davies, Wayne Fullerton, Davin Gibellini, Chas Newman, Grant Pronk and Mark Roddy.

Alan Byrne said the project teaches cadets how to plan, design and construct a recreation site.

"They first evaluate the site, then design a plan and implement it," he said.

The development should be practical, functional, easy to build and maintain, aesthetically pleasing — and, of course, within budget.

The Cable Beach project ended on a high note when the new recreation facility was "officially" opened by Norma Meredith from the Department for Sport and Recreation's Quararup camp.

Fittingly, Norma slashed the marking tape "ribbon" with an axe.

Telling Tales

Small pink plastic octopuses were spread all over soil and car tyres as part of a recent CALM shopping centre display on microscopic dieback fungi visual impact. One woman who stopped to look at the display was intrigued. She exclaimed, quite seriously, "I've seen those in the forest!"

They say that body language never lies. Wildlife officers at a workshop on dealing with difficult people and situations had some interesting examples of people using body language to get their way. One man being interviewed by a wildlife officer for a breach of the Wildlife Protection Act feigned a heart attack; another brought his wife who had an epileptic fit; and a couple brought along their two-year-old child, who proceeded to demolish the office of the interviewing officer!

An electrical repairman rang Public Affairs Branch. When he explained what he was phoning about, he was told the name of the appropriate person to speak to, but

he was adamant that the receptionist was trying to put him through to the wrong person, and protested: "But I have a message to call back Mr CALM!"

When you're in charge of managing a cemetery anything can happen. The Police rang Metropolitan Region and asked if CALM had lost headstones from the East Perth Cemetery. They said that two headstones had been found in a telephone box. If anyone wishes to claim them, they should contact Jim Maher, who has them stored at home.

One of CALM's employees was telling an Agricultural Protection Board Officer about all the rubbish that had been found on Penguin Island. "I can go one better than that," he said, and told of how, several years ago, there had been a donkey and a camel on Penguin Island. They were the main attractions in a nativity play that was staged when the island was a holiday camp, and were walked across the sandbar.

A juvenile bottlenose dolphin was recently found dead on the beach south of Monkey Mia.

The remains of the dolphin were immediately flown to Perth and taken to Murdoch University for an autopsy.

The dolphin was found



It was hard yakka but a valuable learning experience. The Dwellingup cadets and their supervisors pose proudly on the new Cable Beach steps. Picture: MARTIN LLOYD.

Dolphin death a mystery

about two kilometres south of the main beach by an assistant to a visiting American scientist who is studying the dolphins.

It is not one of the dolphins that regularly visits the beach and is believed to

be from one of the groups seen further out in the bay.

CALM's Shark Bay District Manager Ron Shepherd recovered the carcass and made arrangements for it to be flown to Perth.

However, the autopsy failed to determine the cause of death.

"The dolphin appeared to be in good condition and showed no visible signs of injury," said Supervising Wildlife Officer Doug Coughran.



A group of keen bushwalkers is already gearing up for the Bibbulmun Walk '89, which is being sold by CALM as a get-away-from-it-all holiday.

Take a walk on the wild side

CALM is breaking new ground with the Bibbulmun Walk '89.

It is selling the 622km walk from Kalamunda to Walpole as a holiday with a difference.

Initially, CALM's Recreation, Landscape and Community Education branch hoped to enlist the help of country communities along the route to provide catering and transport walkers to and from camping sites.

That concept quickly became a logistical nightmare so, urged on by a group of keen bushwalkers who had originally asked CALM to organise the walk, alternative plans were made.

Walkers will now pay \$600 for the entire 31-day trek, or they can

By KYLIE BYFIELD

finish at Walpole on October 16. Age is no restriction and any interested bushwalkers are invited to take part.

CALM expects 30-40 walkers to complete the entire route, with hundreds more joining the group to walk part of the way.

A pre-walk weekend camp will be held at Icy Creek on August 12-13. Here, walkers will take part in half-day and full day walks, check their equipment and get advice on fitness and training.

Special guest Ken Colbung will talk about the Bibbulmun people and will involve walkers in performing a traditional Aboriginal dance.

More information: Drew Griffiths, 364 0722.

Other casual walkers can join the group on the track for a few hours at no cost. Cygnet Tours has been contracted to provide all meals and transportation to and from campsites. CALM will provide an emergency vehicle and a radio link to ensure walkers' safety. Overnight campsites include Scout halls and caravan parks, which all have ablution facilities. The walk, which aims to promote sensible bushwalking and maximum community involvement, starts at Kalamunda on September 16 and

finishes at Walpole on October 16. Age is no restriction and any interested bushwalkers are invited to take part.

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More information: Drew Griffiths, 364 0722.

NEERABUP NOW A SHOWCASE

Four years ago Neerabup National Park was little more than a dumping ground for car bodies and rubbish.

by TANYIA MAXTED

People drove to Yanchep without realising they had passed a national park.

Then a Conservation Council employee established a National Park Friends Project to create interest in the reserve and help clean it up.

CALM added its support — and at one stage a fulltime ranger — and today the park can be considered an asset rather than a liability.

Just 5.5km from Yanchep National Park, Neerabup covers about 1077ha on the western side of Wanneroo Rd between Burns Beach and Romeo roads.

The Heritage Trail Yabaroo Budjera runs through the reserve from Hawkins Park near Lake Joondalup to Yanchep.

Friends of Neerabup National Park have met frequently over the past four years to help return the area to its original state.

Thanks to the volunteers, limestone quarries have been seeded (seed collected), accessible tracks ripped up and revegetated and fences erected. (On their first working bee the volunteers helped remove 20 car bodies.)

As well as manual labour, activity days have been held with guest speakers and bushwalks — members learning about wildflowers, wildlife and bushcraft.

The Friends project was initiated by Zoe Young (nee

the park and nearby farmland and there have been sightings of black gloved wallabies.

Vandalism is scarce, but there is still the odd bit of evidence left — a recently-dumped car body, traces of firewood gathered, motorcycle tracks and a felled jarrah tree.

Wanneroo District Rangers keep an eye on the reserve, nearby Yanchep National Park commanding top priority.



The rescued owl is released.

OWL RECOVERS

While out in the back blocks recently, Northern Forest Inventory Branch staff found a young Boobook Owl being attacked by magpies.

It was taken to the WA Native Bird Hospital in Mundaring for treatment.

Within a couple of months it had recuperated and was taken back to where it had been found and released.

SIGNIFICANT PILBARA FIND

Pilbara Ranger Maitland Parker manages the Hamersley Range National Park herbarium.

Discovering a herb not previously seen on "VHF" hill, Maitland collected specimens for the Park and the Pilbara Regional Herbarium.

As he had difficulty identifying the collection, except as a *Thysanotus*, Maitland showed it to E. Mattiske and M. Trudgen who were visiting.

They brought a small piece back to Perth to show Woodvale Senior Research Scientist Greg Keighrey.

The sample is the first record of the genus from the Pilbara and is of considerable biogeographic significance.

With specimen collections, local area knowledge, and being on-the-spot throughout the year, rangers provide valuable information for all.

Beach a step closer

Access to the Salmon Holes, one of Albany's famous fishing spots in Torndirrup National Park, has been upgraded.

New steps have been built down an 80 metre slope to replace existing steps installed by retired ranger Jack Andrews in 1984.

Designed by a local architect, the steps were built by Albany builder Craig Broomhall.

Funds were allocated from the National Parks Improvement Program.

Salmon Holes is a popular recreation area for tourists, surfers and fishermen.

The steps project was the first stage of an overall site redevelopment required due to the fragile nature of the area.



Contractor Reg Eastough working on the steps' first landing, some 80 metres above the beach.

WINTER FIREWOOD

Which wood would you collect if you were collecting wood?

Would you collect the fallen wood if you could? Good!

Northern Forest Region's Leader Operations Bruce Harvey and Regional Information Officer Steve Slavin recently led staff from Como, Crawley, Mount Pleasant, Kelmscott, Mundaring and Jarrahdale on a tour of two of the region's winter firewood collection areas.

The groups were shown the correct spots to collect from and instructed on which wood is best suited for domestic use.

With about one third of Perth's households relying on wood for heating, there is a considerable increase of "trailer traffic" in the metropolitan forest areas, which in

turn, increases the risk of dieback spread.

CALM has produced a pamphlet entitled "Winter Firewood", which details the approved wood collection sites around Perth.

Special emphasis is on safeguards to be taken to avoid the spread of dieback.

CALM firewood areas are located as close to Perth as possible and in most areas collection is free.

To encourage collection of firewood when dieback is dormant, CALM also sets aside summer firewood areas, which are either free or half the price of winter sites.

The firewood pamphlet, which includes location maps, is available from metropolitan CALM offices.



Forest Ranger Ken Wheeler discusses the finer points of firewood collection in the Northern Forest Region.

Put us in the picture

Have you got a story to tell? Call Kylie, Carolyn, Tanyia or Steve at Public Affairs Branch on 389 8644.

Following path of history

The Chichester Range Camel Trail opened in July.

The trail is part of the Heritage Trails Network, devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee and funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial project.

Just one and a half hours drive from Karratha, it is an eight kilometre walk through a rugged and beautiful section of the Chichester Range from Python Pool to Mt Herbert.

by JUDY NAPIER

In the 1870s, a road was built for camel-drivers transporting stores from the port of Cossack to inland sheep stations and mining towns.

The camel trains returned to the coast carrying the woodclip.

To build the road, large stone embankments were made by hand, using flat stones for culverts. Many are still functional today.

The walk follows the original

camel trail (abandoned in 1892) for about five and a half kilometres, then detours to McKenzie Spring, where the camels were watered.

The link-up from McKenzie Spring to Mt Herbert increases the delights of this rugged countryside.

The best time to enjoy the trail is either early morning or late afternoon, avoiding the heat of the day.

Three hours is ample time to walk the trail and take snapshots of the natural features of the area.



The class of '89: CALM's graduating cadets and their instructors were all smiles after the graduation ceremony. Picture: GERHARD FREUDENTHALLER.

Touch of class for our cadets

South-West Minister David Smith could have been forgiven for thinking he had stepped out of Lilliput into the Land of the Giants recently.

In fact, the Bunbury MLA was in the Lord Forrest Hotel as a special guest at CALM's field cadet graduation ceremony.

Mr Smith raised a few laughs when he commented on the height of the cadets before presenting them with their graduation certificates.

Bill Evans, now a Ranger at Avon Valley National Park, won the coveted Keynes Memorial Prize for his outstanding performance in both theoretical and practical aspects of the course.

Executive Director Syd Shea was also on hand to present his special award to Andrew van der Wacht for all-round achievement during the second year of the course.

Andrew now works as a forest ranger in Metropolitan Region.

The other graduating cadets were Caroline Brox, Owen Donovan, Ian Faed, Greg Freebury, Lyle Gilbert, Darren Graham, Andrew Horan, Vernon Rutherford, Mark Spice, John Tillman, Simon Watkin and Ian Wilson.

They had all completed a two-year cadetship, which involves theoretical and practical lessons.

For the first year, cadets attend Bunbury's South-West College, studying subjects such as zoology, mapping, first aid, soil science, botany and environmental science.

The second year is spent at CALM's Dwellingup Cadet School where the cadets receive practical instruction in silviculture, management, forest engineering, field administration and utilisation of forest products.

The course is designed to provide a steady flow of trained staff to meet CALM's needs, to provide competent junior supervisors and managers, and to lay the foundations from which field officers can develop satisfying careers.

At the graduation ceremony, Dr Shea promised the cadets two things: that they would not get rich working for CALM, and that they had an opportunity for a most satisfying and challenging career.

Andrew van der Wacht responded by saying the graduating cadets would put their best forward for the betterment of the unique environment in which they live.



Winner of the Executive Director's Prize, Andrew van der Wacht. Picture: GERHARD FREUDENTHALLER.

WANNEROO BUSY WITH FIRE CONTROL

Controlled burning has kept Wanneroo and Mundaring gangs busy this winter.

by TANYIA MAXTED

Each year up to 5000ha of the district's 23,000ha pine plantations have to be prepared for summer — fuel loads reduced by burning needle beds, scrub understorey and logging tops.

Fuel is assessed beforehand and burning is mild enough to avoid damage to the pines.

According to Wanneroo District Manager Roger Hearn, fast and efficient fire attack (a speciality of the Wanneroo gangs) and fuel management through burning have been able to keep fire loss low.

Roger says Wanneroo experiences an extreme fire season most years with high fire hazards and a large number of fires.

Of the 80 summer fires in the district, 29 were within the plantations, another 24 immediately adjacent to and of major threat to them.

However, only 4.25ha was actually burnt, none actually lost.

This winter's controlled burning target is about 5500ha, most of which is hand burnt by the Wanneroo and Mundaring gangs.

Three aircraft burns are planned for the plantation in late winter or early spring.

So far about 3500ha have been burnt.

Yanchep Rangers active

Caving, bushwalking and identifying wildlife were activities run by CALM rangers at Yanchep National Park in July.

Organised by Northern Forest Region information officer Steve Slavin, the holiday recreation program involved Yanchep staff for six days.

It was the second program this year, the first held in February.

Rangers guided the public through a natural cave, studied flora on the Doorda Mya Walk, identified wildlife and taught bush survival.

Rangers involved were Jeff Kimpton, Frank Ainsworth, Hardy Derschow, David Hogstrom and John Wheeler.

Spring is in the air at Yanchep National Park.

More wildflowers have been added to the park's gardens by WA Wildflower Society members and visiting tourists.

The gardens are presently being redesigned and tidied through the group's voluntary efforts.

CALM invited Wildflower Society northern suburbs branch member Peter Smith to design an overall concept for the gardens two years ago.

Members have since weeded, pruned and cared for the beds, park staff removing cuttings and weeds.

Last month a group of tourists joined in the group's monthly planting day.

CALM and the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) are jointly funding a 20 week training programme for Aboriginals.

The programme began in early June and is being conducted by CALM staff at Leschenault Peninsula.

The aims of the programme are to provide theoretical and practical training in natural resource management, recreation management and recreation site development.

So far the six trainees have successfully completed training courses in first aid and the use and maintenance of chainsaws.

A four wheel drive course is presently underway.

The Leschenault Inlet Management Authority has also of its expertise and will be providing training in mobile stabilisation techniques.

In September the trainees will be involved in a fauna trapping programme.



Marie Johnston shows farmers how to use a manual seedling planter, known as a potti-puk.

Shelter belt plan appeals

by JOHN HUNTER

Executive Director Syd Shea and Research Officer John Bartle spoke about shelter belt reforestation at a special tree field day for landowners in the Albany region recently.

Flying from Perth at four thousand feet, it was easy to see what Syd was on about.

The winter pastures of farmland glistened with surface water while the dark green of trees were simply dots here and there.

Roadways, fencelines, creeks and dams stuck out like proverbial sore thumbs on the light green geometric landscape.

Tree line shelter belts were sadly lacking.

The field day on a property north of Albany and in the shadow of the Porongurups was intended to help local farmers evaluate the concept of pulpwood timber belts on their properties.

Syd Shea addressed the 100 plus landowners. He explained that they were a very important asset to the

country by being a highly stable land-owning community which could produce fine trees integrated, but not in competition with, normal agricultural practices.

Syd explained how well CALM's bluegum reforestation program was progressing in other areas of the State and that local Albany farms were ideal to support numerous shelter belt plantations.

John Bartle also spoke on the need for widespread pulp wood plantings on properties as it resulted in a general reduction over the whole of a property of soil degradation and salination.

A spokesman from the Department of Agriculture at Albany supported CALM's reforestation plans and while he indicated the economic advantages he also pointed out that there is a conservative 20km of existing fencing on each 300ha farm providing an abundance of places for timber belts.

Dealing with the law...

CALM's wildlife officers gained first-hand experience of court procedures, and the procedures and information needed for a successful prosecution, during the recent annual wildlife officers' conference.

In a simulated courtroom situation, held at the Maylands Police Academy, officers gave evidence about breaches to the Wildlife Protection Act before a magistrate.

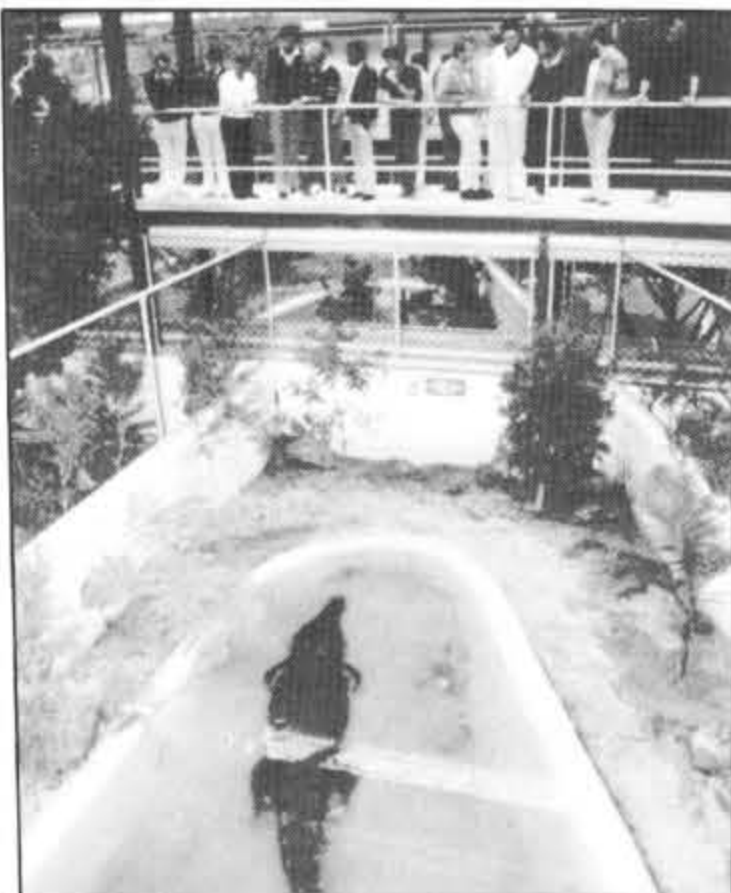
They were cross-examined by defence and prosecution lawyers before the magistrate handed down a final judgement.

All court practice sessions were videotaped so officers could evaluate their performance.

As well as the courtroom enactments, the conference included sessions on stress, dealing with difficult people, wildlife management, the greenhouse effect, education and wildlife protection.

There was a field excursion to the emu farm at Medina's agricultural resource centre and Fremantle's new crocodile farm.

Chief Wildlife Officer David Mell said the conference, attended by wildlife officers from all over the State, was highly successful.



Wildlife officers inspect the new crocodile farm at Fremantle.



Southern Forest Regional Manager Alan Walker (right) presents awards to East Manjimup Primary School's Year 7 students. Picture courtesy Warren Blackwood Times.

Tree poetry shows concern

Winners of a poetry competition organised by CALM among schools to commemorate Arbor Day were announced by Southern Forest Regional Manager Alan Walker recently.

Alan said the competition aimed to encourage students and teachers to reflect on the role of trees in their

daily lives and express these feelings in print.

There was a great response to the competition with many inspired entries.

"Not only were the poems good but the illustrations and artwork were creative and colourful," Alan

said.

The entries showed children care and are concerned about the forests and trees.

Alan awarded poster prizes for the outstanding individual entries.

Each class which entered received a year's subscription to Landscape.

Map course for senior students

The Land Information Branch recently gave Year 10 students from Leeming Senior High School the opportunity to gain an awareness and understanding of the mapping methods and technologies being utilised by CALM.

Five major areas were presented by LIB staff — operational mapping, photogrammetry, map publishing, computer mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Students were given an overview of the map compilation process including data gathering, photogrammetric revision, processing and printing procedures.

This was followed by examples of value-added operations such as Dieback and Aerial Surveillance.

Cartographic techniques used in producing CALM's multicoloured maps and brochures were explained utilizing examples of maps at various stages of the printing process.

A live demonstration of digitisation was provided with examples of digital maps output on the pen plotter.

Data analysis and modeling, using a typical management scenario for forestry operations, was shown using image processing techniques.

These demonstrations provided the students with an insight into the complexities of mapping processes and an awareness of the direction CALM is moving in, providing more accessible geographical related information for assisting in

management decisions.

The tour was arranged to complement the students' studies in map reading and associated outdoor recreation activities.

Right: Students eagerly watch and listen as Chris Simms demonstrates a micro station while Manager Peter Bowen describes the action.



MANJIMUP TIMBER FESTIVAL

Plans are well underway for the 1989 Manjimup Timber Festival to be held in the Manjimup Timber Park on Saturday, November 11.

Since being introduced in 1986, the festivals are an important date on the town's calendar.

by TAMMIE REID

The park, incorporating WA's only Timber Museum, the Age of Steam Museum, the Timber Park Gallery, and Tourist Bureau in the Forest Visitors Centre, is always a popular spot with both tourists and locals, and becomes more beautiful each year.

Festival day sees the town abuzz with activity, as local identities demonstrate the skills that pioneers used to shape the

district.

CALM employee Bob Rado will wield the broad axe to build a post and rail fence while Ernie Ward will use his drag saw to reduce a 20ft log to a load of firewood. This will be raffled later in the day.

The Axemen's Association will also hold its annual Deanmill Log Chop Competition.

The Thunderbox Bush Band will belt out a tune or two and drinks and

food will be provided by local community groups.

Blacksmiths, woodturners and craftspeople will demonstrate their skills, with their finished products going on sale.

Folk musicians, Scott and Louisa Wise, will perform their original music in the Forest Visitors Centre.

The District Foresters Office and timber tower will be open throughout the day.

A barbecue and bush dance at 6pm will round off what should be a fun day for all.

CAMPERS STRANDED

by JUDY NAPIER

Torrential rains and the threat of rising floodwaters of the Fortescue River forced rangers at Millstream-Chichester National Park to evacuate 17 campers to the Rangers Headquarters on Tuesday, June 13.

More than 125mm of rain fell in a 48-hour period, and the river rose about 2m across the floodways before peaking.

Rangers Noel Nannup and Tony Tapper grouped the people in the staff visitor quarters, where they stayed for seven nights until the water subsided and the roads were reopened.

They were entertained with an ample supply of reading matter and a couple of films. One camper had her own oven and baked bread for everyone until the flour ran out.

On Thursday when the rain had ceased, permission was obtained from Hamersley

Iron to use the access road, closed to all other traffic, to deliver stores to the stranded campers.

Twenty-four loaves of bread and 12kg of sausages, along with a "One Thousand and One Recipes for the Sausage Gourmet" cookbook, were bundled into a Land-Cruiser and despatched to the hungry hordes by Wally Edgcombe and Hugh Chevis.

Supplies could only be driven as far as the concrete crossing at the northern end of Crossing Pool as the road was still impassable.

Rangers and campers rallied together to carry the stores over the river, via the Water Authority catwalk, to vehicles waiting on the other side.

Herbarium adopted by CALM

by JOHN WATSON

Since 1987, CALM's South Coast Regional office at Albany has accommodated an extensive regional herbarium belonging to the Albany Branch of the WA Wildflower Society.

Earlier this year the society placed its collection on permanent loan to CALM for its incorporation into the recently-formed Albany Regional Herbarium.

With a capacity of about 15,000 plant specimens, the Albany Herbarium collection presently contains about 6000 samples of the flora of the south-west of the State.

This valuable reference source is available for use by both the general public and government departments.

The WA Herbarium coordinates the operations of the three regional herbaria that have been established at Karratha, Manjimup and Albany.

A major portion of the private herbarium belonging to the late Ken Newbey, who was an outstanding plant collector, has been added to the Albany collection.

Ken collected about

12,000 specimens, many of these from the south-west of WA.

He was also the information base and major instigator of the Ongerup Conservation Organisation and the Fitzgerald National Park Association.

Suzanne Curry, Technical Officer at the WA Herbarium, recently assisted the Wildflower Society to incorporate the Newbey collection.



Suzanne Curry at work in the Albany Regional Herbarium. Photo: JOHN WATSON.

FLYING START TO ARBOR DAY



A free tree for thee: at the Oombulgurri Primary School's Arbor Day ceremony were Katrina Roberts, school gardener Roy Wiggins and Richard Taylor.

Arbor Day in the Kimberleys had a flying start.

By CLAIRE BARRON

Operations officer Allan Thompson, from Kununurra, had to drive to Wyndham then hitch a ride on a store's flight to reach the remote Oombulgurri Aboriginal Community School.

There he presented children with seedlings from Broom Nursery.

Allan's talk about the importance of Arbor Day was well received.

"The Aboriginal students are already very environmentally conscious," he said. "They get involved by looking after their school grounds."

The Pilbara celebrated in a style of its own.

Poem and poster competitions were organised by Pilbara plant expert, Judy Napier.

A number of schools participated. Winning

Winning entries for each year were displayed in the Karratha Shopping Centre Mall.

Both Arbor Day celebrations had an unusual twist.

In the Kimberleys, Al-

len ended with one of his many activities — a talk on crocodile safety.

(In the Pilbara region it rained for two consecutive days, making staff abide by unwritten policy. After two days of continuous rain, ties are worn.)



Judy Napier congratulated the poem and poster competition winners from Karratha Junior Primary School.

TALKING TO... John Smart

John Smart is one man who really gets fired up about his job — and who likes to have a laugh while he's about it.

The jovial Scotsman — who once likened a freshly cooked haggis to a castrated bagpipe — has worked for CALM and the former Forests Department for more than 30 years.

John — "Jock" to many of his workmates — is now CALM's Fire Protection Branch Manager and says he is "like a well-trained dog"; he answers to both names.

He has a quick sense of humour and many tales to tell about his early days with the Forests Department.

He recalls one incident which occurred soon after he arrived in WA as a 24-year-old forestry graduate from Aberdeen.

"I was working in Dwellingup when Roy Wallace, then Deputy Conservator of Forests, paid a visit.

"I couldn't believe it when he started lighting matches and setting the bush alight.

"I spent the next few days raking the fire out with 'Skinny' Warren and his gang.

"We have certainly come a long way since then with our prescribed burning techniques."

These days, John occasionally finds the heavy weight of responsibility too much to bear — like the time he surrendered the battle to try to teach workmate Rick Sneeuwjagt how to solve cryptic crosswords.

After fighting battles like those, it's little wonder that the man smokes almost as much as a bushfire and is seldom late for his Friday afternoon appointment at Busselton's Esplanade with retired foresters Jock Gilchrist and Jan van Noort.

Work aside, John leads a quiet life in Busselton with wife Meg (heaven help the poor lady should she ever step foot in his vegie patch).

When he's not taking photographs of his much-loved Scottish Terrier Corrie to show his workmates, John spends his leisure hours pottering among his orchids, attending Rotary Club functions or potting the occasional ball on his full-sized billiard table.

Then, of course, there is the fine red wine in his cellar just begging to be drunk... — KYLIE BYFIELD.

Illustration: JOHN GOODLAD



Public support for draft plan

Work on the draft management plan for Walpole-Nornalup National Park is progressing.

The National Park is the playground and backyard for the communities of Walpole, Nornalup and Peaceful Bay; hence there is a strong sense of ownership by the local community towards the Park.

It is a diverse community, resulting in different views on how the park should be managed.

Some of these conflict, contributing to some division within the community.

Because of this, much effort has gone into public participation with the preparation of the draft management plan.

This has included two visitor surveys, leaflets sent to 800 individuals, organisations and departments and three public workshops.

As the analysis and summary of each public participation project is completed, it is published and sent to about 150 people on our mailing list. A newsletter is produced regularly.

These keep interested people informed of the results of projects, helping to maintain a sense of involvement with the plan.

The three public workshops were interesting. They brought together a great range of people with different perspectives, some of which had previously led to conflict.

All workshops have been marked by a sense of co-operation and communication between participants who found they actually have something in common

— the protection of the national park; they only sometimes differ in how that protection should be achieved.

The three workshops covered major issues in the park zoning for access and recreation and fire management.

The fire management workshop broke new ground in a number of ways.

Fire has been one of the most contentious issues in the community, hence the need for a workshop.

— OBITUARY —

Many CALM staff were sad to hear of the recent passing of John Duits.

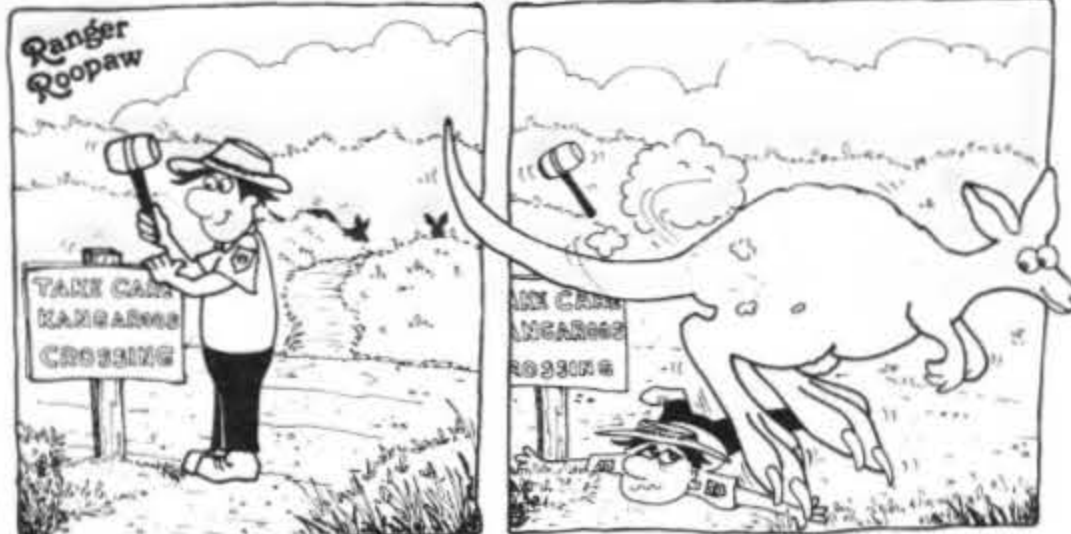
John could always be seen trotting among the Como modules, a ladder on his shoulder and a set of spanners and screwdrivers dangling from his hip.

John came to the Forest Department in 1982. Employed as a maintenance person, he changed many a light bulb, was always on hand to welcome the fire brigade when they charged

in during a false alarm, and was always ready to lend a helping hand.

After his death, staff at Crawley, Como and Murdoch House raised more than \$700 to help his family in their time of need. Well done folks.

To a man who never said "no" to anyone, may you rest in peace. — JOHN HUNTER



Protecting native vegetation

A new scheme will help private landholders protect areas of native vegetation on their land.

Remnant vegetation on private land is valuable for nature conservation, aesthetics and soil and water conservation.

Farmers can apply through their Land Conservation District Committee or the Department of Agriculture district office for a subsidy to erect fences around areas of natural vegetation.

More than 350 farmers applied for funds last financial year, and 110 received

subsidies totalling \$290,000.

The condition of the vegetation and its soil and nature conservation value are taken into account when assessing the applications.

Successful landholders sign an agreement to maintain the areas as native vegetation for 30 years, and a voluntary heritage agreement is registered on the property's title so that, if the land is sold, the new owner is bound by the contract.

The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme,

but CALM plays an important role in assessing the nominations and in providing advice for farmers.

Wheatbelt Regional Manager Ken Wallace and Mike Choo from Research Branch have developed a

computer program which prioritises the applications.

Ultimately, it is hoped the scheme will help foster a land care ethic among farmers which will result in natural vegetation being managed as an important part of farm conservation.

— Oops —

Oh dear! We fear an error in last month's CALM News may have sparked a domestic dispute. Knowing Rae Burrows to be a lady of words, we named her as co-editor of Occasional Paper 1/89 entitled "Fire Management on Nature Conservation Lands". In fact, it was her husband Neil who was involved. Apologies to Rae and Neil for any embarrassment caused. — EDITOR.