

Focus on fire research

by **LACHLAN
McCAW**

Research into fire management in pine plantations was the subject of a recent workshop held at Victor Harbour in South Australia. The workshop was organised by Research Working Group 6 which is made up of fire researchers from each of the state forestry agencies in Australia and CSIRO.

CALM was represented at the workshop by Lachlan

McCaw from the fire research section at the Manjimup Research Centre.

Topics reviewed during the one-day session included wind profiles in and around pine plantations, current status of fuel reduction burning techniques, specifications for protection buffer strips, and the relative importance of fuel load and structure in determining fire behaviour.

Marty Alexander, a visiting fire researcher from Forestry Canada, presented

a paper outlining the Canadian experience with crown fire in pine forests and discussed the relevance of this to the Australian situation. A number of CALM staff met him during a visit to WA earlier this year.

Several important gaps in the current knowledge of pine plantation fires were highlighted during discussions, including: behaviour of surface fires at higher levels of fire danger, initiation of crown fires and the influence of stand characteristics and silvicultural treatment on this, and the effectiveness of fuel-modified buffer strips in limiting the spread and intensity of wildfires.

A postgraduate study program currently being undertaken by Marty Alexander will address the question of crown fire initiation using both theoretical and practical approaches.

Recommendations from

the group were forwarded for consideration by a committee of the Directors of Research from each forestry agency.

Bin there, seen that?

Foresters and field officers are asked to keep an eye out for green bins with white lettering that may have been dumped in State forests or nature reserves.

Perth company BFI Waste Systems have had several 10 foot by four foot bins removed from its Kewdale property, and suspect they may now be lying in remote bushland or disused tracks somewhere, and may have been painted a different colour.

If you have seen or heard of these bins, please contact Scott Ehrlich on (09) 458

ers needed

repair and restore some of the reserve's historical features, which include a superb network of stone walls built to collect rainwater for steam locomotives.

Goldfields staff have organised a "busy bee" at the reserve on November 3-4. A

campsite will be set up and equipment provided to assist in the clean-up.

A barbecue will be held on the Saturday evening. If you would like to be involved please contact Lee Anne at the Kalgoorlie office on (090) 212677.