

CALM NEWS



SPECIAL EDITION June 1990

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A week of it

The first week of June saw a spate of environment-related launches, announcements and activities held throughout Western Australia.

Tuesday, June 5 was World Environment Day, and Friday, June 8 was Arbor Day. Throughout the week there were tree giveaways, singing, dancing, acting, treeplanting and lots more.

Environment Minister Bob Pearce began the week by launching a one-year certificate course for volunteers at the proposed Canning River Regional Park, and ended it by planting a tree and launching an environmental education kit for schoolchildren.

In between he promoted CALM's Arbor Day poster at a Greening Australia free tree giveaway outside the Marswood Superdome and

was on the receiving end of a \$3000 cheque from Aherns for research into an endangered reptile species (see Back from the Brink on this page).

Premier Carmen Lawrence was also busy - on Arbor Day she attended CALM's tree celebrations at Matilda Bay and planted a tuart (story and photographs on pages 2 and 3).

This special edition of CALM News looks at just a few of the activities that happened during the week around the State.

RIGHT: WA Premier Carmen Lawrence and CALM Executive Director Syd Shea plant a tuart with Phillip Tonkin from Buckland Hill School at Matilda Bay Reserve as part of the department's Arbor Day celebrations on June 8.



Ben the wombat, from Caversham Wildlife Park, was the centre of attention at the Back from the Brink display. However, he had to share the limelight with a juvenile red kangaroo called Sarah.



Environment Minister Bob Pearce accepts a cheque for \$3000 from John Ahern and his wife Robin at the Back from the Brink display at Aherns. Looking on are CALM ranger John Arkey and a Perth Zoo docent.

Back from the brink

Bringing Western Australia's endangered flora and fauna back from the brink was the focus of a display and presentation held in Aherns' city store during the first week of June.

Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce officially launched the promotion, organised by the Department of Conservation and Land Management

(CALM) and Aherns, on World Environment Day (June 5).

John Ahern presented Mr Pearce with a cheque for \$3000 towards CALM's research on the endangered Western Swamp Tortoise - one of 98 mammal, amphibian, reptile and bird species threatened with extinction in the state. (A further nine are in need of special protection.)

Aherns has 'adopted' the Western Swamp Tortoise for the coming year and will raise further money for research through a series of in-store promotions.

The Back from the Brink display showed how CALM officers protect, care for, manage and research WA's fragile environment and featured photographs and facts on endangered species. Also on show was the

department's award-winning VALWOOD process, which improves forest wood recovery from waste timber.

CALM rangers were on hand in Aherns with some of the state's native mammals.

And on Arbor Day (Friday, June 8), native tree seedlings were handed out to Aherns shoppers.

Arbor Day 1990 ce



There was a carnival atmosphere inside the big marquee at the Arbor Day celebration at Matilda Bay Reserve.

Matilda Bay came alive for Arbor Day with singing, dancing, free trees and balloons, damper and billy tea. Children from primary schools sang and danced, pensioners chatted, and wheelchair-bound children from Buckland Hill School watched with glee. Then came the Tree Planters' Rap, sung by East Wanneroo Primary School children. WA Premier Carmen Lawrence then took centre stage, and talked about the hope that Arbor Day portrayed. She also announced CALM's new Vegetation and Tree Planting Advisory Service. Her speech follows:

"There's one issue that all members of the community - regardless of age or political affiliation - agree about, and that's the need to plant more trees.

Concern about our environment is widespread throughout the community, and that is a good thing.

But I think it is very important that when adults express their concern about the environment, the picture they paint is not so bad as to leave no hope.

It is obvious that we cannot continue to damage the environment in the way our society has in the past.

At the same time, everybody benefits from the fact that we produce goods and services which allow us to enjoy an excellent standard of living.

The challenge we face is to be able to continue to produce what is needed, but in a way that doesn't leave

the environment for our children in a mess.

It will be a difficult task, but one of the areas where we have made great progress in achieving this is with our forests and our tree planting programs.

In the last five years we have been able to reserve large areas of forests as national parks.

But we have also been able to continue to produce the timber we need for our houses, to preserve wildlife and to accommodate thousands of recreationists.

At the same time, we are ensuring that it will be possible to provide all these values of the forest indefinitely.

Another very important industry in Western Australia is agriculture. Without the contribution of farmers to the economy we would not be able, for example, to provide the

schools and hospitals we need.

Farmers cleared the land to produce agricultural products, and that has had, in many areas, a damaging effect on our soils and water.

We can't restore the native vegetation all over the agricultural area. But it is possible, with goodwill and intelligent management, to develop farming systems which are productive and at the same time avoid damage to the environment.

One of the most important ways we can achieve this is to make growing trees part of farming practice.

I am delighted that farmers are wholeheartedly supporting the tree planting revolution in the South-West. But we can't expect farmers to

carry the cost of this themselves.

We need to help them devise systems which make tree planting compatible with agriculture and, where possible, ensure that trees also produce a return for the farmer.

In the last several years, great progress has been made in achieving this objective.

Farmers, together with officers from CALM and the Agriculture Department, have devised systems for tree planting which significantly improve agricultural production by providing shelter for crops and animals, while at the same time giving a cash return to the farmer.

This year, CALM is working with farmers to establish 1000 ha of timber

belts in the South West.

I am very pleased to announce that the response to the increase in demand for timber from farmers throughout the state is setting up a Vegetation and Tree Planting Advisory Service CALM.

This unit, which will build on the existing CALM provision, will advise farmers on tree planting schemes and ways to manage vegetation on farms.

It will be staffed by experts in special areas and officers who have practical knowledge of the management practices by which trees are integrated into farming practice.

I am also pleased

Arou

Schoolchildren throughout WA were asked to paint a poster for Arbor Day, showing the importance of trees. Sponsored by CALM and 6WF, the competition attracted 7474 entries from 151 schools. The winner was announced on 6WF by presenter Ted Bull and entries were on show throughout the week at CALM displays.

The following treeplanting activities were held in CALM regions for Arbor Day throughout the state:

*Metropolitan Region:

CALM officers visited and planted trees at the following primary schools: Ashburton Drive, Booragoon, Callista, Carlisle, Guildford, Kardinya, North Beach, Rossmoynne, Sampson (Kardinya) and West Balcatta. They also visited Calunga West Swan Aboriginal School, WACAE Claremont and St Augusta Catholic School (Rivervale).

*Central Forest Region:

Bunbury and Harvey staff were involved in the Islands of Green plantings around the Bunbury townsite. Twelve officers supervised school groups planting roadside verges. Officers also visited specific schools for talks and planting ceremonies. Some 1500 seedlings were distributed and planted around Bunbury.



Schoolchildren dance as the Three-Up Bush Band strikes up.



CALM Executive Director Svd Shea talks to pensioners during proceedings.



Forestry focus: Dr Lawrence found herself surrounded by CALM and CALM General Manager Roger Underwood (kneeling, left)

celebration

to announce that the special tree planting fund, recently announced by my colleague the Deputy Premier, will be specifically directed to provide the finance to assist farmers establish commercial tree planting projects on farms.

In all, it is expected that next year, using these funds, CALM will be able to establish an additional three thousand hectares of new tree crops on farms.

In this way, the funds will generate income for the community and the trees will be planted in positions which will achieve the maximum environmental benefit.

Less than 18 months ago, Government announced the Tree Trust concept.

A commitment was made to plant 100 million trees over the next 10 years. There

were sceptics. But I am pleased to announce that at the end of this planting year, we conservatively expect to have established - by the private and public sectors - more than 30 million trees in the South-West, on cleared agricultural land.

The celebration of planting trees goes back to antiquity. I am very pleased that here in Western Australia today, we are continuing this celebration.

And I am confident that although our tree planting achievements in Western Australia are unparalleled, we will be able to announce even greater numbers of trees being established next year.

And that by the year 2000 we may have doubled the original target of 100 million trees."



d the State

district officers were involved in school planting of seedlings in school grounds gravel pit.

officers visited local schools to give tree seedlings.

district staff were involved in a joint project with the shire council to revegetate the sanctuary and Nannup officers were townscape enhancement with local

Forest Region

staff gave talks and organised tree ceremonies at five local schools.

tree planting activities with local rehabilitation areas.

Two local schools participated in an rehabilitation program at a local gravel pit. ant d talks given on Arbor Day.

staff visited 10 local schools, giving participating in tree planting exercises.

plants were handed out from the office.

Region:

icers visited Kununurra DHS and talked

about trees and crocodile safety. A tree planting ceremony was held at St Josephs Primary School.

*Pilbara Region:

A 'Trees for the Pilbara' display was held at the local shopping centre with seed giveaways and public advice.

CALM officers visited local schools and presented children with posters and Arbor Day information. An interview was given on ABC Radio.

*Greenough/Gascoyne Region:

CALM officers visited Denham Primary School to give a talk on 'Why trees are important'. Children looked at the types of seeds and learnt about their importance; they converted coke bottles to terrariums; went for a walk along the new nature trail and planted trees at the Monkey Mia turn-off to beautify the Denham township.

Other officers spent the day on a seed collection trip with students from Mullewa Convent School. The seeds, from six varieties of local trees, will be used to start off a school nursery to produce farm plants.

On World Environment Day, Geraldton Primary School students planted trees in a local park.

ADOPT-A-PARK:
Guildford Primary School students from years 1-7 (pictured above and right) planted 500 trees assigned to their school for Arbor Day under Metropolitan Region's Adopt-A-Park program.
The school has adopted an area of Department of Planning and Urban Development land on the flood plain adjacent to their school.
The plain is being rehabilitated with Eucalyptus rudis and local sheak species.



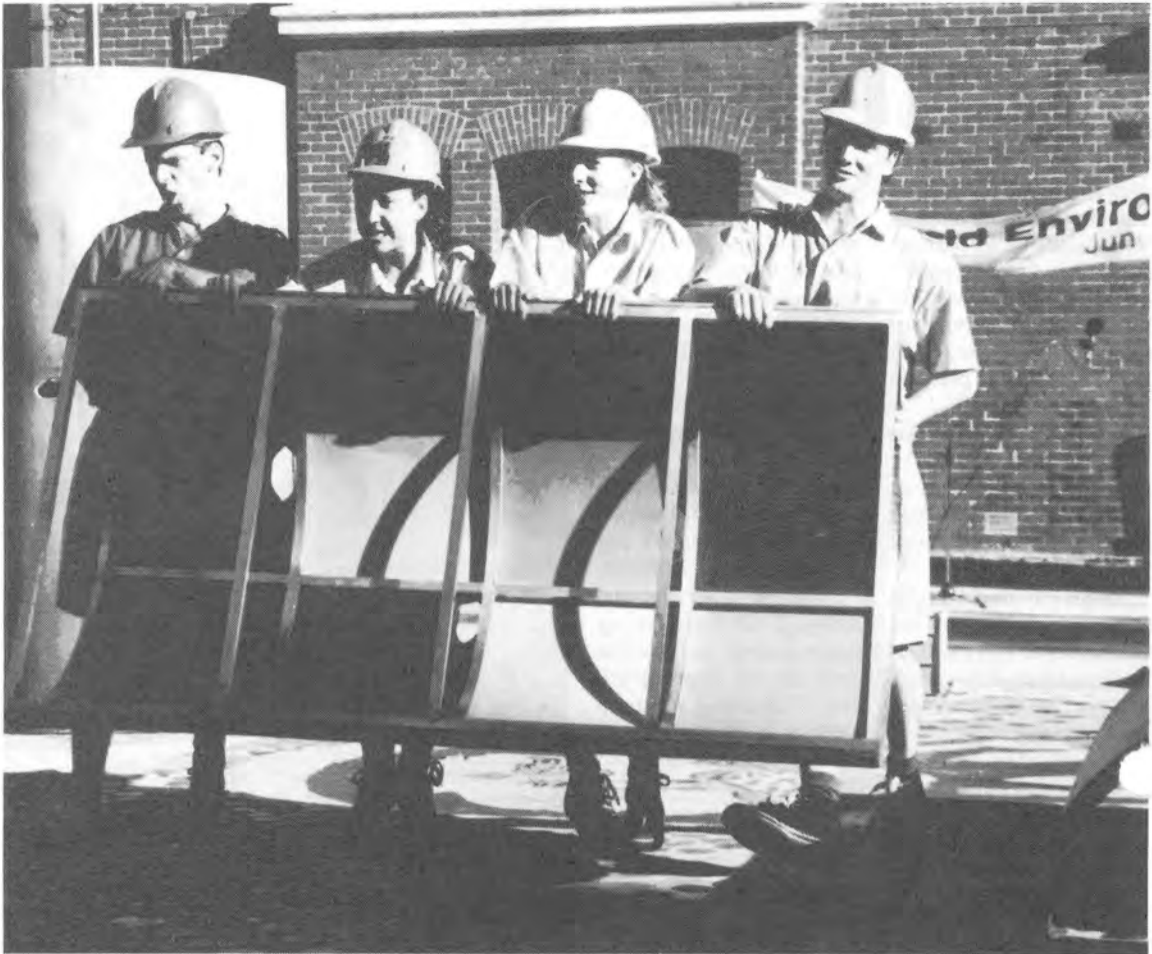
representing all of the department's forestry regions. Pictured with them were Dr Shea



A balloon or two - schoolchildren wait for some damper and orange juice.



Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce announced plans for a one-year certificate course for conservation volunteers during the week of environment activities in early June. At the launch, held at the proposed Canning River Regional Park, he is pictured using the services of a 'volunteer' PA system, and showing CALM's new publication VOLUNTEER NEWS.



Acting Out's talented actors perform one of the songs in the very entertaining, poignant play JENNY GOES WILD, during World Environment Day celebrations at the Perth Cultural Centre.



Mr Pearce and CALM Metropolitan Region manager Drew Hazwell (far left) look out over the proposed park from the Kent St weir bridge with park volunteers and Canning City councillors.

How the week began



RIGHT: CALM's Arbor Day Poster entries caught the eye of many a passerby at the department's display for Environment Day.



Joel Hunter, 7, helps arrange seedlings to be given away at CALM's display for the World Environment Day launch held at the Perth Cultural Centre.



A Canning River Regional Park volunteer guide reads about the work of volunteers throughout the state in CALM's new publication VOLUNTEER NEWS.