

July/Aug '90

Nine Wetland Sites Accepted

Nine major Western Australian wetlands have been accepted onto the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce said that the conservation significance of nearly half a million hectares of the state's wetlands had been recognised by the listing.

"Australia is the ultimate destination each year for hundreds of thousands of wading birds from the northern hemisphere," Mr Pearce said.

"This listing is an indication of the government's recognition of the importance of our wetlands for wildlife."

Mr Pearce said that wetlands provided critical habitat for waterfowl and other birds, as well as for countless mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish and invertebrate species.

Wetlands accepted onto the Ramsar list are the

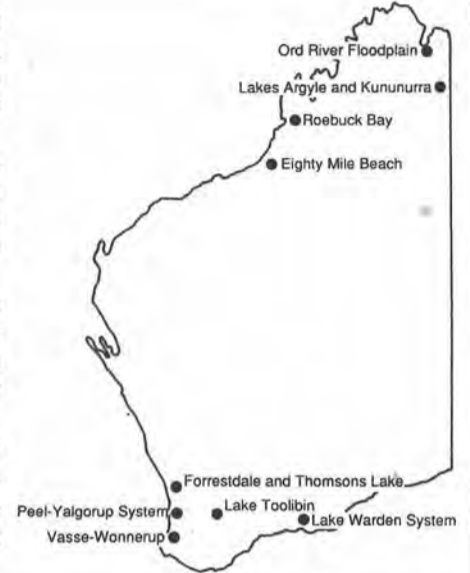
Ord River Floodplain, Lakes Argyle and Kununurra, Roebuck Bay, Eighty-Mile Beach, Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes, Peel-Yalgorup System, Lake Toolibin, the Vasse-Wonnerup System and Lake Warden System.

Birds living on these wetlands include birds travelling from as far away as Siberia; for example, the tiny red-necked stint, the great knot, and the large and less common eastern curlew.

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty which provides the framework for international cooperation for the conservation of migratory waders, other waterbirds and the wetland habitats they depend upon.

Its objectives are to encourage wise use of wetlands so their ecological values are not lost.

Australia was one of the first to sign the treaty and now has 39 wetlands listed, totalling nearly 4.5 million hectares.



Radio announcer Ted Bull, CALM ranger John Arkey and furry friend were at the presentation with schoolchildren Damien Sheridan (in the tree) and Vivian Lim (sitting).

Prizes for tree posters

The class winners of Landscape's Arbor Day Poster Celebration for primary schools were recently given their prizes.

Woodlupine Early Childhood Unit pupils were presented with books about

the environment earlier this month by 6WF radio announcer Ted Bull and Public Affairs' Carolyn Thomson.

On hand with a joey was CALM ranger John Arkey. The competition, sponsored by CALM and

6WF, attracted 7474 entries from 151 schools.

The winner was announced on radio by Ted Bull and entries were on show at CALM displays for Environment Day and Arbor Day.

Dolphin rehabilitation program a world first

CALM and the owners of Atlantis Marine Park, the Tokyu Corporation, have embarked on a pioneering program to rehabilitate and return the nine park dolphins and most other captive animals to their natural habitat.

The program is expected to take three years and attract world attention.

Atlantis is closing its doors due to economic reasons, and the Tokyu Corporation is funding the rehabilitation of the dolphins and seals - estimated to cost about \$2 million.

Marine mammal expert Dr Nick Gales will run the program under CALM's direction. A number of key CALM staff will be involved and a team of seven dolphin handlers from Atlantis has been selected to work on the project.

The public will be able to observe the dolphins' progress throughout the program and volunteers will be called on to assist once it is fully underway.

Dr Gales and CALM's chief wildlife officer Dave Mell have produced a preliminary rehabilitation and release program for the dolphins, seven of which were sub-adults caught off the metropolitan coast in 1981.

Three calves have since been born at Atlantis and one of the adult dolphins is pregnant again.

(Originally 10 dolphins were to have been rehabilitated, but one adult female recently died after a long illness.)

Outlined in the program are steps proposed to be taken to make the endeavour a success.

These include getting the dolphins used to feeding for themselves on live fish in their present home, moving them into a contained ocean environment between Sorrento and Two Rocks, teaching them to respond to

new signals and follow a boat for training 'runs' in the wild.

The eventual aim is to release the dolphins off the metropolitan coast as a family pod.

Eight sea lions will be released off the South Coast where they were originally located. The park's sub Antarctic fur seals will be released off the continental shelf north of Augusta.

A group of five Australian fur seals and one Australian sea lion which is unable to be released will be relocated in zoos and other marine parks.

Dave Mell said there was almost no precedent on which to base the dolphin reintroduction program.

"Two dolphins were released after seven years in captivity in the US in 1987, but it is not known if it was successful because of the limited post-release monitoring and lack of subsequent sightings."

Dave said the Atlantis dolphins were suitable for release as they were in good health, were extremely manageable and highly trained for husbandry behaviours such as weighing, blood taking and clinical examination.

The seven adult dolphins had been captured as sub-adult animals of three to five years, he said, and had therefore had experience living in the wild.

"The three calves are weaned but still relate closely with their mothers as well as the other dolphins in the group, and should therefore be able to learn from them during the rehabilitation," Dave said.

HURDLES

According to Dave there will be several hurdles for the dolphins to overcome during the program.

Chlorine is being eliminated from the pool and

live fish introduced to the dolphins' diet so they can develop normal levels of parasites and bacteria found in the natural environment.

"We don't know how the animals will react to the shift from Atlantis to their new contained ocean environment, where there will be unfamiliar sights and sounds, like boat traffic.

"And once settled in, they will be trained to respond to cues that will enable them to be moved in and out of the new enclosure."

Dave said it was also not known how the dolphins will react to planned training runs, where individuals will be taken out into the sea on their own and encouraged to mingle with wild populations.

During the program a survey of bottlenose dolphins in the Sorrento/Two Rocks area will be carried out.

Pod size and structure will be studied, as will the animals' daily movements and foraging activity.

Dave said this information will be vital for the dolphins' eventual release and will provide previous unavailable research data on the local population and similar research will continue to ensure the animals integrate with the wild population.

Their movements will be monitored by using a transmitter and time depth recorder attached to the animals' dorsal fins.

John Tonkin Tree Awards

Western Australians who have been working to "green" Australia are encouraged to enter Greening Australia's 1990 John Tonkin Tree Awards.

The awards, sponsored by the State Government, were established by Greening Australia in 1986 to reward people who make a significant contribution to retaining, restoring and re-establishing native trees and shrubs.

They are given in eight categories: media, local government, student, industry, individual endeavour, farmers,

community groups and government instrumentalities.

Most of the eight categories carry a prize of \$1000 and a certificate.

The categories are media, local government, students, industry, individual endeavour, farmers, community groups and government departments.

Nominations close on August 30, 1990. Application forms are available from: Greening Australia, Unit 5, 106 Oxford St Leederville 6607, or by telephoning (09) 227 5771.

FORESTRY
IN FOCUS
page 4

FROM MY DESK

I recently attended a bush meeting of more than 250 Aboriginals at Millstream in the Pilbara. Norm Halse and Libby Mattiske from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority were present, as well as Chris Haynes, Mary Colreavy and other CALM staff.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss problems that Aboriginals from various parts of the State were experiencing with CALM activities on CALM land and to seek solutions.

Many of the meetings I attend are not enjoyable, but I believe I was privileged to attend this meeting, and I will remember it for many years to come.

The issue of Aboriginal involvement with land in Western Australia is highly charged with emotion and politics. Whatever anybody many think about some of the issues that we hear about frequently in Perth, I defy anybody not to be impressed by the sincerity of the words spoken by Tribal Elders at this meeting when they described their special relationship to the land.

As I said at the meeting, I, and I am sure most Europeans - no matter how hard we try - will never be able to appreciate that special relationship, but at least as far as I am concerned (and I am sure, everybody in CALM) we will try.

Of course the meeting in part involved considerable criticism of the way in which Aboriginals have been treated and in particular, CALM was targeted. The meeting was useful, however, because for the first time we were able to separate the political issues about Aboriginal claims for land and who is responsible for dealing with those claims and the role of the department.

The department of course cannot be involved in political issues particularly as they relate to ownership of land. These issues must be settled by the community through its politicians and ultimately the Parliament. We can, and I offered to assist any Aboriginal group with technical advice which they may need to put their case.

But there are a number of areas where CALM can work with Aboriginal communities within existing legislation. These include the provision of leases on CALM land for Aboriginals, the development of training programs, contract work, adequate and meaningful consultation on park management, and in particular, consultation prior to the creation of parks and the development of opportunities for Aboriginal enterprises, for example those based on tourism.

CALM's job is to manage the area set aside for conservation, recreation and production and vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Lands and Forest Commission on behalf of the community. The community, of course, is composed of many different constituencies and our challenge is to try to meet the requirements of all of them.

But in the case of the Aboriginal people, I believe we can say they are a special constituency because of their skills and their special relationship with the land that we manage. I believe we have made a start in developing this special relationship. I am intensely proud of our Aboriginal National Park rangers, but we can do much more.

It is going to require patience and the development of new skills on our part, but the opportunities for us and Aboriginal communities to make a great contribution towards solving the problems that are obviously there is so large that it will be worth the effort. — SYD SHEA

Deep in the North West

The following article in the Sunday Times about details in CALM's soon-to-be published North-West Bound book, was attached to a letter sent to Kimberley regional manager Chris Done from a conscientious weekend camper:

'Campers in the deep...'

If we really needed convincing that the Government cared for the environment, the draft text for a Conservation and Land Management book on the North-West should drive the message home.

In the draft, campers were advised to dig a hole 15 m deep to bury any toilet waste.

Bemused proof readers from CALM wondered if there was a new environmental standard they did not know about - or was it a subtle way of mining creeping into national parks.

To those campers who do not carry drilling equipment, it is understood that the text will be changed.

To 150 m or 15 cm? The letter to Chris Done read:

'We tried following the instructions to the letter during our weekend camping.

Dug the first hole early on Saturday morning....'

Trouble was, spent the rest of the weekend trying to get back out again!!

Got home late last night...'

Avon ranger retires

Former Avon Valley national park ranger Cecil Barrow has retired after 19 years' service.

Cec joined the National Parks Board in 1971 as a ranger at Yanchep National Park.

Late in 1976 he was transferred to Kalbarri National Park to work with Cecil (Tiddles) Cockman who was then ranger-in-charge.

In November, 1979, Cec made the move to become the first ranger in Avon Valley National Park, which had only just been gazetted as a national park.

It was a big task, as people

had had freedom to do as they pleased in the Avon Valley for so long. Cec worked hard to establish picnic areas and facilities and established good public relations with neighbours, other government departments and park users. On a number of occasions he'd taken his life into his own hands to go out and confront illegal shooting parties.

On June 1 about 50 people, mainly CALM staff and their spouses, gathered at the John Forrest Tavern to celebrate Cecil's retirement.

Mundaring senior forester Bill Adams gave a

This is Your Life resume and Walyunga National Park ranger Ross McGill did a credible impersonation of Rolf Harris, with whom Cec had at one time attended school.

Mundaring district manager Peter Keppel thanked Cec for his input to the department, in particular, to Avon Valley National Park.

Senior ranger George Duxbury made a presentation to Cecil of behalf of everyone and read out a poem especially written for the occasion. The following is part of it:

'In a transportable home set among the wandoo powder bark,

Cec became a pioneer as he developed Avon Valley National Park:

Taming those who thought that shooting was okay,

To give the park and animals the protection it has today.

Threatening summer storms and fires have been a constant worry,

Along with watching out for skinny dippers swimming in the quarry...'

Study ends

Serpentine National Park ranger David Lamont has graduated from a New South Wales university with a B.Ap.Sc after six years' part time study and more than 100,000 km travel to attend courses.

David was the only Western Australian studying for the degree at the Charles Sturt University, formerly Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education.

It was the first graduation from this course, with only six graduates employed in national parks and wildlife organisations, all rangers (except for David) from conservation agencies in the Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.

During his course, David had to travel to several distant locations - including the LANDSAT tracking station in Alice Springs, a wildlife survey in the Blue Mountains and Aboriginal studies in central Australia and Sydney.

north to compile information for the book.

Among the book's striking features are the photographs by Jiri and Marie Lochman, who spent three months in the North. Graphic designer Robyn Mundy, who is responsible for the book's design, had the unenviable task of selecting the best (130 out of 1500) for the book.

A number of CALM officers in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions provided invaluable help.

Special thanks in particular to Gil Field, Judy Napier, Alan Thomson and Sue Hancock, who provided advice and information along the way.

David Pearson, Kevin Kenneally, Andrew Burbidge and other research staff ensured that all technical information was accurate. David also provided information about Aboriginal culture.

Karen Addison and Sandra Mitchell did the production work at Public Affairs and CALM's Land Information Branch provided the maps, which were airbrushed by Cheryl Leonard.

The book also features airbrushed illustrations by Ian Dickinson.

North-West Bound will be available for \$19.95 and CALM staff will be entitled to a special 20 per cent discount rate.

New book on its way

by Jamie Smith

The much-awaited book on the north, North-West Bound, will soon be on the shelves.

Based on the same format as the highly successful Wild Places, Quiet Places, North-West Bound explores the North-West's wilderness, from the spectacular coral reefs off our coast to the seemingly endless red plains of the interior.

Carolyn Thompson from CALM's Public Affairs Branch and Bob Symons from CALM's Land Information Branch spent a month touring the State's

Seed orchard

Mundaring District needed to rehabilitate an old gravel pit.

So staff there decided to establish a scrub seed orchard that will enable more efficient seed collection when plants mature.

Wildflower Society member Joanna Seabrook has established a seed orchard in Darlington and provided information on scrub establishment.

According to Mundaring's Bruce Telfer, seed orchards have the potential to be commercially viable as well as provide a source for future rehabilitation work.

Letters

The following letter was received from Guildford Primary School:

Dear Mr Shea,
I am writing to express my gratitude to your department for excellent service and assistance to the staff and students of Guildford Primary School.

Last year we responded to the CALM initiative of "Adopt a Park". After negotiations we have begun developing an area adjoining our school under the guidance of your officers.

On June 6, all the children at our school planted 500 trees supplied by CALM to begin our project. The donation of trees was most pleasing, but I would really like to thank you for the services of Trevor Carboon (senior training officer) and Rae Burrows (information officer).

These two people made our day a great success. They both developed a friendly and positive relationship with our students.

They were able to make their information relevant and appropriate to all the students they worked with.

It was particularly pleasing that both officers were prepared to actively get involved with the children. Consequently their enthusiasm and commitment rubbed off onto our students.

I am now very excited about the project that our school is involved in. My enthusiasm is shared by our staff and the students due to Trevor and Rae's efforts.

I would appreciate you passing on my thanks to both people and I am encouraged by the fact that your officers are able to get out in the field and lead by example.

Sincere thanks and I look forward to further visits and involvement with CALM, especially Trevor and Rae.

Ian Hastings
PRINCIPAL



Senior ranger George Duxbury (left) making a presentation to Cecil Barrow at his retirement party in John Forrest Tavern, 1st June 1990

CALM Videos

The following are some of the videos available from CALM's video cassette library at Como. For further information contact Robyn Weir (preferably after 2pm) on (09) 367 0333.

Earth Watch: On the Move: Branching Out (30 mins)

This documentary looks at activities in the forests of WA's South West - tracking and locating a numbat in Boyagin Nature Reserve, karri felling and regeneration near Pemberton, the algae problem in Peel Inlet, farm planting of Tasmanian blue gum as shelterbelts, bauxite mining in the jarrah forest and regeneration and monitoring woylies in Perup Nature Reserve.

Forestry as a career (20 mins)

Guidelines by the Australian National University for those considering forestry as a career.

Growing vegetables without soil losses (12 mins)

Soil losses are avoidable when growing vegetables with management strategies. In Manjimup/Pemberton measures are being taken to prevent erosion by water.

Kangaroo Creek Gang (35 mins)

Cartoon style educational kit divided into junior and upper primary school group with activities for participation. Includes: Keep Australia Beautiful (12 mins), Bike Education (10 mins) and Value of Tourism (13 mins).

The Mallee Fowl (25 mins)

From the series "Fauna, Animals of the Australian continent", this documentary looks at the unusual incubating habits of the mallee fowl. Mounds of leaf mould are gathered for eggs to be laid in, and the temperature is controlled by the bird shifting debris to cover them.

The New Rangers (30 mins)

Aboriginal trainees in the Kakadu National Park are being instructed in such diverse activities as crocodile catching and measuring, rubbish collection and disposal, and the conservation of rock art.

They are encouraged to communicate their traditional culture and natural conservation methods to park visitors.

The park's natural features and wildlife are covered and the problems of introduced water buffalo and uranium mining are mentioned.

A swift response

Mr Pearce,

You will be aware that last summer Fitzgerald River National Park was extensively burnt out by lightning-caused wildfires.

In addition to responding in a swift and practical way to the crisis with its control and suppression efforts, CALM's Director of National Parks also gave a special briefing on the situation to conservation group representatives.

We greatly appreciated the sustained response to the fire by CALM and the local community, and the association would be grateful if this could be conveyed to Dr Shea and his staff. I am also writing to the local authorities involved concerning the assistance provided by their

communities.

The association would also be pleased if our appreciation for Chris Haynes' prompt personal briefing of conservation groups is also passed on.

Graeme Rundle
Maylands

Praise for
CALM staff

Dear Sir,

I am the owner of a farming property in the Yallingup area.

In these days when public servants generally seem to be subject to extensive criticism from many quarters I thought I would advise you of my experiences with the CALM Margaret River office. Over the past few years I have sought assistance on several occasions from Steve Pickering. He has approached each request for

assistance with great enthusiasm. His responses have been timely and constructive.

It is gratifying to know that given the ever-increasing critical nature of the role that needs to be played by CALM there are people within your department with this attitude and level of expertise.

Mark Bahen
Yallingup.

Policy and ...?

A recent letter from the WA Tourism Commission regarding the filming of a video on CALM lands made its recipient raise her eyebrows.

It was addressed to: Ms Mary Colreavy, Policy and Extinction Section.

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The great stick-nest rat release

One of Australia's rarest mammals has been reintroduced into Western Australia.

The greater stick-nest rat, which has been extinct in WA for more than 60 years, was released onto a small island in Shark Bay as part of a national effort to save the species.

"This is another significant step in preventing further extinctions of mammals in WA," said Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce.

"CALM is already working to save many other animal species such as the numbat, western swamp tortoise, chuditch and noisy scrub bird."

The reintroduction of the

stick-nest rat was supervised by CALM researcher Keith Morris and Peter Copley, a wildlife researcher from the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Only about 1000 of the species remain, and the WA reintroduction is the first from their South Australian island stronghold back onto the mainland.

Forty rats - called stick-nest because of their unusual nest building habits - were flown to WA from South Australia courtesy of Ansett airfreight and released on July 4.

The rats' new home is Salutation Island in Freycinet Harbour, Shark Bay.

Stick-nest rats were last

found on the mainland in the north-eastern Nullarbor Plain in the 1920's.

Prior to that, their range extended to Shark Bay in the west, across to South Australia and Western New South Wales.

Today they are found only on the Franklin Islands, 40 km south of Ceduna, off the far west coast of South Australia.

Several rats from this population have been collected and a captive breeding colony established on the South Australian mainland.

However, while numbers have swollen in the captive colony to more than 100, wildlife researchers consider it too impractical to

reintroduce them to their former mainland range, given problems with introduced mammals.

On Salutation Island, the rats' movements and activities as they establish new homes will be closely monitored by CALM research and operations staff over the next year.

The research program leading to the reintroduction of these native rodents into Western Australia was sponsored by World Wide Fund for Nature Australia, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, the National Estate Program of the Australian Heritage Commission, the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the South Australian Museum.

Recreation in focus

By Judy Napier

Perth-based CALM staff recently descended on the Pilbara to conduct an Introduction to Recreation Management and Planning course.

Topics covered during the four-day course included CALM's recreation policy,

visitor facilities, signs, planning principles, site development and visitor interpretation.

The last day-and-a-half was spent on a syndicate exercise aimed at improving visitor facilities at Deep Reach, the largest pool on the Fortescue River within the Millstream-Chichester National Park.

Rangers from Hamersley Range and Millstream attended, along with staff from Karratha. The venue was Camp Curlew, a revamped rail camp 40 kilometres from Millstream, complete with dining room, baby camel and a suicidal peacock that resides in the swimming pool enclosure.

The site of a certain landscape architect's bath-clad body at 6am was enough to send it plummeting headlong into the swimming pool fence. Fortunately, it lived to tell the tale.

While the days were filled with slides, talks and anecdotes of the life of a Queensland Ranger at Natural Arch - or was it Natural Bridge - the nights were spent hammering away at the pool tables and dart boards with the ever-increasing threat of being deafened by an over-zealous juke box.

But a great time was had by all, and those who sat the test passed and are all eagerly awaiting to complete the advanced Rec Course.

Beetle mania

CALM scientists are working with a Thai entomologist to control beetles at the WA Herbarium.

The beetles have partly destroyed several of the WA Herbarium's 400,000 dried pressed plant specimens of WA flora - the latest outbreak damaging orchids collected more than 20 years ago.

Known as Cigarette and Drugstore beetles, these insects are able to live on the stored plant material and, if not detected and controlled, may totally destroy the specimen.

Helping CALM botanists at the Herbarium to overcome the beetle problem is Thai entomologist Dr Boongee Witethom.

Dr Witethom, an entomologist at the Prince of Songkla University in southern Thailand, has come to Australia to study insects that are able to destroy dried plant specimens stored in herbarium collections.

Her visit to the Herbarium has been supported by the University of WA and BOTANY 2000, a network of UNESCO which is committed to developing research on plant classification in botanical institutions such as herbaria in the south-east Asian region.

BOTANY 2000 secretary, CALM botanist Neville Marchant, arranged for Dr Witethom to also visit herbaria in eastern Australia as well as the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Fellowship win

Silviculture Branch manager Jack Bradshaw has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship.

The fellowship will allow Jack to travel to the USA, Germany and Sweden next year to examine the application of Silviculture in native forests there which satisfies production needs, aesthetics and environmental values - now and into the future.

Jack said the project was relevant to present departmental needs in native forest Silviculture.

"Silvicultural systems adopted in native forests in Australia in the past have been chosen primarily to ensure that optimum regeneration is achieved after logging and to provide the opportunity for high levels of wood production in the future," Jack said.

"Various limitations

have been imposed on the extent and intensity of these operations to protect water quality and other flora and fauna values.

"If we are to have forests in the future that are productive, aesthetically attractive and biologically healthy," he added "we need the information and analysis to make objective decisions and trade-offs in silviculture."

"I am interested in finding out how these problems are being addressed in other countries. The contrasts should be interesting.

"In the USA there are major new developments in silviculture just beginning to happen. In Europe where forestry has been around for much longer there seems to be a much happier accommodation of competing needs."

Rubbish dumped

Recent inspections of nature reserves in the Wheatbelt shire of Kent have revealed a high incidence of rubbish dumping.

CALM district manager Greg Leaman said that more than 35 per cent of reserves visited had been subject to dumping - mainly household or farm refuse - within the past 12 months. The levels for the Kent shire were highest of the 12 local wheatbelt authorities surveyed, he said.

In recent years CALM staff at Katanning, with the assistance of local residents and contractors, have removed several tonnes of rubbish from nature reserves in the shire.

Because of the increasing incidence of dumping, CALM staff have adopted a less lenient approach than before, and in future every effort will be made to identify offenders, and, if necessary, initiate prosecution.

Tree planting in Exmouth

CALM Exmouth staff celebrated Arbor Day with the Shire of Exmouth, Exmouth Primary School and the Exmouth Tennis Club.

Local eucalypt trees propagated by CALM officers were planted around the Exmouth football oval and the newly constructed tennis courts.

The Shire of Exmouth made machinery available for excavation, and the tennis club supplied reticulation for irrigation.

Before planting the 50 or so trees, a short talk was given to about 300 primary school students by Cape Range National Park ranger-in-charge Steve Strachan on the importance of trees and why they are essential for life.

Primary school students also ran a colouring-in competition, which was judged by their teachers.

Winning entrants received prizes in the form of CALM publications Landscape, Wild Places, Quiet Places, and Range to Reef. The winning projects will be displayed in the Milyering Visitor Centre.

The students told Steve Strachan that a 90 per cent survival rate had been achieved from last year's plantings.

RIGHT: Young Exmouth Primary School pupils help CALM ranger Steve Strachan plant a eucalypt, and in the process, learn why trees are so essential for life.



ABOVE: Keith Morris and Peter Copley examine one of the rats before it is released on Salutation Island. ABOVE LEFT: The greater stick-nest rat, once again on WA soil.



Branding superseded by LOIS

The need to brand individual logs in forest logging operations was made redundant several years ago when this practice was superseded by an elaborate computer-based accountability system.

Logs are now recorded on delivery (D) notes and a computer-based system which is used to record details and prepare invoices for royalty and payment of logging contractors — the Logging Operation Information system (LOIS).

An explanation of why logs and stamps have not always been branded in state

forest blocks as required under two forest regulations was recently published in CALM's report on allegations of illegal logging and breaches of forestry regulations (see page 6).

The report was written for Environment Minister Bob Pearce to deal with specific allegations made by Dr Elizabeth Schultz relating to the Forest Regulations 18, 22, 23, 24 (1), 24 (2) (A) and 26 (B), and the CALM Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

The report stated that, following detailed

investigations by CALM staff, no illegal logging is occurring in the Shannon, Wattle, Burnside and Crowea state forest blocks in the south-west.

The report also found that although breaches of forest regulations 18 and 23 have occurred, these are minor, technical breaches and do not affect timber industry control or collection of royalties, as the following excerpt from the report explains.

"Stump and log branding were introduced as requirements when the

Forests Act was passed in 1918. They have long since become outmoded. The aim of stump branding is to allow the Department to determine which faller felled a particular tree. This was necessary in the days of axe and crosscut felling, because up to 12 fallers could be working in a logging area. These days only one faller (or sometimes two) work a designated "fallers block". The identity of the faller is well known. Thus the need to brand stumps is no longer required to identify the faller concerned.

Log branding used to

serve two purposes: Firstly it identified the faller and formed the basis for his payment. Secondly it enabled the Department to check the origin of a log or load of logs and verify it had been obtained legally.

On arrival at a mill all logs were measured and these data formed the basis for royalty payments to the Government. This system was superseded several years ago. Logs are now recorded on Delivery Notes, on which the faller's code is recorded, and a computer-based system is used to record details and prepare

invoices for royalty and payment of logging contractors. Under this system, the need to brand individual logs is redundant."

LOIS came into being in 1988, and is today driven by Timber Production staff Alison Mason, Merrilyn Kearney and Maria Lee.

The system's architect was former Timber Production manager Jock Sclater, who retired last year.

LOIS was the result of combining two computer-based systems which already existed in the department — one for pine logging

(developed in the late 1970's), and one for hardwood logging (developed in 1986).

It is continually being enhanced by Brad Wilkins, a contract computer designer/analyst for the Forest Resources Division.

Each fortnightly pay period, LOIS handles about 4000 D notes. In a year the number exceeds 50,000, with the quantity of logs harvested and sold from Crown land presently reaching 1.75 million cubic metres (3.5 million logs) — worth about \$37 million in royalties to the State.

1 PREPARING THE LOGGING PLANS

Planning begins up to 15 years before logging commences, and involves consideration of many things, such as jarrah dieback, prescribed burning programs, recreation and visual resource requirements, location of rare flora and fauna, silvicultural requirements, quantities of log products, forest types, and regeneration process.

EXAMPLE OF A LOGGING PLAN 1990

Cut to Seed Trees
Remove Chip
(46ha)

LOADING BASE DATA INTO LOIS

(a) Officers of CALM's Timber Production Branch load base data into a computer based Logging Operation Information System (LOIS) prior to commencement of logging. This data includes all details of rates paid to CALM's logging contractors and prices charged to CALM's many log customers.

(b) Inventory Branch then enter planning details (e.g., logging method) for each separate operation into LOIS.

2 ESTABLISHING THE COUPE

Operation boundaries are marked out, along with fallers' blocks within the operation. Usually, there are no more than two fallers per operation. As the number of fallers is low, and blocks are defined, the need for individual branding of logs and stumps lessens. From a log accountability point of view, branding of stumps and logs is not necessary at all. In karri thinnings and pine, contractors often use 'tree harvester' machines which leave almost no stump. The large number and small size of both logs and stumps in this instance makes it unrealistic to brand. Snig tracks (roads into operation) are established, along with landings. Contractors employed by CALM log the area. Logs are segregated on the bush landing by grade and where necessary marked with lumber crayon.

STUMPS AND LOGS BRANDED TO IDENTIFY FALLERS

GRADE OF LOG SHOWN BY CRAYON MARK
(WHITE CRAYON - CONTRACTOR)
(YELLOW CRAYON - CALM)

CALM's Logging Control System

LOIS AND THE D NOTES

A step-by-step look at how CALM's timber accountability system works.



7 COMPUTER REPORTS

These are required to ensure such things as accurate payments to contractors and invoicing to customers. Several types of reports are run twice a month.



6 COMPUTER INPUT OF D NOTES

D notes are collected from mills by the local CALM officer on a regular basis. Different District office staff are responsible for the three separate tasks: transferring the field data into computer codes; keying the data into the computer; cross-checking the D notes against the computer audit records. "Coding" simply means the recording of all information on the D note in an abbreviated form for computer input.



Forest representative Brian Moss checks logs on a truck at Deanmill Weighbridge against the D note.

3

THE D NOTE



For Crown land, there are several types of D Note - covering pine, poles and bridge timbers, measurement by volume and measurement by weight. The D Note is filled in by the truck driver, who proceeds to take logs to the mill. It is an offence not to have a D Note, and contractors at fault could be prosecuted and lose their contracts.

CALM forest officers check on at least 5% of all truckloads, as required by State Audit. The check is currently running at a higher percentage.



4

AT THE MILL

When the truck arrives at its destination, the buyer of the logs must sign the D Note, verifying his agreement as to the type and quantity of logs on that truck.

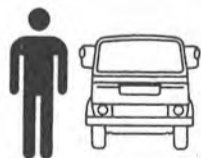
The advantage of CALM's present system is evident here; the log buyer and CALM's logging contractor are separate organisations, and act in a "self-policing" way to ensure that the correct quantity of logs is recorded.



5

MILL LANDING INSPECTIONS

CALM forest officers systematically carry out inspections of logs on mill landings as a further check on individual log measurements.



officer on a regular basis.
three separate operations:
es;

puter audit report.
tion on the D Note into an



Logs on a mill landing showing D note number, coupe, diameters and length.



Forest officer Tim Foley checks log segregation at Channybearup 7.



Forest officer Mark Giblett checks log measurement at Worsley Palgarup Mill Landing.

Report deals with allegations

ALLEGATIONS BY DR ELIZABETH SCHULTZ OF ILLEGAL LOGGING AND BREACHES OF FORESTRY REGULATIONS

A Report to the Minister for the Environment from the Department of Conservation and Land Management

1. INTRODUCTION

Allegations of illegal logging and widescale breaches of forestry regulations in forests managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) have been made recently by Dr Elizabeth Schultz to the Minister for the Environment, Mr Bob Pearce.

The report is based upon detailed investigations carried out by senior CALM staff.

2. THE GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

The allegations of illegal logging and regulation breaches relate to the Forest Regulations 18, 22, 23, 24(1), 24(2)(A) and 26(B) (see Appendix 1), and the CALM Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

It is alleged that the illegal logging and regulation breaches occurred in the following forest blocks: Shannon, Wattle, Burnside and recently logged areas at Crowea.

3. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

The investigation has shown:

1. Breaches of Forest Regulations 18, 22 and 23 have occurred. These are minor, technical breaches and do not affect forest management, silviculture, sustained yield, timber industry control or collection of royalties.

2. Forest Regulations 24(1), 24(2)(A) and 26(B) have not been breached.

3. All Delivery Notes and log invoices for the Burnside area, and the recently logged areas at Crowea have been checked. No discrepancy has been found.

4. The logging occurring in the areas listed by Dr Schultz is not illegal.

4. DETAILED RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR ALLEGATIONS SUBMITTED BY DR SCHULTZ TO THE MINISTER

4.1 In relation to logging in the Shannon, Wattle, Burnside and Crowea blocks, what was the number of logs and the volume of timber produced from recently logged coupes in each area?

Response: Logging operations in these areas date back 12 months. All the information sought is recorded on Delivery Notes with the exception of number of logs. This is because only sawlog numbers are recorded, whilst chiplogs are measured by weight or volume, not number. Hundreds of Delivery Notes are involved. These have been extracted from the CALM archives and copies are attached (Appendix 3).

Note: The Delivery Notes for the current fortnight are not yet available but can be made

available if required.

4.2 Where did the logs from the Shannon, Wattle, Burnside and Crowea areas go?

Response: Logs from the Shannon, Wattle and Burnside forest blocks were despatched to the following mills:

Whittakers Mill, Denmark - karri sawlogs

Franey and Thompsons Mill, Albany - jarrah sawlogs

Bunnings Diamond Mill - chiplogs

Some logs from these areas were stored at an interim stockpile area in the forest at Weld Road where they were awaiting transshipment to the above mills.

Logging has been going on in the Crowea area since June 1989. Logs from this coupe have been despatched to the following mills:

Bunnings - Deanmill, Northcliffe, Jardee, Pemberton Sawmills

Bunnings Diamond Chip Mill

Gandy Timbers, Jardee Moniers, Busselton

Smithbrook Milling

South-West Timber Supply

4.3 Can details of Delivery Notes for logs from these areas be provided?

Response: Copies of processed Delivery Notes are attached (Appendix 3). The original Notes are available for perusal in the CALM office. Because logging is not complete in these areas, some Delivery Notes are still "in the system" and have not yet been received at CALM offices. The Delivery Notes provided for the Burnside area go back to February this year, when that operation commenced. Delivery Notes provided for the Crowea area go back only to January 1990. It is proposed to continue to extract Delivery Notes and check them back to June 1989. This process should be completed within two weeks. (Note: More than six staff have worked for two weeks to extract and check the Delivery Notes attached).

Note that the logs removed from Shannon and Wattle blocks were included in the logs recorded as being taken from the Burnside area. It has been alleged that this system of recording is a breach of Regulation 26. This is incorrect. Regulation 26 states -

"No person shall place or cause or suffer to be placed on any timber or any other forest produce any mark, sign or brand in such a manner as may be calculated to deceive or for the purpose of deceiving any forest officer either (a) as to the person by whom such timber was felled or cut; or (b) as to the area of land on or from which the timber was cut, obtained or removed."

In the case cited, a forest officer decided how the area of land from which the logs were obtained would be designated. He would not set out to deceive himself on such an issue. Furthermore, the regulation does not specify that the area nominated must be a particular block. As the logs were taken from along a roadside which runs largely between the Burnside, Shannon and Wattle blocks, the forest officer decided to use the name of the block from which most logs came (ie, Burnside) as the designated area.

All Delivery Notes processed for this period have been cross-checked against log invoices (these are the documents that are sent to sawmilling companies requesting payment for logs delivered). No discrepancy has been found. In turn, invoices have been cross-checked against payments to contractors and again no discrepancy was found. See Appendix 2 for a description of the process. Note also that in addition to the specific investigation of these Delivery Notes the whole process is subject to external and internal audit.

4.4 Does the management plan allow for logging to occur in these areas?

Response: Each of the areas where logging occurred are designated in the management plan as State forest. Timber harvesting is permitted in State forests, according to policies laid down in the

State Timber Strategy and the Regional Management Plans. All operations were in accordance with approved silvicultural or fire control specifications.

Specifically the logging operation in Crowea is part of normal logging operations and was carried out according to the regional logging plan.

The operations in Shannon, Wattle and Burnside blocks were in fact part of a fire protection procedure. In areas that are scheduled to be prescribed burned or areas which may be used to stop wildfires, trees that are a potential fire hazard are marked for removal. These trees if left can cause a serious fire hazard because the dead material in either the boles or the crowns can ignite and cause inflammable material to be carried metres into adjacent forests. They also represent a serious danger to human life because if they ignite they often have to be felled to prevent fire spread. They are also dangerous because burning limbs can fall on personnel controlling the prescribed burn or fighting bush fires. Unfortunately, there has been at least one recent death as a result of these trees igniting.

Note: The accidental felling and removal of some trees on the border of the Shannon National Park has

been dealt with in previous reports.

4.5 Did any breaches of forest regulations occur during logging of these areas (especially in relation to branding)?

Response: Three regulations have been breached in these areas.

(i) Stumps have not always been branded, as required under Regulation 18.

(ii) Logs have not always been branded, as required under Regulation 23.

(iii) Some logs on mill landings have not been branded, as required under Regulation 22.

Explanation: Stump and log branding were introduced as requirements when the Forests Act was passed in 1918. They have long since become outmoded.

The aim of stump branding was to allow the Department to determine which faller felled a particular tree. This was necessary in the days of axe and crosscut felling, because up to 12 fallers could be working in a logging area. These days only

one faller (or sometimes two) work a designated "fallers block". The identity of the faller is well known. Thus stump branding is no longer required to identify the faller concerned.

Log branding used to serve two purposes: Firstly it identified the faller and formed the basis for his payment. Secondly it enabled the Department to check the origin of a log or load of logs and verify it had been obtained legally. On arrival at a mill all logs were measured and these data formed the basis for royalty payments to the Government. This system was superseded several years ago. Logs are now recorded on Delivery Notes, on which the faller's code is recorded, and a computer-based system is used to record details and prepare invoices for royalty and payment of logging contractors. Under this system, the need to brand individual logs is redundant.

The logging and Delivery Note system employed by CALM is illustrated in Appendix 2.

4.6 Have there been any prosecutions of logging contractors for breaches of forest regulations in hardwood operations in the past?

Response: The last time a significant breach of forest regulations occurred, and a logging contractor was prosecuted, was in 1970. However, there have been numerous occasions over the years of contractors being warned for minor breaches. In general, the Department does not prosecute people for inadvertent and minor technical breaches of forest regulations. The preferred approach is to encourage people to do the right thing

by training and education. This approach is considered sensible in cases where deliberate illegality or loss of revenue are not involved.

4.7 It is claimed that some logs were taken to a log dump unbranded and that following "the Shannon controversy" the logs were branded at the dump. The basis for this allegation is that all the logs are said to have been branded on the same end and that this would have been unlikely to occur if the logs were branded prior to being transported to the dump.

It is also stated that the log dump is within a national park.

Response: The log dump is located within the new Mt Frankland National Park. This log dump has been used almost continuously for over a decade as a log stockpiling site when the area was State forest. The

site adjoins Weld Road, a major log haul route. The area became a national park only recently and the log dump is now being phased out and the area rehabilitated.

Approximately 20 percent of logs delivered to the Weld Road stockpile from the Burnside area had been chalk branded before arrival at the stockpile. This arose from the following circumstances. The contractor's faller (Mr Jackowiak) had lost his branding hammer and a new branding hammer had been ordered. As is normal under those circumstances, CALM authorised chalk branding in the interim. Before the new hammer was available, Mr Jackowiak left the contractor's employ. When the new branding hammer was manufactured the contractor, as directed by CALM, used it to brand the logs in the stockpile. CALM's contractor carried out this branding.

Most logs were hammer branded at the stockpile within a few days of delivery by the contractor. A few logs at the top of the log heaps were not branded immediately because the contractor considered it unsafe to climb onto the log pile to reach them. These logs were branded as the log heaps were being dismantled when logs were loaded by a machine onto trucks, before delivery to various mills.

Some Main Roads Department logs from their roadside clearing works were also transported to the Weld Road dump by Main Roads contractors. These logs, which come from a road reserve and are "owned" by the MRD, were in rough form and required further treatment before delivery to sawmills. Branding of these logs was carried out by a CALM contractor who had agreed to do the required treatment work before the logs were reloaded for delivery to sawmills. Delivery Notes were also used for this operation.

There is no evidence that the branding practices which occurred at this site resulted in any loss of accountability of logs or payment of royalties.

4.8 What are the origin, number, grade and final destination of all the logs at the Weld Road stockpile?

Response: The origin of the logs at the Weld Road stockpile were as follows:

(i) Removal of hazardous trees along Boodanoo Road in Burnside and Wattle blocks.

(ii) Salvage by the Main Roads Department along the Southwest Highway.

Details of log volumes or weights, grade and final destination are available on the attached Delivery Notes for logs from State forest delivered to date.

4.9 Trees in Crowea have been felled but not utilised. What is the explanation for this "waste"?

Response: The logging operation in Crowea is not yet completed. Some second grade logs are still to be removed and buyers are being sought for many third grade logs. Currently there is a very restricted market for second and third grade jarrah sawlogs and residue logs suitable for fencing material are oversupplied in the South-West. It may not be possible to sell all the third grade logs. Every effort will be made to do so, and to dispose of fencing material before the area is regenerated. The third grade logs are a new product and were prepared at a time when the market for this material was more buoyant.

The Crowea forest was devastated by a bushfire in 1961. A great many trees suffered serious fire damage or now carry charcoal which makes them hard to sell. The current operation in Crowea will complete the regeneration of the old fire damaged areas.

4.10 It is alleged that prime logs are being removed and illegally sold from the Burnside, Wattle and Strachans Road area, under the guise of preparing fire boundaries. Sound stumps have been found in the area.

Response: We cannot find any evidence, nor has any been provided, to support the allegation that prime logs were illegally obtained from the Wattle, Burnside and Strachans Road areas.

As described above, this operation was mounted to reduce the number of trees which were a fire hazard along the boundary of a prescribed burn. The trees were marked by a forest officer. The fact that a stump may be sound is irrelevant as the tree bole or limbs are the fire hazard. The forest officer would only have marked trees which he considered should be removed for safety reasons.

4.11 Why have trees marked by forest officers to be felled been left standing in this area?

Response: Not all trees which are a fire hazard marked by a forest officer can be safely felled. Trees which are hollow at the bottom, have an excessive lean, or have dead limbs hanging in the crown may be judged by the operator as unsafe to fall. The faller might also feel that the vegetation surrounding the base of the tree is so thick, or the ground is uneven as to render tree felling unsafe. CALM does not override operator judgement on these issues. In addition, a contractor may decide that a marked tree has no commercial value and may decide to leave it standing. In this case his judgement is often overridden by CALM officers, but also occasionally they will agree with him and the tree will be left standing or subsequently felled by a forest workman.

4.12 Only 10 percent of the stumps in the Crowea area have been branded.

Response: The figure is probably closer to 30 percent. The area is very large and contains thousands of stumps. Not all have been checked but it is true that many were unbranded. However, the two fallers who operated at different times in this coupe are known, and no problems with respect to felling operations have been discovered. As noted in 4.5 above the failure to brand has no effect on forest management or the sale of logs.

4.13 One stump in the Crowea area has two brands.

Response: Two different fallers worked in this coupe. One commenced operations in one part of the area and the second carried on when the first faller moved elsewhere. Their operations apparently overlapped. This has no significance to the accountability of logs or payment of royalties.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The investigations provide no evidence that illegal logging has taken place in the areas inspected by Dr Schultz, and I am confident that all logs removed from the forest have been properly accounted for and paid for.

Some technical breaches of forest regulations concerning the branding of stumps and logs have occurred. However, this has no financial or legal consequence, because alternative means of identifying fallers and accounting for logs were put into place several years ago. These alternative measures are efficient and effective, were approved by State Treasury before implementation, and are regularly checked by the Auditor General's Department.



Harold is well known throughout CALM for his thorough and friendly first Aid Courses

Award 'heck of an honour'

Collie health and safety officer Harold Pears has received the Officer Brother of the Order of St John award for 30 years' service to the St John Ambulance.

The award, sanctioned by the Queen before Harold

received it from the Governor General of WA, was one of only five presented this year.

"I've been fully committed to St John Ambulance for a long time," Harold told the *Collie Mail* "but you don't expect or look

for these awards. It's a heck of an honour."

Harold teaches and trains ambulance officers in various parts of the south west, and although he doesn't drive the ambulances, he still teaches the skill.

In his spare time, Harold lectures at Nannup as the area does not have a fulltime ambulance officer.

Harold is well known throughout CALM for his thorough and friendly First Aid courses.

Paper-use task force

CALM has established a paper use task force to make maximum use of internally recycled paper, recycled manufactured paper and environmentally friendly paper.

Task force members are Trevor McGill (chairman), Shane Knapp and John Malone.

They will keep up to date with the availability of recycled and environmentally friendly paper products, identify areas of main paper use in the department, investigate and recommend ways to reduce paper use in those areas and monitor all other

areas of paper use, and where necessary, make recommendations to reduce usage.

The task force will draft and circulate a policy on the conservation of paper in CALM.

This policy will take into consideration the Operation Clean-up project recently announced by the Premier which accepted in principle a tender from a Canning Vale firm "Austissue" to recycle all State Government waste paper.

Projected revenue to the state from the waste paper is expected to be about \$150,000 per annum.

"CALM popular in WA," read The Countryman headline. Great, said the CALM employee, calmly starting to read the article. But hang on - WA livestock producers giving their stamp of approval to CALM? And who is this CALM 'state manager' mentioned in the article? And 36,000 head of cattle offered through CALM

in the past financial year? Have I missed something, the employee asked - not so calmly. Has CALM suddenly merged with the Agriculture Department? No. CALM, it seems, stands for Computer Aided Livestock Marketing. CALM Services is the registered name of a Bullcreek-based business.

CARE for the coast

CALM Exmouth staff are working side by side with locals for the benefit of the environment.

As a result of several successful volunteer projects in the Exmouth area, local residents decided it was time to unite their good work.

So in May, they joined forces and established CARE: Conservation; Animal rescue; Research and Education."

The driving force behind CARE is the Ningaloo Marine Park manager, Sue Osborne. Sue is now the president of the association, which has a large amount of volunteers.

The non-profit making group is divided into four sections: business, Wildlife Care, Milyering and Research and Monitoring.

CARE is financially supported by CALM so that projects that CARE undertakes can be carried out successfully.

CARE members hope to alert public awareness on their impact on the environment, to aid local research programs managed by CALM and to care for animals in need of aid.

Some of the activities being undertaken by CARE include assisting staff at Milyering Visitor centre, assisting wildlife researches in Marine

Turtle research, monitoring whale movements and rehabilitating sick and injured fauna.



Quarry rehabilitation report just released

The need for effective management and control over quarry rehabilitation was addressed in a working party report recently released by Mines Minister Jeff Carr.

The Minister commissioned a working party to recommend ways in which industry, local government and state government departments could improve quarry rehabilitation throughout the state.

Members were representatives of the quarrying industry, Conservation Council of WA, local government, Department of Mines, Department of Land Administration, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Authority and CALM (represented by Dennis Hilder).

(Information provided by CALM regions and districts about the number and extent of quarries on CALM land, and suggestions for environmental controls on quarrying were presented to the work party, and some of this material has been incorporated in the report document.)

A survey of the scope and nature of the state's quarrying industry and rehabilitation standards and practices was carried out, the survey showing the standard of environmental management throughout the quarry industry to be extremely variable.

There was a lack of consistent guidelines, rehabilitation standards and regulatory controls because of the diversity of operators (private, state agency or local government) and the legislation under which quarrying was undertaken.

Dissimilar standards also reflected differences between controlling bodies

in such areas as legislative power to control, staffing levels, technical expertise, and management policies.

The survey showed that operations carried out or controlled by CALM, the Main Roads Department, or private industry subject to environmental impact assessment, had generally reached a high standard of planning and rehabilitation.

This was in contrast to the many small quarries operated under the control of local government in country regions. Local governments often did not have staff with the necessary expertise, received little assistance or resources to improve the quality of their rehabilitation practices, and in many instances local community attitudes were not supportive of a commitment to rehabilitation.

The work party's subsequent report includes prescriptive rehabilitation guidelines and recommends that the State Government direct all state agencies and local government councils conducting or controlling quarrying to adopt these rehabilitation guidelines, and to implement a schedule of bonds and enforceable penalties to deter non-compliance.

The establishment of a

quarry rehabilitation steering committee is also recommended to monitor and encourage the adoption of the standard rehabilitation guidelines.

The success of this strategy will depend on the adoption of the rehabilitation guidelines by every quarry operator. If the steering committee is unable to achieve acceptable standards of quarry operation and rehabilitation through its training and demonstration program, then it is recommended that the Department of Mines be charged with the responsibility to enforce rehabilitation standards for all quarries. This would involve changes to existing legislation and the allocation of additional resources for carrying out this function.

It is hoped that, by adopting and promoting this two-phased strategy, state government agencies and local governments will clearly enunciate that they expect every quarry operator to achieve acceptable levels of environmental rehabilitation.

The report document *Conservation and Rehabilitation in the WA Quarry Industry* is available from the Department of Mines.

Members' rights

Many Australian Workers' Union members who pay for their tickets by payroll deductions do not know about their rights.

When a procuracy order is signed against wages, members are immediately entitled to all rights under the current rules.

However, should they retire or leave without paying the balance of ticket value, they become an unfinancial member and lose their rights.

AWU branch secretary V.J. Keenan said that members should protect their rights.

These include a generous funeral fund benefit payment to the age of 66 and free membership with other benefits for financial retirees with a history of reasonably long membership, also available on presentation of statutory declaration of retirement.

BIG BROOK RELAY -will you be ready?

Mark it on the calendar: Saturday, November 3; place: Pemberton - Big Brook Dam; race: Big Brook Relay 1990. BE THERE. With a team - of either competitors, or supporters (both is better). Organise your team early and start practising.

The bare essentials: two people to

cross cut saw one to run one to cycle two to canadian canoe, and one to swim.

Nominations will be accepted after the first of September. Contact either Howard Manning on (097) 761 107, or Alan Sands on (09) 364 0705. (There is a prize for coming last, and yes, this is a much-coveted award.)



Mapped out

Areas proposed as reserves by CALM, the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Planning and Urban Development are shown on a new map of Western Australia.

Conservation Reserves of WA, a thematic map detailing more than 2000 parcels of land, shows all existing national parks and nature reserves.

The map was prepared by the Mines Department Mapping Information Service, along with another detailing Aboriginal reserves throughout the state.

This map shows the location of reserves for Aboriginal purposes, as well as gazetted protected areas under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Other features detailed on the map include Aboriginal controlled pastoral leases and major Aboriginal communities.

Submissions Received

South Coast regional plan coordinator Ian Herford had his work cut out for him after receiving 166 submissions for the region's draft management plan.

While most submissions - 106 - came from within the region, 50 were received from other parts of WA, nine from the Eastern States, and one from the USA.

Ian said the process had been rewarding, with many excellent suggestions for improvement of the final plan received.

Fitzgerald revisited

By Brian O'Hehir
(Gang member, CALM's
Kirup Division)

I recently returned to the Fitzgerald River National Park after spending 10 days there during the fires earlier this year.

I was fortunate to see a good cross-section of the park then, and even though the landscape was dominated by charcoal-black vegetation, the character of the place still shone through - enough, anyway, to make me return.

CALM's volunteer program gave me the opportunity to go back, this time to help rebuild some of the damage done and to continue the work already started by two previous work groups.

I hoped it would also give me the opportunity to see a little more of what promised to be a unique place.

I entered the park down West River Road and Hamersley Drive.

This is the major road from the highway heading southeast to Hopetoun, which was the last line of defence against the approach of one particular head fire.

Leaving the farms of the north and entering the park

gives you the impression that this is "just another piece of heath-covered hinterland" with no special significance.

But the persistent traveller is well rewarded as the distant peaks of the Eyre and Whoogarup ranges become visible.

This landscape is dominated by a series of rocky peaks called the Barrens.

They dominate the park's coastal fringe from Quaalup in the west to Hopetoun in the east.

Hamersley Drive bisects the plain between the Eyre and Whoogarup Ranges. From here 4WD tracks go northeast by the Moir track through to Ravensthorpe and southwest via the Telegraph Track.

The latter takes the more adventurous to the heart of the park via the Hamersley River and Whalebone Beach, or further to the rugged coast at Quoin Head.

The charred landscape still dominates the scenery but nature is returning a carpet of green which the surviving wildlife have welcomed.

I arrived at the Causeway at the eastern entrance to the park to find the volunteers hard at work. They were

covering the old track which had served as the entrance when the waters of Culham Inlet had risen over the road.

Lunch, and we adjourned to Four Mile campsite to meet some of the crew who had spent eight-and-a-half hours on the bus from Perth the night before.

After lunch the party split into three groups, each with their own tasks to carry out. Volunteers selected their jobs and headed off for the afternoon.

Tea. Returning to Four Mile we found tea was well on the way. Some people were weary after the late night before on the bus, but they were all keen to share their experiences of the day. These included campsite and dune rehabilitation and step and pathway constructions. The keener ones kicked on at the pub but most retired early to prepare for the next day's work.

Sunday morning found the crews up early and ready to go. Most returned to their tasks from the day before, keen to complete their own little bit for the park's cause.

The volunteers were a diverse group, most over 40 but a few younger, and from all walks of life. They had come for various reasons but mostly to do their little bit

for a special place in need of help. They represented naturalist clubs, walking clubs, CALM employees and interested people, mainly from Perth.

One woman I met was over 60. She had completed the entire Bibbulmun Track walk in 31 days in pretty rough conditions, so this was a holiday for her.

The sun was rapidly setting on Sunday. It was time to wind up what had proved to be a constructive, enjoyable weekend at Fitzgerald. Sunday night was spent relaxing around the barbecue talking to friends who had the day before been new faces.

Most of the crew were to return to Perth the next morning. The odd ones stayed on for holidays, and others drove home themselves.

I am sure many new friendships were made there, in the common interest of wanting to make a special place better. The organisation and spirit in which the work was done should be commended and I for one am thankful for the experience gained in the CALM Volunteers Program.



CALM wildlife officer Doug Coughran pictured with the entangled duck.

Rare flora finds

Over the past six months 10 new populations of declared rare species and 17 new populations of priority flora have been found in the Northern Forest Region.

Most of these finds have been made by forester Les Robson.

Of these, the most significant finds were:

*largest known population of scarlet *Leschenaultia laricina* (largest population ever recorded - 20-50 clumps) and *Drakea jeanensis* (100 plants).

*largest known population of pygmy sundew (*Drosera occidentalis*) found on Lane-Poole Reserve (about 15,500 plants).

*substantial population of Purdie's donkey orchid (*Diuris purdiei*) found on Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve (about 800 plants).

Others included *Calyrix sylvana* (14,300 plants), *Eucalyptus argutifolia* (largest population ever recorded - 20-50 clumps) and *Drakea jeanensis* (100 plants).

Focus on Burrup

Pilbara Regional staff recently participated in a Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) activity in Karratha that focussed on the Burrup Peninsula.

Greg Oliver, Peter Kendrick and Steve Van Leeuwen from CALM, and Roger Solomon from the WA Museum, looked at management planning for the Burrup with a group of year six and seven pupils.

They presented information on flora, marine biology, zoology, ecology and Aboriginal sites of the area.

Students then completed work sheets, studied videos and practiced research techniques before a day-long excursion to the site to study the environment.

The students are now compiling information gathered and are developing management plans for the area. They will include diagrams, photographs, and illustrations.

This material will be displayed in either the local shopping centre or community library.

It's the third year CALM has participated in PEAC activities in Karratha.

The first activity discussed the use of native plants for shade and shelter as part of establishing an energy-efficient home, and last year information officer Judy Napier played the part of a ranger in a six-week "Earthcare takers" program.

Pump is a first

Kirup (Central Forest Region) has scored a State first by installing an old-style hand-operated water pump in a recreation area.

This cast iron structure, as well as being ornamental, is extremely functional, providing a limited water supply from each pump of the handle.

Recreation officer Nick Wolfrey jumped at the idea to solve the problem of how to deliver water to the Golden Valley picnic site without wasting a limited water supply.

Public comment on the pump has been favourable and it is hoped that its robustness and the use of security washers to attach it will minimise vandalism.

A specially designed stand covers the well and allows use by disabled people.

The pump is only one of a number of innovative ideas being worked on at the tree park, and complements the gazebo information shelter,

walk trails, bridges and historic homestead.

Details of the structure can be obtained by telephoning Neil Taylor at CALM Bunbury on 097 254 300.

Bridging finance

To get the most out of each budget dollar, Jarrahdale district decided to construct bridges using district personnel.

In the past 12 months two bridges have been built at Gooralong recreation site and Cobiac Rd. Timber was dressed using an Alaskan saw. The designs are ex-Forests Department and have been modified by senior forester Terry Ashcroft.

By building bridges with district personnel, cost savings have been made and personnel are justifiably proud of the finished product.

- DAVID LAMONT.

Safety award

CALM's Pilbara staff were recently presented with an award for completing four years' work without a lost-time accident.

Staff were also presented with a number of Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP) awards for completion of a competition run from March

to October 1989 to reduce or eliminate medical treatment and lost time accidents, and continuing a safety-conscious works program.

Ian Old, visiting the Pilbara to run a work safe course, made the presentations on Dr Syd Shea's behalf.

Each person received a director's chair and the region was awarded a number of certificates.



Thoughtless waste of life

Several members of the public notified CALM after spotting the domestic duck at Tomato Lake in Kewdale.

However, the animal managed to elude capture for several days.

The strap was caught around its head and beak, preventing it from feeding and moving around freely.

Doug said that the incident was a classic example of plastics and other litter causing havoc to fauna.

He said that although this case involved a domestic duck, wildlife officers received many calls about such injuries to native fauna.

When the duck was finally caught by a member of the public, it was so

severely injured that it had to be put down.

Following this incident, Public Affairs received a call about another duck at Tomato Lake that had met the same fate, and a CALM wildlife officer reported that he had had three calls reporting similar victims in just one day.

Entomologists visit

Professor Don Dahlsten from the University of California (Berkeley), and Professor Wayne Berisford, from the University of Georgia, visited CALM in May.

The visit was sponsored by Central Forest region and the Entomology Research Program.

Led by CALM forest entomologists Janet Farr and Ian Abbott, the visiting entomologists examined two sites in the Ferndale radiata pine plantation, near Kirup, where two parasitoid species and two predator species of the Ips bark beetle have been released since 1988.

The professors confirmed the establishment

of one of the parasitoid species - the wasp *Roptrocercus xylophagorum*.

Confirmation of the establishment of the other three species will require more effort. Tom Burbidge and Paul Van Heurck have recently transferred pine

billets from Ferndale and the other release site, Pinjar, to cages at the Como Research Centre.

Data collected will enable the level of parasitization of Ips to be quantified.

Accident rate low

The number of days lost due to accidents in the 12 months to June 1990 was 1173 - up 237 on the 936 lost in the year to June 1989. The number of medical treatment accidents dropped to 115 in the year to June 1990, down from the 135 for the previous 12 months.

In June last year, there were five lost-time accidents and 16 medical treatment accidents. This year, the figures were three and eight respectively. The various injuries ranged from a strained groin to a serious eye injury. There were no common accidents during this period.

CALM NEWS

A QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING
TOPICS AND STRUCTURE



DEPARTMENT
OF
CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

CALM NEWS READER SURVEY

Dear Reader

We'd like to improve CALM NEWS, to ensure that it is a relevant and useful newsletter for you.

Now I know that your first reaction will be: "It's great already, how can you make it better?"

There are many ways, but only you can tell us.

Take a few minutes, complete this questionnaire and return it by Friday September 21, 1990 to:

CALM NEWS Survey
Public Affairs Branch
Cygnnet Hall
Hackett Drive
CRAWLEY WA 6009

We'll listen and you'll notice the difference.

Ronald Kawalilak
Manager
Public Affairs Branch

SECTION A (tick the appropriate box)

1 Are you a regular reader of CALM NEWS? YES NO

Why? _____

2 Does your family (spouse, children) read CALM NEWS? YES NO

3 How much time do you spend reading CALM NEWS? _____

4 Do you find CALM NEWS informative? YES NO

5 Do you like the format or newspaper style of CALM NEWS? YES NO

Why? _____

6 What stories do you like most? _____

(continued overleaf)

SECTION A (continued)

7

What stories do you like least? _____

8

What do you believe should be the main purpose of *CALM NEWS*? _____

9

If you could change *CALM NEWS* what would you change? _____

10

Would you like to see more stories about your particular section/branch in *CALM NEWS*?

YES NO
 OCCASIONALLY

11

Is *CALM NEWS* available at your work place (office, station, branch, regional office?)

YES NO
 OCCASIONALLY

12

Are there any topics which you feel should receive more coverage in *CALM NEWS*?

YES NO

If yes, what are those topics? _____

13

Would you like to write for *CALM NEWS*?

YES NO

If yes, what topics would you like to write on? _____

NB: contact Tanyia Maxted at Public Affairs Branch ☎ (09) 389 8644 or fax (09) 389 8296.

(see next page for Section B)

SECTION B

Do you agree that these *CALM NEWS* topics should be included in future editions?

[rate your answers as: 1 = strongly agree, 2 = agree, 3 = indifferent, 4 = disagree, 5 = strongly disagree.]

■ Policy changes/developments	1	2	3	4	5
■ New technology involving CALM	1	2	3	4	5
■ Nature reserves/national parks	1	2	3	4	5
■ School activities involving CALM	1	2	3	4	5
■ Cartoon (<i>Ranger Roopaw</i>)	1	2	3	4	5
■ Coming Events	1	2	3	4	5
■ Updates on programs	1	2	3	4	5
■ Personal profiles	1	2	3	4	5
■ Photography section	1	2	3	4	5
■ Regional news	1	2	3	4	5
■ Work position changes (transfers, promotions etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
■ Editorial	1	2	3	4	5
■ Letters to the editor	1	2	3	4	5
■ Human interest stories (involves staff)	1	2	3	4	5
■ Other	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION C

Where do you work? (e.g. Tick where most of your working hours are spent.)

Metropolitan area

Country area

Any other comments? (Add an extra page if necessary.)

Thank you for taking part in this survey.
Your participation in this questionnaire will improve *CALM NEWS* and lead to a more informative and enjoyable newsletter.