

CALM NEWS

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

September-October 1990

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Rare flowers bloom

by ANDREW BROWN

WA is deservedly renowned for its spectacular displays of wildflowers. More than 8000 species have so far been named.

With many more yet to be described, this number is likely to increase to more than 10,000 once the task of collecting our rich and diverse flora is complete.

With such a wealth of species it's not surprising many have developed special habitat requirements for their survival and therefore occur only over very narrow geographical ranges.

Special legislation has been adopted to protect the most endangered of these. Currently 247 taxa are declared as rare and endangered within the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Over the next few months many of our endangered species will bloom. Illustrated here are five of the rarest. Further information on these or any of the other declared rare species may be obtained from the new CALM publication *Western Australia's Endangered Flora*.



Caladenia sp

Growing to 20cm high, the hinged dragon orchid is known from just a few sandy rises fringing salt lakes between Meckering and Coorow.

Flowering Aug. - Oct.



Darwinia macrostegia

Known only from hillsides and valleys in the Western part of the Stirling Range National Park, the Mondurup bell is unique for having the largest of all Darwinia bells.

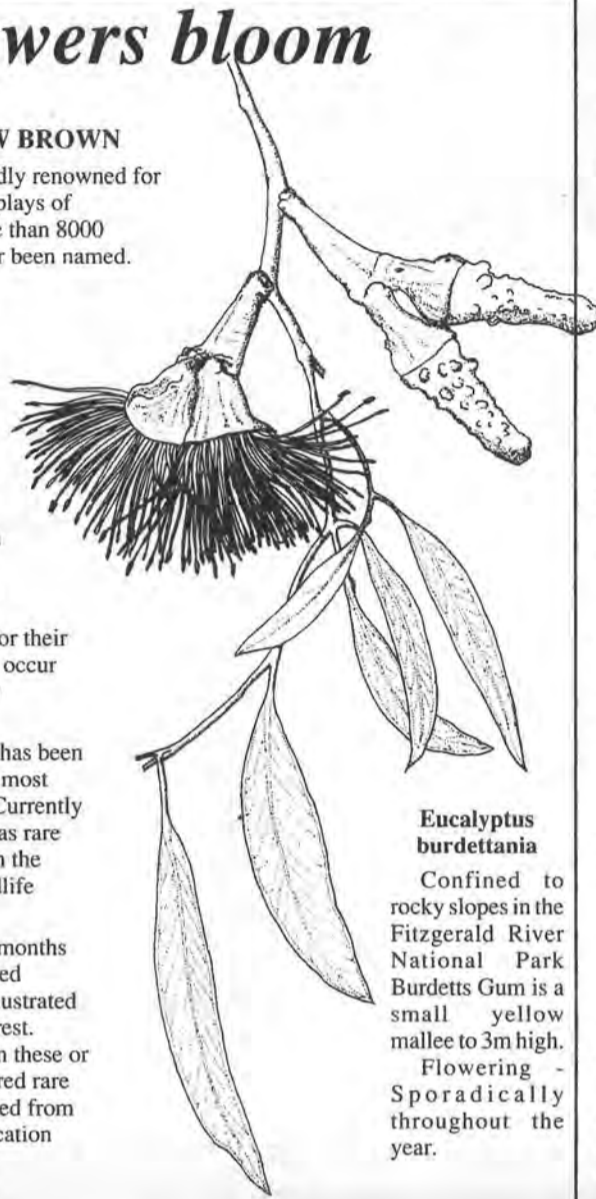
Flowering Aug. - Nov.



Caladenia sp

Growing to 60cm high, the grand spider orchid has the longest labellum fringe of all our Caladenia species. It occurs in banksia woodland between Perth and the Scott River plains.

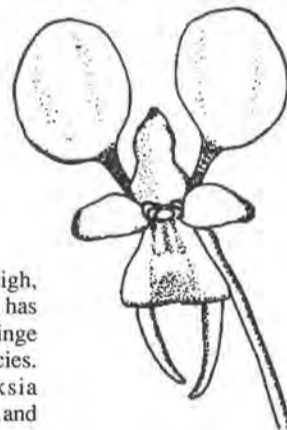
Flowering Sept. - Oct.



Eucalyptus burdettiana

Confined to rocky slopes in the Fitzgerald River National Park Burdett's Gum is a small yellow mallee to 3m high.

Flowering - Sporadically throughout the year.



Diuris sp

The swamp donkey orchid is confined to a single winter-wet swamp near Medina. Growing to 30cm high, it has up to eight pale yellow flowers with dark maroon markings.

Flowering Aug. - Sept.

Illustrations by
Sue Patrick
CALM Botanist

Praise for wood study

CALM's four-year study into better utilisation of small eucalypt timber in Australia was recently praised by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Simon Crean.

Mr Crean cited the Department's cooperative efforts in working with the forest products industry and the Commonwealth towards sustainable development in forest products at a special ceremony to unveil the final report of CALM's Small Eucalypt Processing Study, *Out of the Woods*.

The study established markets for the thinnings from overcrowded regrowth eucalypt forests across Australia and increased the supply of high quality wood for furniture manufacture.

In presenting the report, Environment Minister Bob Pearce said the results would ease the pressure for logging of mature forests.

Out of the Woods details technological achievements made by CALM's Wood Utilisation Research Centre as a result of the Small Eucalypt Processing Study.

These include the CALM Drying System, the GUM-TREE computer model of the timber industry, and VALWOOD, an innovative process to turn waste wood - which would otherwise be left in the forest to rot - into high quality products such as furniture.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea handed over the first VALWOOD commercial development licence to Spearwood company Karrivale Pty Ltd, a member of the Timber Traders Cockburn group.

Karrivale representative Robert Guerini then presented Dr Shea with the first research and development cheque for \$12,000.

CALM has received many commercial expressions of interest from the Eastern States following a series of technology exchange workshops based on the Small Eucalypt

Processing Study's developments.

The study met its objectives on time and within budget, thanks mainly, Dr Shea said, to the work of Phil Shedley.

On display at the ceremony were several VALWOOD products, including a Designer 2000 chair made by the furniture company Swan Valley.

Swan Valley and its designer, Max Lesser of Melbourne, are part of the networking team promoting VALWOOD furniture in Australian and overseas markets.



Federal Minister for Science and Technology Simon Crean talks about the finer points of Out of the Woods with Phil Shedley.

Focus on Walpole-Nornalup

The endangered noisy scrub-bird is being reintroduced to the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

This and other conservation measures were contained in a draft management plan for the park released for public comment in July.

The plan proposes greater protection for the noisy scrub-bird and the park's 108 other bird species, 21 mammal species, 12 reptile species and nine species of frogs.

The scrub-bird is one of four gazetted rare bird species found in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, and is the subject of an intensive translocation program on the south coast (see page 7).

Other rare birds are the red-eared firetail, western bristlebird, black bittern and red-winged fairy wren.

The chuditch and common ring-tail possum are two gazetted rare mammals that occur in the park.

Other mammals include

the honey and pygmy possums, quokka, southern brown bandicoot and brush-tailed phascogale.

Copies of the draft management plan are

available at CALM offices in Walpole, Manjimup and Perth (Como). It can also be viewed at the Manjimup and Denmark Shire council offices and at local libraries.



Environment Minister Bob Pearce discusses the plan with Director of National Parks Chris Haynes, Southern Forest regional manager Alan Walker and planner Vanessa Smith.

Whale watching

More than 2000 humpback whales are expected to pass Perth's coastline this year on their annual migration south after breeding in the State's warm northern waters.

Many will be nursing new-born calves.

Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce recently launched the 1990 whale watching season at Underwater World, Hillarys. CALM briefed commercial boat operators on the Department's Whale Watcher's Code in August.

This stipulates the distances boats must keep from a pod of whales at certain speeds, and the number of boats allowed in the area at one time.

The code is contained in a whale watcher's log book recently published by the Department and given to commercial boat operators

and media camera-men to enable them to participate in valuable whale research.

It's the second year commercial whale watching has been run in WA.

Humpback whales have

managed to come back from the brink of extinction and are now regular seasonal visitors to WA waters.

Scientists estimate an annual population increase of eight to nine per cent.

Park doubles

A major addition has been made to one of the national parks of WA's south-west karri forest.

The addition of 1615 hectares of former State forest to the 1460-hectare Warren National Park near Pemberton more than doubles its size.

There are now significant areas of national park surrounding Pemberton to protect the area's conservation and tourism values. The addition of the State forests to Warren National Park will also allow greater access to the park

along the popular tourist roads of Vasse Highway and Rioter Road.

This changing of land tenure from State forest to national park is in line with current Government policy, and was foreshadowed in the Regional Management Plan for CALM's Southern Forest Region.

The two forest areas, situated about 12 km south-west of Pemberton downshift, contain fine stands of old growth karri, some of which are between 250 and 300 years old.

FROM MY DESK

I recently visited Dwellingup for a safety presentation. It was enjoyable to go back and meet people I worked with for many years, but from what my workmates recounted to me it would appear that I am remembered not for my contributions to an understanding of the jarrah forests but for idiosyncratic behaviour. Notwithstanding this, it was good to talk to people who live and work in a real bush town. The visit, however, was tinged with sadness because since my last visit to Dwellingup, Jimmy Warren, one of the great all-time overseers, had passed away.

Jimmy was my overseer when I first started work at Dwellingup as a 16-year-old. Unbeknown to him he had more effect on me than any of the numerous academics that I encountered subsequently during my training. I remember two outstanding characteristics of Jimmy Warren. One was his indefatigable cheerfulness. The second was his capacity for work. He epitomised the work ethic. I remember being in Jimmy's gang swamping behind a bulldozer which was constructing a new road. My job at exactly 9.50am was to run ahead and have the billy boiling so that when the rest of the gang arrived there was no waiting around for a cup of tea. At precisely 10.10am we were up again following the bulldozer.

Jimmy Warren was an excellent example of the quality of the people that we employ in the bush. In more recent times I believe that we have not recognised the value of our overseers and wages staff. I am hopeful that out of the award restructuring process their status will be lifted, because I believe that given the opportunity, they can make a great contribution towards lifting the productivity of this Department.

In the literature about management, there are often references to role models and leaders, but usually examples are given of executives. One of my role models was Jimmy Warren. I am sure, because he was human, he had flaws, but I never saw them.

—SYD SHEA

New park created

The State Government is to create a new national park in the Shark Bay region following successful negotiations to acquire a 300,000 hectare pastoral station on the Peron Peninsula.

The station will cost \$1.1 million and its purchase will allow the Government to take steps to protect the environmentally significant northern end of the peninsula.

The station is part of a major long-term plan to turn Shark Bay into an internationally acclaimed recreation and conservation area. The northern point of the peninsula is presently used for cattle. However, when the Government takes over the land, it is hoped it will be able to regenerate.

Successive governments have attempted to acquire Peron Station for public purposes since 1978.

Donation to charity

Safety-conscious staff from CALM's Bunbury office recently donated \$1620 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The money, awarded to staff for their perfect safety record over the past 12 months, is usually spent within the office on individual gifts that can be used at work.

However, the 60 staff decided to donate it to charity - for the second time. Two years ago they celebrated a five-year accident-free record with a similar donation to the Heart Foundation.

Central Forest Region regional manager Don Spriggins presented the money to Royal Flying Doctor Service public relations officer Bobbie McSloy at a special award ceremony.

Mr Spriggins said the Department was strongly committed to its safety and welfare program and had achieved many milestones.

He said the ceremony was particularly satisfying as it recognised the substantial efforts made by all staff every working day to carry out their jobs in a safe manner, often in hazardous environments.

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REWARD \$100

FOR THE RECOGNITION AND CAPTURE
ALIVE

of *Eucalyptus mundijongensis*

First spotted standing on a street verge in Jarrahdale in 1909 and again alongside the railway line near Mundijong sometime during 1918.

A tall and handsome tree, it is nevertheless very shy and goes to extraordinary lengths to avoid detection. Its ability to stand very still for extended periods and to merge inconspicuously with its surrounds has led to the total despair of many an enthusiastic botanist.

The above advertisement has been circulated - complete with incriminating sketches of fruit, buds, pollen and leaves - as a community awareness project promoted by the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Land Conservation District Committee and the Armadale-Kelmscott branch of the WA Wildflower Society. It was sent to CALM News by Jarrahdale forester Ralph Smith.

Ralph said that one tree of the rare eucalypt species existed near Boyanup and several had been sighted around Mundijong and Jarrahdale many years ago.

So - if you happen upon such a tree, please contact Ralph on (09) 525 5177, and post your specimens to the Wildflower Society, P.O. Box 124, Armadale 6112, to claim your reward.



Cadets finish project

CALM's 2nd year cadets recently completed two weeks' work on the South Coast.

The cadets upgraded facilities, rehabilitated exposed areas, and built an information podium at Little Beach in the Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, 30 km east of Albany.

The project began in March when the cadets attended a one-week recreation landscaping course in Albany.

There they learnt basic landscape design, how to cater for the public's needs, and how best to develop a site - without too much disturbance to the surrounding area - so as to enhance and promote an area's natural features.

The cadets ordered their own materials, formulated a works program and liaised with the Albany district to ensure things ran smoothly.

Construction took place in May. A pathway and steps were built down to the beach, parking bays defined with pine barriers, exposed sites carefully rehabilitated using special fibre matting and biodegradable netting, handrails and signs erected, and a granite podium constructed in the car park to house public information.

The cadets were assisted on their project by Albany district landscape architect Malcolm Budd, and Alan Sands from Recreation and Landscape Branch.

Letters

Let there be more Shannons

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you that a friend and I recently visited Cape Range National Park and whilst there, enjoyed ourselves to the utmost.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly we visited Milyering Visitors' Centre and the attention we received was first-class.

We are circumnavigating Australia by way of Toyota Landcruiser and have not received such expert attention to date.

My hat is off to the two ladies we met on the 28.6.90, one being a volunteer.

Now that I have mentioned the word volunteer, this brings me to my second reason for enjoying CRNP as I did. We met a true gentleman at Osprey Bay campsite by the name of Ian Ulyatt, who also volunteers his time to the CALM movement.

We spent some time with your host and through our conversation we realised that the man responsible for Ian's enrolment in CALM was a ranger by the name of Nathan McQuoid.

I cannot speak highly enough of Ian, Nathan and the volunteer program that CALM is involved in.

I would like to thank (personally) Nathan McQuoid for Ian's induction, but as I may never return to this area

unfortunately this is impossible.

I am writing in hope that you may pass my wishes onto this enterprising ranger and give him a "pat on the back" from myself.

I also believe his area of control covers Shannon townsite.

I visited Shannon on my way through this area and so far have found this wonderful little spot to be a highlight of travel in WA.

Once again thank you Ian, Nathan and CALM for an enjoyable stay in WA.

Yours sincerely,
Philip Lawrence.

P.S. There should be more Shannons.

Grateful tourers

Editor,

Recently while on holidays, we toured through the Hamersley Range National Park.

Unfortunately we had two simultaneous punctures in our car's tyres.

Luckily, not 10 minutes after this had happened, one of your CALM rangers came along.

I think his name was Mr Maitland. He must be one of the most capable and reliable people I've ever met.

He took two of our party back to park headquarters and quickly and expertly repaired the two punctured tyres.

We were extremely grateful to him and to the other ranger who provided

two inner tubes.

Could you please extend our thanks to Mr Maitland and the other CALM officer.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs C. Ralph.

Easter antics

Editor,

For the Easter weekend, several of our members undertook a trip to the Shannon National Park. As we set up camp in what must be the best camping area we have encountered, one of the volunteer campground hosts visited us with a brochure of the activities that were planned for the Easter break.

We couldn't believe our luck at picking not only a great camping spot, but having all these activities available to us as well.

That afternoon we joined other campers in the trout and marron fishing demonstration and talk conducted by ranger Terry Goodlich. Terry's knowledge of fishing and marroning was exceptional and everybody there not only enjoyed it but learned a great deal. Well done, Terry.

We introduced ourselves to ranger Nathan McQuoid and asked if he could assist in planning day outings for us.

With the aid of our maps, he showed us points of interest and how to get there.

Our members also joined in other activities that CALM had organised for the weekend such as the Shannon Shindig on

Saturday night and the Spotlight Walk through the forest on Sunday night.

To the CALM team down at Shannon River we would like to say "thank you" and "well done". To Nathan McQuoid we would like to say a special thank you for his valuable assistance and friendship, and in promoting a greater understanding between CALM and the Four Wheel Drive Movement.

We would appreciate you passing on our thanks to these people, as they really did do a wonderful job.

We would be pleased to receive any information on other such activities that may be planned for the future.

Geoff Wait
SECRETARY

Our parks praised

Editor,

During a recent visit to Perth, I was given the chance to inspect some of the national parks, marine parks

and interpretive centres of which CALM has control. The opportunity gave both myself and my backbench committee the chance to see another Government instrumentality coming to grips with the environmental management issues that seem to characterise our times.

While this opportunity stemmed partly from personal contacts, staff from my office have met with members of CALM. You obviously played a role in the professionally executed exercise of which we were fortunate enough to be a part.

Would you please accept this letter as a measure of my thanks and extend those thanks to Gil Field and his section.

PAT COMBEN

Minister for Environment and Heritage
Member for Windsor
Brisbane

Bunbury conference

Wood Production in Land Management is the theme of the Australian Forest Development Institute's 1990 Biennial Conference to be held in Bunbury in October.

Several CALM speakers will address the conference, which will look at land use and environmental issues, research, development, and technology in forestry.

Topics include salinity, tree establishment, agroforestry, genetics and tree breeding, utilization development, and share farms.

The conference runs from October 5 to 8. For further information contact Peter Beatty at Manjimup on 097 711988.



CALM Narrogin staff watch as overseer Ron Giles plants a tree as part of his retirement ceremony. Ron and his wife Ethel plan to start their retirement in Jarrahdale.

Overseer retires

Narrogin overseer Ron Giles has retired after more than 29 years' service.

As a child, Ron lived at the Department's settlement at Lol Gray, established during the development of the mallet plantations, east of what is now the Dryandra settlement.

Both his mother and father were employed by the Forests Department. His mother assisted with fire-watching from the Lol Gray Tree, which Roger Underwood and Jack Bradshaw restored in 1986.

Ron joined the Forests Department in 1960

as an overseer at Contine Settlement, south of Dryandra. His wife Ethel and their five children also lived at Contine before moving to Dryandra. They moved into Narrogin in the late 1960's.

Ron continued to work in all areas of operations within the district, as a grader driver, faller, carpenter, stonemason, towerman, fire-fighter, tree planter and nurseryman. His last few years have been spent as overseer in the nursery, being relieved of the sometimes demanding work in the field.

Ron's eldest son Doug is currently working with the Department at Jarrahdale, where Ron and Ethel plan to

start their retirement.

An oral history of Ron and Ethel's life and times now held at the Battye, Woodvale and Narrogin libraries, covers the time they were associated directly with Dryandra State Forest and the establishment of the mallet plantations.

For Ron's retirement, an afternoon ceremony was held, followed by a gathering at the Narrogin Club with other CALM employees and friends to wish Ron all the best.

Among other gifts, Ron was presented with a large photo of juvenile numbats taken by Bert Wells, a well known wildlife photographer.

Low profile despite a bridge-building role

by TANYIA MAXTED

When the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority recently made a public comment on the proposed coal-fired power station for Mt Lesueur, the media's first question was: what is the NPNCA? Is it a government body?

According to Authority chairman Norm Halse, the media knew nothing about it.

This low profile concerns Authority members, and particularly Norman Halse, the recently retired WA Director General of Agriculture who was one of the three-member taskforce which looked into land resource management in WA, resulting in the formation of the CALM Act, CALM, and the Authority.

"The NPNCA is not well known," he said, "and without being widely known it can't fulfill its primary purpose as a vehicle, as it doesn't get input from the community."

Norman said the NPNCA's principal role was to provide a vehicle for input into the Government's management of the conservation estate of WA for interested people in the community.

To this end, the NPNCA consists of community members who represent a number of interests: volunteer conservation, recreation in natural areas, fishing, local government, professions concerned with the environment, and academia.

The Authority also has representatives from CALM who are ex-officio members. This enables the NPNCA to give what Norman calls 'integrated' advice to the Minister.

"The NPNCA has done this very successfully but

despite its hard work and achievements it's not well known to the public," he said.

"Why? Under the CALM Act, the Authority's principal function is to advise the Minister, and this advice has to have some degree of confidentiality until the Government makes up its mind.

"The Authority doesn't comment to the public or press until it gets permission from the Minister to do so."

The media's surprised response to the Authority's existence when it commented about Mt Lesueur emphasised this problem, he said, and the Authority and the Minister had since discussed the matter again.

It was decided to increase knowledge of the NPNCA, firstly throughout CALM, and then in the wider public arena.

A pamphlet on the Authority, its role, and details about its member representation is presently being prepared and will soon be distributed to all CALM staff.

So just what is the NPNCA? What does it do?

The NPNCA owns WA's conservation estate - all 15 million hectares of it - on behalf of the community.

CALM manages this estate, also on behalf of the community.

In its first five years, the Authority has concentrated on the production of management plans for the estate - the State's national parks and nature reserves.

Under the CALM Act, the NPNCA has to produce management plans for approval by the Minister, delegating the actual work of preparing the plans to CALM's Planning Branch, and acting as a supervisor while the work is carried out.

The Authority likes to see plans at least four times before they go out for public comment, Norman said.

Now that many of the major parks and reserves have management plans finalised for them, or are under way, the Authority will concentrate on its other roles - monitoring how these areas are managed by CALM (how individual management plans are implemented) and acting as an intermediary between the Department and the community.

"The Authority can help build close cooperation between the volunteer conservation movement and CALM," Norman said.

"It believes that it is important for all government

departments to have a close relationship with their constituencies, which in this case comprises volunteer conservation groups.

"The Authority holds the land," he said. "We have responsibility for overseeing the production of management plans and then monitoring their implementation - this will be our main activity in the future.

"Very importantly, it is the bridge between the community and CALM.

"But we have to be known better to achieve this."



Whale of a tale unfolds

Extract from a Memo sent to Andrew Burbidge by Forest Ranger Darren Graham dated 20 July 1990

As a forest ranger in the Wheatbelt Region with a keen interest in wildlife management, I was somewhat surprised (while reading the "Declared Endangered Animals and Specially Protected Fauna" listing, 3 July 1990) to note that the southern right whale *Eubalaena australis* is considered endangered in this

region. I understand that quite extensive summer rains have produced large bodies of water in the region, but I do not perceive these as suitable habitats for the species.

Would it be possible to obtain records of the locations of sightings, as I feel there may be a strong correlation between these sightings and the location of "Cultivated Introduced Flora" on Nature Reserves.

Bill paying moves ahead in the 1990's

CALM has adopted the use of Westpac Master Card to replace Local Purchase Orders (LPOs) wherever possible. To ensure that the procedures for paying the Credit Card Account are sound, usage is being piloted by seven cost centres - Albany, Esperance, Communications, Health & Safety, Internal Audit, Fire Protection and Wildlife Protection.

Once any "bugs" in the system have been ironed out, usage will be extended to all cost centres wishing to take advantage of the system.

It is anticipated that the use of credit cards will reduce paperwork involved in paying accounts as well as the number processed. Another advantage will be the virtual elimination of the time-wasting phone calls from suppliers screaming "Where's my money!!".

As with any new system,

it will mean a reshuffle of priorities. Once the monthly statement is received (around the 14th of the month), priority will have to be given to paying it in time for payment to reach Westpac by the 25th of the month, to avoid the 24% per annum interest charge on overdue accounts.

Other changes required are in attitudes towards who can purchase articles for the Department. The card will have to be issued to the person who goes to suppliers to pick up goods, and generally this won't be the officer in charge. However, the officer in charge will get a statement each month

showing how much each credit card holder in the cost centre has purchased and will be responsible for ensuring payment is made to Westpac on time.

There is a charge levied by Westpac of \$12 per card per annum and this charge has to be met by the cost centre. However, it is felt that the productivity and other benefits to be gained far outweigh this small impost.

Anyone wanting more information can ring accountant IAN FRAME on (09) 367 0226 or the officers in charge of the cost centres currently involved.

Focus on fire research

by LACHLAN McCAW

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

CALM was represented at the workshop by Lachlan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations from

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

Bin there, seen that?

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

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

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

CALM volunteers needed

Wanted - volunteers to spend a weekend in the Goldfields on a picturesque, historically interesting reserve north-east of Coolgardie.

Goldfields Region staff need help to clean up Wallaroo Rocks Reserve, a water reserve with

several historic dams from the woodline era, about five hours drive from Perth.

The Shire of Coolgardie has asked CALM to take over management of the reserve, which has degraded over the past 90 years.

The first task is to clean away decades of litter and

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

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

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

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

Researchers 'on the hop' for survey

History will soon repeat itself when CALM conducts a comprehensive road survey of kangaroos and wallabies in the State forests of the South-West.

It was on October 13, 1970, that 180 volunteers from the Forests Department set out to do such a survey.

Notable volunteers included Frank Batini, Jock Gilchrist, Eric Jenkins, Don Keene, Ron Kitson, Jack McAlpine, Ernie Percival, Steve Quain, Len Talbot, Roger Underwood and Harry Winfield.

This year, researchers Per Christensen and Graeme Liddelow, who planned the original survey, will carry out a similar survey 20 years later (October 17).

Per and Graeme believe that numbers of western brush wallabies may have declined in the late seventies and eighties, and hope the new survey will establish whether or not this is the case.

"The main reason for doing the survey will be to check on wallaby numbers, by comparing present numbers and distributions to the first survey," Graeme said.

"But it will also be interesting to see how the numbers of kangaroos compare to 20 years ago."

In the original survey, 76 teams set out between 5 pm and 7 pm, covering 2642 km through jarrah, karri and tuart forest and south coastal areas.

The survey found that the western brush wallaby was quite common, particularly in the northern forest, and appeared to be confined mainly to the jarrah forest.

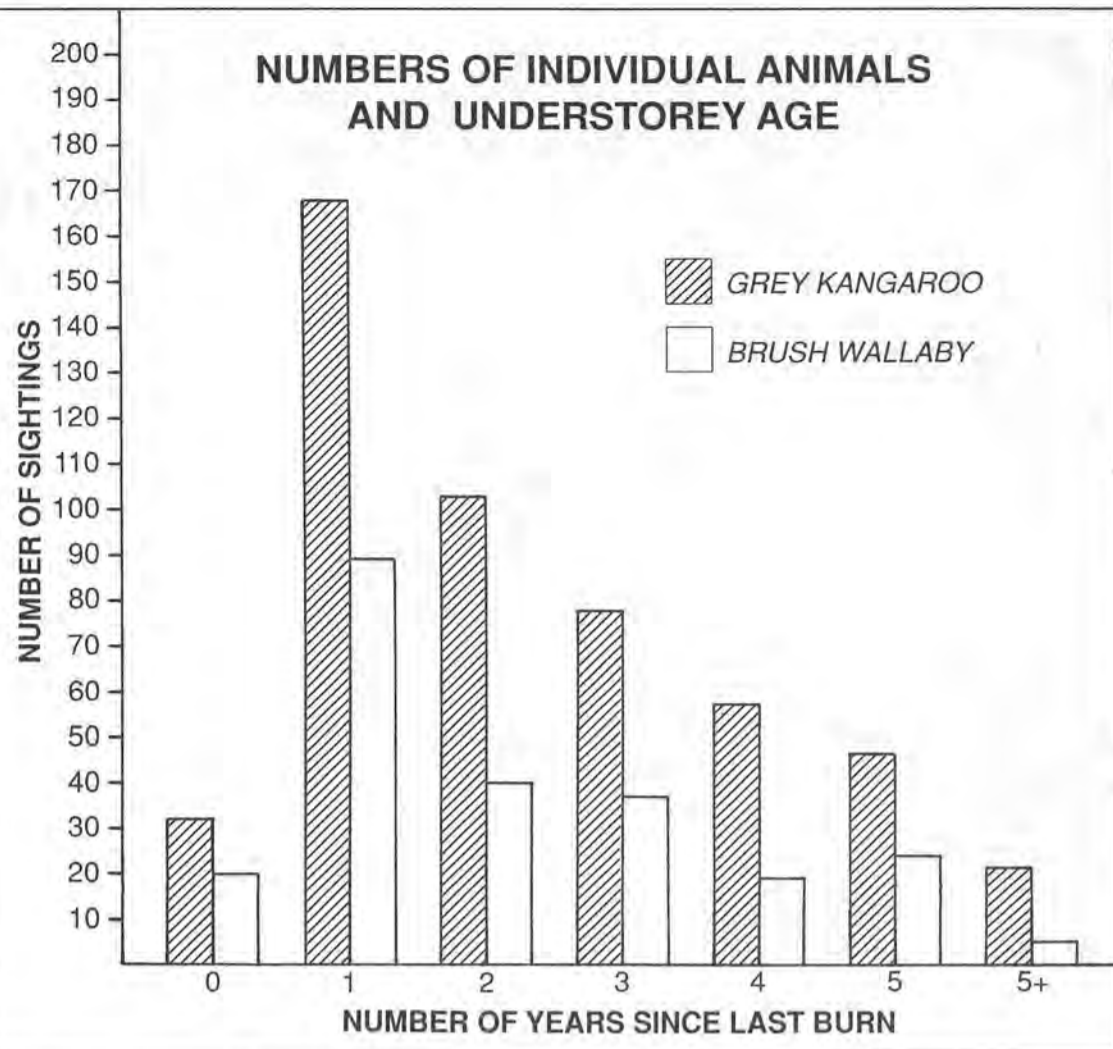
In all, 709 grey kangaroos and 277 western brush wallabies were counted. (Eric Jenkins also saw a bunyip outside the Kirup Tavern - but this sighting was not included as it was recorded after 7 pm!)

A definite relationship was found between the age of scrub understorey since the last burn and the numbers of kangaroos seen. Most kangaroos were seen in the areas burnt in the previous spring. Their numbers gradually decreased as the age of understorey increased.

The 'roos were seen singly or in small family groups of two to three. However, the brush wallaby, though often seen in pairs, seemed largely to be a solitary animal.

It was the first and only survey of kangaroos or brush wallabies carried out by the Forests Department, and possibly the only comprehensive survey carried out on the two species in the South-West forest areas.

People interested in participating should contact: Graeme Liddelow at Manjimup, Sue Moore at Kelmescott, or Kim Williams at Bunbury.



These graphs show the numbers of kangaroos and wallabies recorded during the last survey.

FOREST TYPE	KM TRAVELLED	NO. OF ANIMALS/ 160 KM		
		KANGAROO	WALLABY	TOTAL
Coastal heaths and <i>P. pinaster</i> plantations	158	49	5	54
Jarrah forests north of Collie	1093	22	13	35
Mixed Jarrah-Wandoo forest north of Collie	657	22	25	47
Jarrah forest, Sunklands	201	35	7	42
Jarrah forest south of Collie (western portion)	174	51	15	66
Jarrah forest south of Collie (eastern portion)	166	87	23	110
Karri forest	337	26	1	27

Weed harvester for Peel Inlet

A new suction weed harvester nicknamed Pelican was recently launched by Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce for use by the Peel Inlet Management Authority.

Costing \$250,000, the harvester is based on the only other appliance of its kind, developed by the Wyong Shire Council in New South Wales.

It can harvest up to 16 cubic metres of weed an hour.

Commissioning the Pelican was the first step in a \$1.45 million program to upgrade the Peel Inlet Management Authority's weed harvesting capability - part of an overall strategy for the rehabilitation of the Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary system.

"The new system should enable a lot of weed to be harvested offshore in the shallows before it becomes a nuisance, and with much less beach erosion," Mr Pearce said.

"However, it will still be necessary to use the front-end loaders on the beaches under some circumstances, and harvesting of weed in the deeper offshore waters will continue to be carried out by the conveyor harvesters."

The new harvester is 10.5 metres long, with a beam of 5.5 metres.

Its shallow draft allows it to operate in the extensive shallow areas near the estuary shoreline.

Dive time at Serpentine

by DAVID LAMONT

A group of volunteer divers gathered recently at Serpentine National Park to clean up the park's most popular swimming hole.

As they donned wetsuits, curious visitors wondered just what it was that could possibly entice this intrepid group into the water on such

a cold day. Volunteer divers worked in teams and were soon bringing bags of assorted rubbish to the surface.

Due to the cold conditions, dive times were relatively short, but divers were still able to collect 10 plastic garbage bags full of beer cans, broken bottles, shoes, plastic containers and an assortment of more exotic loot.

This included credit cards (current), sunglasses, plastic sunshades and a Swatch watch covered in grime and slime but still happily ticking away and keeping perfect time.

A find of a quantity of bones caused some concern to divers but these were later identified as those of a hapless kangaroo that must have fallen into the pool.

One item which had

divers puzzled and amused was a sign protruding from the mud with only "Thank You" showing.

When dug out, it read "No Swimming In This Pool Thank You". I had wondered what happened to that sign.

A number of underwater snags that could pose a safety hazard to swimmers were also removed from the pool.

Divers were able to survey the pool which enabled an accurate plan of the pool specifications to be drawn. The pool's depth has always been a contentious issue and many visitors have assured me that the pool was somewhere between 70 metres and bottomless ... another myth laid to rest, and I am now confident that the pool is a modest 8.5m at maximum depth.

The glass and rubbish gathered by the volunteer divers will go some way to removing hazards experienced by swimmers at Serpentine and is a good illustration of some of the more unusual tasks that volunteers can be deployed in.

Disgust at vandalism

Vandalism has reached crisis proportions in CALM's Mundaring-Kalamunda region.

In July, the Midland/Kalamunda Echo reported the extent of this vandalism, quoting a "disgusted" CALM ranger Len Talbot.

Violations on CALM lands and property included:

- * a kangaroo shot and left at the picnic area of The Dell on Mundaring Weir Road.
- * young plants and saplings, only recently

planted in rehabilitated areas and on verges, torn from the ground near Jacoby Park and Mundaring Weir.

* on the heritage trail which extends from Mundaring to the weir, small signs stolen and larger signs broken, wrecked and covered with obscene graffiti.

* trees and native shrubs destroyed at Carinyah, near Karagullen in the Pickering Brook area, and toilets wrecked repeatedly - a vehicle

used to tow away one toilet, which had been bolted into concrete.

* at Carinyah stolen cars regularly dumped and set on fire, picnic tables wrecked and used for firewood. Vehicle drivers use the land as a racetrack, reducing it to a quagmire and wrecking the vegetation.

(Oh, for the tranquility and solitude of the bush, where one can escape from and forget the city, and the rat race...)



CALM forester Peter Burton (far left) with Morley Senior High School principal Graham Smith, CALM Northern Forest regional manager Eric Jenkins, Education Department Executive Director Margaret Nadebaun and Doug Melville from Morley Senior High School.

Icy Creek is an ongoing success

by CAMERON BARR

CALM's Icy Creek Bush Camp is proving to be a highly successful project, attracting up to 100,000 visitors a year.

Situated in Dwellingup, Icy Creek is a joint venture between CALM and Morley Senior High School. While CALM owns the camp, it is run by the school, which attracts sponsors to help maintain facilities.

Dwellingup forester Peter Burton is one of several people responsible for Icy Creek's success.

"It's not a place where you just come and go camping," he said "It's a spot specially set down for those wanting to pursue environmental awareness and scientific studies."

"When kids come out here, they are all equal. And without the distraction they absorb so much."

By the time Morley students leave school they will have completed a three-unit course at the camp, totalling 120 hours, and covering the following topics: orienteering, first aid, science studies on the environment, leadership skills, and living in the natural ecosystem.

Earlier this year, the camp's success was acknowledged at a presentation at the Department of Education, where certificates of participation were given to sponsors.

A video made by students about the camp was shown, and crisp Icy Creek water was enjoyed by all.

Progress with changes

The Corporate Executive recently endorsed a program to implement outstanding recommendations in

the 1987 regional management plans for the northern, central and southern forest regions.

Special projects officer Robert Powell will run the program, concentrating at first on those recommendations the regions have labelled high priority.

The regional management plans contain 448 recommendations affecting land tenure. Action towards implementing more than 200 of these has begun, of which about 70 have been finalised.

According to Robert, more progress has been made with some categories of recommendation than with others.

Of 149 recommendations for parcels of land to become part of national

parcs, action has begun on 125, he said.

Some of these have been finalised, resulting in important additions to the Department's estate, for example the creation of Shannon, Mount Frankland and Tuart Forest national parks, and additions to D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

However, Robert said that little progress had been made with proposals for conservation parks. These cannot be created until legislation to amend the CALM Act is agreed to by Parliament.

Dear Dunny....

Tip of the Month — Waste not, want not

Reprinted courtesy of the Harvey Reporter.

A dunny of a different kind gave up its secrets recently when CALM officer Neil Taylor spirited away bags of the "Stuff".

Three years ago CALM's Harvey district manager Peter Henderson had a Clives Multrum composting toilet installed at the Stirling Dam recreation site.

Affectionately known as Clive, the toilet works by breaking down all the waste products over time to a state similar in texture to peat moss.

The environmentally sensitive process does not use any chemicals.

Natural aerobic bacteria and a constant flow of fresh air from a solar-powered fan, decompose the waste to a dry organic mulch.

Clive has an advantage over conventional "long-drops" because a sealed storage unit prevents leaching into ground wa-

ter, Mr Henderson said.

This was particularly important in a water catchment area like the Stirling Dam, he said.

Although the unit was not expensive, the composting chamber, housed in a cement vault below the toilet, added a little to the overall cost, he said.

"But we learned a lot from the first unit and we think there are better ways to do it now," Mr Henderson said.

But should Clive be welcome in every home?

Apparently this well-designed unit has very few vices.

It has no odour, is free from virus, and will accept many "foreign" objects such as toilet paper, tissues, disposable nappies, bathroom, kitchen and household wastes.

And where did Clive's compost finish up after three years' fermentation? It's understood CALM officer Neil Taylor is sporting a beautiful garden.

South Coast's seminar is No.7

CALM's South Coast Region held its seventh annual seminar at the Woodbury-Boston Environmental School, Torbay, during the second week of September.

Major topics covered this year were: time management (AIM workshop), communications planning (internal and external), tree establishment programs/rural tree advisory service, West Cape Howe management planning and the Fitzgerald fire aftermath.

As usual, several visitors from outside the region attended, including Ron Kawalilak, Public Affairs Branch manager, Ken Wallace (Narrogin) and Greg Leaman (Katanning)

from the neighbouring Wheatbelt Region, Stev Slavin (Northern Forest Region) and Don Keene (Crawley).

The annual seminar has three aims: to provide training and updates on various programs; to provide an opportunity for fellowship between staff who are dispersed across the region from William Bay to Cape Arid east of Esperance and who rarely get to meet each other; and to provide an opportunity to get to know staff from other regions and branches.

—JOHN WATSON

Growing together

CALM tree sales have been boosted by the West Manjimup nursery, which is raising tree seedlings for public sale at the Narrogin nursery.

In the past five years tree sales from the Narrogin nursery to farmers in the wheatbelt, south coast and goldfields have increased to a point where the Narrogin nursery was selling all its trees well before demand subsided.

This year tree supplies have been boosted from the West Manjimup nursery, which so far has supplied the Narrogin nursery with about 58,000 additional trees.

Last year, 110,000 trees were sold by the West Manjimup nursery direct to farmers who each ordered 10,000 or more trees.

From May 1 to July 31 the Narrogin nursery processed 810 orders, totalling about 380,000 seedlings.

CALM despatches seedlings from Narrogin to the districts, and in the

wheatbelt and goldfields. The service is efficient and provides good quality seedlings ready for on-farm planting programs.

Twenty-two tree trips were arranged from May 1 to July 31 to towns including Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Albany, Northam and Merredin.

It was the first time both nurseries had combined for tree sales. The new venture went smoothly - apart from some minor problems with budget transfers and tree collection to boost Narrogin stocks.

According to Narrogin forester Greg Durrell, any problems are small compared with the advantages this venture offers to farmers, who in turn will reap the benefits of more trees being planted to rehabilitate degraded farmland.

Greg said it had been a worthwhile exercise and arrangements were being made for it to continue in 1991.

Numbat watch

Numbats are on the increase in wheatbelt reserves where CALM is carrying out fox-baiting and reintroduction programs.

The rate of sightings at Dryandra Forest is now 30 times that recorded in 1979.

However, in the jarrah forest, no reports have been received from some areas for several years. Is this due to a drop in the population numbers, or have people just lost interest and given up sending in their reports?

If you have seen a numbat in the jarrah forest in the last three years, please phone, fax or write to Tony Friend or Neil Thomas at Woodvale Research Centre with the details (ph 405 5100, fax 306 1641, or P.O. Box 51, Wanneroo 6065).

They need to know precise location, approximate date, time of day and what the animal was doing, as well as your name and telephone number.



Dr Gretna Weste with Dr Ray Wills and Malcom Grant.

Dieback studied

South Coast staff recently hosted a visiting scientist studying jarrah dieback.

Dr Gretna Weste visited WA as part of an Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service survey to identify endangered flora and fauna species and special habitats being threatened by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

During her trip, Dr Weste visited Albany

and was accompanied by field visit coordinator Dr Ray Wills, technical assistant Helen White, South Coast regional manager John Watson and dieback officer Malcom Grant.

Waychinnicup National Park and Mt Hassell in the Stirling Range National Park were also visited.

Plan supported

A recently released plan to prevent the spread of dieback in the Moora District has won the support of an

industry that depends on healthy flora: beekeeping.

Moora District Protection Plan 1990-94 aims to ensure that organisations and individuals who are involved in the management or use of natural lands know how to do so without risking introductions or spread of dieback.

The plan's success depends on the cooperation of local authorities, government departments, mining companies, beekeepers, wildflower pickers, recreationists and anyone else using natural lands.

President of the WA Farmers Federation Beekeepers Section, Kevin McMenemy, has endorsed the plan's principle.

"Beekeepers are conservationists by virtue of their trade, and have experienced the disastrous impact of dieback upon native flora and fauna.

"Consequently we call upon all industries to cooperate and prevent the further spread of dieback."

Mr McMenemy said the plan provided guidelines and all users of natural lands now knew what was required of them.

Staff News

Appointments

Marcus Benbow, officer, Records Branch, Como; Debbie Summers, officer, Metropolitan Region, Murdoch House.

From other departments — Jenny Griffiths, officer, and Rose Ribeiro, officer, Finance Branch, Como; Julia Lewis, computer systems officer, Como; Helen White, technical officer, Manjimup Research.

Gordon Wyre, senior biologist, Wildlife, Como joined the Department, also Jeffrey Davis, user support officer, Inventory, Como.

Promotions

John Skillen, regional operations officer, Bunbury; Jane Tomsons, personal secretary, Crawley; Ken Atkins, senior biologist (Flora) Wildlife, Como; Alan Briggs, regional planning officer, Kelmscott; Kevin Vear, regional operations officer, Bunbury; Mike Jubb, technical officer, communications branch, Como.

Elin Hantler, to forest

ranger, Inventory, Kelmscott.

Transfers

Mike Cully, technical officer, to Manjimup; Mike Meinema, forest ranger, to Yanchep.

Rick Mitchell, forest ranger, Walpole; Peter White, senior forester, Narrogin; Dr John McGrath, senior research scientist, Busselton; Greg Heberle, Management Control, Crawley; Gerry Deegan, mobile ranger, to a resident position at Kalbarri.

Retirements

Cec Barrow, ranger-in-charge, Avon Valley National Park, after 19 years; also George Calvert, forester, who began as a forest worker in 1969 and later became technical assistant, Wanneroo Research.

Colin Gibbs, the longest-serving ranger in the Department, after 27½ years at Yanchep.



Seabirds blown off course

CALM wildlife officers and community volunteers helped care for many rare feathered visitors to our coastline this winter.

Battered and blown off course by

storms, birds such as this broad-billed prion and a kerguelen petrel, pictured above with wildlife officer Lyall Gilbert, were rehabilitated and then released back to sea.

Volunteers honoured



Pat and Sid Gammon, two of the Volunteers of the Year, with their awards received for their efforts on Penguin Island.

Conservation volunteers who give up their free time to help the environment have been recognised by CALM.

At a recent function at Crawley, Environment Minister Bob Pearce and CALM Executive Director Syd Shea praised the outstanding efforts and achievements of 600 volunteers who assist the Department.

Six volunteers were presented with Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service awards, while other volunteers from projects around the State received certificates of appreciation.

"Volunteers are invaluable contributors to conservation endeavours in this State," Mr Pearce said.

"With their help, CALM has been able to provide more

services to the public in national parks and forests and advance research and management projects aimed at saving and nurturing wildlife.

"It's vital that we not only recognise the valuable contribution these volunteers are making to the environment, but also to the community as well."

CALM has initiated 30 volunteer programs in the past year and will continue to welcome volunteer help in conservation projects.

Current projects include providing information services for visitors to Penguin Island and Marmion Marine Park, establishment and maintenance of a wildflower garden at Yanchep National Park, campground hosting in national parks and turtle tagging in the north-west.

Photographs by:
**TANYIA
MAXTED**



Friends of Marmion Marine Park (from left) Rob Troeth, Dave Williams, Donna Birch, Mary Williams, Lynda Arnold, George Arnold, Julie Raines and Alan Swan.



Wanneroo parks supervisor Terry Hales (far right) with Yanchep volunteers (from left) Graham Harris (Northern Suburbs branch of Wildflower Society of WA), Joe and Nina Hill and Joy and Ron Davis.



Noisy scrub-bird volunteers (from left) Brian Utley, Darren Murphy, Peter Cale, Otto Mueller and CALM reserves management officer Alan Danks.



Only a few Penguin Island volunteers were able to attend. They were: (from left) Mario Jaksic, Pat and Sid Gammon, Hillary Merrifield, John Morris and Sandra Fincham.

CE Lane Poole Memorial Trust



Applications have been called for this year's C E Lane Poole Award.

The award entitles a CALM officer engaged in field land management activities of a forestry nature to study within Australia and New Zealand for three to six weeks.

The award covers travel, tuition and accommodation costs.

The award recipient will be required to submit a 1500 word report to the trustees and possibly present a brief talk on the study chosen area.

He or she will become a fellow of the trust and be presented with a certificate.

Applications close on Friday, November 2. For further information contact Rick Sneeuwjagt at Crawley.

Former overseer is remembered

Former CALM overseer Jim (Skinny) Warren died recently, aged 74.

To Jim's former workmates, he is remembered for his tireless work in the bush fighting fires, and his habits of whistling to warn he was coming, and always having a peppermint for his friends.

Born into a timber working family in Bridgetown, Jim joined the forest industry at 15 and completed 50 years' service with the Forests Department.

Jim was one of seven children in his family, and all five boys worked for the Forests Department, as did their father.

Jim's youngest daughter Heather continued the family tradition - joining the department after leaving school, leaving in February this year to marry a farmer.

In 1961 Jim and wife Chris lost all their possessions in the Dwellingup bushfire. At the time, Jim and a Forests Department gang were fighting fires miles from home, and when word came through that Dwellingup was burning, didn't know the fate of their families.

In 1981 Jim and Chris retired to Mandurah.



In search of the noisy scrub-bird

by COLIN INGRAM

What's shy and elusive, yet vocal, aggressive and fast-moving?

It's the endangered noisy scrub-bird - a rare and fascinating bird that was for so long thought to be extinct.

Remaining undiscovered for more than 72 years, the species recently improved its status, and now boasts a healthy population of more than 500 individuals within Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve on the South Coast - thanks primarily to the work of some dedicated and energetic scientists and volunteers.

A scientific program managed for the past five years by CALM reserves manager Alan Danks has sought to monitor numbers of noisy scrub-birds and translocate a small number to other areas to re-establish the species where it was once known.

The program is run annually during June and July at the onset of the birds' breeding season. Over the years the program has involved the indispensable help of many volunteers who assist in capturing birds, complete a population census and care for these birds in aviaries before their release.

In previous years the program has caught up to 20 individual birds. This year only 11 birds were caught: nine males and two females. This contrasts with other years where the ratio of male to female was around 1:1.

Alan Danks is philosophical about the lack of success in capturing females in this year's program.

"You can never be too sure when dealing with the noisy scrub-bird," Alan said.

"Their behaviour is always unpredictable. Severe weather conditions affected the program this year, but despite this we managed to catch a reasonable number of males. Hopefully we can build up female numbers next year."

Alan is still determined to assess the factors which have caused the shortfall in numbers.

"We had lots of trouble capturing female birds. Our normal capture technique was not working. Perhaps environmental conditions were not right, or perhaps we have just been lucky in other years," he said.

If this wasn't enough, early on in the program male birds weren't responding to the technique used to capture them. During the breeding season males normally define their territory by making a series of loud and distinctive calls. They actively defend the territory by moving around it calling, discouraging other males from entering. It's this response which is the key to being able to capture them.

The trigger mechanism for male birds to vigorously defend their territory is environmental (probably rainfall). This year the area received unusually heavy rainfall early in March and April, and then endured a long dry spell. This may have

caused the late start to the breeding season.

Alan hopes that by studying past rainfall records he may be able to gain greater understanding of the breeding cycle.

CALM technical officer Ian Wheeler, from Manjimup Research, has been involved with the program for several years and is now a valuable assistant to Alan.

Ian's large appetite is notorious among fellow volunteers and is probably due to long hours spent on the mountain and days spent wandering around Nuyts Wilderness, attempting to relocate birds translocated there over the past two years.

Ian's efforts confirm suspicions that birds translocated to Nuyts in 1986 and 1987 would be hard to find. Despite hearing several males in 1989, no evidence of the 30 birds translocated there was found in 1990.

The program has been more successful in establishing healthy populations of noisy scrub-birds at Mount Many Peaks, and small populations at Mount Taylor and Quarum Nature Reserve are showing promise.

Another major triumph has come out of this year's program. For the first time noisy scrub birds were radio-tracked with the help of Jim Rolfe, a technical officer from Woodvale Research, who used similar transmitter mounting techniques to those used for the endangered ground parrot. With the assistance of volunteers Darren Murphy, Justine Morris and Alison True, Alan and Jim attempted to radio-track a small number of captured birds. Three male birds had small transmitters glued to their back. Once released, it was the task of the three



volunteers to follow the birds through thick coastal scrub with a heavy receiver in hand and an antenna held high above the head.

Two main objectives were set for the pilot study: firstly to see if birds could safely have the transmitters mounted on them and retain them in the thick scrub for a period exceeding three days, and secondly to determine if they could be tracked once released.

One of the birds lost its transmitter during capture in the holding aviary. Contact was lost with a second after being tracked for two days. A third was tracked for five days until the transmitter batteries ran down.

In addition, valuable information about the behaviour of the male noisy scrub-bird was gained. It was

found that newly released birds interact almost immediately with males in established territories. Established males actively force the intruders out to set up territories in nearby areas.

The noisy scrub bird translocation program is another CALM success story. This would not be so without the dedication of Alan Danks, and a small team of CALM officers and volunteers.

Volunteers and staff should be thanked. Volunteers: Wayne Cherington, Brian Utley, Dave Morcombe, Darren Murphy, Bill Cuming, Justine Morris, Mary Jane Crawford, Alison True, Otto Mueller, Martin Cake, Tony Bush and Joan Bush. Staff: Ian Wheeler, Mark True, Alan Burbidge, Alan Rose, Jim Rolfe and Dave Wilson.

IUCN assembly

Achievements made by CALM and challenges still being tackled in environmental issues in Western Australia will be shown to an international audience at a world conservation conference in Perth in November.

The 18th general assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) will be held at the Burswood Convention Centre from November 28 to December 5.

Its theme is "Conservation in a Changing World".

Vital global conservation issues will be discussed at the assembly, including the draft World Conservation Strategy for the 1990's and IUCN's Antarctic Conservation Strategy.

A strategy for IUCN in the 1990's will be adopted.

The IUCN is the world's conservation union. It was founded in 1948 in France under the sponsorship of the French Government, the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cul-

tural Organisation (UNESCO).

IUCN members include the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Sierra Club, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Technical tours for IUCN delegates will be held after the assembly to places of interest throughout WA.

These tours will allow them to see, firsthand, the work of CALM scientists in the field studying endangered fauna species, our metropolitan marine parks and national parks, and wetlands of international significance as recognised under the Ramsar Convention.

Just how long does all that litter last?

CALM staff spend a lot of time picking up and disposing of litter from our parks, forests and reserves. For many it is a reflex action to collect every can, stubbie or filter tip encountered when working in the bush.

What would happen if they didn't? Information from the US Parks Service gives a hint:

- Aluminium cans and ring tops last more than 100 years.
- Glass bottles can last for a million years.
- Plastic can last 20 years.
- Nylon can last up to 40 years.
- Rubber lasts 80 years, and leather up to 50.
- Cigarette filter tips last up to five years.
- Wool and cotton garments last up to five years.
- Apple cores, orange and banana peel last up to five weeks.

There could be some variation on these estimates depending on location, but the message is that CALM's efforts to prevent littering and to clean it up are well worth the effort.



Top left: CALM community involvement coordinator Colin Ingram repairs a mist net for use in capturing noisy scrub-birds.



Above: Reserves management officer Alan Danks checks research equipment.



Left: Volunteer Bill Cuming clears a line in readiness for a mist net.

Top right: Volunteer Wayne Cherinton prepares food for captured scrub-birds.



How's that for a concrete reminder

Stone the crows! Just what am I supposed to do with this - a concrete cockatoo?

Wildlife officer Phil Counsel discovered that a bird in the hand wasn't worth two in the bush,

Phil Counsel's worst fears were realised when fellow wildlife officers gave him this going away present.

after all. At least not when it came to a particular sulphur-crested cockatoo replica. (This one was declared very rare.)

The wildlife officers decided to give Phil a fitting going away present to acknowledge his eight years' service, at their recent annual conference. And the bird was it.

Just when Phil had ("oh no!") accepted this

fact, and started to make a speech, the officers stepped in to give him his real present - a colour TV.

Phil retires at the end of the year. He originally joined the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife after being seconded from the Agriculture Protection Board, joining CALM when it was formed in 1985

Working with caving clubs

by CHRIS HAYNES

One group with which CALM has developed an effective working relationship is the WA speleological clubs.

This relationship extends throughout the State, but is most strongly developed in Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and Boranup Forest (which is about to be incorporated into the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park).

Through officers such as Neil Taylor (parks and reserves officer, Central Forest Region), Ian Rotherham (district manager, Busselton) and Rob Klok (ranger, Leeuwin National Park), CALM is continuing its liaison with the clubs established years ago by John Watson and others in National Parks Authority days.

One Saturday in August, club representatives, led by Rawleigh Webb, Norm Poulter and Keith Tritton, escorted several CALM staff through two of the adventure caves near Boranup.

I was astounded by the

number of people who were caving on that one day. From studying the statistics, I knew interest was on the increase, but being amongst the throng certainly brought the reality home.

There are four tourist caves on the Ridge, all managed by the local tourist bureau, and probably 80 per cent of cave visitors go through these.

CALM manages most other caves on the ridge, of which there are several hundred.

The speleological societies have expressed concern about the protection of these in the face of obviously increasing use. Fortunately open vandalism is very low (interestingly most of what damage there is to the beautiful formations took place very early this century).

One of the major problems lies in the erosion of soft sandy surfaces on cave floors, and the societies, in conjunction with CALM, are taking appropriate protective measures, for example by the provision of marked walkways and boardwalks.

These are similar to

measures taken above ground which are proving to be very effective.

The main purpose of the visit from my point of view was to assess a proposed scheme to issue permits for entry into many caves.

It is proposed that entry into several adventure caves will be by self-registration on the spot; it is also proposed that more fragile areas should be entered, under certain conditions, by permit.

At the end of the day all agreed that the proposal will be made available for public comment as part of implementation of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park Management Plan.

There is no question that the protection of these caves is an important priority for CALM. The damage done early in the century is showing slight signs of recovery (regrowth of perhaps 2 mm in decades), but essentially the caves are an irreplaceable natural asset.

CALM values the speleological clubs' work in protection and public education and looks forward to active cooperation in the years to come.



NPNCA chairman Norm Halse, Pilbara regional manager Hugh Chevis and Environment Minister Bob Pearce on Dolphin Island.



Hugh Chevis, Pilbara regional manager, Jo Sheridan, from the Minister's Office, and West Australian Newspaper reporter Wendy Pryer, on Dolphin Island.

Plan is released

Hugh Chevis and other Pilbara regional staff had their plans foiled by weather when organising the public release of the Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves Management Plan recently.

A planned boating trip to allow Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce to view humpback whales and snorkel on reefs beyond Legendre Island had to be changed when strong winds prevailed.

Instead, a trip through Flying Foam Passage to Collier Rocks was taken, allowing the party to appreciate some of the local management issues.

The draft plan proposes that the island nature reserves be given national park status to enable recreation appropriate to maintenance of the islands' natural and cultural values.

Numerous small and protected beaches were pointed out to Mr Pearce as places popular with Pilbara residents and visitors for camping and daytripping. Zoning of the islands ensures that camping and walking do not conflict with the breeding activities of turtles, wedge-tailed shearwaters and numerous other species which frequent the islands, and that fragile vegetation associations are not disturbed.

While the trip back to Dampier was rough, it was assumed the party would return in time to shower and change for the public release of the draft plan at King Bay Tourist Village. However, the boat conveying the Ministerial party had mechanical problems and was forced to offload its passengers via a tugboat onto industrial wharf north of Dampier.

The impending crisis was averted through the skills of regional office staff who were alerted by a message relayed through the King Bay Game Fishing Club.

However, it was more a case of shorts and thongs at the launch than the formal attire intended. Hugh Chevis and Norm Halse addressed guests representing community groups, individual respondents to the draft plan, regional CALM staff, the Roebourne Aboriginal community and the Shire of Roebourne - after which the Minister launched both the management plan and the local release of the new CALM publication North-West Bound.

- ALLAN PADGETT
Plan Coordinator.

Trees boost profits

Trees planted on farms on WA's South Coast have boosted farmers' annual profits by at least one third and are helping to stop soil erosion and lower water tables.

According to David Bicknell from CALM's Esperance office, farmers' crops and pastures along the South Coast have shown marked yield increases when protected by three windbreaks.

On one farm at Gibson, near Esperance, a six-year-old windbreak helped lupin yields to increase by more than 25 per cent for two consecutive years, David said.

Planted by farmers Garry and Jan English, the windbreak also stopped soil erosion, which was widespread in the area.

property near Esperance were saved from repeated sandblasting by a three-year-old windbreak. The farmer, Les Webster, calculated a profit of 40 per cent per annum on initial planting and establishment costs.

David said these gains were just the tip of the iceberg. Reduced lamb deaths, increased pasture growth and lowering of watertables were all benefits of tree windbreaks on the South Coast, he said.

Busselton's Ken Thorne retires

Busselton District recently bid farewell to overseer Ken Thorne at a party to celebrate his retirement.

Ken joined the Forests Department at Margaret River in 1962.

Workmates, friends and family gathered at the Social Club, Margaret River and joined in to wish Ken a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Brad Commins and Ian Rotherham gave presentations on behalf of the workers and the Department, Bluey Bell expressed thanks on behalf of the crew, and Ken related a few anecdotes about his early years with the Department.

