

NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM LIBRARY

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM LIBRARY

November 1990



CALM reserves management assistant Gary Davidson puts the finishing touches to a boardwalk at a boat mooring point. Photo: Rob Duncan.

\$1 billion to be earned from trees

Forest production could earn Western Australia \$1 billion by the turn of the century, according to CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea.

high value products.

"By planting trees on farms, the environment stands to benefit enormously," Dr Shea said.

"Tree planting has the potential to reverse salination of the Wellington Catchment, which is worth more than \$40 million per annum.

"We now know how to plant trees as a crop on up to 20 per cent of a farm without the loss of agricultural income.

"Research in both Australia and New Zealand has shown the benefits of tree plantations on farms - trees provide shelter for crops and animals, and in many cases the benefits outweigh the loss of agricultural land to tree

planting - significantly increasing the farmer's net income."

Dr Shea said farmers had enthusiastically adopted tree planting programs introduced by CALM.

These programs were genuine joint partnerships.

"The introduction of profitable tree crops into normal farming practice will contribute to rural stability.

"While wool fibre is subject to cyclical downturns, the world demand for wood fibre is increasing dramatically."

Dr Shea added that research conducted by CALM indicated that trees could be grown more efficiently in WA than anywhere in the world.

Dr Shea told delegates at the recent Australian Forest Development Institute 1990 Biennial Conference in Bunbury, that it was possible, by integrating trees into farm management, to establish more than 150,000 ha of trees on cleared agricultural land in the State by the year 2000.

He said that it would be possible to achieve this figure within 10 years, when the value of this resource is added to revenue being generated from native forests which are increasingly being used for

each year and rehabilitation work is helping to prevent more blowouts along the dunes.

A whole range of wildlife live on the peninsula, including birds, reptiles and marsupials, and it is one of the last strongholds of huge tuart trees.

Reprinted courtesy of the Warren Blackwood Times.

Peninsula facilities upgraded

by COLIN SVANBERG

Picnic and camping grounds should be officially opened on the Leschenault Peninsula in time for the summer holidays.

CALM has transformed an area of land opposite Turkey Point at The Cut likely to become a popular destination for campers and day-trippers.

According to CALM reserves management officer Paul de Torres, a beauty of the site is its sense of isolation. The only access to The Cut picnic and camping grounds is by boat. There is a track to the site from the northern end of the estuary, but this will be kept open only for maintenance staff.

Progress at The Cut has been slow, but Mr de Torres says the wait will be worthwhile.

Opening up the peninsula to visitors is part of an overall coastal park plan to be run by CALM for recreational use and public enjoyment. Mr de Torres has overseen work at The Cut since it began about 18 months ago.

The long-term proposal is for another three stages - a picnic ground at Belvidere, a boating centre at the pipeline landfall and campsites at Peppermint Groves.

Rehabilitation is also under way which will eventually see all the SCM acid ponds filled in and revegetated.

The proposals are dependent on funding and a management plan, which is yet to be finalised.

Mr de Torres said facilities at The Cut included shelters, three boat mooring points, 11 camp sites, gas barbecues, camp fire points, an ablution block and a boardwalk at a mooring point to protect fragile vegetation.

Eventually, there will be about 30 unpowered camping

sites and another ablution block.

A fee, similar to that for stays in national parks, is likely to apply from December when the sites are opened to the public.

Over the past three years, the South West Development Authority has contributed \$150,000 to the work, while CALM has injected considerably more funds.

There has also been material support from the Leschenault Inlet Management Authority, Harvey Shire Council and the Department of Resources Development.

Mr de Torres said the aim was to preserve the natural

qualities of the peninsula while providing an opportunity for recreation.

The history of Belvidere will be preserved when it is opened to the public as a picnic area, which may be in another two years.

There is an old timber jetty there which dates back about 150 years, and signs of a commune that was in full swing about 20 years ago. There is also evidence of the old homestead, giant olive trees and palms grown on the Prinsep family farm.

The peninsula is more than 10 kilometres long and has an average width of about one kilometre. It is advancing eastwards by about one metre

Rescued!

Eight bottlenose dolphins stranded in Lake Goegrup near Mandurah in October were safely returned to the Peel Inlet by CALM officers and volunteers.

The dolphins had swum up the Serpentine River from the Peel Inlet and became stranded in the lake's shallows.

CALM officers kept a close eye on the dolphins for a day or two, then formed a human chain with Greenpeace volunteers to herd the animals into a shallow part of the lake. They were then taken to a safe holding area, where veterinarian Nick Gales checked their condition, recorded their sex and measurements, took blood samples and marked them for research purposes, before successfully releasing them into the Mandurah Estuary.

The next day, three more dolphins were found stranded along nearby rivers. Well-meaning onlookers carried two dolphins in the Serpentine River across a sandbar to freedom. Another animal along the Murray River was caught and released into the estuary by wildlife officers.

Chief Wildlife Officer David Mell said the rescue operation was probably the best he had ever been involved in.

A young humpback whale, stranded at Koombana Bay, Bunbury, also in October, was not as lucky as the dolphins. The nine-metre whale, estimated to be a year old and weighing some ten tonnes, had been carefully observed and evaluated by CALM officers.

The whale was not in a healthy condition, and to attempt to refloat the animal could have resulted in a serious injury to the whale, as well as being dangerous for both volunteers and CALM officers. Being so young, the whale could probably not fend for itself in the sea, and possibly had been abandoned by its mother because of its poor health.

To leave the whale where it was would have meant a slow and painful death, so CALM officers decided to euthanase the animal. A detonation expert assisting CALM was taken to Bunbury to euthanase the animal by the careful placement of explosives, causing an instantaneous and painless death.



CALM officer Peter Batt and volunteers transfer a dolphin from lake shallows for transporting into deeper waters. — Photo courtesy The West Australian. (Photo by Ron D'Raine)

FROM MY DESK

At the recent meeting of regional and branch managers in Perth I gave a "pep" talk on "managing in tough times". I told them that several things had changed over the last 12 months. For instance, money is tighter; our work is under the microscope from certain critics in the media; our staff numbers have declined, yet our task is expanding.

At the same time, we don't appear to have much fat - the current productivity and priorities review is the third we have undergone since 1986! Nevertheless, we can always do better. I am sure there must be many inefficiencies or instances of wasted effort in CALM which we can zero in on and cut out. All regional and branch managers have been asked to redouble their efforts to allow everyone in CALM who has a good idea to be heard.

Finally, I told them that when it comes to the crunch of managing through the really tough times of the next six to eight months, they should try their best to stick to these "rules":

- * we will stay within our budgets
- * we will be thoughtful and practical over changes
- * everyone in CALM must be given a say
- * we will maintain our Human Resources programs
- * we will seek new and better sources of revenue
- * we will tell our clients what is going on
- * we will not whinge, but get on with the job of conserving wildlife and managing land as best we can.

Tough times are always temporary. Rather than become depressed, a good attitude to adopt is to use the time to streamline our functions and structures, so we are better able to capitalise on the better times, when they return.

ROGER UNDERWOOD
GENERAL MANAGER

Award finalist

Bungle Bungle (Purnululu) National Park is one of four finalists for a prestigious world environment tourism award.

The awards recognise outstanding examples of environmental protection and improvement in areas frequented by tourists.

"The Bungle Bungle is a special conservation project," said Tourism Minister Pam Beggs, "because it combines protection of the environment with involvement of the traditional custodians, while reconciling the demands of tourism."

Mrs Beggs said CALM had worked closely with the WA Tourism Commission and the tourism industry in the planning of the Bungle Bungle (Purnululu) National Park.

The awards are sponsored by the Tour Operators' Study Group, whose membership comprises 19 of Britain's leading tour operators; the British Tourist Authority, which promotes tourism to the UK from abroad; and

Thames Television's program 'Wish You Were Here', the UK's most popular travel program.

Winners of the three award categories will be announced in January after further assessment by a judging panel chaired by conservationist Dr David Bellamy.

A total of 46 entries from 14 countries were received. These ranged from coral reef reclamation projects to protection of endangered animals; redesigning of resort areas; creation of nature reserves, water and sewerage schemes - all leading to improved quality of the environment.

The British travel industry launched the awards scheme to encourage tourist resorts worldwide to protect and improve the environment for tourists and the local population.

Other award finalists were the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya, a beach maintenance operation in the Seychelles, and the Seven Spirit Bay wilderness park in the Northern Territory.

CALM News — November 1990

Managing Editor: Ron Kawalilak

Editors: Tanyia Maxted,
Helenka Johnson

Published by —

CALM PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRANCH

'Cygnet Hall'

(cnr) Mounts Bay Road & Hackett Drive

CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009

Telephone: (09) 389 8644

Facsimile: (09) 389 8296



Perth's own trees and tall shrubs are hardly known - or grown - by locals. A new book by CALM officer and local plant expert Robert Powell aims to change this.

Written with the assistance of academic Jane Emberson, CALM botanist Steve Hopper and insect specialist Peter McMillan, *Leaf and Branch* combines a wealth of information on the trees and tall shrubs of the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Leaf and Branch is the definitive guide to these species. The large central

New book on Perth's flora

section of the book describes each of the 79 species that commonly grow to a height of three metres or more, and discusses how each species lives, how it fits into its environment and how it is used by other creatures, including humans.

Robert not only describes each plant in detail, but also teaches us how to appreciate them. The book shows us how to collect and grow, study and help ensure the survival of local plants.

The book's delicate illustrations are by Margaret Pieroni and Susan Patrick. Details such as flowers and fruits are added to help in identification.

In writing the book, Robert Powell has combined information from many published articles, and drawn on his lifelong interest in the local environment.

He spent four years writing the book, chiefly in his own time, and took a substantial period of leave without pay to complete the task.

Leaf and Branch is essential reading for anyone with even a passing interest in the natural environment. It is available from CALM offices, bookshops and newsagents for \$24.95. CALM staff receive a 20 per cent discount.



Above: an illustration of a firewood banksia cone (*Banksia menziesii*) by Sue Patrick, which appears in *Leaf and Branch*. Above left: the lucanid beetle *Lamprima sp.*

Design study for Indonesia

Information Services Director Dr Frank McKinnell spent seven weeks in West Timor, Indonesia earlier this year, working with Melbourne consultant firm ACIL on the design study for a watershed rehabilitation project.

Frank contributed forest management, agroforestry and watershed management expertise to a six-person team working on the study.

The team visited Jakarta for discussions with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry and with officials of several international aid-funding agencies.

Existing watershed management projects at Wonogiri, Central Java, and Kali Konto, East Java, were inspected. The team then travelled to West Timor for four weeks for detailed fieldwork in the Mina watershed there, before returning to Jakarta for more consultations.

According to Frank, the watershed of the Mina River in West Timor has severe soil erosion problems, and is considered by the Indonesian Government to be a critical watershed in urgent need of rehabilitation.

The main problems, he said, were due to severe over-grazing by a rapidly increasing cattle population and inappropriate agricultural practices, such as shifting cultivation.

Frank said that forest destruction continued due to intense pressure for land for agriculture, over-grazing and uncontrolled fire.

"Add to this a very difficult climate and adverse soil conditions, with a subsistence agriculture system, and you have a recipe for disaster."

Frank said the answers to such a difficult situation were not easy to find, as a long term solution would require great changes in land management methods - control of cattle grazing and a change in land use for some soil types which were particularly prone to erosion.

"Far greater use of trees, both for reforestation of erosion-prone soils and as part of more sustainable agricultural systems, is essential in West Timor," he said.

This is where Frank's three years' experience with the Australian-funded

ACIAR forestry project in West Timor has come in handy. Much of the research in the ACIAR project on selection of multi-purpose trees for the Timor environment is relevant to the new project, Frank said, as most of the work was designed to find trees which were legumes (capable of improving the soil), and had value for fodder and fuelwood. These features were a requirement for use in the new land management systems needed for Timor.

Frank said watershed rehabilitation was not just a matter of reforestation. It required carefully developed, integrated land use planning, anthropological research to find successful ways of working with Timorese farmers, and a rehabilitation program which involved the cooperation of several Indonesian government departments.

"It also involves more land management research towards the goal of sustainable land use."

"The latter is an area where CALM hopes to provide further expertise in West Timor."

Offenders at work

CALM's Metro Region has begun a pilot program to put juvenile offenders to work in nature reserves.

A trial was recently held at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve, where six young boys completing community service orders spent three weeks brushing tracks to halt soil erosion.

Metro reserves officer Grahame Rowland said the key to the program's success was a good supervisor who could relate to the boys and help them develop an appreciation for work.

He said CALM reserves management assistant Terry Blumer had filled this role, and as a result, further projects were proposed.

Rat attack

The first stage of an operation to protect rare native mammals on Barrow Island in WA's North-West from introduced black rats has been successful.

Research and operations staff from CALM and volunteers from WAPET recently discovered the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) - an introduced rodent - on the southernmost part of the island which was previously thought to be rat-free. Black rats are found on nearby islands.

Barrow is refuge for 13 native mammal species, four of which have either declined or become extinct on the mainland.

An extensive trapping program carried out by CALM and WAPET on Barrow Island in August found a possible total population of 1000 black rats.

Disturbed by the threat to native mammal, bird and reptile species, CALM began an eradication program in late September to rid the island of the rodents.

Pindone-impregnated oats, a pesticide registered for rodent control used by the Agricultural Protection Board, was laid as baits.

These were placed on raised platforms to avoid non-climbing native mammals such as the golden bandicoot, spectacled hare-wallaby and the boodie.

However, two species able to reach the baits, the northern brush-tailed possum and the western chestnut mouse, are susceptible to the poison.

CALM research scientist Keith Morris said that deaths of these species in the area baited had not affected their population, as they occur in large numbers throughout the island.

Letters

Alcoa award

Editor
Council (Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale) has read with interest that Alcoa Australia has been named in the 1990 Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievements.

In acknowledging Alcoa's award, Council also recognises the efforts of your Department in helping Alcoa to achieve this award.

Congratulations are also extended to your Department in the reforestation work carried out in the south-west of Western Australia.

Both CALM and Alcoa should feel proud of their achievements over the past 20 years.

Ned Fimmano
Shire Clerk

Ned's camp

Editor
Having recently returned from a holiday at "Ned's

Camp" in the Cape Range National Park, we would like to voice our praise of the Campground Host Scheme.

We found both Norm Cole and his wife friendly and very caring for the park itself.

Like many other couples, we don't like to spend our holidays cooped up in holiday caravan parks, and look forward each year to our stay in the national park where we can enjoy the fauna and flora and fishing, etc.

Congratulations also on the Milyering Centre and especially the wonderful video on humpback whales. It was terrific and inspiring.

I hope your Department has also benefited from the host scheme, and we will see it continuing as we look forward to our annual stay in this lovely park.

Thank you,
Val and Ed Bennett

Praise

Below is an extract from a letter received from Mary van de Griendt, honorary secretary of the Dove Camper Club.

The letter refers to a camping weekend recently held by the club at Gooralong Recreation Site in Jarrahdale District.

"...all agree the walktrails are some of the most beautiful we have experienced in national parks.

"Congratulations to the Department on the latest improvements to the area, picnic tables and fireplaces.

"As a group we find the circular fireplace with mobile plate economical on fuel for cooking, and a safe social fire in the evenings.

"Keep up the good work, it is an area to be proud of with its excellent public facilities."

- This work is part of National Parks Improvement Program.

Staff News

Appointments Helenka Johnson and David Gough, communications officers, Public Affairs, Crawley; Susan Marais, graphic designer, Public Affairs, Crawley; Fiona Marr, community education and interpretation officer, Murdoch House; Anne Holt, officer, Walpole; David Caudwell, administrative assistant, Walpole.

Promotion Mike Power, assistant district forest officer, Kirup; Heidi Graski, payroll officer, Finance, Como; Allana Stungemore, administrative assistant, Planning, Murdoch House; Debbie Greaves, quality assurance officer, Finance, Como; Estelle de San Miguel, marketing officer, Public Affairs, Crawley;

Roger Banks, district manager, Nannup; Lotte Lent, community education and interpretation officer, Murdoch House; Peter Walsh, computer operations supervisor, Computer Services; Keiran McNamara, manager, Wildlife Branch, Como.

Transfers Irene McPharlan, officer, to Herbarium, Como; John Edwards, Pemberton to park ranger, Marmion Marine Park, Hillarys; Lance Jackson, park ranger to Nambung National Park, Cervantes; Owen Donovan, forest ranger (Ops) to Jarrahdale.

Retirements Phil Shedley, senior principal utilisation officer, Wood Utilisation Research Centre.

Stirling study continues

by **LACHLAN McCAW**

With the return of warm weather to the Stirling Range National Park, the experimental mallee-heath fire study is set to continue.



Senior Technical Officer Bob Smith (Manjimup Research) and visiting fire researcher Marty Alexander (Forestry Canada) sampling pine foliage moisture content.

This project is a joint effort by fire researchers from CALM's Manjimup and Woodvale Research Centres, and park and operations staff from the South Coast Region.

The study's overall objective is to understand key aspects of the

behavioural and ecological effects of fire in mallee communities, so that recommendations for management can be made.

Preparatory work began in early 1989, and so far seven experimental fires have been completed.

The ability to predict fire behaviour in mallee fuel types is essential for planning fire management in parks and reserves, and for implementing prescribed burning, where necessary.

Fire spread prediction also plays an important role in the development of suppression strategies for wildfires, such as the extensive lightning-caused fires in the Fitzgerald River National Park last December. This season will see the continuation of the series of fires on four hectare plots at the Stirling Range site.

Detailed monitoring of these fires is providing information about rates of

fire spread, flame characteristics and fuel consumption under a range of weather conditions. Results so far suggest that the moisture content of the thin layer of ground litter beneath the scrub plays a crucial role in determining fire spread.

The intention is to conduct some fires under hot, dry conditions to ensure that a comprehensive data set is obtained.

Studies of plant and animal responses to fire will also be stepped up this year, with several larger blocks designated for burning.

Comparison of seasonal differences in response is an important element of this work.

This fire project has already provided the basis for an interim fire behaviour prescription and led to a better understanding of the patterns of activity of small vertebrates in the Stirling Range National Park.

Crown fires investigated

by **LACHLAN McCAW**

Protecting pine plantations from damage or destruction by wildfire is a high priority for CALM's fire managers.

Preparations are under way in the Department for an experimental burning program designed to investigate the behaviour of plantation fires under dry summer conditions.

A specific aim of the study is to examine factors which influence initiation of crown fires. These include surface fire intensity, crown height and density, and foliage moisture content.

As part of the study, experimental fires will be conducted in plots of 22-year-

old Pinus pinaster at Iffley block in Manjimup District.

To ensure safety and control during these fires, the site has been chosen within an area programmed for fuel reduction burning this spring.

CALM is undertaking this study in collaboration with Marty Alexander, a visiting fire researcher from Forestry Canada with considerable experience of crown fires in pine forest types.

During August, staff from Fire Research at Manjimup assisted Marty with fuel sampling and assessment of stand characteristics in the study plots.

Fire crews from Manjimup and surrounding districts will join staff from Fire Protection Branch in using training opportunities provided by the project.

Information gained from the study will help improve strategies for plantation protection and allow objective analysis of the impact of silvicultural operations on fire protection.

Committee formed

Corporate Executive has formed a productivity and priorities review committee to review activities and functions undertaken by CALM and identify where reduction can be accommodated in our budgets.

The committee will report to the Corporate Executive by December 1.

Members are John Byrne, Finance manager; Eric Jenkins, Northern Forest regional manager;

Keiran McNamara, Wildlife manager; Wayne Schmidt, Recreation, Landscape and Community Education manager; John Murch, Timber Production manager, and Tony Start, principal research scientist.

The committee will consult as widely as possible with all CALM employees.

Anyone with good ideas for productivity improvement is encouraged to contact any committee member.

Volunteers reshape park

The first day of spring marked a turning point for West Cape Howe National Park.

For years the park's condition has worsened, due to erosion of fragile coastal dunes by 4WD vehicles. Now a group of concerned local volunteers, with the help of CALM, are reversing the process.

Nine volunteers from the West Cape Howe National Park Association and the Albany Bushwalking Club recently

spent a day installing signs and repairing two sections of the park's main track.

According to regional planning officer Ian Herford, many parallel tracks exist, but of these, only one or two are necessary.

He said the volunteers reshaped unwanted sections of track with hoes, and water bars were made to help prevent erosion.

Locally cut brush was then

placed on the tracks to help with stabilisation, and to provide a source of seed for regrowth.

Bollards were installed at each end of rehabilitated sections and signs reading 'Rehabilitated by Local Volunteers' were erected.

The idea for the volunteer project arose from a park users' workshop held as part of the process of drafting a management plan for the park.



CALM staff and volunteers rest in front of one of the rehabilitated tracks, showing newly erected signs.



Phil Shedley proudly shows his retirement present — a beautifully carved numbat. With him is the artist, Jenny Scrayen.

Phil Shedley retires

Phil Shedley retired in October after 42 years in forestry, completing an 80-year forestry tradition in his family.

His father trained in Australia's first professional forestry course in 1910.

After completing two years at the University of Western Australia in 1948, Phil was awarded a two-year science scholarship at the Australian Forestry School in Canberra.

He joined the WA Forests Department in 1950 and was posted to Willow Springs, a small forestry settlement in WA's South West between Nannup and Bridgetown.

From there, in 1952, he was transferred to the Shannon River area before leaving the Forests Department in 1958 to

join the Kauri Timber Co. at Nannup as a forester, eventually becoming the mill superintendent.

The company ceased operation in 1963, and Phil rejoined the Forests Department as officer in charge, Collie Division (now Collie District).

He transferred to Harvey in 1972, and then to Perth two years later, where he became administrator of the Department's sawmills and liaised with the timber industry.

Still based in Perth, Phil took on administration of the Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey in 1984.

Around this time - the winding down of the Forests Department and transition to CALM - a Commonwealth grant to look at a fitness program within the Department became available, and Phil

made the recommendation to start a CALM fitness (CALMFIT) program.

Despite contracting polio in 1956, Phil qualified as a fitness leader in September 1984 and ran aerobics classes at CALM's Como headquarters, three days a week.

Phil said his last four years with CALM were his busiest and most rewarding. During that time he was manager of a public interest project on the utilisation of regrowth eucalypts.

"If I have just one message for my colleagues, in whatever area they are working," he said, "it is to pay far greater attention to the needs of our customers."

Phil hopes to continue his work for CALM as a consultant.

All systems go

by **AUBREY FRETZ**

The Department has, for some time, been concerned with the limited capabilities of its present general ledger system on the concurrent computer.

With the move towards

program management, and the need to report on CALM's diverse operations, it has been necessary to consider a new financial management system.

Tenders were called for, and after an exhaustive evaluation process of eight software packages, the Oracle Financial System was

chosen as the most suitable.

The system was purchased in January and includes modules for general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, purchasing, assets register and inventory.

Work on implementing the new system began in February with a full-time project team appointed.

The consultative process at work

Consultative processes and award restructuring are issues concerning most unions today. Earlier this year, at an Australian Workers Union (AWU) conference in Bunbury, CALM district managers indicated they were issues of concern for them as well.

Recognising that improved productivity, multiskilling, and job satisfaction should be more than today's buzz words, the district managers requested Departmental guidelines on consultative committees.

CALM has already implemented consultative processes within sections of the Department.

One example of this is the CALM safety program, where consultation and participation have produced

outstanding results. A combination of good management and employee participation has not only prevented injuries, but saved huge sums of money - accidents produce waste.

Cliff Gillam, from the Office of the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations, praised the CALM program and said the consultative processes were more advanced than in other departments.

Currently, there are workplace consultative committees for three of the four unions within CALM (the AWU, the Miscellaneous Workers Union, and the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union), while the fourth union - the Civil Service Association - is

developing a model.

According to CALM senior operations officer Charles Kelers, with award restructuring it's necessary to maintain the current consultative structure.

However, when the main restructuring process is implemented (in about six months time), a new workplace consultative committee will be organised, which will include delegates from a cross-section of the workplace, rather than a union-by-union approach.

Consultative processes work well to improve efficiency and involvement.

Consultative committees within the workplace should create more efficient, productive and satisfying jobs for all.

Key officers of the project team are: Aubrey Fretz, project manager; Don Jennings, program coordinator; Larry Nicholl, project leader, Accounts Payable; and Jacques Rene, project leader, General Ledger.

The system will be up and running in July 1991. While it will be ready before then, this date was chosen so staff can be trained outside the fire season and potential audit problems can be avoided, as well as the need for overtime, given the present tight budget.

The system will be used for the 1991/92 call of estimates commencing in January 1991. The new chart of accounts designed to meet program management requirements will be used for this purpose.



A volunteer's diary

a cautionary tale

by an anonymous almost-volunteer

"Fancy a weekend in the glorious bush of the Goldfields? Come and join a volunteer army working to restore the beauty of Wallaroo Rocks, a proposed nature reserve north-west of Coolgardie! Camping facilities provided, bush picnic and barbecue included!"

So ran the advert from the people at CALM. Sounded too good to miss, so talked the missus into joining me, arranged to leave work early on the Friday, pumped up the tyres on the camper van and bought bottle of scotch to help celebrate after the clean-up. Also kept diary:

Friday, October 5 Told missus not to worry about getting the camper packed, I'd be home mid-morning. Tied up at work until mid-afternoon. Bad omen.

Second mistake: told missus not to be silly when she asked, "Do I pack the raincoat and the old Manjimup rubber boots?"

Drove for six hours,

stopping only when dog car-sick (twice). Finally, as moon rose, decided too tired to make it to Wallaroo Rocks that night and set up camp in lovely patch of eucalypts, many miles from main road. Slept well.

Saturday, October 6 Woke to sound of torrential rain at 4 am. Brain said, "get up and shift camp out to the bitumen," but body said "shut up and go back to sleep."

Got up at six. Camp surrounded by lake, ankle deep. Torrential rain sweeping in from north.

Said jovially to missus, "We could be in trouble, here." This was last jovial remark of day.

Tested ground around car and found subsoil still firm. Hooked up and made it out to the track, by virtue of sheer horsepower and unbelievable luck.

Said smugly to missus, "Bit of bush driving experience makes a difference. Most people would have been stuck there for hours."

Set off back to bitumen. Progressed five metres. Car fishtailed on greasy road and caravan wheel entered table

drain and bogged to axle. No traction on car wheels.

Torrential rain unceasing. Missus laughingly mentioned raincoats and Manjimup rubber boots.

Worked all day debogging caravan and stabilising surface under car wheels. Missus very cheerful and helpful.

Dog also helped. Especially enthusiastic about digging red, fluid mud from under van wheels and all over me.

Swore at dog, who took umbrage and ran and shook herself vigorously inside car.

Rain heavier.

Decided position desperate. Checked food supplies to see if can last for several days. Found bottle of scotch. New mood of optimism set in.

Late afternoon - rain seems to be lightening. Superb effort by missus in locating long, flat piece of wood which can be manoeuvred under wheel in table drain. Made it!

Lit fire, boiled billy, had "bucket baths" in rain on track, clean dry clothes donned, sausages grilled and

eaten with cuppa and more whisky.

Night falling. New camp (on sandy soil) established near bitumen. Slept well.

Sunday, October 7 Rain has eased. Woke at dawn. Broke camp for return to Perth. Brief, pleasant walk in bush, appreciating birdsong and wildflowers, good breakfast and set off.

Six hour drive. Arrived home.

Missus bathed dog and washed clothes. I cleaned car and caravan. Long, hot showers.

Nineteen-year-old son unimpressed with story, even the wildly embellished version.

Watched grand final on tape and finished whisky. Slept bloody well.

Monday, October 8 Phoned CALM people at Kal to apologise for not turning up to busy bee at the rocks.

Told that it had been cancelled on the Friday, due to record rains...hadn't I got the message?

Ah well. We city slickers need a day or two in the bush now and again to remind us what the real world of CALM is all about.

Insectary complete

by JENNY SCOTT

Once upon a time when one visited the southern realms of CALM's dominions, one would eventually come to gaze upon a rather conspicuous white outbuilding behind Manjimup Regional Headquarters.

When Janet Farr arrived at the Manjimup Research Centre in early 1988 to take up her position as entomologist, she laughed at this "oversized rabbit hutch" which she was told was to be her insectary.

In May this year, Janet

and technical officers, Peter Skinner and Steve Dick, celebrated the completion of the new insectary.

However, the road to completion had been anything but smooth. In February 1988 a budget of \$75,000 was allocated and a contractor employed to construct and fit the building.

When the contractor went bust during construction, CALM Engineering stepped in, using local tradesmen to complete the shell of the building in late 1989.

With no funds available for the interior, assistance was sought from other sections of Research Division.

Recycled laboratory furniture from Como Research and a cool room from Manjimup Nursery were gratefully accepted, renovated and installed by the entomology staff themselves. (Steve Dick got sore knees applying the special sealant to all the floors.)

The new insectary, about 120 square metres in total area, consists of a main laboratory area, five controlled temperature rooms and a drying room. It has been designed so that insects, ranging from wood borers through to leaf-eaters, can be reared and studied under control conditions.

If necessary the building could, with some adaptations, also be used as a quarantine unit for the study of imported insects and parasites.

Other research programs presently use the insectary's drying room.

Although the collection of insects is carried out on an opportunistic basis only, it is intended that an insect collection representing the south-west forest and south coast regions will also be housed in the insectary.

Janet is hoping to establish a volunteer program to help collate the collection.

Library moves

The Como Library has been transferred from Module 6 to the old museum room at Research (next to the auditorium).

It is now open from 8.15 am to 5 pm weekdays Mondays to Fridays, and is open to all CALM staff.

SCIENCE CAREERS

Carol Dymond, Pemberton's assistant district forest officer, features in a new Education Department video, Science Is For You.

The video looks at women working in scientific fields in Western Australia.

Carol is joined by fellow CALM officer Kylie Kau, who worked for the Department as a forest ranger before leaving to work for Alcoa.

Science Is For You is aimed at teenage schoolchildren considering career options.

It tries to overcome the scientist stereotype, showing that many types of people work in a wide range of scientific fields, including projects in remote areas studying animals, studies in forests of plant disease spread and fire behaviour, and working with computers to program mechanical robots.

At the official launch of the video, CALM representative Tanya Maxted was presented with a copy for the Department.

This is available from the Como video library by telephoning Robyn Weir on 367 0333.



Carol Dymond at work during a prescribed burn in the karri forest.

Tribute to forester

by ERIC JENKINS

Retired senior forester Brian Cowcher died on July 24, 1990.

Born and schooled in Dwellingup, Brian was typical of many traditional field staff in his loyalty to the Forests Department and subsequently to CALM, and to his fellow officers - whether they were senior or junior.

Brian was a character, honest in his work, and well known for his remarkable anecdotes.

When he looked you straight in the eye and said "This is the truth", you knew it was going to be a whopper, but it was told with such a straight face, such force, that you could believe it.

Many heard the story of how Brian waited eagerly until he was old enough to join the army. Eventually he was able to report to the recruiting office, and was

accepted into the army.

The war ended the following day without Brian ever having been issued with a uniform. I've never checked the truth of the story; it's one that was just too good to find untrue.

Then there was a story Brian told, of when he was in the Police Force in Port Hedland. He slept so soundly that his fellow police officers were able to take his bed out into the main street during the night. Brian woke to find himself with traffic on either side, clad in, what could only be described as 'brief' summer pyjamas under a sheet, some distance from the Police Station.

Again, who would want to check the truth of a story like that? But officers who have shared a room with Brian say that he did indeed sleep soundly - proven by the snoring which shook the walls and caused at least one officer to sleep in his car for the night.

He was well-known for his assistance to the underdog. Many a junior

officer, or former junior officer, had reason to thank Brian for the assistance he gave them in realising their full value where others criticised their performance and abilities.

He did this by treating them at face-value, regardless of any stories he may have heard.

He greeted them daily as fellow workers and not as juniors, telling them what he wanted of them, seeing that they did it and asking for a report afterwards.

Brian was years ahead of the many management schemes which tell you to do just that.

Another story of Brian's was that he got one particularly tall young officer to fetch a block of wood and bring it into his office. When he had done so, the officer asked Brian what it was for.

Brian told him it was so that he could stand on the block and knock his head off. Today, that officer is one of the best.

Community-CALM link

whale sightings or particular wildflowers in bloom.

Members will be available by telephone to answer queries from the community, as well as to

attend local community meetings and special events when possible.

The Community-CALM Link group will meet regularly with CALM to

provide feedback on community concerns and ideas for improving management of the Fitzgerald River National Park.



Community-CALM Link group members photographed at Twertup Field Studies Centre in Fitzgerald River National Park. Photo: John Watson.

80th anniversary

Walpole-Nornalup National Park celebrated 80 years as a park recently with a champagne brunch beside the Frankland River.

More than 90 people, including descendants of the early pioneers, attended the celebration.

The anniversary was marked by a commemorative plaque, unveiled during the event by CALM General Manager Roger Underwood. Many guests travelled up

the Frankland River from Nornalup by boat, emulating the original party who set out from the Bellanger homestead. The official party travelled in style in the Forest Lady.

The first reserve in the Walpole-Nornalup area, of 840 acres, was set aside in 1910 by a ministerial party led by Sir James Mitchell.

Over the years the park has grown to more than 18,000 hectares with a diverse range of scenery.