

# Tree growing seminar proves a success

"WITHIN 10 years Albany could generate a \$1 billion industry based on trees, using less than 15 per cent of the region's land base."

This claim was made by CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea in his keynote address at a seminar entitled 'Trees: An Investment for the Future', held in Albany on July 5.

"International forestry experts support CALM's findings that the Albany region is one of the best, if not *the* best area in the world for commercial tree growing," Dr Shea said.

"Albany has the climate, soils, land base, gentle terrain, excellent port facilities and strong community support, particularly from farmers, which make it ideal for a major commercial tree growing project.

Dr Shea took the opportunity to announce that CALM would plant 1 000 ha of Tasmanian bluegum in the Albany region in 1992.

"This demonstrates CALM's commitment to the fledgling tree growing industry in the region," he said.

Speakers from the Great Southern Development Authority, Albany Port Authority and the Western Australian

by  
David Gough

Farmers' Federation joined Dr Shea, Plant Propagation Manager Simon Penfold, and Gary Inions in presenting the case for commercial tree growing in the Albany and Mount Barker area.

Alex Campbell, vice-president of the WA Farmers' Federation, shared Dr Shea's vision of a "mosaic of trees" across the Great Southern region. He said that CSIRO research showed 15 to 20 per cent of a farm could be planted with trees without production loss.

"Indeed, many farmers, including the Lynch family at Mount Barker, have shown that there can be increases in production by planting trees," Mr Campbell said.

Consultant Brian Ray said investors in plantation projects should be re-categorised as primary producers. This way they would gain most benefit from the tax system.

Investors would expect a return of between 5.6 and 11 per cent, depending on tax status, for an investment of \$3 000 per hectare over a 10 year

period for Tasmanian bluegum and based on current costs.

The seminar, organised by CALM and the GSDA, attracted more than 100 landowners and potential investors.

## Field trip

A field trip, which took place the day before the seminar, toured existing commercial tree plantations in the area. Some 50 interested people were able to see, at first hand, the full range of tree-planting options available. The tour was hosted by CALM's John Bartle, Simon Penfold and Terry Maher.

Delegates gathered at 9 am for an inspection of Albany Harbour facilities, led by Colin Berry of the Albany Port Authority. He pointed out the ample space for chip stockpile and the potential to adapt the existing Co-operative Bulk Handling load terminal for the loading and exportation of woodchips. The delegates then boarded a coach and set off to view a bluegum timberbelt on a property 20 km north-east of Albany.

This particular plot, on Kevin Partridge's property, was planted under

CALM's National Afforestation Program in 1989. Growth has been very good and the planting, which is in a belt shape, clearly indicated the potential for multi-purpose tree crops on farms.

Next stop was Harry Rigg's property on Takenup Road. Harry first planted *Pinus radiata* in the 1960s and his plots now provide convincing evidence of the suitability of the Albany district for radiata forestry. A small species trial planted on the property by the Forests Department in 1978 gave delegates a view of what mature bluegum would look like.

Softwood sharefarming was inspected at the Skijoring property just east of the Porongorups Range. Delegates saw a well-grown 200 ha plantation of *Pinus radiata* and joined in a discussion on establishment problems. The delegates then took lunch at Plantaganet Wine Cellars in Mt Barker.

## Award

The first stop after lunch was the Lynch property just west of Mt Barker. Ian and Bev Lynch are the current holders of the Land Manager of the

Year Award for their outstanding work with carefully planned water use and tree planting. They have lifted their farm tree cover from five per cent to 18 per cent since 1983 with no loss of grazing production and with large pulpwood revenues projected for the late 1990s. Their farm is a model of skilful integration of tree crops into conventional farming.

The final stop was at Alec Campbell's property west of Narrikup. Alec has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Timberbelt Sharefarming development conducted under the National Afforestation Program project. He has 40 ha of timberbelt planting from 1990 and is planning a further 16 ha this year. Alec, who is Deputy President of the WA Farmers' Federation, presented an optimistic view of the future for multi-purpose tree crops.

Both the field trip and the seminar proved to be successful with a great deal of interest being shown in commercial tree growing schemes. The proceedings from the seminar are being prepared for publication and will be available to those who attended as well as other interested parties.



J. M. JAY  
State Senator  
Chair

RICK GROUNDS  
State Senator  
Development Authority

Field inspection, pine share farming,  
CALM/GSDA 'Trees for investment' seminar.

**Photo - John Watson**











CALM Executive Director, Syd Shea, and  
GSDA Director, Rick Grounds, at the CALM/GSDA  
'Trees for Investment' seminar.

**Photo - John Watson**



## Tree growing seminar a success

A seminar titled 'Trees: an investment for the future' was held in Albany during <sup>4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup></sup> of July. Organised by CALM and the Great Southern Development Authority the seminar was a great success with over 100 participants attending the formal presentation of papers on the Friday. A field day hosted by CALM was conducted ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> CALM on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July. ~~The~~ Over 40 interested people were ~~to~~ shown CALM's tree planting operations by Mr John Bartle and Mr Terry Mahar.

On the Friday speakers from CALM, WADA, Albany Port Authority, Western Australian Farmers' Federation and ~~Ja~~ <sup>Ja</sup> ~~for~~ forestry consultant discussed the prospect of commercial tree growing in Albany. Dr Shea said that with ~~in~~ 10 years Albany could have an industry based on trees that could generate \$1 billion or less than 15 percent of the region's land base.

Dr Shea announced on the day that CALM will plant 1000 ha of Tasmanian blue gum in the Albany region in 1992. "This demonstrates CALM's commitment to the fledgling tree growing industry in the ~~the~~ region" he said.



## ALBANY TREE SEMINAR - FIELD TOUR

A field tour was organized on Thursday 4 July to precede the Albany seminar: "Trees: an investment in the future!" The aim was to give delegates the opportunity to see the full range of tree planting options in the field.

The tour was hosted by John Bartle, Simon Penfold and Terry Maher.

The extreme weather of the preceding day had abated when some 50 delegates gathered at the Albany Harbour at 900 am. Colin Berry of the Albany Port Authority began the day with a quick inspection of the Albany Harbour. He indicated the ample space for a chip stockpile and the potential to adapt the existing Co-operative Bulk Handling loading terminal to also load export woodchips.

Out on the road the first stop was a bluegum timberbelt on Kevin Partridge's property 20 km north-east of Albany. This plot was planted under CALM's National Afforestation Program project in 1989. Growth has been very good and the planting, which is in a belt shape, clearly indicated the potential for multiple purpose tree crops on farms.

Next stop was Harry Rigg's on Takenup Road. Harry first planted *Pinus radiata* in the 1960s and his plots now provide convincing evidence of the suitability of the Albany district for radiata forestry. A small species trial planted on the property by the Forests Department in 1978 gave the delegates a view of what mature bluegum would look like.

Softwood sharefarming was inspected at the Skijoring property just east of the Porongorups Range. Delegates saw a well grown 200 ha plantation of *Pinus radiata* and joined in discussion of establishment problems.

Lunch was taken at Plantaganet Wine Cellars at Mt. Barker. Hot soup and local wine added to the good cheer of the group.

The first stop after lunch was the Lynch property just west of Mt. Barker. Ian and Bev Lynch are the current holders of the Land Manager of the Year Award. Their work with carefully planned water use and tree planting is outstanding. They have lifted their farm tree cover from 5 to 18% since 1983 with no loss of grazing production and with large pulpwood revenues projected for the late 1990s. Their farm is a model of skillful integration of tree crops into conventional farming.

The final stop for the day was at Alec Campbell's west of Narrikup. Alec has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Timberbelt Sharefarming development conducted under the National Afforestation Program project. He has 40 ha of timberbelt planting from 1990 and is planting a further 16 ha in 1991. Alec, who is also Deputy President of the WA Farmers Federation, presented an optimistic view of the future for multiple purpose tree crops.