



Park ranger graduates, back row, left to right: Murray Banks, Geoff Harnett, Michael Paxman, Arvid Hogstrom, Ian Hughes, Geoff Passmore, Mark Moore. Front row, left to right: Dave Burton, Scott Godley, Jason Puls, Anne Greig. Missing from the photograph is Mark True.

Photo by Verna Costello

# The graduates

by  
Verna Costello

ELEVEN park rangers were presented with graduation certificates by the Minister for the Environment Bob Pearce, at a ceremony at the Matilda Bay Restaurant last month.

Each also received a copy of "Wildflowers of Western Australia" from the Executive Director, Dr Shea.

Seventy CALM staff, parents, relatives and friends attended the ceremony.

The occasion marked the successful completion of training for a total of 12 former trainees.

Each had completed a minimum of two years'

supervised park work as well as academic study and practical training.

Opening the meeting, the Director of National Parks Chris Haynes congratulated the graduates on their dedication and hard work.

Dr Shea reiterated Chris Haynes' remarks, commending them particularly on their academic work.

"For most, this meant correspondence study - a lonely business - usually tackled after a day's work in the bush," Dr Shea said.

Both the graduates and the Department owed a debt of gratitude to the regional and district managers who provided support, and to supervisors and rangers with whom they worked.

"These are the rangers who gained their vast store of knowledge and experience the hard way, by trial and error," he said.

Dr Shea thanked Principal Projects Officer David Greenhill for his work in co-ordinating the program and keeping it running smoothly.

"David was always available to the trainees when they needed advice and an understanding ear," he said.

Dr Shea said the training program was very close to his heart and referred to the Kimberley region where two

Aborigines, Paul Butters and Alex Rogers, were nearing the completion of their traineeship.

Earlier this year they had graduated from TAFE's Katherine College, (NT) where they had completed the academic part of the program.

"I believe Paul and Alex gained a great deal both in confidence and knowledge," Dr Shea said.

"And there's much to be learnt from them - about their people and their knowledge of the natural environment."

Before presenting the certificates, the Minister congratulated the graduates, reminding them that this was just the beginning of their education.

Mr Pearce also praised the supervisors, management and TAFE staff for their support and assistance.

One of the graduates, Arvid Hogstrom, responded on behalf of his colleagues.

Appearing relaxed and confident, Arvid assured those present that while they had indeed worked hard they were also mindful of the efforts of Departmental and TAFE staff.

He drew particular attention to payroll officer Vern Willimott, who had been exceptionally helpful - always willing to advise and attend to the last detail.

He also thanked David Greenhill and mentioned frequent phone calls during

the training years. Arvid spoke of the diverse backgrounds from which the graduates had come to undertake the course.

"I was a jackaroo, one was an elephant keeper, another a weatherman at Exmouth, another a geologist and several others were students," Arvid said.

"But all of us have a deep love of the bush and enjoy being in the bush which probably explains why, in spite of our different backgrounds and the rare times we meet, we get along so well."

Arvid went on to describe some of the difficulties encountered during their training.

"Those located in the more remote regions had a harder time.

"Once, a trainee had to make an 800 km round trip just to sit one exam."

"But we all agree it's been well worthwhile."

The idea of providing a training program of this kind for park rangers began soon after CALM's inception in 1985 and received an additional boost with the rangers' wage case two years later. An interest in further training expressed by the rangers in an early survey coincided with the management's aspirations for the new Department. The rangers' structure needed to mesh with the overall Department framework. Further, there was a call for an expanded role for parks and their staff.

## Another Forest Affair

ENCOURAGED by their initial success, Mundaring District recently organised its second "Forest Affair".

The day of activities was based in and near Jacoby Park opposite the district office, and formed part of the "Go Bush" program.

The Forest Affair included exhibits from groups interested in wildflowers, local history, wildlife rehabilitation as well as honey, water and timber production.

Logging equipment covering an historical

by Grahame Rowland

range from Clydesdale horses to Kenworth trucks was featured along with wetland displays, a spotter aircraft, native animals, and a bush band to accompany the lunchtime barbecue. In addition, the beauty of the forest was recreated in wood and on canvas by local artists, sculptors and wood-turners.

Mundaring senior forester Bill Adams said that although numbers were slightly down, he believed

this could be attributed to other coinciding events and the possibility that the initial Forest Affair, which was held only a few months ago, was enjoyed as something of a novelty.

"The people who came this time were new - everybody said they enjoyed it and got something out of it," Bill said.

"The main aim of the exercise was community involvement.

"The idea of using community and volunteer groups was to demonstrate to the public the tremendous cooperation we get from these organisations which are involved in a whole range of activities, and without whom we

couldn't operate nearly so well.

"It also gave the groups an opportunity to show their equipment and expertise to the wider public.

"There was also a great spirit of cooperation from within the department.

"We had people involved from the Swan Region, Head Office, Woodvale, and Jarrahdale and Perth districts.

"And at Mundaring, the forest workmen showed a great deal of enthusiasm.

"Some staff even came in from their holidays to help out, and two people camped overnight in Jacoby Park, to act as security guards for the displays and equipment.





VERNA COSTELLO, CORPORATE RELATIONS

PARK RANGER GRADUATION CEREMONY - ARTICLE FOR CALM NEWS

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The names of the rangers are as follows -

Back row (L to R)

Murray Banks, Geoff Harnett, Michael Paxman, Arvid Hogstrom, Ian Hughes, Geoff Passmore, Mark Moore.

Front row (L to R)

Dave Burton, Scott Godley, Jason Puls, Anne Greig

Absent (12th man?)

Mark True

Cheers

David Greenhill  
Tuesday, 3 December 1991