



Trainee CALM volunteers climbing the steps to the gazebo at Pelican Point. CALM Operations Manager Leon Griffiths in the foreground.

Well, we asked for it!

By trainee volunteers Ray Wilkinson,
Pearl Ager and Anne Hart.

When Marie McDonald from Metropolitan Region placed a small advertisement in the *West Australian* for volunteers, she certainly didn't expect to receive over 350 phone calls in a week. After initial applications were received, the field was narrowed down to 70 people who were invited to attend the training sessions.

Speaking at the orientation session, CALM Regional Manager Drew Haswell expressed his delight at the number of applications "... particularly as the volunteers are a very important part of CALM and its mission".

After an informative introduction to CALM, the trainees heard from volunteer representatives from Penguin Island, Marmion Marine Park, and Canning River Regional Park. What they had to say was of great value, since most of the new volunteers were not familiar with the public lands and waters managed by CALM outside their own sphere of interest.

The orientation session closed with a talk on "Volunteering" by Trevor

Carboon.

Saturday morning saw the group at Matilda Bay to begin a tour of the areas in the Metropolitan Region that are managed by CALM. Ranger Jim Maher gave a brief, but very enlightening talk and it was interesting to learn that there is more to Pelican Point than windsurfing.

The group then travelled on two coaches to Hillarys, where Ranger John Edwards delivered a somewhat humorous talk on Marmion Marine Park and its wildlife.

On to Shoalwater Islands. Each coach carried a CALM guide: Leon Griffiths (Operations Manager) and Grahame Rowland (Reserves Officer). During the pleasant drive south, these two characters were an absolute mine of information.

At Shoalwater, Ranger Terry Goodrich brought us up to date on the complexities of the Marine Park, then gave us a covert fitness test with a climb up to the Point Peron lookout.

Last stop was Forrestdale Lake, a magnificent stretch of water that is home to migratory

birds from as far away as Siberia. Rod Giblett, President of the Friends of Forrestdale, outlined the importance of the lake and how the Friends can become involved.

After an enjoyable day the volunteers returned to Matilda Bay. The training course to this point was summed up by Pearl Ager, one of the volunteers:

"After nine hours training, I now know that bull seals have bachelor pads in the Marmion Marine Park, pigeons have the pox and live on Penguin Island, and arum lilies are not the asset I once considered them to be. Now this may not sound like much in terms of serious knowledge, but I also learned that CALM staff are genuine, approachable people who really want volunteer input. They care as deeply

about the environment as I do and they are generous about sharing their vast store of knowledge.

The third session was one of the most informative, with Marine Park Manager Greg Pobar talking about the magnitude of the marine parks and the diversity of management problems."

The final session of the training program was an interpretation workshop and the volunteers discovered a few interesting activities that CALM staff often use in their community education programs.

For most of the volunteers, basic training is now over. Their next step will be to join one of the Metro Region volunteer groups, knowing they have been provided with a good base knowledge to assist them in their duties.

South-West A

ABORIGINAL people living in WA's South West still have close cul-

Their heritage is from a number of different tribes and dialect groups who in-



Full Frame



