



CALM forest officer Greg Voigt kept up communications with others at his check point west of One Tree Bridge. Photo - Warren Blackwood Times.



CALM Manjimup plant officer Fred Simmonds and forest officer Danny Blechynden performed a vital role taking food to the fire-fighters. Photo - Warren Blackwood Times



CALM Manjimup district manager and fire controller Alan Lush indicates the location of one of the fires in the Manjimup area. Photo - Warren Blackwood Times

Local heroes

There were many acts of heroism and bravery during the recent spate of bush fires in the State's south-west and metropolitan areas. Many go unnoticed, but some stories do get told. This is just one of them.

While 67 fires raged through the south-west of the State from Jurien Bay to Esperance, one man in the Pemberton District prevented the number rising to 68. Forester Denis Marshall single-handedly put out a fire in a pine forest, just by using a branch.

At the time of discovery the fire measured 60 metres by 20 metres, but with increasingly unpredictable fire behaviour it was in danger of becoming a serious fire. To add to the problem, CALM's resources were fully stretched. Pemberton already had a major fire in progress near Shannon National Park, in the southern part of the district, which was being tackled by all available units. Knowing this, Denis went to work by hand until a single water truck from the local Bush Fire Brigade was able to reach him.

About 41 hectares of a 27-year-old pine plantation (with a value of approximately \$414,000) and twenty-one and a half hectares of seven-year-old pine were threatened.

No doubt Denis would say he was only doing his duty, but it's another example of the dedication of CALM's staff towards the management and protection of our forests and their values.

Well done, Denis.



Albany's fourth deliberately lit fire for 1991 came within metres of destroying several Goode Beach houses near bushland during early January.

At least 50 emergency service workers from the South Coast Volunteer Bush Fires Brigade, CALM and the Shire of Albany battled for hours to contain the fire, which burned 50 ha of native vegetation.

The photo (courtesy of the Albany Advertiser) shows Torndirrup National Park Ranger Peter Morris, one of the fire-fighters.

Thanks . . .

Wanneroo Fires #51 (Yanchep) and #53 (Gnangara)

Jarrahdale Fires J18 and J21

Wanneroo District staff and employees fully appreciate the assistance rendered by other districts, regions and branches during the recent fires in Wanneroo.

Please convey our thanks to all who assisted, for the phenomenal effort made by all in extreme and trying conditions prevailing over the period.

To all personnel involved in the recent fires in Jarrahdale District, many thanks for your assistance and support.

Your individual contributions and teamwork were much appreciated by the district and have been acknowledged in writing by senior management, the Bush Fire Brigades and private property owners.

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