

# CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

March-April 1991

## Seal pups saved from oil spill

by Tanya Maxted

Volunteers and CALM officers from Esperance, Albany and Perth pulled together to save seals coated in oil from the wreck of the *Sanko Harvest* off Esperance in February.

CALM's emergency operation to save over 100 New Zealand fur-seals on Hood Island and Seal Rock lasted eight days. Unfortunately, seven pups died before they could be released.

Wildlife Officers began monitoring the two colonies after leaving them undisturbed for a week and this work is continuing.

After the eight-day operation to clean the seals had been completed, the focus switched to the beaches and other islands that had been affected.

Volunteers worked side by side with CALM staff on the islands and beaches to clean up after the disaster. CALM staff were still cleaning beaches at the time of going to press.

The monitoring is set to continue for some time and it is not known how long it will take to completely clean beaches in Cape Le Grand National Park.

The next edition of *CALM NEWS* will take an in-depth look at the spill and the four weeks following the wreck of the *Sanko Harvest*.

Photo (left) - *The West Australian*



## CALM battles fires in heatwave conditions

by Caris Bailey

CALM's biggest fire operation for five years was fought in record breaking heat following the Australia Day weekend.

CALM staff battled 37 fires in the week from January 28 between Lancelin and Esperance. Many of the fires were joint operations with other Government agencies, volunteer fire-fighters, local authorities and private contractors.

One of the biggest fires started just south of Yan- chep when a stolen car was set alight.

Hundreds of fire-fighters worked for three days and nights to bring the fire under control. A bush fire emergency period was declared and the State Counter Disaster Advisory Committee convened to co- ordinate equipment supply at the height of the fire.

Premier Carmen Lawrence visited the Yan- chep

fire control centre on the second day of the fire and praised the efforts of all involved.

It's estimated that more than 7,000 ha were burnt out, including 40 per cent of Yan- chep National Park. Yan- chep is the State's most popular national park, last year attracting half a million visitors.

About 300 ha of pine plantation were destroyed at Yan- chep-Pinjar and at Gnanara, where car thieves were responsible for yet another fire. The burnt pines are currently valued at \$250,000, but would have been worth \$2.5 million at maturity.

Other fires flared in the south-west of the State - some in districts which had already sent fire gangs to Yan- chep. All available staff were called in and some gangs were woken after only three hours sleep and sent south again.

A second bush fire

emergency period was declared in the Shire of Manjimup, the town of Jarrahdale was threatened, and at one stage it seemed the huge fire burning in inaccessible country east of Salmon Gums would reach outlying properties north of Esperance.

CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the fire-fighters and support staff saved the South West from a potential disaster.

"CALM and the other emergency services were stretched to the limit at times, but their response was magnificent," Dr Shea said.

"The heat wave conditions and sheer number of fire fronts made it a very difficult operation and the losses could easily have been much higher. Everyone involved did a magnificent job."

At least 6,000 ha were burnt before the south-west



Fire-fighters in the south-west prepare to tackle the fire front as flames leap high. Photo - *Warren Blackwood Times*

fires were contained, but there were many areas saved from the flames, including private property, conservation areas and karri regeneration.

Nearly half of the fires were deliberately lit - an increasing problem for the Department. Last year, 45 per cent of the bush fires CALM fought were started by arsonists.

"Six of the recent fires were escapes or re-ignitions from CALM burns, but these were brought

under control relatively easily," Dr Shea said.

"I was amazed at the unwarranted attack from the Conservation Council that 'most' of the south-west fires were started by CALM.

"The prescribed burn program once again helped us to stop fires from running out of control and without doubt helped save lives and property."

Turn to centre pages for special feature...

Snap up a  
Konica camera

See back page  
for details  
of CALM employees  
photo competition

But hurry  
Entries close Friday 26 April 1991

During the past few weeks CALM has managed two major emergencies with consummate skill.

The wildfire situation throughout the South-West during record heatwave conditions was the most severe for decades. During this period sixty-seven fires were burning and all were brought under control by CALM or volunteer brigades.

Similarly, the response of the Department to the oil spill off Esperance was equally impressive. Again volunteers played a part but CALM's organisation was superb.

From the very early days of CALM's formation we have been able to demonstrate the benefits of an integrated agency in dealing with emergencies. Of course, it is always easier to break down institutional and cultural barriers when you are faced with a crisis.

Increasingly, we are seeing the benefits of an integrated approach to land management during ordinary operational conditions. This doesn't mean to say that we shouldn't have specialists in the Department. What it does mean, however, is that we capitalise on all the skills of the Department when we are dealing with management problems.

One of the themes for this year is increased integration of our activities. This means that it is important that everyone, no matter what their area of speciality, has a general idea of what the Department is about and, where possible, develops additional skills.

Apart from the fact that integration is essential - we can't afford not to - I also believe that everybody's job will be that much more interesting if they work as part of a team.

Dr Syd Shea  
Executive Director

# New CALM Policy to Improve Service

**CALM Corporate Executive recently identified a need to formalise the Department's objectives, policies, strategies, and operating rules for business units within the Department.**

Policy Statement No.36, issued in January 1991, outlines the objectives and benefits of having business units as a means of improving services and maximising returns to the Department.

A business unit is defined as a discrete group within an organisation which draws on and provides defined services and products which could be purchased at agreed prices by internal or external customers.

Some of the benefits from the use of such units would include the recognition of the true cost of products, the necessity for the development of a business plan for future services, and an incentive to plan and budget for services and resources purchased.

To be successful a business unit must have clearly defined boundaries, includ-

ing specifications of the services required from suppliers and the products and services that can be supplied by the unit. In addition, business units must support the objectives of the Department.

The establishment of business units is not in itself a new idea; vehicle fleet management within CALM has operated as a business unit for many years.

The Plant Propagation Centre (nursery and seed store) operates as a business unit for external customers and is intended to become a business unit for internal customers in 1991-92.

The commercial part of the Vegetation and Tree Planting Advisory Service will operate as a business unit for external customers.

The timber supply sub-program and hardwood and softwood sharefarming have some business unit features which can be developed further.

Other possible business units within CALM include parts of computing, finance, communications, mapping and publications, and the

Wood Utilisation Research Centre.

The creation of new internal business units will be considered for those services for which a charge can be practically made. Managers will identify areas of Departmental activity

for consideration as potential business units. Proposals will be evaluated and recommendations made to Corporate Executive. New business units will be phased in over a period of time.

Charges made by busi-

ness units will be reviewed annually by their appropriate managers, and Finance and Economics Branches. Any changes to charges will be ratified by Corporate Executive and advised in time for inclusion in budget submissions.

## Volunteer coordinator seconded

**Colin Ingram, CALM's volunteer coordinator, has been seconded to the position of External Grants and Sponsorship Officer for a period of 12 months.**

During this time, Colin will continue to oversee the community involvement program.

Colin will continue to work from Murdoch House, located within Jim Sharp's branch. Wanneroo parks supervisor Terry Hales has transferred from the Northern Forest Region to work for and assist Colin with volunteer issues.

The external grants and sponsorship officer's job is to secure funds to help with future CALM proj-

ects. In his new job, Colin's tasks are:

- to develop a draft policy and set of operational guidelines for external funding and sponsorship;
- to identify potential sources of external revenue for CALM operations, planning and research;
- to identify all Federal and State grant schemes for which CALM is eligible, or to which we can arrange indirect access;
- to train staff in securing and keeping external funds;
- to investigate opportunities for corporate sponsorship and to coordinate departmental programs; and
- to develop a CALM



Foundation to which land and money can be donated or bequeathed.

This is an important program for CALM and ideas from staff are welcome. Remember that many good ideas that initially appear to have only local promise may, in fact, have much greater department or State-wide application.

Colin can be contacted on tel: (09) 364 0777 or fax: (09) 364 3192

## Save the Bush program funds river study

by John Watson

**The South Coast Region's river corridor study is the result of one of several successful grants obtained by CALM from the 1991 Save The Bush program.**

This program is funded by the Federal Government and administered by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. It focuses on the protection and appropriate management of remnant native vegetation outside the existing reserve system, with the ultimate aim of enhancing the maintenance of biological diversity in Australia.

The river corridor study involves major river foreshore reserves up to 2km wide which are uncleared and which, in the case of the South Coast Region, appear to form important linkages for fauna between existing coastal reserves to the south and major inland nature reserves or other uncleared land to the north.

South Coast regional manager John Watson said the study would concentrate on four river corridors proposed for future management by CALM in the region's conservation reserve network, such as Corackerup Creek/Pallinup River, the middle reaches

of the Fitzgerald River (between Fitzgerald River National Park and Lake Magenta Nature Reserve) and the Lort and Young rivers between Ravenshorpe and Esperance.

John said that river corridor reserves present significant challenges to future management due to their large boundary-to-area ratio, the difficult access (largely through adjoining private land), and their susceptibility to adverse impacts such as from decreasing water quality in their catchments.

He said the study aimed to identify the specific values of the river corridors as habitat in their own right for native flora and fauna and as potential corridors for the movement of native fauna.

The study will also identify damaging influences such as weed invasion, feral animals, dieback disease and fire etc, and the degree to which any badly degraded sections can be rehabilitated.

An important aspect of the study will be to identify the potential for increasing the effective width of the river corridors through encouraging adjoining landowners to fence

off adjacent uncleared land through schemes such as the State's Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme.

John said the study would enable the appointment of a research officer for four months. It was hoped that a suitably experienced biologist would be available to undertake the study. However, farm liaison experience would also be desirable, he said, as the study would also involve substantial contact with Land Conservation Districts, local land care groups and all adjacent landowners.

According to CALM scientific advisor John Blyth, the southern river corridors offer an exciting opportunity to develop a linked, regional conservation system. This would permit movement over large areas, which is essential for the survival of many species of animals.

This study would help to ensure that future management was based on a foundation of knowledge, he said, including the importance of the corridors for various species.

It would also help to generate local understanding of, and support for, the protection of these important biological linkages.

### Sandalwood display

**CALM's Goldfields regional office recently donated a sandalwood exhibit to the Coolgardie Railway Museum.**

The display consists of a sandalwood tree, dry and freshly cut pieces of sandalwood, and sandalwood chips. It's hoped that the display will eventually be expanded with photographs, books and pamphlets on the uses of sandalwood.

### Flora volunteers

**CALM has selected 35 volunteers to help manage rare flora in the State.**

District managers had been asked to identify people for the task. The volunteers will monitor and report on the health and status of flora populations on the declared rare list.

They may be called on to look for previously unknown populations of declared flora, or reserve list species.

### Research bid

**A \$400,000 grant will see the establishment of a research unit in WA called the Centre for Metabolism and Reproduction of the Australian Native Fauna.**

Set up by University of WA researchers Professors Don Bradshaw and Norman Palmer, the unit will

respond to a need for basic research on native animals.

### Back to school

**A licence has been issued under the Wildlife Conservation Act to Dr Stephen Davies, formerly of CSIRO, to allow him to collect and keep four Mitchell's hopping mice (*Notomys mitchellii*) for a breeding colony at York Senior High School.**

Dr Davies' daughter Elizabeth, a biology teacher at the school, hopes to be able to provide schools throughout the south west with young born from the colony.

On a survey of Kangaroo Hills and Calooli Timber Reserves near Coolgardie, where the hopping mouse is common, Dr Davies collected two young females and a male for the colony.

### Post-natal or just depressed?

**A sea lion was reported to have hauled out at Cottesloe Beach in late January.**

Wildlife officers were inundated by callers concerned for the animal's welfare; a local reporter saw the sea lion on his way to work, and stopped to investigate. He was told by a woman onlooker that she knew all about sea lions, as she dived regularly at Garden Island (where there reportedly aren't any sea lions). It was obviously a female suffering from post-natal depression, she told the reporter.

However, a CALM wildlife officer set the record straight. Since all female sea lions were on the breeding islands off Jurien Bay and Lancelin, it appeared this fellow was an older male who had been beaten up and turfed out.

### And the lucky winner is...

**CALM has agreed to sponsor an environmental award for students at Murdoch University.**

The \$100 prize will be awarded for the best academic performance in the Australian Environmental History course.

### Corporate Relations Division established

**Public Service Commission approval has been obtained for the creation of a Corporate Relations Division within CALM and for the position of Director, Corporate Relations.**

Ron Kawalilak has been appointed Acting Director, Corporate Relations.

"This change reflects the Department's intention to become increasingly proactive in the public communications area with well-planned and coordinated initiatives," said Dr Syd Shea. "While our work in this area in the past has been very good, we must continually strive for improvement if we are to provide good public service and to maintain the confidence of the public of WA."

Corporate Relations Division will be the main focus for all public and media relations, community education, advertising, strategic communications planning and corporate communications in CALM.

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# Purnululu wins green tourism award

Purnululu National Park, home of the Bungle Bungle, is the first winner of the prestigious international Tourism for Tomorrow Awards for "green" tourism.

The award was announced recently in London by eminent conservationist Dr David Bellamy and was made in recognition of the success CALM has had in integrating the needs of local people and the environment with the demands of tourism.

"The Bungle Bungle is a particularly outstanding project in that the authorities have created a tourism destination of enormous interest and physical beauty whilst maintaining the traditional Aboriginal homeland and customs," Dr Bellamy said.

CALM has held extensive negotiations with the Purnululu Aboriginal Corporation (PAC) over the Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park since 1986. PAC represents the interests of the area's traditional Aboriginal custodians. The Corporation played an important role in the development and ongoing management of the park.

"It is very pleasing to have our work recognised and rewarded in this way," said Mary Colreavy, CALM's policy adviser responsible for Aboriginal issues.

"Our negotiations with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Purnululu area have been very long, but all of us involved in the preparation of the plan recognised that we were dealing with some very new

and innovative concepts, and we couldn't rush things," she said. "I think the PAC, NPNCA and CALM have learnt a great deal in these past four or five years and I look forward to a successful partnership in protecting and caring for this national park and its visitors."

The agreements reached for the park are expected to provide a model for the management and protection of other areas of conservation and Aboriginal significance in Western Australia.

A Ministerial Committee with equal CALM and PAC representation was set up to develop policy for the park and to advise the Environment Minister on all matters relating to Aboriginal involvement. Aboriginal rangers have also been trained and employed in the park.

Purnululu Aboriginals live on leases within the national park and continue to carry out their traditional role as custodians.

WA Tourism Minister Pam Beggs said the park was acclaimed as the best of its kind in the world at the inaugural awards ceremony. "This is a feather in the cap of the Government agencies and local people who have been involved in the conservation of the Bungle Bungle," said Mrs Beggs.

"The Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Western Australian Tourism Commission worked very closely with the tourism industry in the planning of the park," she said.

CALM's Director of Parks, Recreation and Planning, Chris Haynes, said winning the award was a great honour for CALM and especially for the small band of officers who have endured enormous obstacles in order to achieve a sound planning process in a social and physical environment with which very few people are familiar.

"The winning of an award like this, while being prestigious, will keep us on our toes, too. As soon as a place gets 'on the map' everyone wishes they were there, as the TV program title implies, and inevitable pressures begin to mount," said Mr Haynes.

"Our objective will be

to maintain not only the natural physical environment, but also our commitments to the Aboriginal people of the park at the same time as providing a good experience for visitors," he said.

A total of 46 entries were received from 14 countries worldwide, including 23 entries from the United Kingdom. Entries were of a very high standard and included the Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. The other Australian entry in the finals was Seven Spirit Bay Wilderness Park in the Northern Territory.

The annual awards have been introduced in the UK by the Tour Operators Study Group (made up of Britain's leading 19 tour op-

erators), the British Tourist Authority and Thames Television's Wish You Were Here ...? travel and holiday show. The awards are given to recognise and actively encourage examples of protection and improvement in areas frequented by tourists.

Dr Bellamy said of the awards, "it is gratifying to find that the travel industry is working seriously with its partners to encourage practical means of harmonising the needs of the environment with those of tourists. These unprecedented awards are already making a positive and active contribution and the response in its first year has been remarkable."



The Bungle Bungle massifs. Photo - Kevin Kenneally



Is this a case of some CALM staff getting carried away with the need to raise revenue? Has mining commenced, without approval, in one of our national parks? No - the photo shows park ranger Rick France sinking a shaft for new toilets at Peak Charles National Park, and the "nugget" he's holding was assayed as worthless.

(A report in the Central Districts Gazette last December referred to "CALM and other mining companies".)

## New campsite for Yalgorup National Park

Yalgorup National Park, between Mandurah and Bunbury, now has its first camping area. The site at Martins Tank was an old camping area, which was in a degraded condition.

CALM has upgraded the site. Scott Wood carried out design work for the site, which now has a well and hand pump for drinking water and a newly-designed dunny. The management tracks and fire breaks are being signposted

as walking trails, and several of the walks will lead to Lake Haywood, which has large populations of swans during the winter and spring.

While still not officially opened, the area is being used already. It is primarily a site for group camping, accommodating 50-70 people, but individual campers are welcome. Anyone interested should book through the CALM ranger at Yalgorup.

## First census in over 100 years

by Jill Pryde

The first census of all Australian plants since 1889 has been published by the Bureau of Flora and Fauna in Canberra (*Census of Australian Vascular Plants*, 650 pages).

Some 17,590 species (and 3094 sub species and varieties) are listed - in all 20,684 entries.

CALM had a major involvement in the project

listing some 40,000 entries in the census.

Senior research scientist Greg Keighery provided the distribution data for 25 areas and 8316 taxa from WA (up from 3560 in the 1889 list).

Staff of the WA Herbarium who specialise in certain groups of plants were instrumental in checking those particular entries.

## Second successful year for campground hosts

The original campground host program has been back in operation this summer.

The Bunbury Region introduced the campground host scheme last summer, and it proved so successful that it is being used elsewhere in CALM, and once again in the Bunbury region.

The campground hosts work four hours a day and

in return have free use of a campsite. The hosts are there to give advice and answer questions. Some with knowledge of an area also lead talks and walks.

Not only was the program popular with CALM, but judging by the repeat rate (more than half the campground hosts applied to work again this summer) it's popular with the volunteers as well.

## Hills Forest Park - first step in forest education

by Fiona Marr

CALM executives certainly won't forget their introduction to the proposed Mundaring Hills Forest Park!

Some colourful characters of times-gone-by enlivened the recent Standing Committee on forestry meeting, when 'bushranger' Bill Adams from Mundaring District held them up on horseback during their sneak preview of the park.

The park, in multiple use forest, will be established as a site for outdoor recreation and education activities.

Right at Perth's door, the 'Hills Forest Park' will be one of the strategies used in CALM's forest education and information plan, currently being developed. From bush-rangers to demonstration forests: all ideas that can show the public the past and present story of West Australian forests are being explored.

Other strategies are being assessed by several CALM officers. Community education officer Fiona Marr has spent the last few months familiarising her-

self with forest management and operations in multiple use forests.

Exchanges with counterparts from other states has produced some worthwhile insights. Computer packages, field study

centres, forest tours and interpretative sites are just some of the avenues employed successfully nationwide.

Fiona has also reviewed existing materials used in WA forestry education.



Part-time bushranger Bill Adams from CALM Mundaring holds up the proceedings.

### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION FOR CALM STAFF

#### LEEWIN NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK

##### Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse

- until mid September 1991
- fully furnished house
- sleeps 6 in one double room, 1 twin room, 1 twin sleepout
- electrically-heated shower
- electric cooker
- refrigerator
- \$80 pw plus electricity

##### Hamelin Bay

- after Easter to end November
- concrete caravan pad
- laundry
- SEC/TV aerial
- \$45 pw + electricity

Enquiries in writing to:

District Manager

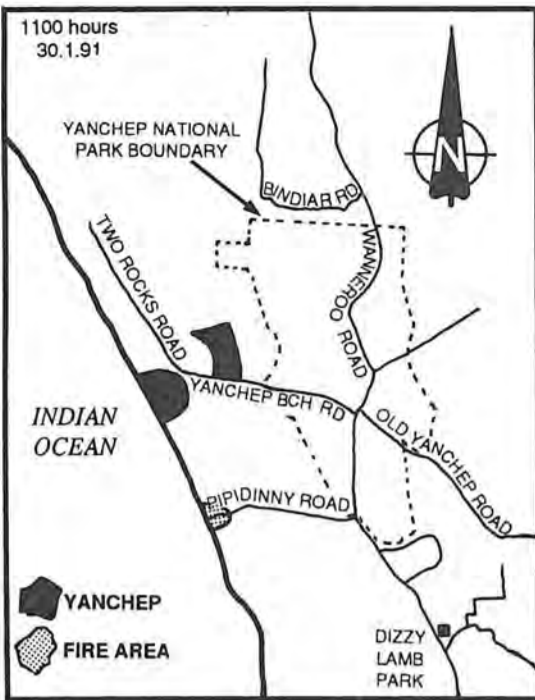
CALM, 40 Queen Street, Busselton

FIRST COME ..... FIRST SERVED

# Three days of

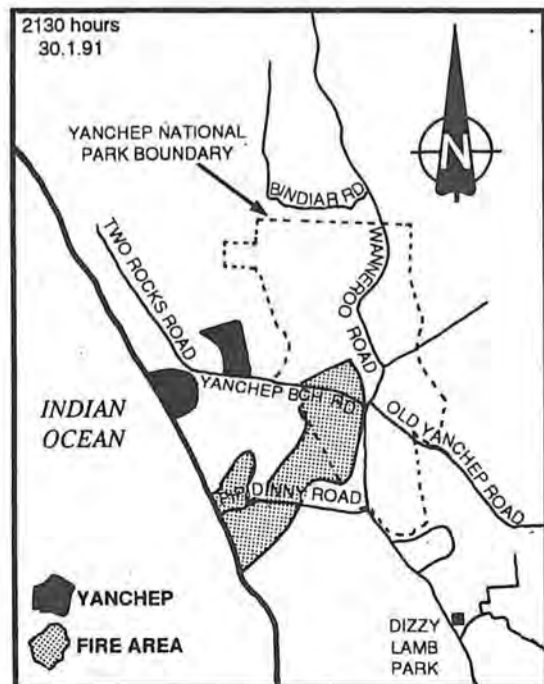
*A special CALM  
that takes an in-dept  
bush fire  
swept through 1*

by David



Above: CALM Manjimup research scientist Dr Ray Willis inspects some of the charred bush land in the One Tree Bridge area. Photo - Warren Blackwood Times

Below: Forest worker Len Jarvis at Kirup. Photo - Warren Blackwood Times



During three days of record-breaking temperatures, CALM and volunteer bush fire brigades were called to around 60 separate fires in various parts of the Perth Metropolitan and South West areas of Western Australia. Although resources were, at times, stretched almost to their limits, the fires were successfully contained with few losses to private property. Sadly, one fire-fighter lost his life when his vehicle overturned near Ravensthorpe, but overall there were few injuries to fire-fighters.

More than 500 CALM personnel were involved in the mammoth fire-fighting operation, many providing vital back-up services to others out in the thick of the smoke and flames.

In this special four-page feature we take a look at the major fires fought by CALM crews and staff during the three days, and at other related fire stories. We've attempted to give a detailed account of the fire-fighting operation both at Yanchep and in the south west. Some of the details are still a little hazy but it doesn't take much to realise that conditions were among the most difficult and hazardous ever experienced...

## Yanchep National Park

Wednesday 30 January

The fire, which started just south of Pipidiny Road as a result of a torched stolen car, was spotted from Gngangara Tower at around 8.45am.

The fire burned northwards towards Yanchep National Park, reaching the boundary in late afternoon. It also burned westwards towards Yanchep township and was halted at the eastern edge of the town and St Andrews area. One house was damaged and several others were scorched, but no one was injured.

Yanchep National Park was closed to the public and evacuated during the afternoon as temperatures reached 43.2 degrees and the fire danger remained extreme.

Volunteers worked alongside CALM crews to contain the fire in difficult terrain. Aerial reconnaissance was provided by the police helicopter unit to help assess the fire. Steps were taken to protect the historic buildings within the park.

Thursday 31 January

At 6am, there were five crews from CALM, nine from volunteer bush fire brigades and one unit from the WA Fire Brigade fighting the fire. In addition, two contract loaders and one private loader were being used.

Police closed Wanneroo Road between Dizzy Lamb Park to the south and Yanchep Beach Road to the north, and alternative routes via Old Yanchep Road were set up.

Fire-fighters began back-burning along the north and east sections of the fire and fire breaks were constructed or made wider along the fire fronts.

However, as temperatures began to soar to 45.8 degrees in the metropolitan area (the highest temperatures ever recorded in Perth at the time), the fire jumped two breaks in the north and south of the area. CALM and the Bush Fires Brigade brought in extra

units to get them under control before the sea breeze came in around midday.

By mid-afternoon, police advised some landowners to the north of Yanchep to remove stock to lower risk areas. Police also advised some residents on Wanneroo Road that they should be prepared to evacuate if necessary. Meanwhile, fire-fighters built 30 metre fire breaks along the southern edge of the fire zone to bring this latest flare-up under control.

At that time, some 3,500 ha had been burned, 1,000 ha of which were within Yanchep National Park. The Shire of Wanneroo was declared a Bush Fire Emergency Zone by Acting Minister for Emergency Services, Gordon Hill.

By 5pm the fire had jumped Wanneroo Road and had burned out telephone and power lines, seriously affecting communications at the fire control point in Yanchep Park. Radio communication was re-established and maintained by CALM's Radio Communications Branch (see separate item in this feature) and a request was put to Telecom to provide emergency telephone communications.

Four property fires were being fought by WA Fire Brigade units in the area to the east of Wanneroo Road and west of Old Yanchep Road, near Carabooda. Police closed Wanneroo Road and Old Yanchep Road to public access. All efforts were made to prevent the fire, still under the influence of a strong sea breeze, from crossing Old Yanchep Road; but there was a hop-over into pine plantation just to the east of the road.

At 7.15pm the fire was running on two fronts: one in the north-east and the other to the south-east. The south-eastern front was brought under control soon after and held in the pines at Old Yanchep Road, while in the north-east it had crossed Wanneroo Road to the north of Bindiari Road.

The area burned was now estimated at 5,000 ha and police extended road blocks on Wanneroo Road from Yanchep Beach Road to Woodbridge in the north.

Friday 1 February

During the night efforts were made to halt the progress of the south-eastern front before the predicted north-easterly winds came up in the morning.

No serious injuries were reported overnight, but St John Ambulance personnel treated several fire-fighters for smoke in the eyes and for bee stings (fire stirs up bees).

Telecom engineers had arrived overnight with the TERRA satellite communication system. This was set up and by early morning the Yanchep Fire Control Point had six telephone and fax lines available.

Police had reopened all roads in the area but warned drivers to proceed with extreme caution and use headlights because of smoke haze.

The running fires had been brought under control and the fire in the Yanchep pine plantation was burning itself out. Mopping-up operations were continuing in the pine plantation and along the 45km perimeter of the fire area. Approximately 5,000 ha, including about 40 per cent of the park's area, had been burned.

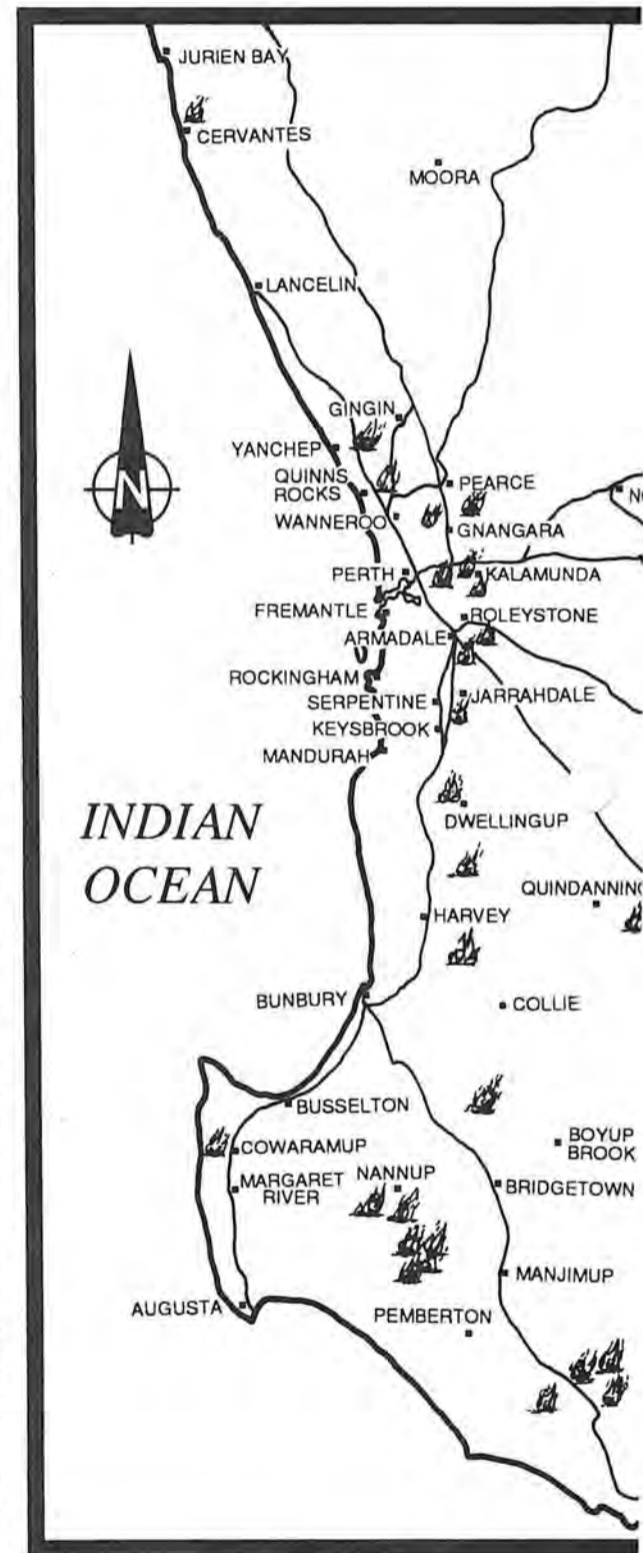
Throughout the morning the outlying areas outside the fire perimeter were closely monitored for possible hop-overs and sleepers (small areas of fire that may have remained dormant overnight).

By midday there was no running fire and breaks had been established in all but a few small areas of the perimeter. Fire crews were continuing to mop-up and cut down stags.

The WA Fire Brigade reported damage in Yanchep and Wanneroo areas to be around \$750,000. Two vehicles were lost in Yanchep and 20 houses would require external refurbishing.

Dizzy Lamb Park lost part of a shed used to house an amusement ride and several large sheds were also lost in both Yanchep and Wanneroo areas.

Almost 200 fire fighters and innumerable back-up, supply and administration teams fought the Yanchep fire 24 hours a



day for three days. Agencies involved included CALM, Bush Fires Brigade, State Emergency Services, WA Fire Brigade, WA Police Force (including traffic and helicopter units), St John Ambulance, SECWA, Telecom, Transperth, Army and RAAF units, and local volunteer fire fighters.

While the fire was being fought the Salvation Army came and set up a refreshment unit at Dizzy Lamb Park to feed fire-fighters sandwiches and cool drinks. No one had requested their help; they just turned up to lend a hand...

## South Metro Area

Friday 1 February - Armadale and Mundaring

A fire at Armadale burned out about 800 ha of pasture and bush land before being contained in the early hours of the morning.

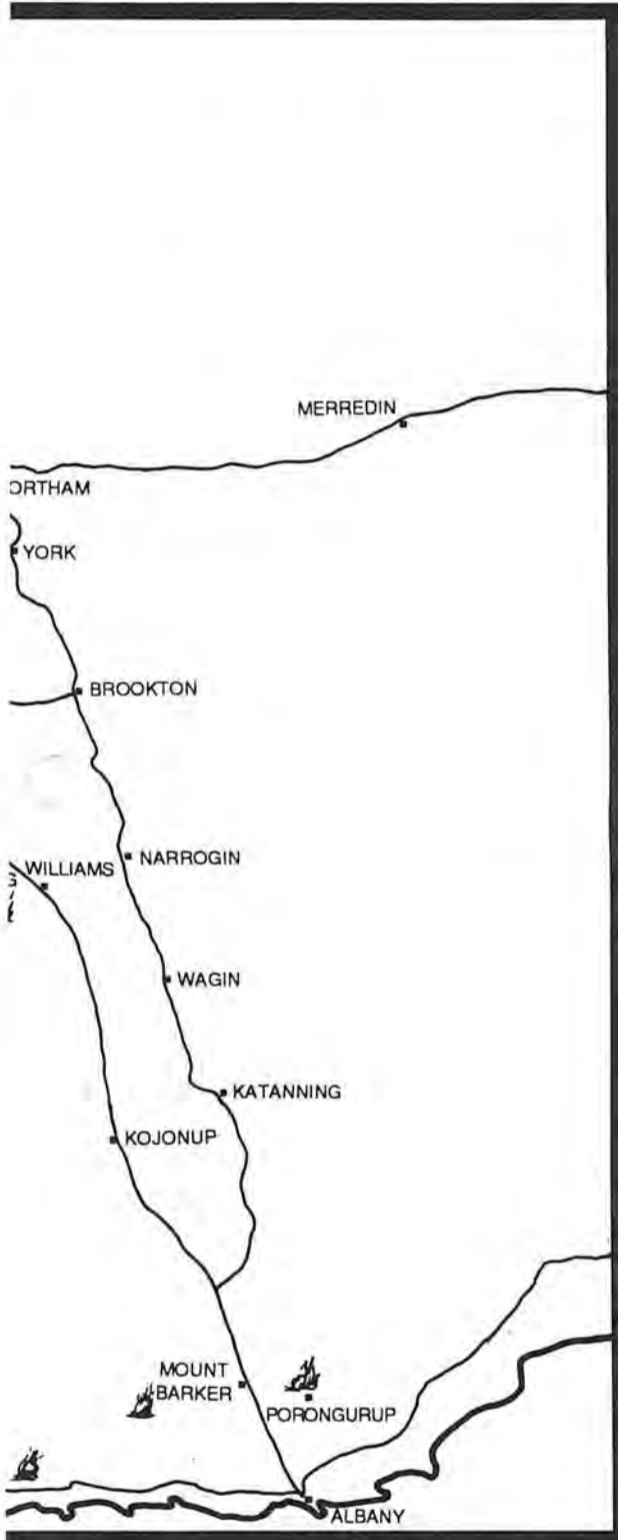
In another fire at Mundaring, a house in Lionel Road was damaged before the fire was brought under control. No one was injured.

By lunch time both fires had been brought under control and were being mopped-up.

# One summer

*1 News feature  
h look at the recent  
s which  
the South West*

Gough



**South West**

**Wednesday 30 January**

In 36 degree heat and with very high fire danger, fire broke out at 12.15pm in State Forest between Pinjarra and Dwellingup. Fire-fighters from CALM, the volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, the Shire of Murray, and the Main Roads Department used fire fighting and heavy earth-moving equipment to combat the fire 5 km west of Dwellingup. Scarp Road south and the Lane Poole Reserve

were closed by the police and State Emergency Service. At one point, a house was in danger but was successfully protected. The running fire was halted at 3.20pm and mopping-up continued into the late evening. An area of approximately 20ha was burned including several hectares of State Forest. It is suspected that the fire was deliberately lit.

**Thursday 31 January**

CALM and Bush Fires Brigade fire-fighters attended separate fires near Dwellingup, Manjimup,

Walpole, Harvey and the Donnelly Valley, near D'Entrecasteaux National Park. The sheer number of separate fires and heatwave conditions severely stretched resources as fire-fighters battled to control the fires. Logging contractors in Dwellingup and Jarrahdale were placed on standby to relieve CALM fire-fighters. A 47-year-old volunteer fire-fighter died when his vehicle overturned while he was patrolling a fire near Ravensthorpe.

**Friday 1 February**

A fire at Keysbrook was still running on its eastern boundary in the early hours of the morning. Firebreaks had been completed on all other fronts and it was expected the fire would be contained by about 7am. An area of around 500 ha had been burned out, including the area surrounding a Buddhist monastery. The forecast cooler temperatures (31 degrees max) were expected to bring some relief to fire-fighters although the expected south-westerly winds were likely to make the fires more difficult to control. Nearly 2,500ha had been burned in separate fires around Harvey, Pemberton, Walpole and Manjimup.

The fire in the Lane Poole Reserve, near Harvey, burned about 150 ha. Lane Poole is one of the key conservation reserves in the northern jarrah forest. Two fires, which had been burning out of control in inaccessible country east of Esperance for some weeks, were reported to have burned out more than half a million hectares. At least 400,000 ha were still burning on a 20 km front east of Salmon Gums in the Dundas Nature Reserve and another 160,000 ha west of Salmon Gums, including sections of the Frank Hann and Peak Charles national parks. Record high temperatures (47 degrees) and 50 kph winds made fire-fighting conditions extremely difficult throughout the south coast.

By lunchtime at least three fires were running out of control in Manjimup Shire, where Acting Minister for Emergency Services, Gordon Hill, had declared a bush fire emergency. Another fire near Pemberton was also running unchecked. Those near Dwellingup, Harvey and Walpole were under control and being patrolled. The Keysbrook fire, nearer to Perth, was still running unchecked on its northern boundary.

At 2.30pm the biggest cluster of fires in the south west had already burned about 800 ha of State Forest near One Tree Bridge, about 20 km north-west of Manjimup. Several smaller fires had started from flying sparks, leaving fire-fighters with as many as eight separate fronts to tackle. The Davidson-Graphite Road was closed due to falling logs and heavy smoke. Another group of fires was burning between the Shannon and Franklin national parks but no private property was under threat. A further fire had been burning between Northcliffe and Shannon National Park, near Deeside Coast Road, 30 km south-west of Pemberton. This fire had burned through private property and karri forest during the previous day but no houses were damaged. By early evening, things took a turn for the worse when the Keysbrook fire threatened the town of Jarrahdale. At 5pm it was just 5 km south-west of the township and had crossed Scarp Road into rough and well-wooded terrain in the Serpentine National Park. More than 100 fire-fighters from CALM and volunteer bush fire brigades were present and ALCOA had provided fire-fighting and earth-moving equipment. Other CALM units were being redeployed from Yanchep and other areas to assist.

Gusting southerly winds were sending sparks ahead of the main fire front but fire-fighters were hopeful of being able to contain it in an area that had been previously burned to reduce fuel. The Serpentine National Park and the Gooralong recreation area were closed to the public as a safety measure. Fortunately, by late evening, the winds changed direction and the fire headed to the east of Jarrahdale township. CALM crews were reasonably confident of having sufficient resources to hold the fire at Scrivener Road, south-east of Jarrahdale.

At 10.40pm the fire had been contained after burning 1,800 ha, including 640 ha of State Forest and 720 ha of private property. Losses included fences, paddock grasses and burnt forest. The fire in the south west coastal region at Salmon Gums had remained stationary at Beaumont Group nature reserve and the predicted wind change was expected to hold the fire away from a nearby private property. The two fires west of Esperance were brought under control. One, on a

farming property at Moonanup, tended by Bush Fire Brigades and CALM, caused damage to fences and pasture. The other, on private property and vacant Crown land at Munglinup, was attended by bush fire brigades from Ravensthorpe and Esperance. Cooler temperatures and a south-westerly wind helped fire-fighters bring the Manjimup and Pemberton fires under control.

In the Shire of Plantaganet, a fire at Denbarker was attended by Shire fire-fighters and bush fire brigades because CALM crews were fighting other fires.

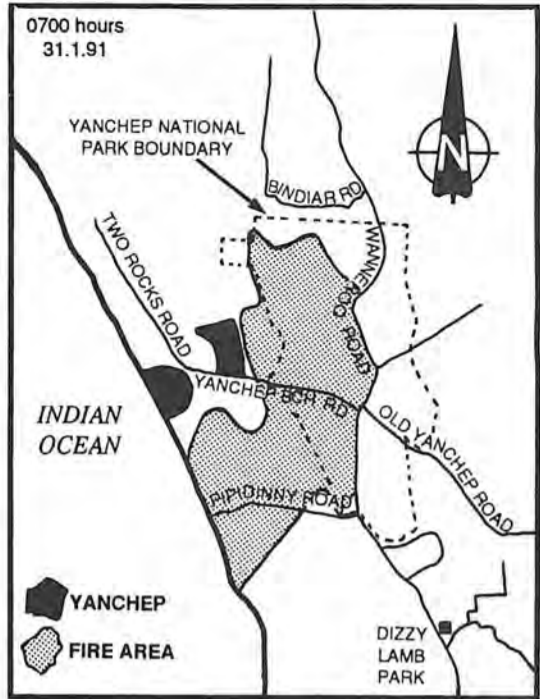
**All areas**

**Saturday 2 February**

CALM fire-fighters began winding down operations around the south west of the state after bringing around 37 bush fires under control. CALM's Fire Protection Manager, Jock Smart, said that although operations were winding down, the mopping-up was likely to take at least another week to complete. He praised the efforts of fire-fighters who battled fires in record heatwave conditions. It was estimated that volunteer fire-fighters alone had put in more than 10,000 hours since the fires began. Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the cost of controlling the fires are expected to top \$1 million. "The cost would, however, have been more than double that without the assistance of the volunteers from the Bush Fires Board brigades and State Emergency Service," he said. "At several times, more than two dozen fires were being fought under extreme weather conditions. It was a tremendous tribute to all the fire-fighters that the fires had been brought under control so rapidly and efficiently," said Dr Shea, "and I am particularly proud of the tremendous efforts by CALM crews and staff."

"The coordination and assistance provided by the Police Department, State Emergency Services, WA Fire Brigade, Bush Fires Board, St John Ambulance, timber industry, RAAF and Army has been superb," he said. Dr Shea thanked all those people involved in fighting fires, especially the volunteers, who had come from throughout the South West and worked in incredibly trying and dangerous conditions.

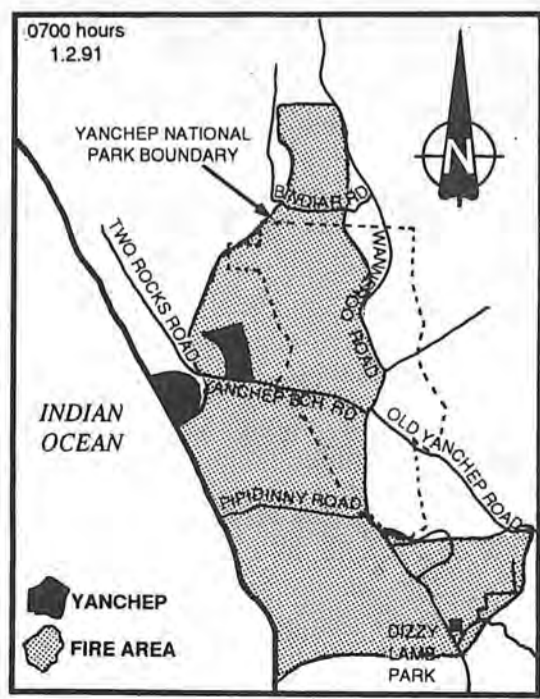
The centre map shows the locations of the 37 fires. Corner maps show the progression of the Yanchep fire.



Above: Mark Spice, Forest Ranger Collie. Photo - Collie Mail



Below: Unknown fire-fighter dodges the flames. Photo - Albany Advertiser



# Yanchep fire

## - what damage to the environment?

While the local media called it an environmental disaster, CALM Northern Forest Region ecologist Sue Moore was already looking at the positive aspects of the fire which raged through more than 40 per cent of Yanchep National Park.

There is no doubt that the fire would have resulted in the deaths of a number of animals. However, most of the mobile species (kangaroos, emus, birds) would have escaped from the fire front.

Lizards and snakes would have burrowed into the sand and escaped the tremendous heat of the fire, but with reduced cover after the fire, there will be increased predation by birds of prey, foxes and cats.

The effects on the vegetation depend on the intensity of the fire and the vegetation type. In the tuart woodland it is likely that a number of mature trees will die. There should be good regeneration from seed, while the dead trees will provide numerous nest hollows for birds. Many of

by Sue Moore

the banksias will have been killed and will also regenerate from seed.

In the coastal heath all the cover has been removed but regeneration should be rapid. There is a risk of weed invasion from adjacent properties, particularly the very flammable veldt grass. In the wetlands and upland heath areas regeneration should also be rapid.

Some period of fire exclusion will be necessary to allow obligate seed generators to set sufficient amounts of viable seed. With regenerating tuart, it is important to exclude fire until the saplings are old enough to survive a fire.

It is fortunate that the whole of the park was not burnt in the fire. Had that been the case there would have been no refuge areas for mobile animal species and no sources for recolonisation. This factor will become more critical as Yanchep National Park becomes increasingly isolated in an urban environment.

The fire burned across the Quindalup dunes. These are one of the youngest landforms in Western Australia, being a mere 5,000 to 7,000 years old, and they are still changing in shape, form and position. The fire may have destabilised several of the dunes through removal of the vegetation.

### Future

So, what of the future? A number of research projects are planned or already under way. Karan Maisey, of Research Division's Fire Program, is coordinating studies to determine the regeneration of the park's flora. This project will provide valuable information which will be vital for the future management of Yanchep National Park.

*[The park was reopened to the public just three days after the fire. Some areas remained closed for a few more days while burned and damaged trees were made safe.]*

*All the historic buildings were saved.]*



Ron Shimmon, Senior Ranger at Yanchep National Park, with one of the fallen trees that had to be cleared from the road before the park could be reopened. Photo - Wanneroo Times

## New radio fax system provides vital fire communication links

by Mike Welch

As a fire develops into a major campaign fire, the demands for accurate information and logistical support can become a controller's nightmare. Conventional land-line or cellular telephone and fax communications can become severely congested or lost altogether.

To help solve these problems, CALM's Radio Communications Branch has been working to introduce a command radio network operating in the UHF (Ultra High Frequency) band. This network will supplement the existing radio communication channels available to controllers and fire-fighters. To make the network more cost efficient, the UHF transceivers have been modified for data transmission as well as voice. The data transmissions can be made by radio facsimile systems (RadFax) or radio-linked keyboard terminals and printers (RadTek).

The next phase will be to fill in the holes in the UHF network and to install radio terminals at District HQs as funds become available. This will increase the speed with which communication outposts can be put into service in emergency situations and thereby increase the speed with which reliable information can be passed. If fire control points are also sited to take maximum advantage of this valuable communication link, it will benefit all.

On Thursday 31 January, Bob Gray, Mike Jubb and Max Speer were despatched to the Yanchep

Fire Control Point (FCP) and erected a 24-metre winch-up mast, primarily to access the UHF repeater at Canning Mills. However, this mast was finally to carry additional antennas for Bush Fires Board, Police and CALM cellular phones, UHF Yagis for SES and CALM, VHF mid band CALM and VHF high band for Wanneroo Shire.

The radio facsimile system (RadFax) operated by Bob Gray and Mike Welch saw its first "in the field" operation between the fire control point at Yanchep and campaign headquarters in Como. It proved to be an invaluable communication tool. Its ease of operation and the accuracy and clarity of the documents transmitted over the system meant it could be operated by anyone with minimal training. An A4 document took between 30 seconds and five minutes to be transmitted.

In the southern region, Roger Foxlee set up RadTek terminals (keyboard and printer) between the Manjimup District Headquarters and the fire control point at One Tree Bridge. This system operated via the UHF repeater at Glenoran. Later, the UHF repeater at Mt Burnside was used for additional voice command between Shannon fire control and Pemberton District HQ.

Meanwhile, the RadFax in the Northern Region was shifted to the Keysbrook fire. It was also used a few days later at a fire near Canning Dam.

During three of the major fires - Yanchep, Jarrahdale

and Pemberton - local telephones went out of action at crucial times. The communications provided by the team from Radio Communications Branch were the only reliable links between the fire control points and their respective Districts Headquarters until normal commercial links were re-established. Many thanks and well done.

*[The media and general information communications between Yanchep Control and Fire Protection at Como became increasingly difficult as the fire progressed. The local telephone (and hence, fax) lines became severely congested with calls in and out of the area by local residents. At times it took almost half an hour just to get a line. When the telephone lines were burned*

*out it was impossible to get anything out at all by conventional means. At one point the media liaison people were ready to send a runner with a cleft stick to Como. The efforts of the team from CALM's Radio Communications Branch were greatly appreciated by all concerned. With swift efficiency they put us "back on air" and we were again able to send up to date and detailed information to Como for re-transmission to local media.*

*Telecom's iTERRA satellite communication system was installed during late evening, providing six telephone and fax lines to Yanchep Control. However, the RadFax was still used as a direct link with Como.*

David Gough,  
Communications Officer,  
CALM Public Affairs.]

## Messenger to the rescue

We were all in the fire operations room sorting out the fire shift changes at the Yanchep fire on the Thursday evening and worrying about what to do with our scarce resources when Carol Messenger came in loaded with sandwiches, nibbles and a huge flask of juice.

"I thought you might be hungry," she said, and left - our thanks followed her out.

Carol must have gone home after a hard day's work in records, got provisions and made up the sandwiches, etc - all in her own time, all at her own

cost. I felt touched, grateful and humble.

What did someone say about above and beyond the call of duty? No VC, Carol, but you deserve one. Thanks very much!

Jim Edwards  
Director, Operations



## Dwellingup commemorates 30th anniversary of devastating bushfire

Towns were destroyed, hundreds left homeless and a Royal Commission called. The devastating bush fires of January 1961 burnt through thousands of hectares of forest around Dwellingup for six days before being brought under control.

Thirty years later the Dwellingup fire was commemorated with

exhibitions and bands over this year's Australia Day weekend.

The weekend attracted thousands of visitors to the town, including many former residents.

CALM fire-fighting machinery was on display - from the old Mack fire truck from the Manjimup Timber Museum to the modern equipment above.

Newspaper photographs from 1961 were also on show, together with a display of CALM's current fire prevention and suppression operations, many of which were developed from the lessons learnt in the Dwellingup fire.

The photograph shows some of the fire-fighting equipment on display.

### DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## Thanks

The Department of Conservation and Land Management extends thanks and appreciation to the hundreds of people who helped us bring the fires under control last week.

CALM especially wishes to thank:

- Volunteer Bush Fires Brigade
- State Emergency Service and Volunteers
- Bush Fires Board
- South West Shire Authorities
- W.A. Fire Brigades
- Police Department
- St John Ambulance
- Salvation Army
- Timber companies
- Machinery contractors and operators
- All CALM staff for fire fighting help

With your help, damage to property and forests has been minimised.

**CALM**  
Caring... Naturally





Trainee ranger Geoff Harnett cutting up tree limbs to clear a car park in Yanchep National Park. Photo - Wanneroo Times

# CALM answers burning program criticism

CALM came under criticism from the Conservation Council of WA over the recent spate of bush fires in the South West.

Council coordinator Rachel Siewert said the Council believed CALM was responsible for most of the 37 fires that occurred in the South West and Metropolitan areas following prescribed burning some weeks earlier.

She questioned the whole strategy of CALM's prescribed burning program and suggested there should be an inquiry into the practice.

In reply to this criticism, Dr Syd Shea, CALM's Executive Director, said, "If prescribed burning wasn't practised

in this State, we would have seen much, if not the whole, of the South West on fire. In a period of four days, CALM and bush fire brigades extinguished more than 30 fires burning in extreme weather conditions.

"Prescribed burning does involve risks," he said, "but without it, despite the

demonstrated superb fire-fighting capacity of CALM and the bush fires brigades, it would have been impossible to control the fires."

Dr Shea suggested the Conservation Council should direct their energies to helping the department curtail deliberate arson, which was the main cause of fires in the State.

## Arson top of fire list

CALM fire-fighters and volunteer bush fire brigades were called to 67 fires in the week before Monday 4 February. Of those fires, almost half were started by arsonists, including the main blaze in the Yanchep area which began when a stolen car was set alight.

The following table lists the number of fires and their causes:

Arson .....	32
Unknown .....	11
SEC lines .....	8
Escapes from CALM burns .....	6
Campers/marroners .....	5
Children .....	3
Blasting .....	1
Spontaneous combustion of a haystack .....	1

CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said that even with the small risk of escapes from prescribed burns, the practice had saved the week's bush fire emergency from being much worse.

"During the previous year, 7.5 per cent of bush fires were caused by escapes from prescribed burns, but they burned an average of only 22.5 ha," said Dr Shea.

"When this was added up it came to less than 0.2 per cent of the total 278,400 ha that were control burned," he said.

The practice of fighting fire with fire was endorsed by the 1961 Royal Commission into the devastating fire that swept through the forest that year.

"Since the Commission's recommendation to improve and extend prescribed burning was implemented there have been no major fires in Western Australia's forests," said Dr Shea.

"Small fires in cool, humid conditions to reduce the dry litter on the forest floor will continue to be one of the main weapons in our fire-fighting program," he concluded.



CALM forest officer Greg Voigt kept up communications with others at his check point west of One Tree Bridge. 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 Torndirup National Park Ranger Peter Morris, one of the fire-fighters.



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

## Thanks . . .

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

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.

R W Hearn  
District Manager  
Wanneroo

**Jarrahdale Fires J18 and J21**

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.

Denise Allen  
District Manager  
Jarrahdale

**To: District Manager, CALM Jarrahdale**

On behalf of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade 17/01, I have been asked to thank you and your staff for all the great help you gave this area during the bush fire of 31 January to 3 February.

It was very much appreciated by both the volunteer fire-fighters and the owners of various properties. Please pass on our thanks to all concerned.

A L Fawcett  
Hon Sec Volunteer Bush  
Fire Brigade 17/01

**To: District Manager, CALM Jarrahdale**

On behalf of Harry, Marg, Ron, Ada, Geoff and Helen Fawcett, owners of Fawcett Orchards, I wish to sincerely thank you and your staff for all the marvellous help and time you put in during the Gobby Road Fire (31 January - 3 February), which helped save most of our property. Please pass on our thanks.

A L Fawcett (Mrs)  
Fawcett Orchards  
Serpentine, WA 6205

# Timber Strategy

## - working group formed

A working group has been formed within CALM to complete the statutory requirements of the successful forest management plans and timber strategy.

The 1987 plans included a commitment to undertake a new inventory of the jarrah forest and, when available, to include those results in the jarrah yield calculations. Other issues outstanding until the jarrah inventory results are available are the redistribution of the road, river and stream zone system and the Environmental Management Program for silvicultural operations in the salt risk zone.

The working group will also take part in the identification and management of places of national estate significance being undertaken jointly by CALM and the Australian Heritage Commission, and will develop forest management practices to reflect all these developments.

Their review of existing practices will build on the success of the forest man-

agement plans and timber strategy which are central to the balanced use of the State's native forests.

The group is led by Paul Jones, who has recently returned from Canberra where he spent a year seconded to the Department of Primary Industry and Energy. Paul will work full time on the project with Alan Walker, who has transferred to Perth from Manjimup. Sue Moore (Northern Forest), Bob Chandler (Central Forest) and Gavin Butcher (Silviculture) will contribute part time to the working group.

The group is responsible to a steering committee comprising Executive Director Syd Shea, General Manager Roger Underwood, and Directors Barry Wilson, Don Keene, Andrew Burbidge and Frank McKinnell.

Members of the working group and the steering committee will visit regional centres and other CALM work places to explain the process and invite comment and par-

ticipation from CALM staff. Detailed workshops will be held over the next few months to enable CALM staff to contribute to the review and there will be separate opportunities for public consultation and comment.

## Congratulations, Sue!

Northern Forest Region ecologist Sue Moore has been awarded a Harkness Fellowship - a prestigious award from an American philanthropic foundation.

Three fellowships were awarded to Australians for 1991. A Western Australian has not received the award since 1985.

The Fellowship's aim is to give a unique opportunity for young men and women with leadership potential and a commitment to advancing understanding between their countries and the United States, to further their education or professional development in America.

Sue intends to complete a Masters in Science at one



CALM executive director Dr Syd Shea discussing the recent fires with principal fire officer Rick Sneeuwjagt at a 'thank you' barbecue for the fire-fighters.

of the west coast universities in the United States.

She has applied to the University of California at Berkeley, Oregon State University and the University of Washington.

Her area of interest is in assisting the community in making decisions about balancing conservation and other land uses, such as recreation, tourism, timber production and agriculture.

Sue will leave Kelmescott in August/September and expects to be away for two years.



## New toilets are designed to break down

Environmentally friendly toilets are to be built on Penguin Island.

CALM's Metropolitan Regional Manager Drew Haswell said the old toilets had become a health hazard and seepage from the holding tanks posed a potential pollution problem.

"Maintenance of the old toilets was costly," he said, "and the asbestos cladding had to be removed."

Mr Haswell said the new toilets would be environmentally friendly.

"They will be clad in

timber and will nestle into the environment," he said. "Waste will be broken down by a special composting tank."

Work on the new toilets had been delayed by the extended breeding season of the little penguin. However, Mr Haswell said construction and clean-up works would now start and the toilets would be completed by the time the penguins return for the next breeding season in mid-April. The old toilets will then be removed.

## If anyone can, a pelican can!

CALM officers went looking for a stray pelican recently that paid residents in the Wheatbelt town of Nungarin (50km north of Merredin) a surprise visit.

The Wheatbelt Mercury reported that the pelican had been aptly named Storm Boy or Mr Percival by the locals as it wandered the main street.

Apparently not content with just walking the streets, the pelican decided that the Nungarin Swimming Pool was the place to be on a warm day. It had earlier made appearances in the other Wheatbelt towns of Kununoppin and Trayning.

Staff at CALM's Merredin office received a number of phone calls from people concerned about the pelican's welfare - and one from one woman who wanted to know how to move the bird from her backyard pool.

Calls continued for almost a week until it was decided that the pelican had to be moved.

CALM officers went on a search and rescue mission to Nungarin, but couldn't find the bird. Dejected, and with a "it will find its way back to the coast" philosophy, they returned to Merredin.

There, much to their amusement, they found the pelican had beaten them back to town. With some bribery of local fish, the pelican was caught and quickly transported to Perth where it was released at Lake Monger.

The pelican sighting was considered very unusual, especially with the hot and dry weather conditions being experienced. It was thought the pelican was blown off course by the tail-end of a cyclone that came down from the north.

### APOLOGY

Sorry to all those who sent articles for this issue of CALM News that have not appeared because of lack of space. Some of the items will be held-over for the next issue.

# Strange goings-on in the Goldfields

GOALD RESOURCE CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We've recently heard about some unusual things happening to Goldfields Regional Ecologist Andy Chapman. In this story (rhyme?), Andy tries to convince us that his visit to a well-known nightspot was all in the course of his duty. We're not convinced! See what you think. . .

*A day's work finished, or so it was thought  
Put up the feet, it was leisure he sought  
T'was shortlived, as the phone did ring  
And, "It's for you lovey," his wife did sing.*

*"Andy Chapman here, what be your strife?"  
"An injured bird, a matter of death or life."  
"A mudlark is it, with its foot broken?"  
"And without help, it looks like a'croaking?"  
"You've spoken to the vet and he said maybe  
Best to put it down, well I tend to agree."*

*After further discussion, he promised he would  
Come and get the bird and do what he could.  
"Now where was it you said you were at?"  
"Hay Street eh? What number was that?"  
So off he went, while down came the sun  
Down to Hay Street, in search of 181.*

*Out front he stopped in his Landeruiser ute,  
Hang on, this looks like a dwelling of ill-repute  
Around about now, a rat he did smell  
Yet the concern seemed real, as far as he could tell*

*The Madam approached as the CALM logo she saw  
Andy sat bemused, not yet opening the door  
Just the hint of a smile came 'cross her face  
As she said "come on then, this is the place."*

*He gathered his thoughts as he stepped from the car,  
For as she approached, they had wandered afar!  
She led him inside, past all the girls,  
Some wearing lingerie, some with fake pearls.*

*It didn't take long, his eyes trained to search  
To find the bird, fallen from his perch  
As he reached for the fallen, the girls gathered near,  
Perhaps 'twas the perfume, as his thoughts became unclear.*

*"Well I must be going, and take him away"  
And like like a flash, was out of 181 Hay  
The sweat on his brow were like droplets of rain  
As the girls called behind "You will call again?"*

*The following day, after the night before  
Lee-Anne answered the phone - a drop of the jaw.  
"A complaint to the boss you are wishing to make"  
"One which puts CALM's good reputation at stake?"*

*"A vehicle sporting that well-known beach ball  
Parked outside a brothel, has he no shame at all?  
The officer, a little man, who looked like a gnome  
If he's that way inclined, should leave the vehicle at home."*

*Hauled into the boss's office, this moment he dread  
Sat down in front, and the regional manager said  
"The really disappointing thing Andy," with a discerning look  
"was that they rang you, yet I'm first in the book!"*



# Snap up a camera

KONICA is sponsoring a photographic competition for CALM staff.

A Konica MT-100, a fully automatic auto-focus 35mm lens-shutter camera, is up for grabs and rolls of Konica film will be given to the best 50 entries.

The theme of the competition is the CALM estate through the eyes of CALM staff... covering such diverse subjects as national parks, wildlife,

forests and CALM staff at work.

When the LANDSCOPE photographic competitions were announced, many staff were disappointed that they were not eligible to enter, so it was decided to hold a separate competition for employees.

Ron Kawalilak, A/Director Corporate Relations, said that the competition would be an excellent way

of recognising the talents of CALM staff and promoting the work of CALM.

He said that many CALM staff had submitted some excellent photographic work for publication in LANDSCOPE.

The best entries will be put on public display.

Entries should be colour prints no larger than 10 by 8 inches and must be sent to Public Affairs by April 26.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name .....  
Dept Branch/Region .....  
Telephone (Bus) ..... (AH) .....  
Photo Caption .....  
Signature .....  
Parent's or Guardian's signature if under 18 .....

Limit of one photograph per entry (photocopies accepted).  
Maximum of 5 entries per person.

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entries close 5.00 pm Friday 26th April 1991.
2. Winners will be notified in writing.
3. Competition open to CALM employees only.
4. The Department of Conservation and Land Management shall have the right to produce all or any part of any photograph received without the express approval of the photographer.
5. Every care will be taken, but CALM shall not accept any responsibility for any loss of or damage to photographs.
6. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence shall be entered into.
7. This competition does not give rise to any legally enforceable rights, duties, or consequences. It is binding in honour only.
8. All entries must contain a signature.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Photographs must be taken in Western Australia and are to be a maximum size of 8" x 10" prints.

Post your entry to  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION, CALM PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRANCH