



Making mountain plans

A DRAFT management plan for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks is now underway.

The planning team consists of Ian Herford (coordinator) Kelly Gillen (Albany district manager), Corrin Hine (information officer), Lachie McCaw (Manjimup Research), and Greg Keighery (Woodvale).

Sylvia Leighton has been employed as temporary technical officer to help collate information for the plan. She was a regular visitor to the Stirlings even

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before completing tertiary qualifications in botany, education and recreation.

Fascinating

"Sylvia is turning up some fascinating information on the two parks," said South Coast regional planning officer Ian Herford.

For instance, she has found that there are only 13 mammal species listed

on the WA Museum list of specimens found in the Stirling Range. In the Porongurups region there are only two mammals recorded on the WA Museum list.

Porongurup karri trees exhibit a noticeable level of genetic difference from the main karri populations further west. The Porongurup karri is believed to have separated from the main karri forest as aridity increased about 5 000 years ago.

In the mid-1850s our

kangaroo population was widely hunted. In between whaling seasons, the whalers would move inland and hunt kangaroos to supply the overseas market. One historical record notes that a hunter had already sent off 3 000 skins only a few weeks into the hunting season.

Twelve butterflies have been recently recorded in the Stirling Range region. Five of these species are on the draft list of threatened butterfly species.

A single living speci-

men of a snail of the carnivorous snail family, Paryphantidae, has been found in the Stirling Range by CALM's Director of Nature Conservation Barry Wilson.

Next time you go to the Porongurup Range, have a look at the moss and lichen colonies (don't step on the moss because it takes about five years to recover from

a foot mark). There are at least five species of lichen up on the steep granite slopes, though to most casual observers the rock looks bare.

The feral cat is thought to have been in Australia before Europeans arrived - it is suggested they were survivors of shipwrecks or came with the Malay sea traders.

A Planning Advisory Committee is to be formed to assist with preparation of the plan. Expressions of interest have been received from 20 potential members, though only a dozen or so can be offered places.

Anyone wishing to contribute ideas to the planning team should contact Ian Herford at CALM's Albany office on (098) 417 133.

Sea Week success

