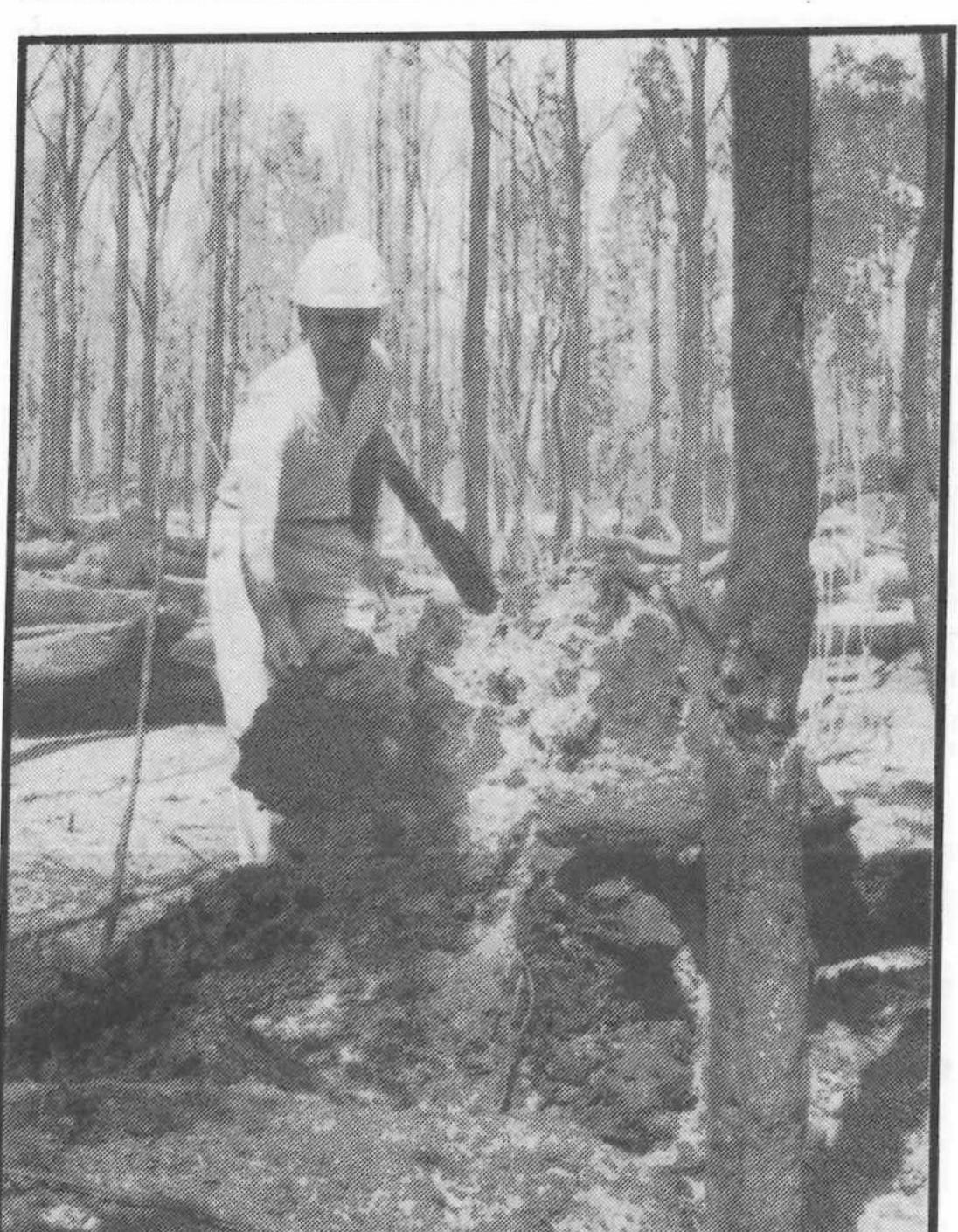
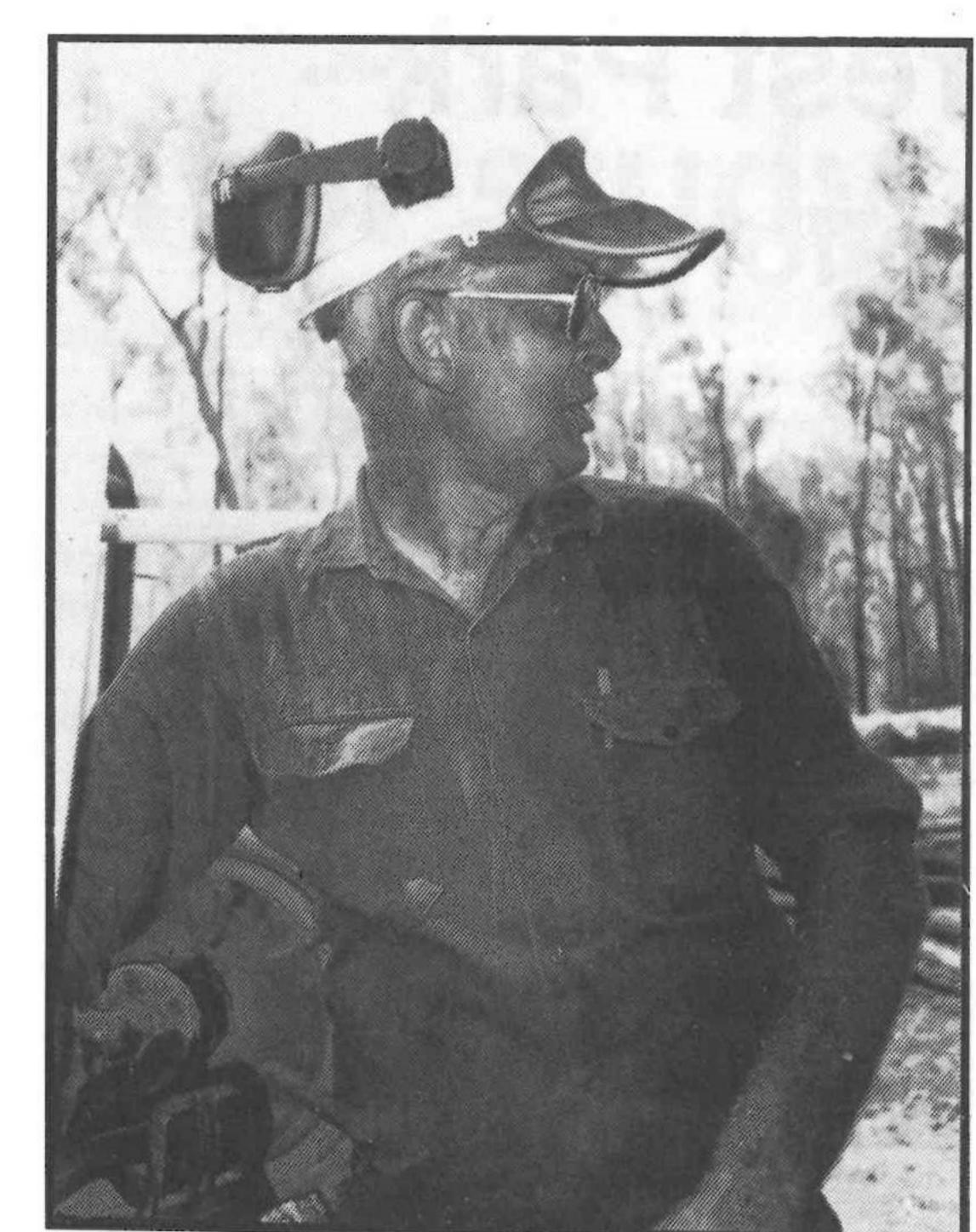
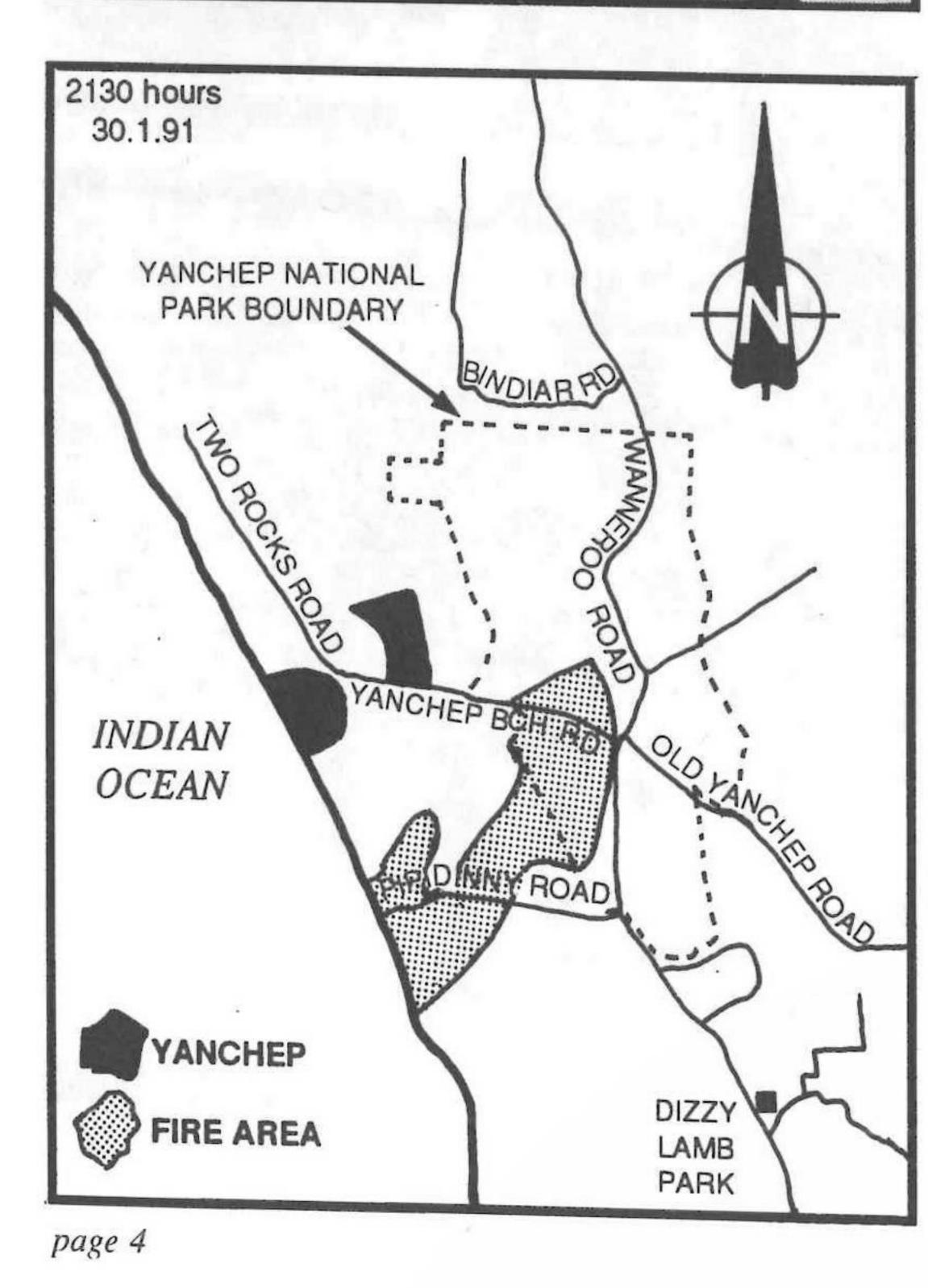
# INDIAN YANCHEP FIRE AREA



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





# Three days one summer

A special CALI News feature

that takes an in-deph look at the recent

bush firs which

swept through he South West

by Davi Gough

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...

under control.

Services, Gordon Hill.

communications.

# Yanchep National

### Wednesday 30 January

The fire, which started just south of Pipidinny Road as a result of a torched stolen car, was spotted from Gnangara Tower at around

The fire burned northwards towards Yanchep fire breaks along the south- eyes and for bee stings (fire 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 Shire of Wanneroo was trol Point had six telephone 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

phone and power lines, 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, Road and Old Yanchep mant overnight). two contract loaders and Road to public access. All By midday there was 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 of the road. 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

### units to get them under Friday 1 February control before the sea breeze

came in around midday. During the night efforts By mid-afternoon, po- were made to halt the proglice advised some landown- ress of the south-eastern ers to the north of Yanchep front before the predicted to remove stock to lower north-easterly winds came risk areas. Police also up in the morning.

advised some residents on No serious injuries were Wanneroo Road that they reported overnight, but St should be prepared to evacu- John Ambulance personate if necessary. Meanwhile, nel treated several firefire-fighters built 30 metre fighters for smoke in the ern edge of the fire zone to stirs up bees).

bring this latest flare-up Telecom engineers had arrived overnight with the At that time, some 3,500 ITERRA satellite commuha had been burned, 1,000 nication system. This was ha of which were within set up and by early morn-Yanchep National Park. The ing the Yanchep Fire Condeclared a Bush Fire Emer- and fax lines available.

gency Zone by Acting Police had reopened all Minister for Emergency roads in the area but warned drivers to proceed with By 5pm the fire had extreme caution and use jumped Wanneroo Road headlights because of and had burned out tele- smoke haze.

The running fires had seriously affecting commu- been brought under connications at the fire control trol and the fire in the point in Yanchep Park. Yanchep pine plantation Radio communication was was burning itself out. re-established and main- Mopping-up operations tained by CALM's Radio were continuing in the pine Communications Branch plantation and along the (see separate item in this 45km perimeter of the fire feature) and a request was area. Approximately 5,000 put to Telecom to provide ha, including about 40 per emergency telephone cent of the park's area, had been burned.

Four property fires were Throughout the mornbeing fought by WA Fire ing the outlying areas out-Brigade units in the area to side the fire perimeter were the east of Wanneroo Road closely monitored for posand west of Old Yanchep sible hop-overs and sleep-Road, near Carabooda. ers (small areas of fire that Police closed Wanneroo may have remained dor-

efforts were made to pre- no running fire and breaks vent the fire, still under the had been established in all influence of a strong sea but a few small areas of the breeze, from crossing Old perimeter. Fire crews were Yanchep Road; but there continuing to mop-up and day for three days. Agenwas a hop-over into pine cut down stags.

reported damage in Yan- State Emergency Services, At 7.15pm the fire was chep and Wanneroo areas WA Fire Brigade, WA running on two fronts: one to be around \$750,000. Two Police Force (including in the north-east and the vehicles were lost in Yan- traffic and helicopter units), other to the south-east. The chep and 20 houses would St John Ambulance, south-eastern front was require external refurbish- SECWA, Telecom, brought under control soon ing.

Transperth, Army and after and held in the pines Dizzy Lamb Park lost RAAF units, and local at Old Yanchep Road, while part of a shed used to house volunteer fire fighters. in the north-east it had an amusement ride and crossed Wanneroo Road to several large sheds were fought the Salvation Army the north of Bindiar Road. also lost in both Yanchep came and set up a refresh-The area burned was and Wanneroo areas.

ment unit at Dizzy Lamb now estimated at 5,000 ha

Almost 200 fire fight- Park to feed fire-fighters jured. and police extended road ers and innumerable back- sandwiches and cool drinks. north and south of the area.

blocks on Wanneroo Road up, supply and administra- No one had requested their CALM and the Bush Fires from Yanchep Beach Road tion teams fought the help; they just turned up to Brigade brought in extra to Woodbridge in the north. Yanchep fire 24 hours a lend a hand...

# South Metro Area cies involved included

JURIEN BAY

CERVANTES

LANCELIN,

WANNEROO

FREMANTLE 2

KEYSBROOK -

**DWELLINGUP** 

BRIDGETOWN

MANJIMUP

ROCKINGHAM

INDIAN

MANDURAH

BUNBURY

COWARAMUP

MARGARET NANNUP

MOORA

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.

PEMBERTON \

In another fire at Mundaring, a house in Lionel While the fire was being Road was damaged before control. No one was in-

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

# South West

**KATANNING** 

KOJONUP

## Wednesday 30 January

MOUNT

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

Scarp Road south and

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 20 ha was burned including several hectares of State Forest. It is suspected that the

Brigade fire-fighters at-

were closed by the police

fire was deliberately lit.

Thursday 31 January

CALM and Bush Fires tended separate fires near

Walpole, Harvey and the Park.

separate fires and heatwave about 20 km north-west of private property and vastretched resources as fire- fires had started from flying glinup, was attended by fighters battled to control sparks, leaving fire-fight- bush fire brigades from Ravthe fires. Logging contrac- ers with as many as eight ensthorpe and Esperance. tors in Dwellingup and Jar- separate fronts to tackle. Cooler temperatures and rahdale were placed on The Davidson-Graphite a south-westerly wind FIRE AREA standby to relieve CALM Road was closed due to helped fire-fighters bring fire-fighters.

A 47-year-old volunteer smoke. Ravensthorpe.

### Friday 1 February

A fire at Keysbrook was cliffe and Shannon National still running on its eastern Park, near Deeside Coast boundary in the early hours Road, 30 km south-west of Saturday 2 February of the morning. Firebreaks Pemberton. This fire had had been completed on all burned through private CALM fire-fighters began other fronts and it was property and karri forest winding down operations expected the fire would be during the previous day but around the south west of contained by about 7am. no houses were damaged. the state after bringing An area of around 500 ha had been burned out, in- took a turn for the worse control.

burned in separate fires were present and ALCOA fire-fighters alone had put around Harvey, Pember- had provided fire-fighting in more than 10,000 hours ton, Walpole and and earth-moving equip- since the fires began.

The fire in the Lane were being redeployed from Syd Shea said the cost of Poole Reserve, near Har- Yanchep and other areas controlling the fires are vey, burned about 150 ha. to assist. Lane Poole is one of the Gusting southerly winds "The cost would, howkey conservation reserves were sending sparks ahead ever, have been more than in the northern jarrah forest. of the main fire front but double that without the

some weeks, were reported duce fuel. The Serpentine "At several times, more to have burned out more National Park and the than two dozen fires were than half a million hec- Gooralong recreation area being fought under extreme tares. At least 400,000 ha were closed to the public weather conditions. It was were still burning on a 20 as a safety measure. a tremendous tribute to all km front east of Salmon Fortunately, by late the fire-fighters that the Gums in the Dundas Na- evening, the winds changed fires had been brought under ture Reserve and another direction and the fire headed control so rapidly and effi-160,000 ha west of Salmon to the east of Jarrahdale ciently," said Dr Shea, Gums, including sections township. CALM crews "and I am particularly of the Frank Hann and Peak were reasonably confident proud of the tremendous Charles national parks. of having sufficient re- efforts by CALM crews Record high temperatures sources to hold the fire at and staff." (47 degrees) and 50 kph winds made fire-fighting conditions extremely dif-

By lunchtime at least Shire, where Acting Min- paddock grasses and burnt he said. ister for Emergency Serv- forest. ices, Gordon Hill, had declared a bush fire emer- west coastal region at fighting fires, especially the gency. Another fire near Salmon Gums had remained volunteers, who had come Pemberton was also run- stationary at Beaumont from throughout the South ning unchecked. Those near Group nature reserve and West and worked in

trol and being patrolled. fire away from a nearby The Keysbrook fire, private property. nearer to Perth, was still running unchecked on its Esperance were brought northern boundary.

At 2.30pm the biggest farming property at Donnelly Valley, near cluster of fires in the south Moonanup, tended by Bush D'Entrecasteaux National west had already burned Fire Brigades and CALM, about 800 ha of State For- caused damage to fences The sheer number of est near One Tree Bridge, and pasture. The other, on severely Manjimup. Several smaller cant Crown land at Mun-

burning between North-

ment. Other CALM units

Scrivener Road, south-east

The two fires west of

under control. One, on a

of Jarrahdale.

falling logs and heavy the Manjimup and Pemberton fires under control.

Another group of fires In the Shire of Planvehicle overturned while was burning between the taganet, a fire at Denbarker he was patrolling a fire near Shannon and Franklin na- was attended by Shire firetional parks but no private fighters and bush fire briproperty was under threat. gades because CALM crews A further fire had been were fighting other fires.

# All areas

By early evening, things around 37 bush fires under

cluding the area surround- when the Keysbrook fire CALM's Fire Protecing a Buddhist monastery. threatened the town of tion Manager, Jock Smart, The forecast cooler Jarrahdale. At 5pm it was said that although operatemperatures (31 degrees just 5 km south-west of the tions were winding down, max) were expected to bring township and had crossed the mopping-up was likely some relief to fire-fighters Scarp Road into rough and to take at least another week although the expected well-wooded terrain in the to complete. He praised the south-westerly winds were Serpentine National Park. efforts of fire-fighters who likely to make the fires More than 100 fire-fight- battled fires in record heatmore difficult to control. ers from CALM and vol- wave conditions. It was Nearly 2,500 hahad been unteer bush fire brigades estimated that volunteer

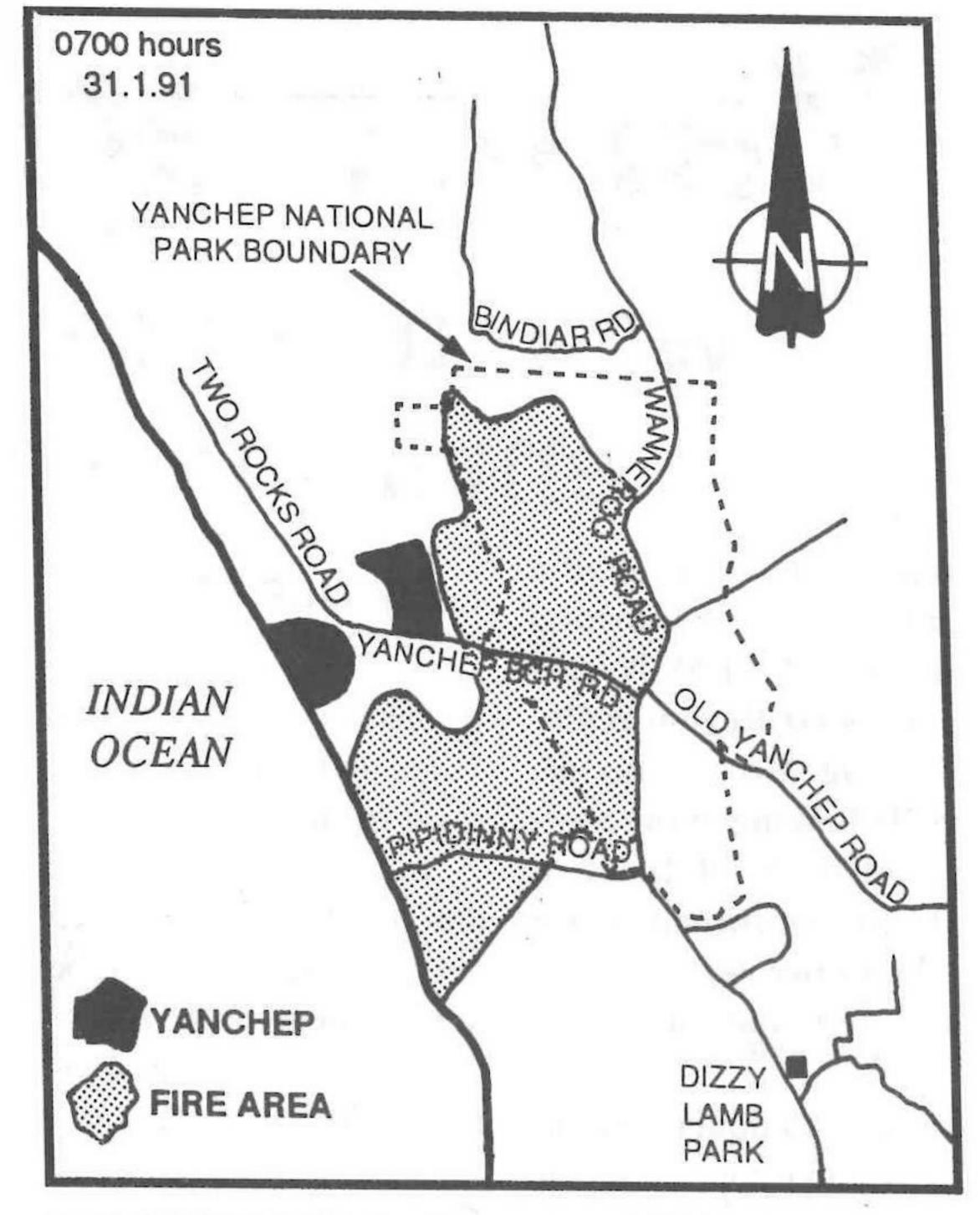
Executive Director Dr

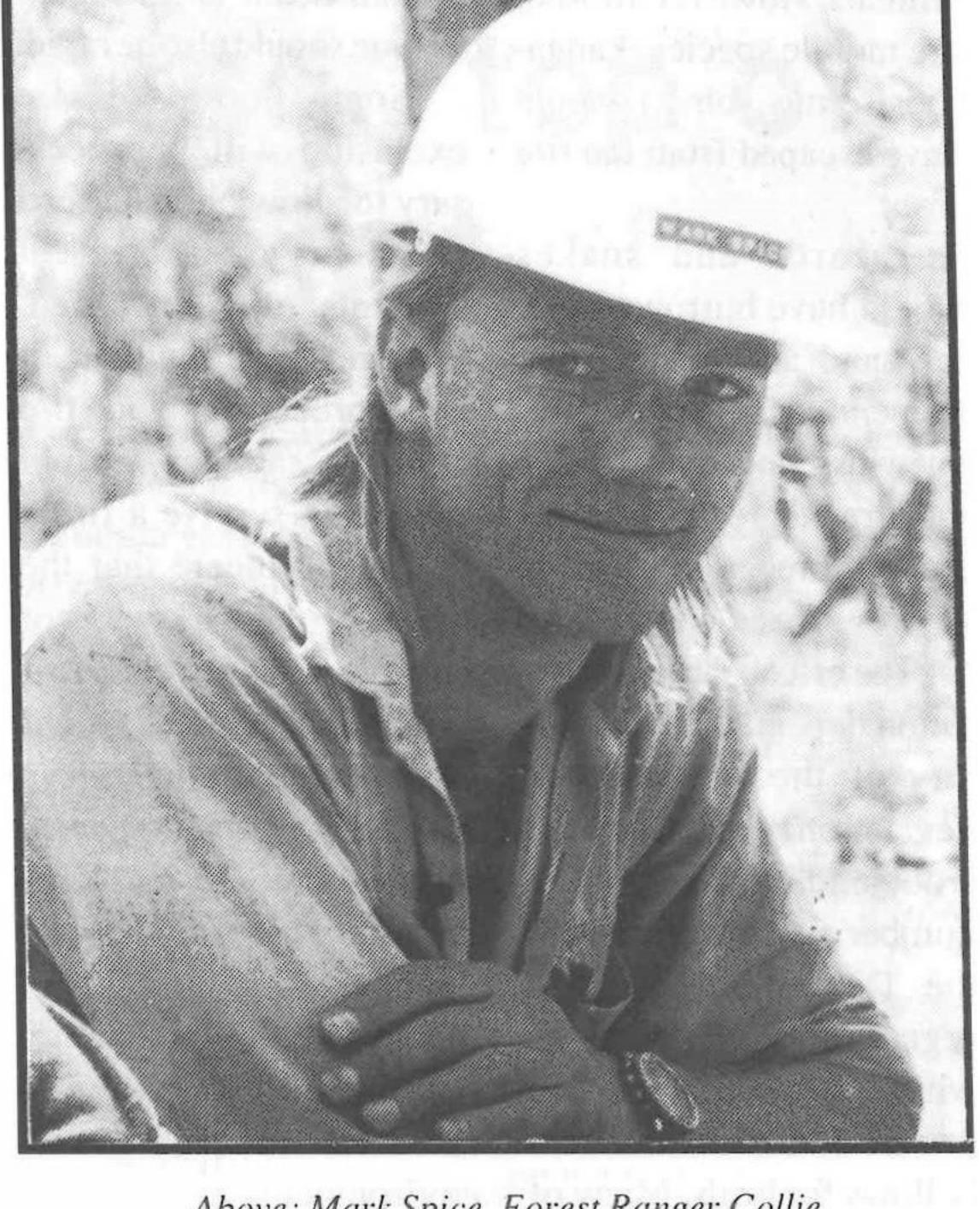
expected to top \$1 million. Two fires, which had fire-fighters were hopeful assistance of the volunteers been burning out of con- of being able to contain it from the Bush Fires Board trol in inaccessible coun- in an area that had been brigades and State Emertry east of Esperance for previously burned to re- gency Service," he said.

"The coordination and assistance provided by the At 10.40pm the fire had Police Department, State ficult throughout the south been contained after burn- Emergency Services, WA ing 1,800 ha, including 640 Fire Brigade, Bush Fires ha of State Forest and 720 Board, St John Ambulance, three fires were running ha of private property. timber industry, RAAF and out of control in Manjimup Losses included fences, Army has been superb,"

Dr Shea thanked all The fire in the south those people involved in Dwellingup, Harvey and the predicted wind change incredibly trying and Walpole were under con- was expected to hold the dangerous conditions.

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

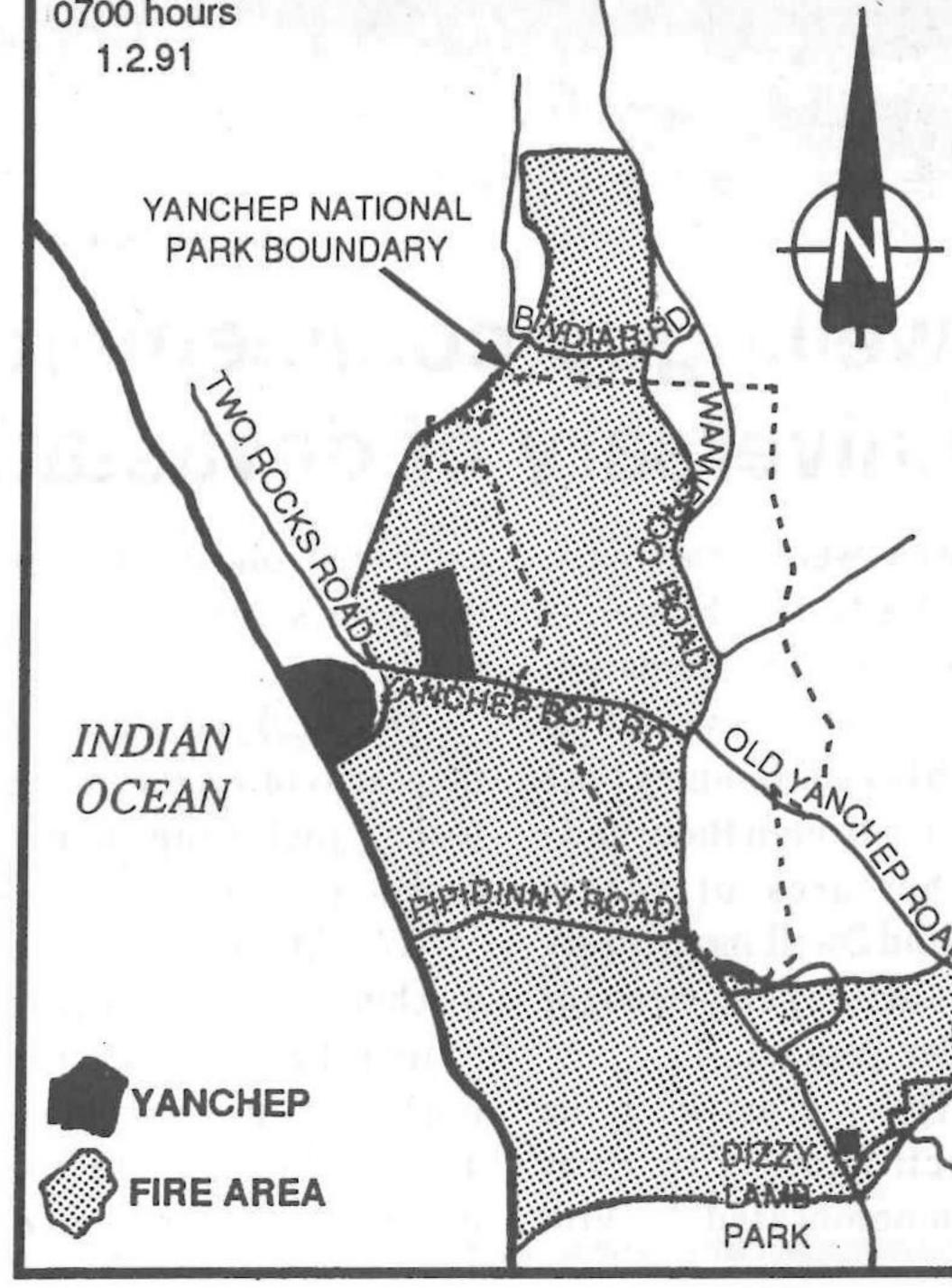


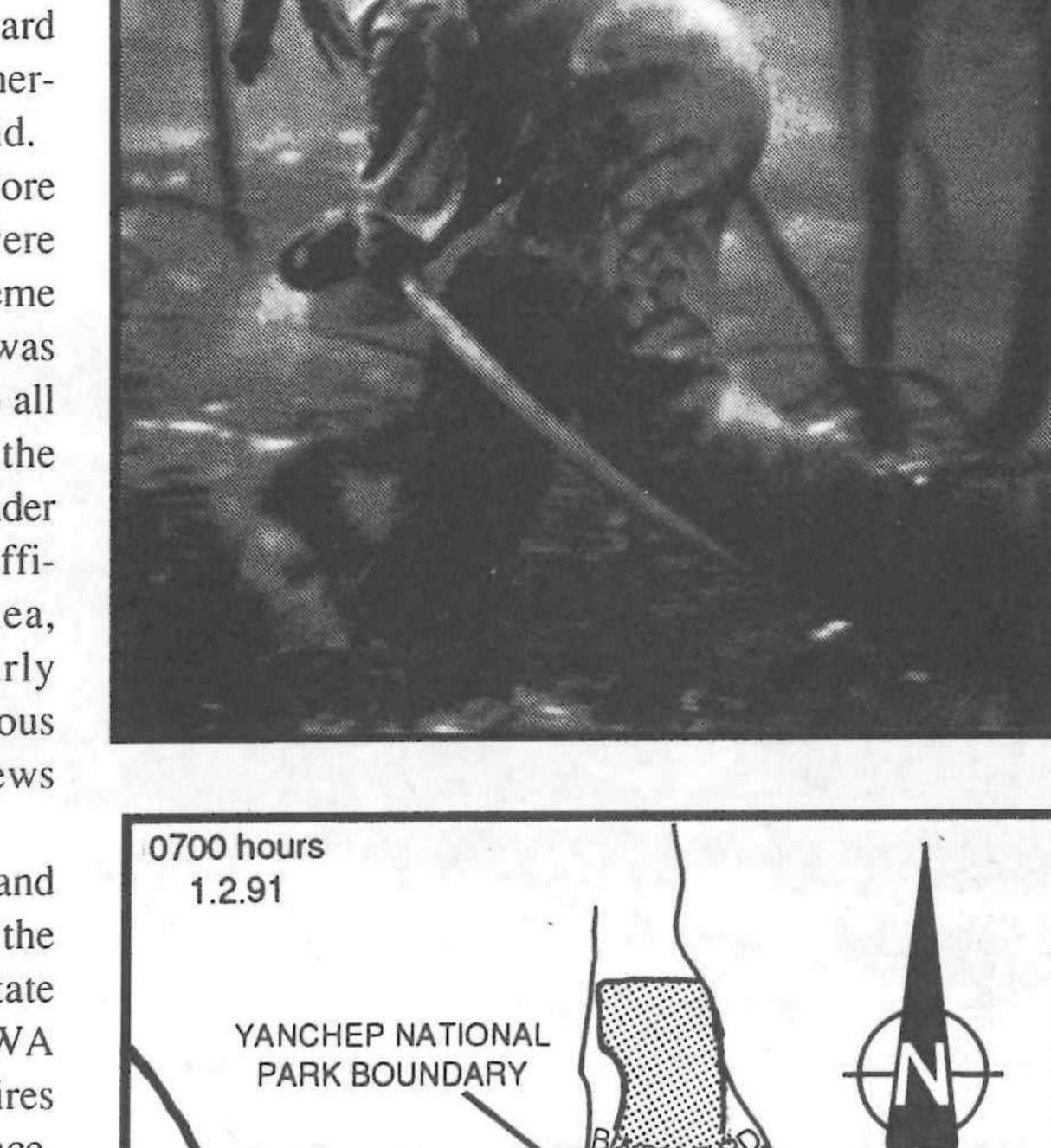


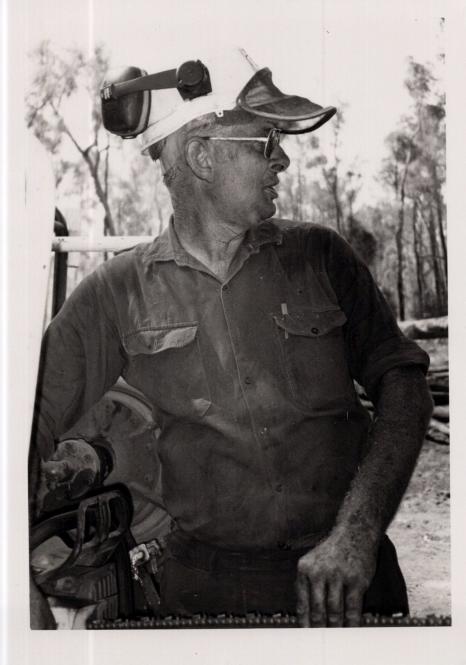
Above: Mark Spice, Forest Ranger Collie. Photo - Collie Mail

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









torestworkmen - Kirup



