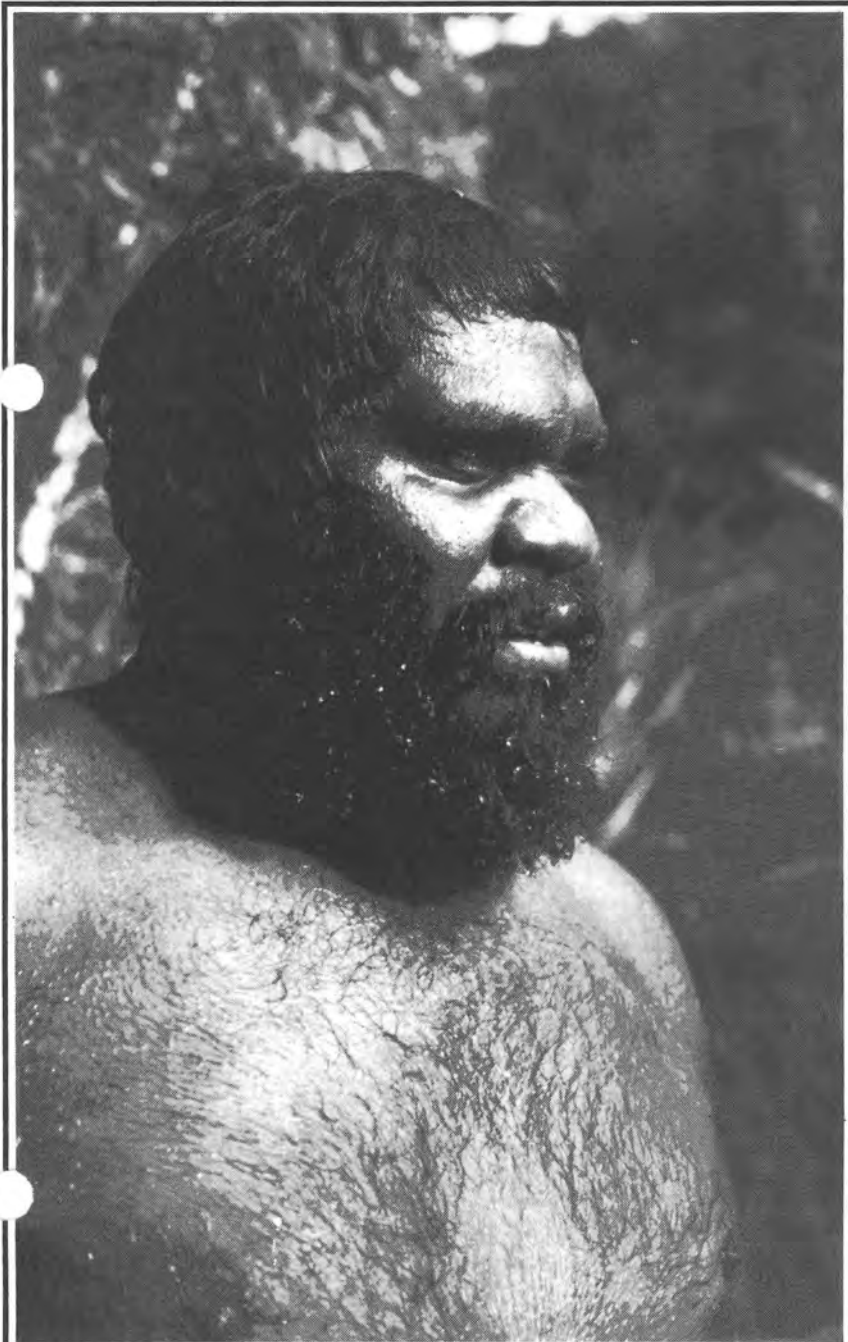


CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

June 1991



Runner-up Allan Padgett's entry to the photo competition, showing John Parker, ranger at Hamersley Range National Park, in a moment of relaxation.

Competition was a winner

GERARD van Didden, from Fire Protection, is the winner of the first CALM employees' photo competition, sponsored by Konica.

His photograph of one of the recent wildfires at Esperance, titled "Energy to Burn", was the unanimous choice of the judges.

Allan Padgett, from Planning, Beverley Koch, from the Herbarium, and Ray Smith, District Wildlife Officer at Bunbury, were runners-up.

Alan Padgett's photo of John Parker (shown above) and his photo of children in a corroboree at Millstream particularly impressed the judges.

Beverley entered a spectacular photograph of Mount Augustus and another of a bungarra, while the best of Ray's superb entries were of a phascogale and praying mantis.

Gerard was presented with a Konica MT-100 fully

automatic auto-focus 35 mm lens-shutter camera, while Ray, Alan and Beverley will receive LANDSCOPE binders.

A selection of the best entries will be published in an upcoming issue of LANDSCOPE, in a photo essay titled "Through CALM Eyes".

Judges for the competition were Ron Kawalilak, Carolyn Thomson and Stacey Strickland of Corporate Relations Division.

"The quality of the entries was outstanding," said Corporate Relations Director Ron Kawalilak.

"It was hard to separate the top entries, but Gerard's photo of the Esperance fire was so dramatic that it was difficult to go past."

Seventy-five entries were received - an outstanding response - and all entrants will receive a roll of film.

So thanks to all those

who entered and congratulations to the winners.

Don't forget to check LANDSCOPE to see a selection of the best entries.

WINNER: Gerard Van Didden ("Energy to Burn").

RUNNERS-UP: Beverley Koch ("Mount Augustus" and "Our next door neighbour at Osprey campsite"), Ray Smith ("Home in the Jarrah" and "It's not easy being green") and Allan Padgett ("John Parker" and "The Dance").

HONORABLE MENTIONS: Tony Tapper (for "Deep Purple" and "Reflections"), Doug Coughran (for "Close Encounters") Wally Edgecombe (for "Awakening Ibis on Paperbarks"), Ian Trigwell (for "Sunset at Leeuwin/Naturaliste National Park") Scott Godley ("Rain at Sunset"), Mike O'Donoghue ("Beautiful Banksia Bloom") and Ray Smith ("Bud to Blossom").

CALM staff smash racket in sandalwood

CALM officers believe they have smashed an international operation that involved sandalwood being illegally exported to South-East Asia.

The racket involved sandalwood worth about \$500 000. The wood is highly valued in South-East Asia, where it fetches \$2 000 to \$9 000 per tonne, depending on quality.

CALM's Kalgoorlie office first began to suspect illegal activities in August 1989, when Asian importers complained about the quality of some sandalwood being shipped overseas.

By January 1990 Kalgoorlie staff were investigating reports that sandalwood was being harvested illegally from Crown land in the Goldfields region.

Areas of old cuttings were located near Mundrabilla, but operations had ceased. Investigations in WA and SA continued.

In early May CALM wildlife officer Bob Fitzgerald and forester Colin Verwey went to South Australia to investigate a report that operations had recommenced.

Investigations confirmed that trees harvested in WA were being stripped of their bark at Port Kenny in South Australia, before being sent to South-East Asia via Queensland.

With the help of South Australian authorities, Bob and Colin were able to pinpoint a location and the registration numbers of two vehicles used in the illegal activities.

On returning to Eucla, they spotted the truck used to transport the wood and followed it to the sandalwood cutting area.

After informing the Police, Bob and Colin waited off the road for the truck to return.

After their long wait proved fruitless, the two contacted CALM's Kalgoorlie regional office and asked for a plane to be sent up to investigate.

by CAROLYN THOMSON

The truck had taken a previously unknown side track to return to South Australia.

"When we discovered that the truck had left, Colin and I followed the truck's tracks and found their main camps, with a large quantity of sandalwood cut and ready to be picked up," said Bob.

"On May 20 we returned to the camp, where we found the cutter. We interviewed the cutter, Errol Cason, and took him to court the next morning," he said.

Cason was convicted under the Wildlife Conservation Act on three counts of taking flora on Crown land without a licence and fined a total of \$12 000.

Immediately after this

success, Bob and Colin returned to South Australia to pursue information obtained during the arrest. Along with South Australian wildlife authorities, Police and taxation officers, they swooped on a property at Venus Bay, near Port Kenny, and arrested a man allegedly behind the racket.

Following a court appearance in Ceduna, they returned with him to WA, interviewed him, then charged him under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The man, Daniel Cahill, was also convicted and fined a total of \$12 000 on three counts. Investigations based on information obtained and documents seized are continuing in three states.

"The whole operation was mentally and physi-

cally exhausting. Some days Colin and I went for over 40 hours without sleep," said Bob.

"But it was certainly a challenge - I have never been involved in anything of this magnitude before."

"We believe about 100 tonnes of sandalwood from the Mundrabilla area has been harvested in the past 12 months," said regional manager of the Goldfields region Ian Keally.

"It is the first time illegal exporting of sandalwood has occurred," he said.

Sandalwood harvesting in WA is strictly controlled by CALM, under an approved management plan, in order to protect and conserve a valuable resource.

Sandalwood pullers have to operate under licence with strict conditions and supervision.



Wildlife officer Bob Fitzgerald with illegally harvested sandalwood near Mundrabilla. Photo by Colin Verwey.

Send your stories in by the next CALM NEWS deadline: July 10



MANY people will be aware that CALM is embarking on a program called "Quality Improvement", which is being coordinated by Karl Kelers. The essence of this approach is that we are looking at better ways to coordinate our activities throughout the Department and to bring everybody in the Department into the process.

The best way to understand what is being attempted is to look at our safety program. I believe this program is successful because it embraces all of the fundamental principles of "Quality Improvement". Specifically, it involves maximum participation of all members of the Department, objectives are clearly set and there is constant feedback to all participants in the program.

I believe the Department can be justly proud of our successes with our safety program. Not only have we succeeded in minimising injury to people working in the Department, but it is a major source of cohesion and by the way has saved us a considerable amount of money (up to \$400 000 in last year's budget). Most importantly, the safety program demonstrates that we care.

While we have been very successful in handling the physical risk to our bodies in the safety program, we also should recognise that in today's hectic world stress can be as damaging as a physical injury. While the safety program provides some assistance to those people who are being affected by a stressful work environment, we really haven't had any formal mechanism to deal with this aspect of health and safety.

One of the difficulties, of course, is that stress is often caused by a range of problems, some work related and some deriving from our private lives. The last thing that I want to do is to invade people's privacy.

However, I do believe that we should make an effort in the Department to assist people who are suffering from stress because of the work situation. To overcome the difficulty of separating the work situation from people's personal situation, I have appointed David Greenhill to act in the capacity of "Departmental Counsellor". David is professionally trained in this area and is a member of the Human Resources Branch. He will be available for people who wish to raise problems relating to stress or other related illnesses which are caused by the job or are affecting their job. Anybody wishing to talk to David may do so on the clear understanding that discussions with him are strictly confidential and will only be passed on to me or the other managers with the permission of the person who has raised the problem.

Details of this service will be sent to all managers in the next few days.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

STAFF NEWS

Promotions

Alberto Bartolomei, to Senior Computer Operator, Information Systems, Como.

Nine park rangers have completed training and been promoted to ranger status. They are: Murray Banks, Tomdirrup; David Burton, Kalbarri; Scott Godley, Mobile Ranger; Anne Greig, Yanchep; Ian Hughes, Mobile Ranger; Mark Moore, Leeuwin-Naturaliste; Geoff Passmore, Mobile Ranger; Jason Puls, Yanchep; Mark True, Mobile Ranger. This brings the number of rangers who have passed through the traineeship program, since it began in May, 1988 to 11.

Transfer

Natalie Littlefair, Officer, to Human Resources, Como.

Retirement

Peter Skinner, Senior Technical Officer, Manjimup Research.

New information sheets

NEW whale and dolphin information sheets, specifically designed for distribution to the media and the public at strandings, were used for the first time during strandings at Broome.

The eight sheets deal with 13 species that com-

monly strand.

They also provide information on CALM's role during strandings, and cover such issues as freeze-branding, euthanasia, safety and participation in rescue attempts by volunteers.

They have been distributed to all CALM regions.

Park burnt again



THE familiar sight of burnt and charred banksias, taken just one day after fire swept through part of Kalbarri National Park in early April.

The fire was detected on Friday April 5 and ran through heath and banksia at a rate of 1.2 km an hour. Thirty volunteer units attended the fire with five CALM units. Rangers Roy

Harris and Gerry Deegan were joined by Andrew Brown, Richard Burgess and Joshua Robertson to fight the fire which escaped from a burn on private land adjacent to the park.

Before the fire was halted and declared safe, a total of 800 ha of the park and 200 ha of private land had been burnt. Fences on the Mt View station and an old front-end loader were

damaged. There were no injuries.

Operations were controlled by operations officer Kim Nardi and projects officer Andrew Hill. Photo by David Gough

LETTERS

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Right on track

During the Easter weekend our 4WD club camped at the Shannon and did various trips around the district.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the camping facilities and enclose our cheque for \$100 as a donation to be directed towards the Shannon area.

During our stay we were impressed with the co-operation and helpfulness afforded our club by the ranger, Nathan McQuoid. He went out of his way to ensure that we had access to as many areas as possible and gave every assistance to our trip leaders in planning our itinerary.

Although as a club we were unable to take full advantage of it, we noted the extensive activities program he had organised for families camping in the area.

With preservation of the environment being the aim of CALM and recreational clubs such as ours, good communication and the fostering of harmonious relations is paramount. The Easter weekend at Shannon was an example of what can be achieved in this regard.

Ron Black
President
The Four Wheel Drive Club of WA

Helpful field staff

On April 1, I was marooned with radiator problems on Albany Highway south of the Canning Dam turn-off.

The holiday traffic towards Perth was heavy, but despite this and the darkness a south-bound car

with trailer turned around, stopped and offered assistance.

The two men turned out to be a CALM firecrew coming from a small fire at Canning Dam. They looked over my radiator, offered water and offered to communicate any messages.

It is with pleasure that I record my appreciation for your fieldstaff. This is the second time that it happened to me.

Those people in the field do more for your departmental image than glossy brochures, splendid rhetoric and corporate performance calculations.

Otto Mueller
Wembley Downs

Dwellingup officers commended

On May 23 my three sons were four hours overdue from a one hour walk from Bob's Crossing to Nanga Mill. With an expected arrival of 5 pm you can imagine how my wife and I felt as darkness closed in. The error was a combination of a vandalised stage post at a critical junction, poor advice from a fellow walker, and inexperience on the boys' part.

I would like to commend the actions of the foresters and rangers from the Dwellingup Office who were called out at their mealtime to help search for the boys.

Richard MacIlinden, Peter Barton, Vern Rutherford and Paul Udinga all quickly responded to our plea for help. No hesitation, no complaints, only good-humoured application of expertise. To our thanks,

they replied "...all just part of the job." To us it meant more.

As the son of an earlier WA forester I feel thankful that the public face of the service (and I am sure the technical side as well) is being cared for so well by such fine ambassadors of the department.

My boys and I will be taking an even greater interest in our future walks in the forests, for they have not been deterred by their

experience, but stimulated.

Ric O'Donnell

Invaluable help

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Booragoon Inc, I wish to thank the Department for the excellent assistance provided by your staff members Jamie Riddle and Glen Wilmott.

Their guidance and explanations during our club's visit to the Hills forests was invaluable.

Our Rotary District

project this year, launched by Dr Syd Shea at our conference, is 'dieback awareness'.

We went away well-informed and it is good to see enthusiastic, knowledgeable and dedicated officers setting a good example to the public service.

George Sipman
Rotary Club of Booragoon



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Deadline for each issue is the 10th of each month.

Gerry's basking in a blaze of glory

GERRY Van Didden from Fire Protection, pictured here with his prize from Konica and the winning photograph, was delighted to win the CALM photo competition.

The photo of a wildfire near Esperance was taken on January 8 from a fire spotting plane using 200 ASA film.

The fire, caused by a lightning strike on or about December last year, was one of about 18 or so in a belt 500 kilometres long!

The fire pictured was itself about six kilometres long and about three-quarters of a kilometre wide, and the size of the flaming area was estimated to be around 300 hectares.

Gerry estimated that the energy released from the 300 hectares was 44 640 000 kilojoules.

The photo will be published in full colour in a forthcoming issue of *LAND-SCOPE*.

Photo by David Gough



A first for WA Aborigines

FAMILY members, friends and colleagues from the Kimberley Regional office descended on the Northern Territory with Purnululu National Park trainee rangers, Paul Butters and Alex Rogers, recently.

The purpose of the friendly invasion was to see Paul and Alex, along with seven other Aborigines, graduate with a Certificate in Lands, Parks and Wildlife Management.

The graduation ceremony took place at Katharine Open College of TAFE last month.

They are the first West-

by Verna Costello

ern Australian Aborigines to complete the course and were highly commended by their principal, John Weatherhead.

"Paul and Alex were excellent students ... very capable young men and a pleasure to have on the course," Mr Weatherhead said.

The course was carried out mostly by correspondence, with an emphasis on practical park maintenance.

A 16-week residential

component was completed in blocks of four weeks, four times during the year.

Before beginning the course, Paul and Alex toured Mootwingee and Kinchega National Parks in New South Wales and Gammon Ranges, Eyres Rock, the Olgas and several smaller parks in Alice Springs.

The purpose of their tour was to find out how national parks in other parts of Australia were managed and to see how such practices could be adapted to the management of Purnululu National Park.

Alex said that he and Paul felt that, by success-

fully completing the course, they could be role models for other Aborigines.

"We'll also be able to help those who enrol in the course when they get into difficulties with their studies," Alex said.

"We're particularly grateful for the help we had from Aboriginal Studies teacher, Doreen Green.

"She's an Aborigine,

too, from Hall's Creek where I was born. "Doreen could relate to our problems and help us work through them."

Asked what his goals were now he had achieved his certificate, Alex said he wanted to keep building on the knowledge he had gained from the course.

"I'm also interested in learning as much as I can

about Aboriginal history ... to get it down on tape before it's too late," he said.

"My aunt, Bonnie Edwards, is one of the tribal elders on the Purnululu Aboriginal Park Council and I've learnt a lot from her already.

"She's very knowledgeable about Aboriginal legends and history, and she

was the first to urge me to contact CALM for a job and later to do the graduate course."

Alex said that the District Manager Mark Pitavino gave the two encouragement and guidance throughout their studies.

"Mark believed we could succeed and inspired us to believe we could, too," Alex said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goats doomed

FORESTER Norm Caporn of the Protection Branch is representing CALM on a recently-formed committee that is drafting a five-year program to eradicate feral goats from WA's arid pastoral areas.

It is estimated that more than 2.25 million goats have been destroyed or mustered for sale by WA pastoralists since 1973, but recent Australian National Parks and Wildlife aerial surveys have shown there were still about one million goats left in pastoral areas.

The program will be carried out by Land Conservation District committees, aided and coordinated by the Agriculture Protection Board.

Speakers' kits

ROTARY clubs throughout the South West have joined with CALM in an intense campaign to warn their local communities of the danger of dieback disease.

The campaign, officially launched in Perth by Minister for the Environment,

Bob Pearce, on Arbor Day, June 7, will include public seminars and mass media publicity.

A special Speaker's Kit, prepared by Caris Bailey, of Corporate Relations, has gone out to South West Rotary clubs.

New flora list

ELEVEN new species have been added to the schedule of declared rare flora, including two species that were presumed to be extinct.

They include a featherflower, *Verticordia harveyi*, and a starflower, *Calytrix breviseta*, found by Anne Kelly and Amanda Spooner on private land in the Kenwick area.

CALM is now negotiating with the property owner about a possible purchase or land exchange.

The Minister agreed to include presumed extinct flora on the Schedule as a means of providing legislative protection to species which may be rediscovered in the wild.

See the insert on presumed extinct species for more information.

Dolphin gives birth

A NEW calf was born at Monkey Mia last month, providing scientists with valuable information about the gestation period of wild dolphins.

"Puck gave birth exactly 12 months from the period when she disappeared from the beach for 24 days, and dolphin researchers saw her being herded offshore by male dolphins," said District Manager Ron Shepherd.

The female calf, a third generation beach visitor, visited the beach only hours after she was born.

"Her last calf, born in March last year, died within a week, probably due to the effects of a shark attack," said Ron.

"Visitors to Monkey Mia have been asked to stand in shallower water than usual and only rangers are feeding Puck, to protect the calf in the early stages of its development," he said.

Another dolphin, Holey Fin, is also due to give birth in about two months.

Strandings

THERE were two mass whale strandings within three days on remote stretches of coastline north of Broome in April.

In the first incident nine short-finned pilot whales died after beaching themselves about 200 km north of Broome on Saturday.

Another 28 whales, also short-finned pilot whales, then stranded at Sandy Point, about 150 kilometres north of Broome, and several more were seen in deeper water off the beach.

All animals were dead before CALM officers arrived at the sites, but organ samples were taken for tests to try to establish their cause of death.

"All the whales appear to have died within 12 hours of stranding, possibly because of the high temperature," said CALM wildlife officer Peter Pennings.

"Tests on organs from the animals may provide information on whether the whales were sick when they beached themselves, but there's still so much we don't understand about these strandings," he said.



Alex Rogers, centre left with Paul Butters immediately behind him, after their graduation ceremony. Photo by Chris Done.

A forest affair

Story and photos by David Gough



AROUND 750 adults and children converged on Fred Jacoby Park near Mundaring in mid-April to experience *A Forest Affair*.

The weather was excellent - clear skies and not too hot - and a wide range of activities including log-hauling and fire-suppression demonstrations, chainsaw sculpturing, and several craft and educational displays were well received by all who attended.

Some took advantage of the barbecue facilities in the park, while others availed themselves of the free bush 'cuisine' on offer - johnny cakes and billy tea.

A Forest Affair is just one of 16 activities in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's *Go Bush* program, which in turn is one of many school holiday activities organised by CALM throughout the State.

At present, activities are run at Yanchep National Park, Mundaring and Serpentine National Park with additional programs in the South West being aimed jointly at school children and holidaying visitors.

The *Go Bush* program was piloted in October 1990 and almost all of the 10 activities tried sold out. The second program was expanded to 16 separate activities in April 1991.

Enthusiastic support

The program received enthusiastic support from local groups and people, many of whom participated as leaders. These included the Mundaring Historical Society, the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society, local artist Judy Kotai and CALM volunteers.

The activities included a night-time spotlighting tour of Kalamunda National Park, breakfast with the birds, animal tracking, drawing and sketching, and campfire stories and song. The night-time activities were the first to be sold out, followed by the animal tracking activity *Forests Alive*.

One activity - *Forest Caretakers* - was designed especially for children aged 9-12 years old to give them an understanding of both ecological concepts and the need to keep the planet healthy.

All of the activities were aimed at providing families with a fun way of learning about their natural environment rather than sitting at home reading books or watching TV documentaries. First-hand experience helps us to appreciate our natural surroundings, and the questions asked and feedback given helps CALM improve its park and forest management techniques.

Feedback from participants in this most recent *Go Bush* program was encouraging, and many participants wanted more activities more often.

The Mundaring office received many letters of praise and some with constructive suggestions for future activities.

These possibilities will be investigated with the extension of the program as a major part of future changes to recreation, interpretation and education in the Mundaring forest area.



Top: Helen Forrester (volunteer at Walyunga NP), George Duxbury (Senior Ranger for Mundaring District) and Gill Duxbury preparing johnny cakes.

Left: James Dimer from Huntingdale and Travis Narkle from Marble Bar looking at the Dieback Display at A Forest Affair.

Below: Barry Rhodes, Storeman at CALM's Mundaring Office, demonstrates the art of billy tea making.

Below left: CALM's Brian Selkirk has been creating chainsaw sculptures for four years. He demonstrated this unusual art to an enthusiastic audience.

Below right: Acting District Manager Bill Adams raised a few dollars more by auctioning Brian Selkirk's masterpieces.



McNess House gets a facelift

RESTORATION work on McNess House in Yanchep National Park is well under way.

Much of the original timber framework, constructed with Oregon timber and later additions of jarrah, is intact.

However, considerable damage by termites in the south-eastern end of the upper storey and the ground or means that new structural work will need to be carried out before re-roofing and re-wiring can commence.

Timber work that is still sound will be treated to protect it against termite attacks.

Most of the original tiling is intact and has been set aside for use when re-roofing begins.

The limestone walls will

by VERNA COSTELLO

receive a face-lift and asbestos, used in additions to the upper floor balcony and to the ground floor verandah will be removed.

The balcony and verandahs will be reconstructed with materials consistent with the original building.

The kiosk added to the eastern end of the building will be removed completely.

The \$100 000 project has been financed by the Department's Park Improvements Program.

McNess House was built by sustenance workers during the Great Depression and was completed in 1932.

It was one of a number of projects financed by phi-

lanthropist, Sir Charles McNess, who aimed to provide work for those hard-hit by the Depression and at the same time beautify Perth and the bush immediately surrounding it.

McNess House was recently classified by the National Trust and approval was given for CALM to carry out the restoration.

When restoration has been completed, McNess House will be used as an information centre for visitors to Yanchep National Park.

Another park improvement work, re-alignment of the entry road, begins in June and is expected to improve ease of access and safety.

The realignment is designed to avoid most of the trees in the area and what little vegetation is disturbed will be quickly regenerated with native plants.

A \$200 000 grant from the Main Roads Department will finance the road-works.

It is estimated that half a million people visit Yanchep each year and this figure is expected to increase as a bumper wild-flower season is expected in the park, now quickly regenerating after this summer's bushfires.

Left: Wanneroo forester Bill Muir shows extent of termite damage in south-eastern end of upper storey of McNess House. Photo - Verna Costello



Good news for the chuditch

An exhaustive search for the chuditch has revealed that the rare animal is still found in many places from which scientists had thought it had disappeared.

"It's great to find they are still around. Not long ago we thought they were confined to the jarrah forest of Western Australia," said Keith Morris, who is in charge of CALM's re-

search and management program for the chuditch.

"Recently, in the Wheatbelt there have been road kills and sightings along road reserves and we've even trapped them ourselves at Frank Hann National Park and Lake Magenta Nature Reserve," said Keith.

"There have even been reports that they may still

be found in western New South Wales, an area from which they were last recorded in 1841."

Keith, together with Melody Serena and Todd Sederquist, has prepared a management program for the chuditch. It includes a translocation program, with animals being taken from the captive breeding colony at Perth Zoo.

"We now have 18 animals, including 12 young from last year, and the animals have been mated again."

Kalbarri

The translocation will go ahead next year, and possible sites include Kalbarri National Park and Julimar Forest, near Bindoon, in the Northern Forest Region.

Keith has also pinpointed the need for further research into fox baiting. It is suspected that 1080 baiting might affect the chuditch, which is a carnivore and may take the baits, even though the animal has some resistance to the poison.

The report looks at operations in the forest such

as timber cutting, regeneration and fire. It recommends that after logging, a certain number of logs of a certain size should be left on the ground to provide nests and refuges.

It suggests that spring burning is the preferred option for the chuditch, as it is a patchier burn.

"This should be taken into account when prescribed burning areas known to have good chuditch populations, such as the Lane Poole Reserve," said Keith.

A recovery team with representatives from CALM regional and research staff and the zoo will be established to implement the plan and make decisions about the program.

Millions of seedlings

THE tree planting months of June and July see hundreds of CALM staff out in force planting seedlings and direct-seeding areas of State forest throughout the South West that have been cut over or mined.

About 60 per cent - nearly two thirds - of CALM's staff are involved in one way or another with trees: planting, tending, protecting, timber operations, administration on behalf of and so on.

Some of the areas the Department covers include: tree genetics and breeding, saving rare and endangered trees, dieback research, karri forest research, planting advisory service, agroforestry, silviculture, growth modelling simulation, research into tree-dependant fauna, community education and

nursery operations.

This season 2 600 hectares will be planted with 3.2 million radiata pine seedlings, 1.5 million karri seedlings, and 10 million karri seeds which will be direct-seeded.

Several thousand jarrah, marri, blackbutt and other native species seedlings will also be planted.

This year at CALM's Manjimup nursery, three million trees have been produced for commercial sale; the Narrogin nursery has 400 000 seedlings and the Broome nursery between 40 000 and 50 000 seedlings.

The Department's Vegetation and Tree Planting Advisory Service is aiming to integrate 1.2 million Tasmanian blue gums into farm planting this year.

by Tanya Maxted



Rare whale

A couple who photographed a whale in Cockburn Sound late last year have helped to shed some light on an unusual visitor to our shores.

The whale appeared to be feeding in the Sound, as there were copious amounts of water coming from its mouth.

The couple contacted Supervising Wildlife Officer Doug Coughran who identified it as a pygmy right whale.

Doug sent the photo to Cath Kemper of the South Australian Museum, who specialises in pygmy right whales.

Cath advised that the animal had never before been photographed alive in the wild in Australian waters.

The whales are slow moving, inconspicuous and rarely seen, although they occasionally strand along the coast. The few sightings of live animals have been in shallow bays.

As a result, hardly anything is known about the animal, which is found only in the southern hemisphere.

Doug said it was only the second time that a pygmy right whale had been seen alive in Western Australia in the last 10 years.



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

by IAN HERFORD

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

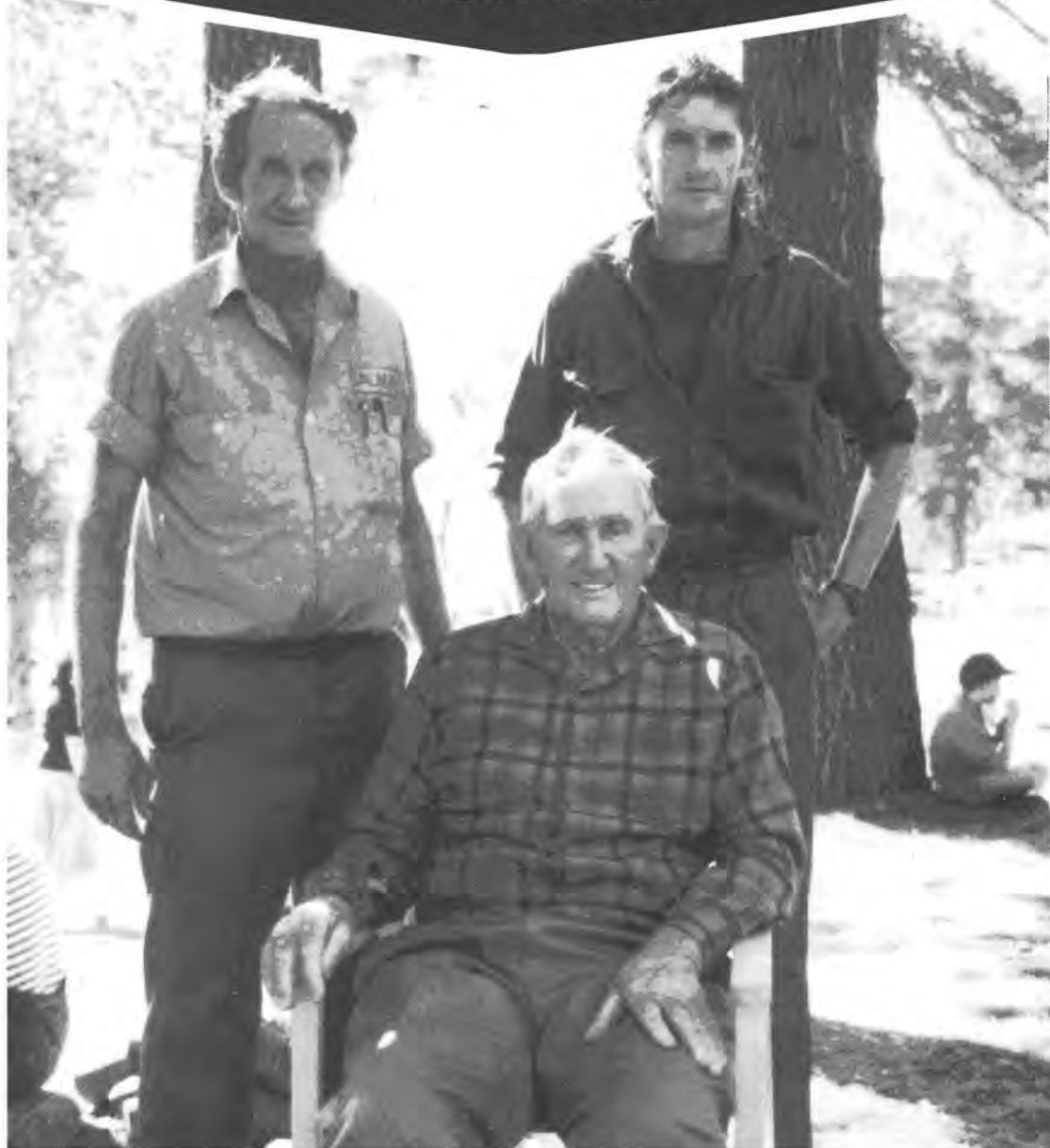
a foot mark). There are at least five species of lichen up on the steep granite slopes, though to most casual observers the rock looks bare.

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.

Three generations of forest workers



A STRONG family tradition is a feature of many of CALM's forest districts. This is typified by the Rhodes family at Mundaring, three generations of whom have worked for the department for a

total of nearly 90 years. Pictured at the recent "Forest Affair" at Mundaring Weir are Watty (44 years with the Forests Department), his son Barry (36 years with the Forests Department and

CALM) and Barry's son Wayne (coming up for 10 years of service). Barry was employed at the age of 15 to look after the department's horses. After many years as a forest workman he graduated

to overseer and then district storeman, the position his father held for over 25 years. Three of Watty's brothers: Stan, Vicco and Alby also worked as forest workmen at Mundaring Weir.

Sea Week success

An exciting week of marine promotion activities and displays celebrated Sea Week '91 over the Metropolitan Region recently.

Sea Week is a Marine Education Society of Australasia initiative and is celebrated Australia-wide each year.

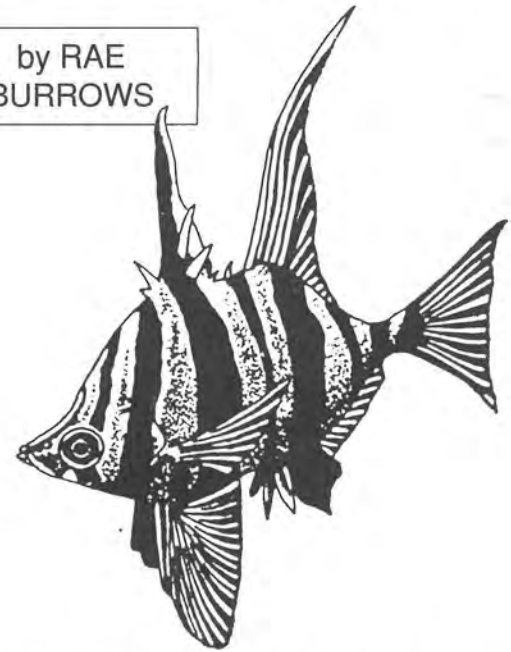
Its aim is to increase public awareness of the marine environment in a similar way to Environment Week and Arbor Day.

"CALM's increasing responsibilities over the State's marine environment means that these functions are becoming an important vehicle for 'spreading the word' about CALM's activities and leadership in marine management," said Marine and Islands Manager Greg Pobar.

This year's theme was 'Fish for the Future' and the importance of marine habitat conservation.

Staff from the Region, with help from Fiona Marr from Community Education section and members of CALM's Marmion Friends Group, organised

by RAE BURROWS



and led a wide range of activities throughout the week but especially during the official Hillary's weekend.

Activities included guided snorkel tours of Boyinaboat Reef, beachcombing, displays of information and equipment, talks and a variety of competitions - from guessing the number of *Drupella* shells to art and sandcastle building competitions.

The latter were organised and run by the enthusiastic and energetic group of people that make up the Friends of Marmion.

Plans are afoot for future years to make the Friday of Sea Week "CALM Waters" day and celebrate it State and Department-wide. This initiative will ensure that the public become aware of CALM's range and level of responsibilities.

Sea lion killed

A FEMALE sea lion has been found dead on Cheynes Beach, about 40 kilometres east of Albany.

CALM officers are investigating the death, which occurred on May 1.

An autopsy conducted by CALM wildlife officer Peter Collins found that the sea lion was killed as a result of a gunshot wound. This follows the shoot-

ing of a sea lion in Oyster Harbour near Albany in November last year.

"The female was lactating, so we are patrolling nearby beaches in case her pup is found in trouble. It is likely that the pup was dependent on its mother, so it could starve to death if it is not found," said Peter Collins, shortly after the second shooting.

However, they saw no signs of a pup.

Any Albany residents with any information about the sea lion death were asked to contact the Albany office of CALM.

Sealions are specially protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act and there is a maximum penalty of \$10 000 for harming them.

New loos for Penguin Island

Penguin Island's environmentally-friendly toilets are now in place.

Each toilet is fitted with a large fibreglass tank, treated to prevent effluent seeping into surrounding soil.

Grass clippings or sawdust are added periodically to speed the break down process and when totally dry, the odourless material can be used as a fertiliser.

The exterior walls of the toilets are pine and structural timbers are jarrah.

The boardwalk approach to the toilets has been built with pine.

All pine used on the

by VERNA COSTELLO

island has been treated to avoid the possibility of a termite-invasion and most of the jarrah is reclaimed timber from demolished buildings.

Boardwalk

The boardwalk rests on jarrah cross-beams and pine supports, so, apart from access for tourists, the boardwalk will also provide shelter below for the penguins.

A ramp leading up to the boardwalk and strategically-placed handrails will provide access for the disabled.

One of the toilets has also been modified to meet the needs of the disabled.

Other work being carried out on Penguin Island is largely that of removing debris and flooring from the last three of the 10 cottages that have been demolished.

Four of the 14 cottages that were on the island when CALM took over Penguin Island, will be retained, temporarily.

Two cottages will be used by researchers; one will house information distribution facilities and the fourth will be used

seasonally as the Ranger's residence.

They, too, will be demolished eventually and it is hoped they will be replaced with more attractive buildings that will blend with the bush.

According to Shoalwater Islands Marine Park Ranger, Terry Goodlich, between 70 000 and 80 000 people a year visit the island.

"Approximately 1 200 people have been known to visit the island in one day at the height of the summer season," Terry said.

"And if that figure makes you gasp, think how it must have been before CALM took over.

"One day, about two years ago, 3 000 people crossed from the mainland to the island.

"Admittedly, the tide was particularly low and many had crossed by walking the sandbar - a dangerous practice we try to discourage.

"Before people became aware of the damage they could inflict on the environment, they'd just take off in all directions to explore the island.

"It was this kind of unrestrained enthusiasm

that's been responsible for the 130 or more tracks that crisscross the island.

"Large areas of the island's vegetation were destroyed as a result and we're now in the process of restoring it.

"Two or three well laid out trails will allow visitors to see most, if not all, varieties of flora and fauna the island has to offer, without damaging it."

Penguins will be able to shelter under the new boardwalk on Penguin Island. Photo by Verna Costello



New nature conservation strategy

BIOLOGICAL diversity, ecological sustainability, and sustainable development are all 'buzz words' in the current media fascination with environmental matters.

But what do these terms really mean? It is becoming clear that they can mean most all things to all people, depending on one's view.

Developing a set of clear definitions of these concepts will be one of the first tasks of a CALM working group charged with producing a draft of a comprehensive Nature Conservation Strategy for the department and, ultimately, the State.

Framework

This new strategy is being produced under the direction of Barry Wilson, Director, Nature Conservation, in parallel with the new Forest Management Strategy. It will provide a broad framework on which all CALM strategies and policies will be based.

by JOHN BLYTH

The Nature Conservation Strategy will be divided into two main sections. The first of these will establish CALM's primary objectives and policies in relation to conservation planning, management of ecosystems and species, coordination between agencies and interest groups, funding for nature conservation and other major issues.

The Strategy's second section will be an action program - it will attempt to establish priorities for action in relation to each ecosystem.

These will be based on John Beard's vegetation survey of Western Australia, and on the report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Working Group for coastal marine ecosystems.

The priority list will result from an analysis of many factors relating to each ecosystem type and its management.

These factors will include planning issues such as the adequacy of existing conservation measures, other relevant (perhaps competing) interests, and the potential to improve the conservation status of the ecosystem type.

Specific management-related issues will also be considered; fire, diseases and pathogens, weeds, feral animals and the need for rehabilitation or other remedial action.

Like most of CALM's responsibilities, our capacity to implement the eventual strategy will depend on public understanding and support.

There will be continuing opportunities for public input to the strategy and the working group will look for input and assistance from as wide a range of people as possible.

Please contact any one of the working group (John Blyth, Alan Burbidge, Neil Gibson, Neville Marchant or Sue Moore) if you are interested in being involved.

Tree growing seminar

CALM and the Great Southern Development Authority (GSDA) are jointly sponsoring a seminar on commercial tree growing in the Albany and Mount Barker area.

The seminar, entitled 'Trees: an investment for the future', will be held on Friday 5 July at Dymesbury Lodge in Albany. There will be a pre-seminar tour of existing plantations on Thursday 4 July.

The seminar is aimed at both landowners and potential investors. It is divided into three sessions which will attempt to address the various questions

of commercial tree growing and investment in such projects.

The first session, entitled Why trees?, will explain how the Great Southern fits in with the State's timber industry and look at the markets available for local timber.

The second session deals with site selection, plant establishment, productivity predictions and CALM's research and support facilities.

The final session will guide potential investors through the benefits and alternatives offered by investing in trees. Tax benefits and management

and investment structures, which are currently available or could be developed for the investor, will be explained.

CALM speakers will include Dr Syd Shea, Plant Propagation Manager Simon Penfold and Research Scientist Gary Inions. They will be joined by speakers from GSDA, the WA Farmers' Federation and the Albany Port Authority.

The cost is \$10.00 per person for the seminar and \$15.00 per person for the pre-seminar tour and lunch at Plantagenet winery. Further details from Gary Inions at Crawley.

ILLEGAL

- OR JUST PLAIN UNFAIR?

Even though all of us work to eliminate unfair, unjust or inequitable behaviour or structures in our workplace, we may occasionally be faced with a situation that seems unfair to us. However, not all forms of unfair behaviour are unlawful in terms of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (EO Act).

The Equal Opportunities Act 1984

According to the EO Act, it is unlawful to treat one person less favourably than another (i.e., to discriminate against them) because of their race, marital status, sex, pregnancy, religious or political conviction, or impairment.

It is unlawful to discriminate against such people in the areas of employment, provision of goods, services and facilities, education, accommodation, clubs, application forms, or access to places and vehicles.

But the Act does make provision for exceptions, for example, ethnic or single-sex clubs, accommodation in private households, residential care of children, insurance, genuine occupational qualification.

This does not mean that other forms of discrimination or harassment are condoned or even desirable, but they may not be unlawful.

Victimisation or personality clash

Ill-feeling or victimisation is always unpleasant, unproductive and undesirable, and steps should be actively taken to resolve it. However, no matter how unpleasant and unproductive these sorts of behaviours are, they are not necessarily unlawful under the terms of the EO Act.

Missed promotion/reclassification

A similar case exists when a person fails to be promoted or reclassified, or misses out on higher duties.

These situations are always disappointing, and may need to be resolved through the industrial process. But they are not necessarily unlawful under the EO Act, even though they may sometimes be unfair.

If you would like to have a particular situation clarified in terms of the EO Act, please talk it over with the EEO Contact Officer in your work area, or the EEO Coordinator, Mr Steve Grasso on (09) 367 0363.



Permits to promote safe caving

THIRTY-ONE replies have been received in response to a call by CALM for public submissions on a proposal to introduce a permit system for cave access in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

The proposed permit system was recommended in the park's Management Plan, because of an increase in unsupervised use of wild and adventure caves.

The Cave Management Advisory Committee for the park drafted the proposed system to control public access to caves in order to protect fragile formations and the life forms they support.

The safety of those visiting the caves was another significant factor that prompted the recommendation.

It has been estimated that each year some 25 000 people visit Giant's Cave, one of the most popular caves at Leeuwin-Naturaliste.

The recommendation for a permit system follows trends in other states of Australia and overseas, where public access has been restricted as a result of deaths in caves and a growing realisation among managing authorities that such a system is necessary for the long-term survival of the caves.

The proposed permit system will place the caves into three broad categories (Tourist, Adventure and Restricted Access) giving varying levels of access. Applications would need to be made for some adventure caves

and all restricted access caves.

Parks and Reserves Officer Neil Taylor said a summary of the public submissions was in the process of being drawn up together with a revised draft plan.

They would be presented for discussion at two public meetings - one in Margaret River and one in Perth - at the end of June.

It is expected that further developments arising from the outcome of these meetings will be reported in July issue of CALM News.

Ranger Bill Taplin at the mouth of one of the caves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park which would have restricted public access under a permit system. Photo courtesy of Busselton-Margaret River Times



Our kids care for the earth

BEING introduced to a new friend - blindfolded, or making sugar inside a giant leaf may not appeal to adult tastes. But if you're a 10, 11 or 12-year-old set to become an Earth Caretaker, it certainly does!

The Earth Caretakers scheme is CALM's latest entree into environmental awareness programs. Activities with names such as Food Factory, Chain Gang and Lost Letters involve primary school students in the magic of learning about the natural world in which they live, and the first group of trainee Earth Caretakers from Deanmore Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) obviously enjoyed

by FIONA MARR

every minute.

Each participant in the program is given a booklet, Earth Secrets, which takes them along a path of discovery. At each stage in the program the children note down examples of what they have learnt along the way.

Identify

At the end of the session they each identify a personal 'environmental bad habit' and write a plan to correct it.

The program is being piloted in bushland at Hollywood Reserve in Nedlands during second

term.

Earth Caretakers is one of several internationally successful Earth education programs developed by the Institute for Earth Education based in Illinois, USA.

CALM's Community Education Section sees the program as a powerful way to raise understanding of basic ecological concepts. The Earth Caretakers program is lead by contracted staff with considerable support from CALM's volunteer Earth Carers.

As with Bob Cooper's Outback Safety and Bushcraft course, this program shows how CALM can achieve its goals in tough times with the help of volunteers and contracts.

Pupils from Deanmore PEAC getting to know their surroundings at a recent Earth Caretakers workshop. Photo - David Gough



Grave decision

by RAE BURROWS

THE historic East Perth Cemetery is about to become the subject of a number of "in-depth" investigations.

This unusual piece of CALM estate has been managed by the Metropolitan Region since it inherited the area from the National Parks Authority in

1985.

Dwindling resources in the Region have meant that management has been increasingly difficult over the years even with the experience and advice from the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and National Trust.

Funding was not available to make even basic repairs to the crumbling or vandalised gravestones - or to prepare a management plan for the area. However, the announcement of the setting up of the 'East Perth Project' last year provided a glimmer of hope.

Drew Haswell, Manager of the Metropolitan Region, said that "We joined quite a long queue of people going to the East Perth Project team with funding proposals.

Historic

"Eventually, they accepted our argument that the cemetery, although out of the actual East Perth precinct, was a prominent and potentially beautiful 'entry statement' to the project area, and as such it required detailed landscape and management plans."

The East Perth Project will now pay for detailed

historic and landscape surveys of the cemetery that will help to produce a Management Plan.

Policy guidelines have been produced and preparations for the plan will continue to be overseen by the Cemetery Steering Committee consisting of CALM, the National Trust and Royal WA Historical Society.

In the future, when the Metropolitan Region divests itself of the cemetery to a more appropriate management authority like the National Trust, it will be with a clear conscience that one of the State's most important historic sites will be managed in the way it deserves.

Special volunteers

THE Metropolitan Region has launched a new and particularly exciting group of volunteers.

"Earth Carers" are a non-site specific group of carefully trained individuals who will help run CALM's educational programs like "Go Bush" in the Northern Forest Region, "Earth Caretakers", a Community Education section initiative, and the interactive displays at shopping centres and other

special functions.

Metropolitan Regional Manager Drew Haswell said that the group was intensively training in a variety of fields - from CALM management philosophies, to safety and first aid, from interpretation and communications techniques to estate inspection.

"It is planned that the training will allow the volunteers to answer questions accurately or redirect enquiries to more

appropriate staff," he said.

"It is hoped that this highly motivated and enthusiastic group will become the core group of honorary CALM officers should the relevant legislation be passed."

The Earth Carers are readily identified at the educational programs - as well as the normal "CALM Volunteer" shirts, they wear bright green overalls which have been 'walked' on by native animals!