

# CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

COMO RESOURCE CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

August 1991



Researchers Alex Robinson and Neil Burrows fit a radio collar to a fox captured in the Gibson Desert. Photo by Ray Smith

## Rare island mammals to head home

AN AMBITIOUS project to reintroduce endangered mammals to the Australian mainland was launched by Environment Minister Bob Pearce on Barrow Island this month.

Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) scientists plan to release up to 40 of each species in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve in May next year.

WAPET (West Australian Petroleum) will sponsor the project over three years and provide air transport for the animals.

Mr Pearce said that WAPET's support was vital for the success of the project: "This is a good example of how private corporations and Government departments can cooperate to implement conservation programs."

### Investigation

The *Desert Dreaming* project will investigate the dramatic decline in desert mammals by reintroducing endangered boodies (burrowing bettongs), which are now extinct on the Australian mainland, and golden bandicoots.

Project Co-ordinator Neil Burrows said that the study would help determine the reasons why 13 mammal species have declined significantly or be-

A joint project between CALM and WAPET will give two of our endangered species a second chance

by Carolyn Thomson

come extinct from Australia's deserts, and help CALM to control feral animals in desert reserves.

"Over 90 per cent of mammal species with an adult body weight between 35 and 5500 grams have disappeared from Australia's arid zone - over the last 3-4 decades," he said. "The fact that so many mammals have disappeared from our deserts is a conservation tragedy of enormous dimensions".

The knowledge gained from the research will be used to manage the remaining fauna and to re-establish and manage endangered fauna that has become locally extinct in the arid zone.

The boodies and bandicoots will be taken from healthy populations on Barrow Island, from which WAPET has been extracting petroleum products in an environmentally sensitive way for many years, and flown to the desert.

The released animals will be placed in a fenced compound and supplement fed for around two weeks,

to allow them to become acclimatised to the change of environment.

They would also be fitted with radio collars and tracked almost continuously. Radio-tracking will provide valuable information about their behaviour and their ability to adapt to and breed in their new environment, and establish whether the animals favour burnt or unburnt habitat.

It is thought that the desert mammals disappeared because of fox and cat predation, changed burning patterns after Aborigines left the land and competition from feral herbivores such as rabbits.

Before the animals are reintroduced, CALM will remove feral animals from the release area by baiting and complete patch burning to provide a choice of habitat for the mammals.

CALM scientists will visit the Gibson Desert next month to continue preparation work for the release.

Pit traps have been placed in the bait area and a control area to determine the impact that baiting feral animals will have on resident mammals and reptiles.

## A Greek tragedy

JUST 13 days after a seal-monitoring visit to the oil-affected islands off Esperance, CALM staff were called out to the second major oil spill in six months. This time the Jurien coast - home to Australian sea lions and sea birds - was under threat.

The threat came from the badly damaged Greek oil tanker, the *Kirki*, spilling nearly 10 000 tonnes of light crude oil into the Indian Ocean.

Staff from the Greenough Region, most of them from the Moora District, based themselves in the Cervantes office to deal with the emergency.

### Emergency

At first, the headquarters was used as an emergency base for all those involved in the initial rescue operations.

It later became a supply centre, as stocks of emergency equipment for rescuing oiled wildlife arrived.

Regional Manager Geoff Mercer and CALM's Liaison Officer with Marine and Harbours, Greg Pobar, were based with other CALM staff in the Jurien Boat Harbour office. Staff from Marine and Harbours, Fisheries, and representatives from BP Oil, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Police, were also based there.

All CALM operations staff at Jurien, CALM and

by Tanya Maxted

Marine and Harbour's media liaison officers, and about 10 other people on site shared two telephone lines, one of which was for the fax machine!

As well as local CALM staff, four wildlife officers, a senior research technical officer and two marine park rangers were brought up from Perth.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as news spread that the expected major disaster had been

averted by favourable weather conditions. The coast and its wildlife appeared to have been spared even though light tarballing (small globules of oil) had occurred on two islands and on the town beach at Jurien.

Wildlife officers surveyed the islands, noting species and population numbers, and technical officer Phil Fuller gathered research information on the islands' seabirds.

During one of the aerial surveys, a colony of four New Zealand fur seals was

found on Beagle Island, north of Jurien. These seals are seldom found so far north, although some have been sighted on the Abrolhos Islands.

Footnote: The lightest anecdote to arise from the exercise related to one CALM staff member lowering the pitch of his voice by an octave when ordering several hundred litres of "Cuddly fabric softener" for washing oiled seabirds. It seems he believed that if real men don't eat quiche, nor should they buy "Cuddly!"



From left: Moora reserves technical officer Ken Borland and metropolitan marine park rangers Mike Osmond and John Edwards load boom equipment into a net for airlifting onto nearby islands to protect wildlife. Photo courtesy The Geraldton Guardian

## Value adding

VALUE adding by West Australian forest industries could boost the economy by one billion dollars a year without cutting down an extra tree

This claim was made recently by CALM's executive director Dr Syd Shea while addressing a national conference on adding value to Australia's timber and forest products.

He said that integrating forest management and forest products was the key to achieving value adding in the timber industry.

"Paradoxically, the industry's ability to fetch high prices for residue log material is the way for it to be able to market and sell

by Caris Bailey

high quality furniture," Dr Shea said.

"Integration is a simple concept used in every butcher's shop - no butcher could survive if all he sold from a steer carcass was fillet steak.

"Value adding involves major restructuring of parts of the industry, which can't be done without resource security.

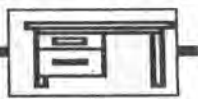
"Western Australian companies are more than halfway through the restructuring necessary to capitalise on the benefits of value adding.

"Some major companies have increased the proportion of high grade appearance timber produced from hardwood logs by more than 25 per cent."

Dr Shea said more than \$150 million was being invested in the timber industry, a large proportion of which was being directed to value adding.

He said the industry had responded to the State Government's timber strategy, which provided resource security and a strategic plan for the future.

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I suppose my job in CALM is pretty much like that of most other people's - there are parts I love and parts I hate. For example, most of the people I associate with at work are pleasant, but a few are less so. Occasionally, I feel personally rewarded over something which is achieved, and often I am really proud of the achievements of the Department or of individual CALM people. But there are also times when I grind my teeth or have sleepless nights due to frustration over some issue or other.

Perhaps the two most frustrating things I experience are defending CALM and its staff from people who are hostile to us (when I would rather be working with people eager to help us), and having to sit through long meetings (when I would rather be out in the bush!)

Luckily, most of the people I meet who interact with CALM in some form or another have a very positive attitude to us and are keen to help us achieve our mission. These include people like farmers, shire councillors, staff of other agencies, people from industry or academia and park visitors. However a small minority are uncompromisingly hostile. To these people I find myself increasingly saying, "You can regard us as the problem, or as part of the solution. Mostly things move more smoothly and rapidly when everyone is seeking a solution than when the object of the exercise is simply warfare".

CALM has come a long way in five or six years towards satisfying the needs of its many constituents. I have noticed again and again that progress is swiftest in the areas where people have cooperated with, rather than fought each other. I am now convinced that the only people who don't agree with this approach are usually those who are more interested in the fight than in achieving a result or in making small, positive and steady improvements to the system.

Nobody likes long meetings either but they are inevitable in our Department when tricky issues must be thoroughly debated and all the angles explored. Perhaps the most difficult meetings I attend are those of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC) when final management plans are being considered on a line-by-line basis. This takes long hours of concentration and discussion, but it is an important responsibility and there is no other way of doing it.

By the way, we are very lucky to have such dedicated and hard-working people in the NPNC. Not many of us appreciate the work they do or the responsibility they shoulder. Like CALM staff they don't escape hostility from some quarters. Also like us, this doesn't stop them from getting on with their job. On this note I would like, personally, to thank Norm Halse for his many years as Chairman of the NPNC, and to welcome Arthur McComb as the new Chairman.

Roger Underwood, General Manager

## STAFF NEWS

### Appointments

Bevan Kerr, Manager, Information Systems Branch, Como; Jacqueline O'Toole, Clerk, Kelmscott; Olga Truran, Officer, Carnarvon.

### Promotions

Grant Lamb, to District Operations Officer, Broome; Geoff Young, Senior Forester, Kalgoorlie; Rex Walker, Ranger-in-Charge, Peron National Park; Michelle Widmer, Forester, Nannup; Lindon Piggott, Senior Forester, Nannup. Julie Anderson has left CALM to become Computer Operations Supervisor, Crown Law Department.

### Transfer

Melfyn Price, Reserves Management Assistant, to Metropolitan Region; Mark Roddy from Forest Ranger to Park Ranger, Walpole.

### Retirement

Sonny Cave, Forester, Busselton.

# Eyre's epic retraced

by Terry Passmore

**THE re-enactment of Edward John Eyre's epic journey from Fowlers Bay, South Australia to Albany, was completed on schedule on Sunday 7 July, 1991.**

Local CALM staff, Albany residents and visitors packed the Town Hall to hear Sir Francis Burt, the Governor of Western Australia, welcome the party that had made the commemorative journey.

The group of three: Judy Shaw (27) from Perth, Rob Gully (29), from Victoria and Fred Champion (76) from South Australia walked the entire 1500 km.

Much of the Western Australian section of the journey was over CALM-managed land in the South Coast Region.

Delays to the group's progress were kept to a minimum.

Terry Passmore, CALM's regional coordinator of the event, maintained contact with shires, media, sporting groups and other organisations involved in the walk.

He also kept in close touch with the Western Australian Historical Society's re-enactment coordinator, Bill Graham, who, as an energetic octogenarian, is a lively slice of history himself.

### Route

Esperance District Operations Officer, John Winton, was able to assist in planning a route through many national parks and nature reserves, while keeping as close as possible to Eyre's original route.

Dieback was a major consideration. To avoid compromising the South Coast Region's dieback strategy, alternate routes and back-up vehicles were provided.

Special permission was granted for a full re-enactment of Eyre's historic meeting with Captain Rossiter at what is now called Rossiter Bay in Cape Le Grand National Park.

Physically and mentally weakened by lack of food and supplies, it is doubtful that Eyre and Wylie would have survived long enough to complete the journey had it not been for this most fortuitous meeting.

Over 200 people attended the re-enactment of the meeting, with Cape Le Grand Rangers Ian Solomon and Kevin Hughes pitching in to make the ceremony a highly successful one.

After resting in Esperance for a week, the party set off again, travelling through Stokes National Park to Lake Shaster.

Shin soreness forced Fred Champion to take advantage of the support vehicle which took him on to Hopetoun where he rested and waited for the others.

Terry caught up with Judy Shaw and Rob Gully about 20 km from Hopetoun and walked the rest of the way with them. Judy and Rob set a cracking pace, covering about 30 km a day with full backpacks and looking remarkably fit, too!

Ranger, Bob Newlands camped with the group to ensure the Fitzgerald River leg of the trip went smoothly.

Several school and equestrian groups participated in different sections leading into Albany and the welcoming party at the Town Hall.

The re-enactment party was full of praise for CALM staff whose guidance while travelling through CALM-managed land was, they claimed, invaluable.

Apart from staff mentioned above, people like Cape Arid National Park Ranger Richard Pemberton, Esperance District Manager Klaus Tiedemann and Stokes

National Park Ranger Rick France were also praised for the friendly and efficient way they did everything to make the re-enactment journey run like clockwork.



Left: Captain Rossiter (Ian McIntyre) greets Wylie (Trevor Jamieson) at right, while Edward John Eyre (Fred Champion) looks on. Photo by Klaus Tiedemann

## Schedule amended

**A REVIEW of the State's schedule of declared rare flora has led to an increase in the number of plants listed.**

There are now 254 species and six subspecies regarded as close to extinction and requiring special protection.

Eleven plants were added and four removed from the list following a review by CALM. Two of the additions were previously thought to have been extinct, but were recently rediscovered on land not reserved for conservation.

One of these species was *Calytrix breviseta*, a starflower found in Kenwick during preparation of a CALM management program for rare plants in the metropolitan area. The other was a featherflower, *Verticordia harveyi*, found by an amateur botanist in the Manypeaks area near Albany.

"These examples show the way our knowledge has increased since the first rare flora schedule was produced in 1980 with a list of 100 species," Environment Minister Bob Pearce said.

"Work by both professional and amateur botanists has led to the rediscovery of 22 species in the past five years, many of which haven't been seen since the last century."

Mr Pearce said species still presumed to be extinct had also been declared this year for the first time, so any further finds would receive maximum protection. Species deleted from the rare flora list, including *Acacia guinetii*, a wattle from the Geraldton area, are now found in conservation reserves, giving them protection from future extinction. The Geraldton reserve was created

from 112 ha of private bushland bought by the Government as part of its commitment to developing a representative reserve system. Western Australia

has 10 000 species of native flora - 6 000 are found in the South West and of these, three quarters are found nowhere else in the world.

## Geike grant

by Caris Bailey

**ENVIRONMENT Minister Bob Pearce recently announced a \$97,000 boost to tourism in the Kimberley's Geikie Gorge.**

The 'boost' has been used to acquire CALM's new 180 seat tour boat, which will replace the 105 seater that has been in service in Geikie Gorge National Park since the early 1980s.

The successful tender was chosen from 12 submissions from boatbuilders around Australia.

"The growing number of visitors to Geikie Gorge has increased demand for the tours significantly," Mr Pearce said.

"Last year the park attracted about 30,000 visitors and this number is expected to rise by 10 per cent each year.

"Increasing the number of tours was not considered an option because of the added disturbance to wildlife this would have

caused," he said.

The tour is run by CALM rangers twice a day during the Kimberley tourist season. Occasionally, the rangers organise further trips to carry waiting tourists. The new boat is one of several improvements visitors will see at Geikie Gorge next season.

Under CALM's parks improvement program, a \$55,000 visitor centre is also being built, the reef walk trail is to be upgraded and a new river walk trail will be built.

Displays in the visitor centre will be portable so they can be removed every year when the park is submerged under seven-and-a-half metres of floodwater in the wet season.

Mr Pearce said CALM was now considering whether to move the smaller boat to another national park or put it up for tender.

Continued from page 1

"The strategy's goal was to convert 30 per cent of hardwood logs to value added products.

"One measure of its success and industry's response to it is that a number of sawmillers have now set a 50 per cent conversion rate as their goal."

It was not only technically feasible, but politically and economically

desirable to increase dramatically the proportion of forest timber produce which was value added.

However, Dr Shea warned it was important that value added products were sold at internationally competitive prices.

"If they're not, the value of the product is zero and pursuing uncompetitive products will end in subsidies and redistributing resources to unproductive parts of the economy."

## Rare fauna recovery

**DETAILED recovery plans for seven rare fauna species and four rare flora species are being prepared for CALM - thanks to a grant of \$78 000 from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.**

The Department has until December 15 to write plans for the chuditch, Shark Bay mouse, woylie, tammar, rock wallaby, two species of frog and four species of flora.

The plans will detail the cost of bringing each species back from the brink of

by Tanya Maxted

extinction over a five-year period.

"The aim is to allow the Endangered Species Advisory Council to develop priorities for funding programs," CALM research scientist Keith Morris said.

Under Keith's supervision, consultant Peter Orell is writing the plans for the chuditch and Shark Bay mouse; Jack Kinnear and Tony Start are supervising Graham Hall in writing plans for the woylie, tammar and rock wallabies; Chris Majors is writing plans for the two rare frog species for Grant Wardell-Johnson, and Dave Coates is supervising Anne Kelly and Helen Stace who are writing plans for the rose mallee, matchstick banksia, Chattering grass-wattle and Wongan trigger plant.

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# The secret life of Yanchep Park

**DURING the July school holidays, children and parents from Wanneroo and surrounding areas sought out the secrets of Yanchep National Park.**

The school holiday activities, coordinated by CALM ranger Geoff Harnett, attracted almost 250 children and parents.

There were two activities: 'hidden animals', which took the participants in search of animals not usually seen visitors to the park, and 'adventure caving', which explored the depths of one of the park's many wild caves. Both activities were sold out over the eight-day period.

At 8.30 on a wet Tuesday morning,

by  
**David Gough**

Yanchep Park ranger Therese Jones (or TJ, as she prefers to be called) met a group of two dozen children and parents who had gathered for the hidden animals tour.

After a short talk about animal trapping and the 'rules' of animal observation, they were taken to the northern lakeside to search for traps that had been laid the night before.

Children were split into groups of three and taken, group by group, to the spots where the traps were laid. As it had been a wet night, the success rate was high and more than half of the traps had been sprung.

The children retrieved the traps one by one and released the captured animals into a viewing box, so they could identify the animal and have a closer look. After a couple of minutes it was released and, to the children's delight, scurried back into the undergrowth.

By the end of the activity the children had seen four native bush rats, three house mice and a brown rat.

## Cave visit

In the afternoon, another party donned hard hats and collected torches for their visit to a wild cave, near Yanchep Golf Course.

For many it was their

first experience of the magic and mystery of caving. Unlike the tourist caves in the park, this cave had no electric lighting. In fact, it had no lighting at all except for the torch light, which cast mysterious shadows on the ancient wet walls.

According to Geoff Harnett, these activities are a departure from the 'show and tell' method of teaching. Instead, the children are able to 'share and do'.

"By taking part in the activities, children are better able to grasp the importance of what they are learning because they are taking part in a sensory exploration of their environment," Geoff said. "They'll remember feeling the weight and movement of the animal caught in the trap, and the excitement of seeing it scampering back to its hiding place.

"These feelings have a much greater impact on children and can be used to reinforce their learning about the environment."

The winter activity program was a dry run (or, in some cases, a wet one!) for future programs at the park.

"We would like to develop more of these activities in the spring using professionals and volunteers," Geoff said.

"These activities might include bird walks, spotlighting tours, wildflower walks, and swamp safaris."

There's no doubt the children and parents who took part in the winter school holiday activities learned something more about their natural environment - and they had fun, too!



Research consultant Leigh Whisson has his hands full of 'gold'.  
Photo by courtesy of The West Australian



Children watch Yanchep park ranger Therese Jones transfer animal from trap to viewing box.  
Photo by David Gough

## Bandicoots settle

**EIGHTEEN golden bandicoots from Middle Island Nature Reserve in the Pilbara have settled into their new home at CALM Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale.**

Golden bandicoots are endangered and only found on Barrow, Middle and Augustus Islands and a few remote parts of the Kimberley.

Black rats were recently discovered on the two islands, posing a threat to several species of endangered animals.

CALM scientists have been running a rat eradication program on Barrow

Island that appears to be successful, and they now wish to extend it to Middle Island. However, CALM wants to be sure that the golden bandicoots are not taking the poison baits.

"To ensure that the bandicoots have the greatest degree of protection during the rat eradication program, we need to know if the golden bandicoots on Middle and Barrow Island are genetically similar or not," said research scientist Keith Morris.

"However, we had trouble taking blood samples from the bandicoots in the field, so we decided to fly

the animals to Perth, where we also want to test the bait stations under controlled conditions to ensure that the bandicoots are not taking the baits," he said.

The bandicoots will now form the basis of a breeding colony that may eventually be used to reintroduce animals onto the mainland. They breed quickly and many of the females in the Woodvale colony have young.

The animals will also be used for other scientific work. They will not be released back on the islands because of the possibility of introducing disease.

## Tree growing seminar proves a success

**"WITHIN 10 years Albany could generate a \$1 billion industry based on trees, using less than 15 per cent of the region's land base."**

This claim was made by CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea in his keynote address at a seminar entitled 'Trees: An Investment for the Future', held in Albany on July 5.

"International forestry experts support CALM's findings that the Albany region is one of the best, if not the best area in the world for commercial tree growing," Dr Shea said.

"Albany has the climate, soils, land base, gentle terrain, excellent port facilities and strong community support, particularly from farmers, which make it ideal for a major commercial tree growing project.

Dr Shea took the opportunity to announce that CALM would plant 1 000 ha of Tasmanian bluegum in the Albany region in 1992.

"This demonstrates CALM's commitment to the fledgling tree growing industry in the region," he said.

Speakers from the Great Southern Development Authority, Albany Port Authority and the Western Australian

by  
**David Gough**

Farmers' Federation joined Dr Shea, Plant Propagation Manager Simon Penfold, and Gary Inions in presenting the case for commercial tree growing in the Albany and Mount Barker area.

Alex Campbell, vice-president of the WA Farmers' Federation, shared Dr Shea's vision of a "mosaic of trees" across the Great Southern region. He said that CSIRO research showed 15 to 20 per cent of a farm could be planted with trees without production loss.

"Indeed, many farmers, including the Lynch family at Mount Barker, have shown that there can be increases in production by planting trees," Mr Campbell said.

Consultant Brian Ray said investors in plantation projects should be re-categorised as primary producers. This way they would gain most benefit from the tax system.

Investors would expect a return of between 5.6 and 11 per cent, depending on tax status, for an investment of \$3 000 per hectare over a 10 year

period for Tasmanian bluegum and based on current costs.

The seminar, organised by CALM and the GSDA, attracted more than 100 landowners and potential investors.

### Field trip

A field trip, which took place the day before the seminar, toured existing commercial tree plantations in the area. Some 50 interested people were able to see, at first hand, the full range of tree-planting options available. The tour was hosted by CALM's John Bartle, Simon Penfold and Terry Maher.

Delegates gathered at 9 am for an inspection of Albany Harbour facilities, led by Colin Berry of the Albany Port Authority. He pointed out the ample space for chip stockpile and the potential to adapt the existing Co-operative Bulk Handling load terminal for the loading and exportation of woodchips. The delegates then boarded a coach and set off to view a bluegum timberbelt on a property 20 km north-east of Albany.

This particular plot, on Kevin Partridge's property, was planted under

CALM's National Afforestation Program in 1989. Growth has been very good and the planting, which is in a belt shape, clearly indicated the potential for multi-purpose tree crops on farms.

Next stop was Harry Rigg's property on Takenup Road. Harry first planted *Pinus radiata* in the 1960s and his plots now provide convincing evidence of the suitability of the Albany district for radiata forestry. A small species trial planted on the property by the Forests Department in 1978 gave delegates a view of what mature bluegum would look like.

Softwood sharefarming was inspected at the Skijoring property just east of the Porongorups Range. Delegates saw a well-grown 200 ha plantation of *Pinus radiata* and joined in a discussion on establishment problems. The delegates then took lunch at Plantaganet Wine Cellars in Mt Barker.

### Award

The first stop after lunch was the Lynch property just west of Mt Barker. Ian and Bev Lynch are the current holders of the Land Manager of the

Year Award for their outstanding work with carefully planned water use and tree planting. They have lifted their farm tree cover from five per cent to 18 per cent since 1983 with no loss of grazing production and with large pulpwood revenues projected for the late 1990s. Their farm is a model of skilful integration of tree crops into conventional farming.

The final stop was at Alec Campbell's property west of Narrikup. Alec has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Timberbelt Sharefarming development conducted under the National Afforestation Program project. He has 40 ha of timberbelt planting from 1990 and is planning a further 16 ha this year. Alec, who is Deputy President of the WA Farmers' Federation, presented an optimistic view of the future for multi-purpose tree crops.

Both the field trip and the seminar proved to be successful with a great deal of interest being shown in commercial tree growing schemes. The proceedings from the seminar are being prepared for publication and will be available to those who attended as well as other interested parties.



Wildlife officer Trevor Walley.  
Photo by Carolyn Thomson

# Bush childhood

by Carolyn Thomson

A CHILDHOOD spent living in the bush around Perth, in what most people would consider as less than desirable circumstances, fostered Trevor Walley's interest in natural history.

Trevor is one of three Aboriginal wildlife officers employed by CALM (the others are Boyden Yarran and Les Coyne). He joined the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1974 under a Commonwealth Employment Scheme for Aboriginals.

"When I was a kid we lived in the bush and we grew up with wildlife all around us," Trevor said.

"Dad used to work in the market gardens and we lived in a makeshift camp on one of the farms, until the farmer sold up and we had to move on."

Trevor said his family had some rough times but he also had many good experiences. For example, he swears black and blue that he once saw a crescent naitail wallaby, which was believed to be extinct.

## Sharing

"I know a lot about kangaroos and I am certain I saw a crescent naitail in the swamplands east of Rockingham. It had a crescent under its forearm and had a nail on its tail."

Trevor now spends a lot of time sharing his knowledge about his work

with other people who are interested.

For the last three years he has been giving talks to Aboriginal communities such as the Gnanagara Aboriginal community and Adult Skillshare: adult Aborigines who want to get into the workforce.

He also talks to former offenders in the Aboriginal outcare program and to any non-Aboriginal groups that ask.

"These groups often want people of Aboriginal descent to come in and talk to them," Trevor said.

"I talk to them about my work and try to make them aware of conservation. Many of these people see me as a role model."

Trevor is becoming so well-known that the organisers of the recent Kyana Festival approached him for input into the Festival.

"They wanted some animals on display, but I thought that we could do something much better and

I asked our Community Education Branch to become involved."

Trevor and many other CALM employees put in a lot of their own time into organising the Festival, and Trevor said his supervisor, Doug Coughran, was supportive of what he was doing.

Helen Lawrence, CALM's Aboriginal liaison officer, involves him as much as possible in

her activities and tends to use him as a bouncing board for ideas.

Trevor's main interests outside work are playing amateur football and basketball, although he claims he is "getting a bit slow at that sort of thing now".

Although he was not brought up traditionally, he is of Noongah descent and is fascinated by Aboriginal culture.

## Booked

THE hum and buzz of releasing *Wildflower Country* has subsided but the challenge to distribute supplies to anxious customers continues.

A steady stream of sales and enquiries has kept front counter staff at Como busy.

The department also supplied publications to many of the 155 retail outlets in the metropolitan area and 118 country outlets.

Hundreds of orders for the new publication were placed in advance and

James Smith, CALM's marketing assistant said "the first two days after I lease I delivered orders to 46 customers from as far north as Whitfords, east to Mandurah and south to Mandurah."

All mail orders have been invoiced and sent to country customers and James is hoping for clear skies and no traffic jams so he can replenish stocks as the predicted bumper wildflower season approaches.

## Shires receive flora registers

REGISTERS of declared rare flora have been distributed to Shire Councils from Gingin in the north to Augusta-Margaret River in the south.

The registers, prepared by flora ecologist Graeme McCutcheon, contain customised information about rare flora in each Shire, as well as systems for reporting finds.

### Discoveries

Graeme, who is based in Bunbury, said that there had been many new discoveries of rare flora in the Central Forest Region.

"There are quite a few rare plants in the Busselton District, because of the diversity of landforms and vegetation types," he said.

Graeme searched for the climbing hibanthus, which was known from only one locality, after a request from flora officer Mike

O'Donoghue.

As a result, it was located in two places in State forest and has since been found in Scott River National Park.

There had been no reports of another rare plant, *Lasopodium lebrinasium*, for years.

"I had to contact a woman in England for more information about it," he said. "It was eventually found in the coastal tuart forest of Yalgorup National Park."

He said that CALM was also to have a small area of land near Dardanup, containing the rare stalked water ribbon, handed over to it.

The water ribbon is an aquatic herb found in freshwater pools or streams.

Graeme is also involved in marking locations on road reserves regarded as having special flora

conservation value, to tip-off off work crews that there's something important in the area.

## Eureka!

THE only eucalypt thought to be extinct in Australia has been rediscovered in the Little Sandy Desert, south east of Newman, Environment Minister Bob Pearce announced recently.

*Eucalyptus rameliana*, a desert mallee, was last seen by the explorer Ernest Giles in 1876.

"The specimens collected by Giles and notes of his expedition across Western Australia were the only record of this mallee until now," Mr Pearce said.

"Local wildflower

picker, Nick Foote, has now found about 100 of the mallees, and specimens sent to CALM confirm their identity.

"An Adelaide family thought they'd discovered Giles' mallee earlier this year, but it turned out to be a rare hybrid of two other eucalypts."

Giles' mallee grows up to a metre high and has solitary flowers similar to the rose mallee and mottledcah, both commonly grown in Perth gardens.

"The mystery of the Giles' mallee has fascinated amateur botanists and scientists for more than a decade.

"Giles' journal provides little information about his discovery, made during the desperate ten days he and his party were without water.

"The location marked on his specimen, now in the national Herbarium in Melbourne, was only 'beyond the Alfred and Marie Range'.

"Recent searches have concentrated around the ranges, which are now in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.

"This most recent find was 500 km away - well beyond the Alfred and Marie Ranges."

Mr Pearce said CALM botanists would visit the site next month to carry out more detailed surveys.

## At loggerheads

THIS winter has seen a number of baby loggerhead turtles wash up on the beach between Hilarys and Bunbury.

At least 30 have been brought in to CALM by people who found them on the coast. They are probably around six months old.

The turtles are normally only found in the warm waters of the North West. It is thought they were carried south by the Leeuwin current and washed ashore in the recent storms.

It is unusual for such a large number to be found so far south, and it's probably the first time that such a large raft of hatchlings has been seen in the Perth area since 1964.

CALM turtle expert Bob Prince said the turtles were hatchlings born last summer at nesting sites near Shark Bay and off the North West Cape.

"They would have swum out to sea after hatching and have since drifted south in the warm Leeuwin current," he said.

"The recent series of strong westerly fronts off the WA coast has blown the young turtles out of the current and on to southern beaches."

### Rehabilitating

The animals will be cared for at Underwater World, until they can be returned to northern waters. Biologists at Underwater World have been assisting in rehabilitating stranded or injured marine animals for the past few years.

"The turtles should ideally be kept in a warm 22-23 degree seawater aquarium, fed fish and kept until they are at least three



Research scientist Bob Prince and young loggerhead turtles.  
Photo by David Gough

years old before being released into the wild," Bob said.

Although CALM has been carrying out a marine turtle research program for the past five seasons, studying six species of turtle found off the WA coast, Bob said not much was known about west coast loggerheads.

Loggerheads grow to a shell length of 1.2 metres and weigh 140 kilograms, whereas the baby turtles brought in to CALM have a shell length ranging from 60 to 80 mm.

"They, like other marine turtles, spend most of their lives at sea, only coming to shore to nest when they reach adulthood at about 25 to 30 years of age," he said.

"The adults range widely. One turtle tagged and released at Exmouth in February 1988 was

caught 15 months later in the Northern Territory."

"Only about 300 to 500 adult female loggerheads are thought to nest in WA each year, each laying about five or six clutches of around 100 eggs each. The survival rate of hatchlings is extremely low."

Bob said a recorded decline in the loggerhead turtle population on Australia's east coast had led to further concern about WA's population.

He asked the public to report findings of dead or live specimens or sightings of live turtles at sea to the Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale on 405 5100, or to the local wildlife officer.

He said this information would help CALM understand the current status of WA's loggerhead turtle populations.

## Woodworks

PLANNING for the Woodworks Festival, announced in the June issue of CALM News, is well under way.

The festival, which will be held in September, is being jointly organised by CALM and Curtin University and is a festival of arts and technology with an overall theme of wood.

One of CALM's main inputs to Woodworks is a technical symposium entitled 'Tree Growing and Timber Technologies for the 21st Century', which will be held on Sunday, September 22 at the University.

by David Gough

The symposium will deal with a wide range of topics including: breeding trees for salt resistance and other specialised uses; regenerating south-west forests and remnant stands in agricultural areas; new logging and saw milling technologies; wood products of the future including Valwood and Scrimber, and wood in the marketplace.

CALM's General Manager Roger Underwood is coordinating the symposium and is

excited about the possible outcomes of it.

"The idea is to explore current research and development work in the fields of tree-growing and establishment, and in timber harvesting, manufacture and use, to point the way for research and development into the next century," Roger said.

"I am hopeful that the published proceedings will be of interest to farmers and foresters across Australia as well as to people in developing countries looking to establish sustainable tree-growing and timber industries," he said.