

# Drupella Workshop

**WITH** financial assistance from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, CALM recently convened a workshop on the coral-eating snail, *Drupella cornus*.

The workshop attracted about 26 people and, apart from CALM managers and research scientists, included scientists from the University of Western Australia, the Department of Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Authority, Le Provost Environmental Consultants and other interested groups from Perth, Exmouth and Coral Bay.

Papers detailing observations on the distribution of *Drupella* at Ningaloo and the Dampier Archipelago were presented.

Other papers discussed the taxonomy, reproduction, early life history, growth, genetics and population biology of *Drupella*.

Ningaloo Marine Park manager Sue Osborne presented the results of a study examining the feasibility of effectively managing *Drupella* at Ningaloo; and University of WA Ph.D student Kelley Holborn put forward a proposal to study the potential of

by  
**Stephanie Turner**

coral to recolonise areas of reef at Ningaloo which have been damaged by *Drupella*.

Robyn Cumming of James Cook University of North Queensland and Dr Tony Ayling of Sea Research, Townsville, Queensland presented interesting papers on the status of *Drupella* on the Great Barrier Reef.

Recent surveys there suggest that *Drupella* are present on at least some parts of the Great Barrier Reef in sufficient numbers to cause significant coral death.

The workshop was preceded by a three-day field-trip to Ningaloo which included visits to Bundegi Reef, Coral Bay, Lakeside, Cape Range National Park and Milyering Visitor Centre, and was hosted by CALM Exmouth staff.

Participants saw, first-hand, the effects of *Drupella* on the reef at Ningaloo.

**Workshop proceedings are available from Stephanie Turner, (09) 447 2350.**

**Staff**