

# Launch of Perth Outdoors Program

by John Hunter

IT WAS spring! The sun, the birds, the wildflowers and cool green forest were just right for a celebration. And so the former Environment Minister, Bob Pearce decided to announce the \$1 million dollar Perth Outdoors Program at Fred Jacoby Park Mundaring.

Ian Gale from Mundaring office feverishly arranged logistics and equipment to cater for some 200 people. Caris Bailey of Corporate Relations alerted the media and Seamus Mulholland from Policy Directorate planned and organised invitations for the launch of the program.

Everything was on track. The park was beautiful and the organisation - spot on.

Then, on the day of the launch, it happened.

To test the diligence and

the fortitude of CALM staff, invited guests and the public, the skies opened up, and the rain came down in buckets.

Corporate Relations staff in their city suits and lounge shoes, arrived on site and hastily set up road signs and prepared for the Minister and the Executive Director.

Mundaring District staff, adequately protected from the drenching rain, in boots, oilskins and hats, efficiently continued their task of setting-up. By now, the Corporate Relations staff resembled a couple of drowned chuditches.

However with Syd Shea's optimism and Bob Pearce's determination that the show should continue, an entertaining morning was enjoyed by all.

The public enjoyed their guided bush walk. Alan Walker, Syd Shea and Bob Pearce addressed the assembly and all in attendance were fascinated with Wildlife Officer Trevor Walley's talk on Nyoongar ways and aboriginal bush tucker.

Then as the hot johnny cakes and billy tea were offered, the rain subsided, the bush band commenced playing and the champion axemen team, the Dingles, put on an awesome display of log chopping.

The announcement and launch of the Perth Outdoors Program which will encourage city residents to make better use of local recreation sites was a success. It showed on that day that, even in adverse weather, people can really enjoy themselves in our fantastic parks and forests.



From left, Chaz Casotti and Barry Rhodes cook up a batch of hot johnny cakes and billy tea, which are eagerly sampled by Alan Sands and Jenny Alford.

Photo by John Hunter



