

# Not another seminar?

"OH NO," I thought, "Not another seminar, I already know a lot about the Perth metropolitan area, do I really have to go?"

"Look at the piles of work around my desk," I moaned to anyone who'd listen.

## Pray for sun

The fax, hastily sent to us the previous afternoon, had asked us to bring wet weather gear, walking shoes, umbrella, warm clothes and to pray for sun.

"Great! Just what I need, a seminar I don't want to attend and rain as well."

As you can see, lots of negative thoughts but there I was driving up to Mundaring, to The Hills Forest to attend the Perth Outdoors Information Seminar and Field Day held by Swan Region on a crisp, sunny, spring morning. (No rain so far.)

## Eye contact?

We were met and ushered into a quaint field-study centre with an 'interesting' L-shaped room (interesting, that is, for the poor presenters trying to make eye contact with the audience.)

The seminar was opened by Alan Walker who told us of the importance of 'front line

by Karen Shaddock

staff' being fully informed of the objectives of the soon-to-be-launched Perth Outdoors Strategy.

Peter Sharp then gave us a basic outline of the strategy and key components of Perth Outdoors from his perspective as the author.

## The customers

He was followed by Gil Field who gave a most amusing and entertaining version of who the customers would be, what they would want, and the lengths to which they will go to achieve their aims. (Ask Gil, when you have time, to tell one of his tales as a ranger in Queensland's national parks.)

Then there were delicious hot muffins and tea in the brisk, mid-morning air followed, on our return to the field-study centre, by an audio-visual extravaganza - a slide show of the varied landscapes covered by Perth Outdoors, from seascapes to the Ranges and all in between, set to inspiring music and presented by Rod Annear and Andrew Tatnell.

Of all the items presented on the day this must be the one that

captured most people's attention and imagination - and, hey, don't we have some wonderfully scenic places - and so close to Perth.

Alan Walker then gave us the focus for 1992-93 and where Perth Outdoors was going.

A picnic lunch at Fred Jacoby Park in the bracing, spring sunshine was rounded off by a guided walk, through an area of bushland showing various venues used during the Go Bush Program, and led by Barry Hooper.

I must admit that due to a really sore knee, I sneaked back on my own on a slightly less gravelly and treacherous path.

Once back indoors, Barry gave us a quick low-down on the various activities offered by the current Go Bush Program. (I must remember to book in some of my family next time.)

## Customer-focus

Alan Brien, the Manager of Whiteman Park, was the next presenter with a motivating talk on meeting our customers' needs and developing a customer-focus.

It was interesting to hear another view from such a dynamic speaker and I'm sure we all came away with lots of

'positives'.

Finally, but not least, David Gough whetted our appetites for the new Perth Outdoors book, informing us how the book came about and the enormous task faced by those involved to collate the information available about open spaces around Perth. Not only areas of CALM land are covered but also those vested in local government authorities, other government departments, etcetera, that fall within the Perth metro area.

## Thank-you

I would like to thank those involved in making this day happen, the presenters for their time, all those behind the scenes in Swan Region who had input and special thanks to Paula Wood, Barry Hooper and Stev Slavin for the ground work at Hills Forest.

## Positive outcomes

It just goes to show that even from negatives something positive and reinforcing can happen, and even better, perhaps, the power of positive thinking works - (remember, we were asked to pray for sun) - we had only one minor shower the whole day and that was when we were indoors.



Alan Walker (left) explains Hills Forest map to participants in the second Perth Outdoors Seminar held at Hills Forest Study Centre. Photo by David Gough

