



*A highlight of the Swan Region strategic planning meeting was the 'discovery' by regional manager Alan Walker (right) of a new species - 'Annear's woody pear' - held here by Rod Annear. In fact, it was just a twig stuck into an old piece of fruit. Rumour has it that Alan is already plotting his revenge. Photo by Andrew Tatnell*

## Sharing a vision for Swan

**MAKING** the most of conservation, commercial and educational opportunities in the Swan Region was the focus of two intensive workshops held over the last few weeks to develop a strategic plan for the Region.

The workshops were attended by 20 staff, including district managers and regional program leaders.

Regional manager Alan Walker said that more than 75 per cent of the population of WA lived in the Swan Region which had a wide variety of habitats from forests,

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wetlands and woodlands to the popular coastal and marine environments.

"Agreeing on common goals for issues raised during the workshops has been both challenging and rewarding," Alan said.

"The process itself was also valuable as it led to more understanding of the issues and opportunities facing work areas across the region.

"A shared vision and shared direction had emerged from the work-

shops, but the process did not end there.

"In a region as diverse and complex as the Swan, the needs of management and the shifts in expectations of the community mean that the plan will continue to be a framework within which work programs are developed."

### On a lighter note ...

Amid the intense workshop sessions emerged some occasional bursts of humour, for example:

From Rod Annear - a suggestion to integrate

feral rabbit control with fitness programs was dubbed 'hare-obics.'

From Rob Towers - 'The Bubblemun Track as the name for the next underwater dive trail.

From Rod Annear - the marine version of *The West Australian's* Constable Care, Coxswain Cockle saying, 'Only a no-hoper would spear a groper.'

A suggestion of a network of bridle trails for State forest areas was greeted with the question "Was that bridle or bridal?" Paul Brown's reply was "For you Alan (Hordacre), what's the difference?"

