

# CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

August 1992

## CALM nets awards galore

(see inside for details)

PRIA (WA) Program of the Year Award for CALM



Civic Design Award for CALM Manjimup



Whitley Award for Kimberley Rainforests, Australia



Wildlife officer Doug Coughran weighs one of the 30 hatchling loggerhead turtles washed up on beaches between Ocean Reef and Mandurah. Photo courtesy The West Australian.

## At loggerheads with weather

**LOGGERHEAD** turtle hatchlings like this one being weighed by wildlife officer Doug Coughran, have a tough time at this time of year.

Recent stormy weather conditions have seen more than 30 of the tiny turtles, hurled onto beaches between Ocean Reef and Mandurah.

The turtles usually hatch on the coast between Shark Bay and Exmouth

Gulf and swim to the warmer waters of Shark Bay.

Some hatchlings become caught in the Leeuwin Current, which sweeps them down the coast where colder waters and exhaustion prevent them from feeding properly.

Storms then wash the weakened turtles ashore with many ending up as a tasty feed for crabs and birds.

Of the 30 or so turtles, aged from a few weeks to a few months, 20 have survived.

The hatchlings, the tiniest measuring about four centimetres across the shell, and one green turtle thought to be about 15 years old, were fed, measured and tagged.

After they had recovered, part of a joint CALM and Royal Australian Navy project

saw the turtles placed on board the Navy patrol boat HMAS Geraldton.

The tagged turtles were later released into warmer waters off Dampier where CALM staff will keep track of their progress.

Loggerhead turtles have been known to live up to 100 years, grow to more than a metre in shell length and weigh 140 kg.

## CALM aims for AIIMS system

CALM, in conjunction with the Bush Fires Board of Western Australia, has joined fire and emergency services throughout Australia to adopt the Australian Interservice Incident Management System (AIIMS).

CALM's fire protection manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said AIIMS was based on many of the emergency management principles already in place in CALM's Large Fire Organisation System.

"AIIMS brings together autonomous emergency services, each with its separate charter, into a single effective operational team to control and manage any type of emergency incident," Rick said.

"It's been designed to promote effective joint operations through the use

of a common terminology and management structure that provides for appropriate communications between organisations, and more efficient use of the combined resources of co-operating agencies.

"AIIMS applies to any emergency in which several organisations are involved including wildfires, floods, cyclones, oil and other hazardous material spills.

"The introduction of AIIMS into CALM, the Bush Fires Board and bush fire brigades will require a massive training effort involving 11 residential courses at five different centres and includes 280 participants from several organisations including CALM, Bush Fires Board, the Police Department, WA Fire Brigade and Marine and Harbours Department.

"Three courses have

been completed and AIIMS training will continue to the end of October and will include all of CALM's fire duty officers as well as other staff involved in emergencies such as whale rescues and search and rescue operations etcetera.

"CALM's fire training staff, Kevin White and Peter Bidwell who've been largely responsible for modifying the national AIIMS courses in WA, have been acclaimed for the highly competent and professional manner in which they have presented this demanding course.

"They've been ably assisted by Ross Mead at Kelmescott and trainees from the Bush Fires Board."

Further information on the AIIMS implementation is available from the Fire Protection Branch at Bunbury and Como.

## Miss Geikie launched

**MISS Geikie II**, the boat that was driven 3 000 kilometres to reach the national park after which she is named, was officially launched on July 14 by CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea.

The \$97 000 tour boat arrived in the Kimberley on the back of a truck late last year to be prepared for the start of this year's tourist season.

The 180-seat pontoon was commissioned by CALM to replace a smaller boat at the gorge that could no longer keep up with the demand.

Miss Geikie's maiden voyage made headlines when Gascoyne Trading carried the boat by road train from the Albany shipyard where she was built.

Gascoyne Trading donated its services free of

charge for most of the 3 000 kilometre trip.

The boat was designed so that it can be launched from a specially built trailer that can also lift it quickly out of the water before the wet season, when the level of the Fitzroy River rises by up to 16 metres.

The tour boat is now in service twice daily carrying visitors up Geikie Gorge.



Left to right: Gary Olsen of Gascoyne Trading, CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, Aboriginal tribal elders George Brooking, Billy Oscar, Jimmy Green and Freddy Green pose for a photo to commemorate the launch of Miss Geikie II.





What's in a name?

CALM's Research Division has been restructured and renamed the Science and Information Division. Why the need for a name change?

The term 'research' focuses on the activity itself rather than on the outcomes of the scientific research that we do - what we now emphasise is the scientific knowledge and information required by CALM to manage its estate and achieve its statutory obligations.

We have repositioned and reorganised our operation to mobilise resources so that we can contribute more directly to the Department's highest priority tasks - clearly, the results of our work must be applicable to the operational needs of the Department, be it managing fire in nature reserves, thinning stands of jarrah, providing correct names for threatened flora, reducing fox numbers or establishing blue gum plantations. In an integrated land management agency it is absolutely essential that our management decisions are based on knowledge derived from objective and trustworthy scientific research.

The Science and Information Division has established three libraries - the Forest Science Library at the Como Research Centre, the Plant Sciences Library at the Herbarium and the Wildlife Science Library at Woodvale. The information held in these libraries represents essential sources of knowledge and is an important resource for all staff in the Department.

We plan replacing CALM's occasional papers, technical reports and research bulletins with a new journal - *CALM Science*. This will enhance the Department's corporate image and should help to increase our library journal holdings through exchanges with kindred scientific institutions.

I recently visited our seven research centres to meet staff and discuss the new arrangements. I was impressed with their keenness to contribute more directly to the Department's highest priority tasks. If you haven't called in to any of the centres I invite you to do so. We're at Busselton, Como, Dewellingup, Harvey, Manjimup and Woodvale; you'll find Ian Abbot, Jan Rayner and myself at Crawley. We all should know more about what others in the Department are doing and it's very important that we support and encourage each other in these trying financial times.

My immediate priority is to establish closer interactions between the Department's operational and scientific staff. The problems confronting CALM need to be recognised and clearly articulated and I'm keen to develop mechanisms to coordinate and prioritise the operational and scientific work of the Department.

**Dr Jim Armstrong**  
Director, Science and Information.

## STAFF NEWS

### Appointments

Patricia McLean, Officer, Merredin.

### Promotions

Mike Carter to Senior Forester, Pemberton;  
Jeff Bennett, Forester (Grade I), Manjimup.

### Retirement

Eric Jenkins, Regional Manager, Swan Region, on 30 July, 1992.

## Dieback! What is the future?

YOU can find out at a one-day forum designed to provoke discussion between researchers and operational managers on Wednesday, September 23.

The seminar is open to anyone involved in land management and delegates from local government authorities, State and Federal government utilities, and mining and exploration companies are encouraged to participate.

The proceedings are expected to stimulate community involvement in fighting this plant disease, to suggest directions for further applied and pure research, and to guide community actions.

The seminar, organised by the Northern Sandplains Dieback Working Party (NSDWP), will be held in the theatre, 9th floor, Minerals House on the corner of Adelaide Terrace and Plain Street, East Perth, (diagonally opposite the Hyatt Regency Hotel).

CALM is a member of the NSDWP which was formed in 1990 to coordinate dieback management on a regional basis by promoting education, research and sound management practices.

Some of the topics to be covered include: *Phytophthora* in the nursery industry, its impacts on rare plants, management in road-building activities, in mining operations and in mineral exploration.

The registration fee is \$50 if received before September 12 and \$60 if received after that date.

This covers proceedings papers, lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

You can phone environment protection officer Roger Armstrong on (097) 25 4300, extension 219, for information on the full range of topics, registration forms, etcetera.

You are urged to register early as places are limited and the seminar is expected to attract a larger number of people than can be accommodated.



Des Forrest - A CALM character  
Photo by Tanyia Maxted

## Des Forrest

by Alan Hordacre

ANYONE who has ever fuelled up or phoned Collie District in search of a piece of fire fighting gear is sure to remember the booming voice of Des Forrest, one of CALM's more colourful characters.

Desmond (Tutu) Forrest joined the Forests Department in February, 1961 after the coal mines were closed down in favour of oil as an energy source to generate the State's power.

Along with a score of other retrenched miners he was armed with hand augers, axes and dynamite.

His first job was to blow up and burn logs that lay in the way of the planting of what is now known as Bussell's Plantation.

"We didn't know what had hit us as the work was pretty different to mining," Des said.

"The bosses here then didn't know what they'd struck either!

"The miners then were a little more militant than the

regulars, but the bosses soon fixed that by sending us to Nannup to plant the Blackwood Valley pines.

"That sorted the sheep from the goats and you had to be a mountain goat to work in that country."

Today, Des is in charge of the fabrication, testing, audit and storage of all of CALM's fire equipment as well as being Jack of all trades as District storeman.

"Proper care and maintenance of the fire gear is most important as having the equipment in good working order at a moment's notice is vital," Des says.

"You have to be very thorough and can't have mugs doing it - people's lives depend on the equipment so we can't afford mistakes."

Des retires in two years, (earlier, if he wins lotto), so he is busy passing on his knowledge to Protection Branch staff and the new generation at Collie District.

## Koala update

CALM is working to bring a pair of male and another three female koalas to Yanchep National Park to help re-establish a breeding colony there.

The Park's existing koalas have not bred successfully for nearly ten years, probably as a result of chlamydia, a disease which often leads to infertility.

In May, the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service sent four female koalas to the Park from the disease-free colony on Kangaroo Island.

The two colonies at Yanchep have been kept separate to prevent any

cross-infection.

Three of the new koalas have settled in well but, unfortunately, the fourth died six weeks after arriving. Two autopsies have failed to identify the cause of death.

The Park's first koala colony was established in 1938 and the animals there now are regarded as its most popular feature.

The koalas' food supply comes from about 8 000 eucalypts grown in the Park in several small plantations.

It is hoped the second group of South Australian koalas will be available later this year.

## Wetlands wonderland for children

by Diana Frylinck

SCHOOL children in the Canning District are lucky to have a valuable wetlands area on their doorstep.

The wetlands form part of the 226 hectare Canning River Regional Park and provide a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

The Park offers an ideal resource for learning about the importance of the environment.

Park guides want young visitors to appreciate this natural asset early in their lives because they believe it will lead to a reduction in vandalism and inappropriate behaviour in the Park.

Besides their weekend public walks, the guides offer their services to schools free of charge for specially tailored class tours.

The guides collect physical resources such as birds' nests, feathers and tortoise shells to show the children.

They also design worksheets and plan activities around the interests or requests of the teachers.

The emphasis during the tours is on "hands on" activities.

For instance, a tour for children who have been learning about insects in class could include a fun "hide and seek" activity

helping to illustrate the effectiveness of camouflage; bark-rubbing, to encourage the children to look closely at what lives in the bark of a tree, and a checklist that outlines major insect species found in the Park.

The Park offers a large number of plant species, partly because of the unique freshwater/saltwater divide created by the Kent Street Weir.

The Weir has played an important part in the agricultural history of the area, and the river itself was an important means of transportation in the early days of the Swan River Colony.

The Park is a resource for any number of topics, lending itself to language experiences, and providing inspiration for poetry, essays, etc.

The walks are often as much a learning experience for the guides as for the children and, inevitably, the only complaint from both parties at the end of the tour is that it wasn't long enough.

For more information you may contact coordinator Stephen Faulds on 457 6707, Jim Price on 397 0026, Ron Martin on 451 2549, or myself on 451 2213.



Year three teacher Fiona Douglas and primary schoolchildren at Canning River.  
Photo by Rebecca Binns

## CALM Classified

THIS column is divided into sections dealing with 'for hire', 'for sale', 'surplus equipment', 'swap', or 'wanted'. If you have any equipment or requirement that you wish to advertise through this service, please send or fax type-written details to: The Editor,

CALM NEWS,  
Corporate Relations Division

### For Hire

Chairs in very good condition. Preferably ergonomic or similar. Contact Lynne Oakes, Dwellingup 538 1078.

Contact Lynne Oakes, Dwellingup 538 1078.

### For Sale

Bormac Heavy duty drill press. 3/4 HP motor. 5/8" - 16 mm capacity. 2 yrs old. \$200 ono. Contact Steve Toole, Katanning (098) 211 296.

Contact Lynne Oakes, Dwellingup 538 1078.

Bormac Heavy duty drill press. 3/4 HP motor. 5/8" - 16 mm capacity. 2 yrs old. \$200 ono. Contact Steve Toole, Katanning (098) 211 296.

### Surplus Equipment

1 off 3-point linkage slasher. Contact Jim Raper, Collie 341 988.

### Wanted

Office safe. Small to medium size. Contact Melissa Ford Katanning (098) 211 296.

### NOTICE

Mavis, Fred, Richard and family wish to express sincere thanks to all the friends of Alison (Mason) at CALM for all your support. Also thank you for phone messages, cards, words of comfort and your attendance at the funeral.

We were blessed with a very special daughter.

### CALM NEWS - AUGUST 1992

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Deadline for CALM NEWS is the 10th of the preceding month.



# Aboriginal appointment

THE appointment of the first Aboriginal representative on the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) was announced recently by Environment Minister Bob Pearce.

Mr Pearce said Michael Hill, a member of the Gnuraren Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Legal Service, had been appointed to the position.

He said Mr Hill was also manager of the Lake Jasper project, a rehabilitation program for young offenders.

"I'm pleased that recent amendments to the CALM Act provides for Aboriginal representation on the NPNCA," Mr Pearce said.

"I think it's particularly important that Aboriginal people's interest in conservation has been recog-

nised in this change to the NPNCA's membership."

Members of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority represent a wide range of community interests, including voluntary conservation organisations, local government and recreation.

CALM has four ex-officio members on the Authority.

The vacancy created by last year's resignation of local government representative councillor Chris Willcox has now been filled by councillor Michael Greenup, president of the Shire of Murray.

Mr Pearce said the NPNCA was a valuable source of advice on conservation matters and that he looked forward to working with the new members.

## Peers vote CALM tops in PR

CALM is one of two major winners in the inaugural Public Relations Institute of Australia (WA) Awards for Excellence.

The Department won Program of the Year for its varied Statewide communications activities that dealt with increasing community awareness, understanding and support for its nature conservation and land management programs and services.

The R & I Bank was successful in the Project of the Year category for its efforts to maintain public confidence in the face of a property value collapse which led to a major asset writedown that swamped a good trading profit.

Highlights of CALM's program included effective communications planning and the *Desert Dreaming* and *Fight Dieback* communications campaigns, the Department's commitment to integrated public information and community education activities, CALM's media liaison activities during the Australia Day weekend, fires and the sinking of the Sanko Harvest, the Department's innovative direct-marketing projects, publications and programs, and its preparations for the launch of the draft forest management and nature conservation strategies.

Making the presentations, WA President of the PRIA Ron Berryman said that the awards recognised outstanding public

relations performances that demonstrated what could be achieved when clearly defined objectives were set and sound PR principles were applied, to reach the highest standards in their execution.

"Each of the entries gave an account of professionally directed public relations activities in which practitioners firmly and effectively took command of a range of difficult situations," he said.

Accepting the award, CALM's director of corporate relations Ron

Kawalilak said the Department's success was a direct result of its commitment to open and proactive communication with the wider community.

"There's no doubt that our role as an integrated conservation and land management agency, which involves trying to achieve a harmony between the needs of the natural environment and those of the people of WA, is a complex one," he said.

"Success for us is only possible if CALM has the

good will, cooperation and support of the community.

"Developing and maintaining that good will, cooperation and support is something we pursue actively and that has been recognised by this award.

"Many of the special projects, publications and programs recognised in the award were created by a team which included Caris Bailey, Ray Bailey, Verna Costello, David Gough, John Hunter, Helenka Johnson, Tanya Maxted and Carolyn Thomson."



Ron Kawalilak receiving the Program of the Year trophy from Graeme Atherton of Woodside Australian Energy. The PRIA Awards for Excellence took place at Matilda Bay Restaurant, Crawley.



From left to right: CALM Southern Forest Region's Bob Hagan passes on the WA Civic Design Award landscape and environment plaque to Manjimup district's Rod Simmonds, forest worker Frank Fardella, Tim Foley and regional parks and recreation officer Vicki Metcalfe. Photo courtesy Warren-Blackwood Times

## Civic Design Award goes to Manjimup

CALM has won the 1992 WA Civic Design Award's landscape and environment category.

The winning entry was the Four Aces tourist and interpretation development west of Manjimup.

The annual award is organised by professional bodies representing architects planners, landscape architects, and engineers whose aim is to promote excellence in civic design. The development of the

Four Aces site began in 1987 and was completed in 1989.

CALM employees at Manjimup see the award as a fitting recognition of their efforts which included planning, development and construction of the development.

Southern forest regional parks and recreation officer Vicki Metcalfe, who is based at Manjimup, said that many of the staff who were involved in the

project have since moved from the district but they had left behind a great legacy.

Vicki said the development provided visitors with an opportunity to learn something about the area while enjoying the trip through the forest in relative comfort.

Staff wishing to see a display of entries in the Civic Design Award can place a request at their local public library.

## Making merry at DDs

A TIME warp trip to medieval days was the theme of a recent Social Club outing when 30 staff members descended upon Dirty Dick's Theatre Restaurant in Wembley.

Even experienced Social Club goers were slightly apprehensive about this latest venture where guest participation was the order of the night.

After the traditional bib ceremony (when bibs of comic design were handed out to patrons), they sat down to a hearty feast of soup, roast beef with all the trimmings and plum pudding.

The Social Club Annual General Meeting was held

by James Smith

on July 29 when the 1992-93 office bearers and committee were elected. They are: President - Leon Griffiths, Perth District; treasurer - Paul Cannon, Finance; secretary - Rick Currian, Audit; committee members - Clive Coshan, Deborah Greaves, Natalie McBeath and Heidi Moss, all from Finance; Joanne Currian, Information Systems; Ian Old, Health & Safety; Maria Lee, Timber; Lyle Gilbert, Wildlife; and James Smith Corporate Relations Division.

The first function arranged by the new

committee is a sundowner at The Liars Saloon, Albany Highway, East Victoria Park (opposite The Park Centre).

So be there at 4.30 pm on Friday, August 28 but please let Rick Currian (ext 329) or Heidi Moss (ext 238) know by August 26.

The cost is only \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

For just \$2.00 per fortnight you can enjoy huge discounts on many Social Club events including sausage sizzles, sundowners and the highlight of the year, the Annual CALM Ball. (This year's Ball is on November 21 at the Pamelia Hilton).



Norm McKenzie, one of the editors of Kimberley Rainforests, Australia, during a biological field survey. Photo by Kevin Kenneally

## Whitley Award for Kimberley book

THE Whitley Awards Committee of the NSW Royal Zoological Society has awarded a Highly Commended Certificate for the book *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia*.

Edited by CALM scientists Norm McKenzie, Richard Johnson and Peter Kendrick, the book was released last December.

Norm said the book was the culmination of several years' hard work by CALM, the WA Department of Land Administration, the WA Museum, the Kalumburu Aboriginal Community, Curtin University, the University of WA, CSIRO and the Chicago

Field Museum of Natural History.

"*Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* details the 1987-1989 study of more than 1 500 rainforest patches scattered across an area twice the size of Tasmania," Norm said.

"The ecological study was carried out by 15 scientists - specialists in remote sensing, botany, zoology, soils, conservation ecology and biogeography.

"The book not only tells the biological story of the rainforests, it also reflects the recent advances in biological survey, a field that was once considered a 'raw science'.

"The study was made possible by a Federal government grant through the National Rainforest Conservation Program, and administered by the Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories (DASET).

"Also greatly appreciated is the wholehearted support given throughout the program by successive departmental officials and Ministers including the present Environment Minister, Bob Pearce."

The Whitley Awards began in 1978 in recognition of the important role that Gilbert Whitley (1903-1975) played in

fostering Australian zoology.

They are presented annually by the NSW Royal Zoological Society to authors and publishers whose works significantly further Australian zoological science.

The awards logo may be used by successful publishers as a means of advertising to the buying public that the book is superior to its competitors.

According to the convener of the Whitley Awards Dr D S (Woody) Horning, *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* represents a significant contribution to the knowledge of a unique Australian area.

"Three years of research has yielded 21 papers, covering a broad range of topics," Dr Horning said.

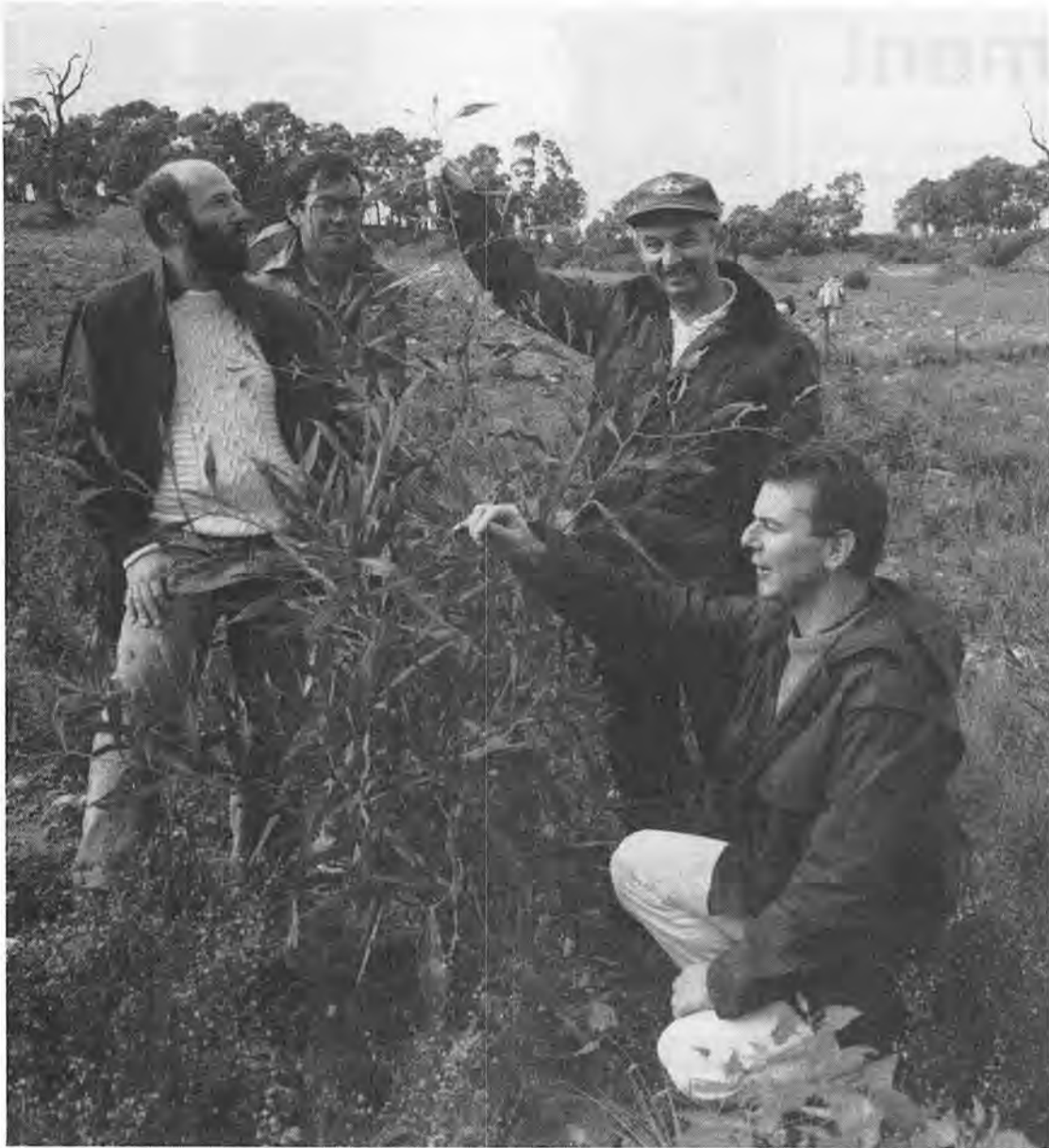
"One of the outstanding values of the book is the collection of papers on invertebrates.

"This group is mostly neglected in faunal surveys.

"It is also notable that the results of such a comprehensive survey were researched and written up so soon after the survey was finished!"

*Kimberley Rainforests, Australia* was published by Surrey Beatty & Sons, New South Wales, and sells for \$93 per copy.





Ken Rotman (left), clearly looks impressed with the height of the coojong (*Acacia saligna*) proudly displayed by Company works services manager Dave Crossley. Meanwhile, Greg Reid (rear) wears a knowing smile of satisfaction as CALM's Grahame Rowland 'talks' encouragingly to the tree.  
Photo by Verna Costello

## One million seedlings signal end to an era

CALM's Broome nursery has passed the one-millionth seedling mark.

This month the nursery ended a 20-year tradition of supplying free plants to residents of the State's north-west.

The nursery now produces quality Australian native plants for just \$2 each.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, said the nursery would grow exclusively native trees in line with a joint CALM-Western Australian Water Authority push for low-water, low-maintenance gardens.

He said the nursery was established in the late 1960s to provide low-water, low-maintenance plants to the people of the north and to help the fledgling horticultural industry through the north-west tree scheme.

"This was achieved by providing free plants from Carnarvon to Wyndham, courtesy of MacRobertson Miller Airlines and, in later years, Ansett Air Freight," Dr Shea said.

"In the past two years, the recession has meant a reduction in the number of

new houses being established and consequently a reduction in demand for plants."

Dr Shea said that during the 1980s the nursery was distributing between 40 000 and 50 000 plants annually.

Residents were entitled to free plants on a once-only basis, with new residents receiving 12 plants and commercial properties receiving 20.

Further plants could be purchased for \$1 each.

"Since 1990, however, demand fell to about 22 000 plants annually - of which 2 000 were sales.

"Due to this reduction and the cost of producing plants for a market which now has adequate access to commercial nurseries, we decided to end the free issue and concentrate on promoting the benefits of low-water Australian native plants.

"The nursery has now expanded its range of native plants suitable for the Kimberley and Pilbara, and CALM is working with the WA Water Authority to promote low-water gardens."

Dr Shea said the nursery's low-water garden had been upgraded and expanded to show many of the plants suitable for the north.

The use of mulch and trickle irrigation had enabled an attractive bush setting to be achieved, and numerous bird and lizard species added to the garden's appeal.

Dr Shea said that during this year's Shinju Matsuri Festival - Broome's pearl festival - CALM would take part in Broome Botanica, a celebration of the area's horticulture.

CALM's nursery will hold three open days from August 11 to 13, and the WA Water Authority will hold a display of the benefits of a low-water garden, and how to create one, at the nursery's entrance.

"We hope that the promotion of low-water requirement gardens and the availability of low-cost plants will lead to a wiser approach to the conservation of our limited water supplies and a greater appreciation of our indigenous flora."

## CALM - Cockburn Cement quarry planting update

COCKBURN Cement Limited volunteer staff have added 12 500 native trees and shrubs to earlier plantings in a disused quarry adjacent to Beeliar Regional Park.

Taking only two weekends to complete the back-breaking work, they cheerfully slogged away in biting cold winds and under leaden skies that constantly opened up and threatened to drown them.

The area planted was about five hectares, nearly treble that planted last year when the Company, wishing to restore the quarry to its former natural glory,

sought advice from CALM.

CALM's senior landscape officer Richard Hammond provided assessment and planting plans and reserves officer Grahame Rowland guided the project to completion.

Cockburn Cement's community liaison officer Ken Rotman said that Grahame was particularly helpful.

"He encouraged us every step of the way," Ken said.

"Thanks are also due to APACE-AID (Inc.) Revegetation Nursery, under the guidance of projects manager Greg Reid, for

by Verna Costello

supplying the trees, plants and planting expertise.

"Cockburn Cement plans to develop 33 ha located between the east and west lakes that form Beeliar Regional Park.

"The right weather conditions at the right time contributed significantly to the rapid growth of last year's planting.

"Given this winter's plentiful rains and if all continues as well as it did last year, about 80 to 90 per cent of the plants will survive," Ken said.

"To further ensure this high level of survival we have also installed rabbit-proof fencing and dug it deep into the soil.

Ken said that over the years Cockburn Cement staff had grown increasingly conservation-conscious.

"For example, we've been able to help Rockingham Beach Primary School with its own plant nursery.

"The workers collected the empty pots left over from our planting project and the children are growing plants in them to sell as a means of fund-raising."



Remember!

Order your CALM calendar for 1993 now.

Special rates for staff make the calendar an attractive Christmas gift idea.

## Walk trail now opened

A WALK trail through remnant rainforest just east of Broome's Cable Beach was opened on July 17 by CALM's Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea.

Also known as vine thicket, the rainforest has been the subject of great botanical interest for many years.

The interpretative trail was developed as part of an effort to preserve and protect the area.

Funded by the Commonwealth and State Government National Rainforest

Conservation Program, the trail is a joint project between CALM, the Broome Shire and Broome Botanical Society, with assistance from various volunteers. Timber was donated by Cullity Timbers.

To acknowledge the significant contribution to conservation in the Broome Shire, Dr Shea presented the Shire, local Aboriginal representatives and the Broome Community Library with copies of the recently published book *Kimberley Rainforests, Australia*.

## Wise men from the east look to CALM

THE application of DNA fingerprinting techniques carried out by CALM, in conjunction with Curtin University, has aroused keen interest among wildlife authorities throughout Australia.

Of particular interest, is the use of these techniques in wildlife industry management.

For example, two South Australian wildlife officers visited WA late last year to evaluate the new technology.

This visit has already been followed up by the despatch to WA of blood samples taken from Major

Mitchell cockatoos and mulga parrots for DNA fingerprinting.

From this a data base will be established to enable determination of parent-progeny relationships.

The species, which need special management, are sometimes taken illegally from the wild and claimed by breeders to have been bred in captivity from licensed birds.

Peter Dickinson, a wildlife protection officer with the Victorian Government Department of Conservation and Environment, was CALM's most recent visitor.

He, too, was in WA

to study DNA fingerprinting techniques, particularly in relation to investigations into the illegal taking of cockatoo species, including many that are rare.

Peter was shown by Professor Wetherall and David Groth how the scientific analysis of DNA genetic fingerprinting is carried out at Curtin University.

Meeting aviculturists, with whom CALM continues to work closely to ensure wild stocks of birds do not enter the industry illegally, was another highlight of Peter's visit.



Peter Dickinson (centre) shares a light moment with special investigations officer Kingsley Miller, (right), and wildlife officer Lyle Gilbert. Photo by Doug Coughran