

# Gunnar needs your help with Dwellingup data

by Barb Giles

**DO you have any historical photos or stories of Dwellingup? If so, Dwellingup's Gunnar Hornum would like to hear from you.**

Gunnar is a maintenance worker at the Science and Information Centre and is also president of the Dwellingup Progress Association.

He is both coordinating and actively participating in the planning and construction of the Dwellingup Tourist Information Centre.

Gunnar said that Dwellingup had long needed a fire museum and information centre as well as educational facilities for tourists.

"The main purpose of the Centre will be to highlight tourist attractions in

the area and to house memorabilia relating to the pioneering days in Dwellingup and surrounding districts," he said.

When finished the centre will comprise a fire museum, a tourist information section and a theatre.

## 1939 Mack truck

Among the fire museum exhibits will be a 1939 Mack truck used for firefighting during the 1961 Dwellingup fire.

One of five brought from America, the truck was used on the Fremantle wharves until after World War II when it was brought to Dwellingup and used for training.

It is believed there are only two of the original five Mack trucks surviving; the other was discovered on a Collie farm and taken to Manjimup.

The tourist information section will promote the area's attractions and handle bookings for local tourism businesses.

The theatre will show films of the 1961 Dwellingup fire as well as educational programs supplied by CALM and other groups.

Gunnar said that CALM was involved in a number of ways.

## Enormous poles

"CALM helped clear the site, it supplied the enormous poles used for the building's trusses and uprights and it is also

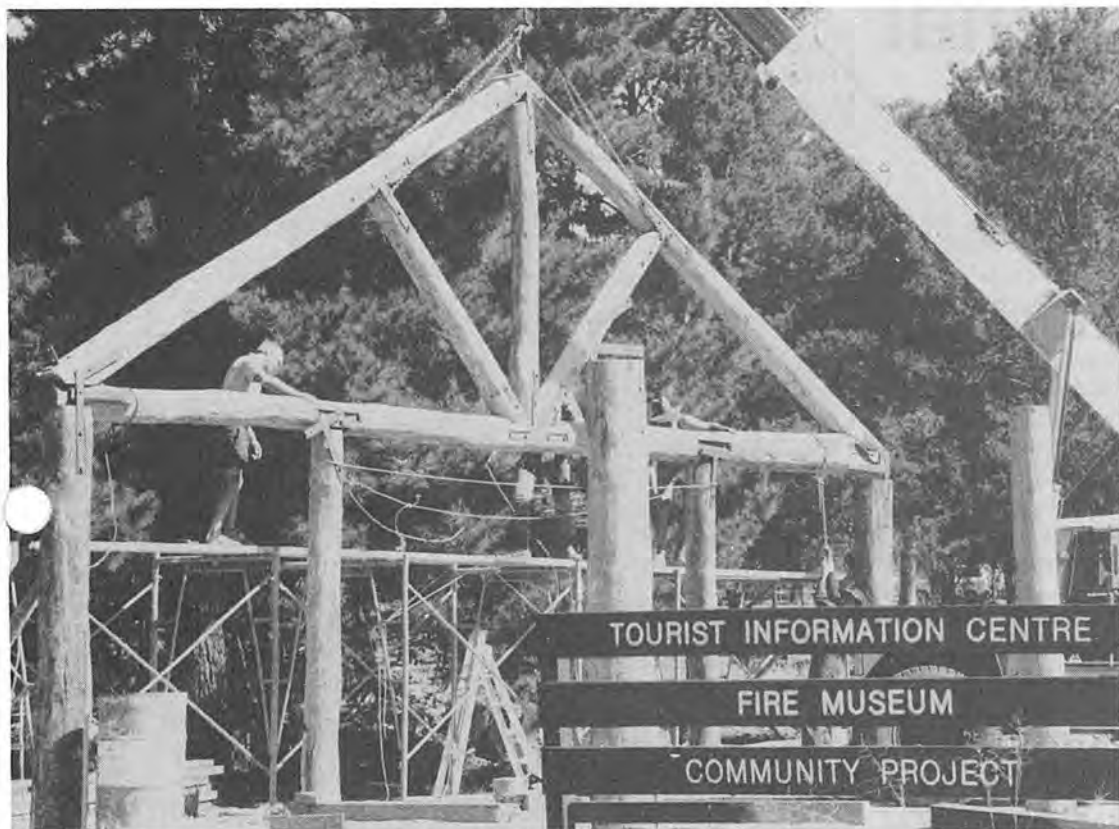
making available the heavy equipment and some of the labour needed during construction," he said.

"The pole construction method was the idea of architect Des O'Brien, in consultation with a steering committee appointed by the Progress Association.

## Community effort

"The construction of the Centre is a real community effort while the funding is coming from Alcoa, the Peel Development Commission, the federal government and the Murray Shire."

If you have any artefacts, photographs or stories please contact Gunnar on (09) 538 1105.



Log pole construction of trusses and uprights for the Dwellingup Tourist Information Centre.

Photo by Barb Giles