

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

June-July 1993



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Greg Pearce from Channel 10, helps CALM ranger Tony Tapper to hand out trees at Karrinyup Shopping Centre, on the day before Arbor Day. Photo by David Baylis, Courtesy of Community Newspapers

Arbor Day: A day for trees, hearts, hands and minds

ONCE again Arbor Day held on June 11, has occupied the minds, hearts and hands of conservation-minded people throughout Western Australia.

CALM staff, school children and their parents and teachers were no less energetic in entering into the spirit of the day.

The day began on 6WF, with Ted Bull and CALM's Executive Director, Syd Shea announcing the winners of *LANDSCOPE*'s Arbor Day Poster Competition for WA school children.

Another highlight was the planting of a rare flora garden in The Hills Forest, east of Mundaring, with the help of school children, invited guests and the Eastern Hills branch of the Wildflower Society.

Poster displays, a talk on trees and an environmental education program for school children, *Discovering The Hills Forest*, were also featured.

Other events included:
◆ Tree planting at Yanchep National Park and rehabilitation at Canning River Regional Park.
◆ Wheatbelt primary

school children went on bushwalks with CALM's David Mitchell and Anthony Sutton.

◆ Rare rose mallee (*Eucalyptus rhodantha*) seedlings were given to schools in the Three Springs-Watheroo Shire to plant as part of a recovery plan for the species.

◆ In Denham, a tree-planting ceremony and barbecue were held at the homestead on Francois Peron National Park for Shark Bay Primary School children and their parents.

◆ In Exmouth, primary school children planted

trees and local children from Karratha enjoyed CALM's *Coastal Capers*.

◆ In Millstream National Park, there were displays at the Homestead Visitor Centre, and Tom Price hosted talks by CALM staff at local schools.

◆ In the southern forest, there were rehabilitation projects at Pemberton High School and Shannon River townsite.

◆ CALM donated trees to Greening of the Southwest Project.

◆ In Albany, trees were planted at schools and road verges.

Unique card helps protect WA wildlife

CALM staff, *LANDSCOPE* subscribers and other Western Australians interested in conservation can now take part in a unique program to help save endangered species in WA.

A special credit card launched in Perth as part of the recent *West Week* celebrations will allow card users to support conservation projects without spending an extra cent.

The card, is the brainchild of CALM's community involvement coordinator Colin Ingram and CALM's Sponsorship Steering Committee.

It is being offered in conjunction with the Department's award-winning magazine *LANDSCOPE*.

The card was launched by the R&I Bank's Managing Director, Warwick Kent and CALM's Executive Director, Syd Shea.

"This type of card is widely used by university and sporting groups but never before has it been used to support conservation projects," Mr Kent said.

Percentage to trust fund

"Every time the R&I's new *LANDSCOPE* Conservation Visa Card is used, anywhere in the world, the bank will place a percentage of the money spent in a trust fund to be used for saving the State's endangered species.

"The beauty of it is that the money raised for en-

dangered species does not come from participating credit card holders."

Information on the card will be sent direct to all CALM staff and *LANDSCOPE* subscribers, while the R&I Bank is introducing the card to the wider community through advertising and information available at R&I branches.

The Lancelin Island skink, the western ring-tail possum, the Corrigin grevillea, the Wyalkatchem foxglove and the Lake Toolibin ecological community will be the first to benefit from money raised by the *LANDSCOPE* Conservation Visa Card.

Photo and story continued on page 4

Fish and cliffs

Video footage of a large school of fish being trapped against the coastal cliffs of Carnarvon by sharks and other predators attracted interest from the media, naturalists and CALM.

Greg Pobar, CALM's marine operations manager for the Swan Region, not only watched the video, but spoke to cameraman Harry Moody, and saw the event first hand, courtesy of Channel 7.

"Witnessing such a phenomenon was a highlight of my career," Greg said.

"Everyone knows how the marine food chain works, but to be able to stand on a cliff face and see the whole show on a massive scale was just incredible."

"I had trouble absorbing all that I was seeing while trying to identify different fish, sharks, and rays and interpret what was actually going on."

"The most basic interpretation was that it was a feeding frenzy, but it was clear that some species that we normally expect to prey on each other were working together to maintain the school and maximise their consumption."

The school of fish was more than two kilometres long and the event continued for several weeks.

It was first seen on May 31 and at the time of going to print on June 25 it was continuing.

CALM wildlife officer Doug Coughran identified the initial whale species to feed on the school as Bryde's whales, large tropical whales that grow to 14 metres and feed in a spectacular manner.

Greg directly observed manta rays, large groper, tiger sharks, Mako sharks, hammerhead and whaler sharks, as well as turtles, schools of yellow fin tuna, mackerel, trevally and

many other large predators. "Some sharks up to six and seven metres long were stunning fish by launching themselves into the air and crashing on the school."

"Others simply waited for the tuna to charge the school and then in the confusion the sharks took the tuna."

"One large shark was rolled up the beach in the surf, only to roll itself back into the water to continue feeding."

"Too often we consider and manage marine life, including sharks, fish and whales, as individual species with anti-social behaviour."

"However, it is obvious that the behavioural links between species in the marine environment may be even more developed than those of terrestrial species, the marine fauna having had a longer evolution in a relatively stable environment," he said.



Recent 'From My Desk' editorials have addressed the tough financial times facing CALM. Yet, as always, Syd Shea has been challenging us to be innovative and look for and take new opportunities to do our job well, rather than just dwell on the difficulties.

In such times we should remind ourselves how fortunate we are to work in an area that is so diverse and exciting. Nowhere else in this country better Western Australia in its diversity of flora and ecosystems. None of our counterparts throughout Australia is responsible, as we are, for both crocodiles in the north and seals in the south, as well as everything else in between, be it coral reef, rainforest or desert.

We have a special responsibility as home to nearly half of the nation's threatened flora and fauna, and while CALM has already excelled to the point of leading the nation, there's always a great deal more to do.

One emerging issue we need to think about, which is receiving a lot of attention in conservation circles around the world, is the notion of deliberately encouraging the sustainable use of wildlife as one means of helping to conserve that wildlife.

The issue is very sharply focused in places like Africa - if elephants don't pay their way and provide a direct return to local communities and whole nations, then they have a bleak future in the face of a rapidly growing human population needing land to produce food. The argument goes that by giving wildlife value, whether it be in terms of harvested products or nature-based tourism, it can help 'pay its way'.

This concept hasn't yet received much attention in Australia, probably because we're still a comparatively wealthy nation.

Nevertheless, it is a concept that will be debated and tested in Australia in the years ahead. It is an issue CALM must address, just as we must continue to improve our conservation of threatened species and communities, and our conservation efforts both on and off the parks and reserves system.

Keiran McNamara
Director of Nature Conservation

Landscape Fires '93 Conference

RECENT developments in bushfire science and management will form the theme of a three-day conference to be held at the Como Training Centre from September 27-29.

The conference is being sponsored jointly by CALM and the Bush Fires Board.

Speakers will present papers addressing six themes: new developments in fire danger rating and fire behaviour modelling; fire measurements for fire ecology studies; bushfire emissions; bushfires and the urban landscape; fire-induced landscape mosaics; and fire, plant and animal interactions.

Facilities will also be available for displaying

by Lachlan McCaw

poster papers.

Following the conference there will be an optional one-day field trip to examine fire management issues in the coastal sandplain area north of Perth. This will include a visit to the spectacular Lesueur National Park accompanied by Moora District staff.

The conference has already attracted interest from researchers and managers throughout Australia, and enquiries have also been received from overseas.

Papers from the conference sessions will be published as a feature

edition of *CALM Science*, the new departmental scientific journal

The organising committee for the conference includes senior research scientists Neil Burrows, Gordon Friend and myself from CALM's Science and Information Division, and Dr Malcolm Gill from Canberra's CSIRO Division of Plant Industry.

Conference registration papers and further details of the program can be obtained from members of the organising committee, or by writing to Landscape Fires '93, care of CALM Science and Information Division, Manjimup WA 6258. (Phone: (097) 71 1988 or fax: (097) 71 2855.)

Staff benefits from a non-profit club

THE CALM Social Club is a non-profit organisation with a membership of more than 100, run by an elected committee of CALM staff.

The Club's aim is to provide social functions for employees at discount rates and provide an opportunity to meet other staff in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

The committee meets every month to organise the social calendar. President is Leon Griffiths from Perth District, with secretary Ian Old (Health and Safety Section), treasurer Paul Cannon (Finance) and 'raffle queen' Nat McBeath (Finance).

by James Smith

The committee is Heidi Graski (Finance), Maria Lee (Timber Production), Lyle Gilbert (Wildlife), Clive Coshan (Finance), Peter Hollings (Information Systems Branch) and myself (Corporate Relations).

In the past Social Club events have included sausage sizzles, sun-downers, dining at restaurants, raffles, competitions, dances, river cruises, mystery nights and family outings - all at subsidised prices.

Members are also entitled to a 15 per cent discount on tickets for many concerts, ballet and plays (cricket and football excluded), while a regular newsletter keeps everyone up-to-date on proposed Social Club events.

The committee has been hard at work to draw up

this year's calendar of events noting suggestions from a recent staff survey.

This year's functions will be more family orientated with summer picnics, progressive dinners and Sunday barbecues.

Dinner, followed by a film or play, has been organised, and a theme night involving another government department is likely.

Die-hard club members will enjoy the continuation of familiar events such as sausage sizzles, dinner dances, and sun-downers.

Monthly 'theme' raffles will continue and as an incentive to participate, it has been arranged for the profits of selected raffles to go to a charity of the winner's choice.

To become a member simply contact any committee member or Ian Old on 334 0397; membership costs only \$2 per fortnight which may be deducted directly from your pay.



The interaction between dolphin and human visitors will be an important issue in the Monkey Mia draft management plan. Photo by Carolyn Thomson

CALM seeks suggestions

CALM, in consultation with the Fisheries Department, is working on four management plans detailing how Shark Bay's natural environment will be managed.

A marine reserves plan is being produced to ensure the area's unique marine features are conserved while maintaining sustainable commercial fishing and other industries, and recreational uses.

The first meeting of the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Advisory Committee was held recently at Carnarvon and a range of issues relating to the Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve were discussed.

The management of commercial and recreational fisheries at Shark Bay will be addressed in a plan to be prepared by the Fisheries Department.

All national parks, nature reserves and other conservation areas will be covered by a Shark Bay terrestrial reserves

By Ron Shepherd

management plan.

This plan will establish long-term management objectives for Francois Peron National Park and the new Shell Beach Conservation Park.

A strategic plan for the whole Shark Bay area will also be produced to provide policies and guidelines for managing the region's outstanding conservation, recreation, tourism and other commercial values.

Protection for the famous Monkey Mia dolphins is being addressed in a plan jointly prepared by CALM and the Shire of Shark Bay.

The draft management plan for Monkey Mia will examine interaction between people and dolphins.

CALM and the Fisheries Department will soon be seeking public comment during the preparation of the four management plans for Shark Bay.

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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

Wanted

Office safe. Small to medium size. Contact Melissa Ford Katanning (098) 21 1296.

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

Computer - Macintosh Powerbook/Laptop. Have Macintosh IIsi, 5 MB

RAM, 40 MB hard disk, standard keyboard, Apple 13" hi-res colour monitor for swap/trade-in. Contact Grant Revell, Pinnacle House, (09) 364 0777.

Pair of worn out walking boots, any small size preferred. Phone Fiona Marr (09) 364 0716.

For Sale

Cafe Bar - Series 6A. Very good condition. New hot

water element. Coin operated. Facilities for tea, coffee, chocolate, milk, sugar, soup. Make an offer! Contact Lynne Oakes, Dwellingup 538 1078.

For Hire

Lewis saw with experienced operators. \$30.00/hr plus wages and plant. Contact Peter Moore, Collie (097) 34 1988.

TWO Peoples Bay Nature Reserve has been proposed to become a national park in a draft management plan, released for public comment in June.

The reserve, east of Albany, supports many threatened species and is a popular visitor destination with outstanding potential for nature-based tourism.

More than 40 species within this relatively small reserve (4 700 hectares) are of special conservation interest, including the noisy scrub-bird, western bristlebird and western whippbird.

The rediscovery of the noisy scrub-bird at Two Peoples Bay in 1961 attracted international attention.

With protection and intensive management, its numbers have increased from less than 100 to more

by Kate Orr

than 800, with about 450 in the reserve.

With further assistance the bird may eventually be removed from the endangered species list.

Management of fire and dieback disease are extremely important issues and with the continued exclusion of fire from the noisy scrub-bird habitat one of the birds' major management requirements will be met.

Dieback disease has been present in the reserve for more than 40 years and is widespread, so an understanding of the impact of the disease, particularly on threatened species, is essential.

The plan, drafted by Albany senior operations officer Kelly Gillen and

reserve management officer Alan Danks, also proposes a concept plan for improving visitor facilities in the area known locally as 'the picnic area'.

This includes a visitor centre, car parks, entry walk and continued boat launching, although the reserve will be closed to further visitors when facilities are full.

Providing visitors with education and interpretation opportunities focusing on the success of noisy scrub-bird management and on other threatened species is the major aim of visitor management.

People are encouraged to send written submissions to CALM's plan coordinator Kate Orr, at Pinnacle House before July 30, 1993.

STAFF NEWS

Permanent appointments:

Marie Michael, Officer, Collie.

Promotions

Dr John Byrne to Director Corporate Services Division; Deanne Burton, Administrative Assistant, Pulpwood Plant Unit, South Coast Region

Transfers:

Leanne Kingston, Officer, to Busselton.

Successful reptile workshop a first

REPTILES are much-maligned creatures and therefore reptile conservation is often perceived by the public as having a low priority.

At times I've been regarded as a bit of a 'snakey' person, so I decided to use this label to my advantage by conducting a Reptile Workshop.

The aim of the two-day workshop was to increase public awareness and appreciation of reptiles, and draw particular attention to the diversity of species in the Shark Bay area.

The workshop, attended by 110 adults and children, was held at the old Peron homestead in the new Francois Peron National Park.

The emphasis was on

by Mark True

exhibiting animals such as burrowing skinks and geckoes which are not normally encountered by visitors to our natural areas.

Snakes were popular, as always, and the children upstaged many of the adults with their eagerness and confidence in handling them.

Appropriately, first aid for snake bite was also demonstrated.

Photographs, skeletons, skins and preserved specimens were also on display.

CALM's current reptile policy was discussed with an emphasis on 'look but do not touch'.

Shark Bay district manager Ron Shepherd was

guest speaker at the workshop and spoke with some relish about the thorny devil (*Moloch horridus*).

Thanks go to CALM senior zoologist Gordon Wyre for his support, and to local residents Carl and Gail Tritton for the loan of their aquariums.

A second workshop is planned for spring.

Denham mobile ranger Mark True filed this story before taking leave in readiness for the birth of his second child. Asked if he was present at the birth, he replied, "I certainly was - I delivered our daughter, Amber Grace in the ambulance on the afternoon of Saturday May 22!" Congratulations to Mark and Alison True - and to Amber's big sister Laura.



Mark and one of his slithery friends, enthralling some of the local children. Photo by Ron Shepherd

Mystery mountains - the latest book

MOUNTAINS of Mystery, a new book about Stirling Range National Park, is the latest publication from CALM to appear on bookstands throughout the State.

More than 20 experts have contributed to *Mountains of Mystery* which contains information about the history, geology and climate of the range, its unique plants and animals and wonderful recreational opportunities.

The book features the delicate mountain bells and orchids, unique trapdoor spiders and numerous honey possums of Stirling Range National Park, and is exquisitely illustrated.

There are also detailed notes on suggested nature walks and drives in the park.

The Stirling Range, with its stark cliff faces and magnificent views, stretches for 65 kilometres with Bluff

Knoll, the highest peak, rising some 1073 metres above sea level.

Because of their height, and proximity to the south coast, the peaks have a climate that differs from that of the surrounding district.

As a result, there is a great variety of wildflowers. More than 1500 species of flowering plants grow in the range - more than that recorded in many entire countries.

Irresistible

Because of its unusual topography and biodiversity, the area is irresistible to scientists, biologists, naturalists, wildlife lovers and tourists.

Mountains of Mystery was edited by CALM communications officer Carolyn Thomson, former CALM research consultant Graham Hall, now with Perth Zoo, and principal research scientist Gordon Friend.

The idea for the book

came about after Gordon and Graham began researching the impact of fire on small animals in the national park.

They soon realised that knowledge of numerous aspects of the park's natural history was fragmentary or non-existent, from scattered sources or simply in people's minds.

This realisation was the seed that grew into *Mountains of Mystery* - an idea to gather what was known of the natural history of this unique area and present it in a form that would appeal to a variety of readers.

It can be read at leisure or used in the field as a quick reference guide and is appropriate for nature lovers, students of any age and visitors to Western Australia.

Mountains of Mystery retails for \$19.95 from bookshops, newsagents, CALM offices and other outlets.



Left to right, CALM recreation officer Alan Sands and senior interpretation officer Gil Field, with LandCorp architects David White and Sandy Biagioni pore over plans with CALM landscape architect Tracy Churchill. Photo by Rod Annear

CALM-LandCorp and the return of Henry White

PART of the Perth Outdoors Program for redevelopments at Yanchep is the renovation and refitting of McNess House into a visitor centre which will be the focal point for all visitors to the park.

As well as being part of the Perth Outdoors Program, the work at McNess House is being made possible by the generous sponsorship of LandCorp.

McNess House has a long history. Back in the 1880s pioneers from the Swan River colony in Perth built a small stone hut at Yanchep which they called The Hunting Lodge.

They would visit for weekends or even for several weeks and enjoy the good hunting for game, mainly waterbirds and kangaroos.

by Rod Annear

Roads to Yanchep at that time were virtually non-existent so few people visited.

Soon settlers came to the Yanchep area.

The first of these was the White family who built a house where Yanchep Beach Road is today.

Henry White discovered many caves in the area and soon visitors from Perth flocked to Yanchep to explore these limestone caves guided by Henry White using a magnesium flare.

These visitors stayed at the old Hunting Lodge which was later renamed Caves House.

In the 1930s when most of Yanchep National Park was developed, the old

Caves House was demolished and in its place the two-storey McNess House was built.

The name McNess is in honour of Sir Charles McNess, a wealthy philanthropist who provided most of the money for the project so that people hard hit by the Great Depression could be employed.

McNess House was used for many years as a hostel and tearooms.

In later years part of the building was used as a kiosk, but much of it fell into disrepair.

Now renovations see the building regaining some of its old charm and style.

Work is well under way to have the building ready for use as a visitor centre.

The new centre will provide visitors with information on the key features of

the park, act as an orientation point and serve as a venue for viewing films and conducting interpretive activities.

Some of the features of the new centre include a three dimensional model of the park, displays interpreting the parks natural and cultural history, an audiovisual-meeting room and a room which explores the theme of water systems throughout the State.

One of the more unusual parts of the display is a life-size model of Henry White sitting by the fire place with his cave lights and ropes nearby.

CALM and LandCorp staff are working together to complete the project which should soon see the building open to the public.

(See also page 8)

CALM welcomes cat man

AN expert from New Zealand recently visited Western Australia to pass on his knowledge on controlling feral cats.

He is Dick Veitch, from New Zealand's Department of Conservation.

He was invited to meet CALM predator researchers and to accompany CALM's Pilbara regional ecologist Peter Kendrick to the Montebello Islands, off the Pilbara coast.

Thirty-year involvement

Dick has worked with the New Zealand Wildlife Service and Department of Conservation for 30 years, having been involved with many habitat rehabilitation and threatened species

by Andrew Burbidge

management programs.

New Zealand has many feral animals which have had a destructive effect on its native species, especially birds.

As part of their conservation programs, the New Zealand Department of Conservation has removed feral species such as cats, rats, stoats and Australian possums from islands, allowing the re-introduction of endangered species.

Flightless parrot

"One of our projects involved introducing the endangered kakapo (a

large flightless parrot) to the 2 000-hectare Little Barrier Island near Auckland, after eliminating feral cats," Dick said.

"The cat removal program on Little Barrier Island took three years, but the experience we gained will allow similar programs to finish much faster than this."

Funding provided

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has provided CALM with funding to control cats on the Montebello Islands, off the Pilbara coast.

CALM plans to remove feral cats and black rats from the Montebellos and then reintroduce

golden bandicoots and spectacled hare-wallabies.

Both species occurred on the Montebellos until cats became established, probably from pearling luggers or shipwrecks, late last century.

CALM has a great deal of experience in controlling rats on islands, but little experience in cat control, so advice from someone like Dick Veitch, a world expert on the subject, is more than welcome.

Sponsored visit

His visit to the Montebellos was sponsored by Hadson Energy Pty Ltd, which operates a nearby offshore oil field.

Surveying on a shoestring solves a sticky one

PROBLEM: How do you survey 70 kilometres of coastline to assess recreational use, with limited time, money and staff?

Solution: Use a shoe horn to squeeze a ranger, nearly two metres tall, into the back of a spotter aircraft, fill his arms with maps, global positioning system (GPS) receiver, camera, clipboard and a miniature pen, then wave him bye-bye!

Cost-effective

Actually, it is just that simple and highly cost-effective.

The planning team for the Nambung National Park and Wangarren,

by Bill Evans

Nilgen and Southern Beekeepers' Nature Reserves Management Plan, solved their survey problem this way and were very pleased with the results.

Easter weekend survey

Using a CALM spotter aircraft, pilot and Moora District staff, the Easter weekend survey went off without a hitch - to everyone's amazement.

Accurate data on the number of tents and caravans, vehicles, dogs, fires and recreational activities were collected.

Positions were fixed

with a combination of GPS readouts and dead reckoning (when the GPS got airsick from all the tight turns), and later plotted on maps to show distribution patterns and favourite haunts.

Access to these data will allow the team to formulate a plan that recognises the traditional use patterns and visitor levels at peak periods.

Labour-intensive ground surveys would be hard pressed to find all the camps in one day within the myriad tracks that dissect the area, and valuable time would be spent explaining the survey to a sometimes wary public.

Apart from the odd stern stare and a lot of friendly waving, distracting interaction was avoided and all survey time was productive.

High level of coastal use

The most surprising result of the exercise was discovering the high level of use this section of coast receives.

There were no less than 214 tents and 219 stationary vehicles sighted between Cervantes and Lancelin, within the four reserves.

Further information and costings are available from Moora district manager David Rose.



Willing hands begin releasing the fur seal snared in a fishing net. Photo by Jason Puls

Volunteers help in rescue of fur seal

CALM officers and volunteers recently rescued a sub-Antarctic fur seal snared in a fishing net at William Bay National Park, east of Walpole.

The seal, whose condition was reported to CALM by passing tourists, was found lying on a large rock offshore from Greens Pool.

"The rock was separated from the shore by some 10 to 30 metres of surging water," wildlife officer Lawrie Anderson said.

"As we had no equipment on hand to rescue the animal immediately, rangers Dave Wilson, Jason Puls and I went back to Albany, returning to Greens Pool the

following morning.

"Volunteers Jim Roberts and Mark Saleh, both of Denmark, helped catch the animal with ropes and a net then pulled the seal across the channel to have the netting removed.

Strong and aggressive

"The animal appeared to be strong and aggressive, so after we'd made sure it wasn't injured from the net, we released the seal into the water at Green Pool, much to the delight of a crowd of onlookers," Lawrie said.

The seal stayed near Greens Pool for half an hour then made its way

seawards through the reefs and rocks, undeterred by the breaking of heavy swells.

To date no reports have been received of a stranded or dead sub-Antarctic fur seal, so it is assumed the seal survived its ordeal with the net and is leading a normal existence.

The net removed from the seal had small marine growths adhered to it, indicating that it had been in the ocean for at least several weeks.

It is believed to be the kind used for deep sea shark fishing and was several metres long, knotted in two places then, presumably, discarded.

Hard-headed hardwood plan to generate \$25 million

VACANT SECWA-owned land east of Collie will become a hardwood plantation in an innovative agreement between SECWA, CALM and a major Korean forest company.

SECWA will provide the land while CALM will establish and manage the 500-hectare plantation, with Hansol Forest Products Company financing the project.

The plantation is the first part of a \$30 million agreement by Hansol to fund the planting by CALM of 10 000 hectares of blue gums in the southwest during the next 10 years.

By the year 2003, pulp wood from the harvested trees will generate an annual export income of \$25 million.

The government will back the project with a State Agreement Act ensuring the supply of timber harvested from the plantations to the company.

The first trees are being planted on Coolangatta Farm, an 1800 hectare grazing property bought by SECWA in 1988 as a location for a power station.

About 60 per cent of the cleared property will eventually be planted with hardwood.

The Coolangatta plantation is expected to generate valuable export income, partly offset carbon dioxide emissions from any future power station, and establish a buffer zone and visual screen around it.

It will also extend the program of revegetating cleared land in the Wel-

lington Dam catchment to improve water quality, reduce salinity, erosion and phosphate pollution from the farm.

SECWA has agreed to lease 1000 hectares of Coolangatta Farm to CALM for 20 years to establish tree plantations.

Initially CALM will plant 500 hectares and harvest the crop twice - after 10 and after 20 years - on behalf of Hansol.

Proceeds will be shared by the three participants.

The innovative arrangement is expected to produce both environmental and economic benefits for Western Australia.

It is also hoped that similar cooperative ventures will occur between public and private organisations on already cleared south-west farmland.

The plantation will be established under share-farming agreements but the Korean investors will not be allowed to acquire any land.

From page 1

Dr Shea said Western Australia had some 271 plants that were endangered and a further 43 species that were already extinct; 13 animals were presumed extinct and 73 species or subspecies were threatened.

"Recovery plans already in place have proved successful, pulling species such as the numbat, western swamp tortoise and rose mallee back from the brink of extinction.

"Funds raised by the LANDSCOPE card will add to the list of species on the road to recovery."

Banjo, Swag and Co.

by Rod Annear

MORE than 760 entries were received from primary school children in a competition held by CALM to name the new koalas at Yanchep National Park.

From these entries the names Matilda, Acacia, Swag, Bindi and Banjo were chosen.

The winners were Christopher Calverley (7) of Edgewater, Andrew McDonald (5) of Darlington, Lauren Bowles (8) of Dunsborough, Genevieve Jones (5) of Glen Forrest and Leanne Gwilym (7) of Lynwood.

They received a year's subscription to CALM's LANDSCOPE magazine and a 12-month free pass to Yanchep National Park. More than 25 000 people have viewed the new koalas since their arrival from Kangaroo Island, South Australia in late March.

The two males and three females were the second of three shipments of koalas to form a new breeding colony at Yanchep.

Their transport was

sponsored by Ansett Air Freight while Ansett Australia flew CALM ranger John Wheeler to and from Adelaide to supervise the koala relocations.

It is hoped some of the koalas will mate later this year, and the first koalas to be born in the park for a decade would arrive next February.

The park's other koala colony is infertile, after becoming infected with the disease chlamydia.

The two colonies are being kept in separate areas of the park to prevent cross-infection.

Diving honour for Greg

CALM's expertise in marine management received dual recognition recently.

Marine operations manager for the Swan Region, Greg Pobar, has been honoured by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

Greg, a qualified diving instructor, was nominated by fellow instructors in the diving industry.

He received a service recognition award for his contribution to marine conservation as an instructor.

The Executive Officer of PADI Australia, Terry Cummins, presented Greg with the award during his recent visit to Perth.

Other recipients in-

cluded Neville Colman, editor of *Underwater Geographic* and a renowned naturalist and photographer, and Reg Lipson, who develops marine education programs for the Victorian Institute of Marine Science.

Greg was also invited to attend the On-Scene Coordinators Course for Oil Spill Management, conducted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority based in Canberra.

The course, held in Fremantle, was attended by representatives from government agencies around Australia. Participants are qualified to assist and coordinate major oil spills anywhere around the

Australian coastline.

Greg spoke on the role of environmental agencies in oil spill clean-up.

"Unfortunately, the risk of major oil pollution along our coastline is very real," Greg said.

"It was interesting that the major case studies were based in WA. The incidents with the *Sanko Harvest* and the *Kirki* gave us the opportunity to hone our skills and abilities in oil spills.

"I found the legal discussion fascinating. The complex laws, international shipping conventions and government responsibilities make managing oil spills extremely difficult and delicate."



Eagles captain John Worsfold, Executive Director Syd Shea and CALM wildlife officer Ray Smith, at the launch of the conservation card. (Story page 1) Photo by Carolyn Thomson



Islands in the sun



Regional operations officer Nigel Sercombe eliminating box thorn on the Beagle Islands.

BOX THORN eradication and sea lion counts were the main features of a recent trip to several of the islands off Jurien and Cervantes.

CALM officers from Moora District and Swan Region Marine Operations teamed up to carry out the three-day trip to the islands.

The Beagle Islands were the first day's destination.

Noxious box thorn had taken over the vegetation, choking out the native soda bush (*Nitraria*), on one of the islands.

Regional operations officer Nigel Sercombe attacked the thorny weeds with a chainsaw, and operations officer Ken Borland painted the stumps with herbicide to guard against regeneration.

Meanwhile, park ranger Terry Harrington, operations officer Russell Bone, marine operations manager Greg Pobar and marine park ranger John Edwards removed and burnt the box thorn.

Moora District staff plan to continue box thorn eradication on the Beagles in about six months' time to consolidate the work.

A single box thorn seedling was found on the most southern island of the Beagles when CALM officers waded across to continue surveys. This was quickly pulled up and removed.

The Beagles are also important sea lion breeding islands and the counts that were carried out will help build up a picture of the sea lion population during the non-breeding season.

Several other islands were also visited to count sea lion numbers and check on their breeding stage, count birds, check the condition of the islands, check signs and conduct sign maintenance.

The group was joined by

wildlife officer Matt Warnock and park ranger Bill Evans on the second day.

They visited the scenic north and south Fisherman Islands, another sea lion breeding area. As found on the Beagles, the pups were almost a year old.

Even before disembarking from the boat, a New Zealand fur seal was spotted sitting on the rocks - the first record of this species on the island.

As well as counting sea lions and seabirds, Greg Pobar found the voracious sea snail *Drupella* on the reefs off the Fisherman Islands.

"On a previous trip I collected *Drupella* from a site in the lagoon south of the island," Greg said.

"On this trip I saw large dead areas of branching coral (*Acropora*) that had resulted from predation by the snail."

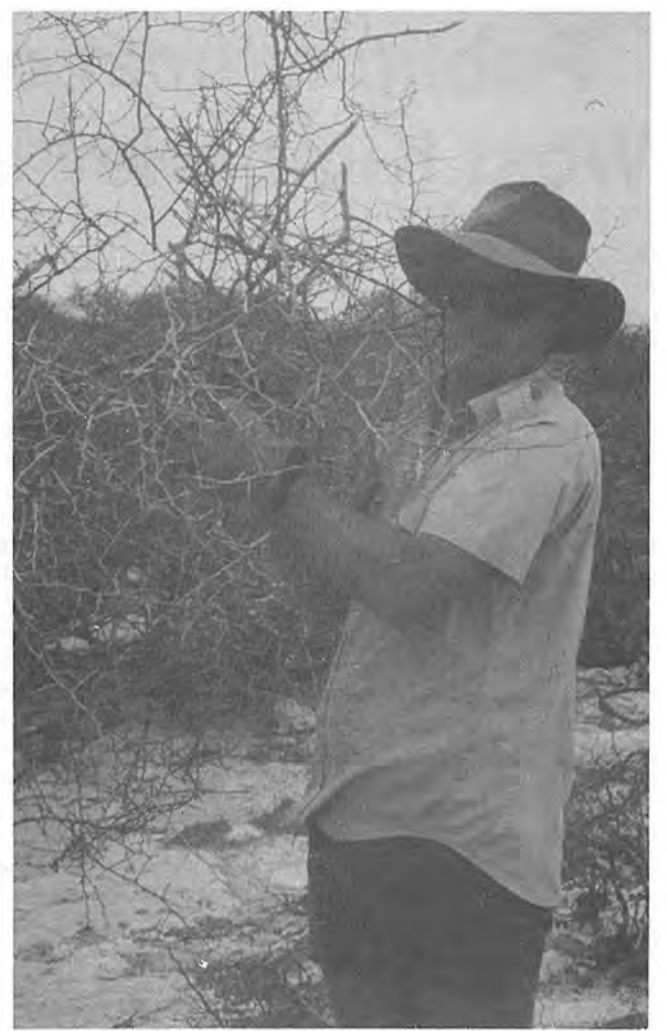
Greg collected samples of the snail and brought them back to *Drupella* researchers in Perth.

Greg, Ken, John and Matt were joined by Moora District manager Dave Rose and park ranger Lance Jackson on the final day.

On CALM vessel *Gandara* and an accompanying inflatable dinghy they surveyed Green, Whittel, Buller, South and North Cervantes, Bullanger, Whitlock and Favorite Islands.

Moora District staff were pleased that there was so little rubbish to remove from the islands.

Roseate, fairy and gull-billed terns, and rock parrots were among the many birds recorded on the visit and king's skinks were also seen on two of the islands.



Russell Bone comes to grips with a thorny problem - introduced box thorn.



Wildlife officer Matt Warnock checks signage on North Fisherman Island.

Story and photos by Carolyn Thomson



Moora reserves officer Ken Borland eradicating box thorn on the Beagle Islands.



Ken Borland, David Rose, John Edwards, Greg Pobar, Lance Jackson and Matt Warnock during the wildlife survey of the Lancelin-Dongara Islands.



Reserves officer Ken Borland and marine park ranger John Edwards in the Zodiac inflatable dinghy used to survey the islands.



A juvenile sea lion - Beagle Islands.

West Kimberley update

Public education - West Kimberley style

SNAKES, native vegetation and micro-climatic habitats of the Kimberley will be featured in a public education display to be developed by CALM's West Kimberley office.

"This will be developed in the grounds of the West Kimberley office and will cater for locals and visitors to Broome," said West Kimberley district manager Allen Grosse.

"We will be using the reptile enclosures, purchased after the recent closure of the Pearl Coast Zoo, for the display."

"As funds become available, barramundi and other aquatic life will also be featured. The entire operation will be run as a business unit and should show a profit within two years."

The display will link directly with a wildlife

education program currently being developed for schools throughout the Kimberley.

Education assault

The West Kimberley office recently employed a half-time officer to develop interpretation and education material.

As a result, the text, graphics and layout for interpretation panels, signs and other education materials will now be prepared locally.

All proposed projects will be reviewed by senior interpretation officer Gil Field for continuity, format and standards prior to printing.

Second wildlife officer

In line with this education thrust and to assist with wildlife enforcement, a second wildlife

officer is now stationed in the West Kimberley.

This officer's employment will result in a greatly expanded role in wildlife education throughout the district.

The three wildlife officers in the Kimberley are also developing an information program to help them enforce the Wildlife Conservation Act.

This wildlife information network will foster a community awareness of the problems of servicing a region the size of the Kimberley.

The wildlife officers plan to hold public lectures and produce a brochure, followed by T-shirts and school visits.

The ability to adequately administer the Wildlife Conservation Act will be greatly enhanced through this whole of community approach.



Geikie Gorge Photo by Carolyn Thomson

Aboriginal culture included in Geikie Gorge NP tours

A second boat tour, focusing on traditional Aboriginal culture, will begin at Geikie Gorge this July.

CALM and the Darlun Gunaya Aboriginal Corporation, which represents the traditional owners of Geikie Gorge, are planning to jointly operate a half-day tour for groups of up to 12 people.

The boat tour will give visitors an Aboriginal perspective of the park and its plants and animals.

It would impart the rich cultural heritage of the Bunuba people, whose traditional country includes the Geikie Gorge, Wind-

by Peter Hutchison

jana Gorge and Tunnel Creek national parks.

Since the new *Miss Geikie II* was commissioned in 1992 the old vessel, while quite serviceable, has remained idle.

It is well suited to the enclosed waters of the Fitzroy, and is ideal for a leisurely journey up the river, stopping for tea and damper and calling at points of interest along the way.

Two Bunuba guides would be employed to handle bookings,

administration and commentary, and to operate the vessel.

Darlun Gunaya Aboriginal Corporation currently owns and operates Darlun Gunaya Backpackers, which offers budget accommodation at the historic Fitzroy Crossing Post Office.

The post office was recently renovated by the Corporation.

The group hopes to expand its involvement in the Kimberley tourism industry by linking the accommodation side of their operation with the proposed boat trip, and other tours within the

Fitzroy Valley.

The two guides will initially spend four months of preparation and training by helping the rangers on CALM's existing boat tour at Geikie Gorge.

Darlun Gunaya and CALM will then give a trial run in July for three days a week to assess demand.

The project will offer new opportunities for Bunuba people to develop and control tourism-based enterprises in co-operation with CALM, while sharing their heritage with visitors keen to learn more about the Aboriginal history of the Kimberley.

CALM and Shire in joint venture

A SPECTACULAR part of the West Kimberley will benefit from an agreement between CALM and the local shire.

The area in the Kimberley's King Leopold Ranges was formerly covered by a pastoral lease and was purchased by CALM for the creation of a national park.

It covers spectacular ranges and gorges with such landmarks as Bell Creek Gorge, Lennard River Gorge, Inglis Gap and Bold Bluff - a massive stone outcrop.

"The Bell Creek Falls-Silent Grove area is a popular camping spot with people travelling the Gibb River Road," said West Kimberley district manager Allen Grosse.

"When CALM assumed control of the area in 1991,

it became clear that management was needed during the tourist season," he said.

"It wasn't possible to reallocate existing resources to this area, so we approached the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley to help provide services."

As a result, CALM and the Shire have agreed that:

◆ CALM will allocate a mobile ranger to Silent Grove.

◆ The Shire will grade the access road into Silent Grove and Bell Creek, maintain the Silent Grove camping area, prepare the airstrip and ensure road access to Mount Hart on an annual basis.

◆ The Shire will move the ablution block from Geikie Gorge National Park to Silent Grove.

◆ The Shire will be given a five-year concession to

establish facilities and maintain access on an annual basis.

◆ All revenue generated by the park, including camping fees collected by the ranger, will be retained by the Shire.

◆ CALM will provide \$16 000 in capital funds to assist with the initial developments.

"CALM is delighted about the prospect of improved management of this isolated area," said Allen.

"The Shire benefits because Derby's future is closely linked to the development of the tourist industry and local attractions," he said.

"Many of these attractions are on land managed by CALM and a cooperative management arrangement between the department and the Shire will enhance this relationship."

Mundaring staff in bold attempt to control foxes

AN ambitious attempt to control foxes in The Hills Forest is being undertaken by CALM Mundaring District staff.

The comprehensive biological survey and fox control program began in April and is expected to take two years to complete.

Protecting wildlife

The aim of the program is to protect populations of chuditch, southern brown

bandicoots, mardos, brush-tailed phascogales and carpet pythons found within The Hills Forest.

It is part of CALM's Operation Foxglove Program, which aims to make 20 per cent of the forest fox free by the year 2000.

It is believed that the introduction of the fox probably caused dozens of mammal species to become extinct or disappear from large areas of Australia.

CALM research has shown that if fox

populations are controlled, large numbers of small and medium-sized native mammals will rapidly recolonise suitable habitats.

400 per cent rise

The woylie population at Dryandra Forest, for example, has risen by 400 per cent after two years of fox control.

Acting senior reserves officer John Carter who is coordinating the program said permanent monitor-

ing sites in The Hills Forest had been established to continuously gauge the success of fox control.

"As well as increasing the existing populations of native animals in The Hills Forest, it is hoped that one day it will allow animal species that once existed in the area to be re-established," John said.

"The program will also allow southern brown

bandicoots and brush-tailed possums to be relocated from areas under threat by development.

To get in touch

"It will also help Perth people to get in touch with native wildlife, which is scarce right now because of feral animals such as foxes and cats.

"The program will enable CALM to help people see and learn about our wildlife by creating accessible populations of animals."

by Carolyn Thomson

by Allen Grosse

AFTER extended discussions, CALM has joined the Kimberley Tourism Association.

As a major landholder controlling many of the natural tourism features of the Kimberley, CALM's involvement in planning, marketing and promoting tourism is critical.

planned for the Rowley Shoals.

Funds will be provided by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA, formerly ANPWS) and it is hoped the document will be ready before the end of this financial year.

ANCA controls Mermaid Reef while CALM

manages Clerke and Imperius Reefs.

ANCA acknowledges its inability to provide management surveillance and is keen for CALM's West Kimberley office to assist in this regard.

The joint brochure is the first stage of a combined management approach.

1080 poison signs

Signs explaining the program and use of the bait 1080 have been erected and an information sheet will be available to the public.

"Following CALM's

Gunnar needs your help with Dwellingup data

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

by Barb Giles

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.



Five of the honoured volunteers, left to right, Wesley Manson, Ruth Tolson and Terry Hales, with Sue and Keith Smith. Photo by Carolyn Thomson

Nine in Volunteer Week honours list

VOLUNTEERS working in environmental areas as diverse as marine turtle research, wildlife rehabilitation and cave management were honoured during Volunteer Week last month by Environment Minister Kevin Minson.

The nine volunteers were among more than 670 volunteers who worked with CALM last year on about 60 projects.

Mr Minson said Volunteer Week was a great opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution these people made to the community.

by Terry Gales

He said they and other volunteers in Western Australia had taken up the challenge to improve the State's environment.

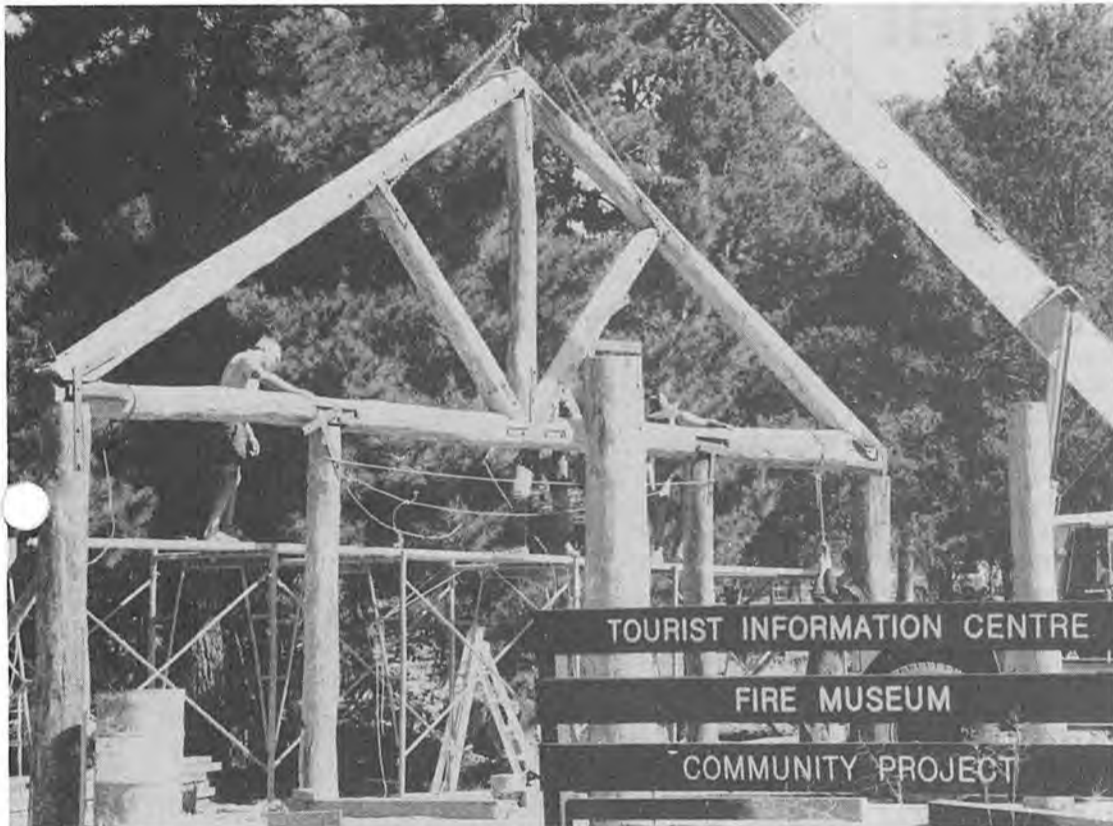
"They ensured that projects could progress faster and provided services to the public that would not otherwise be available," Mr Minson said.

He said more than four million volunteers Australia-wide provided essential services to the community such as fighting fires, running emer-

gency services and caring for injured wildlife.

Mr Minson presented Volunteer of the Year awards to: Peg and Alan Shepherd of Bedfordale, for staffing the visitor centre at Millstream-Chichester National Park for three months;

Gwen and Norm Cole of Manning, for their work as campground hosts at Cape Range National Park at Exmouth; Ruth Tolson of Woodlands, and Wesley Manson of Karrinyup, for their work on loggerhead turtles at Ningaloo Marine Park at Exmouth.



Log pole construction of trusses and uprights for the Dwellingup Tourist Information Centre. Photo by Barb Giles

Tagged and found

A **LOGGERHEAD** turtle tagged while nesting at South Muiron Island off Exmouth has been found in the Java Sea, in Indonesia.

The animal was tagged by CALM researchers and volunteers in January 1992.

"This is only the second report of a WA nesting loggerhead turtle being seen at a location other than the nesting beach on which it was tagged," said research scientist Bob Prince, who heads CALM's marine turtle program.

"Information received suggests the turtle was captured either late last month or early this month.

"The report is exciting because the loggerhead turtle is the most threatened of Australian nesting marine turtles.

Shoalwater shine-up

MORE than 50 volunteers turned out to clean up several islands close to Rockingham during Seaweek.

The volunteers helped CALM staff 'shine-up' the Shoalwater Islands in keeping with Seaweek's theme for 1993, *Caring for our Coast*.

The aim was to encourage the community to continue caring for its coast in the Rockingham area throughout the year.

Twenty large bags of litter were removed.

Participants travelled by ferry from Mersey Point in Rockingham to their destination where they were able to visit areas and islands usually restricted to the public.

The volunteers formed into three groups. Two groups spent two hours on Penguin Island, checking signs and cleaning up areas usually

by Peter Dans

inaccessible to the public. The other group cleaned up on Seal Island.

The Shoalwater Islands are important nature conservation areas and Penguin Island receives 60 000-80 000 visitors a year.

Penguin Island, the largest island in the chain and a popular tourist destination, supports the biggest breeding population of little penguins on the west coast of Australia.

Seal Island is favoured by Australian sea lions as a resting place after feeding.

The species has been declared to be in need of special protection.

About 50 species of birds use the islands, including migratory species protected by international treaties.



Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. This group at the Shoalwater shine-up is no exception. Photo by Terry Goodlich

Volunteers fight fires then clean up for Easter

ESPERANCE district manager Klaus Tiedemann paid tribute recently to the valuable contribution made by volunteers, both during and after the February fire in Stokes National Park.

Fanned by 50 km winds and 42°C temperatures, the wildfire caused by lightning strikes had swept through the eastern section of the park and burnt through an adjoining nature reserve and Moir Homestead National Trust Reserve.

Klaus said that volunteers from the local Bush Fire Brigades and CALM fire fighting units, which included personnel from Kalgoorlie, Albany and Esperance, took three days to bring the fire under control.

"The volunteers helped immeasurably to prevent

the fire from spreading to adjoining private property and in protecting the Esperance Shire Recreation Reserve campground at Quagi.

"Damage within Stokes National Park included the loss of the Fanny Cove campsite, which had been progressively redeveloped over the previous fifteen months.

"The loss of vegetation cover at Fanny Cove was of particular concern and included mature Rottne Island Tea-trees. If left unattended, the loss could have resulted in major soil erosion problems," he said.

Accordingly, a project was begun with volunteers from the Esperance Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) and CALM Esperance district staff.

The project was

completed over the weekend before Easter and included the construction of timber retaining walls and the fencing off of areas to prevent compaction from trampling, so that regeneration could occur.

Earth barriers were constructed to restrict water flow, soil-stabilisation matting was laid to protect seeds and soil from wind erosion, and bollards were erected to demarcate vehicle access.

Rick France, the Stokes National Park ranger-in-charge, thanked all who participated in the project.

"Their hard work will go a long way towards the prevention of any further deterioration of the site and contributed greatly to CALM being able to reopen the site for day-use purposes in time for the 1993 Easter weekend," Rick said.



Seminar participant Jackie Kelly and principal training and development officer Tony Brandis enjoy a break in proceedings. Photo by Martin Lloyd.

Understanding Aboriginal people and their culture

'A greater understanding of Aboriginal people and their culture' was the theme of a seminar held in Albany recently.

Thirty-four CALM staff attended the two-day seminar, some from as far away as Geraldton and Esperance.

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal speakers presented a wide range of topics.

These included: the history of contact between the two cultures; the importance of significant places to Aboriginal people; com-

by Verna Costello

municating effectively; and an appreciation of Aboriginal people's perspectives on some of CALM's conservation and development programs.

During the course of the seminar it became clear that there was a need for greater awareness of the contributions which Aboriginal people are making in Western Australia's multi-cultural society.

Since its inception CALM has recognised that Aboriginal knowledge of our environment, which has been passed down through generations, could be of great value in carrying out the Department's conservation mission.

Many CALM staff have had few opportunities for direct contact with Aboriginal people on land management issues; the seminar provided a forum for local CALM staff to talk directly with the Aboriginal people participating in the seminar.

The seminar ran particularly smoothly due to the organisational expertise of senior ranger Martin Lloyd and Albany regional planning officer Ian Herford.

Ian also chaired the program on the first day, while planning officer Alan Padgett chaired the second day's proceedings.

Their professional approach to the task meant that the program progressed faultlessly.

Further seminars are planned this year to cover the rest of the State.

Facelift for National Park

IF you have visited Yanchep National Park lately you may have noticed some changes.

The facelift is part of CALM's Perth Outdoors Program which aims to help people around Perth get outdoors and enjoy nature.

Yanchep National Park was developed mostly during the Great Depression of the 1930s when sustenance workers toiled long and hard to construct buildings, walking trails and develop access into the limestone caves.

The beautiful Tudor style buildings and grand

by Rod Annear

gardens of the time owe much to these workers.

Today, work is needed to ensure the park continues to meet visitor needs and so that the heritage values of the park are not diminished.

During the 1992-93 financial year, over \$500 000 will be spent on the park to:

- ◆ improve visitor access and parking through provision of carparking and roads;
- ◆ restore McNess House to become the park

visitor centre; ◆ redevelop the lakefront and surrounding area for picnicking;

◆ install a new reticulation system; ◆ improve signposting and display material throughout the main visitor area;

◆ restore visitor areas that have been 'loved to death';

◆ expand the range of park-based interpretation and ecotourism programs; and develop a low-key backpack camping area.

CALM landscape planners Tracy Churchill

and Alan Sands have been looking to the past for hints in the new park design.

"We're lucky to have so many historic photos of the park to study," Alan said.

"Where possible we're attempting to incorporate part of the original park layout into the current redesign."

Sponsors are also playing a key role in the upgrading with LandCorp providing funds to help renovate McNess House and their planners providing technical support.



At left rear are Stokes NP ranger-in-charge, Rick France and Esperance district volunteer coordinator John Winton, with some of the LEAF Volunteers, proudly showing off some of their handiwork. Photo by Klaus Tiedemann

Pemberton tests plan

PEMBERTON District staff have just completed the first part of an operational trial of an Integrated Forest Management Plan.

By Phil Durell

issues before we start," Donna said.

"Most of these things would have been done anyway, but by formalising it we have achieved a multi-disciplinary approach right from the beginning which is more efficient."

The implementation of the plan in the Dombakup forest coupe is based on the integrated landscape management of all forest resources and values to ensure that each factor is evaluated within the broader context.

"It's really a case of taking an existing system and seeing if we can refine and improve it. This method appears to have a number of

advantages," Donna said. "For example, in considering scenic values this plan ensures that timber harvesting doesn't detract from the views along the Pemberton-Northcliffe tramway and main road - both important tourist routes adjacent to the coupe."

"Where necessary the boundaries and methods of harvesting were modified in recognition of the importance of the views from these tourist routes."

"Having the whole team together means everyone with an interest can have an immediate input."

Following the harvesting, the plan then focuses on regeneration, environmental protection and fire management of the new forest.

Moora gets more for dollars

AN advisory committee for two management plans covering key areas in the Moora District has been appointed and recently held its first meeting.

One of the management plans will be prepared for Lesueur National Park and the adjoining Coomallo Nature Reserve.

The other will cover Nambung National Park and Wanagarren, Nilgen

and South Beekeepers Nature Reserves.

"Instead of singling out a particular national park, we've taken an area with several different reserves with similar problems," Moora district manager Dave Rose said.

"This hasn't been done before elsewhere in the State. It has the advantage of spreading resources further and giving you more for your dollar."

The 12-member committee met for the first time in April.

It includes representatives from local shires, 4WD clubs, the tourist industry, WA Farmers' Federation, Bush Fires Board and beekeepers.

"Members of the advisory committee were selected so that a broad spectrum of interests and communities could be represented," planning officer

Jacqueline Pontré said.

She said the first meeting focused mainly on Lesueur National Park issues and Coomallo Nature Reserve and included a field trip to Lesueur.

Dieback in the northern sandplains, the botanical significance of the Lesueur area, as well as access and recreation planning in Lesueur National Park were discussed.