

Arbor Day focus on forest habitat

CALM celebrated Arbor Day in Perth with the help of children from schools in the Hills area planting 150 dieback-resistant jarrah trees as part of a research program in John Forrest National Park.

The trees symbolise CALM's integrated approach to sustainable use of the native forest.

Dieback not only kills jarrah trees and many other susceptible species, it also can lead to destruction of native wildlife habitat. But feral animals, especially foxes, also destroy wildlife, and so if we are to conserve our forests and native animals, we need to combat the problem on several fronts.

This was the message from Environment Minister Kevin Minson who helped with the celebration.

"If we can regenerate areas decimated by dieback, and control predators, we have a real chance of restoring nature's balance," Mr Minson said.

Each of the 150 trees planted was marked with a special tag that would enable CALM scientists to carry out further work at the site.

CALM researcher Mike Stukely plans to plant further seedlings of 'elite' dieback-resistant families selected from a breeding program.

Mike has found that while none of the jarrah families is immune to dieback, resistant seedlings can tolerate the infection.

This resistance is highly heritable and researchers believe it probably is controlled by several genes, rather than by just one.

This indicates that the resistance is unlikely to break down over time.

Selected seedlings have been cloned by scientists at Murdoch University and Alcoa of Australia using tissue cultures.

Resistant clones CALM planted in 1988 in dieback - affected bauxite minesites, and inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* - the fungus which causes the disease - are growing very well compared with susceptible clones, many of which have died.

Further research at Murdoch University has shown that resistant jarrah

● Continued page 2



John Forrest National Park ranger Karl Macjanko (left), researcher Mike Stukely, CALM Como, dieback co-ordinator Paul Jones and Arbor Day co-ordinator Greg Heberle, both from CALM Crawley, helped Swan View students Kristian Madsen and Jason Tischler and Glen Forrest students Sara Kyumaston, Kate Brown and Jodie Kimber with the tree planting on Arbor Day. Photo by Greg Wood

CALM moves to self-funding

THE Department of Conservation and Land Management is moving towards becoming a self-funding agency.

The State Budget brought down this month introduced big changes for the Department including a sharp drop in new borrowings.

Under the moves, CALM will retain all timber revenues and proceeds from asset sales, including land sales. The revenue and proceeds will be used

to fund other programs and retire debt. This will result in CALM's new borrowings falling from \$10 million in 1993-94 to \$1.2m in 1994-95 and nil from 1995-96.

It also means the net cost to Government of CALM's programs will fall from \$40.8m in 1993-94 to \$34.9m in 1994-95.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson emphasised the change to CALM's funding arrangements would not mean a reduction in the Department's

nature conservation, wildlife management, tourism or recreation programs.

CALM's debt reached \$122m in 1993 because the Department could not use its revenue to repay debt and fund commercial operations.

Analysis by CALM has shown that unless there was radical change, the Department's demand on consolidated revenue would reach \$150m within 10 years.

The changes adopted by the

Government mean that by the year 2000, CALM substantially will have retired all outstanding debt and by 2004 largely will have become a self-funding agency.

Nature conservation, tourism and recreation programs will be funded through cross-subsidisation from forest resource management income and through a Government community service obligation payment.

This will make all funding

arrangements for all CALM's programs very open and accountable.

At the same time, CALM will review its structure with an emphasis on commercialisation of various services it currently performs.

The new arrangements also will enable CALM to increase its involvement in partnerships and contracts with the private sector.

● Continued page 2

A day for forest habitat



CALM's Swan Region manager Alan Walker, Environment Minister Kevin Minson and John Forrest National Park senior ranger George Duxbury with the sign Mundaring District prepared to mark Arbor Day 1994.

Photo Greg Wood



• From page 1

clones can restrict the invasion of the fungus into their roots in much the same way as marri or redgums that are resistant.

Dieback-resistant jarrah could be used to replant dieback sites, minesites and gravel pits, cleared land, including river catchments, amenity areas and road verges.

Operation Foxglove, a joint program between CALM and Alcoa of Australia, was an integral part of managing the South West native forest.

"By planting dieback-resistant jarrah, and implementing predator control through Operation Foxglove, we can help combat two of the scourges of the forest," Minson said.

"This integrated approach also will conserve the forest under the principle of ecologically sustainable development."

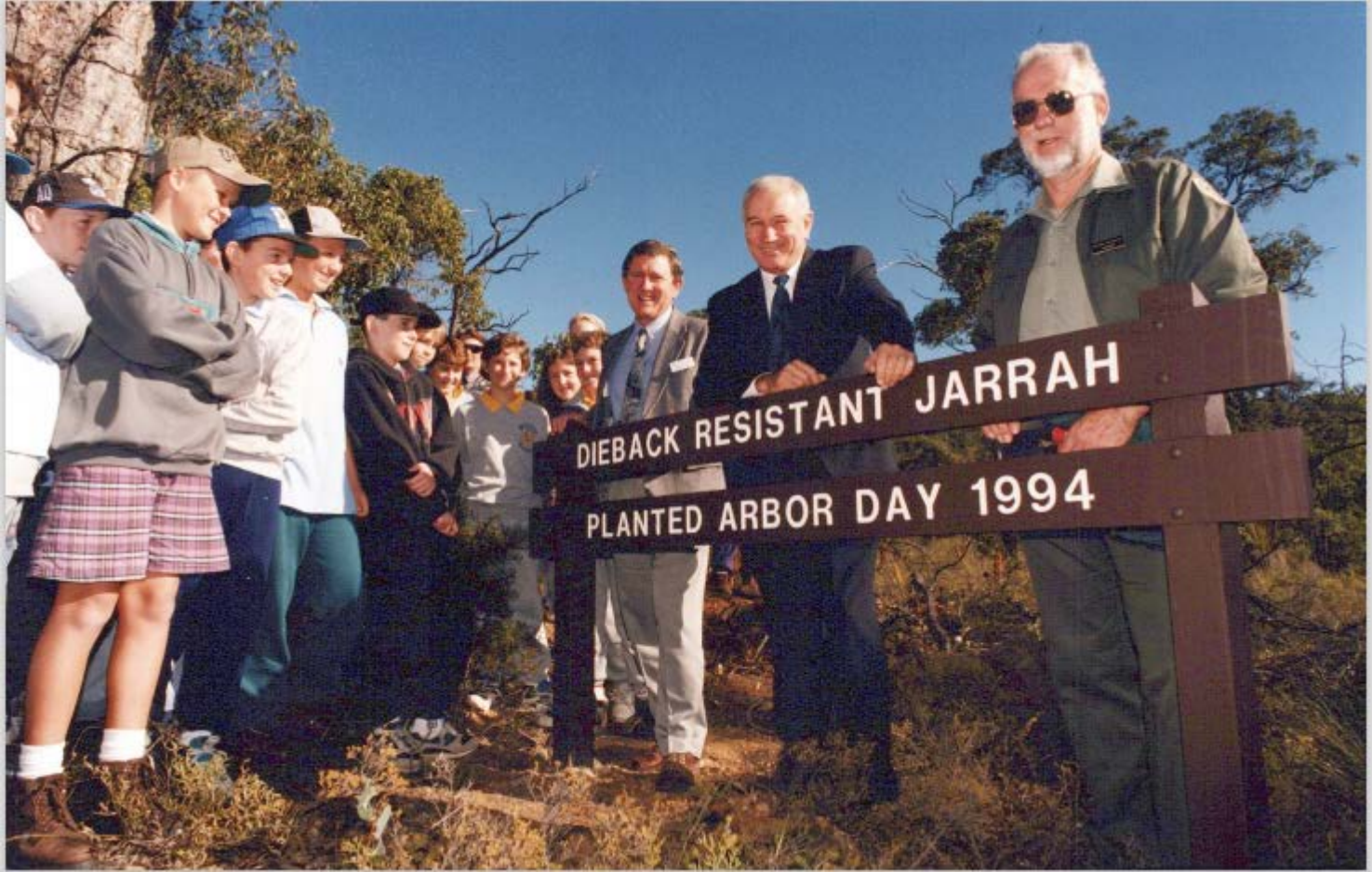
Walyunga National Park ranger Steve Strachan kept up the supply of johnny cakes at John Forrest National Park on Arbor Day. Photo by Greg Wood





Tree-mendous!
ARBO... Y





DIEBACK RESISTANT JARRAH
PLANTED ARBOR DAY 1994