

Justine heads for Busselton

MEET research scientist Justine Edwards, a recent addition to CALM's Science and Information Division.

Justine will be based in Busselton, in a position funded by the National

by Verna Costello

Landcare Program, until June 1997.

Her goal is to improve the survival rate of trees on

farms so as to encourage landowners to establish them as an effective means of land rehabilitation.

As tree survival can be improved through accurate site selection, Justine will develop guidelines for different tree species.

To do this, she will study the site and climatic characteristics that influence the survival and productivity of *Eucalyptus globulus* and other commercial tree species.

The research findings will also be of value to commercial plantations.

Research scientist Richard Harper, who recently began research on site selection for *E. globulus* following similar work on pine plantations, will supervise the position filled by Justine.

Justine was offered five other professional positions, but said she chose CALM because it offered her the potential to contribute practical benefits for the farming community and, ultimately, to improved land conservation throughout the South West.

"Also, being associated with CALM's high stand-

ards of research in the management of sustainable resources was appealing," she said.

"I was raised on a farm east of Albany, so I have a strong affiliation with the farmer's perspective.

"This has made me keen to seek practical solutions to current problems."

Richard said Justine's practical outlook and her high level of motivation were invaluable.

"These, combined with her Honours studies of the interaction between soils, hydrology and plantation design, place her in a strong position to make a significant contribution to the problem of improved site selection for *Eucalyptus globulus*," Richard said.

Justine completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science with first Class Honours from Murdoch University in 1993.

Her Honours studies were carried out with Dr John Marshall of the CSIRO, and examined the role of *E. globulus* for land rehabilitation in the upper Kent River Basin, near Mount Barker. Justine intends to further these studies with a PhD.



Research scientist Justine Edwards.

Photo by Verna Costello



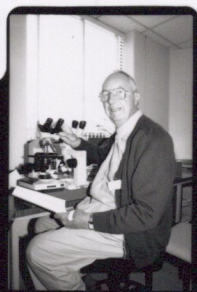
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