National award for LIB's excellence

UNDERSTANDING the principle that the quality of information relates to the quality of data has helped CALM's Land Information Branch (LIB) win a prestigious national BHP Engineering Technology Award.

The LIB crew adhered to the principle when they developed the Tenure Information System - codenamed TENIS.

The system details information on tenure as it applies to the 20 million hectares CALM manages on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

LIB Manager Peter Bowen says TENIS is quite different from traditional computer systems in that it works under Windows.

Consequently, it has the same look and feel as other office personal computer programs such as MSWord, Excel, and Paintbrush.

"This means people who are familiar with Windows-type applications will feel at home with it, which is particularly important for people who will use the system only occasionally," Peter says.

With such a big estate, catering for a range of multiple uses, it is critical that the knowledge of the current state of tenure, land use and extent of these areas is available to help in making decisions on how these areas and resources are managed.

This is the prime role of TENIS.

The program's development involved the equivalent of 10-people years spent collecting and checking information from LIB's own records as well as those held by other branches and organisations.

"This is where the old adage — garbage in, garbage out — comes in to play," Peter says.

"We recognised that the task was not only big, but complex, too; so we wanted to be sure of the integrity and consistency of the information.

"After all, this data is critical to a multitude of land processes that involve all tiers of government, industry and the public."

"A key to the success of the program is its 'user friendliness'.

"Most people who use computers are familiar with the point-and-click approach of Windows, so it was just a matter of incorporating it into the overall system," Peter says.

TENIS data resides on the Corporate Oracle database at CALM and access can be gained through CALM's network.

A stand-alone PC version also is available for offices that do not have the correct network access.

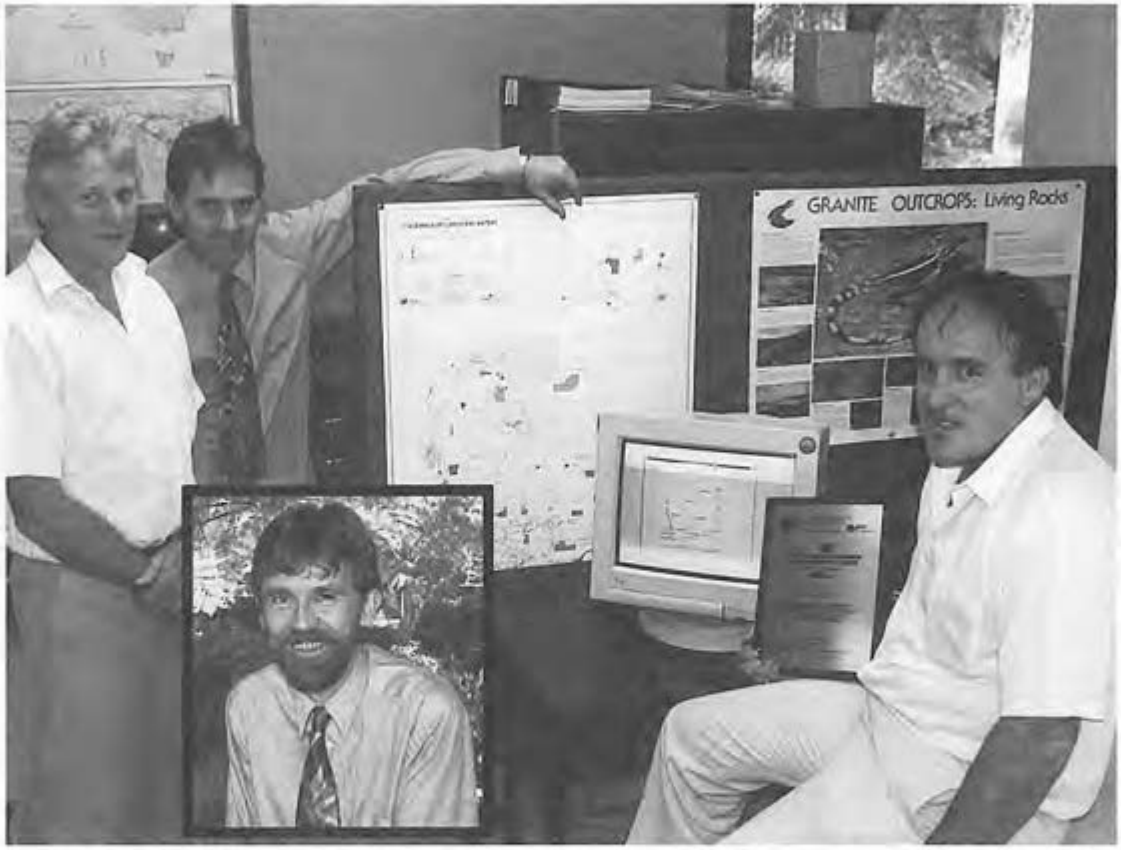
The award hasn't meant the end of the development of the system.

Although it covers lands and waters managed by CALM, and other Crown reserves, in time it will be extended to include proposed changes and additions to tenure as well as other lands of interest to CALM such as sharefarming leases.

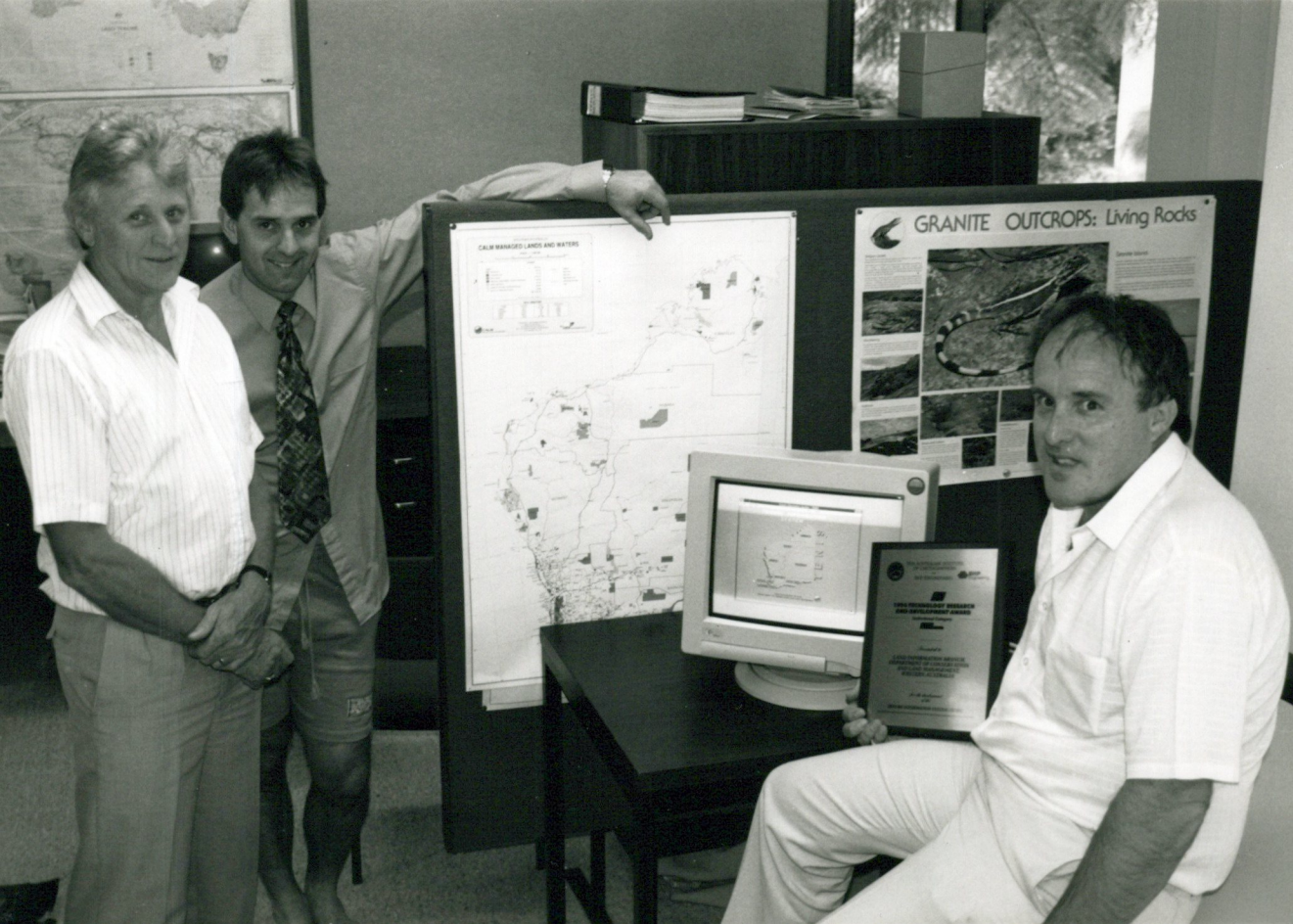
The next major milestone is to incorporate graphics of these lands.

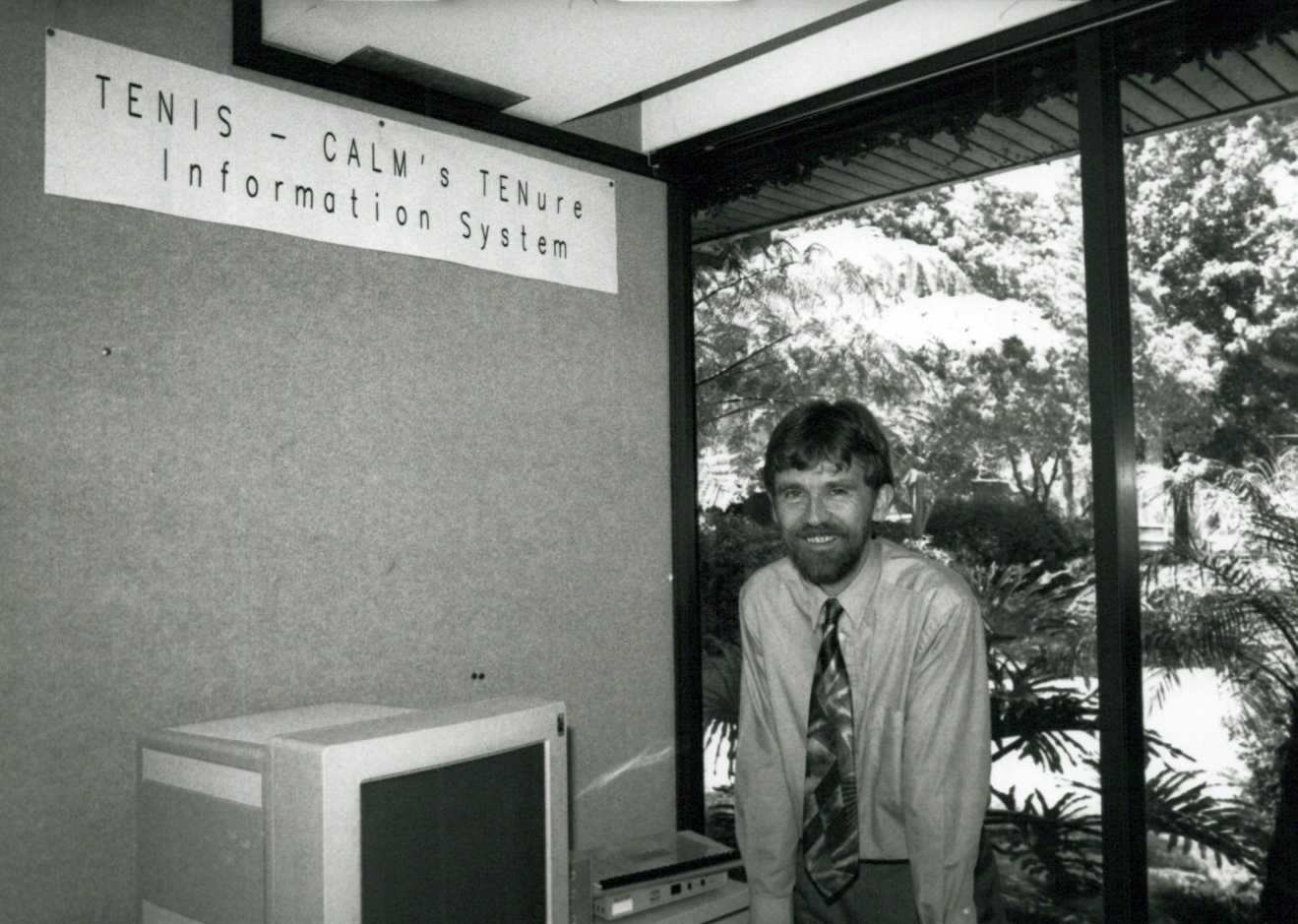
This is putting CALM at the forefront of this process. The prototype already has been demonstrated to the Executive Information Technology Committee.

The BHP Engineering Technology Awards are presented every two years in partnership with the Australian Institute of Cartographers and recognise innovation in the application and development of information systems.



Members of CALM's Land Information Branch team which worked on the new tenure information system were Graham Hoare, left, Bernie Nebel, Branch manager Peter Bowen and Mike Green (inset).


CALM MANAGED LANDS AND WATERS
GRANITE OUTCROPS: Living Rocks


TENIS - CALM's TENure
Information System

SUBJECT

TECHNICAL DATA

DATE

Job No 2231