

CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MAY 1994



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The picture behind the story



(From left to right) Pam (Executive Assistant), Peter (ASupervising Wildlife Officer), Rod (Reserves Officer), Marcus (Marketing Assistant), Terese (Park Ranger), Brad (Forest Workman), Liz (Research Scientist), Colin (Community Involvement Officer). Kneeling: Hillary (CALM volunteer), Kevin (Forester), Maxine (Aboriginal Employment and Training Officer). Photo by Simon Westlake

PAM Sapsworth doesn't like snakes. Nobody jumps that high if they're really comfortable with a carpet python sliding up their arm. Peter Lambert does like snakes, but as the afternoon wore on even his smile began to look forced. Kevin Pollock doesn't giggle. Liz Barbour and Therese Jones could set endurance records with those biceps. Maxine Chi and Hillary Merrifield endured, but not without protests from their knees. Brad Walter nearly didn't make it, as he and his wife waited for the arrival of their third baby. (A daughter, born three days later.) Colin Ingram was happy to "volunteer" because he had a quiet day, but Marcus Benbow tackled the line-up when he should have been at football training. Rod Martyn was on fire duty, but the only action he saw was pulling the photographer's van out of the soft sand ... again ... and again ... as the sun set over Thompson's Lake, near Jandakot. These are some of the stories behind the photograph shown above, which is to be used in a display, of CALM's varied roles through the different people who work for the department. There are dozens of other stories about waiting for the new CALM uniforms to be made, adjusting them to fit people of varying sizes, finding a location, weather watching, getting 11 people together (twice) and, of course, working with animals. Just don't wait for Kevin to giggle when he's telling them.

• See A uniform image — page 8

Fox fight takes to air

MONTHS of strategic planning came to a head last month when Western Australia's biggest native wildlife recovery program — Operation Foxglove — swung into action.

On April 18, the first aircraft took off from Jandakot to begin 'bombing' runs over the forest between Mundaring and Harvey.

The 'ammunition' was dried meat baits containing 1080 — a toxin that occurs naturally in Western Australia's 'poison peas', the genus *Gastrolobium*.

Next month, the exercise will step up a further notch and the planes will begin targeting further parts of the 450,000 hectares of the northern jarrah forest between Mundaring and Collie.

Operation Foxglove is an initiative of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Alcoa of Australia — to reduce fox numbers to that small native mammal populations have a chance to recover.

For several of species, the program could mean the difference between survival and local extinction.

Operation Foxglove Project Manager Roger Armstrong said CALM and the Agriculture Protection Board had spent months planning the operation.

"It is one of the most integrated exercises CALM has undertaken as it has involved virtually every facet of the Department," Roger said.

Maps have been prepared with detailed flight-lines along which air crews will fly dropping baits at a rate of five over a square kilometre. Space-age satellite navigation technology such as global positioning systems is helping ensure the 'bombing' is as accurate and effective as possible.

•Continued page 2

Tree tops tour on track

THE Bibbulmun Track and a tree tops walk in the tingle forest will spearhead a major forest tourism development strategy by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Under the strategy, the Bibbulmun Track — a 650km forest walk between Kalamunda and Walpole — will be redeveloped and extended making it one of the icons of the State's nature-based tourism industry.

And an elevated walk will be built among the canopies of the tingle trees in the Valley of the Giants. The walk will provide a facility that will become an international attraction for tourism in the lower South West.

Premier and Tourism Minister Richard Court announced the moves on a recent visit to Walpole.

Mr Court said more than 100,000 people a year toured the Valley of the Giants.

This number was expected to double within the next few years but the current facilities could not cope with such an increase.

The upgrading work — part of a total facelift costing \$625,000 — would lessen the impact of visitors on the more sensitive areas of the forest while at the same time providing greater scope for recreation and appreciation of the forest's values.

The work was in line with the 10-year management plan for the park en-

dorsed by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority in 1992.

Planning for the first stage of the project was well underway and this phase would be completed in the next 12 months at a cost of around \$80,000.

Mr Court said the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project would realign much of the track and extend it from Walpole to Albany taking the total length to 830km.

It would provide a tourism resource superior to similar well-known Australian walk trails such as Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, the Heysen Trail in South Australia and the Alpine Way in Victoria.

It also would be a model for private and public sec-

tor partnerships in conservation, recreation and land management.

The aim of the project was to create a major tourism attraction and minimise potential conflicts with other land use activities such as timber harvesting, mining and water catchment.

The project also would enable private enterprise to develop compatible nature-based tourism opportunities.

The Bibbulmun Track originally was the idea of Geoff Shaeffer, a member of the Perth Walking Club. His concept was taken up by Peter Hewett of the then Forests Department and the first version of the track was marked in 1973.

•Continued page 3



You can't help being affected by the departure of so many friends and colleagues who, by their choice, have just taken early retirement from CALM (see "Severing the CALM ties", page 6).

Between them these people have contributed 815 years of their lives to public service in CALM and its predecessors.

It is a real sadness that so many have gone at once and we will all be affected by such a change.

Needless to say I would like to add my voice to wishing them all many productive and happy years in their retirement.

The early retirement program is part of making CALM a more efficient and productive organisation.

We still have increasing demands on us, and are part of a genuine growth industry.

This is not about getting people to work harder and harder, and longer and longer, but to work more strategically and effectively; in other words to be doing what is, as far as possible, measurable and strongly focused on the outcomes which are approved every year in Parliament.

Our progress towards efficiency is uncomfortable and challenging, as nebulous and often pious-sounding statements are translated into action, but it has to go on as we take our part in a more productive Australia.

Our foreign debt is still grinding upwards, which underscores our need to do even more.

If we keep this in mind our immediate challenges will be all the less painful, and all the more exciting.

I am personally looking forward to the challenges we are still to face, and I am confident this enthusiasm is widely shared.

Chris Haynes
Acting Director Regional Services

Foxglove takes to the air



(Above) Left to right, pilot Tim Hesford with CALM trainee aerial foxbaiters: forest workers Ross Sturges, (Collie), 'Nibs' Morganti and Chas Casotti (Mundaring), and Leanne Leadbitter (Collie); forester John Asher and senior environmental officer Roger Armstrong. Remote control photo by Roger Armstrong

From page 1

Initially forest areas between Mundaring and Harvey were baited.

A control area between Dwellingup and Collie will enable researchers to study the dynamics of fox populations before it is baited in three years time.

This research will help further refine baiting regimes so that the operation is as effective as possible.

Other study sites have been set up outside the forest around Bannister and west of Beverley.

Alcoa of Australia's bauxite mines around Jarrahdale and Dwellingup are being baited as part of the company's forest fauna rehabilitation work.

Warning signs have been posted throughout the areas being baited and the public has been urged not to take pet dogs into these areas.

"1080 is lethal to dogs and foxes although native mammals can tolerate relatively high levels because the compound occurs naturally in *Gastrolobium*," Roger said.

The dried meat baits are extremely unpalatable to humans and consequently do not pose a risk.

However, in the remote chance people do stumble across a bait, they are asked not to disturb it.

Recovery of populations of native fauna such as numbats, woylies, phascogales and other species will not only conserve the State's biodiversity, it also will create nature-based tourism opportunities of international standing.

CALM has produced an information booklet on Operation Foxglove. Copies are available through CALM offices.



(Left) Project leader John Forster (left) and programs manager Roy Fieldgate checking Operations Foxglove map at the inkjet colour plotter. Photo by Verna Costello



(Below) CALM forest worker Leanne Leadbitter sits beside the bait hopper and listens as pilot Tim Hesford goes through a 'dry run' before the trial fox-baiting flight. Photo by Verna Costello

EDITOR...LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam

We are travellers from Queensland and having spent some months in WA, are most impressed by your organisation (CALM).

Could you please answer some questions raised by the fox control article in CALM NEWS.

Quoting from your article, "1080 poison occurs naturally in native plants belonging to the group *Gastrolobium*," could you advise how 1080 affects animals susceptible to it and in which part of the plant it occurs and what the chemical is?

Again quoting from the article, "Fox control will mean the 1080-tolerant native animals can be reintroduced." What native animals are 1080-tolerant and to what degree? Are raptors tolerant?

We were quite excited to read the article as we have a small property we

have been revegetating for many years. We have foxes but have been reluctant to use poison because of the adverse effect on our native population.

Accordingly, any information you can supply or recommendations of publications, etcetera, will be greatly appreciated.

My husband and I think CALM is the most forward-thinking and innovative organisation of its type in Australia and gives like-minded individuals a real boost of enthusiasm to get on with their own projects.

Looking forward to your reply,
Yours sincerely,
Pam and Lucky Watson
Woolooware, QLD.

A reply has been sent to Mr and Mrs Watson. Progress on Operation Foxglove will continue to be reported in CALM NEWS.

CALM NEWS — MAY 1994

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STAFF NEWS

Appointments

Nicole Saunders, Officer, Geraldton; Kim Cream, Officer, Records Branch, Como

Transfers

Greg Kitson from Construction and Maintenance Worker, Pemberton to Park Maintenance Worker, Kalbarri National Park; Peter Dans from Reserves Management Officer, Jarrahdale District to Marine Operations Manager, Hillarys; Drew Griffiths from Forest Officer, Collie to District Manager, Albany; Mark Moore from Ranger, John Forrest National Park to Acting Ranger-in-Charge William Bay National Park; Keith Moon from Ranger-in-Charge, William Bay National Park to Ranger, John Forrest National Park; David McMillan from Operations Officer, Goldfields Region to Operations Officer, Collie; Walter Montanus from Administrative Assistant, Busselton to Administrative Assistant, Public Trust Office, Ministry of Justice; Steve Strachan from Ranger-in-Charge, Cape Range National Park to Ranger-in-Charge, Walyunga National Park; Ross McGill from Ranger-in-Charge, Walyunga National Park to Ranger in Charge,

King Leopold Range National Park, Derby; Darren Ball from Forest Ranger, Forest Management Branch, Kelmscott to Forest Ranger, Dwellingup; Peter Gibson from Forest Ranger, Jarrahdale to Forest Ranger, Forest Management Branch, Kelmscott; Anne Greig from Ranger, Yanchep National Park to Information Officer, Pilbara Region.

Promotions

Neil Taylor from Parks and Reserves Officer, Central Forest Region to Parks and Recreation Officer, Busselton; John Carter from Acting Senior Reserves Officer to Senior Reserves Officer, Mundaring; Tim Mitchell, Geoff Rolland, Mark Giblett, Neil Worrell from Acting Area Coordinator to Area Co-ordinator, Albany; Barry Jordan from Acting Field Manager Sharefarming to Field Manager, Sharefarming, Albany; Terry Goodlich from Acting Ranger-in-Charge to Ranger-in-Charge Shoalwater Islands; Sandra Van Brugge from Publicity Assistant (Contract) CALM to Co-ordinator Publications Section, Department of Environmental Protection; Wayne Burton from Acting Area Co-ordinator to Area Co-ordinator, Esperance.

An earthy solution



Allen Clarke, right, holds the funnel steady while Keith Harris loads one of the bollard moulds — a new idea aimed at stemming the cost of vandalism.
Photo by Tammie Reid

RAMMED earth bollards are the latest innovation being tested by an enthusiastic Dwellingup work group.

The idea began when Lane Poole Reserve park ranger John Hanel began despairing over the high maintenance costs of replacing vandalised, uprooted and burnt wooden bollards.

"People are using them for firewood, splitting off bits for kindling or burning them whole," John said.

"We have some plans to overcome the firewood shortage in the valley, but in the meantime I had to do something about the bollards.

"The life of a jarrah bollard is 5-6 years but the rammed earth prototypes look promising and should last a lot longer.

"Production is still on a trial basis, so construction costs are not yet clear, but I estimate about \$10 each bollard — about double that of a jarrah bollard."

Allen Clarke and Keith Harris are the forest workmen working on the development of an efficient

by Tammie Reid

method of producing a top quality product.

"We're working smarter so we can bring the costs right down," said Allen.

"John, Keith and I designed and made the moulds but the first lot took us two hours just to get the cement mixture to come out cleanly.

"We're now making non-stick moulds, by lining them with Comprox gel.

Once loaded with Keith's "special bollard recipe" the cement mixer produces three bollards, with a turnaround time for another three, in 15 minutes.

Keith's recipe is four parts high quality Dwellingup dieback-free gravel to one part of cement plus a capful of iron oxide powder.

This mixture produces bollards with a natural Lane Poole lateritic soil-look, so they will blend with the surrounding site.

"We need to make some shorter sizes for those situations where we hit

rock and can't dig them in; using jarrah was no problem we just trimmed them with a chainsaw," Keith said.

The first trial is to use 100 rammed earth bollards to mark the entry and speed-hump system at Baden-Powell campsite.

Other sites targeted for the more robust, non-burnable bollard will be

Tony's Bend and Charlie's flat.

For more information or an update on this project please contact John Hanel or Mike Tagliaferi at CALM Dwellingup office on (09) 538 1078.

Orders can be arranged with the bollard mix and colour adjusted to suit other landscape colours and textures.

Tree tops tour



Premier Richard Court with a forest giant.
Photo courtesy Gary Merrin, *The Sunday Times*

•From page 1

The track was officially opened in 1979 and underwent significant upgrading and realignment in 1988 as part of the State's Heritage Trail program.

The proposed realignment will place much of the track east of its current route thereby enhancing the wilderness experience for walkers.

However, it will include walking through several townsites including Dwellingup, Collie, Pemberton, Walpole and Denmark.

A special feature will be a 15km section along the banks of the Warren River to make use of the river reserve and its magnificent scenery.

The track also will pass through the Valley of the Giants, cross William Bay National Park

then on through Denmark to Albany, linking three of the South West's key tourist destinations and providing spectacular coastal scenery as a contrast to the hundreds of kilometres of inland forest.

The extension also will provide a significant link with the region's history as it will follow part of the overland journey from Perth to Albany by the explorer Thomas Bannister in the early 1830s.

A project team led by CALM and including the Tourism Commission and regional development authorities, is preparing a set of proposals on which the public has been invited to comment.

CALM has released an information brochure which is available from its local offices.

Hazard reduction for forests

A COMPLEX and difficult hazard reduction burn in karri and tingle forest to improve protection to the bushlands and the South Coast town of Walpole has been successfully completed.

CALM staff from Walpole, Pemberton, Manjup, Busselton and

Nannup carried the burn with support from local bushfire brigade volunteers and landowners.

The aim was to back-burn slowly from the top of the hill behind John Rate lookout — about 5.5km north-west of Walpole - to Deep River.

CALM Walpole District

Manager Greg Mair said the four-day exercise over 750 hectares was complex as fuel loadings of up to 100 tonnes a hectare had accumulated over almost 30 years.

"The burn was an approved operation within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Management

Plan," Greg said.

"Fuel loadings of 100 tonnes a hectare are incredibly high."

"Wildfires would become major conflagrations and uncontrollable in normal hot, dry conditions that the area can experience each summer."

Liaison

Greg said weather and moisture conditions earlier in the season had meant the burn had to be delayed until conditions were just right.

"CALM's Walpole District has been preparing for the burn for the past year and liaising with local interest groups, including the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association," he said.

"The success of the burn in large part was due to the co-operation from those

groups and the months of preparation leading up to the operation."

A helicopter was used to ignite the ridges and slopes within the burn and to water-bomb burning dead limbs in the crown of some big tingle trees up to 45 metres tall.

A hydraulic cherry picker was used for the first time to lift fire crews 20 metres above the ground to extinguish burning limbs.

Greg said he was extremely pleased with the burn which comprised a mixture of low intensity fires and some areas of scorch.

"It was a good example of a co-operative burn that will provide protection to the community as well as helping protect the magnificent tingle and karri trees from damaging wildfire," he said.

For foresters!

ATTENTION all foresters who have a degree or diploma from a recognised Australian forestry school and who have subsequently worked for at least two years with a State or Territory forest management agency or a relevant Australian forest research organisation.

The prize, valued up to \$30 000, is awarded to help

the successful candidate carry out postgraduate studies for one year at the Oxford Forestry Institute, Oxford, England.

Studies at the Institute begin in October, 1994 and courses available are:

- A Master of Science degree by special study, lasting three terms and including a final examination.

- A Master of Science degree by research, covering a period of not less than three terms and requiring the submission of a thesis.

For further information please contact Paul Jones on (09) 386 8811.

Important: Applications for the 1994 Russell Grimwade Prize close May 30 1994.

Forest management plan caters for all uses

WESTERN Australia's native hardwood forests have received an unparalleled level of protection under a 10-year forest management plan approved by the State Government.

The adoption of the plan, prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, heralds a new chapter in sustainable forest use in the South West.

The plan firmly entrenches the principle of ecologically sustainable management for the forest in line with social, economic and cultural values.

It means Western Australia's forest can continue to be used for recreation, production and water catch-

ment while their biological diversity is preserved.

The plan will eventually add about 120 000 hectares to the conservation estate so that 33 per cent of the jarrah forest and 46 per cent of the karri forest will be managed primarily for nature conservation.

The Southern Forest Region which includes the karri forests will be managed to recognise national estate values under the agreement reached by the Australian Heritage Commission and CALM.

At the same time, timber companies, tourism operators and communities throughout the South West will have a level of resource security on which they can

plan for the next 10 years.

Approval of the forest management plan follows an exhaustive two-year review period which had included two public consultation periods and assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority, an independent appeals tribunal, a technical group, a scientific and administrative panel and the Supreme Court.

No other management plan for WA conservation estate has been subject to such rigorous investigation.

The public reviews attracted almost 2000 submissions of which 169 were substantive and 1720 were 'pro forma'.

An analysis of these

submissions has been published as part of the final management documents.

The final plan adopted by Government builds on a draft strategy prepared by CALM on behalf of the Lands and Forest Commission and released in February, 1992.

It incorporates timber harvesting levels set last August after an assessment by the scientific and administrative panel.

It also outlines strategies to encourage the timber industry to add value to the native hardwood harvest.

The major changes from the draft recommendations centre on proposed nature conservation areas and national parks.

These include:

- Hester Block (west) near Bridgetown now will be designated a conservation park rather than State Forest. This means the east and west parts of Hester covering 1860 hectares would be in conservation parks.

- The proposed Monadnocks conservation park around Mt Cooke south-east of Perth will become a National Park covering more than 15 000 ha. A 305 ha portion of the area will become a special reserve to allow access to mining reserves east of the park.

- Wildflower picking will be phased out over a 10-year period from the

80 000 ha proposed to become the Mt Roe National Park north of Denmark. This will protect 140 part-time jobs. In the interim the area will be managed as a National Park with timber harvesting excluded. Some parts of the area will be transferred to the WA Water Authority for potential dam sites.

The proposed Preston Valley National Park near Kirup will remain a conservation park because of existing legislative agreements covering mining leases.

The proposed Marra-dong conservation park covering 1930 ha near Boddington will remain

State Forest as the flora and fauna are well represented in nearby conservation areas.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson said although the review process had been drawn-out, Western Australia now had an integrated native forest management strategy that catered for all the community's interests.

"The Government's policy is that the forests must be managed for all users and that no one user group can exclude another," he said.

Copies of the management plan and the analysis of public submissions are available through CALM's headquarters in Como.

Volunteers form vital 'alliance'

BETTER marketing and research into communicating the "volunteering in the environment" message was one of the challenges recognised by participants in a workshop held at CALM's WA Herbarium in April.

The half-day workshop on Volunteering for the Environment was part of the Fifth National Conference on Volunteering held in Perth from April 5 to 8.

CALM speakers included Executive Director Syd Shea, and Acting Curator of CALM's WA Herbarium Dr Neville Marchant.

Dr Marchant, who chaired the workshop, welcomed guests and gave them an introductory talk that included background on the speakers for the morning, followed by an overview of the kind of work carried out by volunteers working with CALM's WA Herbarium.

Dr Shea showed participants a video and colour transparencies that depicted the vital role played by Western Australian volunteers working with CALM.

He said that CALM managed about 20 million hectares of lands and waters, an area slightly bigger than half the size of Japan, and was responsible for the wildlife, plants and animals throughout the State including those on some private land.

"These lands and waters and the wildlife in them form what used to be called 'The CALM estate' but they don't belong to CALM," Dr Shea said.

"Everybody in Western Australia owns that 20 million hectares of land and waters and their biota."

Dr Shea said WA was 2 500 million years old — one of the most ancient lands in the world — with a great diversity of ecosystems existing in some bizarre environments.

"This has created some of the most unusual adaptations in our plants and animals and produced a rich variety of biota," he said.

"This means there's also a great diversity of projects, and volunteers can and do often make the difference between urgent

projects being embarked upon, or existing ones continued.

He described the recent discovery of a possible cure for the HIV virus, the pharmaceutical chemical conocurvone, an extract from the smoke bush plant found only in Western Australia.

"This find is only the tip of the iceberg and I believe it to be highly unlikely that we couldn't pull from WA's biota an elixir of chemicals that could hold the key to cures for cancer and even heart disease," he said.

"But human and financial resources for this research are pretty thin and likely to become more so, and this is where volunteers from the general community can help to bring about such discoveries sooner.

1500 volunteers

Dr Shea said CALM WA's 1500 volunteers were already carrying out significant work on many other projects that included:

- Control of feral animals, the present emphasis being on the fox.
- Land reclamation and rehabilitation
- Emergencies—rescuing seals and whales.
- Nature-based tourism—a future export income earner.

Dr Shea said there was one area that agencies, including CALM, could do better and that was in the methods of recognition of the valuable contribution made by volunteers.

"We've heard from Dr Marchant how volunteers working at the Herbarium are treated with the same respect and consideration as that shown to staff — even down to getting the same memos," he said.

"Scarce human and financial resources prevent us from recognising volunteers in a tangible way, but to keep those we already have, and to attract more, we first need to ask questions.

"For example, why do volunteers do it?"

"Agencies such as CALM need to know the reasons and that's where volunteers here today can help by telling us.

"My theory is that

people volunteer because there's a challenge they wish to meet, or the sheer enjoyment of the activity or for the satisfaction of knowing they're being helpful.

"But probably the most important force motivating volunteers is the fact that they are doing something they believe in.

Marketing

"The next step for us is to build into the work we need volunteers to carry out these same stimuli and satisfactions—and market them out there in the community.

"In this tough and arid Western Australian environment many plants and animals have formed strategic alliances; loners don't survive!

"The same can be said for human communities; we must break down barriers and form 'strategic alliances' to provide solutions to the twin problems of the environment and the economy.

Public owners

Dr Shea said there was a need to communicate to the wider community the reality of public ownership of environmental issues.

"Meanwhile managements in the private and the public sector must continue to work towards more effective industrial relations, to cultivate a team spirit among our workers and inspire them with the same enthusiasm found among volunteers."

Other speakers at the Conference were: Community Involvement Co-ordinator with the Department of Environmental Protection Margo O'Byrne; Director of Kings Park Dr Steve Hopper; Manager of Underwater World Dean Lea; and Manager, Education and Community Relations-Rottnest Island Mike Flood.

The National Conference on Volunteering is held every two years in a different State capital.

This was the first year for Perth and CALM took a leading role, with co-ordinator of volunteers Terry Hales hosting the Volunteering for the Environment workshop at the Herbarium.



Dr Syd Shea (centre) enjoys a tea break with participants in the Volunteering for the Environment workshop. They are, left to right, CALM volunteers Nora and Brian Best, Dr Shea, Joy Noble from the Volunteers Centre of South Australia and Trees for Life, and Mike Flood, Rottnest Island Volunteers Co-ordinator. The half-day workshop was part of the Fifth National Conference of Volunteers held in Perth from April 5-8.

Story and photo by Verna Costello

The talents of Warren



THE family name of Warren has a long association with forestry at Dwellingup.

by
Tammie Reid

CALM contract gardener Geoff Warren believes there is a combined total of at least 430 years that he and his relatives have put in.

They have worked in a wide range of occupations — Overseers uncle Tom and uncle Jim, grader driver uncle Arthur, administration and, later, lab assistant cousin Heather, and Mount Wells fire tower operator cousin Rebecca Beach.

Geoff's parents make up the rest of the family input with his mother Val as a cadet-school cook, and Bob, his father, a forest workman in research.

Geoff is continuing the family tradition in more than one capacity.

He was a contract towerman at Mount Wells throughout the recent fire

(Left) Geoff Warren.
Photo by Tammie Reid

season, a part-time fee collector at Lane Poole Reserve and contract gardener at Dwellingup's office grounds, a job he does with considerable flair.

He is also the local school gardener and is renowned for his fabulous hedge sculptures.

Geoff recently completed a Certificate of Horticultural Practice which has stood him in good stead with his new lawn mowing and garden contracting business — a far cry from the certified wood machinist career he embarked upon in 1980.

For a while, Geoff was making a living selling wooden toys.

Now, with all the jobs, study, and hectic responsibilities that come with being a parent he's lucky to get the time to make toys for his two children, Robert (5) and Megan (7).

Volunteer campground host — a loss for CALM



IAN Ulyatt, an early CALM volunteer for the Campground Host Program, passed away on March 31, 1994, aged 81 years.

He joined CALM's volunteer program in 1990 as one of its first campground hosts.

Ian had been a regular camper for some years and it was while at Shannon Mill campsite, near Pemberton that he met CALM recreation maintenance officer Colin ("Drafty") Hunter.

by
Terry Hales

"Drafty" introduced him to the then parks and reserves officer Alan Sands, who told him of the Campground Host Program.

Because of his direct experience as a camper, Ian believed he had much to offer the program and promptly sought out community involvement coordinator Colin Ingram to find out how he could

become campground host at Shannon Mill.

In the ensuing three years, Ian brought his infectious zest for life, and love of people and the Australian bush to many campsite visitors, enriching their stay and broadening their experience.

Ian also served as host for a year at Cape Range National Park, near Exmouth.

In 1992, he received a CALM Volunteer of the Year Award for Visitor Services.

One of Ian's often-expressed wishes was to die while camping at his beloved Shannon Mill.

He didn't make it to Shannon Mill but he did die peacefully, while camping in the Gooralong Forest, Jarrahdale.

Ian was a well-respected member of the volunteering community and will be missed by all who knew him.

His wife Hester predeceased him in 1986 and he is survived by their two sons, Mike and Peter.



Merv Burt (centre) instructs tower operators Rebecca Beech and Geoff Warren in smoke detection.
Photo by Tammie Reid

Towers still to play a key role

by
Tammie Reid

THE recent fire season saw Mount Wells once again become a fully operational, seven-days-a-week tower with CALM Dwellingup overseer Merv Burt training tower operators in smoke detection and reporting.

This will form part of CALM's review of its fire detection and surveillance system. The aim is to test combinations of fire-detection systems to get the best possible coverage of high-value, high-fire activity areas at the most economical cost.

Other measures CALM will be using are the Eagle light aircraft that can fly faster and more economically than the Piper Super Cubs that have served CALM so well over the past 10 years.

CALM had relied on the towers when the planes couldn't fly because of mechanical problems or dangerous weather conditions.

CALM's senior fire operations officer Terry Maher said that about 15 per cent of the protection budget was spent on fire detection and he believed better coverage and a better dollar value could be achieved by integrating the two systems more fully.

"For example when a fire is reported, our spotters are often pulled off their scheduled flights to investigate, leaving the rest of the circuit unwatched," Terry said.

"With tower operators we have 100 per cent surveillance of 360 degrees of the country and can get an on-the-spot report at any time.

"The trial allows for a plane flight in the morning and late afternoon.

"The towers are operational by 8.45am allowing 15 minutes overlap with the plane as it finishes the morning schedule.

Despatch

"Pilots remain on standby and if any fires are reported, the plane is immediately despatched to the trouble spot.

"We'll assess the effectiveness of the integrated system by using performance indicators in the forest.

"These include the accuracy of the smoke reporting, how long it takes for them to be reported and the size of the fires by the time our fire-fighting

crews get to them.

"Our next task is to review our whole detection strategy and make recommendations for next fire season."

What makes a good tower operator?

Merv Burt says that excellent eyesight, a good knowledge of the forest country and an ability to enjoy one's own company in isolated circumstances are essential.

"I was Mount Wells towerman for three seasons," Merv says.

"It was a satisfying job; I was my own boss and was responsible for important work.

"In those days the towerman lived at Mount Wells; today the operators commute daily, but the basic nature of spotting for smokes hasn't changed one bit nor has the risk of wildfire; it's still as important a job as ever.

"I've always been biased towards towers as they give total coverage all of the time. An experienced tower person becomes pinpoint precise in spotting smokes.

"All the same, I can see the best of both detection systems working together in a complementary fashion."

How's your health?

by Linda Gilbert

THE word "health" once meant "whole" — and "healthy" meant "wholeness".

However, health now has come to mean "the absence of disease," (which, perhaps, we really should be calling "illth"), but absence of disease does not necessarily mean that a person is well.

We are well when we wake up full of energy and vitality ... and go home full of energy and vitality.

We are well when we have a balanced lifestyle; when we are basically happy with ourselves and our lives; when we have a balance between work, rest and play.

Wellness is a state we can move towards; it allows us to jump the gun and prevent the presence of disease or injury.

Many common ailments gradually creep up on us and by the time signs or symptoms of illness or injury show — and we swallow drugs or venture to the doctor — the damage has already been done.

Heart disease, arthritis, back injury and stress are some examples of illness or injury which may sneak up on us, but can also be prevented.

Thinking about and taking responsibility for our wellness at work and at home will dramatically improve the quality of our lives.

What is fitness? Fitness is described as "having the ability to perform daily tasks without experiencing undue fatigue, and with

sufficient in reserve to cater for emergencies."

Our personal fitness demands depend on the tasks we perform.

It is important to ensure our physical fitness measures up to the physical demands of the work and leisure activities in which we take part.

What about fitness and firefighters? CALM Health and Fitness and Protection Branch and the Human Movement Department of the University of WA

(UWA) are investigating the levels of fitness required of CALM staff to carry out a number of specific tasks.

The tasks initially being examined are those associated with fire suppression and controlled burns.

Armed with the knowledge of the fitness levels required, staff who perform these tasks can then relate them to their own fitness levels and work on them to ensure they "fit" the demands of the tasks.

Western greys safely moved

by
Verna Costello

GROUPS of western grey kangaroos in the Esperance area have been relocated in the interests of visitor health and safety.

The animals have been moved from Lucky Bay campsite in Cape Le Grand National Park to Helms Forestry Reserve, a 3600 hectare block north of Esperance.

CALM Esperance wildlife officer Bernie Haberley said the western grey's numbers had increased to the extent that fiercer competition for territory and food had occurred.

"It was the big male 'roos we were worried about; if they'd been left at Lucky Bay they could have become aggressive towards humans as well as each other," Bernie said.

"Serious injury being inflicted on visitors to the campsite was a distinct possibility.

"The 'roos were relocated in two lots, with each lot comprising a family group.

"However, we're leaving enough young animals at Lucky Bay for tourists to see as this is one of the park's highlights, particularly for overseas visitors.

"Unfortunately, tourists love to feed these animals, which leads to an increase in their numbers, and unless people get tired

of feeding them, which is highly unlikely, further relocations may become necessary.

"To reduce this possibility, park staff will, through the use of signs and by personal contact, try to educate and discourage visitors from

feeding the kangaroos. "Helms Forestry Reserve was chosen for the relocation destination as it's well stocked with food and water and

because it's close to Esperance we'll be able to monitor the 'immigrant animals' closely."

The Lucky Bay 'roos also will be monitored each year to determine if further relocations will be necessary.

Bernie had a warning

for would-be recreational shooters hoping to bag a western grey:

"Don't — regardless of how high their numbers are, kangaroos are still a protected species and there's a penalty of up to \$4000 with confiscation of firearms," he said.

Albany blackout



CALM Albany's operations officer Greg Broomhall was ready to step into the breach during the power blackout that put much of Western Australia out of action just before Easter.

He is seen here about to connect a generator to a special plug outside the office that fed power throughout the premises. Most of the other offices, factories and homes in Albany were without power for three hours.

Photo by Terry Passmore



Esperance district wildlife officer Bernie Haberley, with son Thomas (3), releases a kangaroo in Helms Forestry Reserve. Photo courtesy Esperance Express

Severing the CALM ties

THIRTY-eight CALM staff took advantage of the voluntary redundancy package and left the Department on Friday April 22.

Between them they had clocked up 815 years' service, with the longest serving staff member, Collie district forester Jim Raper having served an impressive 43 years.

Not far behind him were Como senior cartographic officers David Holmes and John Forster each with 39 years' service.

In alphabetical order they were: clerical officer Bev Anza; senior opera-

Story and photos by Verna Costello

tions officer Terry Ashcroft; overseer Roy Boyer; construction and maintenance worker Tony Byrne; mechanic Merv Callon; construction and maintenance worker Giovanni Cambrea; mechanic Trevor Collins; construction and maintenance workers Frank Dagostino; manager-engineering services Ian Darragh; construction and maintenance workers Peter Dixon, Stan Ellis, John Elwes and Frank Fardella; senior carto-

graphic officer John Forster; construction and maintenance worker Colin Golding; principal projects officer David Greenhill; clerical officer Dorothy Hollier; senior cartographic officer David Holmes; construction and maintenance workers Joe Hughes, Bob Hunter and Nick Iannucci; personal secretary Debbie Jones; senior operations officer Karl (Charlie) Kelers; principal operations officer Peter Kimber; pilot Mick Lines; mechanic Paul Martin; mobile ranger Dave Milne; senior research scientist Gillian Perry; con-

struction and maintenance worker Daniel Pickering; forester Jim Raper; ranger Fred Simmonds; construction and maintenance workers Ben Slyn and Ivan Tuckey; general manager Roger Underwood; operations officer Colin Verwey; senior operations officer Frank Vince, and construction and maintenance workers Keith Wallam and Len Yardley.

Departing staff with more than 15 years' service received commemorative certificates framed in polished sheoak.

All received a letter from Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, enclosing a gold pass entitling them to a year's free entry to any of CALM's national parks, and a year's subscription to *LANDSCOPE* magazine.

A farewell function held at CALM's Como headquarters saw departing staff enjoying their last few hours as CALM employees, with a lively crowd of their colleagues intent on giving them a rousing send-off.



Left to right, Dennis Cox and Gary Olley look on as Dave Holmes admires his 39 Years of Service Certificate.



Left to right, a departing Karl (Charlie) Kelers, (gazing into his future?) Bevan Kerr, Ron Kawalilak and Don Keene.



John Forster (left), with a proud record of 23 years's service accepts his certificate from John Byrne.



A departing Debbie Jones (Centre) with husband Mark (left), Simon Hancocks (right), Shirley Dennett (seated left) and Mark Brabazon (seated right).



Left to right, Departing duo Joe Hughes and Terry Ashcroft, with Gary Doust (rear) and John Gallager.



Peter Kimber, with an impressive 30 years' service and Helen Ferguson.

Rare Pimelea found

ONE of Western Australia's declared rare flora, *Pimelea rara* has been found in an unlikely site.

CALM Mundaring district overseer Max Bending and forest workmen Nibs Morganti and Wayne Rhodes were removing unwanted eucalypt and wattle trees from a one-year-old pine plantation near Mundaring Weir when Max spotted a solitary white *Pimelea* flower.

Believing it to be unusual for *Pimeleas* to flower in February he thought it must be *Pimelea rara*.

Max checked it with operations officer Les

by Fiona Marr

Robson's copy of *Rare Flora Species of Mundaring District* handbook and was further convinced that his 'educated guess' was right.

His next step was to call on CALM's WA Herbarium staff to verify it — which they did.

The plants seem to be hardy survivors, withstanding the successive disturbances of logging, bulldozing and burning operations in the past 63 years.

The site first was planted with pines in 1931; in 1992

and 1993, the site was prepared for a second pine planting which involved bulldozing and heaping unwanted scrub into windrows before burning.

Throughout these activities, no sightings of *P. rara* were reported at the site.

For 68 years the species was considered extinct. It was first collected between 1840 and 1919 and rediscovered by a member of the Eastern Hills Wildflower Society in 1987 but since then more than 300 plants have been recorded throughout the Kalamunda and Mundaring area.

Mundaring operations

officer John Carter said that the site where *P. rara* was found was part of the catchment area used to grow pines for timber and was next to The Hills Forest walk trails.

"It's an example of how, through integrated land management, the land can support a variety of flora, fauna and human activities and still accommodate the occurrence of declared rare flora such as *Pimelea rara*," John said.

"We plan to carry out intensive follow-up surveys on the species during its next flowering season between December 1994 and February 1995 and we're confident we'll find more of these plants on the site."

(Right) Mundaring overseer Max Bending with his rare find — *Pimelea rara*. Inset: close-up of the plant.

Photo by Fiona Marr



Neil Taylor prepares to address out-of-camera-range workshop participants in an assessment of the Willyabrup Cliffs' ability to stand up to increasing numbers of tourists. Photo by John Watson

Fragile cliffs are workshop topic

THE Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park has the highest number of park visits of all the State's national parks, receiving more than a million visits in the past 12 months.

While cracking the one million mark is cause for celebration, it also creates some concerns.

The sudden nature of the increasing numbers raises questions on their impact on the environment in some of the more sensitive areas of the park, such as the Willyabrup Cliffs.

Abseiling and climbing on the Willyabrup Cliffs have been identified by CALM as activities needing critical examination and a plan to ensure usage is kept at a long-term sustainable level.

Several workshops were organised for interested parties to identify the problems and provide solutions.

The first workshop was held in Perth to test the

by Neil Taylor

interest level and to learn how a public review should be run; this led to a further on-site workshop.

The morning of the workshop was devoted to clambering over the sea cliffs, exchanging ideas and writing down possible issues and problems as they were seen by those taking part.

The afternoon workshop session was held indoors at Margaret River where topics were listed for the attention of the newly formed advisory committee, the Willyabrup Advisory Group (WAG).

The session also called for nominees to the Willyabrup Advisory Group (WAG).

People taking part in the workshops came from varied backgrounds and from far afield and included CALM's South Coast

regional manager John Watson.

While John's attendance was in an unofficial capacity, it was greatly valued because of his climbing skills, his knowledge of how the area had been used and because of the abseiling and climbing parallels in other parts of the South Coast Region.

The Climbing Association, commercial operators, church groups, scouts and State Emergency Services were among the many groups represented.

Feedback to date is that all participants are well pleased that CALM has run these workshops in a very open, public manner and has formed WAG to advise of findings and outcomes.

As recreation planner for the district, I am pleased to know that I now have 10 very keen, knowledgeable assistants to work out long-term sustainable options for management of the Willyabrup Cliffs.

THE effect of timber harvesting on animals such as chuditch, phascogales and forest birds will be put under intense scientific scrutiny in a major, five-year study in the jarrah forest.

"The study will be carried out by a large team of scientists," CALM's Director of Science and Information Jim Armstrong said.

"Animal, plant and fire ecologists and silviculturists from CALM will participate in the study and the bird and invertebrate research will be carried out by PhD students from the University of Western Australia and Murdoch University."

The study follows research done in the past on habitat requirements for animals such as ringtail possums, the effects of harvesting on forest birds, and insect communities in the forest.

However, this will be the first long-term study done by a large team of scientists from across different disciplines.

CALM scientists Gordon Friend and Keith Morris recently began a major trapping program at Kingston State forest, 25 km north-east of Manjimup.

The study area is in mature jarrah forest inhabited by several endangered animal species.

The entire area was being baited for foxes.

"Harvesting in the jarrah forest is carried out by creating gaps between 0.25 and 10 hectares and by selective shelterwood systems. At present, three habitat trees a hectare are left within the gaps," Jim Armstrong said.

"The study will monitor the effectiveness of remnant habitat trees for fauna and determine the density and distribution of trees required to sustain fauna populations."

Scientists will trap medium-sized mammals, small mammals, frogs, reptiles, birds and invertebrates in both unlogged and harvested areas.

Several mammal species will also be radio tracked to determine how they use the area before and after timber harvesting.

Bird censuses will be

taken in 100 one-hectare plots and some birds will be colour banded and radio-tracked, the first time in Western Australia that forest birds have been radio-tracked.

Scientists will also examine the impact of timber harvesting and fire on vegetation.

Because five years is a

relatively short time frame, in terms of forest regeneration, studies will be carried out in similar jarrah forest areas with a range of management histories.

These longer-term studies will be carried out in jarrah forest at Dwellingup, Jarrahdale, Margaret River, Nannup, Yornup, Kirup, Lockhart and Dixon.

Safety rewarded

AN ACCIDENT-free year has won awards for CALM's Manjimup Regional Specialist Group and Kirup district.

At Manjimup, Local Government Minister and Warren MLA Paul Omodei presented four Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP) group awards to the Specialist Group, which comprised: Science and Information, Forest Management, Southern Forest Region, and the Plant Propagation Centre.

CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea presented the individual

awards to 97 Manjimup staff members.

At Kirup, Dr Shea presented the IFAP award for the district and individual safety awards to thirty-two district staff members.

With Dr Shea were Director of Forests Don Keene, recently appointed Afforestation Manager Gary Inions and Principal Health and Safety Officer Tom Wood.

District Manager Peter Bidwell took the opportunity to show the party around the hardwood and softwood forests and several recreation sites where they

talked with program leaders.

Peter said staff appreciated the chance to discuss a number of matters of mutual interest.

"These included visual resource management, logging trials along tourist drives, the second rotation pine establishment at Grimwade and logging operations in the Blackwood Valley," Peter said.

"Staff discovered that their achievements were noticed and appreciated, and that management shared their concerns and were aware of the problems that beset staff in the field."



Dr Syd Shea presents the safety achievement award to CALM Manjimup's Danny Blechynden, while Warren MLA Paul Omodei and CALM Southern Forest regional manager Kevin Vear look on. Photo courtesy Warren-Blackwood Times



A uniform image

by
Steve Murnane

CALM's new corporate uniform has retained the familiar brown, olive green and darker bottle green colours for its field designs.

The colours are both practical and in keeping with the West Australian bush.

White and navy have been added for the administration staff design.

There are three new designs — administration, field and work — the differences reflecting different types of work from mainly office to outdoor physical.

Colours serve to distinguish the three designs but also to link them by means of colour sharing.

A main purpose of the new uniform will be to advertise the Department, to have the people we deal with more positively associate us, the employees, with CALM, with the work we do and the wide variety of public services we provide.

The CALM logo has been used to give the uniform its identity.

Tax concessions for employees who buy and maintain uniforms at their own expense can be claimed under a new system, involving the formal registration of the uniform.

Another requirement, especially for taxation purposes, is that each of the three designs will be worn

separately and not mixed with other garments, including personal clothing.

The colours and colour combinations for each design, but not the styles, are also specified and cannot be varied.

All CALM employees already have or will soon receive a copy of the uniform catalogue which contains information on various matters such as a list of the items for each design, prices, measuring instructions and order forms.

The uniform does not include safety clothing or other protective wear such as boots, hard hats, sun hats or overalls.

In some cases, initial uniform costs may be reduced by adding the CALM logo to existing clothing — more details in the brochure.

Feedback with suggestions as to how the uniform might be improved will be welcome.

Uniforms modelled by Debra Burke, Pat Collins, Merrilyn Kearney, Paul Farrell and Steve Watson. Photos courtesy Nicholas White Photography.



Left to right, Tammie Reid, leaning on Keith Harris's shoulder, Taryn Linning, display dummy, Grant Lamb, display dummy, and Keith Low. Photo by Peter Burton

CALM staff no dummies at Dwellingup Log Chop

CALM made a splash at the 1994 Dwellingup Log Chop with a fire-suppression theme emphasising the use of hand-tools at the fire front.

Tammie Reid and I set up a display of photographs and fire situation descriptions showing how rakes, hoes and packsprays had been used at recent fires by Dwellingup crew members.

A display of photographs of Well's Tower built in 1962 after the Dwellingup fire of 1961, old fire trucks and machinery, and a photographic description of the Dwellingup fire detection system provided popular talking points.

by Taryn Linning

CALM also was a winner with the kids, with packspray races, a foaming unit and fire hose display, plus volleyball games in which they enthusiastically took part. The day was hot but kids being kids, they soon discovered a cooling use for packsprays and a canvas tank.

Safety equipment and clothing were modelled, uncomplainingly, by two display dummies.

Log chopping was the focal point of the day.

CALM employees Alan Clarke, Tim Birmingham, Matt Reynolds and minor

forest produce operator Ross Bryant took part in the novice or "mugs" event, with other Dwellingup locals.

Dwellingup publican Bill Hough won the event but Matt Reynolds finished closely behind to clinch second place.

Seasoned local axemen overseer Brian Smith and forest workman Kevin Ashcroft also performed, and despite some clever methods employed by two teams comprising Tammie Reid and Mark Humble, and Bunnings bush boss Mark Glass and yours truly, the placings in the cross-cutting competition went to other teams.

The success of the day was due to lots of enthusiastic staff involvement from John Postans, Keith Harris, Merv Burt, Tammie Reid, Grant Lamb, Alan Clarke, Kevin Ashcroft, Lloyd Wren, Ray Jarvis, Peter Jones, Keith Low, Steve Raper and Peter Burton.

The local flavour of the display and the opportunity for public involvement was also an important element in the successful outcome.

The aim of the day was to provide an informative and fun display for the public, and from the feedback so far, this was achieved.

The only question now is what do we do next year?

French connection

OVER the past two years Albany has developed a twin-town relationship with Draguignan in Provence, South France.

Recently a group from Draguignan (pronounced Drag-eeen-yon) visited Albany and spent a day at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Baie des Deux Peuples or Bay of Two Nations was the name given by French expedition leader Nicholas Baudin in February 1803 to celebrate a meeting with American brigantine *The Union* led by P J Pendleton.

The French connec-

tion with Two Peoples Bay is remembered in the naming of Baie des Deux Peuples Heritage Trail.

The Draguignan visitors were taken on a guided tour of the heritage trail by South Coast regional manager John Watson who had visited Draguignan during his annual leave in 1992.

The Dracenie-Rainbow Coast Association in Albany is a group formed to foster cultural exchanges between the two sister towns and in the group to visit Two Peoples Bay was a botanist and a school teacher who were interested in the flora, fauna and the

heritage trail at Two Peoples Bay.

The Rainbow Coast encompasses the coast from Mandalay Beach in the west to Bremer Bay in the east, with a hinterland apex at Cranbrook that includes the Stirling Ranges and Mount Barker wine region.

In association with CALM, the Dracenie-Rainbow Coast Association plans to provide a plaque at the entrance to the heritage trail, explaining the Baie Des Deux Peuples "French connection" for users of the trail.

Story by Terry Passmore



CALM South Coast regional manager John Watson (left) with Dracenie-Rainbow Coast presidents Madelaine Serieux of Draguignan and John Cochrane of Albany. Photo by Barbara Watson