



Ranger Mike Churches shows visitors one of the Wildlife Research Centre's Open Day displays.  
Photo by Verna Costello

## Doug wins Rotary award

ONE of CALM's most high-profile employees is well-known for such activities as rescuing beached dolphins, monitoring boating to ensure the State's unique whale sharks are not disturbed and even apprehending smugglers of our wildlife.

Now, supervising wildlife officer Doug Coughran has been recognised by the Rotary Club of Como with a 'Pride of Workmanship' Award.

The award is part of Rotary International's program to recognise excellence and good service in the workplace.

However, the last time Rotary's Como Branch gave anyone this particular award was 10 years ago.

Cleve Main, a prominent Rotary member who

works with the Department of Agriculture and liaises with Doug on a regular basis, was instrumental in bringing about the award.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the quality of Doug's work is of a high standard," Mr Main said.

### Goodwill

"From personal observation, I know his attitude to public relations and education has engendered considerable goodwill and understanding by the members of the community he encounters on an almost daily basis."

Dave Mell nominated Doug for the award, making the following comments:

"Managing the interaction between people and

wildlife is a challenging task which is characterised by many competing or conflicting demands.

"Doug liaises with members of the public, over a range of areas including whale and seal strandings, nuisance and dangerous fauna, industry representatives (whale watch and whale shark viewing) and members of Government agencies.

"His communications skills in the field and his fair and friendly attitude results in very positive feedback and achievement of objectives.

"He sets a very high standard, manages difficult circumstances well and is a dedicated and professional operator."

Doug was pleasantly surprised to receive the

award.

He had no prior knowledge of the nomination and was simply invited to a Rotary meeting to give a speech on managing wildlife.

## Fire an

**BUSHFIRES** at this time of year keep many CALM staff busy, but summer also brings increased pressure to bear on other CALM operations.

Marine parks, for example, where staff have been kept on their toes throughout a busy year, know no let up as the 1993-94 summer season rolls on, with thousands of people flocking to metropolitan marine parks to swim, dive, fish and go boating.

Pictured are Swan Region Marine Operations Manager Peter Dans (left) discussing plans for the day with ranger Dave Burton, before setting off recently in CALM's marine parks vessel *Gandara* from Hillarys Boat Harbour. It turned out to be a long, hectic day.

Keeping track of an apparently sick shark languishing in the shallows, and trying to shepherd it out into deeper waters away from swimmers, turned out to be the day's priority.

Normal patrol duties gave way to warning divers and beach users of the shark's presence and keeping the Surf Lifesaving Association and the Department of Transport (formerly Marine and Harbours) supplied with up-to-the-minute reports on its whereabouts - all while taking calls that came thick and fast throughout the day from the media.

Swan Region Marine Operations staff are kept busy on a diverse range of issues, including enforcement matters such as the recent reef poisoning incidents in Marmion Marine Park. Patrols with Fisheries inspectors have been increased in an effort to curb the practice.



Doug Coughran and his Pride of Workmanship Award.  
Photo by Carolyn Thomson



# VEGETATION WATCH



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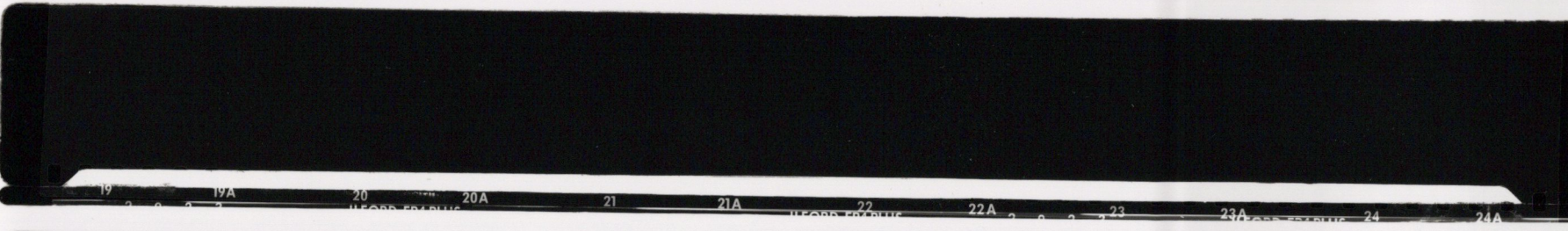
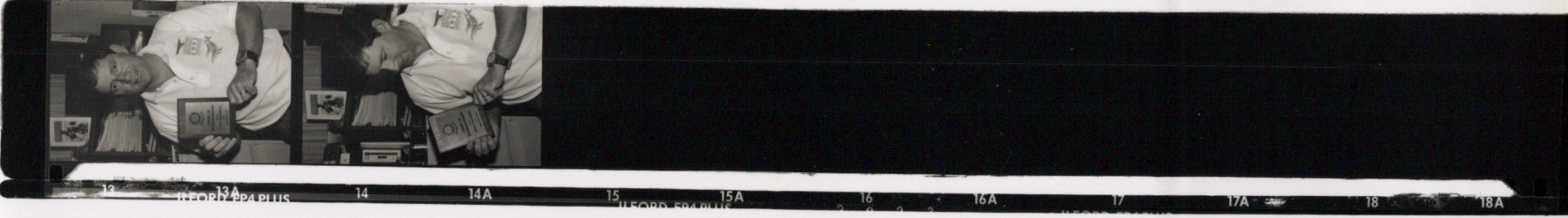
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