

Crows bow out before Robert's Big Thomo

CROWS visiting CALM Kalgoorlie's recreation sites have been put on a strict diet. No longer will the black marauders sit on rubbish bins scattering litter in search of a feed.

This problem is widespread at many parks and reserves and with a number of CALM Kalgoorlie recreational reserves more than 100 km from the office, daily clean up visits are unrealistic.

After submitting a Northern Territory crow guard design to a local engineering company and finding the cost of manu-

by Grant Pronk

facture too high, CALM staff looked for cheaper alternatives.

The crow guard had to meet several criteria: ease of use, durability, low-cost manufacture, be reasonably pleasing to the eye, and totally effective.

Environmental office Rob Thomas came up with a design to fit the criteria—The Big Thomo.

Using waste metal stored at the yard and a few inexpensive fittings, making the new guard was a doddle, and manufacturing

costs were slashed to minimum.

The first prototype, skilfully crafted by forest worker Mark Virgo, was considered a great success — a Big Thomo Crow Guard could be completely made up and installed in just over three hours.

At less than half the cost of a guard made by an outside company, this had to be a goer.

Several Big Thomos are now installed at CALM's Arboretum, with early indications showing them to be highly effective in fighting the destructive habits of our friend the crow.



Rob Thomas, left, and Mark Virgo with The Big Thomo Crow Guard.

Photo by Grant Pronk

Cotton

Crow Guard

15.3.94

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