

Fire and water hottest topics

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.

Recreation management and nature conservation issues are closely linked. There are ongoing investigations into reports of boat owners installing illegal moorings in the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.

Monitoring of flora and

fauna values that have led to marine parks being declared is also an important role.

This summer's activities include dive surveys to determine inshore reef populations and mapping of reefs in both Marmion and Shoalwater Islands

Marine Parks.

Meanwhile, what happened to the sick shark? It beached itself just before dark when a recreational fisherman triumphantly claimed it as his catch of the day.

• *Photo and story by Verna Costello*



World exclusive conocurvone contract

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The CALM/AMRAD agreement provides for:

- the rapid production of conocurvone, while the plant resource from which the drug is obtained is protected and conserved;
- cost recovery funding by AMRAD for the con-

sortium's work and research funding so that other WA smokebush species with potential pharmaceutical properties are protected, evaluated and developed. The first payment of \$1.15 million was made at the recent signing ceremony.

- significant royalties to be paid to the WA community from the sale of developed pharmaceutical products;
- the establishment — at no cost to taxpayers — of the full range of facilities needed to initiate a pharmaceutical infrastructure for WA.

Peter Dano + Dave + Surton - Hillarys Boat Harbour
Sunday 30/01/94

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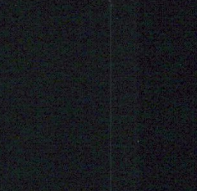
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