

CALM NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER 1994



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A rare experience in the wild

A RECOVERY program for one of the world's rarest animals has entered a new phase with 10 of the creatures being released into their natural habitat.

The animal is the western swamp tortoise, the most endangered tortoise on earth.

The release into Twin Swamps Nature Reserve at Bullsbrook north of Perth, is the culmination of a co-operative effort to bring the species back from the brink of extinction.

The project has been carried out by researchers from CALM, the University of Western Australia, Perth Zoo and Curtin University.

The team has been supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the Water Authority of Western Australia.

A new recovery plan for the tortoise also has been released. The plan was coordinated by CALM's Threatened Species and Communities Unit - WATSCU.

WATSCU Director Andrew Burgidge, who has been associated with research into the animal for 30 years, said only about 35 of the tortoises still survived in the two swamps compared with about 130



CALM's Director of the Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit Dr Andrew Burgidge prepares to release a western swamp tortoise at Twin Swamps. With him is UWA biologist Dr Gerald Kuchling, ready with tracking equipment. Photo by Rod Taylor, courtesy of The West Australian

in the 1960s.

Clearing in the Swan Valley between Pearce and Guildford had destroyed most of the animal's habitat. Predators, particularly foxes, were another factor in its near extinction.

However, a breeding program involving Perth Zoo, CALM's WA Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale and UWA's

Zoology Department, has resulted in 100 western swamp tortoises being raised in captivity.

To combat predators, CALM's Perth District built fox-proof fences around Twin Swamps and another nature reserve at Ellen Brook.

The recovery team also had to deal with the problem of the nature reserves

drying up too early in spring. The Water Authority, a major sponsor of the recovery mission, installed a bore and now swamp water levels can be maintained until December.

The new recovery plan focuses on five key strategies. These are:

◆ To manage the tortoises' habitat in the two nature reserves;

◆ Monitor tortoise populations;

◆ Continue the captive breeding program at Perth Zoo;

◆ Continue to re-introduce the tortoises in the two swamps; and

◆ Raise funds for the recovery plan and provide educational and other information about the species and its recovery.

The recovery mission is part of the need to conserve Western Australia's biological diversity for future generations.

Dr Burgidge said the western swamp tortoise project has shown clearly that if habitat can be maintained and predators controlled, it is possible to save species from extinction.

A rather unusual buy-out

TWO CALM Collie employees have joined together in what almost amounts to a 'management buy-out' of the Department's Collie workshops.

Mechanic Colin Giles and welder Gary Blakemore have taken over the workshops and will continue to maintain CALM's vehicle fleet as well as taking on 'outside' work.

Under an agreement with CALM, the Department has handed over some of the existing equipment to Colin and Gary who also now lease the workshop.

The arrangement arose as part of the Government's desire to see more Departmental work undertaken by the private sector.

Colin and Gary wanted to continue to live in Collie and carry on with the same type of work they had been doing when employed by CALM.

Redundancy didn't fit in with what they wanted as it would not have allowed them to start up their own business and still obtain work from the Government.

Under this arrangement, Colin and Gary effectively have begun their own business without jeopardising their chances of taking on Government work.

Their experience, especially in building and maintaining fire-fighting units, will stand them in good stead to continue undertaking work for CALM and other agencies involved in fire management.

CALM has estimated the move will result in considerable financial savings - up to \$100 000 a year - that can be better used in other programs in the area.

Troy Garner, a temporary welder at the workshops, also has left CALM to join Colin and Gary.

New vision for Lesueur

A DRAFT management plan for one of the State's most internationally significant conservation areas has been released for public comment.

The plan focuses on Lesueur National Park and the nearby Coomallo Nature Reserve 220 km north of Perth near the coastal town of Jurien.

The park has highly diverse flora with more than 800 species, being 10 per cent of the State's known flowering plants.

It also is rich in fauna species with at least seven frogs, 47 reptiles and 124 birds including the rare Carnaby's black cockatoo.

The park also has complex geological features, and is an area of international significance.

The conservation strategy for Lesueur and Coomallo will involve preventing the spread of die-back disease and minimising degradation caused by wildfires and introduced plants and animals.

Submissions on the draft plan should be sent to the Chairman, National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, PO Box 104, Como 6152, marked attention Plan Co-ordinator, Lesueur National Park Management Plan.

Lookouts for treetop tourism

TOURISM and fire protection in the South West forests will be enhanced under an innovative program to upgrade fire lookout towers and open lookout trees to the public.

The program will make more trees available for the public to climb and greater surveillance for wildfires.

The integration of tourism and fire protection also reflects a commitment to ensure revenue raised through national park fees are spent in the local area.

Under the program, \$40 000 will be spent to upgrade Diamond Tree near Manjimup. The upgrading involves repegging the ladder, recladding the tower cabin and building a public viewing platform

below the cabin. This will allow the tree to be used in the coming fire season while still giving the public access.

Diamond Tree was first used as a lookout in 1940 but it was taken out of service in 1974. In 1991 the cabin was taken down, renovated and replaced to retain appearance of the structure. Parts of the tree also were removed because of deterioration.

The Bicentennial Tree in the Warren National Park also will be opened to the public. Bicentennial Tree lookout was built in 1988 as a useful and valuable tribute to many aspects of the south-west timber industry.

The two trees will join the more famous Gloucester

Tree at Pemberton as major tourism attractions.

CALM, with the support of community groups such as the Gloucester Tree Advisory Committee and the Friends of Diamond Tree, will continue to seek funds to build the infrastructure necessary to make the three trees accessible for climbing and high quality tourist drawcards.

The ladders and towers are only one part of developing facilities for tourists.

It also is important to protect the tree's root system and provide basic visitor facilities such as amenity blocks and safe parking areas.

CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the department was inves-

tigating options for licensed commercial tour operators to gain initial access to all three trees.

Revenue earned from fees also will be used to improve facilities.

CALM has initially allocated \$40 000 from entry fees for this work at Diamond Tree and Bicentennial Tree which will include walk trails and interpretive material, toilets and water, tree protection, improved access and parking, barbecues and picnic tables.

Other fire lookout towers in the Southern Forest Region to be used this summer include Mt Frankland near Walpole, Beard (east of Quininup) and Carlotta (north west of Manjimup).



I recently attended the official opening of the rotunda in the Matilda Bay Reserve. The rotunda is one of a number of facilities that will be built during the redevelopment of Matilda Bay.

A plaque in the rotunda's base recognised the significance of Matilda Bay as the base for Catalina operations during, and immediately after, World War II. Sir Charles Court, who opened the rotunda on behalf of the Catalina Club, mentioned the fact that the Club had raised \$2000 towards the cost of the rotunda, and congratulated the Club on its partnership with CALM.

CALM has a wide range of ongoing partnerships in the wider community - partnerships which enable us to reach far beyond our existing resources and achieve much more than we could on our own. Most notable is the relationship with volunteer fire brigades and with the Bush Fires Board, which has been invaluable in saving life and property.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions have demonstrated beautifully the ideal nature-based tourism partnership between CALM as a natural resource management agency and The University of WA Extension Service in its role in encouraging community education.

The recently announced Ibis Aerial Highway is a striking example of partnerships where local authorities in the Kimberley have developed camping facilities and access in a number of remote areas. That program depends on the local shire, tourist associations, private operators, local pastoralists and CALM to succeed.

The Darlingunaya Aboriginal Corporation's boat tour in Geikie Gorge is another partnership with the local Aboriginal community and CALM to provide a cultural tour which benefits the visitor as well as that community. These tours enable CALM to meet its objective of providing information related to the natural environment and the cultural values of that area.

We have a number of instances now where leaseholders who are developing facilities for visitors to CALM managed areas, in addition to making a financial contribution through rent payments to management, are assisting CALM by maintaining basic facilities as well as services such as removal of rubbish and provision of firewood.

We have also had some major corporate partnerships as we have seen rapid growth in the level of sponsorship made available to CALM. The LANDSCOPE Visa card is the prime example of a partnership where a major bank - Bankwest - is contributing resources to CALM for the management of endangered species.

CALM should be even more vigorous in finding partners who can help us achieve the objectives of protecting, managing and enabling visitors to appreciate the natural areas for which we are responsible. Perhaps more importantly, we need to make sure we let our partners know how thankful we are for their contribution and assistance in helping us meet our responsibilities.

Jim Sharp
A/Director Parks,
Recreation, Planning and Tourism

Gunnar's gunna do what he's gunna do

MOST people in Australia who are nicknamed 'gunna' are so named because they are always 'gunna' do something but seldom get around to it.

Not so, it seems, if you were born in Denmark (the one in Europe) and named 'Gunnar' as was forest maintenance worker Gunnar Hornum of Dwellingup Science

by Tammie Reid

and Information Division. Gunnar began his working life on a ten-acre farm in Hinnerup, a small village in Denmark, where he worked a parcel delivery service, gained experience in carpentry and building, and worked for a time in the slaughter yards.

He joined the Danish Grenadier Guards and became a crack rifle shot - a skill that has stood him in good stead whenever Science and Information Division needed branches to be brought down in order to sample jarrah tree seed production.

In 1958, Gunnar responded to an invitation to experienced farmers - issued by his local Australian consulate - and landed in Melbourne with absolutely nothing - a fire on the ship had burnt all his belongings.

Emigrating to Australia was the beginning of Gunnar's plan to work a farm of his own.

After working in quarries, dairies and building sites, he and his wife Lily and family settled at Unicup, in uncleared karri country near Manjimup, where he ran a sheep cattle and vegetable farm for 23 years.

Gunnar and Lily now live in Dwellingup, while their five children have spread out over Western and Southern Australia with families of their own.

In Dwellingup, Gunnar is active in local volunteer community projects.

He is president of the Progress Association, building co-ordinator and management committee member of the Dwellingup Tourist Centre and Museum, a member of the Forest Heritage Centre Board and was recently approached to consider a position as a Peel Development Commission Board member.

His attention to detail and methodical approach to any project are qualities he brings to his work at CALM, and his volunteer work in the community.

If this Gunnar's gunna do it - it gets done!



Gunnar Hornum shows us one of the jarrah seed collection trays he designed.
Photo by Tammie Reid.



Forest worker Tom Boyd bucketing the sweet-smelling, composted toilet wastes. Photo by Chris Wilson

Permacultured penguins

WHAT do you do when you need to quickly revegetate and protect exposed areas of bare sand without introducing chemicals into the natural system?

You can plant and erect wind breaks; put down jute matting and plant within its mesh; strategically place hay bales and weed out any exotic plants that are introduced - or you can use the tried and true methods of permaculture.

CALM Jarrahdale's district manager Denise Allen, who was responsible for the management of Penguin Island off Rockingham until last month, decided to go down the permaculture path.

When large areas of sand were exposed during construction of the Island's new recreation site, measures had to be taken to revegetate and protect the bared areas.

"The toilets at Penguin Island are composting facilities and the waste is an excellent source of nutrients," Denise said.

"There's also a lot of dead, nutrient-rich sea grass on the island's beaches after strong winds and storms.

"In the areas we wanted to rehabilitate, we placed layers of newspapers directly over the weeds, which served as green manure, added a mix of

sand, compost from the toilets and 'chook poo' - then a second layer of newspaper, and finally, a layer of dead sea grass which acts as a mulch to prevent loss of water.

"Earlier, seeds from the island's natural vegetation had been propagated to provide the seedlings that were planted into holes filled with worm castings and cut into the top layer of newspapers.

"The plants grew extremely well; the layers of mulch and newspaper also stabilised the sand and eradicated the weed competition.

"The trial area is now well covered with native vegetation, providing yet another prime site for the little penguin to breed."

The penguins burrow tunnels into the den vegetation that naturally covers the island, so any increase in the vegetated area available for nesting is good for the population."

Denise said that while the permaculture technique was labour intensive, results of the trial had proved very successful.

"There's a lot of hard 'grunt' work using this technique, but it's more than compensated for by the minimal follow-up treatment needed, and the absence of chemicals - important factors when protecting the little penguin habitat," she said.

CALM Classified

THIS column is divided into sections dealing with 'for hire', 'for sale', 'surplus equipment', 'swap', or 'wanted'. If you have any equipment or requirement that you wish to advertise through this service, please send or fax typewritten details to:

The Editor,
CALM NEWS,
Corporate Relations Division

FOR SALE

Seven battery operated Grant & Rustrak chart recorders for monitoring temperature, and blank recording charts. (Temp. probes not included), \$20 ea. Phone Joe Kinal, (09) 538 1105.

Bigbrook

by David Meehan

IT'S Big Brook time again and all over CALM people are fine tuning their bodies and psyching themselves up for the Big Brook Relay - now almost a tradition throughout CALM.

If fitness and glory are not your scene, be in it for fun - get a team of seven together - they can be of mixed gender, all male or

all female - and phone me at Pemberton on (097) 761 207 or fax me on (097) 761 410 for further details and entry forms.

The sequence of events in the relay are: cross cut sawing (two people), cycling (1 person), running (1 person), canoeing (2 people), swimming (1 person).

The relay takes place on Saturday, November 19, 1994 beginning at 10.30am at Big Brook Dam, Pemberton.

I need completed entry forms returned to me no later than October 21, so please hurry!

There will be a licensed bar for spectators - and it will still be there for competitors after the relay!

LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS



Dear Sir,
I am writing to tell you how much my husband and I appreciate Ian and Eve Solomon and Jason Puls who are wonderful people in your employment at the Bungle Bungles.

We would have a very sorry story to recount if it were not for their expertise, patience and skill.

We had the misfortune of breaking our stub axle on the way out of the Bungles, before we got to the rangers' station - there begins our story.

It was around 7.30 am Friday 29 July - the date easy to remember - my birthday - then we felt a quick pull on the car then another - we stopped quickly to find no wheel - the stub axle had broken - disaster!

But no, it was Friday and Ian and Eve were going to Kununurra for R & R - so Ian and Jason went into action. They winched our trailer onto theirs - sounds quick as I write but really it takes skill and know-how - they have it and they work fast.

So by about 9.30 am we were ready to follow 'Solly' and Eve out of the Bungles with them 'piggy backing' our broken camper trailer to Kununurra for repairing.

They looked after us so wonderfully - took us to the engineering works where the trailer could be fixed on the Saturday - so then, because we had nowhere to stay, with the whole town booked out because of the rodeo, they took us into their home and gave us lodging for

the night. We were so grateful - they are such very genuine folk.

Being my birthday which could have been so disastrous - they turned it into a good day - then we went out to dinner to top it all off and it made my day and my husband's day happy also.

We can only say to you that as a manager you are very fortunate to have such very generous, skilful, patient and kind people in your employment. It must make your job better too.

Many, many thanks for all the help the rangers and Eve gave us. We are so grateful and we found Kununurra a lovely place also - we want to come back again.
Your faithfully,
Kauk and Wendy Kaurila
Darwin NT.

CALM NEWS — OCTOBER 1994

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Published by CALM Corporate Relations Division, Cygnet Hall, (cnr) Mounts Bay Road & Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009
Telephone: (09) 389 8644 Facsimile: (09) 389 8296

Story deadline for CALM NEWS is the 10th of the month preceding the month of issue. Printed by Lamb Print.

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER

Brent's trap a winner

CALM is now better able to collect information on some small animals in the jarrah forest, thanks to trapping modifications designed by CALM technical officer Brent Johnson.

"Elliott traps, which are used throughout Australia, collect data on small animals; the collapsible aluminium traps are ideal for capturing small mammals such as dunnarts and mardos," Brent said.

"However, they were no match for skilled escapologists such as brush-tailed phascogales and chuditch."

It was common for scientists using Elliott traps to find them with the bait taken, the door closed, fresh animal scratchings inside the door and remnants of fur - but with the culprit nowhere to be found.

Brent modified the trap by riveting a simple locking mechanism - a shaped

by Carolyn Thomson

metal tab - on the door, preventing it from being opened from the inside.

"The mechanism is inexpensive but effective and is easy to manufacture and maintain," Brent said.

"The external placement of the lock does not restrict the collapsing capabilities of the trap, nor does it introduce further internal hazards to the captured animal."

The modified Elliott traps were used for scientific studies at Kingston, near Manjimup, and Batalling, near Collie, and produced immediate results.

In the first trial at Kingston earlier this year, 11 phascogales were captured in Elliott traps over three nights, which in the past would have been almost unheard of, using this method.

These successes have led to other CALM wildlife researchers using similarly modified Elliott traps.

"The traps also have the problem of being poorly insulated from extremes of weather," Brent said.

"If we don't take protective measures, captured animals can become stressed in hot, cold or wet weather.

Previous protective methods included placing traps in plastic bags to provide waterproofing and putting cotton wool, tissue paper and other nesting material inside the traps.

These methods were time-consuming and cluttered or fouled the traps.

Instead, Brent tried wrapping Elliott traps in a hessian rectangle.

Trials showed that they kept the traps warmer during cold weather but didn't work as well during extremes of heat.

The hessian and lock may also have been respon-

sible for an unexpected result - capturing a numbat during trapping at Batalling forest.

Numbats have rarely been recorded entering an Elliott trap - they feed on termites and do not take the traditional mammal baits of peanut paste and sardines.

Instead scientists have to use the time-honoured method of sight and chase, that is, they must drive around an area until they spy a numbat, then chase it into a hollow log before they can retrieve it.

The numbat caught at Batalling may have entered the hessian-wrapped trap, believing it was a small, snug hollow log and then been prevented from leaving by the lock.

Anyone who would like further information on how to modify the traps should contact Brent Johnson at CALM's Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale on (09) 405 5100.



Forest ranger Matt Reynolds (right) on site with one of Ridolfo's machine operators. Photo by Tammie Reid

A delicate balance

by Tammie Reid

THINNING the jarrah forests around Dwellingup can be likened to working among the hairs on a dog's back - so thick and vigorous are the regrowth forests on some of the highest quality sites in the State.

These sites are considered by many to be the jewel in the crown of the State's jarrah forests, and CALM forest officers and harvesting contractors are challenged to work sensitively in such areas.

The following is an example of how teamwork between CALM and the contractors is meeting this challenge:

Thick regrowth forests are marked for thinning by CALM forest officers, while contractors harvest timber suitable for poles, sawlogs, firewood and chips, leaving selected crop trees.

CALM tree markers have to work quickly to stay ahead of the contractors carrying out the thinning operations.

Trees are marked for retention for their future timber potential, habitat value, or as permanent exclusion zones of high conservation or visual resource value.

All operations are done under 'no soil movement' conditions and are confined to micro catchments to limit or prevent the spread of dieback.

Meanwhile, follow-up work, such as pulling all logging debris away from the base of the retained trees, is carried out.

The trick for the harvesting contractor is to manoeuvre big machinery through the forest, fell the timber and transport it, without damaging forest set aside for conservation, or for future logging.

V & D Ridolfo, a south west timber harvesting company, works closely with CALM Dwellingup's forest officers.

There is a healthy respect between CALM's

forest officer in charge of the operation Matt Reynolds and Ridolfo's bush boss John Ditoro and his crew.

"Ridolfo's have a couple of excellent tree fellers and very competent machinery operators - all accredited with Forest Industries Training Service (FITS).

"It may surprise some to learn that these crew members are dedicated to minimising their impact on the bush, and they're a great example to other forest operators.

"The contractor uses machinery that's slightly smaller than that of most logging contractors, and therefore more manoeuvrable in thick regrowth forests.

"The end result is excellent, with very little, if any, damage.

"Effective communication and respect between both parties is what brings about the success of such a delicate operation; it's a good way to work," says Matt.



Brent Johnson demonstrates his modified Elliott trap. Photo by Carolyn Thompson

How's your health?

STRESS - "A reaction which occurs when the actual or perceived demands made on an individual overwhelm that person's ability or resource to cope." M Tunnecliffe.

We all need challenges to make life interesting and encourage us to live life to the fullest, but too much stress can affect your health.

Reproduced with permission from Link Up, Life. Be in it (WA).

"For things to change, first I must change." Anthony Robins.

Stress cycle busters:

1. Express feelings and emotions
2. Schedule down time
3. Recognise your energy patterns and schedule work accordingly
4. Try not to schedule more than one stressful

by Linda Gilbert

- activity at a time
5. Engage in physical activities
6. Break projects into smaller parts
7. Delegate responsibility
8. Learn to say "no"
9. Improve work skills
10. Strive for success
11. Learn to relax.

If you would like more

information, contact Linda Gilbert, Risk Management Section, or the Human Resources Branch Manager for information on staff counselling.

Videos and books available:

- Stress of Success by Dr John Tickell
- Stress Busters by Amanda Gore
- How to Understand and Manage Stress by M

Tunnecliffe
Do Better ... Now by Leigh Farnell
Being Happy by Andrew Mathews

Next time you find yourself despairing, ask yourself these questions:

Have I got enough air to breathe? Have I got enough food for today?

If you can answer "yes" to these questions, things are already looking up.

How stressful is your life? To find out, try this test, scoring 1 for never, 2 hardly ever, 3 sometimes, 4 frequently, 5 almost always:

I find it difficult to switch off and slow down	1	2	3	4	5
I feel bored and listless	1	2	3	4	5
I have difficulty concentrating	1	2	3	4	5
I feel tired and find it hard to sleep	1	2	3	4	5
I suffer from indigestion	1	2	3	4	5
I eat on the run or don't eat at all	1	2	3	4	5
I tend to over eat	1	2	3	4	5
I take pills or drink alcohol to help me relax	1	2	3	4	5

If you scored three or more on any of the above you may be stressed, but stress can be managed.

Everest topped again

by Linda Gilbert

FOR the third year in succession, CALM corporate ladder climbers embarked on a journey to equal a climb to the top of Mount Everest - a National Heart Foundation annual 'Climb to the Top' event.

The event involved three teams of ten, climbing a target number of 2212 flights of stairs.

Each team reached the target and at a Top of the World morning tea in Como, each team member received a certificate

and a coffee mug for taking part.

Principal health and safety officer Tom Wood set a fine example, reaching the height of Mount Everest by himself, the third year he has done so, putting anybody who travels by lift to shame.

After the 2212th flight, he was heard to hoarsely whisper "I made it!" Not surprising after a gruelling schedule that in-

cluded 20 flights before work, 70-90 at lunch time and another 20 flights before going home.

Remember what the National Heart Foundation has to say:

Be active every day - ride or walk instead of driving, use the stairs instead of the lift, walk to the television set to change channels instead of using a remote control, start each day with some physical activity - these little changes will make a difference.



Standing left to right: Rob Jones, Westrek co-ordinator Gary Hurst, Ben Kitto, Elora Rosenwald, Graeme Burgess, Mark Coleman, Paul Prauti, Andrew Tyrell, Briony Robinson, Susan Brosnan and Olivier Pritave. Seated left to right: Ben Rogers, Luke Read and Graham Wailes. Photo by Rae Burrows

Westrek youth in a LEAP for CALM

WHY people do - and do not - visit parks and reserves around Perth is the subject of a survey being carried out by an enthusiastic group of young people.

The young men and women are involved in a Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP).

During school holidays and weekends over a period of five months the young people, who range in age from 17 to 20 years, have been collecting the

information at 10 parks and reserves, and by making numerous telephone calls.

The LEAP program is run on behalf of CALM by Westrek, an organisation providing training courses for young people with the aim of enhancing their chances of entering the workforce.

The department's survey co-ordinator Rae Burrows is extremely delighted with the success of the program.

"The participants have

been a pleasure to work with and have eagerly tackled any challenge that has come their way, and collected a lot of useful and interesting information," Rae said.

"More surveys will be conducted by this and another Westrek team until March, 1995.

Westrek's LEAP program runs for six monthly periods.

The program's curriculum includes computer courses, first aid, and personal development.

Earth carers a thriving concern

EARTH Carers were 'born' in March 1991 when project officer Marie McDonald advertised for volunteers to take part in a leadership training course.

The aim was that on successful completion of the course they were to lead interpretive activities for the Go Bush and Earth Caretakers' Programs and to staff CALM's interactive displays at shopping centres.

Marie, said that a small, highly enthusiastic group of volunteers continued in this capacity for the next couple of years, but numbers eventually dwindled and the group came to a halt.

In July 1994, another group was selected from volunteers already registered with CALM.

"This proved to be a great success and the Earth Carers now have more than 30 trained members who have already taken

part in two displays at Phoenix and New Park Shopping Centres," Marie said.

"The training program was designed to be fun as well as educational, and the trainee volunteers learnt a lot about each other, which contributed significantly towards developing a healthy team spirit.

"We discovered they came from many walks of life and included a charming retired gentleman who claims to have seen a Tasmanian Tiger many moons ago.

"Many Earth Carers are now being trained to help with the Go Bush Program in the Hills Forest, and about 15 also took part in the recent training sessions for Shoalwater Islands Volunteers.

"At the completion of their training, they'll have a sound knowledge of CALM and particularly its operations in the Swan

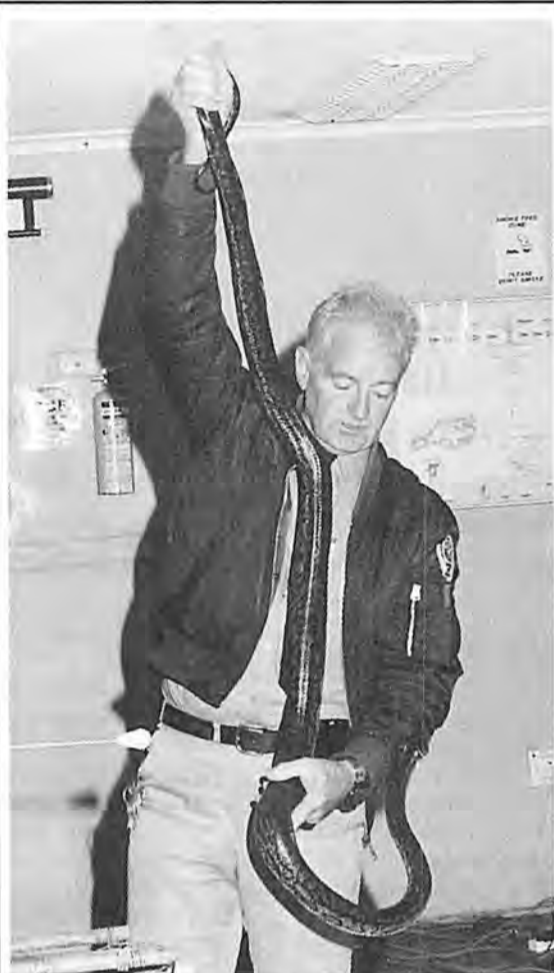


Left to right, Earth Carer Toni-Louise Hoath cradles 'Harry' a common wombat, while Caversham Wildlife Park's Jason Dearle talks with another Earth Carer Marian Maughan. Photo by Marie McDonald

Region, as well as information on the Shoalwater Islands and Hills Forest areas."

The training sessions culminated in a graduation ceremony at Caversham Wildlife Park, where Swan

regional manager Alan Walker presented the new Earth Carers with certificates of participation.



CALM's Garden Island National Park ranger Jim Maher with comes to grips with a carpet python. Photo by Terry Goodlich

Volunteers boning up

POINT Peron Camp School was the scene for a five-session training course, held recently for the Shoalwater Islands Volunteers.

More than 40 volunteers successfully completed the course and at the time of writing were preparing for the opening of Penguin Island, for the spring season.

The training course was designed to provide the volunteers with information on topics such as penguin-breeding biology, silver gulls, handling of native birds and reptiles, history of scientific research of the region, bird studies and how to lead guided walks.

The volunteers will use this knowledge to enhance the spring and summer visitor experiences on Penguin Island.

The Shoalwater Islands volunteers are a highly active, dedicated group, and these winter training pro-

by Marie McDonald

grams are an invaluable source of knowledge to them.

Many thanks must go to private researchers Judy Jenkins and Nick Dunlop, Murdoch University researchers Dr Catherine Meathrel and Lisa Nicholson, and Keith Smith and his feathered friends from the WA Native Bird Hospital.

Thanks, too, go to CALM staff Jim Maher and Terry Goodlich who gave up their free time to provide entertaining and informative sessions.

The Shoalwater Islands Volunteers have been in operation for five years and if any CALM staff would like some tips on how to keep a successful group going, phone me on (09) 390 5977 or Terry Goodlich on (09) 592 5191.

Grimwade plans ecotourist base



CALM's district manager at Kirup Peter Bidwell ponders the future of Grimwade. Photo by Carolyn Thomson

THE old timber town of Grimwade, in State Forest near Kirup, could have a bright future.

Suggestions for the site have been put before CALM's Corporate Executive.

This follows a workshop on Grimwade earlier this year, attended by representatives from various branches of CALM, local Shires and the Balingup Progress Association.

The area is now a popular camping and picnic area and it may also be decided to establish a backpackers' lodge there, or use it as a base for ecotourism.

The picturesque town, then known as East Kirup, was established in 1910 for employees of a nearby jarrah sawmill and was connected to Kirup by rail.

At its peak it was quite large and boasted a store, hall, church, hospital, school and stables.

When the mill closed in 1928 the settlement began to dwindle until the Forests Department took over in the early 1930s and began

to establish the Grimwade pine plantation.

Its name was changed to honour Sir Russell Grimwade in 1950. Soon afterward, the old railway station became the Forests Department's Grimwade office and the settlement increased as houses were relocated from more isolated forestry settlements. During this time a pine mill was also established.

However, the Forest Department office was closed in June 1986 and staff relocated to Kirup and the lovely timber homes were removed by tender.

The area still has many deciduous trees surrounding the old foundations, and is particularly beautiful in autumn when the leaves begin to change colour.

CALM plans to rehabilitate some areas with further plantings of exotic trees and return other areas back to natural bushland.

One thing is certain - despite its chequered past, the town's future is now looking anything but grim.