

Activity centre officially opened

THE Hills Forest Activity Centre - one of CALM's biggest projects in the forest in the Perth hills district - is now officially open.

About 200 invited guests and staff gathered in the forecourt on December 2 when Environment Minister Kevin Minson marked the opening of the centre by cutting a specially-made gum-leaf ribbon with a pine shaving knife.

Later, the opening was celebrated with a concert at the centre's open-air amphitheatre.

Mr Minson said the Hills Forest project gave people in the metropolitan area an excellent opportunity to learn about sustainable management in the native forests right on their doorstep.

He said that at a time when native forest issues were being discussed, it was important people could go into the forest and see how they were being managed.

"If more people ventured into the forest and actually saw what went on, and gained a greater appreciation of the processes that drive our forests, then I am sure the forests debate would be put on a far more constructive plain than it currently is," he said.

The Hills Forest is an 1,000 hectare tract of



Hills Forest manager Stev Slavin (left) presents Environment Minister Kevin Minson and his wife Margaret with a copy of letter of appreciation from Quinns Rock Primary School students to mark the opening of the Hills Forest Activity Centre. With them are Darling Range MLA John Day and CALM Executive Director Syd Shea.

forest and national parks CALM has developed as a "family playground".

The activity centre is the site of its popular programs such as Go Bush!, Sights and Sounds of the Night and Forest under Canvas. It also reflects the integration of all the uses of the forest.

The activities provide a closer insight into the forest than can be gained by simply driving through them. For example, CALM staff take groups

into the disease risk area so they can learn more about dieback and the impact it has on our native plants.

Other activities focus on small native animals which are becoming more common through CALM's extensive fox control program, Operation Foxglove.

The centre comprises the 250-seat open rammed earth amphitheatre and a complex of restored forestry buildings that house the administration office

and rooms for seminars and other activities.

Hills Forest manager Stev Slavin says a number of campsites will be built to provide people with a range of bush experiences from short walk-in camps to wilderness.

A special campsite, fully accessible for people with disabilities, will be a model for similar facilities in other forest areas.

Other attractions throughout the Hills Forest include national parks,

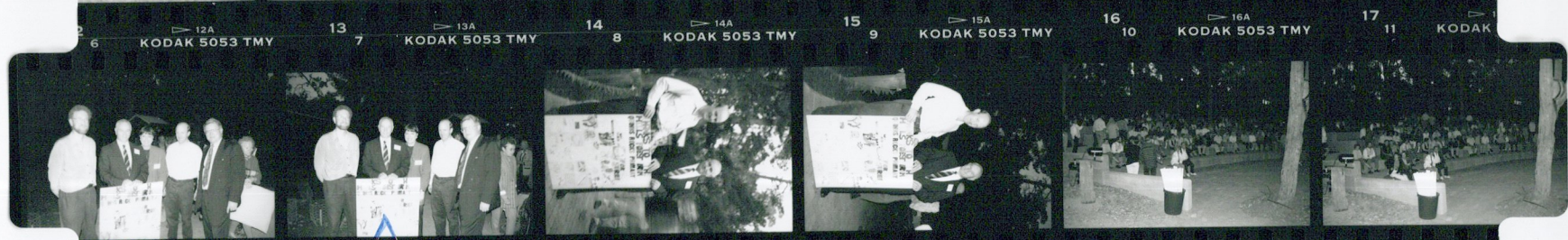
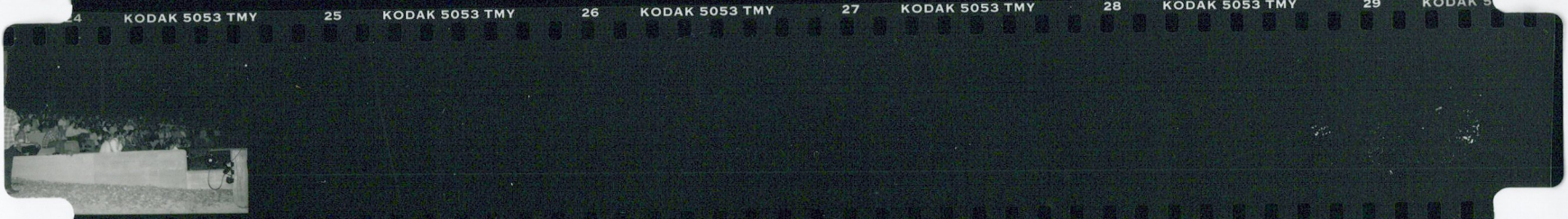
Fred Jacoby Park, the king jarrah near Sawyers Valley, numerous walk trails including the Bibbulmun Track and many picnic areas.

Stev said the project was a partnership between CALM and several sponsors including Alcoa of Australia, ICI Australia, Paddy Pallins, Westrek, Jarrahdale Heating and Cooling, the Australian Geographic Shop and local sawmillers through the Hoo Hoo Club.

THANKS TO THE HILLS BEST FIRM
QUINNS ROCKS PRIMARY

WE'VE HAD A GREAT DAY
FOR SURE!

8.12.94



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