

CALM NEWS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 FOREST SCIENCE LIBRARY
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1995



- ◆ Paradise found - page 3
- ◆ Potoroos rediscovered - page 3
- ◆ Year-in-Review - pages 4 and 5



- ◆ CALMFire feature - pages 6 and 7
- ◆ Big Brook Relay - page 8
- ◆ Hills Forest Centre opened - page 9



- ◆ Fitzgerald Biosphere project continues - page 9
- ◆ Albany stars in whale-boat race - page 11
- ◆ Kids fire-fighting tour - page 12

Tree-top trips to tempt the tourist

A TREE-TOP tour and an Ancient Empire tingle forest discovery walk in the Valley of the Giants will form the core of a CALM tourism initiative in the southern forest near Walpole.

Premier and Tourism Minister Richard Court said the two projects would become major international tourist drawcards for the Warren-Walpole region and establish the tingle forest as an icon for the State's burgeoning nature-based tourism industry.

"The aim is to provide a high quality visitor experience in the tingle forest while at the same time maintaining the forest's integrity and conservation values."

A team led by the Perth-based consultancy, Donaldson and Warn, Architects, has been awarded a contract to design and build the tree top walk, a low level walk and a 'Tingle Shelter'.

The team includes Ove Arup and Partners (engineers), David Jones (environmental artist) and Ralph and Beattie Bosworth (quantity surveyors).

The contract follows a national competition through which CALM called for entrants to present design and construction ideas.



Premier Richard Court, second from right, is briefed on the tree tops walk project by artist David Jones (left), architect Geoff Warn and consulting engineer Adrian Roberts. Photo by John Ibbs courtesy Sunday Times.

Four teams were selected to present their concepts which were judged by an independent panel under the guidance of CALM and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and the Institution of Engineers also

provided assistance.

The judges were impressed with the elegance, simplicity and practical nature of the winning design, considering the emphasis was on minimal disturbance of the forest during construction.

The tree top walk will consist

of steel trusses with timber decking and steel support posts. The tingle shelter will be built from timber posts and beams and the tower will use timber members with steel bracing.

The double walking loop will give visitors an experience from

the tree tops and the ground, from the exciting to the quiet and contemplative.

The overall concept and design integrates all the grandeur of the tingle forest, especially its sounds, texture, colour and shapes.

Work already has begun on the Ancient Empire. This would be an interpretive forest discovery walk around and through the bases of 20 red tingle trees and logs with signs and sculptures to explain the forest's rich heritage.

A new information shelter and some of the boardwalks have been installed and further boardwalks will protect the trees from root and soil compaction and help ensure the adventure is ecologically sustainable.

CALM also is providing interpretive signs, a new access road, safe parking areas and services to the site.

The tree top walk will be completed in two stages.

The first stage, costing \$600 000 and due to be completed next November, will provide the first phase of the tree top walk, the return ground walk, tingle shelter and toilets and a swing bridge.

In the second stage, a tower with cantilevered platforms will be built.

WMC contributes to new research centre

ONE of Australia's biggest mining companies has weighed in to help conserve the delicate fairy penguins, sea lions, birds and seagrasses that inhabit Perth's coast.

Western Mining Corporation Limited is providing \$120 000 to CALM to build a research and management centre on Penguin Island.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson announced the facility, which became a regional base for important marine, island and coastal research, on December 15.

"The proposed Western Mining Research and Management Centre is a vital part of CALM's plan to create a unique nature-based tourism experience on Penguin Island, while protecting the island environment," marine operations manager Peter Dans said.

by Carolyn Thomson

"Because of its close proximity to the metropolitan area and its coastal attractions, Penguin Island attracts more than 70 000 visitors each year, including many from interstate and overseas."

Penguin Island supports the biggest breeding population of little penguins on the west coast of Australia.

About 50 species of birds also breed, feed and roost on the islands off Rockingham, including migratory species covered by international treaties. The Australian sea lion uses nearby Seal Island to rest between fishing trips.

"CALM and academic institutions have ongoing research projects based on Penguin Island and its unique flora and fauna," Peter said.

"Research into the sta-

tus of the penguin population on the island is already under way. Further research projects will focus on detecting any impacts of tourism on the island's flora, fauna and landscapes."

In recent years, the State Government has spent a substantial amount of money developing visitor facilities on Penguin Island and on rehabilitating the island's environment.

"The success of this rehabilitation demonstrates how with proper management you can accommodate people without damage to the environment," Peter said.

The Executive General Manager of Western Mining's WA Operations, Andrew Michelmore, said the plans for Penguin Island had captured the imagination of all at Western Mining.

• Continued on page 2



The Executive General Manager of Western Mining's WA Operations Andrew Michelmore with CALM's Terry Goodlich and a little penguin. Photo by Jeremy Dunnette

FROM MY DESK



It was predicted, and already it has turned out to be one of the very worst fire seasons for a long time; as I write we have already had about 50 per cent more fires than usual, and the fire index is still going up.

We can't say thanks often enough where our employees put in that little bit extra (for example, see 'letters' on this page), but what do you say to all of our magnificent firefighters and supporters who put in a Herculean effort on 30-31 December, 1994 to control the worst plantation fire in CALM's history.

I monitored the worst of the fire's progress by radio at Operations Headquarters on the afternoon and evening. At the same time Drew Haswell, Acting Manager CALMFire and Terry Maher, State Controller had a bagful of others, from Kalbarri through to Collie, to contend with, but the priorities were, rightly, focused on Gngangara, where crews battled to hem in one of the most intense fires our most experienced people have seen.

The intensity of the headfire was such that no one could get near it, yet the controllers showed what could be done on the fire flanks to limit the sideways spread. Without that effective work we would have lost three to four times the 900 hectares of pines that did go - maybe a lot more than that.

The actions of the officers and their crews at the fire were an inspiration through the worst of it all.

I stress that hundreds of CALM people were there, as well as a lot of outside helpers, but I can't let pass an opportunity to acknowledge the steely nerves of John McKenzie as Controller, and Mike Cantelo and Gary Hartnett who had a great deal of the action up front.

They demonstrated what so many of you have been trained to do, but in terrible circumstances this time.

You do it week after week and when those extreme circumstances crop up, as they do occasionally, I know that CALM has in its officers the capability to do the job well.

So, well done Perth, Mundaring-Jarrahdale and Dwellingup crews; you took the brunt of it this time, and deserve a lot of praise.

Thanks also to all of you from Manjimup, Pemberton, Mornington and Blackwood, who backed up, and to all the supporting staff. Your value as part of the teams cannot be repeated too often.

The fire was also a test for the business units to respond quickly. A lot of business unit officers hopped in immediately to the emergency - and, of course, their work will now go on through the salvage operations.

Probably a lot of people don't realise that the Gngangara fire was one of many during a week when we dealt with bad fires at Bedforddale, Mundijong and Avon Valley, to name a few.

Hats off to all of you, firefighting at Wanneroo or wherever; your work this summer has been magnificent.

Chris Haynes,
Acting Executive Director

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

QUOTES

Dwellingup Woodshed open for business. Competitive quotes for fabrication of information shelters and toilets. Picnic tables and signs our speciality. For quality work from a renewable resource, contact Steve Raper or John Hanel of the Dwellingup Woodshed Team on (09) 538 1078.



Janette Boase of the Toodyay Naturalists Club shares with other volunteers some of her biological survey experiences in the Avon Valley National Park. Photo by Marie McDonald

Swan volunteers take a bow

by Marie McDonald

AN evening of Aboriginal dreaming stories and dance were among the highlights of a recent Swan Region Volunteer Appreciation Night.

About 50 volunteers made the journey to The Hills Forest to discover some of its wonders and sit back while CALM staff showed their appreciation. The volunteers were

taken on a tour of The Hills Forest Activity Centre by Stev Slavin, manager of The Hills Forest.

They then heard representatives from each of their groups give a short account of their experiences as volunteers.

This was followed by a sausage sizzle, salads and sweets, prepared by Kelmscott staff.

Swan region manager Alan Walker thanked the volunteers for their efforts throughout the year.

"This year, Swan region volunteers put in over 4000 hours between January and September," Alan said. "Their activities have

ranged from, public information at Penguin Island, guided walks at Canning River Regional Park, biological surveys at Avon Valley National Park, to staffing the CALM Perth Outdoors shopping centre displays.

"These are only a few of the many diverse activities in which volunteers involve themselves."

The volunteers then seated themselves in the new rammed earth amphitheatre, ready to be entertained by the Bindjareb Middar Aboriginal Dance Group from Pinjarra.

Their expressive dancing to the pulsating sound of the didgeridoo, against a backdrop of the beautiful jarrah forest, provided an enchanting finale.

• from page 1

"This is an exceptionally important and exciting project and one we are delighted to give our full support," he said.

"Western Mining has had a strong regional presence through its Kwinana Nickel Refinery for 25 years.

"Therefore, we see our active involvement in the Penguin Island project adding another dimension to our already substantial commitment to the local

community and the region."

The proposed research and management centre will provide the staff accommodation and work areas essential to manage the whole island environment and become a field base for visiting research staff.

Its construction will allow CALM to remove three makeshift asbestos cement buildings that are remnants of past uses of the island.

Peter said the areas occupied by these buildings would be rehabilitated, providing additional habitat for the wild penguin population.

The penguins burrow tunnels into the dense vegetation that naturally covers the island, so any increase in the vegetated area available for nesting will benefit the population.

"The architecture of the new facility reflects the natural contours and col-

ours of the island, and composting waste systems and solar power will be used," Peter said.

"Because of the fragile nature of Penguin Island's environment and the surrounding Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, no heavy equipment can be used on the island or transported across the shallow seagrass beds that surround it.

"As a result, the centre will be built from materials that can be loaded and

easily transported by hand."

The Western Mining Research and Management Centre is part of a series of developments on Penguin Island aimed at improving nature conservation management of the island and enhancing experiences for visitors.

A new composting let block, a raised boardwalk and grassed picnic area have already been built.

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

I am writing to thank your department for its prompt attention when your CALM ranger was called out to a beach quite near the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club to help a cormorant bird in distress.

Having never had to deal with a ranger or CALM before, I was impressed with the prompt, professional and caring attitude of the ranger to the bird.

This certainly makes me thankful that the community has the back-up of CALM to assist them if required.

Please pass on my best wishes to the ranger concerned.

Incidentally, I hope the particular bird is progressing well.

Yours faithfully,
Lynda Salmon
Scarborough.

The cormorant recov-

ered and was released later that day. As for the ranger - a very modest Dave Burton reluctantly owned up to being the one concerned.

Recently whilst enjoying a visit to the Bungle Bungle National Park, in our Chev 4WD vehicle with a camper on top, we had the misfortune to have a breakdown on the sand track beside Elephant Rock, after leaving the Cathedral Gorge car park, to return to Kurrajong camp.

We were able to send word to the ranger via other visitors, and he arrived about an hour later. He, together with some other travellers, tried unsuccessfully to tow us out.

My husband (who has been a mechanic all his life) had examined the vehicle as well as he could, in the position it was in, and decided it was not a broken axle (It was later found to be a small shaft driving between the gear box and transfer case.) As we were too heavy to be towed, he knew he would have to get the parts somehow, and fix it himself in the track.

Fortunately, we had an RFD radio with us in the vehicle, and after stripping the vehicle next morning, he was able to start riving around for parts.

Meanwhile, your ranger Ian Solomon was of such assistance to us, we could never repay him.

He made daily trips to us to make sure we had water and supplies. His support and help to my husband who was quite upset was unbelievable. There was a delay in our getting parts from Melbourne, but Ian Solomon still made contact with us every day, and helped in getting our broken part sent by air to Melbourne, so another part could be made.

After six days on the track, and still no part - the weather was really starting to warm up, Ian was able to arrange for a big 6WD Amesz tour vehicle to tow us out and take us nearer his station while we waited for our parts to arrive.

The hospitality we received from Ian and his wife, Eve was unbelievable, and certainly not part of their duties. We will feel indebted to them forever.

While waiting around for our parts, we were able to observe that the effort and hours Ian put into his daily work, and helping others in difficulty was above and beyond the call of duty. The slide show he produces for visitors is something we have not

before encountered, and we thoroughly enjoyed it as well as learning about the park and its inhabitants and plant life.

Eve, his wife, was always on hand at the station to further assist travellers as well as selling T-shirts, etcetera to help the park.

Jason, the mobile ranger on duty at the time, was also very, very helpful to us.

We have since travelled the Gibb River Road and visited many places of interest including Winjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek National Parks.

We now have also visited Cape Range National Park.

We would be grateful if you would extend our thanks to Eve and Ian Solomon and his staff.

Yours very sincerely,
Joan and Keith Clarkson
WONGA PARK, VIC.

Dear Dr Shea,

I would like to pass on to you the appreciation of the whitewater slalom canoeing fraternity who use the course at Harvey, and of the support given to us by Mr Nevin Wittber from the Harvey office of CALM.

Over the last three years the Slalom and Wildwater Committee has spent a lot of time improving the facilities at the course.

This has included course modifications which have provided more features in the water and enhanced the safety of the course, development of paths for spectator and tourist viewing and at times cutting through logs which have fallen during storms.

Until recently Nevin Wittber has been our contact with CALM at Harvey and I would like to pass on to you our appreciation of the job he has done.

Nevin's interpersonal skills are excellent; he has always been most supportive when approached with an improvement proposal and has assisted us at times in a manner which I consider would be well beyond the normal expectations of his position.

As a consequence we have now what is widely recognised as the best slalom training facility in Australia, one which is attracting more paddlers and tourists to this very attractive valley.

In his liaison with us Nevin has represented CALM in a most exemplary manner and we would like to thank him for his support. Would you please pass our congratulations on to him.

Yours faithfully
Colin Thorpe, Slalom Development Officer
Nedlands WA 6009

CALM NEWS — JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1995

Managing Editor: Ron Kawailak

Editors: Nigel Higgs, Verna Costello

Contributing Editors: David Gough, Carolyn Thomson

Design, Layout and Production: Sandra Van Brugge

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

Potoroo rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay

A SMALL marsupial thought extinct for the past 125 years has been rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve east of Albany.

The animal, Gilbert's potoroo, - a small rat kangaroo - was last recorded between Albany and the Pallinup River in 1869.

The find was made by University of Western Australia Department of Zoology students Elizabeth Sinclair and Adrian Wayne.

CALM scientists positively identified the animals after Elizabeth and Adrian had trapped an adult female with a pouch young and a juvenile male. Two further adult males were trapped later.

"The rediscovery of a species that has eluded science for more than 120 years is remarkable in itself," Environment Minister Kevin Minson said.

"But it also clearly demonstrates that when fox numbers are brought under control, we can prevent small native mammal species from going extinct."

Elizabeth, a Ph D student, is studying genetic variation in quokkas and has been searching for populations along the State's south coast, including Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

There had been several "signs" of animals but despite intensive searches

and trapping, no quokkas were captured.

But two unusual animals found in the traps could not be identified as anything that had been recorded in the reserve.

Elizabeth and Adrian discussed the animals with CALM officers Alan Danks and Leigh Whisson and after measurements were taken, it became clear that the species was likely to be the long lost Gilbert's potoroo.

Tony Start, Andrew Burbidge and Norm McKenzie from CALM's Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale went to the reserve armed with material from the WA Museum's collection. That material helped confirm the identification.

Gilbert's potoroo has been considered a subspecies of the long-nosed potoroo of south-eastern Australia and Tasmania. The rediscovery now allows genetic comparisons to be made to see if the WA animals should be recognised as a separate species.

The discovery of Gilbert's potoroo by Europeans was in 1840 at King George's Sound by John Gilbert who collected mammals and birds in WA for the prominent naturalist John Gould.

Gilbert later noted that he had not heard of the species being found in



Gilbert's potoroo. Photo by Jiri Lochman/CALM

any part of the "colony" other than King George's Sound.

Apart from Gilbert's specimens, the only other ones were collected for museums in 1866 and 1869. These had been collected in the Albany-Pallinup River area.

In 1975, the former Department of Fisheries and Wildlife began an extensive search for the animal and its relation, the broad-faced potoroo - also

thought extinct.

The search included Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve but no evidence of the species was found.

Tony Start, who was part of the search, said sub-fossil remains of the animal had been found in a number of coastal caves along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, including Mammoth Cave. A bone fragment also had been found in a sand dune between Broke Inlet and

Windy Harbour.

CALM has controlled foxes inside the nature reserve since 1988 which has led to an increase in populations of other small mammals such as southern brown bandicoots.

It is now thought that Gilbert's potoroo may have survived in such small numbers that they previously were undetected but fox control has allowed them to increase

to levels where they now have turned up in traps set for other species such as quokkas.

Fox control in other parts of the south-west such as Dryandra, Batalling, Julimar and Perup, has resulted in an upsurge in native wildlife numbers.

CALM's Threatened Species and Communities Unit and the Science and Information Division now are working on plans to

find out how widespread the potoroos are and what conservation action was needed.

It is not the first time Two Peoples Bay has been the site of a rediscovered animal. The noisy scrub-bird was rediscovered there in 1961 after having been last recorded 72 years previously. It was this find that led to the nature reserve being established in 1967.

Mr Minson said it was remarkable that potoroos had been found in the same area as the noisy scrub-bird.

"Two Peoples Bay is an amazing haven for thought-to-be-extinct species," he said.

"CALM's management of the reserve to control fox numbers and protect large areas from wild-fires, a strategy initiated for managing scrub-bird habitat, no doubt has had some more recent influence on the potoroos' survival," he said.

Roo-note: The rediscovery of the Gilbert's potoroo has its irony. Elizabeth Sinclair was searching for quokkas but found the potoroo instead. Twenty years earlier, Tony Start searched the south coast, including Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, for potoroos but could only turn up quokkas.

Project Eden promises glimpse of paradise lost

THE State Government last month announced a bold \$260 000 plan to make Shark Bay's Peron Peninsula a haven for rare native animals.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson said CALM's Project Eden aimed to remove virtually all feral cats, foxes and rabbits from a massive 1050 square kilometre area of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

If the project is success-

by Carolyn Thomson

ful Peron Peninsula could become the largest area in Australia in which large numbers of endangered animals roam freely.

"If it is successful it will be a conservation coup of international significance," Mr Minson said.

Peron Peninsula is joined to the mainland by an extremely narrow neck,

which means invasion of feral animals could be easily controlled through fencing and baiting.

CALM scientist Per Christensen will lead the project operations.

"CALM research has shown that feral foxes and cats have been responsible for the disappearance and decline of dozens of native animal species, including at least ten mammal species which were once found on Peron," Per said.

"They include endangered animals such as the banded hare-wallaby, western barred bandicoot, stick-nest rat and the Shark Bay mouse.

"The only natural wild populations of these species are restricted to a few offshore islands."

Because of its size, the Peninsula could support large and stable populations of each of these species, providing the Shark Bay World Heritage Area with

an added tourist attraction.

Other species that may be reintroduced include the chuditch, woylie, red-tailed phascogale, rufous hare-wallaby and mulgara.

Project Eden will be carried out in two phases.

The first phase - the reduction of feral animals on the peninsula - is expected to last two years and will demonstrate whether feral cats and foxes can be controlled on a large scale.

The second phase is the reintroduction, which will not be attempted unless foxes and feral cats can be reduced to near 2 per cent of their former density.

An initial reconnaissance based on the number of tracks has shown that Peron supports extremely high numbers of foxes (estimated to be as high as 1000) and rabbits.

CALM research scien-

tist Dave Algar has tested a range of bait mediums suitable for cats and developed a promising cat bait.

Project Eden will test his new bait in the field for the first time on a large scale.

"If it works it has the potential to have a huge positive impact elsewhere in Australia," Dave said.

Work on mammal reintroduction by CSIRO in Shark Bay has provided encouraging results.

The Useless Loop Community Biosphere Project Group and the CSIRO appear to have eradicated foxes and controlled feral cats on the nearby 8500 ha Heirisson Prong.

Although Peron Peninsula is a much bigger area, Heirisson Prong is an important model for Project Eden.

Burrowing bettongs and Shark Bay mice were

recently released on the Prong and monitoring has shown that they are doing well.

Project Eden is a major conservation project with the potential to establish Peron Peninsula as one of the natural wonders of the world.

It is a bold project but it has risks. For instance, if foxes and cats are easier to control than rabbits, the rabbit population could actually increase.

Project Eden would also have spin-offs for the community, providing a significant boost to the emerging ecotourism industry in Shark Bay.

Per Christensen will lead a team of experienced CALM scientists and operations staff, that includes Keith Morris, Neil Burrows, Ron Shepherd and Roger Armstrong.



From left, Ray Smith, Dr Per Christensen and Alex Robinson release a fox fitted with a radio tracking collar. Photo by Richard Polden courtesy Sunday Times

Thank you from CALM

The Department of Conservation and Land Management extends its appreciation and thanks to the many people and organisations who helped fight the recent fire in the Gnangarapine plantation. Their co-operation and unrelenting efforts over many hard hours prevented a major disaster.

They included the following: City of Wanneroo Volunteer Bush Fire Bri-

gades, City of Wanneroo Rangers, Shire of Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Shire of Swan Rangers, Bush Fires Board, WA Fire Brigade, State Emergency Service, WA Police, St John Ambulance, Royal Australian Air Force, Salvation Army, SECWA, WAWA, NK Contracting, Ertech Contracting, Urban Fire Services Contracting, Softwood

Logging Services, Helicopters Australia, Brockways Tankers, BGC Contracting, Muchea Grading, Swan Taxis, Wanneroo Villa Tavern, Chicken Treat Wanneroo, noalimba, and CALM crews from Perth, mundaring, Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, mornington, Blackwood, Manjimup, Pemberton, CALM Fire, Swan Region and Woodvale Research Centre.

1994 ... That was the

January

- ◆ Walyunga and John Forrest National Parks are closed as wildfires burn through Walyunga in extreme weather conditions.
- ◆ Work begins to complete a vermin-proof fence around Twin Swamps Nature Reserve in Bullsbrook as part of an internationally-significant wildlife recovery program to reintroduce the rare western swamp tortoise later in the year.
- ◆ The first aerial baiting runs under Operation Foxglove, a fox control initiative launched the previous November by CALM and Alcoa of Australia, begin in the northern jarrah forest between Julimar and Collie. CALM research has shown fox control is a key to conserving wild populations of small rare and endangered native animals such as numbats, woylies, tamar wallabies, chuditch and possums.
- ◆ A survey of Shark Bay reveals the area is the biggest breeding site of loggerhead turtles in Western Australia. More than 430 loggerheads are tagged by CALM researchers and volunteers during the survey.

February

- ◆ Francois Peron National Park in the World Heritage listed Shark Bay region is closed while a helicopter shoot is carried out to remove feral goats. The shoot was part of preparations for a much broader native wildlife conservation program to be launched later in the year.
- ◆ Costs are awarded to CALM over last year's application by a volunteer conservation group to the Supreme Court to overturn the State's forest management plans.
- ◆ A wildlife survey reveals New Zealand furseals are breeding on islands off Augusta for the first time in 140 years.
- ◆ The first edition of *CALMScience* is launched. The magazine is an expert journal to promote Western Australia's conservation and land management research. It is to be published twice a year and include special supplements.
- ◆ CALM's plant propagation centre at Manjimup is the major nursery for a multi-million dollar hardwood plantation project by supplying 25 million bluegum seedlings over 10 years to farmers in the south-west. A record 1.9 million seedlings are destined for the bluegum sharefarming project in the Albany region this year.



In March, CALM is appointed to manage a bluegum plantation project, for the Albany Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd, a joint venture between two Japanese companies. Left to right are, Mr Itsuo Takada, Senshukai Company; Dr Syd Shea, Premier Richard Court, Environment Minister Kevin Minson and Mr Toshiaki Fujii, Itochu Corporation, breaking the ceremonial sake barrel to signify the start of the venture

- ◆ CALM enters a contract with Korea's biggest forest products company, Hansol, that will guarantee a \$30 million investment in a tree planting project in the Wellington catchment area. CALM is the manager for the project that will involve establishing woodlots on private land in partnership with local farmers.

March

- ◆ A draft management plan is released for Dryandra Woodland, a group of forest blocks near Narrogin on the western edge of the Wheatbelt, south-east of Perth. Dryandra is habitat for the State's biggest wild population of numbats and has extensive colonies of other endangered species such as woylies and tamar wallabies.

- ◆ CALM's wildlife, forests and conservation magazine, *LANDSCOPE*, wins three gold medals in the National Print Awards for prestigious printing and design.
- ◆ Yanchep National Park receives five more koalas from South Australia to boost breeding stocks of chlamydia-free animals already established in the popular park.

April

- ◆ Seven species of spiders, two cave shrimps, a snail and a native bee are the first invertebrates to be included on the schedule of specially protected fauna.
- ◆ Premier and Tourism Minister Richard Court announces the 640km Bibbulmun Track between Kalamunda and Walpole is to be redeveloped and extended almost 200 km to Albany as a major nature-based tourism initiative.
- ◆ Plans also are revealed for a tree tops walk and major upgrading of facilities in the Valley of the Giants tingle forest north-east of Walpole.
- ◆ A major five-year study into the effects of timber harvesting on mammals such as numbats, chuditch and forest birds gets under way in Kingston forest block near Manjimup.

May

- ◆ Work begins on a goat-proof fence at Shark Bay following a successful goat shoot earlier in the year. This is a further stage in a long-term plan to make Peron Peninsula a haven for native animals.
- ◆ Construction gets under way on a boardwalk at Hamelin Pool to protect Shark Bay's unique stromatolites. New information signs and a redeveloped carpark are other initiatives in a program to improve visitor facilities at the site.
- ◆ An independent review into the Department's fire management strategy is released. The review strongly endorses CALM's use of prescribed burning to reduce fuels in the forest and lessen the hazard wildfires pose to life and property. It finds that CALM's existing strategy is not having a detrimental impact on native wildlife. The review expresses concern that the fuel hazard reduction burning program has dropped behind schedule and recommends the number of CALM fire crews be increased. It also urges greater use of the Wildfire Threat Analysis in preparing strategies for community protection in the south-west forests.



With 38 staff taking voluntary retirement-redundancy packages in April, CALM takes on a leaner look. Debbie Jones (centre), (with husband Mark standing left) is farewelled by colleagues, Simon Hancocks (right), Shirley Dennett (seated left) and Mark Brabazon (seated right).



Operation Foxglove had its share of 'backroom boys'. Project leader John Forster (left) and project manager Roy Fieldgate check an Operation Foxglove map at the inkjet colour plotter.

year that was ... 1994



In September, CALM's Director of the Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit Dr Andrew Burbidge prepares to release a western swamp tortoise at Twin Swamps, while UWA Biologist Dr Gerald Kuchling waits with tracking equipment. The release is part of a combined effort between CALM, UWA, Perth Zoo and Curtin University to bring back the species from the brink of extinction.

- Eighteen chuditch are released into Julimar Conservation Park, near Bindoon. The animals will join the 60 or so adults that previously were released in the park.
- The northern jarrah forest native wildlife recovery program, Operation Foxglove enters its second phase with aerial bombing runs dropping dried meat baits over almost 500 000 hectares of forest between Julimar and Collie. Foxglove has gained widespread public support as a conservation measure.

June

- Visitor fees into national parks are to be standardised. The revenue will be used in the parks or districts in which they are collected. Fees already exist for Walyunga, Yanchep and John Forrest National Parks.
- A tender is awarded for the first stage of the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup. The centre will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn of the history, values and uses of the forest.
- In the fight against dieback, CALM closes 30 000 hectares in the Stirling Range National Park to public access. The closed area is relatively free of dieback and the measure is to prevent the spread of Phytophthora, which

causes the disease. CALM uses the chemical phosphonate to treat populations of plants susceptible to the disease.

- A collaborative captive breeding program between licenced bird fanciers and CALM results in 37 naretha bluebonnets being made available to the public by tender. The revenue has been placed in the Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund and will be used for further conservation programs.

July

- The State's first comprehensive strategy for conserving the marine environment is announced along with the release of a major report on 70 coastal areas worthy of further investigation as marine conservation areas. A ban on drilling and the production of petroleum and gas within the entire Ningaloo Marine Park also is announced. The strategy also involves setting up a special Marine Parks Authority which will be the vesting agency for marine reserves. CALM will establish a marine branch and provide the day-to-day management of the reserves.

August

- The Ibis Aerial Highway - a major tourism

initiative developed by CALM and local tourism operators in the Kimberley - is launched by Premier Richard Court.

- The 10-year management plan for the John Forrest National Park, prepared by CALM on behalf of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, is released.
- A review of the State's schedule of declared rare flora results in the addition of 13 species and the removal of 12.

September

- Executive Director Syd Shea says Albany will become a key player in the State's wood fibre export trade from 1998 when 300 000 tonnes of chips worth more than \$25 million are shipped from the town's port.

- CALM announces immediate changes to the feeding regimes of the Monkey Mia dolphins following a report on the mortality of unweaned animals. The report, prepared by former Director of Nature Conservation Dr Barry Wilson, followed concern by CALM that existing practices may be jeopardising the survival of the dolphins.

October

- A \$4.5 million plan over 10 years is released to conserve the Toolibin Lake wetlands east of Narrogin. It is the first recovery plan prepared for a threatened community.
- CALM announces it will spend \$343 000 to employ and train up to 60 additional fire fighters for both fire suppression and prescribed burning duties.
- CALM crews are kept busy fighting fires in Karijini and Fitzgerald River National Parks, in forest country near Walpole and the Beechina Nature Reserve near Mundaring.

November

- A new remote campsite on the Bibbulmun track in the Helena forest block east of the Mundaring Weir is built under an innovative joint venture between CALM and the Department of Justice. Prisoners, who volunteered to be part of the project, built a shelter, toilet, picnic facilities and 3.5 km of new walking track as part of the Building a Better Bibbulmun project.
- Tammar wallabies are returned to the jarrah forest at Batalling for the first time in more than 10 years.
- Western Australia's woodcrafts and furniture industry gains more secure access to specialty feature logs under a new series of long-term contracts with CALM.
- CALM begins fox baiting in the Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve in the eastern wheatbelt, so that native wildlife populations can be re-established.

December

- The Gilbert's potoroo is rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve near Albany after having been thought extinct for the past 125 years.
- Plans for a new research and management centre on Penguin Island in Shoalwater Bay are announced. The project has been made possible through a \$120 000 sponsorship provided by Western Mining Corporation.



In July, CALM becomes a member of Academic and Research Network (AARNet), the Australian component of INTERNET, enabling staff to tap into information sources worldwide. Carrying out tests on AARNet are Mark Debelich (left) and Alberto Bartolomei.



In July, CALM's presence at the WA launch of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week draws an impressive response. Yanchep National Park ranger Hardy Derschow gives schoolchildren advice on the nutritional values of witchetty grubs.



Training exercises need facilitators to set the scene. CALM Mundaring district fire co-ordinator Ross Mead (right), David Webster from the Bush Fires Board and Dave Mitchell from the WA Fire Brigade formed the trio that set the scene for Operation Darling Scarp.

Test becomes reality

THE first major multi-agency fire exercise in the Swan region - Operation Darling Scarp - soon became a reality as a big bushfire raged through the scarp threatening houses in the hills suburb of Bedforddale last month.

The exercise was arranged following from recommendations of the review panel that looked into the fire situation in the Darling Scarp (the Day Report) and the Lewis Review of CALM's fire management strategy.

CALM Swan region fire co-ordinator Bruce Harvey said the objectives for the exercise essentially were:

- ◆ To provide a realistic test of the control and co-ordination arrangements set down in the State emergency management policy;
- ◆ To provide a training opportunity for command and control arrangements for participating combat and support agencies;
- ◆ To promote public awareness of the fire emergency arrangements and the need for fire prevention measures.

The exercise also provided a test of communications, public information through the media, the role of the regional emergency co-ordinator, the regional decision making process and the co-ordination and setting of priorities of resources.

Representatives of the three fire lead combat agencies prepared a suitable scenario that involved a big fire in the Helena Valley as well as peripheral fires and other events such as a hazardous chemical spill.

Bruce said while the exercise highlighted some short-comings, it was particularly successful in that it was the first time key agencies

had physically met to discuss control and co-ordination arrangements.

"What we didn't suspect was that in less than 24 hours, we'd be faced with a real situation where the regional management system would have to be swung into action," he said.

The Bedforddale fire was one of a number of incidents in the Swan Region on December 9 - a day that marked the beginning of a hectic 72 hours for CALM fire crews.

Bruce and Swan region manager Alan Walker formed the CALM contingent of the management team at the BFB's regional headquarters at South Guildford, ironically the site of the exercise the previous day.

Mundaring district fire co-ordinator Ross Mead was appointed planning officer on the Incident Control team.

CALM crews from Mundaring and Dwellingup also were on the fire face.

Meanwhile, Perth district manager Alan Briggs had his own hands full as CALM crews from Perth were called out late on Friday afternoon to respond to a wildfire in the Gngangara plantations.

"The regional emergency management structure gave us direct personal contact with other agencies such as the Police, SES, WAFB and the Bush Fires Board," Bruce said.

"It meant all the agencies were fully aware of what was happening and the resources we had in reserve.

"It certainly is something that will be used more in the future as the various fire fighting authorities are committed in a multi-fire situation in the Swan region."

A CALM FIRE SPEC

Dear diary, wrote letters, re

By Mike Lyons

THE normally peaceful surroundings of the Woodvale Wildlife Research Centre were transformed recently when fire swept through the reserve and threatened the buildings.

The fire originated on the western side of Mitchell Freeway in the Water Authority reserve.

Woodvale staff members Tony Start, Mike Churches and Brent Johnson were monitoring events when spotting across the Mitchell Freeway soon spread to the verge adjacent to the south-western edge of the Woodvale Reserve.

By this stage two light fire units from the centre had arrived and, with the WAFB, attempted to restrict the fire to the verge.

The alarm had been raised at the research centre and the buildings, roof and barrier sprinklers were activated.

Front office staff Raelene Hick, Lois Cade and Kylie Dyson provided base communications.

Aided by a south-westerly breeze, the fire jumped the boundary and spread towards the vehicle compound.

By this time, John McKenzie from Perth District had arrived, assessed the situation and withdrew Perth and Dwellingup crews from the Avon



CALM technical officers Peter Orell, Natasha Baczocha and Mike Lyons in burnt area at Woodvale. The previous day, they were battling six-metre

Valley fire to help.

With extensive spotting, the fire could not be contained to the south-western part of the reserve, and spread north along the western side of the reserve towards the ranger's residence and the research centre.

At the centre, fire warden Keith Morris organised staff to secure the buildings and additional personnel donned overalls and helmets to staff fire hydrants around the buildings.

WAFB ordered evacuation of the remaining centre staff

Bill Muir

quickly and

As the

centre, staff

CALM crew

tankers deft

The fire

arc the

Continuous training to ma

A MAJOR pre-fire season training program was run in the lead up to what has shaped up as the worst fire season for decades.

CALMFire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said the program trained up to 50 additional fire-fighters to support CALM's existing fire crews over summer.

The Department needs a fire-fighting force of at least 220 crew throughout the south-west forest regions in summer.

According to Rick, the decision to employ and train additional fire-fighters stems from the report of the panel that reviewed CALM's fire management strategies earlier this year.

"That report found the manning levels of fire crews had fallen below required levels and when

the concern of age and fitness of the existing crews is added, emergency measures needed to be taken," he said.

"The report recommended at least 50 seasonal workers be employed to assist in prescribed burning operations and wildfire suppression for 20 weeks a year."

The course was structured on nationally-accredited lines and covered occupational health and safety, personal protection, communications, fire behaviour, fire suppression tools and techniques, fire prevention, vehicle driving and occupational stress.

"Each trainee was assessed to ensure they are competent in the knowledge and skills needed to perform effectively and safely at wildfires and

prescribed

"CALM

skilled and

to bushfire

standard is

The fire

contrast be

ment protec

and suppre

The rep

than \$3 bill

addition to

other huma

of a unique

esting faun

sources for



CALMFire equipment manager Garry Kravainis, Mundaring district forest officer Ian Gale and tower fire spotter Kerry Gigante inspect the safety climbing harness at the new Bickley lookout tower.

Towers are back

CALM's upgraded fire surveillance effort with the reintroduction of lookout towers in the south-west forests and hills around Perth already has proven its worth with one of the worst starts to the fire season for years.

CALMFire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said the tower network, which stretches from north of Perth to Walpole on the South Coast, was upgraded to improve response times to fire emergencies.

The towers form part of a crucial link with rapid-response spotter aircraft to lessen the time between detecting fires and mobilising suppression crews, Rick said.

"In addition to that, they enable us to maintain constant surveillance while spotter planes are doing 'recces' over fires that have broken out," he said.

"In the past, once a spotter was plotting a fire, it meant calling in aircraft from other areas, thereby creating gaps in the system but the towers overcome this problem."

Environment Minister Kevin Minson and Emergency Services Minister Bob Wiese recently inspected the new tower built at Bickley near Perth Observatory on the Darling Scarp.

Mr Minson said the towers gave line-of-sight coverage from the pines near Yanchep to Jarrahdale and provided a panorama over the Swan coastal plain.

He said effective fire suppression hinged on early warning systems, well trained fire-fighting forces, well equipped and reliable heavy duty equipment and fast attack units, and rapid and safe access for fire crews.

Mr Wiese was particularly pleased towers were being reintroduced. He said as a former bush fire control officer in Narrogin, he well remembered the towers in the Highbury and Dryandra forest areas.

"There's no doubt they picked up fires often before we did," he said.

Standing,
pours ka
McAlinc

SPECIAL FEATURE

ers, report, and fought fire



Sha and Mike Lyons in burnt-out bushland only 30 metres from CALM's Wildlife centre. Photo by Carolyn Thomson

Fire warden
led staff to
and addition
over-
staff fire hy-
drants.
vacuation of
: staff th

Bill Muir ensuring staff left quickly and calmly.

As the fire approached the centre, staff using hydrants and CALM crews with heavy duty tankers defended the perimeter.

The fire front continued around the buildings to the north

where low fuel areas, hydrants and the barrier sprinklers provided protection.

Hydrants were under the control of Norm McKenzie, Alan Clarke, Keith Morris and Gordon Friend.

Once the threat to the build-

ings had passed, attention moved to the eastern boundary where the reserve adjoins residential areas.

At this stage a City of Wanneroo light unit and a rubber-tyred loader provided help to secure remaining unburned bushland and prevent the fire spreading outside the reserve.

CALM crews remained to mop up until 8 pm, followed by overnight patrols drawn from research centre staff.

Thanks are due to many people, in particular, John McKenzie, Greg Napier and crews from Perth and Dwellingup Districts.

These crews were extremely professional and highly effective in the manner in which they contained the fire and saved the buildings.

The WAFB and Wanneroo City Council also provided good support.

Finally, the Woodvale staff in addition to those already mentioned who performed well in difficult circumstances included Jim Rolfe, Natasha Baczocho, Peter Orell, Mike Onus, Phil Fuller, Paul De Tores, and Greg Keighery.

The training of Woodvale staff by Bill Muir during the year certainly paid off.

While there were a few tense moments only minor property damage occurred and everybody was unharmed.



Hazel Smith with the 'heroes of the Valley' - Eugene Winmar and Gary Doust (standing) and Doug Giles and Owen Donovan. Photo by Bruce Telfer

to maintain high standard

sting crews
to be taken,"

50 seasonal
ribed burn-
ion for 20

ionally-ac-
health and
ations, fire
techniques,
cupational

re they are
s needed to
ldfires and

prescribed burns," Rick said.

"CALM's crews are acknowledged as the most skilled and experienced in the State when it comes to bushfires and it is imperative that this high standard is maintained."

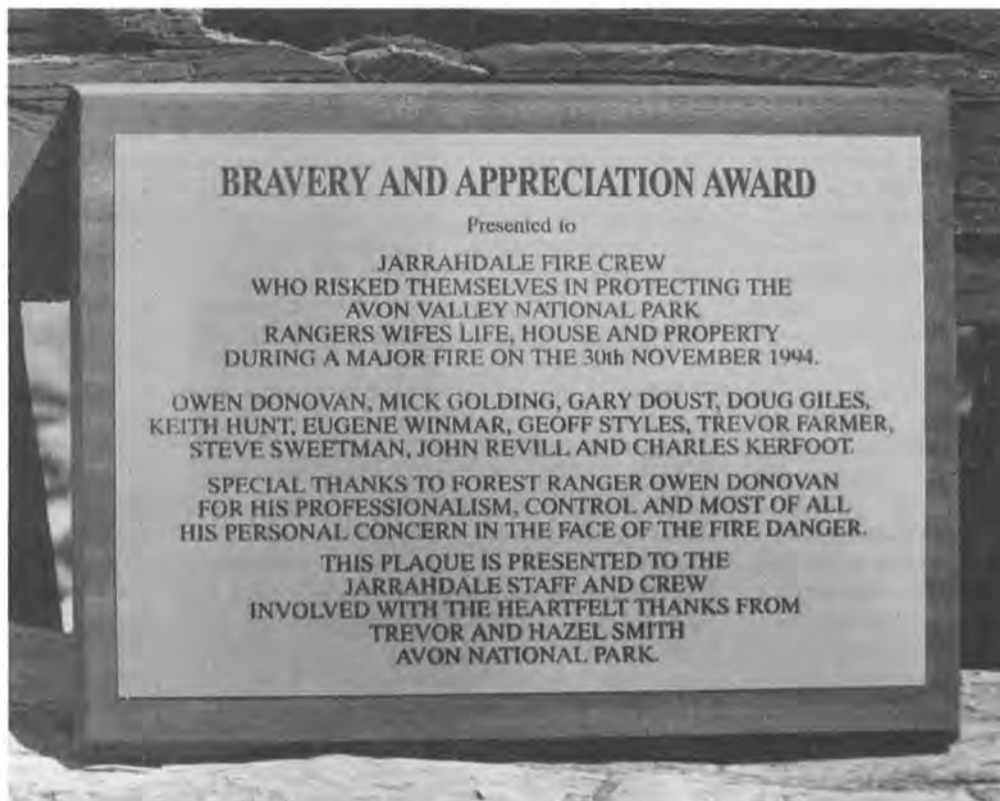
The fire review report also provided a key contrast between the value of assets the Department protected and the amount spent on prevention and suppression.

The report noted that that CALM protects more than \$3 billion of assets in forest products alone in addition to the values of nearby homes, villages and other human developments, the ecotourism value of a uniquely beautiful flora and enormously interesting fauna and the major drinking water resources for Western Australia.

Rick said the important role CALM crews played in protecting towns, farms and other community assets from wildfire was often not recognised. The Department currently was seeking extra funding to enable this responsibility to be met.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson said the Government was committed to ensuring CALM had an effective and efficient fire-fighting force. This was why the Department had introduced a range of other measures to improve efficiency.

These included the using helicopters, new look-out towers, global positioning system satellite technology and other computer-based decision-support systems that had been developed specifically for fire management.



The inscription says it all. Photo by Bruce Telfer

Time found for kindness

by Bruce Telfer

IN the last week of November, CALM's weather forecasts based on information from the Met Bureau pointed to one thing - blow up conditions.

By the Wednesday of that week, the prediction had proven all too true as CALM fire-fighters were about to find out.

The temperature was 38°C, relative humidity 10 per cent and the winds initially nor'easters, swinging to sou'westers before turning again to west-nor'west.

At 11.30 that morning came the first fire report. One had started next to the railway line on the south side of a valley in the Avon Valley National Park.

The fire was next to very steep slopes and the westerly winds turned what was a flank into a headfire. The eastern flank was inaccessible because of the steep terrain.

At around 3 pm, the fire crossed Governor's Drive and threatened the ranger's house. Ranger Trevor Smith was working with a loader building firebreaks at another point of the fire and his wife Hazel was 'home alone'.

Jarrahdale forester Owen Donovan and his crew were despatched to protect the house. Forester Ian Gale from Mundaring was to link up with a tracked machine and escort it to the house site as support.

Owen arrived just as Hazel was about to take off in her vehicle. After a few comforting words, Owen packed the Smith's pet parrot into the cab of the ute and together the three of them sat with the vehicle running and air-conditioning on.

By this time, the fire was spotting around the house from the ridge to the west. Overseer Mick

Golding hooked up Trevor and Hazel's caravan to his gang truck ready for a quick escape. The units sheltered in the lee of the workshop.

Owen was giving a 'blow-by-blow' description as the fire bore down.

"When the headfire hit, the fuel supply heated and the tanks vented," he said.

"The escaping vapour soon ignited but the crews cooled the tanks down to quell the venting fire."

After the headfire passed, the crews made the house safe.

Ian Gale, escorting the tracked machine, was caught in the headfire but found some cleared ground where he parked his ute - leaving the engine running - and sheltered under a blanket until the fire passed.

Ian then continued to work with the tracked machine.

The fire continued through to the early hours of Thursday morning when it ran into country subjected to a prescribed fuel hazard reduction burn only a few months earlier. Mundaring District senior ranger George Duxbury later spent time with Hazel and took her on 'tour' of the burned area.

Hazel appreciated the action of the CALM crews so much she had a special commemorative plaque struck and presented it to them on December 6. The crews were very touched with this gesture as it was a 'first' for them.

CALM rarely gets due recognition for this type of effort - in fact one Perth radio station called them 'fire brigade officers'.

But it was the training, professionalism, understanding of fire behaviour and the correct use of the fire control structure and planning that saved the day.



Standing left is Barry Cameron, helping Ian Cleary adjust his knapsack spray, while Jody Dover pours kerosene into a fire bug torch held by Alicia Oke, all under the watchful eye of Richard McAlinden. They are taking part in fire training exercises at Dwellingup. Photo by Tammie Reid.

lookout
is worth

es from
se times

ssen the

spotter

m other
m."

b Wiese
Darling

ranchep

ned fire-
ck units,

aid as a
rs in the

Big Brook Relay - the official version

THE eighth annual Big Brook Relay was run one Saturday in November under fine Pemberton skies.

The Kirup Operations District Staff (KODS) team was victorious for the third year running, with a record time of 1.32.58 - a challenge that is sure to spark fierce competition next year to end Kirup's run of dominance.

Cape Cougars (Busselton/Margaret River) came in a close second with Swans 94 (Swan region) finishing strongly in third place.

The Flying Matildas exemplified what the Big Brook Relay is all about; they thoroughly deserved the 'Derriere Award' for

by David Meehan

the hardest-trying team.

Fifteen teams competed, with the event attracting more than 200 people.

Matt Lloyd from KODS took out the match-splitting competition after a three-way split-off was required to separate the top contenders.

Second place-getter was the gentleman of the relay Brian Fitzgerald, with Kevin Hatherley finishing third.

Wayne Schmidt (who owes me a new axe handle) deserves special thanks for running this event in a truly professional manner.

The tug-of-war was won

by the Mornington team, when it pulled the Pemberton 'B' team the required two metres across the line.

The final event was volleyball and the Dwellingup team showed its class by decisively beating the Pemberton 'C' team 15-5.

As the sun dropped behind the 1930's regrowth forest and the dust from competitors heels settled, it was agreed that yet another successful Big Brook Relay had been run.

Pemberton district staff hope to see everyone back in 1995 for this great fun day.

Next year's relay will probably be held on November 18, so mark this day in your new diary.



The crosscut sawing event. Photo by Tammie Reid

... and what really happened

WE reckon it was rigged - with the Kirup KODS taking out the title for the third year in a row at the 1994 Big Brook Relay at Pemberton.

David ('Doc') Meehan, the Pemberton forest ranger who leads a team of dedicated people organising this great annual event, denies any local help and pleads with other workplace teams to knock these Kirup lads off their perch.

It dawned a normal day at Pemberton, with a little south coast drizzle creeping up into the karri country to welcome the 15 teams and their supporters to the dam.

The relay began with the crosscut event which saw the Flying Matildas, an all-female team from Crawley, who had been in training but had yet to

by Tammie Reid

use their trusty saw.

This proved to be their undoing and they went on to take out the much-coveted 'Derriere' award.

The cycle leg is a challenge for both participants and their machines, trying to remain on the gravel-road course.

Nick Wolfrey of Kirup did a scorching leg, and Ian Freeman, always a crowd pleaser, provided a spectacular sliding finish.

Woodvale entered two teams this year, but have yet to co-ordinate their team changeovers; it seems Tony Friend, the runner, was caught completing his 'change' in the men's toilets, (it'd better be the men's toilets!) when the cyclists pedalled in.

The Dwellingup Des-

peradoes kept their Canadian canoe under wraps until the last minute, when the secret design and trendy paint job gave them enough edge to overhaul most of the field before them.

In the water, health and fitness co-ordinator Linda Gilbert poured on the pace for the Wild Ones from Como, but it was still Kirup that struggled over the line to first position - a sweet victory for coach Brian Fitzgerald who came out of retirement for the event.

Predictably, there was a protest - this time for a definition of 'work experience.'

It seems that a nephew of a staff member in one of the teams suddenly found himself running as part of a work experience stint for which he was feverishly signed up by ob-

viously desperate people.

Swan region now intends drafting short-term unpaid employment running contracts - with the unpaid employee, not necessarily the contract, doing the running - for 27 minutes, with a time penalty clause for last-minute ring-ins next year.

The regulations will definitely cop closer scrutiny before next year, so the event will continue to attract good, healthy fun and competition.

After colourfully worded insults had been traded, and Academy award-winning acts of mock indignation died away, it was unanimously agreed that, once again, the Big Brook Relay was an unqualified success, greatly enjoyed by all, thanks to those worthy people from Pemberton.

Results

| Teams | Time | Place |
|--|---------|-------|
| 1. King Kats (Wheatbelt) | 2.05:43 | 14 |
| 2. Swans '94 (Swan region) | 1.37:20 | 3 |
| 3. Flying Matildas (Crawley) | 2.18:07 | 15 |
| 4. Desperadoes (Dwellingup) | 1.45:12 | 7 |
| 5. Woods (Woodvale) | 2.04:29 | 13 |
| 6. Valiums (Woodvale) | 1.51:13 | 11 |
| 7. EFFMBEE (Manj) | 2.03:31 | 12 |
| 8. Mornington Masochists (Collie-Harvey) | 1.51:09 | 10 |
| 9. KODS (Kirup district) | 1.32:58 | 1 |
| 10. Bunbury Bullets | 1.44:29 | 5 |
| 11. The Wildbunch (Wildlife branch) | 1.44:36 | 6 |
| 12. The Cape Cougars (Busselton) | 1.36:53 | 2 |
| 13. Regional Bards (Manj) | 1.45:22 | 8 |
| 14. Warren Wiver Wooters (Pembt) | 1.43:28 | 4 |
| 15. MJP Blackbutts (Manj) | 1.45:36 | 9 |

Return of tammars

by Carolyn Thomson

ENDANGERED tamar wallabies have been returned to the northern jarrah forest for the first time in more than 10 years.

They had gradually disappeared from the area over the past 10 to 15 years and now are found only at Perup forest, east of Manjimup, a few offshore islands and some nature reserves in the Wheatbelt.

CALM forest officer Rob Brazell said the release of 25 tamar wallabies at Batalling Forest east of Collie had been made possible by intensive fox control in the area.

The task was carried out by CALM Collie and Manjimup operational staff.

Rob said the tammars were captured from Perup and tagged and weighed before being released at

Batalling Forest.

"Capture of the animals was carried out by CALM Manjimup staff, comprising senior operations officer Rod Simmons, forest officer Tim Foley, and forest worker Brian Whittred, who deserved special thanks for a job well done," Rob said.

"A number of the tammars were radio-collared so CALM staff can determine where they go and how they use the forest.

"Tammars inhabit melaleuca and heartleaf poison thickets at Perup and Garden Island and there are several suitable areas of thicket at Batalling Forest."

Rob said the tamar wallaby was the second

species to be reintroduced to Batalling since intensive fox baiting began there three-and-a-half years ago.

"Numbats have been released in the area each year for the past three years," he said.

"The reintroduction of tammars to Batalling illustrates what can be achieved with Operation Foxglove in the northern jarrah forest.

"Large scale fox control means that in future we may once again see tammars and other native species in many more areas of our forests."

The release of tammars will bring the number of endangered species at Batalling to five, along with the numbat, woylie, southern brown bandicoot and chuditch.



Dwellingup's Ian Freeman (foreground) finds time to grin at supporters, while Kirup's Nick Wolfrey concentrates on getting away to an early start in the cycling event. Photo by Tammie Reid

... and of dolphins

FOUR bottlenose dolphins stranded near Mandurah in early December were successfully returned to deeper water by CALM wildlife officers.

The mammals were trapped in 20 cm of water and mud by a low tide on the northern side of Peel Estuary between the old and new traffic bridges.

Before their release, the four young males were captured, measured, weighed and marked to

aid in future identification.

The four dolphins were taken by trailer to a nearby marina and released in to deeper water.

CALM wildlife officer Doug Coughran said that the dolphins, which seemed to be in excellent health, were released at the same time to keep the group together.

He thanked the City of Mandurah, the Peel Inlet Management Authority and the many volunteers who

turned out to help.

Bottlenose dolphins have a history of becoming stranded in the shallow waters around Mandurah. In 1990, 11 dolphins were freed from the shallows in Lake Goegrup by CALM officers and volunteers.

Two of the branded dolphins were resighted two days later under the bridge at the Dawesville Cut heading west. They were travelling with two other dolphins that weren't branded.

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 in 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 8,000 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.

New chairman

THE Governor Major-General Michael Jeffery has appointed a new chairman and deputy chairman to the Lands and Forest Commission.

Mr Leon Watt of Albany has been appointed chairman and Mr Pat McNamara of Gooseberry Hill has been appointed deputy chairman.

CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea continues to be the ex-officio member of the three-member Commission.

Leon Watt was the member for Albany from 1974 to 1993, during which time he was Deputy Chairman of Committees and a member and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

He was also a member of the Shadow Ministry, with periods as spokesman on Conservation and the Environment, Consumer Affairs and Elderly and the Retired.

During the same period, Mr Watt was actively involved in forest management, conservation and recreation issues in the State as a whole, and in the Albany region in particular.

Before entering politics, Mr Watt was employed in local government and the insurance industry and has been active in community affairs in the Albany region for many years.

Pat McNamara is a forester (now retired) of more than 40 years' experience

and was Acting Conservator of Forests from 1983 until the formation of the Department of Conservation and Land Management in 1985.

Mr McNamara received an Honours degree in forestry at Oxford University and worked with the British Forestry Commission, before joining the Forests Department of WA in 1953.

He worked for the Department at various locations, including Pemberton and Perth and has been a member of the Forest Production Council since its formation in 1985.

The Lands and Forest Commission is a statutory body, established under section 18 of the Conservation and Land Management Act.

It is the vesting authority for State forests, timber reserves and some other land specified in the Act.

Its functions include consideration of requests for excisions and changes of purpose of land vested in it; approval and submission of proposed management plans to the Minister, for the same land; monitoring the implementation of these management plans and provision of advice to the Minister on related matters, including research.

The outgoing chairman, the Hon. Barry Hodge, was chairman of the Commission for more than five years. The retiring deputy chairman is Mr Ray Perry.

Rare garden planted

PRIMARY school students and Wongan-Ballidu Shire Council members and staff recently joined personnel from CALM and Kings Park and Botanic Garden at the planting of a rare flora garden.

Representing CALM were senior botanist Ken Atkins, Merredin district manager Mike Fitzgerald, administration officer flora Mike O'Donoghue, and contract consultants Ann Cochran and Anne Kelly.

The garden, the first of its kind to be established by a local authority, displays a selection of some of the 60 rare and poorly known species occurring within the shire boundaries.

It is next to the information bay on the main road through Wongan Hills, and was established as part of the recovery plan for the Wongan triggerplant (*Stylidium coroniforme*).

The recovery plan is being funded by the

Australian Nature Conservation Agency and implemented by CALM, with help from the Wongan-Ballidu Shire, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Main Roads and the Water Authority of WA.

It is hoped the garden will raise public awareness of the significance of local flora and lead to the discovery of new populations of the rare and threatened species in nearby areas.



Merredin District Manager Mike Fitzgerald and Wongan-Ballidu Shire Engineer Peter planting a Sandpiper Wattle, *Acacia denticulosa*. Photo courtesy Central Districts Gazette



CALM Fitzgerald Biosphere Ecologist, Angela Sanders, receives the UNESCO cheque from Ian Anderson. Photo by John Watson.

Angela's work to continue

A MAJOR grant has enabled the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project in CALM's South Coast region to continue to the end of 1995.

The grant from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency was made available through the States' Co-operative Assistance Program.

In addition to further biological survey work being carried out in the buffers and corridor reserves around the Fitz-

by John Watson

gerald River National Park, it will now be possible for an integrated schools monitoring program to be established to include all schools in the area.

Fitzgerald Biosphere ecologist Angela Sanders has already established pilot projects with Fitzgerald Primary School and Ravensthorpe District High School.

Additional funds for equipment have been received through the Australian National Commission for UNESCO Small Grants Program, and Priority Country Areas Program (PCAP) funding.

As a result, schools at Bremer Bay, Gairdner, Jerramungup, Jerdacuttup and Ongerup will participate in 1995.

Studies will include flora and fauna monitoring at selected sites near

each school and results will be incorporated into the Biosphere Project database and shared between the schools.

Already, teachers are considering ways of integrating the project into the school curriculum.

Ian Anderson of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO recently visited Fitzgerald River National Park where he handed over the UNESCO grant to Angela Sanders.



Brett True, left, and Fred Mogridge tackle yet another abandoned car.
Photo by Russell Bone



Des Ryder, left, and Fred Mogridge send up a cloud of dust as they wrestle with a mangled piece of debris.
Photo by Russell Bone

Surely, a land of sand, sorrow and sore eyes?

ANGRY bees, a snake and flat tyres were just a few of the challenges that met five men contracted by CALM's Moora District to clean up the Wanagarran Nature Reserve.

The men were contracted through the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation (WAC).

Wanagarran Nature Reserve is located 20 km south of Cervantes on the coast adjoining Nambung National Park.

Fishermen, who once lived in several shacks along the coast, were evicted 10 years ago, but

by Russell Bone

they left behind piles of rusting car bodies, cans, bottles and other debris.

Day one, and the contracted men, Fred Mogridge, Des Ryder, Brett True, Stuart Mippy, and Noel Yates, travelled with a utility and trailer, to Cervantes where they took delivery of a truck, another trailer and a bobcat from Wheatbelt Earthmoving and Landcare (WEAL), an arm of WAC.

Apart from a particularly stubborn nut on the flat tyre of one of the trail-

ers, which eventually was dealt with at the CALM depot in Cervantes, the day was devoid of drama.

The next day, the five intrepid men and yours truly, with truck, ute and two trailers, drove out to the site, bumping along on an exposed limestone and sand track.

The day was warm, the air still, and thousands of flies clung to the men.

Their task was to remove 20 rusting car bodies, plus assorted cans, bottles, fridges and corrugated iron, and transport them to the Cervantes rubbish tip.

We had used the bobcat successfully to load car bodies onto a truck elsewhere, but here in the sand it proved almost impossible.

After much wheel-spinning and manoeuvring, at the end of the day only one car body, surrounded by cans and bottles, had been loaded onto the truck.

The next challenge was changing the flat tyre on a loaded trailer - using a crescent spanner to undo the wheel nuts - not the easiest of tasks.

The following day, we used a CALM tractor from Cervantes to drag the cars

out to the main track and load them onto the truck, but not without incident.

There were two well-established bee-hives in the car bodies and the more they were disturbed, the more savage the bees became.

They continually attacked, as the men gingerly hooked the chains up to the cars.

While amusing in retrospect, the reality was grimmer, with the men running down the track to escape, while frantically trying to shake off the offenders.

Everyone was stung at

one time or another, and sported the tell-tale swollen hands, eyelids, foreheads and noses.

Two of the men locked themselves in their ute - and who could blame them - they'd been chased several times and had stoically withstood numerous stings.

On another occasion, while leaning into a car body to hook a chain around the chassis, Fred Mogridge became aware of a large snake staring at him - eyeball to eyeball.

Fred let out an almighty yelp, leaping back several metres and becoming most

reluctant to hook up any more chains.

We even lost a car body off the back of the truck, as it inched its way over one of the limestone outcrops.

Finally, and with great relief, we watched the last two car bodies being driven away.

The men were then free to enjoy the hospitality of National Park Rangers - Cervantes Keith Hockey, (senior ranger) Lance Jackson and Terry Harrington.

They even managed a few nights' fishing, boasting some good catches off the Cervantes jetty.

Friends of the Porongurups bridging a Heritage Trail

THE safety and comfort of visitors to the popular Bolganup Heritage Trail is now ensured - thanks to the Friends of the Porongurup Range.

In winter when the soil became saturated, sections of the path were soggy and creek crossings slippery and hazardous.

The Friends bridged the creek crossings and built a boardwalk over the wet ar-

by Neil Scott

eas, taking only two weekends to complete a top-class project.

All of the timber sections of the boardwalk were prefabricated at the ranger station, before volunteers carried the timber to the site, where they assembled the boardwalk.

Where the terrain made

it possible, several sections were built one metre wide, with trimming and levelling of vegetation to one-and-a-half metres.

This was done to give those in wheelchairs access to the 800-metre path that meanders through both karri and marri forest.

The project was made possible by a volunteer community involvement grant, approved by Direc-

tor of Regional Operations Chris Haynes, enabling the group to purchase necessary materials.

This is the third foot-path improvement project completed by the group, and complements its weed survey of the Porongurup Range, presented to the Advisory Committee for the Stirling Range and Porongurup Management Plan.



Porongurup Friends - secretary Rachael Marwick and daughter, Doreen Scott and president Ann Burchell testing the bridge's weight-bearing capacity. Photo by Neil Scott

Multiple use is focus of draft management plan

A NEW plan will protect important marine conservation reserves in Shark Bay, leaving more than 700 000 hectares available for fishing and other recreational pursuits.

Multiple use is a major focus of the recently released Shark Bay Marine Reserves Draft Management Plan.

The draft plan was prepared by CALM on behalf of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

The planning team, which included representatives from the Fisheries Department, worked closely with the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Advisory Committee and the

by Carolyn Thomson

local community in preparing the draft.

The draft plan details management strategies for Shark Bay Marine Park and the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.

"These two marine reserves are of inestimable scientific, conservation and commercial value," CALM planner Andrew Hill said.

"Shark Bay Marine Park is the biggest marine park in Western Australia, covering 748 726 ha. The park supports one of the world's largest dugong populations and has the

most important loggerhead turtle nesting site in Western Australia.

"Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve is one of only two locations in the world with living marine stromatolites."

The draft plan proposes that the Shark Bay Marine Park should be zoned to meet the needs of all park users. The majority of the park will be zoned for general use, with minimal restrictions on fishing or other pursuits.

Eight sanctuary zones, three recreation zones and six special purpose zones are proposed in the plan.

The sanctuary zones

are areas with special conservation significance. They include the historic wreck of the *Gudrun*, the corals at Sandy Point and Surf Point, the hypersaline Lharidon Bight (near Shell Beach) and the fish breeding and nursery areas of Big Lagoon and at 18-mile.

Sanctuary areas are also proposed at Disappointment Reach to protect an area of the Wooramel seagrass bank and at Mary Anne Island, to protect resident reef fish species.

Fishing will not be allowed in these areas, which form only five per cent of the entire marine park.

The three proposed

recreation zones are at Monkey Mia, Little Lagoon and Dubuat Inlet.

Six special purpose zones are proposed to protect special features of the park such as Cape Peron, where dugongs and dolphins regularly congregate in the shallows off the Cape and can be easily seen from the cliffs.

CALM and Shire of Shark Bay are currently discussing ways to improve the management of Monkey Mia.

Following recommendations in the Wilson Report into dolphin management at Monkey Mia, the Shire is considering a proposal for CALM to assume day-to-day management of Monkey Mia.

This will enable the rangers to have a more clearly defined role in protecting the dolphins and allow them to participate in other duties such as management of the marine park.

The Shark Bay World Heritage Area in general is expected to benefit from these plans to give the rangers a broader role in conservation.

A separate draft plan for the integrated management of the World Heritage Area's fish resources has been prepared by the Fisheries Department and has been released for public comment.

The draft plan also recognises the need for improved research and

monitoring in Shark Bay's marine reserves.

CALM is currently working with the University of Western Australia to map the area's marine resources and is proposing studies on water circulation within the bay.

Other important recommendations concern information and education and a cooperative approach to management between the Shires of Shark Bay and Carnarvon, pastoralists and CALM to manage coastal use.

Members of the public are encouraged to comment on the plan and have until February 16 to submit their comments and ideas.

Albany staff star in whaleboat race

CALM Albany staff were well represented in the recent Albany Maritime Festival Whaleboat Regatta, which was part of Albany's Maritime Heritage Week.

Fourteen teams took part and included crews from HMAS Darwin, and the replica of HMS Endeavour.

In keeping with its health and fitness program, CALM managed to put together a crew comprising such awesome oarsmen as: Ian Herford, Terry Passmore, Gavin Ellis, Peter Collins, Laurie Anderson, Peter Fishwick, Kelly Gillen, Martin Lloyd, as captain, and one lone Bush Fires Board training officer Mac Johnson.

The CALM crew's average age was 45 years, so some solid work went into the first month's training, which was devoted to rowing trials, turning the boat around marker buoys, and generally enjoying the surge of new-found youth.

The crew reported feeling fit and confident when the weekend of the race came around.

The rules required that two boats at a time, line up parallel to each other and set off on a figure-of-eight course to the first marker 500 metres from the starting line.

Making a tight turn at the marker, the crews had to row the 1000 metres to another marker, make another tight turn and head

back 500 metres to the finishing line.

Two races remain indelibly etched in the CALM crew's memories

Race one and the CALM team lined up nervously, as its opponents, a relatively young Albany Rowing Club crew, drew up alongside.

Albany Rowing Club got away to a good start but the CALM crew made up for speed with native cunning; it had practised its turns (as well as a little rowing).

With Captain Martin Lloyd barking the orders, the crew executed an excellent turn around the first buoy, to end up several boat lengths in front.

The Rowing Club pegged back the CALM boat as it approached the second buoy, but once again a second great turn saw CALM two to three lengths in front, and although the Rowing Club was making ground (or should that be 'water?') CALM hung on for a most memorable win.

The second day saw the CALM crew racing to make third place, only to be beaten by a much younger, leaner crew from HMAS Darwin.

For CALM to reach fourth place was no mean achievement and the crew is to be congratulated on a sterling effort.

Perhaps next year other CALM crews might like to enter and

try to match Albany.

'Captain' Martin Lloyd gives us a brief background on the sport.

The Maritime Heritage Association is promoting a revival of the sport of whaleboat racing in Western Australia.

A whaleboat is an open-ended wooden boat about 8.5 metres with a beam of 1.82 metres.

It is rowed with five oars, three on one side and two on the other, and has a steering oar.

Designed for speed and manoeuvrability, the early 19th century whaleboat was a simple construction.

It was light enough to handle, yet strong enough to withstand the strain of being towed by a whale.

These qualities led to its use as a surf lifeboat in Australia and the USA.

The whalers were hardy, skilful men working in a highly competitive industry.

In the beginning of the whaling industry, fiercely contested rowing races became a tradition wherever whalers gathered.

The first reported whaleboat race in Western Australia took place on June 2 1837.

Whaleboat racing declined with the industry and it wasn't until 1988, that the international sport was revived by the City of Warrnambool, Victoria, which went on to win the Australian National Whaleboat titles in 1989.



Lined up before the start of the second day's race are, from left to right, Peter Collins, Gavin Ellis, Mac Johnson, Laurie Anderson, Martin Lloyd and Ian Herford. Peter stood in for Terry Passmore on the second day, while he took part in a bicycle race at the Porongurups. Campaign T-shirts were kindly donated by the State Emergency Service. Photo by John Watson



The finish of a victorious race, with the Endeavour replica in the background. Photo by John Watson

Perth Outdoors comes indoors

CALM's Kelmscott staff have put together a remarkable display to encourage people into the great outdoors - by bringing some of its wonders indoors.

Based on the Perth Outdoors philosophy of encouraging people to get outdoors and enjoy nature, the interactive display was created to transfer our message to the thousands who visit suburban shopping centres.

The four major natural habitats of the area around Perth - marine, woodlands, wetlands and forests - are represented in a number of exciting ways, all designed to encourage people to explore and discover their beauty.

In its first year as Perth Outdoors, the display was booked at shopping centres every school holiday period and it is already booked out for school holidays in 1995.

We decided to target shopping centres because we believed just about everybody visits them, usually on a frequent and regular basis.

To find out if our instincts were accurate, we

by Marie McDonald

contacted several centre managers and found that flow counters had recorded between 42 000 and 48 000 visitors a week; the biggest centre in Perth can have a flow of 250 000 a week!

That's equivalent to annual visitation numbers to our most popular national parks.

The display is now staffed mostly by Earth Carers (volunteers) and is coordinated by Larisa Vanstien (previously an Earth Carer).

It is a stimulating learning display that also acts as a training ground for our staff in communicating directly with the public, and an excellent medium for attaining feedback on the public perception of the department's activities in the area of interpretation and education.

Components of the display may be hired for festivals, fairs, and other departmental functions. If you would like further information, please contact Larisa or me on 390 5977.



CALM's Denise Griffith talking with visitors to Bullcreek Shopping Centre, one of seven such centres visited in 1994. Photo by Marie McDonald

How is your health?

by Linda Gilbert

SKIN cancer affects two out of three Australians - the highest rate in the world - with fair-skinned people being most at risk.

This doesn't mean people with olive or darker skin have no cause for concern; Australia is a country of intense sunshine, so they, too, are at risk.

Skin cancer's real danger lies in the fact that it can spread, either across the skin or to other parts of the body, if left untreated.

So, be sun smart and prevent cancer by observing the following practices:

- ◆ try to stay out of the sun between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm when the sun is directly overhead and at its strongest;
- ◆ wear a broad-brimmed hat, or a cap with a flap. About 80 per cent of all skin cancers occur on the head, face, ears and neck;
- ◆ wear a close-weave shirt with sleeves to ensure protection of the back, shoulders and arms;
- ◆ use a sunscreen that is 15+ and broad spectrum, and layer it on the skin - don't rub it in;

- ◆ apply sunscreen 15 minutes before going outside, and 30 minutes before swimming;
- ◆ sunscreen should be re-applied regularly throughout the time you spend in the sun.
- ◆ filter the sun by staying in the shade as much as possible.

Skin cancers rarely hurt; they are more frequently seen than felt, which means you should regularly inspect your body, head, neck and limbs, and get one of your family to check areas that you can't see, as early detection is vital.

Consult your doctor immediately if you find any one of the major signs of skin cancer which are: lumps, bumps, sores or spots that don't heal, or that change in size, colour, border shape, or that bleed.

The sooner it can be determined whether or not your spot or sore is a cancer, the sooner it can be treated, and the sooner it can be completely cured - with minimal damage.

Santa Claus arrives on time via vintage Mack

FESTIVE time at Dwellingup means CALM's restored vintage Mack fire fighting truck is wheeled out by Santa's helper and made ready to visit the local pre-primary school.

Christmas 1993 saw the Mack running out of fuel as it idled while waiting for Santa to do a quick change from his forest-er's khaki in to his distinctive red robes.

Christmas 1994 was better organised; the tank didn't run low, and Richard was still able to fit into the Santa outfit.



Forest workman and able Santa's helper John Chapman refuels the antique truck, while a sweltering Father Christmas, alias Richard McAlinden, looks on. Story and photo by Tammie Reid.

What's in a name?

NOSMO King, was the stage name of an English comedian who once told a radio chat show host that he adopted the name after seeing it on the double doors of his local pub; when the doors were open, the sign read Nosmo King, when closed they read No smoking.

What has this story to do with CALM staff? Not a lot, except as a slim pretext to introduce to you a competition to replace the word SMOKO, an endangered species in CALM now that the number of staff who smoke has decreased dramatically.

CALM's Health and Fitness instructor Linda

Gilbert is looking for a punchy, pithy and more appropriate name for the work break at mid-morning and mid-afternoon, when staff stop for a cup of coffee, tea, fruit juice, water, or just to stretch the limbs and get the blood circulating through body and brain.

T-shirts, kindly supplied by the Health Department of Western Australia, and sporting the slogan 'Towards a Smoke-free Generation' will be awarded to the first two most popular choices of name.

Two smaller-value prizes will go to third and fourth placegetters.

You can phone Linda

for further information on (09) 334 0397 and send your 'Smoko Change-the-Name Competition' entries to her at the Human Resources Branch, Como.

It's surprising how many people entering competitions neglect the obvious, so just be sure that in addition to the gem your fertile mind dreams up, you include your name, region-district-branch and your contact phone number.

The deadline for entries is January 31, 1995 and results will appear in the CALM NEWS edition following that date and in Fighting Fit CALM's Health and Fitness update, which is available from Linda.

Dad drops in for hot cuppa

CALM Dwellingup forest ranger Ian Freeman had a surprise visit recently when his father, a regular user of the Bibbulmun track, recently passed through Dwellingup.

Jim Freeman was into his 20th day after setting out from Walpole to walk the Bibbulmun, when he caught up with son Ian for morning tea on the hillside of the Murray Valley.

This is the eighth time Jim has walked a long section of the track and the third time from start to finish.

Jim claims he's clocked up more than 2000 km on the Bibbulmun alone, which is Australia's second oldest, long-distance walking track, and stretches

by Tammie Reid

from Kalamunda to Walpole - a total of 650 km.

"Back in 1976, I was walking down the street with my son and we saw the route of the Bibbulmun Track advertised in the window of a shop, so we thought we'd gear up and give it a go," Jim said.

On this trip he reported that the track was getting a bit difficult to follow in places because of missing markers.

He called in at the Dwellingup office to report on the condition of the track and learnt CALM had plans to revitalise the track.

The proposed alignment will retain only 17 per cent of the current route and will

be freshly marked.

The new route will have a greater 'wilderness' experience, away from trafficable roads, and will cover a wider variety of scenery and terrain.

Also, a proposed extension to Albany will make it 830 km long ... further for Jim to walk next time.

Some CALM districts have erected signs along sections of the track, explaining the interim situation and Jim recommends that bushwalkers contact local CALM offices before attempting to walk the track.

"I've not seen many people along the way this time, although a mountain bike crew stopped for a chat the other day," he said.

"They'll have a bit of a battle along some sections because it's definitely a walking track, so I guess they'll just have to carry the bikes; my 20 kg pack is quite enough for me to carry."

A word of advice to would-be walkers is 'prepare'.

"I practiced a bit for a couple of months, walking a couple of hours each day and building up the weight on my back," Jim said.

"Before setting out on the trip, my wife Mavis and I drove along the track, carefully burying food packs at strategic spots.

"I planned to camp next to fresh-water creeks, so organised my



Jim Freeman discusses with his forest ranger son Ian, and Mike Tagliaferri, the Bibbulmun track route he intends to follow. Photo by Tammie Reid

route around them."

Jim is a farmer out Merredin way, and this is his holiday for the year.

"I lived in Dwellingup for 20 years and walking

the Bibbulmun is a good excuse to come back for a visit," he said.

CALM's Bibbulmun Track co-ordinator Jesse Brampton said Jim's ex-

perience and that of other regular users would be taken into account in the revitalisation of the route.

Jesse can be contacted on (09) 364 0777.

Children enjoy hands-on lesson in fire fighting



Storewoman Taryn Linning guides the hand of a delighted little girl as she hoses an imaginary fire. Photo by Tammie Reid

TWO groups from the local pre-primary school visited CALM Dwellingup's premises recently, each group following up with a thank-you letter to the staff who provided the hands-on tour - forest ranger Ian (alias Sam) Freeman, stores officer Taryn Linning and forest workman John Chapman.

Here are the letters, unedited to preserve their charm:

Dear Sam, Taryn and John,

Thankyou for letting us look at the fire engine and using the fire hoses. Also we enjoyed blowing the horn and eating your fire ration biscuits and drinks. We all enjoyed ourselves. It was very interesting learning about fire fighters.

We went to the CALM office to learn about the fire fighters. We put out a fire with the hose on the truck. We beeped the horn and we went inside the truck and on the back of it. We raked some leaves up and Sam put on some firefighting equipment. We had a drink and some fire ration biscuits.



Swarming over the red fire truck was one of the highlights of the day. Photo by Tammie Reid