

# Don's retiring to volunteer for CALM



WHEN someone chooses to carry out work-related activities while on leave, we say he or she is 'taking a busman's holiday,' but CALM Central Forest Region manager Don Spriggins has taken this to a new level — he has embarked on a 'busman's retirement'.

After nearly 33 years of service, Don has retired from the paid workforce to maintain his links with CALM as a volunteer, and a forester who cannot keep away from his beloved trees.

Don became widely respected for his knowledge and enthusiasm, first for the forestry profession, with the Western Australian Forests Department, and later within its wider ambit after CALM was formed.

He is a forester to his steel-capped bootstraps and has a highly evident love of all aspects of forest custodianship.

Don never ceases to impress his colleagues with his sound, fundamental forestry skills, and is recognised as a great ambassador for forests and forestry.

He has promoted these interests throughout his long career that began for him as a young operations forester in his native Victoria, then at Dwellingup, Kelmscott, Harvey and Collie.

In the last decade, as regional manager of the Central Forest Region, he has been a driving force behind the development of forestry.

He had a particular interest in pine nutrition and had encouraged boosting production through fertilisation.

As a long-standing member of the Forest Production Council, Don was able to advise on strategic policy for the timber industry and other aspects of forest production.

Don is a keen member of the Institute of Foresters and regularly wears, with pride, the Institute's emblem on his chest.

His contribution has now been recognised with his appointment as a Fellow of the Institute.

He was an active participant in everything the Western Australian Branch of the Institute did whether it was as a major office

by Bob Chandler

bearer or planting trees in Foresters Wood, near Manjimup.

His love of forestry has, in recent years, focused on the need to educate the public who suffer from a welter of misinformation on forest management issues.

To this end he has been the driving force behind the Wellington Discovery Forest development near Wellington Dam to provide visitors with an objective and well-informed experience of forest values and management.

A Gottstein Fellowship to the United States in 1989 gave Don the opportunity to study the overseas approach to forest education.

He followed this with a holiday to the United Kingdom, and, judging by his extensive library of home videos, it seemed to consist entirely of forest visitor centres.

In retirement, Don is continuing to promote this activity as a CALM volunteer and is so attentive to the task at CALM Bunbury that we have not even bothered to take his name off his office door!

As regional manager, Don endeared himself to his staff with the gentlemanly and considerate relations he extended to all.

He is a dedicated citizen of the deep South West, throughout which he is well known to the wider community, and where he intends to continue to live — Bunbury in particular, being his favoured place of residence.

Like most male foresters in CALM, Don is blessed with an inordinately patient and understanding wife, Judy, who is well known in the Department for these sterling virtues — no doubt tried by years of fire duty, travel away from home and regular shifts of domicile.

Their son Pete and daughters Catherine and Julie will, no doubt, be able to think of plenty of important projects for their retired parents.

We all wish Don and Judy a wonderful and fulfilling retirement and we are consoled by the expectation that we will see them both regularly around the forestry beat.

