

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1995



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Premier opens Forest Heritage Centre

MORE than 300 people gathered for the official opening of the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup recently.

The world-class facility is set to provide a major boost for the fine wood industry in Western Australia and nature-based tourism in the Dwellingup region.

It is the result of a partnership between the Fine Wood Industry and CALM, with sponsorship from numerous State, Commonwealth and private agencies.

Premier Richard Court said people will look back on the opening of the centre as a milestone in the developing relationship between the forest, its fine wood crafts and tourism.

The Forest Heritage Centre combines a commercial fine wood gallery, a working School of Wood, an interpretive display area, and a series of walktrails.

It is built of rammed earth in the shape of a giant leafy bough, and each of its three leaf-shaped components houses a different aspect of forest heritage.

The biggest, central leaf is the School of Wood, which has just been accredited to offer an Associate Diploma in fine wood craft and design—the first in Western Australia.

The smaller, western leaf is the Forest Heritage Gallery, where forest-inspired fine wood products, and art and craft, are exhibited and available for sale.

The final, eastern leaf houses an interactive display area where visitors can learn about forest ecology and understand its diversity and management.

Environment Minister Peter Foss, said the centre provided a showcase for the rich grains and warm colours of WA's magnificent hardwoods.

"It demonstrates the value-adding processes that transform our local timber into unique, high value pieces. There is no doubt that WA can develop a fine wood industry that is the envy of the world," he said.

In the weeks leading up to the opening, CALM Dwellingup staff pulled out all the stops to have the centre, particularly the interactive display area,



Premier Richard Court tests the effectiveness of a plane at the new Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre, encouraged by Environment Minister Peter Foss, Murray MLA Arthur Marshall and Director of The School of Wood Malcolm Harris. Photo by Greg Wood. Another picture - page 2.

by Penny Walsh

walktrails and the old forestry cadet school, ready for action.

Coordinating their efforts, and providing the driving force behind CALM's involvement in the centre, was Education Officer Tammie Reid.

Tammie was singled out for special recognition by Executive Director Dr Syd Shea at the opening.

"She has been bubbling with enthusiasm for this project for two years, and it

is great to see her vision, and the collective vision of all those who have been involved, come to fruition," he said.

Those attending the opening were able to 'sneak preview' the range of forestry tourism and education experiences the centre has to offer.

Dr Shea said the facility provided a brilliant illustration of how forest management and use could be integrated.

"Timber harvesting, value-adding and marketing are brought together under one roof, along with a world-class fine wood training facility.

"And the high quality regrowth forest that surrounds the centre illustrates the nature-based tourism possibilities of sustainably managed forest—linking the natural beauty of the forest with the crafted beauty of its products."

Not far from the Forest Heritage Centre, another Dwellingup attraction to receive a boost from the Premier was the Murrinup Prisoner of War Camp.

The camp was included on the Register of Heritage Places and Mr Court launched a conservation review of the POW facility, as part of the Govern-

ment's "Australia Remembers" program.

The Murrinup site was the only permanent prisoner of war campsite established during the Second World War in Western Australia. It operated from August 1943 to April 1946 and catered for more than 1200 Italian and German prisoners and their Army guards.

CALM staff from Dwellingup and the Planning and Visitor Services Branch have been heavily involved in researching the camp and planning its management.

And then there were three ...

AMONG the great tourist attractions of the South West are the karri forests which were recently enhanced with the creation of a 'trilogy' of lookout trees.

Environment Minister Peter Foss last month officially opened the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree in the Warren National Park near Pemberton.

The tree joins the renowned Gloucester Tree, also at Pemberton, and the Diamond Tree south of Manjimup as the only lookout trees open to the public to climb.

Mr Foss said the tree had been renamed to honour the years of service Dave Evans had given to the people of the Warren as a Member of Parliament

from 1968 to 1989.

"Dave Evans not only represented his electorate for 21 years, he gave unwavering support for balanced forest management both as a Minister and a member of the local community," he said.

Warren MLA and Local Government Minister Paul Omodei said that although Mr Evans had represented a different party from his, he was pleased Mr Evans' services to the people of Warren and the southern forests had been acknowledged in such a fitting way.

The Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree has a tower more than 60 metres above the ground—making it the highest tree of its type in the world—with a rest

platform at around the half-way mark. There are 130 climbing pegs, and climbers are rewarded with magnificent views up to 40 km away when they reach the top.

The cabin, weighing 2 tonnes, could sway up to 1.5 metres in any direction in high winds.

While the tree primarily was a facility for visitors to the park, CALM also could use it as an operational fire lookout tower when windy conditions prevented the spotter plane fleet from flying.

Mr Foss said funding for the lookout trees had come from revenue earned in the region from visitor fees to national



CALM Executive Director Syd Shea, Environment Minister Peter Foss, Mrs Foss and CALM's Southern Forest Region Manager Kevin Vear at the top of the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree.

◆ Continued on page 3



This has been another year of change and challenges for CALM. In retrospect, of course, there are a number of things we could have done better but overall I am delighted with what has been achieved this year. If I attempt to list the achievements it is inevitable that many will have to be left off so it's better that I don't.

Many of you will have been aware that this year, an enormous amount of resources have been committed in an attempt to meet the Commonwealth's requirements for a forest reserve and forest management system. Protocol prevents me from commenting on the politics associated with this exercise, but I can say from my perspective one of the most disappointing aspects was the unprofessional and incompetent conduct of many of the large numbers of Commonwealth public servants we had to deal with on the forest issue throughout the year. I believe a professional and competent public service is a prerequisite for a civilised and democratic society. I am gravely concerned that unless there is a dramatic change in the philosophy and method of operation of the Commonwealth public service, the Australian community will suffer.

The good news is despite the fact that we were outnumbered (there are now seven Commonwealth offices of forestry in seven different Commonwealth agencies) we succeeded in achieving an outcome better than any other State on the forest issue. This, to a large degree, was due to the excellence of the CALM team of Alan Walker and Geoff Stoneman who were responsible for negotiating with the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, we can expect to continue to have to carry the lead weights of the Commonwealth public service and others who make no positive contribution to conservation and land management while we are experiencing continuing and radical change.

Throughout this year, in this column, I have stressed that as painful as the change we are experiencing is, it also presents huge opportunities for an organisation like CALM. At various events round the Department, I have talked about the three positions one can be in when confronting a tidal wave of change. We could be a timid board rider at the back of the surf, becalmed, constantly waiting for the right wave but never prepared to have a go. We could have half a shot and suffer the fate of those surf riders who haven't got their heart in the job and get thrown out at the back of the wave. Or we can be at the toe of the wave going full bore. It will be no surprise for you to know that I favour the last option.

While riding the toe of the wave is risky, it is the only position to be in if we want to control our destiny.

I look forward to working with everybody in 1996, and a special thanks for the effort that everybody and their families have put into making CALM so successful, and I wish you all a Merry Xmas.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

National park for the Wheatbelt

THE first national park to be created in Western Australia's south central wheatbelt region was officially announced recently.

Premier and Tourism Minister Richard Court said the new park, in the Dryandra Woodland northwest of Narrogin, ranked as one of the State's most significant nature conservation and recreation areas and would provide the basis for the development of the tourism industry in the Narrogin district and central south region.

"Dryandra is one of the biggest and most diverse bushland areas remaining in the Wheatbelt where most of the land has been extensively cleared for agriculture," he said.

"The area has a rich biodiversity with more than 800 identified species of native plants, 21 of the 46 species of native mammals that remain in the wheatbelt and 98 bird species.

"It is a bastion for endangered marsupials such as the State's faunal emblem, the numbat, as well as woylies, tammar wallabies and phascogales, and is one of the closest areas to Perth where people can go and see these animals in the wild. It is also habitat for the malleefowl."



Premier Richard Court and CALM Executive Director Syd Shea (centre) are flanked by CALM staff involved with the preparation and release of the Dryandra Woodland Management Plan and Sounds of Dryandra radio drive trail. They include (standing from left) Daryl Moncrieff, Sharon Hann, Steve Gorton, Ken Wallace, Karen Shaddock, Tony Friend and Tim Bowra. Kneeling are Anthony Desmond, Lotte Lent, Chris Portlock and David Pearson.

"The plant life, particularly the heath and shrublands, provides a brilliant display of wildflowers in spring, and attracts a range of nectar-feeding animals such as honeyeaters, honey possums and pygmy possums."

The new park will cover

more than 16 000 hectares with a further 3300 ha of the woodland set aside as a nature reserve. The remaining 8300 ha, which comprise mainly mallet plantations with pockets of sandalwood, will remain as State forest.

The plantations were

established as far back as the 1920s to produce bark for the tannin industry and, more recently, timber for fence posts and tool handles.

Mr Court released a management plan for the woodland and officially opened the 'Sounds of Dryandra Woodland' radio drive trail.

Along the 25-km trail, short-range, solar-powered radio transmitters broadcast commentaries at each of six sites. The broadcasts are picked up on the vehicle's FM radio.

Mr Court said the radio drive trail was an innovative approach to interpretation of the State's natural attractions, especially for visitors from interstate and overseas, and was the first trail in Australia to use this type of technology. Funding was provided by CALM and the Commonwealth Department of Tourism.

The information covers many aspects of the woodland including fox control and the recovery of the numbat, Aboriginal heritage and culture, bush fires, steam trains, timber

harvesting for tannin and tool handles, and the malleefowl.

The management plan, prepared by CALM on behalf of the Lands and Forest Commission and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, outlines initiatives to integrate nature conservation objectives with sustainable agriculture on surrounding farmlands and the development of a nature-based tourism industry.

"The 10-year plan forms the framework of a 100-year vision for this remarkable bushland," Mr Court said.

Under the plan, timber harvesting in the poor mallet areas would be phased out, and harvested areas would be regenerated to natural woodland.

"Landowners on surrounding farmlands will be encouraged to plant suitable hardwood species which not only will have landcare benefits, but also assure the supply of suitable timbers for the local industry well into the next century," Mr Court said.

Music in the treetops



Premier Richard Court casts an appreciative glance at the Nocturne String Ensemble which entertained guests at the launch of the Forest Heritage Centre. Photo by Greg Wood

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



The Forest Walk '95— John Forrest National Park

A short note to you to thank you and all your staff involved in coordinating what was a great initiative and a wonderful day for all who participated.

We have such wonderful public parks, gardens and wilderness areas that surround us here in WA, that most of us city folk know so little about, and therefore the efforts like that of Sunday 20 August, undertaken by yourselves, are much appreciated. Please keep up these initiatives.

Sincerely
David Ellis

We recently stayed at Mt Hart Station. The couple who are running it at the moment are doing an excel-

lent job.

Six other overseas tourists stayed on the same evening and were also similarly impressed.

Family tourism of this type is very impressive.

I would like to congratulate CALM on the job that they are doing.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,
Ian North

Ophthalmic Surgeon and Physician.

As recent arrivals to your State from Queensland, we are planning to get around and see as much of Western Australia as we can.

Having no knowledge of the local camping areas in the South West, or the rules and regulations for their use, we contacted your Bunbury office for help.

We would like to commend the service that your staff at reception provided to us. The information they told us was invaluable for our first camping trip down to the tall timber country last weekend.

The maps that we purchased from there were also very informative and helpful in getting to see all the attractions available.

The CALM employees at the Gloucester Tree were also a credit to your organisation.

As well as having top staff, we would also like to commend CALM for the excellent state of the facilities in the national parks that we visited.

It makes it very easy when travelling with two young children to know that you

can go somewhere and be comfortable with the surrounds and facilities provided.

As new residents of your State, congratulations once again, and thanks to all your staff for their assistance so far.

Yours sincerely,
Dean and Sharon Lomax
Bunbury.

CALM Classified

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

FOR SALE

Two black swivel chairs; one acoustic printer hood 400 mm x 700 mm x 1500 mm; one 4-drawer filing cabinet; one pipe-frame roof rack to suit 2-tonne flatbed truck; one Milford cargo barrier (1989 Jackaroo s/wagon); one tubular steel roof rack (1989 Jackaroo s/wagon) Phone Tania on (097) 717 985.

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WANTED

One dot-matrix printer for financial reports. Ph: Marie Michael on (097) 341 988.

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Many challenges lie ahead for Nambung

ACCESS to one of the State's biggest international tourist attractions - the Pinnacle Desert in the Nambung National Park near Cervantes - will be improved under a \$700 000 roadworks program in the park.

The work involves sealing a further 5 km of the main road into the Pinnacles and regravelling the remaining 6 km. This would greatly improve the comfort and safety of the road as well as ensuring it continues to be accessible by family vehicles.

Environment Minister Peter Foss announced the initiative when he released a draft management plan for Nambung National Park. The plan was prepared by CALM on behalf of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. It also covers three nearby nature reserves—Wanagarren, Nilgen and Southern Beekeepers.

Mr Foss said the draft strategy presented a tremendous challenge in terms of managing conservation areas to cater for many competing, and potentially conflicting, uses.

"The Pinnacles are among the most popular tourist destinations attracting 150,000 visitors a year," he said. "Recently, the desert achieved further international exposure when it was the site of a concert televised live to Japan, as well as the scene for a Japanese artist who raked patterns in the surrounding sands."

"The area also is among the most popular recreational four-wheel-driving spots near Perth."

"Other features include a plethora of squatters' shacks, a defence training area, a naval practice bombing range, a commercial fishing base, and the expanding township of Cervantes."

"The park and reserves provide habitat for three species of endangered native animals—the carpet python, peregrine falcon and Carnaby's black cockatoo—and several hundred species of native plants, many of which are susceptible to the highly destructive dieback disease, and other fungal diseases."

"The high incidence of visitors also increases the risk of wildfires, which pose

a threat to users of the park, the township of Cervantes and their environmental values."

The key recommendations in the draft plan include:

Excising part of Southern Beekeepers Reserve to allow for the future development of Cervantes.

Implementing the Government's policy of removing squatters' shacks by the year 2000, but providing suitable areas for existing licensed commercial fishermen. This will be done in conjunction with the Shire of Dandaragan.

Rationalising the existing uncontrolled network of tracks by providing designated two-wheel drive access to the major attractions.

Maintaining one 4WD track between Wedge Island and Grey.

Providing facilities such as car parking, barbecues and day-use sites at popular tourist spots such as Pinnacles, Hangover bay, Kangaroo Point, Grey, Wedge, The Springs and



Environment Minister Peter Foss with Safari Treks operator Ron Crane and CALM's Moora District Manager David Rose inspect a map of the Nambung National Park.

The Crescent Dune. Establishing designated overnight camping sites. Developing a series of bushwalks to take advantage of unusual views, landforms and nature study sites. Implementing a fire management strategy to reduce the threat of wildfires.

Mr Foss welcomed the contribution of the Lesueur-Nambung Advisory Committee and the shires of Dandaragan and Gingin in preparing the draft plan.

"Community involvement in managing our conservation estate is imperative," he said.

"Because of the popu-

larity of the area with local people and visitors alike, the draft plan is expected to attract a high level of interest throughout the community. This can only result in a final plan that will cater for all users, while protecting the conservation values of this remarkable area."

The draft has been re-

leased for public comment for two months. Submissions should be sent to the Executive Director of CALM, PO Box 104, Como, 6152 marked attention Nambung Area Draft Management Plan. Copies of the plan are available from CALM offices in Moora, Cervantes and Como for \$5.



Dave Evans and Environment Minister Peter Foss—Mr Foss officially named the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree in recognition of Mr Evans' long-standing support for sustainable forest management.

Then there were three

Continued from page 1 parks, as well as from timber royalties through CALM's forest resources program. He also opened a new bridge at Beedelup Falls in the Beedelup National Park that had been funded by timber royalties, park fees and a \$5000 grant from the Karri Valley Resort.

"This reflects the close relationship between forest operations and tourism, and the development of facilities will draw many thousands of tourists each year," he said.

Lastly, Mr Foss launched a new CALM publication—*Karri Country*—which would enhance the experiences of visitors to

the karri forests.

The newspaper covered the major tourism attractions and described how the southern forests were managed for many purposes including recreation, water catchment protection, nature conservation, fire protection as well as timber production.

"The extensive conservation network throughout the karri forests, with more than 46 per cent in national parks, nature reserves and special protection zones such as alongside roads, rivers and streams, will ensure these forests will continue to offer an incredible tourism experience for generations to

come," Mr Foss said.

"The development of facilities such as the lookout trees, and proposed developments such as the Great Forest Trees Drive in the Shannon National Park, the Tingle Canopy Walk in the Valley of the Giants and the Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup is part of CALM's \$4 million tourist and recreation program to provide visitors with experiences they will find only in Australia."

"This will help diversify and strengthen the economies of the towns throughout the Warren region leading to long term, jobs in the timber, forests and tourism industries."

\$10 million upgrade for firefighting fleet

FIREfighting resources in the south west forests will undergo a \$10 million upgrading as CALM replaces its ageing fleet of tankers.

Environment Minister Peter Foss said CALMfire's 100 heavy duty tankers would be replaced over a 10-year period with new units that had been specifically designed for maximum efficiency and safer working conditions for fire crews.

The first of the units are being built at South West Fire Unit Fabrications in Collie. The company is run by former CALM staff members Glyn Yates, Colin Giles and Gary Blakemore.

Mr Foss announced the upgrading following a visit to Operation Fireshield, a joint exercise to test the emergency management system for the Swan region, which includes the metropolitan area and the Darling Scarp.

The exercise, involving CALMfire, the Bush Fires Board, the WA Fire and Rescue Service, Police and

State Emergency Service, involved a series of 'wildfires' in the Helena Valley, Gnangara and the hills behind Armadale.

Mr Foss said CALMfire's upgrading program also included improving crew safety with new, two-piece protective suits, which were designed using the results of extensive research into clothing for fire fighters in Australian conditions.

CALMfire also would use a new mobile control unit as a command and communications post during major prescribed burns and wildfires.

Mr Foss said the new tankers were much more streamlined than the old pumpers.

The low-lines of the tankers gave crews much better visibility and manoeuvrability in the bush, and eliminated unsafe working practices that were inherent on the old units.

The heart of the new tanker is a Hatz Gaam diesel pump that can deliver 350 litres a minute

with a throw of almost 40 metres.

The pump draws from a 2700-litre fibreglass tank mounted on a 500 series Isuzu four-wheel-drive truck. Other equipment includes 100 metres of 19 mm reel-mounted hoses, 120 metres of 'layflat' hose, suction hose for drafting from dams, and a monitor which allows crews to use a water cannon to extinguish grass fires.

The first of the new units have been sent to Albany, Walpole, Pemberton, Manjimup, Kirup, Nannup and Jarrahdale. CALM plans to have 16 in service by January.

Mr Foss said the new tankers were part of an overall program to improve CALM's fire protection operations, which the Department had been implementing over the past few years.

"This program has also involved upgrading fire access lines, roads and watering points in the southern forests as well as a recommissioning on our

fire surveillance tower network," he said.

"CALM now has lookout towers covering most of the forest areas between Perth and Walpole. The towers are staffed throughout the fire season and are among the first lines of defence against wildfires."

"They enable CALM to maintain a constant lookout while dispatching aerial spotters to investigate reports of smoke."

Mr Foss said CALMfire's aerial spotter fleet now included six rapid response Eagles and seven Piper Super Cubs.

"CALM will be engaging up to 60 casual staff for fire duties this summer," he said.

"This will bring CALM's fire fighting force to more than 300 with a further 250 support staff and officers."

"The CALM fire season roster has been under way for the past six weeks and all district offices will be staffed on weekends between now and Easter."

Bunbury sees the light

CALM has jointly funded the provision of a new lighting system for night flying into and out of Bunbury airport.

The Department's Executive Director Syd Shea said CALM's fire operations branch, CALMfire, had contributed \$3000 towards the cost of a pilot activated airstrip lighting control system. The Bunbury City Council paid the balance of \$2000.

"CALM is the second largest user of Bunbury airport with up to five aircraft including our aerial fire surveillance spotters for the South West region," Dr Shea said.

"Consequently, Bunbury is an important airstrip for CALM, particularly during the summer fire season where it is used as a pick up point to get crews to major fires. "Previously, arrange-

ments had to be made with local people for the lights to be turned on and off. Last summer this had resulted in delays of several hours in getting crews to and from big fires in Gnangara."

The new system enables pilots to dial a discrete aviation VHF frequency to turn the lights on. The lights automatically turn off half-an-hour later.

"The landing lights are not only for CALM's use," Dr Shea said.

"The private and general aviation sector also will be able to use them."

"CALM is pleased it has been able to assist in providing a pilot activated lighting system at the airport. It also will have positive benefits for aviation safety and the tourism industry in the Bunbury region."

CALMfire gears up for summer



South Coogee Volunteer Steve Powell (second from right) discusses the Thomsons Lake prescribed burning plan with Greg Napier, John McKenzie and Brian Inglis of CALM's Perth District.



CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt, Executive Assistant Pam Sapsworth, Executive Director Syd Shea, Brian Inglis from Perth District Derryck Winter and Abe van de Sande from Kelmscott with CALMfire's strikingly painted mobile control unit. Brian, Derryck and Abe were among the CALM team involved in Operation Fireshield, a joint fire management exercise with the Fire and Rescue Service, Bush Fires Board and Police held in November at South Guildford.



John Carter (seated left) and Ed Bartosiak from CALM Mundaring and Murray Love, CALM Dwellingup, provided the planning information to the incident control team during Operation Fireshield. CALMfire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt and Executive Director Syd Shea caught up with them during the exercise.

CALM and local volunteer brigades carried out a prescribed burn in the Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve south of Perth this season to help protect native wildlife habitat and an adjoining housing estate from wildfires.

CALMfire's Perth district fire co-ordinator Greg Napier said the reserve narrowly escaped devastation last summer when a wildfire raged through the nearby Harry Waring Reserve.

"Thomsons Lake is one of the major wetlands in the metropolitan area," he said.

"It is listed under the

Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international significance, and a widespread wildfire would be quite devastating for the birdlife and the small native mammals in the reserve.

"As well, there is the new Kogolup housing estate to the north-west of the reserve which could be at risk if a wildfire broke out.

Greg said about 30 hectares of the 540 hectare reserve was burned.

"The prescribed burn generated a fair amount of smoke but the relatively strong winds ensured it was dispersed quickly," he said.

"If we didn't take the opportunity to reduce the fuel hazard in the reserve this season, the chances of an intense bushfire in summer will be increased greatly."

Mr Napier said CALM had carried out extensive feral predator baiting within the reserve. The Department also had erected a nine-kilometre perimeter fence as part of the move to control foxes and cats.

CALM officers recently had reported an increase in sightings of mammals such as possums and quenda (southern brown bandicoots) as a result of the feral predator control.



Taryn Linning of CALM Dwellingup, and university student Kim Brooksbank, who is on work experience with CALM, used CALM's new fire fighters feeding trailer at the Operation Fireshield exercise.



CALMfire's Gary Kravainis, Anna Maru, Max Folks and Branch Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt, staffed CALM's display at the Fire Expo in Perth. A feature of the display was a 'tiger tail'—a grasstree trunk prepared by CALM scientist David Ward. CALM is researching the correlation between 'banding' on the trunk and fire frequency.



Water Authority Catchment Management Officer Steve Wilke cleans up at a boot-cleaning station before setting off on the Catchment Carers' Trail. CALM's Acting Director of Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Division Jim Sharp waits his turn, while student David Chandler explains the need for walkers to clean their footwear and so reduce the spread of dieback disease. David is one of nearly 30 students who trialed the trail and is now a catchment carer. Photo by Bill Killorn.

'Catchment sharers must be catchment carers' - a new motto

by Kate Baxter

THE Catchment Carers' Trail, recently opened by Derrick Tomlinson, MLC, on behalf of the Environment Minister Peter Foss, is the latest environmental and conservation education initiative to come from The Hills Forest.

Fifty guests, CALM and Western Australian Water Authority (WAWA) employees, and school students attended the opening celebrations, which included addresses from Mr Tomlinson, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, and WAWA's Managing Director Mr Jim Gill.

Set for success

Already trialed by local primary schools, the project is set to be a great success.

Falls Road Primary School entertained visitors at the official opening with a catchment carers' song they had composed themselves, and some excellent art displays, reflecting the many environmental and conservation issues addressed on the excursion.

More to take part

The project will be offered to schools during terms two and three in 1996, and project coordinator, Liz Moore from Corporate Relations Division, is expecting at least a

doubling of school trips to The Hills Forest taking student and teacher participation numbers to more than 2000.

Jointly developed by CALM and WAWA, the Catchment Carers' Trail is an interactive walktrail designed to broaden understanding of forest management issues and their effects on the quantity and quality of water collected from forested catchments.

Effects on community

It illustrates the importance of protecting water supply catchments, and the influence sustainable forest management has on the wider community.

Nine interactive stations will cover topics such as salinity, erosion, dieback, fire, timber production, mining, nature conservation and water supply.

Along the walk are 11 clues to the different sharers of the catchment that the students must find and interpret.

Share and care

The theme of the walk trail is 'Catchment Sharers must be Catchment Carers.'

The walk includes a tour of the Mundaring Weir treatment plant and pumping stations and takes in the Weir's history, construc-

tion and use as part of an integrated water system. It is followed by a visit to the renowned C Y O'Connor Museum.

A comprehensive set of resource notes will be sent to teachers to initiate the learning process in the classroom, brief them before they arrive on the opportunities the trail provides, and suggest an after-excursion follow-up.

Activities link in with other school programs such as WAWA's water education topic sheets, the National Soil Conservation Program's Landcare for Kids kit, and CALM's successful Discover The Hills Forest education program.

Students can further explore their understanding of the need to protect and manage forested water catchments through the learning areas of Studies of Society and Environment, Science, the Arts, English and Mathematics.

The ultimate success and educational value of the trail lies in the important linkage of environmental issues within the framework of more traditional schooling... and students who have already taken part in the project give it a definite thumbs up!

Creepers attacked

ABOUT 45 people from a diverse array of community groups, local government authorities, academic institutions, and government departments recently joined about 20 CALM staff and volunteers to seek better ways of eradicating the noxious weed 'bridal creeper.'

Despite its attractive name, bridal creeper has an unattractive habit of growing rampantly and smothering native vegetation. But it is most invasive on roadsides, water courses and bushland remnants exposed to human activity.

It is spread mainly by small birds that eat its berries and distribute the seeds in their droppings.

Spreads rapidly

Since the early-1980s, bridal creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*) has spread rapidly through much of the southern Wheatbelt, coastal environments and parts of the forests of the South West.

It is now regarded as a major threat to the conservation of biodiversity of the southern ecosystems of Australia, and the burgeoning presence of this horticultural 'escapee' now poses a major threat to land

by Verna Costello

managers and communities were it has established itself.

Science and Information Division Acting Director Neville Marchant welcomed those taking part in the symposium, and introduced them to the guest speakers, who included an impressive gathering of scientists, from Canberra, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

Other CALM staff who addressed the symposium were: Greg Keighery of Science and Information Bioresources Group, Patrick Pigott from Science and Information Division's Bioconservation Group, Rick France, ranger-in-charge of Stokes National Park, and Murray Mitchell, district operations officer from Katanning.

Equally impressive speakers were Eastern Hills Wildflower Society's Joanna Seabrook, CALM volunteers Jill Vines and David Pike; and consultant Ben Carr of the Friends of Woodman Point.

Using case studies from South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia,

topics included the history, distribution, ecology, biological control, prediction of spread, management planning, and chemical and physical control of bridal creeper.

Lively discussion

A mildly controversial note enlivened the proceedings with Greg Keighery strenuously arguing that bridal creeper's genus name *Myrsiphyllum*, and that of the asparagus fern, *Protasparagus*, should be combined under the name *Asparagus*.

Some symposium participants expressed concern that some forms of mass eradication of *Myrsiphyllum* could adversely affect crops of the vegetable asparagus, but, as Greg argued, this would not happen with stringent controls put in place.

Just as odious

Something that was agreed upon, however, was that bridal creeper by any other common name would smell just as odious.

Symposium participants were given little time to idly ruminate as proceedings swung from the ivory towers of sci-



Bridal creeper appears to have taken over this group at the symposium. Perhaps they stood too long shaking hands. They are, from left to right, David Lamont, Patrick Pigott, Jill Vines and Rick France. Photo by Verna Costello

ence to the on-the-ground, hands-on side of the creeper coin, when CALM ranger Rick France told how he, as a one-man-band, persistently pursues the pernicious plant.

Operations officer Murray Mitchell, spoke on the planning, control and management of bridal creeper in the southern wheatbelt over the past six years.

Because of its successes, and the high level of commitment of a wide range of its staff, Katanning has become a model for other districts.

Potted history

The day ended on a brisk note with volunteers David Pike and Jill Vines treating listeners to a highly professional presentation—the potted history of the Bridal Creeper

Removal Project at Boomerang Gorge in Yanchep National Park.

Their presentation was enhanced by volunteer Susan Harris's expertly produced video. They described how the project began, achievements, methods of recruiting volunteers and keeping them motivated, and the effective use of the media to both generate awareness of the problem weed, and

to attract more volunteers.

The tightly scheduled symposium was organised by Patrick Pigott and David Lamont.

Meal and tea breaks provided opportunities for the free exchange of information and ideas, with those taking part learning from each other in what was agreed to be a stimulating, intense and thought-provoking day.

John Forrest NP interactive walk launched

NEARLY 1000 people flocked to John Forrest National Park on a recent sunny Sunday. They were there for one thing—the inaugural Forest Walk.

Four months in planning by Barry Hooper and other CALM staff from The Hills Forest, the event offered two separate routes and a variety of activities.

The routes—a six kilometre walk with a three kilometre extension for those wanting to go a little further—were planned to take in various aspects of the park that displayed key features of management, and staff and volunteers were sought to help organise and see that the event ran smoothly on the day.

Interactive walk

The walk was guided, but interactive, which meant people could set off when they liked between 10 am and 2 pm and walk at whatever pace suited them, while being informed about the forest, park, local history, fire management, dieback, plants and animals.

This was accomplished using 'talking points'—individual stations at strategic points along the walk where walkers would stop to hear commentaries from

by David Gough

CALM staff and volunteers.

At the first stop, John Forrest National Park ranger David Briggs told walkers how to recognise the various trees in the park, by using the leaves, barks and different-sized gum nuts; most walkers could identify at least three species by the time he'd finished his talk.

Dieback

The same pattern was repeated at each of the stations as we learnt about dieback from Dennis McDonald from Mundaring, the history of the area from members of the Mundaring Historical Society, and fire management from CALMfire's Bruce Telfer and Greg Standing.

But the highlight for my two children was hearing about some of the mammals that live in the park and stroking an echidna.

They, and most of the other kids, were fascinated by this somewhat secretive creature. Although I've been in Australia for more than six years, I'd never seen an echidna.

So when the animal finally managed to drag itself away from a bunch of eager kids trying to force-feed it with ants, we strolled downhill, beckoned by the appetising aromas of soup and damper.

After the soup and the damper, made by Heather Bailey, a former Queensland cattle station owner, we are ready to hit the trail again. The final two topics covered wildflowers and reptiles, and again the children enjoyed seeing lizards at close quarters.

The last part of the walk took us along part of the John Forrest Heritage Trail, which runs along the route of the old railway tracks.

Old bridges

We saw the waters of Jane Brook cascading over National Park Falls and the remains of the old bridges that carried the trains full of visitors over the narrow valleys until the 1960s.

Forest Walk '95 was well organised, and most participants had an enjoyable time exercising and learning about the park at the same time.

Based on its success, the Forest Walk is likely to become an annual event—here's to the next time.



Mundaring forest ranger Ian Gale shows Ben and James Gough an echidna. Photo by David Gough

CALM scientists bone up on presentation skills

CHOCOLATE frogs, butcher's paper, the Internet and World Wide Web are just a few of the tools we can use to communicate.

The effective use of these and other tools, plus numerous tips on what not to do, were conveyed recently to a group of CALM scientists from a wide variety of disciplines.

They had gathered to hear principal research scientist Greg Keighery, senior research scientist Matt Williams, and research scientists Ray Wills and Alex Chapman talk and demonstrate on *How to sell yourself for Science* (or *The Dangers of Presenting Science to a Room Full of Strangers*).

A few non-scientific staff who attended the symposium found that many of the suggestions could be applied by those from other areas of expertise.

Greg Keighery told us that science had acquired the reputation of being boring, therefore difficult, if not impossible to 'sell.'

Boring botany?

"But many would agree with Robyn Williams, producer and host of The Science Show on ABC radio national, when he said, "Botany isn't boring—only botanists are boring," and that accusation could be applied to many scientists in disciplines other than botany," Greg said.

He then entertained the gathering with an example of how the taxonomy of a commonly found Western Australian sedge, *Alexgeorgea*, could be pre-

by Verna Costello

sented in a memorable way. Space limitations prevent us from outlining each speaker's contribution, but the following are a few of the points covered.

Interpreting facts

We were told that scientists had a responsibility to discern the difference between factual information and interpretation, and they needed to interpret the facts to a lay audience.

Scientists' aim was to develop sound principles for the management of the environment, and to promote the application of these principles by communicating by the most effective means available.

Public delivery is a part of selling science and keeping it relevant.

But in doing so, we should aim to impress the audience with the message, not the display of large quantities of data on a screen that the audience could read later in the scientific papers.

The key to an effective presentation is to tell a simple story about the major points of what may be a complex topic, first of all, breaking it down into simple elements, then assembling them into a whole picture.

Use humour

Some of these elements could be emphasised with appropriate humorous comments, personal experiences, or jokes that make a relevant point. (Telling an



Alex Chapman, Greg Keighery, Ray Wills and Matt Williams evaluate their own presentation skills after running a symposium on that same topic. Photo by Verna Costello

Components of a message

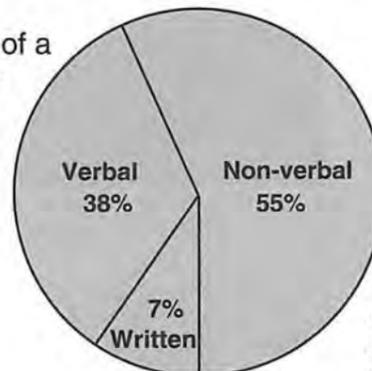


Chart courtesy TOT's Presentation Skills Course.

irrelevant joke might keep the audience awake, but it will also distract them from the topic.)

An audience may only remember two or three points from a presentation—if the important points can be presented in a striking and memorable

way, say by using humour or a good graphic, we've got our message across.

When using overheads, butcher's-paper flip charts, black or whiteboards, 35 mm slides and videos, we were advised to use no more than six phrases to an overhead, flipchart, or black or

whiteboard; the speaker simply enlarges on those phrases needing further explanation.

The use of handout material is another tool, providing it is not too big or cumbersome. (The example shown was that of an insect, petrified in a small

piece of amber.) Spoken or written words are infinitely more likely to be remembered, and what is more important, be recalled with more accuracy if they are accompanied by a clear, sharp, well-composed colour photograph, a video, or, where possible, passing around the real thing. (See chart below left.)

World Wide Web

One of the most effective and far-reaching of modern communications tools demonstrated was the Internet, and especially the World Wide Web which incorporates graphics and sound with information.

One outstanding advantage is that when the audience wants backup information, it can be called up via the Web.

Forethought needed

With forethought, any information prepared with computers for presentation at a seminar could be easily transformed into Web pages, on a local network, or across the Internet.

But it is equally important that a great deal of care is taken in the preparation, and the rules for an effective presentation still apply.

The trap is in thinking that simply churning out masses of data was all that was required.

Here, Science and Information Division Acting Director Neville Marchant offered a timely warning on the seductiveness of the medium and urged that we didn't become so immersed in the technology that other areas

of our work suffered.

And what of chocolate frogs as a tool? They're used in a similar fashion as elephant stamps are used by a teacher who, to find out how much of his/her lesson has been understood, asks the class a number of questions relevant to the lesson, then awards the stamps to those who answer correctly.

The difference is that with an adult audience, the prospect of being struck by flying frogs, albeit chocolate coated ones, (usually hurled at the recipient) is hardly likely to draw a crowd, but the novelty keeps them awake and involved, and the speaker receives feedback.

Flying frogs

Those attending the symposium must have learned well, because towards the end of the afternoon the air became thick with flying frogs.

There were some, however, who insisted that 'choccy frogs are OK, but it was the sundowner immediately afterwards that really enticed us.*'

Recommended reading: Adamy, D. L. (1987) *Preparing and delivering effective technical presentations*. Artech House Inc.

Tufte, ER (1983) *The visual display of quantitative information*. Graphics Press.

*Note: One definition *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* gives for 'symposium' is: 'drinking party, esp. of ancient Greeks with conversation etc. after banquet.'

Making tracks - the birth of Forest Walk

THE concept of the Forest Walk was first discussed 18 months ago as a means of helping more of the general public to gain awareness and appreciation of the values of the forests close to Perth.

Although about 8 000 people have now taken part in activities at The Hills Forest, the Forest Walk was the first step to reach out to an even broader range of people.

With the emphasis on a fun day out for the family, the task was then to ensure that our messages about forest management came through clearly.

Mundaring forest officer Barry Hooper committed a great deal of time to researching the most appropriate site for the walk in John Forrest National Park with senior ranger George Duxbury. They had to take into account the scenic value, existing trails and tracks, features, length and ease of walk and its suitability to communicate the relevant issues.

Community and CALM specialists were asked to

by Kate Baxter

help locate the most appropriate positions for their interpretive stations—which covered fire, trees, dieback, wildflowers, mammals, history and reptiles—then to help interpret them on the day.

The St John Ambulance Brigade was available to provide medical help, should it have been required.

Once the trail was decided, signage had to be organised, and the proximity of the Parkville Amphitheatre made it an ideal starting point and convenient parking area.

Preliminary works on water crossings and the construction of steps were necessary to make the paths as safe as possible for walkers.

Campbell's Soups were approached and generously donated the soup served up in the extremely busy kitchen, where volunteers worked tirelessly all day to keep up with the constant demand for more soup, billy

tea and damper.

Participants also had the opportunity to win some spot prizes donated by Mountain Designs, which included a two-person tent.

Some of the route maps given out at the start had a silver star, and these were the winning tickets.

The prizes were presented by John Forrest National Park ranger Keith Tressider—his other jobs included rounding up four lost children and one lost grandmother!

Another sponsor for the Forest Walk was Smiths Snackfoods, who provided grab bags with colouring books and bags of chips for the younger participants, who were certainly perked up on receiving them at the end of the walk.

With arrangements in place, and signs and sponsors' banners all prominently displayed, Barry had left nothing to chance but the weather. Thankfully, amid two weeks of rain and storms, the walk day was fine and sunny.

What the public said: Unsolicited comments re-



Volunteer Maura Hinds, stationed near the Campbell's Soup kitchen, welcomed visitors, issued directions, and kept the billy boiling for those wanting a 'nice hot cuppa.' Photo by Kate Baxter

ceived on the day and the weeks following have been encouraging for Barry; they have been

positive and supportive, with suggestions offered for the 1996 Forest Walk, such as options for

shorter circuits, to cater for the elderly and toddlers. Different locations and more interpretive sta-

tions are already being considered. Like the forest, activity at the Hills Forest never stops.

Feral barrier for Project Eden now completed

AFTER 12 long weeks of toil at Taillefer Isthmus, the narrow neck of Shark Bay's Peron Peninsula, CALM Wanneroo staff Glynn Hughes, Dave Perkins and Simon Caunter have finished the 3.8-kilometre Project Eden feral barrier.

The custom-made barrier is a very important part of Project Eden.

It is designed to prevent foxes, rabbits, feral cats, goats and sheep from reinvading the peninsula, which is being prepared for the reintroduction of some of the State's threatened native species.

These small mammals once thrived in the area, but were brought to the brink of extinction by introduced predators and herbivores that monopolised their

by Penny Walsh

food and habitat resources.

As well as being a physical barrier to reinvasion, the Project Eden fence serves as a visual reminder to the local community and visitors that a long-term nature conservation campaign is being waged.

Overseer of the barrier building team was Glynn Hughes.

He has had plenty of experience in building fences before, but says he has never been involved in a project quite like this one.

"I think the strangest thing has been the variety of terrain we have been working in, everything from water to shell, soft sand and solid

rock," he said.

"The guys have also had to deal with the wind, sandstorms, flies and heat of a barren peninsula although there were some enjoyable and challenging aspects to it," Glynn said.

The end result of all the hard work is a state-of-the-art barrier that is just over two metres high, made from PVC-coated security mesh with a rabbit mesh overhang on the top and rabbit mesh buried on both sides at the bottom.

It will have a standard hot wire running across the top.

Included in its 3.8 km length is 400 m that stretches into the water at Shell Beach and 30 m that goes into the water at the Nanga Station end.

"We had to watch the

tides carefully—which was something new.

"It gets a bit dangerous if you are working in water anything more than shin-deep," said Glynn.

"We also kept a keen eye out for sharks. In the last week, Dave and Simon saw 'a six or seven footer' that scared the living daylights out of them. They didn't find out until later that it was a harmless variety!"

He said the response from locals and tourists to the barrier had been very positive.

"It really is quite pleasing to the eye, so I think the locals are relieved. Both they and visitors to Shark Bay seem to be very supportive of CALM's efforts to protect our native species."



Nigel Sercombe briefing 'the troops' before the buffer burn. Photo by Penny Walsh

Fire buffers installed

CALM staff from Manjimup, Wanneroo, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Denham and Monkey Mia got together for three days in September to install two fire buffers within Francois Peron National Park on Shark Bay's Peron Peninsula.

Coordinated by Midwest regional operations officer Nigel Sercombe the burns were designed to reduce the threat of wildfires sweeping the length of the park and wiping out Project Eden's valuable fauna reintroduction sites. Protection of these sites is critical to the success of Project Eden—CALM's wildlife conservation program.

"As well as protecting the flora and fauna of the peninsula, these buffers will

by Penny Walsh

provide protection to the local community and to park visitors," he said.

"They will also teach us more about how the vegetation on the Peninsula responds to fire, and plots will be established to monitor the effect of grazing."

The new northern and southern buffers have been strategically placed to take advantage of the park's existing landscape, including birridas and lagoons. Vegetation in the 100m-wide strips was rolled in advance.

"Modifying the vegetation structure allowed us to carry out the burn in mild conditions and still achieve adequate fuel reduction," Nigel said.

After the three days of prescribed burning, two fuel-reduced strips totalling 24 km in length were created. These buffers won't eliminate the risk of fire within the park, but will minimise the size, severity, and impact of any fires that occur over the next six to eight years.

It is intended to widen the buffers using open-edge burning techniques in March or April of 1996. This will increase their width to up to one kilometre.

According to Nigel, community response to the burns was generally good. "The local community was very supportive and I think they appreciated the fact that CALM was doing something to protect the park."



Project Eden Barrier builders Simon Caunter, Dave Perkins and Glynn Hughes from Perth District. Photo by Penny Walsh



Building a walk bridge over a creek on a new section of the Bibbulmun Track are REEP workers Matt Phipps (standing at front), Ron Stallard (drilling), Rob Stanley (leaning on rail), Murray Glass and Barry Burke (looking on). The logs on either side of the bridge came from the former railway bridge. Photo by Jim Green

Bibbulmun realigned

by Carl Beck

THE realignment of a section of the Bibbulmun Track between Karri Gully and Willow Springs, 17 kilometres east of Nannup, was completed recently by participants in the Blackwood Catchment Regional Environment Employment Program (REEP).

The work party was supervised by CALM Nannup forest worker Jim Green, and tasks included track selection, clearing, erosion control and bridge construction.

The new track follows overgrown firebreaks and old railway formations, where the

rails and sleepers have long been gone, and the bush has taken over to form interesting undulations through karri and jarrah-marri forest.

Future work by the REEP participants will include selecting and clearing a camp site and the construction of visitor facilities.

Soon after completion of the track, an official opening was held, attracting about 50 people representing CALM, the Western Australian Department of Training, Shire

of Nannup, Nannup Tourist Association, local media and members of the public.

The group heard from track co-ordinator Jesse Brampton and Blackwood district manager Peter Bidwell at the Karri Gully Picnic site before walking the 5.5 km to Willow Springs for lunch.

All who completed the walk expressed their enjoyment of the experience, with several already planning to walk the section again.

Anyone wanting information on this section of the track can contact me at the CALM Nannup office on (097) 56 1101.

CALM buys a station

THE conservation of areas in the southern Murchison has been enhanced with the purchase of a 60 000-hectare pastoral lease 100 kilometres south-west of Mt Magnet.

CALM has bought the Burnerbinmah Station lease as part of the Sandalwood Conservation and Regeneration Project.

The lease has high conservation values including good stands of sandalwood, wetlands and high scenic and

landscape values.

There are no reserves set aside for conservation in the southern Murchison, and CALM's acquisition of the pastoral lease will ensure representative areas are protected and conserved.

Environment Minister Peter Foss said the lease would be managed primarily to protect and conserve its sandalwood and other nature values. The station also had potential for nature-based tourism and

recreation opportunities.

He said the previous owners, Mr and Mrs Don Anderson, were to be commended for their good land management practices.

Mr and Mrs Anderson have agreed to remain on the station as caretaker-managers and help with destocking the lease.

Other works will involve feral animal control, fence maintenance, sandalwood regeneration and other rangeland regeneration initiatives.

Fire risks are reduced

THE small south-western town of Noggerup and farmland north of the town will be better protected from the threat of wildfires this summer, now that CALM has carried out a community protection burn in the surrounding forest.

CALMfire Central Forest Region fire co-ordinator Kevin White said the location of the townsite in relation to the Noggerup conservation park meant the burn had a high priority in terms of protecting private property as well as community and environmental values.

"CALM has developed a model called the Wildfire Threat Analysis, which we use to calculate the threats posed to sur-

rounding communities by wildfires," Mr White said.

"The analysis takes into account factors such as the risk of wildfires occurring, what the fire behaviour is likely to be, the values at risk—particularly life, private property and community assets—and how quickly we can get suppression forces to the scene.

"The likely fire behaviour in the event of a wildfire is particularly important. The intensity of a fire, and the way it will behave, is a combination of the fuels available, the weather conditions and the topography.

"Clearly, we can't control the weather or the topography. But we can influence the likely fire behaviour by re-

ducing the fuel available.

"The build-up of leaves and twigs in the 3000-hectare conservation park is at critical levels in terms of controlling wildfires in summer.

"For example, when the amount of flammable fuel in the jarrah forest exceeds about eight tonnes per hectare, wildfires, during normal summer conditions, can be unstoppable.

"Reducing the fuel loading by prescribed burning greatly improves CALM and volunteer fire fighters' chances of bringing wildfires under control.

"The fuel-reduced buffers also provide safe havens for fire fighters in the event of an unexpected increase in the intensity of the fire."

Australian Fire Service Medal for Gordon Styles

by Penny Walsh

CALM's ex Senior Fire Operations Officer, Gordon Styles, was recently awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his long and dedicated service to fire control in Western Australia.

Gordon retired in December 1991 after almost 44 years of service to the Forests Department and later CALM.

At the time of his retirement he was responsible for the co-ordination of fire management operations within all nine regions, which collectively cover 19 million hectares of CALM-managed lands including State forests, national parks and nature reserves.

CALMfire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt, and Bunbury senior fire operations officer Terry Maher nominated Gordon for the medal because of his contribution to fire management in Western Australia over four decades.



Australian Fire Service Medal recipient Gordon Styles. Photo courtesy The West Australian

Surprise, surprise!

They didn't tell him he had been nominated, so the first Gordon knew about it was when he received a letter from the Canberra office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

"I was very surprised and it took me a while to figure out what Terry and Rick had been up to. It was a great honour," Gordon said.

"I didn't realise at the time that I would also be included on the Queen's Birthday Honours List."

As well as having his name published in the newspaper, Gordon was officially recognised and awarded his Australian Fire Medal by the Governor of Western Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery, at a special ceremony at Government House in September.

Teamwork

He was applauded for his distinguished record of fire service and dedication above and beyond the call of duty, but Gordon was quick to stress that everything he achieved in his years with the Forests Department and CALM had been the result of teamwork.

"It wasn't an individual effort, and without the co-operation of staff throughout the department I wouldn't have received this medal.

Family support

"Above all, I relied on the support of my family. They put up with me being away a lot, and putting a lot of time and energy into my job."

Gordon hadn't always planned to be a firefighter. When he was at school he wanted to get into architectural drafting, but openings were limited.

"My father got me a job at the Forests Department (Manjimup) and it turned out to be the best move I ever made," Gordon said.

"Each day brought something different and I really enjoyed every minute of my time with the department."

Gordon says one of his most satisfying contributions to fire control over the years was the development of the heavy duty fleet.

"I had a large hand in the updating and standardisation of the department's heavy duty fire fighting units, and I believe CALM is now second to none in this area," he said.

He was also involved in the development of aerial burning

methods pioneered in WA, and the application of fire training programs for crews and officers.

Terry and Rick say he had a positive influence over hundreds of fire staff and employees over four decades; providing an outstanding example of devoted service to the community and the department.

Frightening fires

One of the most memorable and frightening fires Gordon encountered during his career was the infamous one at Dwellingup in 1961. He and his family were living in the town at the time and Gordon was involved in the fire from start to finish—including the Royal Commission that followed it.

"There were some pretty wild moments. I was just glad that we had enough time to get the families out of danger," he said.

On retirement, Gordon registered as a CALM volunteer, but says he has had little time for voluntary work so far. In a little less than four years, he and his wife have travelled around Australia twice and they spend their winters in Broome.

"I like to keep in touch with CALM, though, and try to pop in to the local office now and again," he said.

Facelift for Hamelin Bay

VISITOR facilities at Hamelin Bay in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park will undergo a major facelift under a new lease agreement between CALM and the private sector.

The first stage of the new developments in the Hamelin Bay caravan park will include a sewerage and waste water disposal system, a 30-bed bunkhouse, new ablution block, extensions to the kiosk, 15 overnight cabins, additional camping sites and walk paths.

The existing road, which runs through the caravan park, will be realigned to improve safety for campers and visitors.

Not only will there be a major upgrade of the caravan park, there will also be improvements to visitor facilities in the surrounding national park. These will include a redesigned boat trailer park-

ing area, landscaping, a new toilet block and a new day-visitor area, costing a total of \$150 000.

This work will be funded as a condition of the lease of the caravan park to Hamelin Bay Resort Pty Ltd. In all, \$450 000 will be spent in the next six years on improvements to the surrounding national park, including better access to the beach, car parking, landscaping and visitor facilities.

The lease was signed with the company in August and followed a call for expressions of interest from companies and individuals interested in taking over the caravan park.

Environment Minister Peter Foss said Hamelin Bay Resort's proposals were selected as they offered the greater benefit to the national park.

The arrangement was in line with the Government's policy of promoting private sector

investment in the State's tourism and recreation industry. Similar leases had been signed for caravan parks at Coalmine Beach (Walpole) and Waroona Dam.

The agreements under the lease represent a partnership between conservation and tourism.

These partnerships ensure that the values for which the national park was set aside can be conserved while at the same time enabling sympathetic development that will improve public and private facilities for visitors.

The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park attracts one million visitors a year, which means it is one of the most popular destinations within the State's conservation estate. Facilities throughout the park need to be upgraded to cater for visitors and to help minimise the pressure on certain areas.

Leadership program a hit with CALM women

FOR six months of this year, 20 women from areas throughout CALM took part in a leadership program developed by several CALM officers in conjunction with Edith Cowan University.

The program involved attending a series of workshops to identify and develop leadership skills and work on strategies to put these skills into practice.

The issues covered during the course related to all staff, regardless of gender, but women in CALM were identified as a key group that should be one of the first to take part. A second group, consisting of male and female managers, has since completed the program also.

"The aim of the course is really to explore and develop leadership capacity and establish strategies that both men and women can use to respond to the challenges and changes they face," said Tammie Reid, community education officer and one of the course instigators.

Specific objectives in-

by Penny Walsh

cluded improving leadership capacity, strategic networking, developing organisational influencing strategies, getting professional support for work-related projects, assisting career development plans and enhancing self confidence.

The program was structured around a two-day introductory residential workshop, followed by six one-day workshops and a half-day follow-up. An outside facilitator was used, and the course was designed so that strategies were arrived at collectively, as a result of group input.

The following comments come from participants in the first course, who recently held an open information seminar at Como.

"The course was all about feeling that you are part of the puzzle and identifying opportunities to fulfil your potential and make a contribution," said Yanchep National

Park ranger Therese Jones.

Louisa Liddicoat, a research scientist in the visitor statistics section, found it helped participants take a renewed look at the qualities that make a good leader.

"We recognised that we were all defacto leaders, and could work to develop our leadership qualities further—things like being a good listener and communicator, honest, dynamic, approachable and confident," she said.

Tracy Churchill, a landscape architect in the Planning and Visitor Services Branch, said the 'women only' dynamic quickly became irrelevant as people got more involved in the course.

"Sure, the fact that we were women was an issue, but it wasn't the only one, and it wasn't the central focus."

Interpretation officer Lotte Lent, from the Visitor Interpretation Section, said that the motivation behind various types of communication was one



Women in Leadership Course participants: Back row, Michelle Widmer, Caroline Brocx, Joy Borison and Lotte Lent; centre, leadership course facilitator Deborah Pearson (seated), Robyn Wilson, Therese Jones, Deborah Greaves, Anne Greig, Donna Green, Sharon Rouse and Femina Metcalfe; front, Jude Allan, Luisa Liddicoat, Jeanette Gilmour, Tracy Churchill, Deirdre Maher and, in striped shirt, Taryn Linning. Missing from the picture are Carol Dymond, Marianne Lewis and Marie McDonald

of the aspects that most interested her.

"Understanding the thoughts and feelings behind the words, and being aware of the different perspectives involved in communication are an important part of getting the job done," she said.

Femina Metcalfe, a cartographic officer with the

Information Management Branch, picked up on some important elements of control:

"We learned to take responsibility for our own work environment, and not hold back. It is important to be assertive and recognise the contribution and difference we can all make within our organi-

sation," she said.

Participants agreed that the course had equipped them with useful skills, as well as giving them new insight into leadership and the many different forms that leadership can take within the workplace.

Specific recommendations to come from the course dealt with issues

of human resource management and career focus, communication within CALM, and computer linking.

Following evaluation and further modifications to tailor the program to CALM needs, it is expected that more leadership courses will be held next year.

Kermit green's a sight to be seen - clearly

DURING a recent Fire Awareness Week, CALM staff in Albany were involved, together with the Bush Fires Board and the local authority's Volunteer Fire Unit, in a display held in the main street to promote various aspects of fire prevention and safety, including demonstrations of fire equipment and protective clothing.

Pictured is overseer Steve Kane along with the district's 3000-litre heavy duty unit which attracted a

great deal of interest from the public and local volunteer brigade members.

A black and white picture leaves much to be desired where the colour of Steve's uniform is concerned, but 'Kermit green,' which is what some firefighters have dubbed it, after The Muppets' puppet frog character, is a fairly accurate description.

With its bright yellow reflector stripes, the uniform is easily detectable both day and night.



Photo by John Watson

Rare plant rescued in the nick of time

IT was a fine, but cool day when a group of enthusiastic CALM and Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff travelled to the central Wheatbelt location of Cowcowing to save one of Western Australia's rarest wildflowers, the Wyalkatchem foxglove (*Pityrodia scabra*).

The group, led by CALM senior botanist Ken Atkins, comprised Wildlife Branch staff members Brenda Moran and Mike O'Donoghue, Merredin district manager Mike Fitzgerald and operations officer Mick Woolfrey.

This group was met on site by Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff Roger Fryer, Sophie Juszkiewicz, Dave Blumer and Tim Parker.

The need to save the rare wildflower from extinction had become urgent as plant numbers in the wild were precariously low.

Eleven plants were confirmed in 1987 but these dwindled to just one in 1991 and extinction seemed inevitable.

The Wyalkatchem foxglove has only one known location—Cowcowing.

Surveys over several years had found two additional young plants near the original location, but no further populations were discovered; little of the original habitat remained and the chances of this species recovering naturally were slim.

Population enhancement trials had been proposed by CALM scientists as a means of increasing plant numbers and providing some

by Mike O'Donoghue

insurance against extinction in the wild.

Management guidelines had been prepared and approved, and Bankwest's LANDSCOPE Conservation Visa Card provided the financial backing for re-establishment trials and to support Kings Park in producing the plants.

After some early difficulties, Kings Park and Botanic Garden plant propagation specialist Sophie Juszkiewicz propagated the species, using material taken from the wild plants.

One hundred and nineteen plants were produced from cuttings taken from the few remaining plants, and from seed produced by hand pollination of potted plants at Kings Park.

Following the successful propagation, Ken Atkins prepared a planting strategy aimed at maximising interaction between those plants with different genetic origins.

This would enhance their ability to cross pollinate and produce fertile seed, which is essential if the population is to be viable in the wild.

With the permission of a local property owner, fifty plants were carefully placed in a fenced area of private property containing two of the last remaining wild plants.

Each plant was watered and tagged, and individual site details were recorded for future ref-

erence.

Site monitoring will be undertaken to assess the success of the species' re-establishment.

A second planting was undertaken at a site 14 kilometres north-west of the original population, on a Crown reserve specially set aside for the purpose of establishing a population of the Wyalkatchem foxglove.

This reserve was surveyed and found to have similar habitat to that in which Wyalkatchem foxglove grows naturally, but no plants of this species were located in the vicinity.

With help from local property owners John and Llewyn Green, and Beth Booth, 69 foxglove plants were planted in the reserve in an arrangement designed to maximise the chance of cross pollination between the different genetic types.

Llewyn Green kindly agreed to monitor the progress of the new plants and provide regular reports to CALM.

The Department will monitor the new populations to determine if cross pollination produces viable seed, and if natural regeneration of the species occurs at these sites.

The Wyalkatchem foxglove has, at least for the time being, been brought back from the brink of extinction.

Only time will tell if its long-term future in the wild has been enhanced.

Fewer endangered plants

THE number of Western Australian native plants threatened with extinction has fallen according to a review of the State's list of declared rare flora. The latest list includes 271 species, three fewer than the number considered at risk last year.

The review, which is carried out each year by CALM and its Endangered Flora Consultative Committee, added two species to the list but removed five.

One of the new additions, Wundowlin wattle (*Acacia sciophanes*) has been found at only one location. This population, near Mukinbudin in the Wheatbelt, comprises 113 plants, and extensive surveys over several years have failed to find other colonies.

The other addition is a rare feather flower,

Verticordia spicata subsp. *squamosa*, which occurs in the Midwest region. Just 22 plants are known in the wild.

No species of presumed extinct flora was rediscovered during the year, whereas the three previous years' surveys had found 10 species thought extinct. The number of plants in this category remains at 39.

Plants deleted from the list generally are no longer considered threatened because they have been found in higher numbers than previously known, or are adequately represented in the conservation estate.

Four of the species were removed from the list for this reason but CALM will continue to monitor them to ensure they remain adequately conserved in the wild.

They include a wattle, a small poison plant, a fireweed and a bitter pea, all from the Wheatbelt. The fifth species removed from the list was a dryandra that botanists had determined was the same as a more common species and not threatened.

In announcing the latest list, Environment Minister Peter Foss acknowledged the role of amateur and professional people who had carried out the surveys for many of the State's rare plants and provided information used in the review of the rare flora list.

"The enthusiastic contribution made by CALM's dedicated rare flora volunteers and other interested members of the public cannot be underestimated," he said.

Combined with

CALM's systematic survey of rare and poorly known plants throughout the South West land division, and surveys elsewhere, these enthusiasts are helping document the status of the State's diverse plant species.

The results of the surveys are being compiled into management programs for each region in the State.

Since 1990, CALM has completed four of these programs covering the Metropolitan, Northern Forest, Merredin and Albany areas. Draft programs have been completed for the Katanning and Esperance areas while other drafts are being prepared for the Southern and Central Forest regions and the Geraldton, Moora and Narrogin regions.



Off-duty, Bob Brittain can usually be found working, rather than sitting, on a fence. Photo courtesy South West Times.

Fencing as art form

A razor-sharp axe, a frequently honed adze and an auger are the lovingly cared for tools of trade Valwood production manager Bob Brittain uses during his off-duty hours.

Bob, who is based at CALM's Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey, is one of a dying breed who like to build fences in 'the old traditional way'.

"Unfortunately, there aren't many of us left in the Harvey area, but my

son Ben is keen to learn the craft.

"He will be carrying on a four-generation tradition, using tools handed down through the family.

"I hope more younger people watching him work will follow his example.

"Although it's pretty tiring and takes longer, they'll experience a lot of satisfaction, both with the work and the resulting practical product.

"Tourists love to watch, so there's an opportunity to enhance the local tour-

ism industry."

"I like to recycle jarrah as much as possible, or use trees that have been blown over or toppled by lightning," Bob said.

Bob's home at Padbury Fields is handsomely fenced and he recently finished a fence at Stirling Cottage, a popular spot for tourists visiting Harvey.

He hopes to complement the 'heritage look' of Dardanup's tourist attractions by building old-style fences around several historic sites.

Educating the public urged

ABOUT fifty trainers from all States of Australia met in Launceston recently for the annual Australian Timber Trainers Association (ATTA) workshop and conference. State Forest Resources Business Unit senior training officer, Bill Towie represented CALM.

Significant speakers at this year's conference were General Manager of Forestry, Tasmania Bob Gordon, who gave an overview of the industry and its future direction. In brief, his message was that the global demand for wood significantly exceeds supply.

Mr Gordon said that the market was virtually unlimited and there was great potential for Aus-

tralia to grab as much of it as it wants. As an example, he told conference delegates of his recent trip to the west coast of the USA, where one company manufactured timber doors—nothing else—just doors. The company sells 50 000 doors on the west coast alone each day. It's biggest concern was ensuring there was a secure supply of timber to make the doors.

Delegates were also urged to make the education of the general public on responsible forestry management, and woodchipping in particular, an integral part of their training programs.

Another notable speaker was National Forest Industries Training Council Executive Of-

ficer Nick Murray who covered workplace assessments, accreditation, traineeships, and competency-based training.

Bill said the ATTA was about five years 'young' and in this short time had achieved a high profile nationwide.

"It has made significant input into the national competencies for timber harvesting, and is represented on two Australian Standards Committees," Bill said.

"It is involved with the National Strategy Project to improve occupational health and safety performances and is drafting criteria for national recognition of timber industry trainers."

Bill said the workshop had also provided train-

ers with a chance to share ideas and learn from each other.

"Forestry is under enormous scrutiny and pressure, so it's essential that trainers in the industry continue to share ideas and work together, not just because of the technical and organisational benefits, but in a world that is rapidly changing, we can't afford to be isolationist—we need to be seen and heard above the clamour of other industries, as innovative and by promoting forest industries' benefits for all Australians.

Last year's annual workshop and conference was held at Manjimup. Next year it will be hosted by Bainsdale TAFE College in Victoria.

What's new on the shelf

THE following recently produced publications are available from Stores Branch, Front Counter Como, or when out of print, from the CALM Library.

Leaflets

Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course (reprint)

Dryandra Woodlands - Information and Trail Guide

Experiencing Whale Sharks in Ningaloo National Park

Go Bush '95 Project Eden

Karijini National Park (reprint)

Swan View Tunnel - John Forrest National Park

Cape Range National Park - Visitor and Walk Trail Guide

Albany to Denmark Coastal National Parks Winter Firewood 1995

CALM Volunteers A Commitment to Customer Service (reprint)

The Dibbler Avon Descent 1995 Dwellingup and Lane

Poole Forests and Reserves

Mount Augustus National Park (reprint)

Seed Price '95-'96

Go Bush Spring '95 Availability and supply of Domestic Firewood, Fencing Material, Special Timbers and Craftwood from CALM in the South West - CALM Briefing Paper 2/91

The Forest Walk '95

Welcome to the Forest Walk '95

Looking Beyond the Obvious (Landscape reprint)

Forest Adventure Experience Spring 1995

CALM Briefing Paper 1/95 Guidelines for Management of Sandalwood on Private Property

Christmas Catalogue '95

Go Lightly (Landscape reprint)

John Forrest National Park

Lake Toolibin (Landscape reprint)

Mt Bruce Walk Trail Landscape Expeditions Flyer

Hills Forest - Sights and

Sounds of the Night

Books

CALM Science Supplement 2 - \$30.00

CALM Science Supplement 3 - \$30.00

CALM Science Supplement 4 - \$30.00

Wild Places Quiet Places (reprint)

CALM Science Authors Index Vol 4

CALM Science Vol 1 No 4 - \$30.00

Nuytsia Vol 10 No 2

Dive and Snorkel Sites in WA (\$14.95)

Exploring Wheatbelt Woodlands (\$10.00)

Booklets

Forest Explorer - Goldie and the Riddles of Life (reprint)

Exploring Arid Lands Project Eden

CALM Internal Phone Directory

1996 Landscape Calendar

Reports

Oral Histories Documenting Changes in Wheatbelt Wetlands - Occasional Paper 2/91 (reprint)

Science and Information Strategic Plan

Remnant Native Vegetation Ten Years On - Proceedings of the Dryandra Workshop September 93

Management Plans

Leschenault Peninsular - Draft

Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Albany District - Wildlife Management Program No 20

Wanjarri Nature Reserve Draft

Nambung National Park Draft

Canning River Regional Draft

Lesueur National Park and Coomaloo Nature Reserve No 31

Dryandra Woodland Plan No 30

Dryandra Woodland Public Submissions

Magazine

Landscape Summer 91-92 (reprint)

Poster

Arbor Day 1995

Magpapers

Karijini National Park Karri Country

Luke takes the rough with the smooth at CALM

CLEANING toilets, picking up rubbish, and collecting firewood to deliver to campers were among the less glamorous tasks carried out recently by Luke Hill, a Year 10 student at Eastern Hills Senior High School in Mount Helena.

Luke, who completed two-weeks' work experience with CALM at Denham in Shark Bay, took the tasks in his stride and said that for as long as he could remember he had wanted to work for the department.

More facets

Fortunately, he discovered there were more interesting facets of CALM district operations, and later he set them down in a report to Gascoyne district manager Ron Shepherd.

by Verna Costello

Here are some extracts:

Day 3: Accompanied staff to Monkey Mia and spent the morning patrolling the beaches to stop anyone harming the dolphins, or being harmed by them. In the afternoon I went to the Blue Lagoon Pearl Farm, where I spent the rest of the day catching fish for the dolphins.

Day 4: "Was taken out to Monkey Mia on the new CALM boat *Sirenia* with ranger-in-charge Rex Walker and mobile ranger Terry Bloomer, to prevent people feeding the dolphins from the boats. Saw many sea birds, manta rays, and my first green turtle."

Day 6: "Met Soula and Sophie, two Rhodesian

ridgeback dogs, used to track feral cats. Put up signs in various spots in Peron."

Day 7: "Up early to go goat hunting at Peron with project officer Ray Smith and park maintenance officer Arthur Pepper. We caught two goats."

Breathtaking cliffs

Luke was also impressed with "some of the most picturesque beaches and breathtaking cliffs." He discovered that Francois Peron National Park used to be a pastoral station, and had been home to thousands of goats and sheep, and that CALM had eradicated all but a few hundred because of the damage they did to the environment;

He set pit traps for reptiles and small mammals, handed out pamphlets to boaters, explaining why

they shouldn't feed dolphins, and saw a mother dugong and her calf feeding offshore;

On another occasion Luke went fox and cat hunting at a local rubbish tip, which the animals visit to feed and breed. ("We caught three cats, one of which was huge, and a rabbit.") He also helped check out the pit traps where "we found an assortment of beetles and insects, a gecko and a dunnart (a small marsupial)".

Summing up, Luke said: "During the short period I was with CALM, I learnt some of the aspects of how the department manages WA's national parks, and that without CALM's hard work and determination to save endangered species of animals and plants, most could be seen only in museums and zoos."



There are no flies on Luke Hill who is prepared for a day working outdoors. Photo by Ron Shepherd

A resigned Rob Rule

TO make sure he suffers frequent bouts of homesickness, a framed group photograph of Wood Utilisation Resource Centre (WURC) staff and management was presented as a farewell gift to timber utilisation officer Rob Rule, who has resigned to work in Victoria.

The photograph was decided upon also to remind Rob of the camaraderie and team spirit he and his workmates had enjoyed before his departure.

"We want him to feel as sad about leaving us as we are about losing him—and maybe he'll come back," said senior research scientist Gary

Brennan, who had worked closely with Rob.

Rob has joined the Victorian Timber Industry Training Council as a training officer specialising in kiln operator and timber-drying courses, and he will be working out of the Council's Creswick training centre, visiting sawmills around Victoria.

Many of Rob's colleagues and associates attended his send-off at Harvey, where CALM's acting WURC manager Des Donnelly gave a resume of Rob's work activities.

"Rob joined CALM after completing a forest officer cadetship in 1983. Since then he has worked in Wanneroo, Harvey and Manjimup

on various forestry field projects," Des said.

"He specialised in timber utilisation when he took on timber inspection duties, which was followed by his completion of the timber technology course at Bunbury TAFE College; soon after this he was the successful applicant for the position of timber utilisation officer.

"Rob later completed a train-the-trainer course and soon found himself presenting the kiln operator and timber drying course, in conjunction with TAFE, to people in the WA timber industry."

State Forest Resources Business Unit manager Jon Murch proposed a toast to Rob's successful and

happy future and said that he had been a valued member of the timber utilisation team, and his contribution to the timber industry in developing drying procedures and training of kiln operators was greatly appreciated.

"But apart from his expertise, Rob's friendly nature and his willingness to help people often meant his work load increased.

Thanking the speakers for their kind words, Rob also expressed gratitude to CALM management for providing a challenging work environment and encouraging staff to change roles within the organisation to gain knowledge and develop personal skills.

"But the training role in Victoria is too good an opportunity to miss, and who knows, one day I may be able to return to WA with new ideas," Rob said.

Forest resources marketing manager Terry Jones then took the opportunity to present a framed copy of the Australian Design Award for CALM's solar-assisted kilns, to be proudly displayed in the WURC reception area.

Terry thanked the WURC staff for their efforts in helping make winning the award possible.

"Rob's contribution has also played a large part in these successes, and we wish him and his family every success and happiness in Victoria," Terry said.



Photo by Richard Pemberton

Marian bootscoots into her retirement

by Terry Passmore

LINE dancing (sometimes known as bootscooting), water aerobics, gardening, bush walking and four grandchildren will keep a retiring Marian Hickson fully occupied for many years to come.

Marian Hickson, who retired recently from the responsibility of meeting Albany regional and district secretarial, receptionist and telephonist demands, started working for the State Government more than 20 years ago with the

department now called The Great Southern Development Corporation.

With the establishment of CALM, Marian sought a transfer to its Albany office and has worked there since.

Outside callers and CALM staff phoning Albany will remember Marian for her happy disposition and general knowledge of

the local area.

Work colleagues, family and friends numbering about 38 attended a farewell function for Marian at a local restaurant, where she was presented with a sterling silver brooch and matching earrings.

CALM Albany region and district management and staff will miss Marian for many reasons, among them her reputation for never miss-spelling a word, and being able to read the very worst handwriting!



Farewelling Rob Rule are, from left to right, technical assistants Elaine Smith and Judy Pitcher, administration assistant Emily Humble, and value-adding production officer Kristy Brittain. Photo by Terry Jones

Tourist shop opens

by Les Harris

TO help the district to become more financially self sufficient, Exmouth district staff have ventured into the retail business at Milyering Visitor Centre in Cape Range National Park.

Visitors to the centre have been steadily increasing over the years and with them, requests for light refreshments, saleable souvenir items, disposable cameras and sunscreen.

Because the centre is situated 52 kilometres from the town of Exmouth, it is an ideal site to cater for the specific needs of the traveller.

After much thought and discussion between staff,

volunteers and members of the public, we decided to give it our best shot.

In early July we began operation of our new shop under the management of Donna Robinson, ably assisted by two volunteers, Miss Melanie Nunn from Perth and Miss Jennifer Learmonth from Scotland. Both of these volunteers proved invaluable over the busy school holidays.

As the shop is open seven days a week, former volunteer Ann Preest works the two days that Donna takes off each week, while Doreen Scott,

another volunteer helps out when needed.

Some of the items available are tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes, soft drinks, snacks, disposable cameras and films, t-shirts and hats, postcards and stamps, tea towels, books, videos, posters and stuffed toys.

We are very happy with our efforts so far, and with the continued increase in the numbers of visitors to Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park, we feel very confident that this enterprise will achieve our aim of providing extra financial help with which to continue upgrading our facilities into the 21st century.

New fence brings thanks from Friends of Brixton

THE Friends of Brixton Street have expressed their gratitude to Rod Martyn and the CALM Perth District team for the clean-up and fence construction recently carried out at the Kenwick wetlands.

During April, CALM built a fence around the 19-ha wetlands—home to more than 250 wildflower species including the declared rare stalked water ribbon (*Aponogeton hexatepalus*) and the aquatic pennywort (*Hydrocotyle lemnoides*).

The work took three weeks and produced a standard star picket and ringlock design fence. Provision was made for vehicle and pedestrian access and three lockable gates were included.

Rod said that apart from safeguarding the declared rare flora, the fence would also give some protection to the area's native animals including the southern brown bandicoot and the resident waterbirds.

CALM was also instrumental in removing 11 car

bodies that had been dumped at Brixton Street. They were carted away for scrap metal, and the Friends hope the fence will put a stop to further dumping.

To quote a recent issue of the *Friends of Brixton Street Newsletter*: "The whole place looks as though someone has waved a magic wand over it."

Freshly made signs from CALM's Dwellingup workshop now announce the 'Brixton Street Conservation Area' and further work carried out in conjunction

with the Department of Environmental Protection to remove weeds has left the wetlands in very good condition.

"It has been a total community effort," said Rod. "The Friends of Brixton Street had a goal, and they achieved it."

Next comes a workshop to study water and wildlife in the wetlands. This has been organised by the Friends, and the Perth branch of the WA Wildflower Society, in association with CALM.

Lake Darlot hemigenia found on Goldfields

by Mike O'Donoghue

AFTER the review (p.9), another of the State's presumed extinct wildflowers, the Lake Darlot hemigenia (*Hemigenia exilis*), has been rediscovered on a pastoral station in the Goldfields.

The species was found east of Leonora by a botanist undertaking a flora survey for a mining company.

While the identity of the plant was not immediately apparent, it was an uncommon species in the area, and a sample was taken to the Western Australian

Herbarium, where CALM botanists were delighted to confirm that it was the presumed extinct species.

They have since sought to have the population protected through the cooperation of the pastoralist and the mining company.

Only twenty plants of the Lake Darlot hemigenia were found growing in *Acacia* shrubland during the initial survey.

Although a follow-up survey has revealed the number of known plants to have increased to about 100, it is still one of the rarest of the State's flora.

Further surveys, between the rediscovery site and its original collection site near Lake Darlot, will be undertaken to determine if further populations are to be found.

Arrangements are also under way to collect propagating material to grow the species, store its seed and ensure it does not again become 'presumed

extinct.' The Lake Darlot hemigenia, a member of the mint family of plants, was first collected by Spencer Le Marchant Moore, an 'unofficial scientific worker' with the British Museum, who collected plant specimens in the Eastern Goldfields between 1894 and 1896.

Moore collected the plant from near Lake Darlot exactly 100 years ago, and it had not been seen since, despite its one-metre height and having distinctive purple flowers.



Ready for opening time—a view of one corner of the Milyering shop. Photo by Les Harris

How's your health?

CALM's Health and Fitness Program, with the support of HEALTHWAY, is providing the opportunity to develop a network of health and fitness leaders within CALM.

The project's objective is to develop, trial and evaluate a peer health and fitness leadership scheme in CALM over a twelve-month period.

The trial will involve the development of a network throughout CALM of about 40 staff with access to resources, and knowledge of the health and fitness industry and its principles.

Training will be conducted in a central location that is conducive to learning about health and fitness (proposed site is Perth Superdrome), in March 1996.

On completion of the two-and-a-half days training, the health and fitness leaders will return to their workplaces.

Quarterly meetings with other fitness leaders will be held in regional locations.

by Linda Gilbert

Trainee nominations are invited from work groups. The objective is to train 40 employees, representing the major work centres throughout CALM.

Leaders should have a strong interest in health and fitness and a demonstrated ability to become an ambassador of health and fitness among his or her colleagues.

The leaders will be nominated by their managers, peers, health and fitness co-ordinator, or the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, or they may nominate themselves, with agreement from the other parties.

The Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation, HEALTHWAY, has provided a grant to help CALM in implementing this project.

The project will be closely evaluated and its effectiveness reported to CALM management and other organisations who plan to promote health and prevent illness.

Blackwood district manager Peter Bidwell, who looked into the feasibility of running the project, supports the initiative and sees it as an exciting opportunity.

"There's a great deal to be gained from selected staff, who are motivated by their interest in health and fitness, becoming leaders.

"Their knowledge of health and fitness issues, and how to make the best use of existing resources will be invaluable," Peter said.

"Informal discussions in the non-threatening climate that exists between friends and colleagues will be the way to communicate and sharing this knowledge.

"Not only will the health of the individual benefit, but CALM and the community we all serve can only gain from the resulting increase in productivity."

For further information or nomination details, do not hesitate to phone me on (09) 334 0397 or fax (09) 334 0478, or a member of your Health and Fitness Committee.



Photo by Ann Burchell

Tree makes way for shelter

WHEN a wayward karri tree demolished the information shelter at Porongurup National Park, ranger-in-charge Neil Scott had reason to believe the gods were not smiling on him.

by Terry Passmore

Neil is now with Exmouth District as ranger-in-charge of Cape Range National Park, but before

he left for warmer climes, he ordered a larger and more substantial structure, and introduced a new fee-collection service.

Stirling Range National Park ranger Mark Moore (left) and mobile ranger

Kevin Hughes worked hard to complete much of the construction. The pair has every reason to feel proud of the finished product. Here, they are seen spreading top soil around paving outside the shelter.

Recovery team at Geraldton

A threatened flora recovery team has recently been set up to coordinate work on the poorly known and threatened flora of the Geraldton District.

The district, which extends from Dongara to north of Kalbarri and inland for nearly 600 kilometres to the east of Sandstone, is a huge area for survey.

The recovery team, with representatives from a range of government and non-government agencies, will coordinate research and conservation efforts towards the recovery, in the wild, of threatened species populations.

They will also contribute to the survey of poorly known species, some of which may prove to be threatened.

Members of the Geraldton District Threatened Flora Recovery Team include Mrs Pat Fitzgerald (Pastoralists and Graziers' Association), Ian Hamil-

by Penny Walsh

ton (Main Roads), Graham Wilks (Country Shires) and Don Bellairs, Estelle Leyland and Robyn Westlake (Wildflower Society) and CALM volunteers.

Several CALM staff are also on the team—Phil Roberts, who is based at Geraldton (Midwest Region), Sue Patrick and Andrew Brown, who are at CALM's WA Herbarium (Science and Information Division).

The recovery team is currently overseeing the implementation of a number of field surveys for poorly known and threatened flora in the Geraldton District.

When the project was originally planned in 1993, it was known that 160 plant species, subspecies and varieties that needed to be surveyed were present in the District.

Of these, 18 were

thought to be rare, 5 were presumed extinct - having not been seen for many years, and 137 were poorly known, but appeared rare.

Since then, the list has swelled to 280, partly because the district is so poorly known, botanically.

Sue Patrick and Andrew Brown are currently doing a systematic search of the district for populations of plants that, in some cases, have not been seen by botanists for more than 50 years.

Because of their isolation, the plants have rarely been collected, and because of the vast areas of uncleared bushland in the district, it is quite possible they may not be rare, and could be far more widespread than the few collections at the WA Herbarium indicate.

Sue and Andrew have already discovered that some species are much more common than at first thought. Other spe-

cies, however, may be rare and possibly threatened with extinction.

The surveys aim to find out more about the conservation status of the plants, (that is, whether they are rare or common) and then include this information in a flora plan for the district.

At the end of the project, a Flora Management Program will be published.

It will provide a description of each species, its flowering period, distribution and response to disturbance and disease. All known populations will be listed, along with the number of individual plants in each population, the land status and the condition of the population.

Where appropriate, management and research requirements will be discussed and illustrations will be included, where available.

A soleless shoe, a flat tyre and a pond full of golf balls are some of the memories CALM Corporate Relations administration officer Deborah Greaves brought home from the recent Nannup District Foresters' Annual Golf Day.

Golf was not at the top of Deborah's list of priorities, but a little gentle persuasion was all that was needed for her to 'have a bash.'

And 'bash' is an appropriate word for Deborah's unique swing.

"On average, it took me about 10 swings to connect with the ball, and that doesn't account for the practice shots," she said.

"When I did connect, I'd lose track of it, because I couldn't stop myself pivoting—like a ballerina—but less graceful.

"The ball usually went straight into the water, but I'd console myself with the refreshments we were plied

with at every hole.

"The soleless shoe and the flat tyre were someone else's misfortune, not mine. Fortunately, the tyre belonged to a buggy not a car.

"Singalong night golf was another new experience for me, and it's rumoured the CALM staff who organised it have been hired to repeat their performance at the next Australian Open.

The day comprised two events, the first, The Bushrangers' Competition, consisted of golfers with no recognised handicap, and who play only nine holes.

The second event, The Golfers, was for those with a recognised handicap; they played 18 holes, with the winner taking away the handsome trophy—a polished, beautifully-grained jarrah burl.

This year was the first time in history that Bunnings had 'stolen' the coveted trophy from

CALM Nannup.

The results were: *The Bushrangers*: Winner Ricky Garner from Bunnings; runner-up CALM Nannup forest ranger Jaron Creasey.

Ladies' winner CALM Nannup forester Michelle Widmer; runner-up CALM Walpole silvicultural officer Donna Green.

The Golfers: Winner Bert Marlow from Bunnings; runner-up CALM Busseton senior operations officer Charles Broadbent's son Travis.

Reflecting on the golf day, Deborah said she found that "the natives were friendly, making newcomers like myself feel most welcome."

"I strongly urge other staff to make the effort to go along in October next year; at \$15.00 each (to cover lunch, dinner, day-long refreshments, and course fees) it's great value."

Exciting dibbler discovery

CALM scientists have recently been successful in trapping 11 endangered dibblers at the Fitzgerald River National Park, between Albany and Esperance on the south coast.

The dibbler, a small carnivorous marsupial, has rarely been captured on the mainland in such numbers.

"Until recently, we feared they may be close to extinction on the mainland, because we have had little success trapping them in areas where they were previously known," said CALM principal research scientist Gordon Friend.

by Penny Walsh

It is believed that broad-scale fox baiting carried out by CALM where these dibblers were trapped could be a factor in their survival.

In the early days of European settlement, dibblers were recorded in the Moore River area and near King George Sound, and a number were collected up until 1884. It was then 83 years before the 'presumed extinct' dibbler was rediscovered at Cheyne Beach near Albany.

Since then, animals have occasionally been found in

the Ravensthorpe district, the Fitzgerald River National Park, Torndirrup National Park, west of Albany, and on two islands offshore from Jurien, north of Perth.

"This is a very exciting discovery and will lead to further efforts by biologists to learn more about the status and distribution of this endangered species," Gordon said.

A research project to examine the ecology of the dibbler is being conducted by CALM consultant Natasha Baczocha and technical officer Brent Johnson, with the assistance of local

CALM staff and conservation volunteers. Funding and support for the project is being provided by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

The goals of the project are to estimate population numbers and habitat preferences on the mainland, and identify current threats to the species, such as unsuitable fire regimes, clearing, and predation by cats, foxes and dogs.

The trapped animals were radio-collared and released, and will provide CALM scientists with invaluable information about dibbler behaviour.

Bill's role expands

STATE Forest Resources Business Unit's chief training officer Bill Towie's duties have been expanded to include monitoring of the unit's audits of harvesting operations and associated activities.

Primarily, the role will be to ensure adherence to forest management plans, forest management regulation and the timber harvesting code and manual.

This self-monitoring practice will complement the audit of all of CALM's activities and systems by Management Audit Branch.

Bill was in Tasmania recently and enlisted the

services of three key forest practice officers, with Forestry Australia: John Cunningham, Peter Lockwood and Rod Smith, to provide advice and help with this auditing and monitoring of harvesting activities.

Bill said that Tasmania had legislative requirements enshrined in its Forest Practices Act, to monitor and audit timber harvesting plans each year, so the time spent with the three officers, who were experienced in working within the Act, was time well spent.

"I've always worked on the principle: 'learn from someone who knows the

subject well and has the runs on the board," Bill said.

Bill would like to introduce the Tasmanian method of using statistical information from audit checklists to indicate overall performance levels.

"Shown in graph, they'll highlight at areas of strengths and weaknesses, so that the strengths can be built upon and appropriate action taken on the weaknesses," he said.

"The time in Tassie will stand me in good stead when monitoring and auditing harvesting activities managed by SFRBU staff in Western Australia."