

Jim joins CALM from DEP

by Verna Costello

JIM BURT, has taken up position as marine ecologist at the department's Marine Conservation Branch in Fremantle after six months' long service leave spent in Britain.

His arrival adds one more staff member to those who have already transferred to the Branch from the Department of Environmental Protection's, Marine Impacts Branch (See May-June CALM NEWS).

Jim graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1981.

After a year working and travelling in Australia and overseas, he completed his Honours in zoology at UWA.

Scholarship

In 1985, Jim was awarded a Commonwealth and Foreign Council scholarship to study for a Masters in Ecology at London University.

He then spent 2 years working in Pakistan supervising a number of projects relating to the conservation of endangered species, and helped develop mechanisms and strategies to improve the delivery of a nationally integrated conservation program for endangered species.

On returning to Australia in 1988 Jim worked for about a year in fisheries research with the Fisheries Department before joining the Marine Branch at the DEP. He has had more than 10 years' experience in marine science including a year spent in Papua New Guinea.

Jim's experiences in Australia and overseas have given him the opportunity to acquire knowledge in a diversity of areas including: temperate marine ecology of WA; conservation of endangered fauna; design and implementation of biological surveys and monitoring programs; and environmental impacts of the oil industry on WA's marine environment.

He is very enthusiastic about his new role with CALM, which will see a shift in his work away from environmental protection (focused on the management of waste discharges to the marine environ-

ment), toward the broader issues of nature conservation and natural resource management.

"I feel very privileged to be able to contribute to the development of a Marine Conservation Branch in CALM and to play a part at the beginning of a program that will ultimately see the establishment of a world class marine reserve system in Western Australia," he said.

Jim has been married for 10 years to Sue, whose full time career is as 'wife and mother'. They have a daughter, Emma (7) and two sons, David (5) and Jonathan (1).

In his spare time, Jim

likes eating, also meeting people, politics, outdoor activities; particularly fishing, walking and camping; as well as relaxing in front of an open fire, reading and listening to music.

His favourite authors are of the of Tim Winton ilk. However, he is currently reading the Winston Churchill six-volume epic *A History of the English Speaking Peoples*.

His taste in music is wide ranged: "Pretty well anything from the blues or bebop to Beethoven," Jim said.

We welcome Jim to CALM, and wish him many satisfying years with the department.



Jim Burt at his office door. Photo by Verna Costello



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