

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MARCH-APRIL 1996



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Bush Books a natural inspiration



Helping CALM at the launch of Bush Books were (from left) Liz King of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Gooseberry Hill, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, CALM wildlife researcher Brent Johnson, Katie McCreadie from Raptor Retreat, Environment Minister Peter Foss, and June Butcher and Johanna ter Wiel, both from Kanyana.

HOW can you tell a humpback from a southern right whale, a jarrah from a marri or a kestrel from a kite?

CALM has produced the first seven books in a new series aimed at inspiring residents and visitors to WA to take a greater interest in our natural environment.

Bush Books are a series of practical field guides to help people discover and learn about the State's unique plants, animals and special features, region by region.

Environment Minister Peter Foss, who launched the books recently, said Western Australia was a treasure trove of nature's wonders.

"The number of bizarre and wondrous natural attractions in this State is unparalleled, so it is not surprising that when it comes to biodiversity, WA is in the 'mega' class," he said.

"Conserving this immensely diverse biological resource is a huge challenge, but one that can be attained if people become more aware of our native plants and animals." Although there is a number

of excellent field guides to WA's flora and fauna, most of them are too technical for the layperson and not easily available.

Bush Books are pocket-size, and each is based around a defined geographic region which contributes to their relevance and ease of use.

The books are inexpensive, retailing for \$5.95 each, and are available from many outlets throughout the State including most bookshops, many newsagents, CALM offices, RAC shops, tourist bureaus and numerous other specialist outlets, such as camping and dive shops.

The first seven books in the series are *Birds in the Backyard*, *Mammals of the South West*; *Whales and Dolphins of WA*; *Common Trees of the South West Forests*; *Common Wildflowers of the South West Forests*; *Common Birds of the South West Forests* and the first from a series for the Kimberley region, *Common Plants of the Kimberley*.

New titles in the series will be produced and it is envisaged that ultimately each re-

gion in the State will have its own series. The books are informative, scientifically accurate and of souvenir quality. The standard of photography is exceptionally high and additional illustrations show people how to recognise the tell-tale signs of animals in the bush, as well as how to identify whale and dolphin species from tail flukes, dorsal fins and 'blows'.

Birds in the Backyard also includes informative tips on making suburban gardens 'bird friendly'.

The books were edited and co-authored by a CALM special projects officer, Carolyn Thomson, with the assistance of a wide range of experts including CALM staff Brent Johnson, Judy Wheeler, Andrew Brown, Greg Keighery, Kevin Kenneally, Chris Done, John Hunter and Dough Coughran, and John Dell of the WA Museum.

They have been designed by the CALM Corporate Relations award-winning creative team that designs *LANDSCOPE*—Sue Marais, Maria Duthie, Sandra van Brugge and Gooitzen van der Meer.

Western Australia tree planting sets record

THIS winter will see record numbers of commercial trees planted in rural Western Australia.

CALM will plant more than 21 million seedlings in share farming partnerships and in its own plantation and native forest operations.

This is on top of the millions of seedlings that will be grown on farms using seed from CALM's stockpile of more than 200 million native seeds.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea said the number of seedlings was more than 10 per cent above the previous record number supplied from CALM's nurseries in Manjimup and Narrogin.

Dr Shea said CALM's elite Western Blue Gums and Tasmanian bluegums made up almost half the number of seedlings produced by CALM this year.

"The growth of the State's

bluegum plantations has been phenomenal and highlights the big inroads that have been made in the past few years in revolutionising the way in which we are developing the State's agroforestry industry," he said.

"This year, CALM will supply 6.6 million Tasmanian bluegum seedlings and three million Western Blue Gums for planting out under share-farming agreements as well as in private plantings.

"Of these, one million Tasmanian bluegums and 100,000 Western Blue Gums will be exported to South Australia and Victoria. This reflects the premier position Western Australia has established in researching and developing this species as the major farm tree crop."

Other seedlings produced at the nurseries are karri (4 million), pine (3.2 million radiata and 1.4 million

pinaster) and oil mallees (2.3 million). A further 1.2 million oil mallees will be produced on contract for CALM by private nurseries at Canna, Kalannie, Cunderdin, Narembeen and Esperance.

CALM also will produce 800,000 seedlings of mixed hardwood species. The three tonnes of native seeds held in the seed store cover more than 450 species.

Dr Shea said that in the past, the biggest problem facing agroforestry had been finance.

However, CALM initiatives had provided that finance through attracting \$150 million in overseas investment over 10 years. Six major overseas companies now were involved in three bluegum sharefarming arrangements at Albany and in the Wellington catchment around Collie.

These sharefarming arrange-

◆ continued on page 2



Like a great many Australians on election night, I found myself watching some of the election telecast. During the night there were a couple of interviews which surprised me, simply because I had not realised how strongly some members of the new government felt about 'political correctness'. I am not sure how this is defined but to me it means a slavish following of causes which have been invented by small groups of people who want to protect themselves from scrutiny. In a lot of cases it also seems to me that political correctness has become a poor substitute for old-fashioned courtesy, tolerance and respect for another person's point of view.

It also seems to me that it has caused a dreadful, mindless follow-the-leader mentality, which is quite un-Australian. If anything, Australia's development was founded on the rugged individuals who were self-reliant and able to find solutions to difficult problems. The advent of the political correctness syndrome in recent years has in my opinion dulled our senses and caused us to pursue second-rate solutions, or worse still, to be trying to solve the problems that don't matter much in the long run. A good example of this relates to whether or not logging is deleterious to native forests.

Most of you would know that CALM has been conducting a major research trial in the Kingston Forest near Manjimup for over two years. The trial is testing the effects of logging and prescribed burning in an area which includes abundant numbers of small mammals that had become virtually extinct. The abundance in Kingston Forest has been a very positive result of the fox baiting in the proposed Perup Nature Reserve and its surrounds, which include Kingston Forest. The astonishing truth is that scientists are finding between 60 and 70 percent success rates when trapping for small mammals, and what's more, so far they have not found adverse effects on the populations.

There are so many small mammals that some species are not being trapped because the traps have already been occupied by the relatively common species such as woylies. The Conservation Council of WA wanted the experiment to cease and to be replaced by an experiment where the animal numbers have not been 'artificially inflated' as a result of years of fox poisoning. In other words the Conservation Council has been suggesting we should conduct an experiment which effectively would be comparing nothing with nothing, because in the absence of poisoning, the numbers of these animals are virtually zero. In my long years as a public servant I can't think of a proposal which would waste taxpayers' money more effectively.

There are few pieces of research which show the clear results we have seen from the pioneer work of CALM scientist Dr Jack Kinnear and his colleagues in CALM's Science and Information Division. These clear results have been fearlessly translated into operations, initially Operation Foxglove, and just recently, Western Shield. In my opinion there are very few departmental heads in Australia, or for that matter the world, who would be prepared to take on such a daring initiative as Syd Shea has, and win. The results are self-evident: we have increasing reports of road kills of these small mammals and numerous sightings in areas such as Dryandra. More and more the general public will appreciate what they are seeing and will acknowledge what has been achieved in spite of the forces of political correctness which caused CALM to focus so much last year on forest operations at the behest of an uncomprehending and indiscriminating bureaucracy in Canberra.

Chris Haynes
Director Regional Services



Just a few of the authors at the launch of CALM's Bush Books (from left): John Hunter, Brent Johnson, Greg Keighery, Kevin Kenneally, Andrew Brown, Judy Wheeler and, at front right, Carolyn Thomson. Photo by Verna Costello

Karjini draft plan released

LOCAL community involvement in caring for one of the State's biggest conservation areas has been strongly recognised in a draft management plan for the Karjini National Park in the Pilbara.

The draft plan has been redrawn, following submissions from traditional Aboriginal owners on an earlier version. It was prepared by officers from CALM and representatives of the Karjini Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Environment Minister Peter Foss said the draft plan honoured a Government commitment that the traditional Aboriginal owners, represented by the Karjini Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) and tribal elders, would have

direct input into the management of the Park.

A park council would be formed to advise on all matters in the park that affected the interests of Aboriginal people.

Involving elders

The council would include tribal elders of each of the Yinhawangka, Panyjima and Kurrama people, three elected Aboriginal representatives of the KAC and three representatives from CALM.

A second committee—the Karjini National Park Advisory Committee—also would be formed to represent the broader interests of the Pilbara community.

The Advisory Committee would comprise representatives of a broad cross section of the Pilbara community—in-

cluding tourism operators, local government and conservation groups.

The 627,444-hectare Karjini National Park is the State's second biggest national park behind Rudall River (1.3 million hectares), also in CALM's Pilbara Region. Its features include the spectacular gorges of the Hamersley Range, geological formations dating back 2500 million years and a variety of ecosystems with more than 30 species of native mammals, 133 species of birds, 90 species of reptiles and eight species of fish.

Rare species

The animal life includes five rare species—the western pebble-mound mouse, (orngadji) peregrine falcon, grey honeyeater, grey falcon and Pilbara olive python.

More than 480 species of native flowering plants are known to occur in the park, representing a transition between two climatic regions.

Key issues in the draft management plan include:

- The right for Aboriginal people to visit and practise traditional customs in the park.
- Provision of up to three living area leases for traditional owners. This will assist elders in passing on their knowledge, as well as creating economic opportunities for Aboriginal people.
- Strategies to promote tourism and to protect Aboriginal cultural and natural values of the park. These strategies include zoning for different levels of use within the park.
- Commercial conces-

sions to promote and enhance visitors' experiences. This already is under way to the compatible operations process and expressions of interest already have been called for commercial accommodation developments.

• Improved air and road access to recreation zones.

• Establishment of a permanent visitors' centre. The draft plan has been released for public comment for four months.

Copies of the plan are available from CALM offices in Karratha and Como.

Submissions should be sent to the Executive Director, CALM, Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983, marked 'Plan Co-ordinator, Karjini National Park Draft Management Plan.'

Western Australia tree planting sets record

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ments, devised by CALM, means farmers continue to own and operate their farm while gaining all the landcare benefits of tree crops, as well as up to \$200 per hectare year in lease and other payments.

"However, what has been particularly encouraging is that our farm tree crops are not confined to species such as bluegums and pines that grow in the higher rainfall areas," Dr Shea said.

"Oil producing mallees are having a big impact in the Wheatbelt where farmers know they have

to plant deep-rooting species that will act as pumps to lower the water table and help

combat salinity. "These mallees have a great potential to offer an economic return

through oil production, which will help offset the establishment costs," Dr Shea said.



CALM Manjimup Research staff Lee Fontanini (left) and Maria Mason (right) with CALM scientists Trevor Butcher and Liz Barbour at the Department's Plant Propagation Centre in Manjimup.

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Radio trail in the Karri



Gerard Barnesby and Ian Trigwell haul themselves up. When they reached the 27-metre mark, they attached a solar panel to the tree. Each panel will charge the batteries that power the individual radio transmitters.



Gerard Barnesby of CALM, Pemberton checks his gear before starting his ascent.

CALM's Pemberton staff have been called on to do many challenging tasks over the years, but installing a new tourist radio drive trail along the Great Forest Trees Drive in the Shannon National Park was one that brought the multiplicity of their skills to the fore.

The Great Forest Trees Drive is a new tourism and recreation facility. It covers about 42 kilometres on both sides of the South Western Highway and takes in some of the best examples of old growth forest in the region. It also includes an 80-metre boardwalk that overlooks an area called Snake Gully and another at Big Tree Grove. The latter is curved around several karris to prevent soil compaction.

CALM has been upgrading existing forest tracks, including old fire lines, railway formations, and management access lines, to create the drive, which will be accessible to family cars.

In line with the department's innovative approach to tourist facilities, a local FM radio system is being installed, that will help visitors learn more

about the forest as well as the history of the Shannon. A similar 'radio-drive' is proving a winner in the Dryandra Woodland north west of Narrogin.

CALM Pemberton staff —John Jackway, Gerard Barnesby and Ian Trigwell, under the project leadership of ranger Jeff Kimpton —were given the task of installing solar panels to provide power for the transmitters.

John, Gerard and Ian are experienced climbers and abseilers and part of a team trained for search and rescue work as well as maintaining fire lookout trees.

Their skills were just what was needed to get the solar panels high enough to catch the minimum four hours sunlight needed to keep the batteries charged.

With ropes cast over a high branch and securely fastened, (CALM 'utes' make good anchor points) the men climbed karri trees and installed the panels up to 27 metres above the ground.

Thanks to the skill of the team, the radio-drive trail will soon be 'on air' providing visitors with a new forest experience.

New name and new premises

CALM Sharefarms, Lower West (formerly Wellington Sharefarms), in Collie, has moved to larger premises.

The move, which coincides with the adoption of its new name, took place in February when the staff and office equipment took up residence in the Commonwealth Department of Defence building at 39 Throssell Street, Collie.

Over the past four years, the success of CALM's agency agreements with overseas investors required an expansion of staff numbers, until eventually the Collie District office became too small to accommodate everyone.

Recently appointed manager Tym Duncanson said that with a very much expanded program and a wider net for land acquisition being cast, it became obvious that the name 'Wellington Sharefarms' was too limiting.

"The fact that most of our land to be planted in 1996 will be outside the Wellington catchment is a sign that we have outgrown our old name and CALM Sharefarms, Lower West is a name that gives a more accurate representation of our focus," Tym said.

"We recognise that

we're just one part of CALM Sharefarms and, combined with South Coast Sharefarms, Pine Sharefarms, CALM Estate Sharefarms and the Mallet Subunit, form the Department's business arm dealing with plantations on private land."

"The move was not without its downside. We enjoy a great working relationship with CALM's Mornington District staff, sharing many ideas and resources, and now we have to make a phone call or a special visit to maintain communication," Tym said.

"For this reason, the move is only temporary, and plans will begin soon to extend the existing district office for the longer term.

"Meanwhile, our phone number is (097) 34 1688 and our fax number is (097) 34 5649."

CALM Sharefarms, Lower West staff are: manager Tym Duncanson, field manager Morten Nilsson, administration officer Marie Michael, clerical assistant Kellie Ashfold, area co-ordinators Mark Lush, Graeme Hobson and Robert Archibald, and field assistants Andrew Stone and Steven Cole.

Jack Marshall - forestry legend

Jack Marshall who died on February 8, will be remembered chiefly by Forests Department oldtimers, who will recall his excellent axe and cross-cut sawing skills, and his legendary bush knowledge.

Born in 1916, he joined the department at Dwellingup in 1930.

In 1937, lured by the vision of instant wealth to the Goldfields, he left the department.

In 1940, he enlisted in the AIF, becoming a member of the 2/16th Battalion, 7th Division.

He saw active service in the Middle East, Syria, New Guinea, Borneo and Morotai.

Jack was wounded and

evacuated from the Owen Stanley Range battle, but nevertheless saw the Japanese surrender at Morotai, by which time he had attained the rank of sergeant and acting CSM of the Battalion.

Jack returned to the Forestry Department shortly after the war, retiring in 1976 as the department's original State Safety Officer, stationed at Como.

In 1979, Jack was awarded an Imperial Service Medal for faithful and meritorious service as a member of the Public Service.

Jack leaves a widow, Jean, two sons and twin daughters.

Plan conserves Bungle heritage, attractions

THE integrity of one of the world's great natural attractions will be conserved under a 10-year management plan for the Purnululu National Park and Conservation Reserve, 120 km north-east of Halls Creek in the East Kimberley.

The 320,000-hectare park contains rocks dating back 2,500 million years and is of immense importance to the region's traditional Aboriginal heritage and culture.

The park also has crucial conservation values, not only for its native plants and animals, but also as part of the reha-

bilitation effort for the Ord River catchment.

Environment Minister Peter Foss, who released the document in the Kimberley, said the plan was the culmination of almost nine years of planning and consultation with a broad cross-section of the local community, and in particular, very detailed discussions with the Purnululu and Billingjui Aboriginal Corporations.

Significant

Its release was particularly significant because it was the first time a final management plan for a national park in Western Australia had recognised the need for the direct in-

volvement of Aboriginal people in the management of the park.

Mr Foss said that following the plan's release, the Government would appoint a park council to include representatives of the traditional Aboriginal owners.

A community advisory committee also would be set up to represent the interests of the broader community.

The park would continue to be vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the day-to-day operations of the park would be the responsibility of CALM.

Both the Park Council

and Community Advisory Committee would have direct access to the Minister for the Environment on management issues which could not be resolved through the NPNCA.

Public spotlight

Purnululu came into the public spotlight after extensive media coverage of the Bungle Bungle Massif in 1982.

Hailed then as the State's 'hidden treasure', today it is the main tourism focus in the East Kimberley, with more than 12,000 visitors a year.

This number will increase over the next few years with the additional

opportunities being provided for 'fly-drive' expeditions, run by local tour operators, and the inclusion of the park on the Ibis Aerial Highway tourism network.

As well as the soaring 'beehives' and steep rugged gorges of the Bungle Bungle, the park also includes extensive tracts of flats along the Ord River, which runs along southern and eastern boundaries, and other beautiful landscapes in the west and south of the area.

These flats were extensively grazed by cattle introduced by European settlers in the 1880s. The enormous grazing pres-

sure by the cattle and donkeys, which had become feral, caused sheet and gully erosion.

Since the park was proclaimed in 1986, significant rehabilitation has occurred.

Native grasses are now stabilising the sheet-eroded flats. Vegetation also is returning to the sides and valleys of the eroded gullies.

New species

A comprehensive biological study of the park and surrounding areas in 1989 identified 616 plant, 149 bird, 81 reptile, 41 mammal, 15 fish and 12 frog species. The survey revealed 23 plant species

new to the Kimberley and two species previously not recorded in Western Australia.

Tourism

The management plan brings together strategies to conserve native wildlife and the spectacular landforms, while enabling appropriate tourism operations to be conducted.

Commercial developments and operations will be permitted where they enhance the appropriate use and enjoyment of the park and reduce the impact of visitors.

Copies of the plan are available from CALM offices in Kununurra and Como.

Conservation needs a new approach

AUSTRALIA must adopt a new approach to nature conservation if it is to reverse the dramatic decline in the nation's nature conservation assets that has occurred in the past 80 years.

In a keynote address to a major conservation conference in Brisbane recently, CALM Executive Director Syd Shea, said the traditional approach to nature conservation had failed.

This traditional approach was characterised by:

- preservation in government reserves;
- minimal constraints on activity outside reserves and negligible incentives for private landowners to protect nature conservation values;
- abhorrence of wealth generation, particularly if it involved using natural assets such as wildlife;
- funding of nature conservation from

the dregs of the consolidated revenue fund;

- management of nature conservation by a multiplicity of government agencies—often with conflicting objectives and philosophies;
- misdirection and misallocation of resources because of ideology and short-term political considerations.

"The traditional approach has not stopped Australia having the highest rate of mammal extinction in the world. Nor has it taken any notice of devastating effects of land degradation on nature conservation and, in particular, biodiversity," Dr Shea said.

Predators

He said that feral predators (the fox and the cat), feral grazers (the rabbit), introduced disease (dieback), land degradation and land clearing were the overwhelming factors destroying

nature conservation assets in Australia—not chainsaws or tourists.

"The principles of the new approach to nature conservation—sustainable conservation—are simple," he said.

"They include:

- integration of conservation management agencies and philosophies;
- the creation and development of a comprehensive secure nature conservation reserve system, which is actively and appropriately managed;
- the provision of incentives to ensure that the reserve system is embedded in a landscape that is sympathetically managed, or at least managed in a way that does not lead to the destruction of the reserves;
- the creation of industries and products from nature that make conservation valuable;
- landowners receiving the benefits

from the utilisation of nature conservation assets on private property.

"WA has already taken the first steps along the path to sustainable conservation," Dr Shea said.

"For example, the WA Government has provided the incentive for the creation of funds for nature conservation by allowing CALM to retain all its revenue.

"CALM is also spending the \$1 million paid by the chemical company AMRAD, for the right to use a chemical compound from smoke bush, on endangered species programs.

Millions of trees

"The tree sharefarming schemes that CALM has developed has led to the establishment of more than 30 million trees on cleared agricultural

land and within five years, 200 million trees will have been planted by commercial companies and CALM at no cost to the taxpayer.

"The principles and expertise developed by CALM to initiate the tree crops on farms program also could be applied to preserve remnant vegetation.

"The new funding arrangements, together with sponsorship from Alcoa of Australia, have made it possible for CALM to carry out the biggest fox control program in the world.

"The effect on the rehabilitation of native fauna is miraculous and there's no reason why it won't be possible to return 20 threatened animals back to abundant levels.

"But, we have to overcome entrenched ideology and politics and change our direction along the path to sustainable conservation," Dr Shea said.

More land for trees

CALM Sharefarms, Lower West (formerly Wellington Sharefarms) have had a highly successful land acquisition season.

Although not meeting the 1000-hectare target in 1995, land acquired so far for 1996 totals more than 2500 ha.

CALM Sharefarms, Lower West field manager

Morten Nilsson said that 2000 ha had been signed by December 1, 1995, for planting in 1996.

"This unprecedented success was mostly due to the flexibility shown by our investors when negotiating with landowners," Morten said.

"This has meant that we were able to tailor a sharefarm arrangement to

suit the requirements of the landowner.

With offers for land in 1996 about to close as CALM NEWS goes to print, it looks likely that the 1996 target of 3000 ha will be met.

"The next challenge for us is co-ordinating the planting of the land over the next few months," Morten said.

Release of rabbit virus supported

STATE and Federal conservation agencies have reaffirmed that rabbit calicivirus provides a significant opportunity to help combat one of the nation's biggest environment problems—rabbits.

The backing came at a recent meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council's Standing Committee on Conservation in Adelaide. The committee comprises senior officers of all State, Territory and Commonwealth nature conservation agencies as well as the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology.

Standing Committee chairman, Keiran McNamara, who also is CALM's Director of Nature Conservation, said the group was the first in Australia to recommend using rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD) as a biological control agent back in 1988.

"From a nature conservation point of view, the rabbit has been implicated in the decline and loss of a number of native Australian plant and animal species," Keiran said.

"It is therefore important that we make the most of what RCD can offer in

improving the environment and helping to sustain our biological diversity as well as protecting agriculture."

Keiran said that to get the best results from RCD, further information was needed on how the disease behaved in the field.

He said the Standing Committee also was committed to ensuring that the due processes of investigating all implications of using RCD under relevant Commonwealth legislation were completed satisfactorily.

Any planned strategic release of the disease would require a program to monitor the effects to ensure that changes in predator-prey balances did not cause problems for wildlife management, especially for threatened species.

The Committee would recommend to the Ministerial Council that conservation agencies commit themselves to a four-year program of research and monitoring in conjunction with other agencies involved in rabbit control.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Australia's natural environment that must not be missed," Keiran said.

Another good goat cull

RIVER gorges in the Kalbarri National Park were closed between February 26 and March 1 for a feral goat operation that saw 648 of the animals eradicated.

CALM and Agriculture WA ran the control program.

Kalbarri National Park ranger-in-charge Roy Harris said the closed gorges included The Loop, Z-Bend, Ross Graham Lookout and Hawks Head. Gorges near the coast stayed open.

Roy said feral animal control would help protect the park's biodiversity and minimise the risk of intro-

ducing the highly invasive plant-destroying disease, dieback.

"Since goat control was introduced in 1993, about 3000 of the animals had been eradicated," Roy said.

"In 1993, 357 goats were shot in just three hours, and in 1994, when the operation was stepped up to three days, 1352 goats were eradicated. Numbers were reduced by a further 627 in 1995."

Feral pigs are also targeted in the program, with more than 100 being shot in the past two years.

Roy said CALM was providing a set of portable

stock yards to muster feral goats on neighbouring pastoral properties.

"We bought these last year and they have already proved highly effective, with about 5000 goats being removed from Murchison House Station alone in the past year," he said.

"They were then dispatched by station manager Bob Grinham to help meet the small but modestly profitable goats meat market.

"Unfortunately, the goats that roam through the park are unmanageable, particularly now we've brought their numbers down.

Draft plan for Canning

A draft management plan for the Canning River Regional Park in Perth's southern suburbs has been released.

The park extends over 270 hectares along both sides of the Canning River between the Shelley and Nicholson Street bridges.

The park contains the best estuarine vegetation in the Swan-Canning River system, as well as a wide diversity of habitat including estuaries and islands, marshes, freshwater billabongs, forests and woodlands. It is highly valued as a refuge for birds and other wildlife in an area surrounded by urban development.

Labour Relations Minister and Riverton MLA, Graham Kierath, released the plan on behalf of Environment Minister Peter Foss. Mr Kierath was chairman of the Canning River Regional Park Community Advisory Committee that provided advice to the planning team, which included representatives of

CALM, the City of Canning, the Swan River Trust and the Ministry of Planning.

"A key to the draft management plan is the overall vision for the reserve," Mr Kierath said.

"Essentially, the vision is to stimulate community awareness so that the park is recognised as an important natural resource that can be managed for all its values, including conservation and recreation.

Significant plan

"The plan is particularly significant as it recognises the close links between the community, the City of Canning and management agencies such as CALM in sharing the stewardship of the park," said Mr Kierath.

Regional Parks are areas of open space identified as having outstanding recreation and conservation values and provide an opportunity for a co-ordinated planning strategy by different land and water management

agencies and private landowners.

They were first proposed in the Stephenson Report in 1955 and adopted into the Perth Metropolitan Region Scheme in 1963. Over the past 30 years, the Ministry of Planning and its predecessors have been acquiring land to create the parks.

This is one of more than 12 regional parks proposed for the Perth area. Others include the Darling Range, Beeliar Wetlands and Yellagonga.

The draft plan proposes creating a number of management zones to protect conservation values, but at the same time, enabling compatible recreation activities in the park.

These zones would be managed by CALM and the City of Canning.

Recreation

The plan also outlines strategies for the development of active recreation pursuits such as ovals, car parks, and grassed areas.

The objective is to pro-

vide for a range of recreation opportunities, while minimising environmental impacts and conflicts between visitors.

One of the biggest challenges to the management of the park is weed infestation, particularly hydrocotyle, an aquatic species native to Europe, bulrush, blackberry, pampas grass, fig trees, willows and exotic grasses such as veldt, kikuyu and buffalo.

The draft plan proposes developing a co-ordinated weed control program.

It also raises the possibility of removing the Kent Street weir as a way of increasing control of bulrush.

A particularly important part of the draft plan is the recommendations concerning on-going community involvement in the management of the park. It recommends that interest groups, volunteer guides and other community organisations be actively involved and closely consulted.



CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea (left), Deputy Chair of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority Marion Blackwell, Mayor of Canning Dr Mick Lakias, and Riverton MLA Graham Kierath at the launch of the draft management plan for the Canning River Regional Park.

Dwellingup hosts Como and Crawley staffs

ON one of those very hot days in summer, above the 40-degree mark, a bunch of brave and inquisitive staff from Como Information front counter, Records, Accounts, Marketing and Sales Section, and Crawley Admin set off for the best jarrah forests in the world.

Dwellingup was their destination and their purpose was to inspect the newly opened Forest Heritage Centre, see jarrah forest harvesting operations, and meet some of the hard-working, dedicated people based at CALM's Dwellingup office.

Forester Bill Towie of Forest Resources and Corporate Relations community education officer, Tammie Reid were tour guides for the day.

Highlights at different forest stops were provided by forester Ian Freeman, who focused on silvicult-

by Tammie Reid

ture and explained how CALM decides what the forest will look like, plus an introductory lesson on using a basal area prism.

Ian was on a recruitment drive and keenly expounded on the attractive and challenging life of a tree marker. (There were no takers!)

Tree hollows

Kim Whitford, from the Sustainable Resources Group of the Science and Information Division, provided an insight into the importance of tree hollows as habitat for native animals.

He explained the basis of CALM's new guidelines, designed to help tree markers assess quality and quantity of habitat trees for present and projected animal needs.

Kim used the forest as his classroom and did re-

markably well, competing with passing log trucks and without overheads, making do instead by using enlargements of his graphs nailed to a tree.

According to gastro-nomic gourmet Denise Hamilton of CALM's Tourism and Recreation Branch, the highlight of the trip was the fire fighters' lunch, put on by the DWELLFED catering team involving storewoman Taryn Linning, with a little help from Corporate Relations administration assistant Deborah Greaves.

Deborah was there in a training capacity, as she plans to help in future catering duties at large fire incidents.

Although a scorcher of a day, the trip went well, with an air-conditioned bus making it infinitely more bearable.

It was an important event for both groups. For many

Como- and Crawley-based staff, the forest is a long way from their desks, and seemingly, from their tasks, so the tour provided a meaningful link between the two, while meeting the Dwellingup staff brought their reality and that of their work into sharp focus.

Dwellingup people, on the other hand, were able to showcase some of their current work and recent achievements, and enjoyed showing the visitors the beauty of the Dwellingup jarrah forests.

A common purpose

Above all, awareness was raised in hosts and guests alike, that they and the rest of the CALM staff, while engaged in diverse occupations, were all toiling to conserve and manage the wildlife, lands, water and resources entrusted to the department for present and future generations.



Back in Como, Marianne Lewis, Barbara Moss and June Ellis don hard hats to remind themselves of their 'Dwellingup experience'. Inset: Part of their experience was sampling Deborah Greaves's cooking. Photo by Verna Costello



Goldfields senior operations officer Geoff Young being lowered into cave at Neale Junction Nature Reserve

Staff 'moused up' by stick-nest rat

SPELEOLOGICAL (caving) skills became necessary when Goldfields staff visited Neale Junction Nature Reserve in the Great Victoria Desert recently.

The purpose of the two-week desert trip was to complete a 77 000-hectare prescribed burning program, covering eight strategically defined burn areas.

As burning prescriptions are reliant on the weather, the party conducting the burn had an opportunity to explore the biologically diverse landscapes within the remote reserve.

A prominent breakaway system north of the camp provided a series of caves to explore. On inspection outside one of the caves, a glimpse of a small rat-like creature was caught. This glimpse sparked excitement of the possibility of the creature being a presumed extinct lesser stick-nest rat, once known to have inhabited these areas.

To further investigate the sighting, CALM staff, led by Gerry Van Didden, were lowered into the deep cave. Unfortunately, the evidence found within the

cave did not support stick-nest rat habitation, and the creature glimpsed is now believed to have been a common house mouse.

During the visit to Neale Junction Nature Reserve, all burning objectives were achieved. Other work completed included the installation of burn-monitoring plots, formulation of a comprehensive bird list for the reserve, and additional mapping and GPS plotting of tracks and significant features within the reserve.

Story and photo by Grant Prank.

New head in new position

MEET Jenny Moss, recently appointed by CALM to the newly created position of Manager Corporate Information Services.

Until a replacement has been found for Information Management Branch Manager Peter Bowen, Jenny will be responsible to the Acting Manager Colin Pearce.

Colin said that although it replaced the earlier position of Records Manager, the new position's brief was different, and reflected the changes occurring in the wider environment.

"The position was created as a result of the Deakin Consulting Review into CALM's information management processes, one part of which dealt with corporate records, and Jenny's brief includes implementing the recommendations of that review," he said.

Background

Jenny's background is in the library services sector of the information management industry.

For the past six years she was library services coordinator for the Department of Training, responsible for providing strategic advice to management on the provision of library information services for TAFE.

Jenny said that while she had never worked in the records management sector, the principles of managing corporate information were fundamentally the same.

"They both need information to be organised so it may be retrieved readily when people need it, enabling them to perform their jobs more effectively," Jenny said.

"Many people probably still envisage 'Records' as the repository for piles of old paper files, a backwater symbolised by dust and decay, silverfish and cock-



Jenny Moss, ready to manage CALM's information. Photo by Verna Costello

roaches, and while there may be some element of truth in this, the scene is rapidly changing.

"Recent experience in WA and elsewhere has led to the acknowledgement of the importance of efficiently handled and effectively managed Government business information, particularly in providing evidence of accountability and responsibility.

Stark reminder

"The Royal Commission into 'WA Inc' is a stark reminder of the need for the responsible management of public records.

"And now, the Commission on Government has just completed the most extensive and thorough investigation into the delivery of records management services to the Western Australian Government yet undertaken.

"It has recommended extensive changes to legislation governing the management of public records."

So what is corporate information?

"It comprises our public records, created or re-

ceived by CALM officers in the course of their duties. They may be paper records or in any other format, including electronic, graphic and audio, and they contain information that has administrative, legal, fiscal, evidential or historical value," Jenny said.

"The Deakin review identified a number of deficiencies in CALM's management of corporate information, which have largely been caused by the highly decentralised nature of the department, and the incapacity of early records management software packages to provide an adequate solution in these conditions.

"This has meant that only the operational headquarters at Como can be reasonably catered for by the current records management system. Other metropolitan sites receive less support to varying degrees, and regional and district offices are largely left to fend for themselves.

"However, technology now offers the potential to greatly enhance the quality of corporate information

services to CALM officers."

Jenny expects to implement a new system that can greatly improve access to corporate information for all staff.

"The aim is also to cut down on the duplication of effort imposed by the deficiencies in the old system, and to eliminate the need to look for the same sort of information in more than one place," Jenny said.

"My first task is to review current practice at the Corporate Information Section at Como to ensure that sound procedures are carried over into the new system, and that all statutory obligations are met.

"I'll then be conducting a survey of all CALM staff to find out their needs and their suggestions for providing better corporate information services.

"This, in turn, will indicate to me the most appropriate new records management software and the design of new services.

Exciting challenge

"It's a big project and may take some time before everyone can enjoy the full benefits of the new system. But it's an exciting challenge, and one that my team of enthusiastic staff and I are looking forward to."

Jenny is married to Tom, a marketing strategist (also part-time opera singer and former rugby player), who has worked both for the government and for private enterprise.

Off-duty

"In off-duty hours, our dog, a turbo-charged schnauzer called Zoe, keeps us on our toes," Jenny said. "Otherwise I enjoy dinner parties and dressmaking, in fact, I enjoy most of the things that come under the heading 'off-duty'—which shouldn't be interpreted to mean that I don't also enjoy working at CALM."

A new manager for Human Resources Branch

CLIFF Gillam has come to CALM as Human Resources Manager after six years with DOPLAR, the Government's central agency on labour relations.

As principal industrial officer, he had responsibilities embracing policy development and formulation in the field of labour relations, industrial advocacy on behalf of Government and client agencies in the public sector, and consultation with client agencies in the negotiation of industrial agreements and the development of workplace reform strategies.

He will be bringing this experience to bear to finalise the lengthy process of enterprise bargaining in CALM, and is reasonably confident that this can be achieved within the next month.

Cliff said that he was pleased to be taking a line

management role in CALM that broadened to encompass human resource issues other than industrial.

"I'm particularly committed to the provision of training and career development opportunities for employees," Cliff said.

"I believe the adaptability of any organisation in times of rapid change depends on the ability of its people to quickly adapt to new systems, and work effectively within them.

"In turn, their ability to do so depends on them being given the opportunity to continually upgrade their skills and knowledge.

Wise investment

"Investment by an organisation in training for its people is a wise investment in its own future.

I'm pleased to note that CALM's Corporate Executive has made a high prior-

ity of 'improving and broadening the skills of employees,' and I'll be adopting this as a major goal of Human Resources Branch over the next year.

As part of the Corporate Services Directorate, Human Resources Branch is focused on the provision of services primarily to internal customers.

Feedback

"Human Resources staff will be actively seeking feedback from managers in the field. We need to find out how we can upgrade our services to meet the needs that flow from the highly diverse range of occupations through which staff carry out CALM's mission in the wider community," Cliff said.

"I'm looking forward to making personal contact with managers in the field, and I'll also soon be surveying them to get a clearer

idea of how the Human Resources Branch can assist them in meeting the challenges implicit in that mission.

Cliff is personally committed to the mission of CALM, and says he can think of very few organisations of which it can truly be said that the work its people do now will continue to affect future generations in a positive way.

"CALM's employees carry a heavy burden of trust and responsibility, but also have the privilege of knowing that their work matters in a truly fundamental way," he said.

Most important asset

"I believe the most important asset any organisation has is its people, and that the achievement of organisation goals can only come from the wholehearted commitment of its people to those goals.

"In turn, the organisation must commit itself to its people, and ensure that they are provided with the resources, skills and knowledge to do the jobs they need to do in the most efficient and effective ways.

"Human Resources staff will be making sure that commitment is carried through, and we'll aim to ensure for all CALM employees that the department remains a productive, stimulating, safe, and supportive place to work."

Cliff is not married, but has a son and a daughter from a former marriage—son Zachary, is 18, and daughter Kezia is 16.

He enjoys the cinema, the theatre and reading, but Cliff's preferred relaxation is sailing.

So, what could be more appropriate for us to say to Cliff than: Welcome aboard the good ship CALM.



Cliff Gillam, settles in at Human Resources. Photo by Verna Costello

New up-to-the-minute maps for fire fighters

COLLABORATION between CALMfire, Information Management Branch (IMB) and the forest regions over the past 12 months has resulted in up-to-the-minute map products for forest management.

Known as operational graphics, they contain essential information for fire management, timber harvesting, recreation development and other CALM activities.

The need for the new series was first identified by CALMfire and IMB because districts and regions were using 1:50000 scale maps up to 15 years old.

CALMfire's Kevin White said that considerable land use changes had occurred in that time, particularly with the establishment of jarrah and karri regeneration programs, bluegum plantations on public and private lands, and the construction of new

by Drew Haswell

roads.

"Changing land use patterns, and the capacity to represent them readily on paper, is the key to successful operational mapping," Kevin said.

"It's imperative that fire-fighters know where these changes have occurred, so they can quickly detect fires and ensure their rapid suppression."

Meetings were quickly convened between CALMfire and IMB and essential data sets identified.

IMB then compiled digital base maps from existing data which were subsequently updated and validated by CALM forest regions and districts, and by satellite Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS).

IMB project leader Craig Thurley said digital mapping provided a flexible means of producing maps

because the data was stored in computer files, could be kept up-to-date, instantly retrieved and quickly printed.

"Field operations need the latest maps, and we want accurate digital land information for the generation of various map products, including the publicly available Land Management Series."

Kevin said the maps were particularly useful when CALM was liaising with private property owners and volunteer fire brigades.

"Here, current information is vital for planning fire suppression, so that combined firefighting resources can give priority to protecting their own and each other's interests," he said.

The new operational graphics data base is also being used to produce aerial surveillance maps, and to update office co-ordination boards at Pemberton, Kirup, Collie and Dwellingup.



Kevin White (centre) and Craig Thurley about to check one of the maps produced by operational graphics. With them is cartographic officer Femina Metcalfe, who was heavily involved in the project. Femina said she found it a great challenge, and was encouraged to see the new system meeting so many of CALM's operational needs. "In my dealings with regional and district staff I found them buzzing with excitement and highly appreciative of the new system," she said. Photo by Verna Costello

The latter should be in place by April, with the remainder of the forest regions being serviced before the 1996-67 fire season.

CALMfire, Forest Management Branch and IMB have recently funded the purchase of two new plotters located at Kelmscott and

Bunbury that will allow the printing of operational graphics by the regions.

Kevin said that feedback from districts and regions

was encouraging.

"Staff feel vastly reassured to have a reliable, current information base to work with," he said.



Researching blind 'roos

Pictured are CALM Goldfields Regional Wildlife Officer Warwick Roe (left) and Wildlife Conservation's Senior Zoologist Peter Mawson.

Here, Warwick had just delivered several pairs of eyes from western grey kangaroos that had choroid blindness. (See page 2, 'Public report on 'roos', CALM NEWS, January-February 1996 issue)

The animals were put down on humanitarian grounds, and tissue samples taken for analysis, as part of a nation-wide investigation into the disease.

Peter's role is to keep track of results of tests carried out by Agriculture WA who will examine the eyes for indicators of inflammation of the choroid, the part of the eyeball to which the retina is attached.

He also arranges for blood samples, collected from the animals by Warwick and other CALM regional staff, to be sent for testing at the Australian Animal Health Laboratories in Geelong.

Peter said that while blind kangaroos could now be found throughout most of the south-west agricultural

region and the Goldfields, the disease would not have a significant impact on the species.

"The blindness is caused by a virus, which is believed to be spread by biting midges. Most of the kangaroos will develop a natural immunity to the virus, with only one to three per cent of the population becoming blind," he said.

Peter recently flew to Canberra to attend a national task force meeting on kangaroo blindness, co-ordinated by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA).

A one-day workshop on

March 14 allowed scientists from several diverse fields of research (ecologists, pathologists, virologists, entomologists and veterinarians) to exchange information on the disease and assess the impact that it has had on kangaroos.

The workshop was very successful and the results of the investigations will be prepared for publication in scientific journals during the next few months.

A synopsis of the findings will also be put on the Internet to allow a wider readership to learn about the disease.



Dr David Robinson (far right) with Dr Stuart Crombie (centre) and Don Devlin from Dwellingup SID, discussing the management and effects of fire in the jarrah forest. The blackboys in the background have 'skirts' of dead leaves reaching almost to the ground, a legacy of nearly 60 years without fire.
Photo by Robyn Bowles.

Boning up on people skills

WITH smiles warm enough to charm even the most difficult customer, participants and their workshop facilitators (below) relax after one of CALM's Excellence in Customer Service Workshops. They are, at front, work centre manager and recreation officer Jamie Ridley and administration officer Jim Wilson, both from CALM's Mundaring office. Seated on the arm of Jamie's chair is cartographic officer Jenny Henderson from Information Management Branch, with facilitators (rear) Barbara Holland, left, and Jan Leonard.

Two other participants in the workshop (right) were clerical officers Debbie Wheeler (seated) and Marilyn Ramsay, both from CALM's Wanneroo office.

They took the opportunity at morning tea time to model their new navy blue and white uniforms. It isn't entirely clear what Terry Hales is up to, but it looks as if he's about to poke Marilyn in the ear.

Three of the workshops were held in 1995 and a dozen more are planned for the first half of 1996.

The workshops are de-



signed for all employees, and deal with internal as well as external customers. In other words, they deal with almost any relationship, regardless of how fleeting.

The workshops are never

boring, and are always useful, dealing with topics that can help participants in their day-to-day work and in their career development, by showing them ways of enhancing their communi-

cation and problem-solving skills.

For further information, please phone Deborah Greaves or Cheryl Tonts on (09) 389 8644. Story and photos by Verna Costello

Doctor in search of a wild Irish gum

DWELLINGUP Science and Information Centre recently hosted a visit from Dr David Robinson, a senior Irish horticulturalist and journalist.

Dr Robinson has more than 40 years' experience in using chemicals for weed control in crops and gardens.

Although retired, he still lectures in urban horticulture to students in Berlin and in Ireland.

His two-month visit to WA was based at the University of Western Australia, and included a seminar on the principles and practice of chemical weed control, which he delivered at Kings Park.

A highlight of Dr Robinson's trip was a visit to Dwellingup, where he saw an area of jarrah forest that had not been burnt for nearly 60 years (see picture) and to the George Block arboretum with its 290 plots containing more than 80 species of eucalypts.

He was also shown measures taken by CALM to control *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (the organism that causes dieback disease), the Disease Risk Area Forest Quarantine System and a split-phase logging operation.

Lunch was at the Long Gully railway bridge over the Hotham River. This bridge, originally built to carry the timber

by Robyn Bowles

tramways from Banksiadale and Dwellingup into the jarrah forests of the Harvey area, has recently been restored by the Harvey Shire Council.

Dr Robinson was much impressed by what he called "Western Australia's great good fortune" in having so much forest still in a near-natural state with so little pressure (compared with Europe) from tourism, timber harvesting and so on.

An additional purpose of Dr Robinson's visit to WA was to develop a cold-hardy flowering eucalypt for European horticulture, by hybridising the red flowering, but cold sensitive, *Eucalyptus ficifolia* with a more cold-tolerant species.

He has already grown several species of eucalypts in his 4.6-hectare home garden near Dublin.

Dr Robinson's home is on a peninsula in the Irish Sea, where it benefits from the warming effect of the Mexican Gulf Stream. This natural green-house enables Dr Robinson to grow several species of eucalypts and other warm-climate species in these generally colder climates.

A blackboy (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) is a prized recent addition to his garden, and the investment of several thousand dollars in this one plant is protected by a tin roof to keep it from being damaged by winter snows and ice!

The garden is classified as a National Plant Heritage Garden by the Irish Government, and was featured on the St Patrick's Day special on Burke's Backyard, screened last year on Channel Nine.

MOST of us are great at making excuses for not exercising. We are so good at it, in fact, that excuses are one of the biggest reasons many of us do not get enough exercise. So what's your excuse?

"I don't have time to exercise."

This is the most common excuse for not exercising, yet surveys have shown that people who do not exercise have as much leisure time as physically active people. It is true that we are all caught up with time restraints and deadlines that never seem to let up. That is why it is important to make time for, and schedule exercise. Free time to exercise will never materialise.

The lack-of-time excuse may actually hide a more

fundamental reason why people do not exercise—they have not made it a fun part of their routine. Exercise does not have to be torturous to be healthy. Most people can find an exercise they enjoy. Keep trying until you find one that is right for you.

"Exercise will tire me out."

Regular exercise actually creates a reserve of energy, so that you don't tire as easily. In fact, if you ask regular exercisers why they keep at it, they often say "because it gives me energy". As your body becomes fit, it becomes stronger, more flexible and better able to handle tough demands put on it.

Swimming is great for overweight people, and for those with joint or back



How's your health?

by Linda Gilbert

"I get enough exercise at work."

Very few people exercise at work for a long enough period of time, at sustained intensity, to improve fitness. If your work tires you out, this may be an additional reason to exercise during your leisure time so you can increase your general energy level.

"I am too old to exercise."

Other excuses in this category are "my joints won't take the pounding of exercise" or "my back is bad" or "my feet ...". The truth is that there is an exercise for just about everyone, whatever the age or physical condition.

Swimming is great for overweight people, and for those with joint or back

problems, since the water makes the body nearly weightless. Cycling is good for people with back or foot problems, and walking is great for any age or level of fitness.

"I would have to walk 50 km to lose two kilograms, so exercising isn't worth the bother."

Apart from the other benefits to your health, a more positive approach is to count the kilograms you would lose in a month or a year if you exercise for short periods every day.

For example, if you take a brisk 1.5 to 3 km walk each day you could drop 5 to 10 kilos in a year, even without a change in eating habits.

Also, exercise helps you lose weight in several ways,

by burning extra kilojoules while you exercise and for a short period afterwards. Exercise also help to reduce the amount of fat tissues in the body, and increases the lean tissue (muscle). Since muscle tissue uses more energy than fat tissue, some experts believe exercise actually increases overall metabolism, (rate at which the body burns kilojoules).

"I need my leisure time to relax."

Exercise can actually reduce stress and mental tension. It may be a form of mental therapy. Some studies indicate that exercise may help relieve mild depression.

Adapted from the Heart Foundation's Heart at Work publication.

New partners keep home fires burning

A NEW partnership between CALM and the Tourist Bureaus of Mandurah, Jarrahdale, Pinjarra and Rockingham is providing members of the public with firewood in a way that has minimal impact on State forests and reduces the risk of spreading dieback.

This means people can get approvals to remove wood from designated areas any day of the week, and often from locations more convenient than travelling all the way to the forest-based CALM offices.

People wishing to take advantage of the new system are being encouraged to stock up their wood supplies in the summer rather than in winter, and although, officially, it is now autumn, there are still a few weeks in which to take advantage of summer firewood gathering.

However, before taking off to collect it, there are a few requirements that must be met.

First, you'll need an authorisation. This, and directions to the firewood areas, can now be obtained seven days a week between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm at Mandurah, Jarrahdale, Pinjarra or Rockingham Tourist Bureaus, as well as from CALM offices, Monday to Friday, between 8.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The authorisation, which is also your receipt for payment for the wood, must be produced if requested by a CALM officer.

As it is illegal for the members of the public to fell trees within State forest, even if the trees are already dead, all firewood is carefully selected and felled by CALM.

by Tammie Reid

There is a CALM legal enforcement team that moves around the wood collection areas to ensure the regulations are being observed.

Because dieback needs moist soil conditions in

order to survive, people are encouraged to collect their firewood in summer, and as an incentive designed to minimise the risk of spreading the disease, removal authorisations obtained in summer cost half as much as they do in winter.

Firewood is sold at half

price in summer. For example, one tonne of firewood costing \$14 in winter, costs only \$7 to collect from a designated area in summer.

You still need to bring a wheelbarrow, chainsaw, trailer or ute, safety gear, such as boots, ear plugs and first aid kit.

A 6' x 4' trailer or standard ute will carry approximately half a tonne.

There are other advantages to collecting wood in summer; dry wood burns cleaner than when it is damp.

Also, CALM has changed the regulation that once limited people to collecting one tonne every 60 days. It is now possible to pay for and collect more than one tonne every 60 days, as long as you have a receipt for the wood, it is for your own use, and the wood is not sold.

You can remove multiple loads daily, provided each load is signed for, and dated, by the person taking the load, and it is not more than one tonne per load.

So, the time to stock up and get a good deal is now, before the winter rains arrive.

The big picture

As part of the bigger picture, CALM integrates commercial harvesting of firewood with other timber harvesting activities, a policy designed to limit the number of operations in the bush. This, in turn, limits the risk of introducing dieback disease.

Commercial firewood operations are administered via a contract system, designed to ensure the equitable and orderly marketing of firewood. This also provides good quality firewood at a reasonable price.

Commercial outlets for firewood include wood yards, CALM-contracted firewood operators, and offcuts from sawmills.

Last winter, there were no free public firewood gathering areas anywhere in the Swan Region State forests, a situation expected to continue.



CALM forester Ralph Smith has been the driving force behind the CALM's increasingly user-friendly firewood system. Here, Ralph helps Pinjarra Tourist Centre manager Jennifer Smith to stoke up the hearth at the Edenvale historic complex, in readiness for the first winter chill. Pinjarra is the latest tourist centre to be trained to issue firewood authorisations. Photo by Tammie Reid



Stuart, (rear centre) supervises CALM Corporate Relations community education officer Tammie Reid, (left) and former CALM forest ranger Matt Reynolds as they work on resuscitating a dummy patient. Photo by Taryn Linning

Stuart wins service award

CONGRATULATIONS to CALM Dwellingup mechanic-in-charge Stuart Hunter on his St John Ambulance Volunteer First Aid Instructor of the Year Award.

The award is based on the amount of voluntary service given, the spirit in which that service was carried out, the number of students taught, and the quality of student feedback.

Stuart became involved with St John Ambulance in May 1965 at Dwellingup, carrying out voluntary maintenance work on the ambulance, followed by voluntary ambulance officer duties.

He became a volunteer ambulance officer grade II, and an accredited instructor in 1983.

Stuart has taught more than 120 classes and given in excess of 1800 hours in first aid training programs, at St John Ambulance sub centres, schools, school camps, local fire brigade units, Lions Clubs, and sporting clubs.

He has also conducted senior first aid courses for CALM at Como, Woodvale, Narrogin, Merredin and Dwellingup, and plans to train more staff at Woodvale and Dwellingup in May and June.

The courses are usually run as a result of safety officers identifying a need for first aid training for specific staff then contacting Stuart, who seeks the necessary permission to carry out the training.

Hills Forest staff ready for busier school year

THE second school term heralds the start of an even busier year than usual for Corporate Relations Division's education projects co-ordinator Liz Moore, and her team at The Hills Forest.

Bookings for the ever-popular Discovering The Hills Forest have once again increased dramatically and if the instant success of the Catchment Carers' Trail is added, it becomes obvious—Liz needs help!

Liz said that both educational programs were exciting, action-packed environmental learning excursions for upper primary students.

"Discovering The Hills Forest, which is sponsored in part by ICI, helps to change students' lives by having them examine their use of forest resources and take action towards lessening their impact on the forest," Liz said.

"The Catchment Carers' Trail provides students with the opportunity to under-

by Kate Baxter

stand how forests are managed for a variety of uses, including water catchment protection, and to learn about water supply and resource management.

"Both programs are backed up by comprehensive sets of teacher and student resource notes, and suggested activities link with learning areas of the curriculum, such as studies of society and environment, science, the arts, English and mathematics.

"Discovering The Hills Forest now offers teachers the option of professional development on either weekdays or weekends.

Many foresters, rangers and CALM staff from Mundaring, Kelmscott and John Forest National Park have already supported the programs over the past few years and continue to do so by donating their time.

This ensures a strong CALM presence and a

heightening of public awareness as students learn more about CALM's conservation and forest management role.

"It's a lot of fun for the CALM staff member concerned, as Swan Regional Manager Alan Walker found out last year with Woodlupine Primary School," Liz said.

Alan said that he enjoyed the social interaction with teachers, parents and, of course, the students, who were firing questions at him left, right and centre.

"It was a great opportunity for me to get up to The Hills Forest from Kelmscott to have a look at the developments there and be involved—albeit for a short time—in such a great project as Discovering The Hill Forest," Alan said.

If you can spare a couple of hours on one or more afternoons to help at one of the 50 Discovering The Hills Forest excursions, please contact Liz Moore on (09) 295 2244.



Alan Walker helps students from Woodlupine Primary School with the Forest Connections game, which illustrates how we are all linked to the forest as a resource for water, timber, honey, paper, recreation and relaxation. Photo by Bev Henderson.