



## New face in Finance

**A NEW face in Financial Services Branch belongs to Brendon Johnston (pictured above), who is the recently appointed management accountant.**

Brendon comes to CALM from Telstra, where he was employed for 17 years, the first nine being on the technical side of its operations, and the past eight years in Finance and Accounting.

His last position with Telstra was as manager planning and support for its Network Operations in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

"My group was responsible for the financial analysis, budgeting and reporting for Network Operations, the area that operates and maintains the telephone exchanges," Brendon said.

"With rationalisation and centralisation occurring in Telstra because of the competitive market place, my team's duties were picked up by its Melbourne office.

As a result I was able to look for new opportunities and jumped at the chance to work with CALM."

Brendon brings with him extensive experience in finance and accounting, with a leaning towards financial analysis. He has been involved in designing and implementing both budget and management

information systems.

"The Management Accounting Group is responsible for the preparation of budgets and the production of financial reports, and a part of that role is monitoring financial performance and seeing managers are accountable for their expenditure," he said.

"Other tasks include financial analysis, maintenance of the general ledger and the review of fees and charges.

"I believe the area should, as its primary focus, aim to deliver the best possible information to allow CALM's management team to make well-informed decisions that maximise the best use of available resources.

"Coming from outside CALM, I'm on a steep learning curve about the organisation and the many diverse things we do.

"Over the next six months, I aim to get out and speak to as many people in all parts of the department as possible.

"I believe the only way I can be effective in this job is to learn all our people's business. It's through this process that I'll be able to see where my work in the management accounting area can add real value to CALM's business, rather than just supplying numbers.

"I have a solid grounding in investment and cost analysis and believe this is one area where the management accounting group could make a difference.

"One of the first projects I'm involved in is a review of the chart of accounts. In the short time I've been here, it has become apparent that many believe the chart to be too big and that it creates unnecessary work.

"With input from those who rely on information from the financial system we'll be able to come up with a solution that will satisfy all users' needs.

Brendon says he is contentedly married to Alison, "full-time wife and mother to our two terrific kids—ten-year-old Kirsty, and nine-year-old Ryan."

A softball and baseball player, Brendon is having a break this season and enjoying being a spectator.

When he has time (after ferrying the kids to netball and football), he likes to potter around the garden and spend long weekends fishing at Lancelin.

Welcome to CALM, Brendon; you've come to the right workplace for advice on gardening (particularly on native gardens) and fishing.

*Story and photo  
by Verna Stell*

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