

# Dwellingup celebrates its safety record

CALM's commitment to higher productivity by seeking more efficient ways to carry out tasks, means our staff must constantly test new procedures and equipment—and do so in a safe and effective manner. CALM's safety record shows this is done this well.

The safety program is about people in CALM working together, and 'watching out' for each other; it means teamwork, and attention to the details that produce a safe working environment. We can never finish this program; it is with us every day.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, in an address to Dwellingup Work Centre staff, celebrating 18 accident-free months, acknowledged the safety achievements of the organisation.

"The success of this organisation comes down to people not budgets. The type of work we do is not powder puff stuff, nor do safe environments just happen," he said.

He also commended Dwellingup staff on their

by Tammie Reid

fire-catering initiatives and involvement in the CALM-wide, workplace fitness program.

Health, welfare and safety co-ordinator for Dwellingup, forester Peter Burton proudly spoke out about Dwellingup's record.

"There are 68 CALM employees based at Dwellingup, covering a wide range of jobs—weekend weather recorders, rangers, firefighters, mechanical workshop staff, clerical and heavy machinery operators, and so on," he said.

"It's a team effort that's helped us achieve an impressive record—458 days (or more than 300,000 hours) worked without a lost-time accident.

"That, and the fact that we spend time on preventative programs such as hazard reporting to our Safety Committee and fitness and nutrition awareness, contributes significantly to our clean record.

"A new focus for us soon

is in the area of male health, and presentations on the detection and treatment of prostate cancer are scheduled for all staff in the next few months.

Another strength of our safety program is in our attitude to first aid. We maintain more than 80 per cent of our workforce with current St John Ambulance

senior first aid certificates, and have just completed the accreditation and refresher programs for our district.

These courses are also available to CALM staff spouses, as we believe in safe work, a safe home and a preparedness for any situation within or outside work."

Before handing out the safety award certificates, Dr Shea also touched on the need to identify and manage stress in the workplace.

He cited exercise and a better understanding of the causes and symptoms of stress, which have enabled him to deal effectively with the problems that stress can cause.

"CALM is a big organisation, with many challenges and changes, which our staff must deal with constantly," he said.

"All over Australia, CALM is a model for conservation and land management, and safety records like that of Dwellingup are an important indicator that we also take care of our people.

"It isn't surprising, then, that they take pride in being part of such an organisation.

"It's vital, if we are to retain and reward such highly motivated staff, that these pressures are acknowledged and that we continue to actively encourage safety, and health and fitness programs."



Some of the members of the Dwellingup Health, Welfare and Safety Committee in front of a new Kubota tractor. From left to right safety co-ordinator Peter Burton, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, Science and Information Division's safety representative Richie Fairman, and acting Dwellingup district manager, Steve Raper. This tractor is to be used in the Building a Better Bibbulmun Project, and is fitted with a flail mower, a post hole digger and a small, trail-construction blade. Photo by Tammie Reid

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Photos by Tammy Reid.

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