

# CALM NEWS

Print post approved PP665002/00001

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

JULY-AUGUST 1996



- ◆ Montebello Renewal on target - page 3
- ◆ Staff win Churchill Fellowships - page 4
- ◆ Bibbulmun project team at Como - page 4



- ◆ Dwellingup safety record intact - page 5
- ◆ Wanjarri plan launched - page 5
- ◆ CALM-ANCA in joint South West project - page 6



- ◆ Business Unit Conference - page 7
- ◆ New face in Financial Services - page 8
- ◆ Lunchtime seminars draw large following - page 8

## CALM's new base at Fremantle ...



South Australian Environment Minister David Wotton (right) and Western Australian Environment Minister Peter Foss hear CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea as he lists the advantages of WA Naturally, at the department's new premises in Fremantle. Photo by Ernie McLintock

CALM celebrated the opening of new premises at Fremantle in June—signalling an exciting phase for the Department's marine management, nature-based tourism and Aboriginal cultural tourism operations.

The opening also provided a launch pad for CALM's *WA Naturally*—a stylish, nature information centre, and the department's internet web site, *NatureBase*—which aims to put WA's megadiversity 'on-line' for the world.

*WA Naturally* has been developed by CALM to provide a point of contact and a source of nature information for locals, tourists and the nature-based tourism industry.

It invites visitors to learn more about Western Australia and its unique wildlife, and serves as a showcase for the State, offering top quality publications and merchandise.

The new offices are housed within the historic University of Notre Dame complex at 47 Henry Street.

During the opening, they were inspected by WA Environment Minister, Peter Foss, along with his South Australian counterpart, David Wotton, and Federal Environment Minister, Senator Robert Hill.

All three were impressed with the setup, and Mr Foss said the location of the Marine Conservation Branch, and the Swan Region Marine Operations Group, made a significant addition to Fremantle's 'marine precinct'.

by Penny Walsh

He also said that the new Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Unit would mean higher recognition for Aboriginal culture and heritage in the State's growing nature-based tourism industry.

Speaking of Aboriginal culture, perhaps the highlight of the Fremantle base opening was the performance by Aboriginal dance group 'Western Creations'. Their finale—a traditional spear dance—saw Mr Foss smiling bravely in the face of 'attack' by several spear and boomerang-wielding dancers.

*WA Naturally* is open from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm every day, (except Tuesday) including weekends and public holidays. For more information, phone (09) 430 8600.

The staff based at Fremantle are:

**Marine Conservation Branch** - Chris Simpson, Nick D'Adamo, Greg Pobar, Jeremy Colman, Sue Osborne and Stella King

**Marine Operations Group (Swan)** - Peter Dans, Kevin Crane, John Edwards and Stephanie Crawford.

**Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Unit** - Noel Nannup and Trevor Walley.

**WA Naturally** - June Ellis and Kerry Ruddick (Monday only).

To contact the Marine and Aboriginal units, phone (09) 432 5100.

The *NatureBase* Internet address is <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/>

## ... and South Coast gets upgraded too

**OPERATIONS** at CALM's South Coast Region have become more efficient with the opening of a newly refurbished office complex in Albany.

The move to the new premises (formerly occupied by Agriculture WA, on Albany Highway, near Coles Supermarket) has enabled the Region to consolidate its operations on the one site. Previously staff were based in three separate locations.

The South Coast is one of CALM's nine administrative regions. It extends over 1000 kilometres along the southern coast from Denmark, through Albany and Esperance to the State border at Eucla.

It also includes the Stirling Range, the Johnston Lakes area and the Southern Nullarbor.

The region has an exceptional wealth and variety of natural features. These include diverse

landforms and most of the major mountain peaks of the South-West, key areas of species richness such as the Stirling Range, Fitzgerald River and Cape Arid national parks, and a range of native fauna with many of the Wheatbelt's threatened species near the southern limits of their range.

The region supports three of the most threatened bird species in Western Australia—the

noisy scrub-bird, western bristlebird and ground parrot—and Australia's most threatened mammal, Gilbert's potoroo, which was rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay in 1994, after being presumed extinct for 125 years.

### Outstanding

The region also has outstanding potential for the establishment of tree farms on previously cleared agricultural land,

particularly around Albany and Esperance.

The new office accommodates CALM staff who have responsibility for the department's major roles and functions across the region, CALM Albany District operational staff, including national park rangers and wildlife officers, and CALM's South Coast Share Farms Business Unit.

It also houses the Al-

bany Regional Herbarium.

This comprises the collection of the Albany Branch of the WA Wildflower Society and part of the late Ken Newbey's collection, donated by Mrs Brenda Newbey several years ago.

The new location for the CALM regional headquarters is ideal as it is readily accessible to local people and tourists and is within easy walking distance from

the town centre.

The premises have on-site parking facilities. This is important, especially during emergencies such as major bushfires which are usually controlled from the operations room in the complex.

People who wish to contact the office should ring the new phone number (098) 42 4500. The fax number remains the same—(098) 41 3329

See photograph on page 2



I usually use this column to compliment various sections of the department—not as a vehicle for criticism. We generally get enough criticism from external forces without me adding to it.

But a radio news item criticising CALM I caught a few days ago has prompted this mild critique of people in CALM.

The essence of the news item was that CALM was being savagely attacked because it was too good at 'marketing'. If only this was true.

We may be relatively better than some organisations in Australia.

But I think Australians generally are appalling at marketing.

I have a theory that it is an inherited genetic trait which is linked to the quite admirable Australian propensity to be averse to people who are too fond of themselves.

Consequently, I don't believe CALM markets as effectively as it should.

Moreover, I suspect there are many people in the Department who look on marketing as either an add-on if time's available, or even think it's beneath them.

I believe that marketing the knowledge we have in our privileged position as managers on behalf of the community of more than 20 million hectares of land and all the State's wildlife is a fundamental part of our core charter.

After all, the people who pay us—the community—have a right to know all we know about Western Australian ecosystems, how to protect them, how to repair them and, in some situations, how to use them to generate wealth.

It never was sufficient just to communicate by writing to fulfil our responsibilities to the community.

But in today's world, it is even more important that we use every form of communication that is available to us and that we don't adopt a one dimensional approach to marketing.

Too often we use one press release, issued at one point in time, to convey what is often a major message.

We should never forget the success of television programs like Sesame Street which were, and are, stunningly successful because they convey the fundamental message in many different ways over and over again.

The good news is, there are increasing opportunities to market more easily to more and more people because of virtually weekly breakthroughs in communication technologies.

For example, CALM, in just the last few weeks, has tapped into CD ROM technology to communicate information about nature based tourism and how to grow trees on farms, and of course we have an excellent home page on the Internet.

These new communication weapons add to an already impressive armoury which includes CALM News and LANDSCOPE.

But you can have all the technology in the world and still be a dud marketeer if people don't use it, and are not committed to the idea that everybody in CALM has the capacity and the responsibility to be a good marketeer for the organisation.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

## ... and South Coast gets upgraded too ... (cont'd from page 1)



The new premises were officially opened by Environment Minister Peter Foss at a function attended by CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, and South Coast Region and District staff. Also present were Albany Primary Schoolchildren, who were later accompanied by Mr Foss in a tree-planting ceremony.

Photo by Corinn Hine

## It's Big Brook time again!

NOW is not too soon to begin training for CALM's major sporting event of the year—the Big Brook Relay.

This is its 10th year, so there are special activities planned (including an anniversary dinner) for those taking part, and their families and friends, as well as non-participating supporters, on Saturday November 16.

For those who would like to stay until Sunday, accommodation can be arranged.

This year's organiser is Pemberton District

acting manager Rod Anear, who is particularly keen to see staff form teams to represent their region, district, division or branch.

While the Big Brook Relay is keenly competitive, the emphasis is on having a good time, making new friends and catching up with old ones.

So, if you have never before indulged in this particular form of ecstatic self-flagellation, hurl caution to the winds, (making sure you warm up beforehand, of course) and just show

up on November 16.

The relay begins at 10.30 am and the sequence of events is as follows:

- Cross-cut sawing (2)
- cycling
- running
- canoeing (2)
- swimming

For advice on safe training techniques, contact your local fitness leader, or phone Linda Gilbert on (09) 334 0398, or fax her on (09) 334 0478.

For further details about events, entry forms, deadline for same, and so on, phone Rod on (097) 761 207.

## Staff Movements

### Appointments:

**Contract Staff:**  
Neville Walliss, Technical Officer in Wildlife Branch, Como; Rebecca Wolstenholme, Conservation officer at Merredin District; Mira Osgerby, Field Officer at Mundaring District; Ben Sawyer, Assistant Area Co-ordinator, Kalgoorlie District, David Whitelaw, Forest Ranger, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury District; Ivan Zimgash, Field Officer, Harvey Timber Utilisation Centre, Bunbury District; Amanda Smith, Field Officer, Bunbury District Forest Management Branch; Jeremy Chick Forest Ranger, Manjimup Forest Management Branch; Megan S Hughes, Forest Ranger, Dwellingup District Herbarium; Carmel E Beggetta, Clerical Officer, Harvey District; Emily G Backen, Clerical Officer, Information Management Branch, Como; Kellie R Agar, Forest Ranger, Bunbury District Forest Management Branch, Alan Mair, Technical Officer, Information Management Branch, Como; Douglas Measey, Clerical Officer, Bunbury District Information Management Branch.

### Promotions:

Colin Pearce, to Manager, Information Management Branch, Como; Julia Lewis to Database Administrator in Information Management Branch, Como; Natalie Littlefair to Administration Officer at Fisheries Department; Grace Silvestri, to Financial Auditor in Management Audit, Como; Bill Towie, to Monitoring and Train-

ing Officer at Dwellingup District; John W Edwards to Ranger-in-Charge, Swan Region Marine Parks; Brian Q Inglis to Operations Officer, Wanneroo District.

### Secondments

Cecelia Koh to Finance Branch, as Clerical Officer; Diane Johns to Information Management Branch, as Help Desk Officer.

### Retirements

Senior Principal Research Scientist Per Christensen from Science and Information Division's Manjimup Research Centre.

### Transfers

David Mansfield to Department of Productivity and Labour Relations, (DOPLR) as Project Manager; Olga Truran to Department of Fisheries, as Clerical Officer; Julie Davies to Kelmscott District, as Clerical Officer; Wayne Aggiss to Walpole, as Forest Ranger.

### Leave Without Pay

Penny Walsh, Media Liaison Officer, Corporate Relations Division, for 12 months from 23 August 1996.

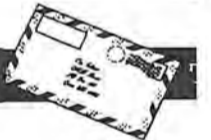
### Resignations

Darren Christopherson, from Information Management Branch, as Research Officer, Como; David Bishop, from Harvey District Wood Utilisation Research Centre, as Technical Officer; Sharon Ror from Manjimup Region, Clerk. Tom Rouse, from Pemberton, as a forester.

### Deceased

George Zebrowski, Clerical Officer, Wildlife Branch.

## LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS... LETTERS



This clipping was taken, by kind permission of *The Weekly Post*, from a letter to its editor that appeared on page 2 of its July 28, 1996 issue.

## We're proud of CALM's work

Ian Maley's comments last week on the expenditure of conservation funds in WA by WWF Australia are very misleading, and reflect a less than constructive approach by his organisation ("Where nature fund has spent its money").

WWF has supported several projects carried out by CALM research scientists in recent years into endangered species and the management of fire in forests and woodland remnants.

We are proud of these projects as the work has been of the highest quality and has led to direct improvements in conservation.

The allocation of WWF funds is determined by a strategic plan and expert advice. WWF Australia does not "give funds away" — we buy the best pos-

sible expertise to carry out our projects, regardless of the source of that expertise.

To do otherwise would be to misuse the resources provided by our donors.

Details of our WA program can be obtained free by writing to GPO Box U1946, Perth 6845.

David Butcher  
Chief executive officer  
WWF Australia  
Sydney

CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea was greatly impressed recently by the following direct, but straight-from-the-heart letter from two young high school children:

To the Western Shield David Clarke and I would like to raise money to save the native animals like the numbat and the kangaroos. We are both ten years old and we both go to Dumbleyung Distict High School. Could you please send us information or ideas on ways we could raise money or help with Western Shield.

We await your reply.  
Yours faithfully,  
Darryl Tyler  
RMB 331  
Katanning WA 6317

Below is Dr Shea's reply. It will surely echo the thoughts of every conservation-minded staff member. With children like Darryl and David ready to help, we may rest assured of the safe future of our native animals and their habitat:

Dear Darryl,  
I was very pleased to receive your letter offering assistance with Western Shield.

Young Australians such as yourself and David Clarke are to be commended on your community spirit and dedication to the environment.

Your kind offer of assistance is very much appreciated. I have con-

tacted my District Manager at Katanning, Mr Murray Carter. He will be contacting you through your school and is looking forward to meeting you.

It would be of great assistance to us if you and some of your friends could help us to monitor the native animals in the bush near Katanning.

Murray will be talking to you about the possibility of sponsoring one of the small native animals that we will be re-introducing to the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

Many of the native animals in the reserve have disappeared because foxes have eaten them. We will be controlling the foxes in the reserve so that the native animals we put back there will be safe.

I hope you enjoy working with the animals of Lake Magenta and thank you again for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,  
Syd Shea  
Executive Director  
Department of Conservation and Land Management.

## 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

Motorola PMR 2000 Pager with battery charger  
Price \$100 - For more information contact Kylie Dyson at Woodvale on (09) 405 5131

## CALM NEWS — JULY–AUGUST 1996

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Design and Production: Sandra van Brugge

Published by CALM Corporate Relations Division, Cygnet Hall,  
(cnr) Mounts Bay Road & Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009  
Telephone: (09) 389 8644 Facsimile: (09) 389 8296

Story deadline for CALM NEWS is the 10th of the month preceding the month of issue.

Printed by Lamb Print.

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER

# Montebello Renewal on schedule despite rain



North West Island, Montebellos. Left to right: Martin Clarke, Narrogin District; Jill Pryde, WATSCU; Brent Johnson, SID, Woodvale; Matt Dowling, Wildlife Branch; Ian Gale, Perth District; Richard Fairman, SID Dwellingup. Photo by Jill Pryde



Arriving at Hermite Island are, left to right, Brent Johnson, Jill Pryde, Martin Clarke, Andrew Burbidge, Jane McRae (SID Woodvale), Howard Robinson (Narrogin District). In front, Tony Scolari (pilot) and Diana Papenfus (WA Herbarium). Photo Jill Pryde

**"MONTEBELLO Renewal", a 'Western Shield' project, is now well under way and the first four weeks' work was completed on schedule despite copious quantities of unseasonable rain.**

The Montebello Islands have suffered considerable abuse by humans. Feral cats and black rats were introduced about 100 years ago, probably from shipwrecks or careening pearling vessels. Their introduction caused the local extinction of at least four native animals — the spectacled hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*), golden bandicoot (*Isodon atlas*), black-and-white fairywren (*Malurus leucopterus leucopterus*) and spinifex-bird (*Eremiornis carteri*).

## Atomic tests

Then, in the 1950s, the islands were used by the British as a site for testing atomic weapons. During Operation Hurricane, in 1952, a nuclear device was exploded below the waterline in a Royal Navy frigate, HMS *Plym*, off Main Beach at Trimouille Island. Two further weapons were exploded on 30-metre towers in 1956, one at Gladstone Point on Trimouille Island, and another near Burgundy Bay on Alpha Island.

This series of tests was code-named Operation Mosaic, during which the islands were occupied by military forces, and many

tonnes of equipment were left lying around to rust when the nuclear weapons testing program shifted to Maralinga in South Australia.

## Rat and cats to go

*Montebello Renewal* is designed to rid the Montebello Islands Conservation Park of feral rats and cats. The project is being conducted jointly by the CALM Nature Conservation Division's WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit (WATSCU) and CALM's Pilbara Region.

Phase I, the rat eradication, began on May 29, when Director of WATSCU Andrew Burbidge, Steve Grenfell, (Engineering Branch) Geoff Kregor, (Pilbara Region, Millstream National Park) and volunteers Peter Keppell (Mundaring District) and Bill Morrow (ACI Plastics Packaging) left Dampier by charter boat for Hermite Island.

Planning for *Montebello Renewal* had been under way for some time. During 1993 and 1994, biological surveys of the islands identified native species that might be affected by rat and cat baiting programs.

## Native species immune

During August 1995, one island was baited to test the bait stations and baiting methods developed for the project. The bait station developed is designed to prevent native birds

eating the bait.

The project is partly funded by the Commonwealth Government, which allocated some management funds to the State when the islands were returned to Western Australian control in 1992.

Additional funds have come from CALM 'Western Shield' sources. However, the project could not have proceeded without sponsorship, and a feature of *Montebello Renewal* has been the support provided by industry groups and volunteers.

The major sponsor, West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) provided transport of equipment from Perth to Hermite Island and return, and has also donated seats for CALM staff and volunteers on its Ansett jet charters between Perth and Barrow Island.

Apache Energy, which operates oil and gas fields near the Montebellos, transported CALM staff to and from Karratha and also provided some helicopter support and fresh food to keep the teams working.

ACI Plastics Packaging donated 13,800 plastic bottles to be used as bait stations for the rat eradication program.

ICI Crop Care provided the rodent poison Talon® G at a discount price and Selleys Chemical Company donated some of the 'All Clear', an adhesive needed to stick bait stations to rock.

The WAPET-chartered barge *Karinya II* arrived at CALM's Hurricane Hill Hut on Hermite Island on Monday June 3, and unloaded the large quantities of fuel, food, bait stations and other equipment required for the project.

As well as organising these stores and other gear, the advance party had to repair the building, which had been damaged during Cyclone Olivia, and set up a generator and reverse osmosis plant to ensure a regular supply of fresh water.

## Staff volunteers

Another feature of *Montebello Renewal* is that most of the 25 or so volunteers who are working in the field are CALM staff who have donated part of their annual leave to help with the project.

Volunteers who worked at the islands up to 10 July were Peter Keppell and Ian Gale (Mundaring District), Diana Papenfus (Science and Information Division, WA Herbarium), Jane McRae (SID, Woodvale), Richard Fairman (SID, Dwellingup), Jill Pryde (WATSCU), Martin Clarke and Howard Robinson (Narrogin District), Michelle Widmer (CALMfire, Nannup), Kevin Morrison (Wildlife Protection, Como), Bob Rickman (Busselton District) and Caroline Brocx (Morningson District).

CALM staff leading the

project had nothing but praise for the volunteers, who all worked hard under often trying conditions and remained cheerful despite being zapped by sandflies! Without the contribution of the volunteers, the project would not have been possible.

CALM staff who have participated as leaders include Andrew Burbidge, Brent Johnson (SID, Woodvale), John Blyth, (WATSCU) and Fran Stanley and Peter Kendrick (Pilbara Region).

Don Noble (Wildlife Protection) navigated *Pseudorca II* to the Montebellos, where it is being used to transport workers and equipment between the base on Hermite Island and the areas being baited.

Trainee wildlife officers Matt Dowling and Ben Tannock worked as part of their training in wildlife management.

Rat baiting was programmed to begin on June 11, the day after the first group of volunteers arrived from Perth. But on the evening of June 10, a storm struck the hut with 70-kilometre winds and driving rain, damaging one tent and wetting the contents of the four others.

It also turned cardboard boxes containing about 10,000 plastic bottles into a soggy mess. So the first day was spent screwing lids onto bottles and tying bottles on to strings of 40.

Unfortunately the rain continued on and off through much

of June. It was so heavy and persistent on one day that the crew coming from Perth were marooned on Barrow Island for a night. In all, about 100 mm of rain fell on the islands during June.

Notwithstanding the rain, all the teams worked hard to lay bait stations on a 50-metre grid over all the more remote islands during the first four weeks of the operation, while a chartered helicopter was present to provide transport.

During this time, equipment dumps were placed on most of the 20 larger islands which are being gridded with bait stations, while the 80 or so small islands and rocks were baited from the helicopter.

## Bait moulding in rain

The rain also meant that much of the rat bait laid during June became mouldy and unpalatable, and had to be replaced.

Fortunately, by July 7, the operation was back on schedule, and baiting of the 1,020-hectare Hermite Island—the largest island in the group—began on July 9.

Montebello Renewal is scheduled to continue until the end of August 1996, by which time we hope that the whole chain of islands will be free of rats!

Phase II of Montebello Renewal, the cat control project, will begin in August, immediately following the rat eradication project.



South East Island, Montebellos. Photo by Jill Pryde



Aerial view of Montebello Islands. Photo by Jill Pryde



Anne Cochrane and Trevor Butcher. Photo by Verna Costello

# CALM staff awarded Churchill fellowships

by Verna Costello

**TWO CALM staff have been awarded 1997 Churchill Fellowships. They are Science and Information Division senior research scientist Trevor Butcher and Herbarium research scientist Anne Cochrane.**

Trevor works in the area of developing improvements in tree breeding, and he has a special interest in *Pinus pinaster*.

He will be travelling early in 1997 to various locations in South Africa, Morocco, Portugal, France and England for 12 weeks to study the breeding methods being used for *Pinus pinaster*, and to obtain new genetic material.

Trevor has worked with CALM in Perth for many years, and has been responsible for the department's tree-breeding pro-

grams for *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus radiata* and *Eucalyptus globulus*.

He has worked with *Pinus pinaster* for the last 25 years and has been involved in co-operative projects with each of the centres he will visit.

Trevor will be looking for new material to broaden the genetic base of the hardy *Pinus pinaster* in WA.

"While overseas, I'll also look at computer-based data collection and information systems that might enhance my Tree Breeding Information System as an international application," he said.

"I'll also be inspecting *Pinus radiata* and blue gum breeding programs.

Anne manages CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre at the Herbarium. She will visit the UK and USA for 10 weeks.

During her trip, Anne will be gathering information to help improve Australia's capacity to conserve endangered native flora, and be gaining expertise in the latest germplasm storage (genebanking) techniques.

"The primary purpose of genebanks is to conserve the genetic diversity of plants, but genebanking of non-economic native flora is a relatively new field of conservation in Australia," Anne said.

"Although on-site conservation is considered the most desirable long-term strategy for conservation, genebanks may be

seen as constituting a last resort in preventing the extinction of critically endangered plants.

"Clearing, weed invasion, salinisation and, particularly, dieback are having a profound effect on our native flora, and the long-term storage of seed is part of an integrated strategy to help prevent this extinction of native species, where other methods of on-site conservation are failing."

"Seed will be used reintroduction programs in the future should the need arise," Anne said.

We congratulate Trevor and Anne, and wish them each a fruitful trip; we also look forward to their return, and to seeing separate in-depth articles in *CALM NEWS* describing their experiences while overseas.

# Bibbulmun trail project team based at Como

**ARMED with Commonwealth Government funding, the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track Project has accelerated rapidly in the past three months.**

The Project Team has now settled into its new, larger premises at CALM's Operational Headquarters in Como, and is part of CALM's Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Division.

Computers, telephone systems and divisions of work have all helped make the team more effective, with co-ordinator Jesse Brampton, assistant co-ordinator Peter Bidwell, and administrative assistant Raelene Hick integral parts of a tightknit and fast-moving team.

Jesse said that while every attempt was being made to ensure that members of this core project team had all the support they needed to operate effectively, they were also looking at ways to keep the project's office as lean as possible, thereby ensuring that the maximum percentage of the funds was spent on the track itself.

"It's likely that additional help will be contracted, but only on an 'as needed' basis," Jesse said.

"For example, we recently had Julie Adams, a former CALM staff member, working in the office on a temporary basis. She designed and organised an efficient and easily accessed filing system for the growing quantity of Bibbulmun-related material.

"The Bibbulmun Track Project is now demonstrably larger than just a three-person project, with the Como-based project team

being a team within a team.

"The real team driving the project, the team ultimately responsible for implementing the new track before its completion date of May 1, 1998, includes all CALM recreation officers from Districts located along the Bibbulmun, and each of the four regional recreation planners whose regions cover sections of it.

"In addition, it includes

those members of the Recreation and Landscape Design Team who regularly have input into the project, and those national park rangers whose parks are traversed by the Bibbulmun.

"It's this larger team, each member of which has responsibility for a section of the track, that will increasingly be responsible for management of the construction

phase of the project, and who will ultimately be responsible for management and maintenance of the track into the future.

"Given that the project, with its overall budget in excess of \$3 million, is perhaps the largest single nature-based recreation project to be undertaken in Western Australia, this expanded team is both welcome and essential," Jesse said.



Jesse Brampton and Raelene Hick, are pictured shortly after settling into their new Como premises. (Peter Bidwell, was not available for the photo.)

Photo by Verna Costello.



Nathan McQuoid, right, with wife Aron and regional recreation and tourism leader Terry Passmore. Photo by John Watson

# Nathan's farewell

**A LARGE gathering of local community members, together with CALM staff and families from the Albany District, headed to Point Ann in the Fitzgerald River National Park recently, to wish farewell to ranger-in-charge, Nathan McQuoid, before he joined Kings Park and Botanic Gardens in Perth as its bushland manager.**

The day was one extended 'happening' running from 11.00 am, through a lunchtime barbecue, afternoon socialising, evening barbecue and mini bush dance with live music through to 1.00 am the next day. It must have been the largest and longest party ever held at this spectacular site!

Nathan was presented with an attractive framed

photograph of the Sussetta River area, taken by Priscilla Broadbent, President of the Fitzgerald River National Park Association, and with another framed photograph of Roes Rock, taken by Terry Passmore on behalf of Albany CALM staff.

We were told of the excellent contribution Nathan had made, not only to the national park, but also to the local community during his five years in the area.

He has been actively involved in off-reserve nature conservation, largely through the activities of the Jerramungup Land Conservation District Committee, on which Nathan served as a community member.

The event was held at the new visitor facilities, recently completed at Point

Ann, under Nathan's supervision and design. The new shelter, (which places the old tin hut) is beautifully designed and engineered.

It will provide an excellent venue for other activities such as ecotours, camp fire programs and conference tours at one of the most spectacular locations in the South Coast Region.

On this occasion we listened and danced to live folk and country music organised by ranger Lindsay Brown. From time to time, the 'band' expanded as several people, including CALM South Coast regional manager, John Watson, joined the group on guitars and vocals.

We all wish Nathan, Aron and their sons Samuel and Timothy good luck in their new location in Perth.

# 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



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

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."

## Wanjarri Nature Reserve Management Plan launched

A 10-YEAR management plan for one of Western Australia's most remote nature reserves has been launched.

The 53,000-hectare Wanjarri Nature Reserve is in the eastern Goldfields, about 60 kilometres north of Leinster and 90 km south east of Wiluna.

The management plan was prepared for the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC) by CALM, and was funded by Goldfields Gas Transmission Pty Ltd.

It covers critical issues for the reserve, including feral animal control, fire

suppression, visitor impact, Aboriginal heritage, and mining company impact.

Chairman of the NPNC, Tom Day, said at the launch that Wanjarri Nature Reserve had one of the richest collections of vertebrate fauna of any arid zone nature reserve in WA.

"Given its relatively small area, and the fact that it is surrounded by pastoral leases controlled by mining companies, issues of neighbouring land management are very important," he said.

"Fortunately, the mining companies controlling

the neighbouring pastoral leases have been willing to assist.

"Western Mining Corporation and Dominion Mining have recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with CALM on management, research and monitoring of neighbouring lands.

Mr Day said these agreements would provide a sympathetically managed buffer around the reserve that would make it much more viable for native species' conservation.

The Wanjarri Nature Reserve is home to more than 122 bird species and a

number of threatened species, including the mulgara (a small carnivorous marsupial), and several rare and priority-listed plants.

"If these endangered populations are to be protected, continued support from neighbours in the form of feral animal control, habitat conservation and rehabilitation activities, is vital," Mr Day said.

The plan proposes to change the area's classification from nature reserve to conservation park—where recreation and camping are permitted.

"Once the classification is changed, one area of the

park can be zoned for recreational purposes and managed accordingly, while the rest remains devoted to conservation," he said.

"There will also be protection of sites significant to Aboriginal people, as well as relics of past European occupation."

Mr Day took the opportunity to welcome Western Mining's Brian Kennedy, Peter Longley and Adrian Leeds, Dominion Mining's Dave Milton and Mark Townsend, Great Central Mines' Len Boladeros, and Goldfields Gas Transmission's David Harrington, as well as local pastoralist

David Fitzgerald, and Goldfields Land Council representatives Yvonne Brownley and Lyall Walker.

He also welcomed Mrs Jean Lyneham, daughter of Tom Kinsella Moriarty, former lessee of Wanjarri Sheep Station, which is now Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

"Tom was light years ahead of his time. A conservationist before many people had heard the word, he set aside parts of his property to remain undeveloped, and worked closely with local Aboriginal people to protect native plants and ani-

mals," Mr Day said.

"To further ensure protection of local plants and animals, Tom later made a submission to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, recommending the property be bought by the State Government.

"Listening to Jean earlier today, it soon became clear to me that she had inherited her father's passion for this unique place and its people," Mr Day said.

Copies of the plan are available from CALM's Como headquarters and its Goldfields office in Kalgoorlie.



No-one could accuse this 'city suit', (and NPNC chairman) Tom Day of not having a 'sense of occasion'—but he was impressed with the appropriateness of the lectern. "It was exactly the right height for me," he said. Photo by Verna Costello



CALM Goldfields ecologist Andy Chapman, Yvonne Brownley and Goldfields Region planning officer Tony Brandis join Jean Lyneham (seated) in a brief respite after climbing one of the breakaways, which are a feature of Wanjarri Nature Reserve. Photo by Verna Costello

# Untimely passing of George Zebrowski

ON Tuesday night, 18 June 1996, George Zebrowski, long-serving member of the Wildlife Branch, passed away suddenly at home after a public service career spanning more than sixteen years.

After working at various jobs including teaching, George joined the Department of Fish-

by Norm Press

eries and Wildlife on 4 December 1979 as a clerical officer. He was transferred to CALM at its formation in March 1985, and continued working in the wildlife licensing area until his death. He was also the Community and

Public Service Union workplace delegate for the State Operations Headquarters at Como.

George's funeral service was well attended by family and friends, as well as colleagues from CALM and other agencies, testimony to his popularity. He was also well known by CALM's clients in the wildlife area, many asking for George by name when seeking assistance.

Those who were close to George knew that he did not care for the material things of this world. Yet he was generous with these very things. Many CALM staff members with children were given small gifts to take home. His fondness of children went as far as taking the part of Father Christmas at one of the children's Christmas parties organised by CALM, even arriving by boat (a tradition learnt in his days at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife).

George had a wonderful sense of humour. He had given nicknames to virtually everyone at CALM. There was "Dr Nebulous", "The Mouse", "The Dominator", "The Phantom", "Dobba", "Riley Ace of Spies" and "Ginger Meggs". He had even named himself "Hollywood". Even Sections and Branches were not immune. For instance, there was "MI-5" and "The Colombo Plan".

George (aged 45 years) never married and is survived by his mother and sister.

George was one of life's characters. Staff at the State Operations Headquarters will miss his friendship, his humour and his challenging ways. Our thoughts go to his mother Maria and sister Elizabeth.



George Zebrowski.



CALM Perth District staff, Neil Osman (right) and Julian Morris putting finishing touches on the fence that will protect the tumulus springs from grazing and trampling by cattle. Other Perth District staff construction and maintenance worker Wayne Calvert also helped with the fencing and forest ranger Ken Borland and reserves officer Rod Martyn did the planning for the operation.

Photo by John Blyth

## CALM and ANCA in joint South West project

A CO-OPERATIVE effort between CALM and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) is helping to conserve threatened communities of plants and animals surrounding tumulus springs in the South West.

The significance of a special community of flora and fauna was recently identified during a co-operative project between CALM's Threatened Species and Communities Unit (WATSCU) and ANCA's National Reserves System Co-operative Program.

The flora and fauna of \*tumulus springs were recognised as important by Edyta Jasinska and Dr Brenton Knott of the Zoology Department at

by Val English

the University of WA.

Their work showed that a property in Muchea that contains tumulus springs was one of only two or three such areas remaining in an essentially unmodified condition, and that such springs had originally been much more widespread.

After amicable negotiations between the property owner and CALM's Perth District and Regional staff, the portion of the property containing the springs was purchased jointly by ANCA and CALM, to be vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority,

and managed by CALM.

Some of the first management steps will need to be the exclusion of the cattle that have been grazing and trampling the mounds, and to begin fire and weed control.

Protection of the mounds will involve a cooperative effort between CALM district staff, who have just completed fencing the area, members of WATSCU who will be helping to write a recovery plan for the community in the near future, and local landowners and water supply agencies whose activities may have an effect on the water supply to the mounds.

\* Tumulus is a Latin word meaning 'little mound'.

## Three legends of the forest pass away

WORD reached us recently of the death of three famous men of the forest: Allan Cuthbert Harris, Earnest (Ernie) Percival and Tony Egerton-Green

Allan Cuthbert Harris

Following are extracts from a tribute to former conservator of forests Allan Harris, which appeared in the June edition of the Institute of Foresters' newsletter:

"He was perhaps the last of a very distinguished group of Australian-born-and-trained foresters, that included other luminaries such as Geoff Rodger, Kim Kessell, and Brian Bednall, to name just a few.

It was this group, following on from Ednie-Brown and Lane-Poole, both of whom were trained overseas, who virtually established forestry in Australia.

Allan was born in South Australia in 1904, graduated in Forestry from Adelaide University, and came to WA in 1926. He served at various forest districts in the South West and was the commanding officer of the forestry battalion of the volunteer defence force during World War II.

He left the Forests Department in 1946 to join the Wundowie Charcoal-Iron industry, serving as its general man-

ager from 1948 until 1953, when he returned to lead the Department as Conservator of Forests.

Allan had become a world authority on the charcoal iron and wood distillation industries, and after retirement in 1969, maintained a keen interest in forestry and charcoal-iron matters until well into his eighties.

He served in several countries as a consultant for the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

A forceful personality, Allan's drive and sense of vision enabled him to achieve a great deal in forestry development in Western Australia, breaking through considerable obstacles on the way.

He was responsible for reversing the policy of attempted fire exclusion from WA forests that had been practised for 20 years up to 1953, and replacing it with fuel reduction by prescribed burning.

For this, he faced considerable criticism. However, the findings of the Royal Commission into the disastrous wildfires in Western Australia in 1961 fully vindicated his policies.

Allan later provided the impetus for the development of aerial ignition for operational prescribed burning in Western Australia, a world first that has subsequently been adopted in other parts of the globe.

He was a strong advocate of multiple-use forestry, and promoted the view that forestry was also about conservation, before this became fashionable.

Within the Forests Department, Allan was known as a hard man who ran a very tight ship.

To young foresters he was a larger than life character with an acerbic tongue, who demanded high standards of performance. But Allan was also a fighter for forestry.

Had it not been for his continuous fight for the dedication as State forest of vacant crown land in the South West, the public forest estate would have been much smaller than it is now.

As Conservator of Forests, he was a strong supporter of the Institute of Foresters, (IFA) and made a point of arranging staff meetings on Fridays so that everyone could be together for an Institute meeting that evening.

He served as the Institute's State chairman and national president from 1967-1969, was made a Fellow, and awarded the N W Jolly Medal in 1967, the Institute's highest award for excellence.

In April 1990, Allan was one of a group of four foresters from Western Australia recognised for their 50 years of membership of the IFA.

He was a man of wide inter-

ests. In his younger days, he was a keen motorcycle rider and was associated with the Harley Davidson Club for many years.

He was also a very good chess player, being State chess champion in 1938, and a life member of the Perth Chess Club. He had a strong interest in Australian football and was President of the Perth Football Club from 1962 to 1965.

Allan is survived by his wife Joy, and children Greg, Lyn and Jan."

Earnest Percival

Ernie Percival stood tall in the karri forest. He spent his life there, growing up on a farm at Pemberton, working as a faller for State Sawmills for many years, and then joining the Forests Department as a field officer, firstly, as an assistant forester at Pimelea and then as a forester at Pemberton and Walpole.

He retired from Walpole, having spent more than 30 years in the department, and lived in retirement at Denmark, well within the smell of the karri wattle.

As a faller, Ernie had been one of 'the guns' in the days of axes and crosscut saws. He was a tall, powerful man with arms like a gorilla, and he could work all day.

As a forester, he took everything that was thrown at him,

whether it be thick karri scrub, hard-nosed bush bosses, cheeky, forest guards, wet-behind-the-ears acting district forest officers or ferocious bushfires. All were accepted with the same gentle humour and resolute courage.

Ernie was there at all the big bushfires in the 1950s, the Crowea fire in 1961 and the Boorara fire in 1969.

He planted the pines at Dombakup, and was at the control point for the big regen burns down in Warren 1 and 2.

Ernie was a friend and a mentor to dozens of young foresters who came through the ranks and reached senior positions, and he was greatly respected by the men in the gangs, whom he always treated with dignity and affection.

One of 11 children, Ernie is survived by two brothers, Neville and Raymond and two sisters, Marrison and Doreen.

Tony Egerton-Green

Tony 'The Squadron Leader' Green died in Queensland recently, and leaves a wide range of friends and former colleagues in the department.

To any forester working in the karri country during the 1970s, Tony Green's name was synonymous with the adventure and romance of the air, the new projects being

developed at the time, and the camaraderie of young men against fire.

Tony was devoted to flying and to aircraft. As a young man he had been a squadron leader and a Spitfire fighter pilot in World War II, and had flown all over the world as a bush pilot. He arrived in Manjimup in the early 1970s to become one of the fire-spotter pilots for the new aerial detection scheme being developed at the time.

The Cessna 150 was a far cry from the Mark IX Spitfire, but as long as it was flying, Tony was happy, and his airforce experience showed up in his coolness under pressure and his accurate fire reporting.

Later, Tony became the most esteemed pilot in the department, flying the Islander on aerial burning and dieback photography missions (the latter wonderfully recorded in a short story by Bob Chandler, and published in *Leaves from the Forest*).

Tony's son Paul tells us that his father is survived by families and friends in both Queensland and Western Australia. They include Tony's sister Trish, who lives in the UK, Paul, and his brother Bernard, four grandsons, four granddaughters and two great grandsons.

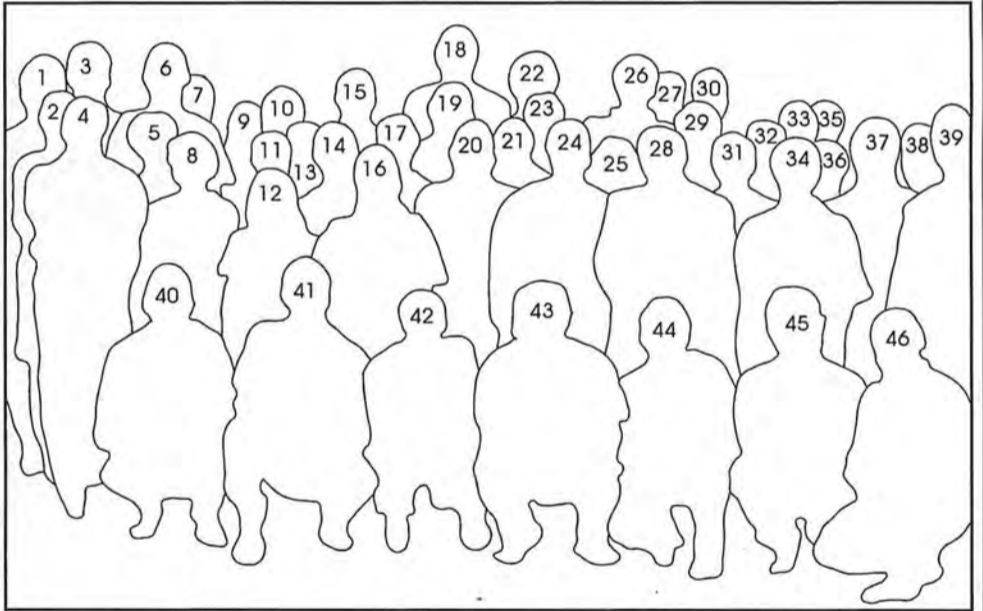


Photos by Bill Towie

## Business Unit Conference a resounding success



This group is creating a team solution to a problem—how to get the tennis ball from point A to point Z in three seconds. The answer demonstrated was to gravity-feed it from hand to hand in a close line. The team from left: Des Donnelly, Gary Stanger, Kevin Pollock, Paul Mammone (behind Jim Howesmith), Peter Beatty (behind Terry Court and Martin Scantlebury), Graeme Gardner (below Martin), Joy Borison and, at bottom right, Alan Lush.



1. Kevin Haylock, 2. Michelle Cocks, 3. Mike Buckton, 4. Bob Simpson, 5. Stephanie Hudson, 6. Graeme Seimon, 7. Kevin Pollock, 8. Maria Lee, 9. Christine Wilson, 10. Joy Borison, 11. Shannon White, 12. Therese Hughes, 13. Sharon Rouse, 14. Greg Hodgson, 15. Todd Brittain, 16. Donna Green, 17. Howard Manning, 18. Paul Mammone, 19. Steve Collins, 20. Don Keene, 21. Terry Court, 22. Gary Stanger, 23. Mark Read, 24. Max Jensen (keynote speaker), 25. Sharon Jones, 26. Wayne Keals, 27. Peter Beatty, 28. Dr Syd Shea (keynote speaker), 29. Graeme Gardner, 30. Ian Rotheram, 31. Greg Lange, 32. Matt Lloyd, 33. Mike Wright, 34. Deidrie Maher, 35. Vern Rutherford, 36. Anne Webb, 37. Des Donnelly, 38. Brad Wilkins, 39. John Clarke, 40. Bill Towie, 41. Alan Lush, 42. Jeff Bennett, 43. Neville Holland, 44. Jon Murch, 45. Martin Scantlebury, 46. Jim Howesmith.

**MAINTAINING** a healthy balance between accountability and efficiency, and the commitment to foster goodwill, effective communications and understanding with other CALM staff, were the main challenges addressed by staff attending the first State Forest Resource Business Unit Conference.

Senior training officer Bill Towie, was the conference co-ordinator and he explains:

"Staff felt that too often the pressures and deadlines of our own tasks meant we retreated into our own busy

by Tammie Reid

world and failed to make the most of our connectedness to the rest of CALM," Bill said.

The past 18 months have been challenging and fast paced, as the business unit structures were built and refined in response to the McCarrey Report.

In his address, Jon Murch highlighted some of the major achievements in the way forest resources had been run during that time:

"There was a big jump in the amount of silvicultural

work completed by districts, with the areas worked having doubled from slightly below 5,000 to nearly 10,000 hectares, Jon said.

"Our unit costs are greatly reduced, and the close on \$82-million-dollar revenue we generated, less about \$63 million expenditure, means there's a surplus of about \$19 million that goes towards servicing CALM's debt on its past borrowings, and to funding other important programs under way in CALM.

"With value adding as the cornerstone of our timber strategy, CALM is a world leader in sustainably man-

aging native forests."

Acting Manager of the Harvey Timber Utilisation Centre, Ian Rotheram, a newcomer to the Business Unit, found the conference stimulating.

"It was good to see people being praised for their successes, but I didn't detect any complacency. Everyone was there because they wanted to manage the forests well.

"The business unit gives them the opportunity to be part of conservation and land management, while having the satisfaction of producing valuable timber."

Confirming the need for

these events to continue, Bill said that similar get-togethers were planned to occur annually.

"This year there was a lot of time spent in team building; now we'll program more issue-based workshops and use the 'team' to develop and share solutions," he said.

"There's quite an action list coming out of the proceedings—important aspects identified by conference participants, particularly in the areas of training and career development.

"And we'll be letting others in CALM know how we're going, what our suc-

cesses are and what we could be doing more effectively and, as always, how to better integrate the demand for dieback interpretation and control with our planning and industry commitments.

"Feedback from the conference indicates that it helped participants feel united in the work they were doing, and to remain focused, motivated and connected to the bigger CALM picture.

"As always, people appreciated the frank discussion time with Executive Director Syd Shea and Director of Forests, Don Keene.

# Lunchtime seminars draw large numbers of staff



Consultant biologist Val English, (left) and personal secretary Jill Pryde, both from WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit, flank research scientist Paul de Tores of Woodvale Science and Information Division, as they settle down to the serious business of eating, after attending Keiran McNamara's seminar.  
Photo by Verna Costello

**THE monthly lunchtime staff education seminars at Como continue to draw large numbers.**

And with question time keeping speakers on their toes, not to mention the odd

one or two staff remaining to pursue further answers, the seminars are definitely not passive affairs.

One over-riding impression is that lunchtime is all too brief to do justice to the

topics. Issues covered to date have been:

- ◆ Current Issues in Nature Conservation, by Director of Nature Conservation Keiran McNamara,
- ◆ A Vision for the Future

of Agroforestry, by Farm Forestry Unit Manager John Bartle, ◆ Fighting Fire and Furphies, by CALM-fire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt.



Senior landscape architect-planner Richard Hammond, left, and landscape architect-planner Tracy Churchill help Rick Sneeuwjagt to restore balance to a grass tree display, after the post-seminar question time.  
Photo by Verna Costello

## A 'thank-you' to CALM staff from Carol O'Reilly

**SINCERE** thanks to all CALM staff who have supported and helped my partner Andrew Cromarty and myself during this difficult time.

The visit to North Carolina Baptist Hospital was not as successful as we had hoped, but Andrew continues to fight and is in better shape than he was before his operation.

He is able to be at home now, is mostly self-sufficient and fairly comfortable most of the time.

Further chemotherapy treatment is a possibility, and we are hoping for a little more success from this.

Again, our sincere thanks to everyone. The positive vibes certainly helped to sustain us.



The 'sea creature' on the left, with Exmouth District's marine operations officer Andy Derbyshire, is senior principal research scientist Per Christensen, who has departed CALM to become a consultant. Here, Andy is giving him a few pointers on swimming with whale sharks. You can read about Per's colourful life with CALM in the next issue of CALM NEWS. Photo by Penny Walsh



## 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 benefits and allow 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 Costello

## Radio frequency change

**CALM is currently in the process of changing all VHF frequencies throughout the State to meet the new Spectrum Management Agency band plan.**

This program will give CALM an increase in channels from 10 to 16 and is now about 60 per cent completed.

This leaves the area south of Bunbury to Albany, and the Kimberley and Pilbara regions still to be changed.

It is proposed to complete the South-West frequency changeover by no later than Octo-

ber, in time for the forthcoming fire season.

Needless to say, this task will not be easy and you may have a VHF radio that is now incompatible with the new VHF frequencies.

Radios with only 39 channels fitted require modification and re-programming.

If you have any queries, please contact the Radio Communications Section at Como, (phone [09] 334 0428, or fax [09] 367 8202) or at Manjimup (phone [097] 71 7948, fax [097] 77 1418).