

Respected colleague and loyal friend lost at sea

CALM staff were shattered over the New Year to learn that Seamus Mulholland had been lost at sea in a boating incident.

Seamus had been with CALM for more than 11 years, and at the time of his disappearance he was manager of the Plantations Business Unit.

He was one of the Department's most popular staff members and was regarded as one of its rising stars.

An example of his ability was that he was appointed manager of the Plantations Business Unit at the relatively young age of 32.

In a tribute to Seamus, Executive Director Syd Shea said: "He was one of the brightest, if not the brightest person we had.

"He was a brilliant economist and was heading the important plantation strategy aimed at fighting the State's salinity problems.

"He was one of those people who seemed to have a lot of things running well for them—he was highly intelligent, a very successful sportsman, yet he was very popular at the same time."

Exceptional

Dr Shea's words were echoed by Parks Director, Jim Sharp, who, in a eulogy at the memorial service said: Seamus was exceptional. He was the complete person. Good look-

ing and incredibly charming.

"Who will ever forget his completely disarming smile. He was intelligent, athletic and humorous.

"You couldn't meet Seamus and not be impacted by his presence and personality, yet he didn't project himself forward, rather he chose to be modest, gentle and unassuming."

Craig Hansen, a friend of Seamus from their days at Kinlock Primary School, who also delivered a eulogy at the service, said:

"Seamus embraced life and gave everything he tried 100 per cent.

"He was the sort of person who, despite long periods of separation, when you were again reunited, there was no gap in your friendship or reduction in the warmth of his smile.

Unstinting

"Seamus was a gentle man, who was always willing to share his many gifts with family and friends.

"He shared himself unselfishly with all he met and his life touched many."

It was as dux of Lynwood High School that Seamus left to attend university, where he could have succeeded in any career he wanted.

He chose forestry initially, because it would enable him to maintain contact with the outdoors and the bush that he loved.

To expand his options,



Seamus Mulholland. Photo by Penny Walsh

Seamus successfully completed a joint degree: Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Bachelor of Economics, begun at the University of Western Australia, and completed

at the Australian National University.

He later returned to the UWA to complete a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management. CALM interpreta-

tion officer Lotte Lent remembers:

"I met Seamus at UWA, along with Gordon Graham and former CALM planning officer Allan Padget," she said.

"It seemed we all relied on Seamus at one time or another for help with the more complex economics of the course, and he most willingly and modestly gave his help.

"I recall his ability to make his in-class presentations on economics fun and memorable.

"He once drew comic characters on overhead projector slides to explain his 'economics of salinity'.

A class star

"He was certainly our class star and he was just such a nice human being to have around."

In his studies or at work, Seamus was sought out, not just because he was good to be with, but because he was the person with solutions and he made himself available.

Luisa Liddicoat, a research scientist in the Visitor Statistics Section, is another CALM staffer who was captured by Seamus' willingness to help others.

"During his time in the Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Division, Seamus helped me enormously by writing a series of macros that automated many of the repetitive steps required to produce complicated visitor statistics," Luisa said.

"I'm indebted to Seamus for his assistance and friendship."

Seamus had one of the most diverse careers of anyone in CALM because

he was so capable and so willing to do different things and take on difficult responsibilities.

He was also able to relate to many people at every level and during his time with CALM, he worked directly with three Ministers.

He really wanted to contribute to developing countries and got the opportunity with his posting to the Solomon Islands.

His renowned honesty and integrity caused him difficulties with that posting, but he didn't compromise.

"What made Seamus so outstanding," said Jim Sharp, "was not the fact that he was so gifted and so talented, but rather that he didn't flaunt his abilities or achievements.

"He simply used them to the benefit of others."

A model life

"Seamus showed us how to live. He embraced life and all its possibilities with open arms.

"He didn't hold back but gave everything he had in his relationships and his work.

"He lived a positive, vigorous and victorious life and he challenges us by his life to do the same."

Seamus is survived by his widow Anthea, who also lost her father and brother in the incident.

Our sympathy goes out to Anthea, to his parents Tony and Beverley, and to his sister Kathleen.



SEAMUS MULHOLLAND. Photo by Peany Walsh.

