

# CALM showcased at Conference

CALM staff from the Midwest, Como and the Wheatbelt contributed to the highly successful State Landcare Conference recently held in Geraldton.

CALM's high profile ensured that the conference was a significant forum to highlight the benefits of integrating nature conservation with farm planning and management.

This was the first time that the conference had been held outside the metropolitan area, ensuring that it had greater applicability to the rural community.

About 450 people attended, with more than 40 per cent being from the farming sector.

The conference addressed the immediate on-ground landcare actions needed to deal with salinity and rising water table issues.

The team that pulled the conference together was drawn from CALM staff involved in Landcare matters: Penny Hussey

by Ron Shepherd

(Wildlife Branch) was on the conference steering committee, Ron Shepherd (Midwest Region) on the organising and program committee, and Ann-Maree O'Callaghan on the organising and tours committee.

In addition to a full program of speakers, workshops, and discussion groups, the conference gave landcare organisations an opportunity to showcase their work and provide information, in displays in the conference venue foyer.

CALM's display at the conference illustrated the types of landcare activities that staff are involved in, and how CALM can help farmers and landcare groups.

Penny Hussey included information about the Land for Wildlife Scheme, which has seen 10 properties in the Midwest Region already registered since the Scheme's launch at Mingenew in

February this year.

Gary Hartnett (Pine Sharefarms) highlighted the development of maritime pine as a commercial tree crop in low agricultural regions, and a number of farmers expressed interest in CALM's proposal to develop large-scale plantations in the Midwest Region.

The CALM display also focused on the protection and management of remnant vegetation on farms, an initiative of Ann-Maree O'Callaghan's Regional Ecologist—Landcare pilot project.

Also attracting attention was information on *Western Shield*, and CALM's new CD-ROM *Wild about Western Australia*.

A highlight was the pre-mid- and post-conference tours that featured a number of CALM's activities in the Midwest Region.

Ann-Maree O'Callaghan, Pat Ryan, Rebecca Wolstenholme, Penny Hussey and I were all involved in leading groups on the seven tours held

during the conference.

The tours visited maritime pine and oil mallee agroforestry plots, a sandalwood establishment trial in the Northampton area, roadside and farm remnant vegetation to discuss management and protection issues, rare flora recovery programs, and visits to conservation reserves (Coalseam Conservation Park and Lesueur National Park) to discuss their management as well as conservation and tourism values.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for CALM staff to network with rural people involved in land care throughout the State, and to promote CALM's pivotal role and deliver the State Government's Salinity Action Plan.

Wherever the next State Landcare Conference is held, it is hoped that CALM will maintain the strong presence it had this year, so that the appreciative reception it received from other participants will grow and deepen.



Ann-Maree O'Callaghan and Ron Shepherd at CALM's display at the State Landcare Conference. Photo by Mike Meinema

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# CALM - CARING NATURALLY

# SOIL & LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## ENHANCING FARM HABITATS

### LAND FOR WILDLIFE

VOLUNTARY NATURE CONSERVATION  
CREATE NEW WILDLIFE HABITAT  
MANAGE BUSHLAND



A man in a light blue shirt and dark trousers stands on the left, holding a white folder or document.

A man in a dark suit and glasses sits at a desk on the right, looking at a computer monitor.

**deMS Pty Ltd**

Measuring and Monitoring

- Height - Trees, Poles
- Line Classification
- Depth - Appurtenances
- Area - Woodlands
- Volume - Stockpiles
- Tonnage - Substances
- Urban & Rural Morphology



Ann-Maree O'Callaghan and Ken Slepled at  
CAHM's display at the State Healthcare Conference,  
held in Coerradden from 1-4 September, 1997.

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