

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## Western Shield - 12 months on



Perth District Manager Alan Briggs with Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes (centre) and Yanchep Information Officer Julie Price.

The success of *Western Shield*—the biggest nature conservation project ever undertaken in Australia—has been beyond even the most optimistic expectations.

Department of Conservation and Land Management Director of Nature Conservation Keiran McNamara said the program was now an integral part of many of CALM's activities.

"It's more than just a nature conservation initiative—it represents the totally integrated approach that is the fundamental philosophy behind CALM as a management and conservation agency."

Keiran said a feature of *Western Shield* was that it was 'operations-driven'.

"Because we have about 30 species of native mammals on the brink of extinction, we don't have the luxury of sitting back and waiting while theoretical ecologists come up with a magical cure," he said.

"The operational aspects of the program are not only proving highly effective in controlling fox and feral cat numbers, they are helping the researchers come to grips with problems as they arise."

The progress of the pro-



The woylie is no longer threatened in WA due to reintroduction programs and fox baiting. Photo by Babs and Bert Wells/CALM

gram was reviewed by a broad cross section of CALM staff at a workshop in Bunbury earlier this year and again in Perth last month.

Project leader Roger Armstrong of CALM's Environmental Protection Branch in Bunbury, said that since *Western Shield* was officially launched in April last year, almost 2.7 million hectares of the conservation estate had been baited.

This area includes the Peron Peninsula at Shark Bay, vast tracts of the south-west forests and national parks, and nature reserves along the south coast and in the Wheatbelt.

The baited area will increase to about 3.3 million hectares this year as the project is extended into the Sunlands, the Donnelly Catchment and

D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

This will mean all target areas outside the arid zone will be baited for foxes.

Research into fox biology and behaviour is well under way but exciting new developments are occurring in cat research programs undertaken by CALM's Science and Information Division in collaboration with *Western Shield* operations staff.

This cat research is looking at a whole range of issues such as toxins, bait mediums, timing and frequency of baiting, monitoring and baiting intensity.

Studies as part of Project Eden—the *Western Shield* program on the Peron Peninsula at Shark Bay—and are providing valuable informa-

tion that will open the way for baiting operations to be as effective on cats as they are on foxes.

Other research sites are in the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and the Nifty Copper Mine in the Goldfields and at Kanandah Station on the Nullarbor.

As the researchers gain a better insight into the wiles of cats, the baited area will be extended into the arid zone.

Populations of several native animals have been re-established in areas from which they had become locally extinct.

These include chuditch at Lake Magenta, woylies at numerous sites throughout the jarrah forest and numbats at Mt Dale.

This year, malleefowl, woylies and possibly Shark Bay mice will be reintroduced to the Peron, where captive breeding programs are under way for other species including bilbies, western barred bandicoots, banded hare wallabies and mala.

These species, along with chuditch and stick-nest rats will be re-established on the peninsula over the next two years.

Continued page 2

## McNess House — Yanchep's new visitor centre

**HISTORIC** McNess House has been transformed into a new visitor information centre for Yanchep National Park.

Officially opened by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes last month, the centre is well on its way to becoming a high-tech interpretative facility, providing visitors with information on the park's activities, history, plants and animals.

The Minister said the new centre would mean McNess House would once again be the focal point for visitors to discover the wonders of one of the closest national parks to Perth.

"Yanchep National Park is one of the city's bush-

land treasures. We are very fortunate to have such a retreat on our doorstep and the opening of McNess House as a visitor centre is a wonderful addition to it," she said.

Specifically designed with visitor activity in mind, the centre provides up-to-date information on all of Western Australia's national parks and currently contains information and short descriptions and graphics of Yanchep National Park's activities, a staffed information desk, display items, historic photos and an interactive light map guide.

In the near future panels representing cultural themes of the park will be established and the use of

touch screens, multimedia and scaled displays will be incorporated.

Originally built in the 1880s as the leaseholder's hunting lodge, McNess House has since enjoyed a wide variety of uses, including a guest house, staff accommodation and more recently a visitor centre, before it was damaged by bushfires and smoke almost two years ago.

To rectify the damage after the fire, CALM engaged the expertise of a specialist heritage architect to oversee renovations on the heritage-listed building.

The restorations and renovations have retained the building's significant cultural and heritage val-

by Mitzi Vance

ues. Its original glory has been preserved while balancing the need to keep up with changing community attitudes and innovative technology.

Work on the building began several months ago with structural works completed in late December. Interpretative facilities have been added since.

Mrs Edwardes said the restoration of McNess House also provided local businesses with additional opportunities. While opening the centre she also opened the Yanchep Rose Quality Arts and Crafts Association gallery, which now occupied the

upper level of McNess House.

Mrs Edwardes said one of the best attributes of Yanchep National Park was its strong community involvement with the Wanneroo and northern suburbs community.

"CALM staff have a sound relationship with local associations such as the North West Metro Tourism Association, Yanchep Rose Quality Arts and Crafts and numerous park volunteers," she said.

"The park had undergone a major improvement program over the last three years to upgrade its services and facilities for visitors.

"Work has included the upgrade and reopening

of Yonderup Cave, new walk trails, the beginning of the 100-kilometre Coastal Plains Trail walk, upgraded picnic and barbecue areas, and access for the disabled among many others," she said.

Mrs Edwardes said the Government was committed to making Yanchep National Park a high-quality bushland retreat for the people of Perth where they could relax with a picnic, or participate in the numerous activities the park has to offer.

"While the park has retained its original character, much of it has also changed and people who have not visited it in a long time will be surprised by what it now has to offer," she said.

The opening of McNess House coincided with the 'Sun and Stars Festival', jointly hosted by CALM's Perth Observatory and Yanchep National Park.

The day and night festival saw hundreds of people enjoy entertainment acts such as Bizcircus and the Southern Cross bushband as well as an aerial water-bombing display and market stalls.

CALM's Aboriginal Tourism Unit's display, set up and run by Noel Nannup and the Observatory's night time star-gazing activities were huge hits.

The 'Sun and Stars Festival' looks set to become an annual feature of CALM's growing calendar of events.



# CALMweb: Why all the excitement?



Information Services Section's Help Desk acting security officer Joanne Currión



Management Audit Branch auditor Grace Silvestro



Human Resources Branch risk management officer Bruce Richardson (left) and personnel and training officer Steve Grasso.

Five of the 20 Web authors are pictured above and right. Photos by Verna Costello

IT made the cover of **Business Week**, and was number three on **Fortune** magazines top-10 list of technology trends.

It has led to an alliance of Microsoft, MCI and Digital Equipment Corporation.

It is the subject of conferences and workshops.

According to research, the majority of Australian, European and North American companies either have it, plan to get it or are studying it.

Netscape claims it is selling more of its wares for it than for the Internet.

'It' is the inTRANet an employee communication tool unlike any other.

'It' is also something that is already available to several hundred CALM employees with the recent launch of **CALMweb**, the departments own intranet service.

## Communication Tool

"**CALMweb** provides CALM with an unprecedented ability to communicate", said Director of Corporate Relations Ron Kawalilak.

"While old-fashioned employee information can be published on **CALMweb**, the real beauty of the system is that it empowers all Divisions, Regions, Branches and even individuals to become publishers and communication facilitators within CALM.

"**CALMweb** allows anyone in the department to tap into the entire organisation's intellectual capital, rather than the limited circle of fellow employees with whom most of us have day-to-day contact.

"The Corporate Executive has decided that all staff currently on the CALM network should also have access to **CALMweb**, the Internet and e-mail", said Ron.

"Where it is possible to do so, all other CALM Centres are being provided with access to

**CALMweb** via the internet, and through local internet service providers (ISPs)."

As of April, CALM locations with full network and **CALMweb** access included Crawley, Woodvale, Perth, Cygnet Hall, Fremantle, Albany, Kelmscott, Collie, Bunbury, Manjimup, Geraldton, Como and the Herbarium.

Access was being provided by local ISPs to Busselton, Dwellingup, Karratha, Katanning, Kirup, Mundaring, Narrogin, Pemberton, Perth Observatory and Jarrahdale.

"It is up to each manager to insure all of his or her staff have ready access to **CALMweb**," said Ron.

**CALMweb**, which is the younger sibling to CALM's internet site **NatureBase**, was launched in November 1996. Since that time, it has grown to include:

- homepages, with links to extensive information and services, from Science and Information Division, Corporate Relations Division, and Management Audit, Human Resources, Information Management, Financial Services and CALMfire;
- an on-line phone directory with search facility;
- the latest versions of all CALM's policy statements;
- EE Information and CALM's Training and Development Manual;
- a catalogue of useful internet links; and
- Let's Talk, an innovative communications and conference facility that currently includes a number of notice boards and discussion groups.

Internal real-time chat and conference facilities are also being developed.



Planning and Visitor Services project officer Karen Shaddock

"The Science and Information Division (SID) homepage is a very good example of what is possible on an intranet," said Ron.

"Developed under the direction of Nicholas Lander and Alex Chapman, it is the platform upon which we've designed and built the current **CALMweb** site.

"The SID homepage offers you everything from information on research projects, to personal homepages, as well as access to corporate databases such as CALMLIB, the combined CALM library catalogue, and WACENSUS, the authoritative database of plant names in the State.

## Increasing content

Content on **CALMweb** is increasing each week, and a web authors group has been formed.

It currently includes David Gough (Corporate Relations), Alex Chapman (Herbarium), Allan Burbidge (Woodvale), Brad Wilkins (Forest Resources), Bruce Richardson (Human Resources), Christine Farrell (Woodvale), Dawn Prior (Forest Resources), Grace Silvestro (Management Audit), Jill Pryde (Threatened Species & Communities Unit), Joanne Currión (Information Services), John Vodopier (CALMfire), Karen Shaddock (Park Policy & Tourism), Kathryn Lee (Como Research), Lisa Wright (Woodvale), Lotte Lent (Park Policy & Tourism), Pam Burgoyne (Herbarium), Paul Gilbert (Information Management), Simon Woodman (Woodvale), Steve Grasso (Human Resources) and Trevor Morgan (Financial Services).

## Who's responsible

There are three spheres of responsibility concerning **CALMweb** and **NatureBase**.

The Director of Corporate Relations is responsible for web policy, for the structure, look and content of the entire **NatureBase** site, and for the structure and look of **CALMweb** pages.

Managers are responsible for ensuring their staff have access to **CALMweb** and the internet, for staff conduct on **CALMweb** and the internet, and for the content of their own branch or region's **CALMweb** pages, based on format templates and guidelines supplied by Corporate Relations.

Provision of support services, including maintenance and connection to e-mail, etc., are the responsibilities of the Manager, Information Management.

It is generally agreed that intranets can improve productivity and save money.

They can speed up projects and enhance quality. They can facilitate two-way and multi-directional communication.

They can improve existing processes and simplify workflows, but the emphasis is on 'can improve', not 'will improve'.

To paraphrase a line from the Kevin Costner movie *Field of Dreams*, "it's not 'if you build it, they will come,' its 'if you build it *right*, they will come.'"

"In fact," said Ron, "if information exists in CALM, it can be made available via the single, multimedia, point-and-shoot graphical interface of the Web.

## Information at fingertips

"**CALMweb** enables CALM staff to find information in a way that makes sense to them."

To encourage staff to make the most of the time- and labour-saving advantages of **CALMweb**, further information will be published in future issues of **CALM NEWS**.



Human Resources Branch CONCEPT user liaison officer Rick Currión

## Leadership program is paying off

by Peter Keppel

STAFF participation in projects targeted as part of CALM's Leadership Development Program is paying off as major tasks are streamlined to simplify and establish standard procedures throughout CALM.

One such project initiated by the managers group was the development of a 'budget process' for use by all sections

of CALM to prepare and submit their annual budget requests.

A major benefit of the project is that all managers throughout CALM are now using the same process and criteria to prepare their annual budget requests.

The outcome is that when the budgets are rolled up to make the total departmental picture, everyone involved is 'singing off the same song sheet'.

This makes evaluation of needs and the setting of departmental priorities by Corporate Executive a far more straightforward task than has been in the past.

The new budget process also

enables more accurate predictions to be made of both time frames and financial objectives. It is expected that CALM will conduct two Leadership Development Programs each year.

CALM personnel wishing to attend one of these courses should register their interest with Human Resources Branch Manager Cliff Gillam.

## The Hills Forest scores an award

CONGRATULATIONS to The Hills Forest on winning the Australia Day 1997 Community Event Award. The award was presented by the Shire of Mundaring on behalf of The National Australia Day Council.

The award recognises The Hills Forest's contribution to the success of *The Forest Phoenix*, an event that was chronicled on page 12 of the November-December 1996 issue of **CALM NEWS**.

# Bibbulmun Track Project update - still on target

**OPENING dates for the 'new' Bibbulmun Track have now been set at:**

- Northern Half - August 15, 1997
- Southern Half - August 15, 1998

Project Coordinator, Jesse Brampton, said that August however was a far more appropriate time to open the new track, given that it was the start of WA's prime spring hiking season.

"The formerly considered May date would have been too close to winter to attract many walkers to the track," Jesse said.

"Furthermore, the slight extension of time will allow the Project Team three extra months to complete the final construction and attend to those small 'grooming tasks' needed to have the trail completely ready for public use.

"Given last year's long wet spring, the additional time has also been welcome in many Districts."

## Northern Half

Twenty four of the proposed twenty six campsites in the northern half have been completed with the last remaining two built during April.

In addition, one key bridge, over the Harris River near Collie, is completed while two others, over the Canning River and the Balingup Brook, are under construction.

Long sections of trail are now ready for walkers, following extensive use of contract machinery to catch up on time lost to last spring's rain. Several key areas still remain to be constructed.

District staff and project construction crews are working hard to ensure essential work is completed before the onset of winter.

## Southern Half

Despite the northern half being the main focus of the project, much work has taken place further south during summer.

Pemberton District has opened up more than half of its new track with a small bulldozer, while planning work in Albany and Walpole Districts has progressed rapidly.

The Pardelup Prison construction crew has completed the difficult task of trail building up and over Mt Hallowell, near Denmark, and many locals and visitors are already using this to access the beautiful forests and spectacular views afforded by the mountain.

The success of the project has seen CALM win a second round Green Corps project, to be based in Albany, and working in the West Cape Howe National Park.

This will give the construc-



Susan Hunter, data entry operator for CALM's Park and Policy and Tourism Branch, Annie Keating, special projects coordinator for Bibbulmun Track, and Nicole McMullen, a CALM volunteer, take a break from hammering, sawing and digging to prepare their lunch. Photo by Val Cave

tion schedule in the southern half a major boost in a challenging area, bound to absorb many days of hard labour.

Northern Half construction supervisor, Noel Davenport, will shortly finish his time with the project. He leaves with thanks from all those

who've worked with him, for his never-failing good humour and his outstanding construction skills.

Into his role comes Southern Half construction supervisor Wayne Burton (a former CALM employee) now based in Walpole.

Wayne will be responsible

for a range of planning, logistical and construction tasks in the area between Manjimup and Albany.

Despite a range of small set-backs, largely weather-induced, the project is progressing well, and the Project Team is confident of meeting both its grant funds' con-

tractual obligations and the new opening deadline.

Jesse Brampton, said that without the ongoing support provided by the four Regions, seven Districts, and a range of specialist Branches, this would not be possible, and that all those involved should be recognised for their efforts.



The bird hide at the end of the boardwalk. Photo by Alana Stingemore

## Boardwalk, bird hide built

**VISITORS and wildlife at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve will benefit from the construction of a boardwalk and bird hide at its Marigu Billabong.**

Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, approximately 20 kilometres south of Wyndham, is an outstanding area for birdlife. Its wetlands are an important feeding and breeding area for many species of birds, an important drought refuge for Kimberley waterbirds, and a recognised stopover point for migratory waders.

The Parry floodplain has been listed as a 'wetland of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention and has been listed on the Register of the National Estate.

CALM was successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Department of Tourism grant for \$61,500 to develop a bird-viewing facility and associated

nature walk at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.

Visitors have been viewing the waterbirds at Marigu Billabong in the reserve for many years, but before the establishment of a car park at Marigu and other vehicle regulation measures nearby, visitor vehicle access was uncontrolled around edges of the lagoons. This was damaging the fringe vegetation and birdlife.

With visitor numbers to the reserve increasing, there was a need to further minimise the impact on the area. As a result a raised boardwalk and bird hide was built to ensure minimal disturbance to birdlife and the vegetation around the Billabong.

It will also provide a safe viewing area for visitors to the wetlands by minimising the risk of attack by saltwater crocodiles which inhabit the lagoons.

Interpretative facilities will

also increase visitor awareness of the wetlands' values, the need to protect such areas and the role visitors can play to achieve this.

Designed by CALM architectural draftsman Steve Csaba and Greg Standing, the boardwalk and bird hide was constructed by staff from Swan Region's Jarrahdale Work Centre who previously erected the boardwalks at Penguin Island.

The Mundaring District work crew led by Greg Standing fabricated much of the structure at Jarrahdale, transported the materials over 3000 kms north, and erected the facility at Parry Lagoons.

Visitor response to the boardwalk and bird hide is expected to be favourable.

CALM's East Kimberley staff await the response of local birdlife which may find the structure an ideal place to perch in the wet season when there are fewer human visitors.

## Checking for river safety

**WHAT were the members of CALM Marine Operations doing all togged up in full diving gear and heading into the brownish waters of the Murray early in December?**

Apparently the dive group was there at the invitation of Dwellingup District's recreation program leader Mark Humble and ranger-in-charge of Lane Poole Reserve John Hanel.

Mark said that after floods it was necessary to check the reserve's canoe launches and swing ropes along the river.

by Tammie Reid

"Last year, training officer Alan Byrne organised it as part of a CALM dive-training course, but it's something we do annually," Mark said.

"The goal was to inspect the sites and remove any hazards. We expected to turn up logs, star pickets and general flood debris, but found some bonus stuff as well.

"There were watches (in good order), metal traffic signs, a tyre off a Mini Minor car, fencing wire, and fishing

rods and tackle, including a half-kilo snapper sinker.

"The dive group reported that the temperature was a mild 17 degrees and the visibility at the bottom of the Murray was up to a metre-and-a-half.

"These river checks at day-use canoe-launch sites are conducted along the Collyer River as well, again organised by Alan Byrne as part of his dive training programs ... and for a little freshwater fun while making sure the popular spots are ready for the summer camping and water-sport season," Mark said.



Swan Region technical officer Kevin Crane, left, and marine operations manager Peter Dans check the safety of the Baden Powell canoe launch area on the Murray River in Lane Poole Reserve. Photo by Mark Humble

# Greg cheats grim reaper

ONE Friday in October last year, Greg Hale was working in the koala compound at Yanchep National Park when he began to feel extremely uncomfortable.

Climbing onto the tractor with great difficulty, he drove one kilometre to the vehicle shed where he managed to struggle into another vehicle and drive off to seek help.

Meanwhile, Wayne 'Duke' Calvert was working along the roadside, pruning the overhanging vegetation. Greg pulled up and commented, that he had strong chest pains and a tightening feeling across his chest that left him gasping for breath.

## Rendezvous

Fearing the worst, Duke took immediate action by radioing the Perth District office to arrange for an ambulance to rendezvous with them, as they drove south towards the Wanneroo Hospital, 25 minutes away.

With both vehicles heading towards each other, valuable time was gained which proved to be a life-saver.

by Annie Grieg

Greg was by now having symptoms of numbness, 'pins and needles' in the arms and legs, and chest pains that were becoming more intense by the minute.

Duke later said his first aid training helped him to stay level-headed and reassure Greg that everything would be fine.

"I remember feeling quite calm and confident that my first-aid training and knowledge would see us both through."

Apart from encouraging Greg to keep breathing deeply, Duke didn't need to use his first aid skills.

Wayne travelled in the ambulance with Greg, and after he was stabilised, he was transferred from Wanneroo Hospital to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital for further testing.

## Almost fatal

Greg was diagnosed as having come dangerously close to a fatal heart attack.

He recuperated in hospital

where he remained under observation for two weeks. Surgeons later installed a pacemaker to stabilise Greg's heart beat.

Greg returned to work on December 9, six weeks after his brush with death.

He now believes 'that every day above ground is a bonus', and with a few lifestyle changes his future looks great.

## Knowledge no burden

Duke's swift action and level-headedness in the way he handled this emergency situation is most commendable, and serves to remind us that knowledge—particularly that of first aid—is never a burden.

Greg says he'll be eternally grateful that Duke was around in his hour of need.

He also, totally endorses Linda Gilbert's advice in this issue's How's Your Heart Health—by following it.

"I have much more energy now I'm eating more sensibly. The big surprise is that I actually enjoy eating healthy food, and that's something I definitely did not expect," Greg said.



A healthier and fitter Greg Hale (left) with his rescuer Wayne 'Duke' Calvert. Photo by Verna Costello

# How's your heart health?

A healthy heart is vital. It works non-stop, pumping blood around the body. It helps to provide the energy for us to enjoy a fuller and longer life.

The heart is cone-shaped and about the size of your clenched fist. For its size, it has an astonishing capacity for hard work. For example, in the average adult, the heart:

- ♥ pumps between 60 and 100 times a minute,
- ♥ pumps between 70 and 100 ml of blood with each beat,
- ♥ completely recirculates the 5 - 6 litres of blood in your body every 1 to 1.5 minutes. In 24 hours it circulates up to 10,000 litres of blood,
- ♥ could fill a petrol tanker in one day,
- ♥ will beat more than 2.5

by Linda Gilbert

million times during an average lifetime of 70 years,

- ♥ pumps blood to the lungs, back to the heart, out to the body and back to the heart again in about 23 seconds.

But you can't take your heart for granted. There are things you can do to keep it in shape—and this goes for people who already have heart disease.

A healthy heart is an active muscle that needs its own blood supply. It gets this supply through the coronary arteries that run over the heart's surface, then enter and distribute the blood around the heart muscle itself. And we need to keep those arteries in good shape too, so that the supply is guaranteed.

A healthy lifestyle is the best key to a healthy heart. It's not always easy but it's worth making the effort to:

- ♥ be a non-smoker
- ♥ eat a low fat, low salt diet
- ♥ have your blood pressure regularly checked
- ♥ exercise regularly.

The choice remains yours. If you choose not to live a healthy life, chances are that you may be forced to make the changes later in life, due to the presence of coronary heart disease—that is if you get a second chance.

The pleasure and satisfaction you get from smoking a packet of cigarettes a day, or eating cheese sausages and a bucket of chips may be too much to give up, especially if you have been doing it all your life.

However, think about the alternative!

If you survive a heart attack you will end up in hospital, will experience a great deal of pain and discomfort, will possibly undergo surgery, will most likely require daily medication for the rest of your life, will spend mountains of money on treatment and medication, will leave your family and friends in constant fear of it happening again—not to mention your own fear, and you will have to make the change to a healthier lifestyle anyway.

Think about what you can do your yourself now. For further information contact Linda Gilbert, CALM Risk Management Section, (09) 334 0397 or 015 777 775, or the Heart Foundation, Subiaco (09) 388 3343.

# Florence visits CALM



A young visitor from the south of France, Florence Gerard, recently spent several months in CALM's Albany and Busselton Districts working as a volunteer. During her time in Albany, Florence helped with threatened flora programs, potoroo research, national park visits and some translation tasks.

Here, she is seen with Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve manager Alan Danks (left) and South Coast Regional Recreation and Tourism leader Terry Passmore, after receiving a certificate of appreciation from South Coast Regional manager John Watson.

Photo by John Watson

# Wheatbelt Wonders of the Woodland a success



Anthony Desmond shows youngsters how to identify the presence of an animal by looking for its droppings. Photo by courtesy of The Narrogin Observer

INTERPRETATION activities in the Wheatbelt took a leap forward recently, with more than 140 people attending the Wonders of the Woodland activity program.

The program, consisting of four separate activities, was co-ordinated by Narrogin District operations officer Anthony Desmond, who was inspired by the success of the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course (DWEC).

"The idea to run a school holiday program at Dryandra had been around for a long time, but with a small workforce was rather daunting to implement," Anthony said.

"However, after returning from the Designing an Interpretive Activities Workshop, run by Gil Field at Notre Dame University, I knew that we couldn't let the chance slip through our fingers."

Thanks to the efforts of the Narrogin District and Perth Observatory staffs, the four activities all received enthusi-

astic reviews from the local media.

The activities included a bush walk through wandoo woodlands, a star-gazing night, a set of children's activities and the ever-popular spotlighting walks.

Narrogin District Manager Tim Bowra said the popularity of the DWEC and an increasing demand for CALM staff to provide walks and talks, gave a solid indication that a healthy response from visitors and locals alike could be expected.

## Ideal spot

"With its high diversity and ease of visibility of animals, Dryandra is a great spot for activities such as spotlighting," Tim said.

"We can use fun activity programs such as Wonders of the Woodland to illustrate the value of remnant bushland in the Wheatbelt for conservation and recreation."

Not everything ran smoothly, however. Less than an hour before participants were due to

arrive, Narrogin District and Observatory staff were sheltering from heavy rain while trying to cook a barbecue.

However, the wet weather contingency plan was not required, as the clouds rapidly disappeared to leave a clear night by the time activities started.

The participants in Starry, Starry Night were amazed at the clarity of the night sky in Dryandra, but even the acclimatised locals commented on the low temperatures.

Perth Observatory's Tom Smith and Peter Birch also commented on the novelty of ice having formed on the telescope containers when it came time for packing up.

## Great success

With an excited crowd of visitors, the wonderfully clear Dryandra night, along with woylies, grey kangaroos and brush wallabies as bemused spectators, the first Wonders of the Woodlands, could only be described as a great success.

# South Coast Region and District staff are Aussiehosts



CALM South Coast Region, including the Albany District office are now officially designated as a Gold Star 'Aussiehost Business', the first government department in Albany and the only CALM branch to hold this status.

This achievement required successful completion, by at least 90 per cent of staff, of the internationally recognised

Aussiehost Customer Services Program.

Director of Regional Services Chris Haynes, and Albany Business Centre Manager Kay Geldard, presented certificates to those staff who recently completed the course, and a special certificate to the office for its new Gold Star Aussiehost Business designation.

Left to right: Stirling Range National Park ranger Luke Coney, Torndirrup National Park ranger Mark Roddy, Aboriginal Trainee Program trainee Jason James-Wallace, South Coast Share Farms clerical officer Tully Marwick, South Coast Regional Manager John Watson, acting business manager Melissa Ford, Director of Regional Services Chris Haynes, Albany Business Centre Manager Kay Geldard, Albany District Parks Manager Martin Lloyd. Photo by Peter Fishwick.

## Fern Pool has new viewing platform and boardwalk

ONE of the natural attractions in Karijini National Park, Fern Pool, has been upgraded with the construction of a boardwalk and viewing platform.

Fern Pool, fringed by towering cadjeputs and river red gums, has a spring-fed waterfall, making it the ideal place for a swim.

Gigantic rock figs create a protective canopy for the delicate ferns that grow out of the seeping gorge walls.

This very beautiful and fragile place makes it extremely popular with visitors to the park.

Unfortunately, over the years, the public has 'loved' the place to death with the area becoming severely degraded.

Impacts include loss of vegetation, mainly native bamboo, erosion of the waterhol bank sand compaction of the natural soak.

Albany carpenter Johnny Parker (who took the photograph below), was hired to undertake the job.

John was totally engrossed in the project and delighted to be making a positive contribution to the environment.

By Jason Puls

"I've been a carpenter for 30 years and this is the most interesting and scenic job I've ever done," he said.

Getting the timber to the site proved to be somewhat challenging. Fern Pool is 750 metres from the carpark, down some extremely steep steps into Dales Gorge.

During this time, the park employed four people from CEPANCRM (Contract Employment Program for Aborigines in Natural and Cultural Resource Management) to help with the park's works program.

Hard Yakka

A semi trailer load of timber had to be carried down to the construction site, a task that the CEPANCRM fellows saw as a challenge. (The record for one day was 35 trips, with sore knees and thighs to remind them.)

To make things a little easier, Johnny Parker (the ranger, not the carpenter) set up a fly-

ing fox above Fortescue Falls to deliver the footings and other materials.

The flying fox worked well, but had to be stopped as visitor numbers increased during the July school holidays.

Special thanks go to CALM Dwellingup for the speedy delivery of two urgently needed four-by-four jarrah posts, for use as a ladder at the bottom deck of the boardwalk to help people in and out of the water.

The development at Fern Pool has been a great success, with park staff receiving highly favourable comments about the boardwalk.

Up to 60 people have been recorded using the facility at any one time.

The native bamboo has now regenerated and the boardwalk bridges the natural soak, meaning no wet, muddy shoes.

The boardwalk has stood the wet weather endurance test, with the bottom deck being covered with up to four feet of water during one of the park's wettest summers on record.

## Sun orchid shines near York

Until keen orchid enthusiast Fred Hort's recent discovery of more than sixteen new populations, totalling more than 600 plants, the cinnamon sun orchid (*Thelymitra dedmaniarum*) was known from only a few hundred plants in the wild.

Fred, who found the plants about 20 kilometres west of York, called on the Plant Identification Unit at CALM's WA Herbarium in Como, recounting his exciting discovery, and believing, at first, that he had found a new species.

The identity of the plant was confirmed by CALM's WA Threatened Species and Communities orchid specialist Andrew Brown.



Sun Orchid *Thelymitra dedmaniarum*. Photo courtesy of Western Power

The cinnamon sun orchid occurs in open wandoo woodland on granitic slopes, running down to creeklines in the hills above Perth, and is declared as rare flora.

First collected in 1934 by its namesakes Mrs and Miss Dedman, it is an attractive plant with a distinctive golden-yellow coloured flower and a distinctive cinnamon perfume.

The cinnamon Sun Orchid was reinstated as a species in 1987 by former CALM senior research scientist Stephen Hopper, after it was brought to his attention by Bill Mangini, a resident of the York region and an orchid enthusiast.

by Leigh Sage

## Popular Woodland Ecology course running at Dryandra

WOULD you like to try your hand at radio-tracking a numbat, watching a woylie digging for truffles or catching the nightly antics of a brushtail possum in the beam of your spotlight?

These and other activities were held on a recent weekend, when the tenth Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course (DWEC) coordinated by Narrogin District staff, took place.

Course leaders were drawn from CALM staff from Narrogin District, the Wheatbelt Region, Woodvale Science and Information Division and the Aboriginal Training Unit.

One of the aims of the course was to develop participants' awareness of, and empathy with the Dryandra environment by observing its plants and animals.

It also aimed to encourage in participants an appreciation of the role of research and management in maintaining the diversity of wheatbelt wildlife.

Participants also took away with them an appreciation of how the diversity benefits their own quality of life and how they can help to maintain that diversity.

This was achieved by joining the course leaders in a number of activities including radio tracking, animal trap-

ping, spotlighting, and Aboriginal cultural activities.

The course was run from the Irabina Field Study Centre, located in the heart of the Dryandra woodland, west of Narrogin—only two hours and thirty minutes from Perth.

The cost for the course which included course notes, transport within Dryandra, meals and the two nights' accommodation, was \$185.00 per person.

Accommodation was under cover in The Lions Forest Village, where each unit has a gas stove, cooking utensils, pots, pans, cutlery and crockery.

People were required to bring their own bedding, (including

pillow and blankets), a towel, warm clothing and boots suitable for field work, and effective wet-weather gear.

Also brought were cameras, binoculars, field guides to plants and animals, and personal journals.

All participants welcomed the chance to be away from the tyranny of the phone, but for that emergency call, a pay phone was available at the caretaker's cottage.

The next course will be held sometime in October.

For further details, please contact Michelle Boothey or Anthony Desmond on (08) 9881 1113 or fax (08) 9881 1645.



Laying down stumps and bearers for the boardwalk and viewing platform at Fern Pool are, left to right, Adrian Lawson, CEPANCRM leading hand Phil Young, and Joseph Limerick. Photo by Johnny Parker



# CALM - for Jennie Cary it's where old friends meet

AFTER one year on long service leave (and leave without pay), in which she travelled, studied and worked in Africa, India, and the Maldives then lazed about in Perth, Jennie Cary has taken up a position as marine ecologist at CALM's Marine Conservation Branch in Fremantle.

Her arrival adds the last staff member to those who have already transferred to the Branch from the Department of Environmental Protection's Marine Impacts Branch (see May-June 1996 CALM NEWS).

Jenny said that it was like coming back to the 'fold'.

"I worked at the Forestry Department's Dwellingup Research Station as a research assistant on jarrah dieback under Syd Shea and Bryan Shearer back in the late 1970s and early 1980s," she said.

"They were the halcyon days—I was fresh out of uni, (along with seven other science graduates), not much responsibility (except for the honours thesis which was part of my work program), an excellent canoeing river on our doorstep and a great work environment.

"It's great to be back and see so many of the old Dwellingup faces still in CALM.

"The Marine Conservation Branch was doing a marine biological survey off the Fitzgerald Biosphere area recently and I bumped into Bryan Shearer and Jo Kinal doing dieback research in Hopetoun.

"I also came across Chris Portlock from Parks Policy and Tourism at the launch of the Swan Estuary Marine Park draft management plan, and occasionally I run into Syd Shea.

## European cycle tour

"After I left the Forestry Department I travelled for two-and-a-half years in Europe. My boyfriend and I cycled for nine months in Europe and worked in France, Spain and England.

"I returned home in 1984 and in 1985 began work with the Department of Conservation and Environment (now the DEP) on a marine biological survey of the proposed Marmion Marine Park.

"Marine science had been my first love and I finally managed to fulfill that dream by working in

the marine branch of the Department of Conservation and Environment /Environmental Protection Authority/Department of Environment Protection for 14 years (we had a few name changes during that time).

"During those 14 years, I had a one-year secondment to work as Senator Jo Vallentine's environmental adviser and a three-month contract to work on Western Samoa's Environmental Management Strategy."

Jennie's experiences in Australia and overseas have given her the opportunity to acquire knowledge in a diversity of areas including:

Temperate and marine ecology of WA; design and implementation of biological surveys and monitoring programs; environmental impact assessment, marine community education programs; Federal and State political processes; lecturing (University of Namibia in Africa) and development of environmental management strategies.

Jennie is very enthusiastic about her new role with CALM which will see a shift in her work away from environmental protection (focused on man-



Jennie Cary. Photo by Verna Costello

agement of waste discharges in to the marine environment) and toward nature conservation, through the implementation of a marine reserve system in WA.

When she's not on, or under, the water Jennie enjoys practising and studying yoga, camping and walking especially in remote areas,

spending time with good friends talking, eating and drinking, and lying under a peppermint tree by the river with a good book.

## Following up on field graduates: Anthony and Brett

SINCE beginning this series of articles on the first graduates of CALM's Field Officer Skills-Based Training Course, one fact has become clear.

That is, the desire in a person to develop a career in natural resource management does not always occur suddenly. Many factors contribute to nurture it.

This issue of CALM NEWS looks at two graduates whose stories clearly illustrate this point.

**A**nthony Desmond credits his family and the surroundings in which he was raised with fostering his interest in working with the natural environment.

Raised in Geraldton, 'with bush and coast on the doorstep', his youth was spent diving, bushwalking, reef walking and on family camps

By Megan Hughes

in the Murchison. This all led Anthony to realise where his future career lay at an early age.

A father who often brought home things he found in the bush, such as frogs' eggs, only served to confirm Anthony's future.

Anthony is currently based in the Narrogin District, where his work is centred largely on public recreation and education.

Varying amounts of his time are also devoted to timber production duties and CALMfire.

Most of his time is taken up with upgrading facilities at Wave Rock, in a recoup project for the Kondinin Shire, the construction of a campground in Dryandra Woodland, and conducting

and promoting ecotourism tours of Dryandra.

Anthony's path into CALM was not a smooth transition from university.

### Honours degree

A biology honours degree from Murdoch University and a lack of suitable work led him to a variety of occupations including those of bottleshop attendant and deckhand.

To improve his chances of finding more suitable work, Anthony worked as a volunteer at the Geraldton Branch of the WA Museum.

This soon led to paid employment conducting school holiday programs, and as a gallery attendant.

This eventually led to Anthony being employed as a herpetologist (the study of reptiles) on the joint Museum-CALM Carnarvon Basin Survey.

Recruitment into CALM soon followed.

### A happy outcome

Certainly a long and hard road to join the department, but to hear Anthony describe his work, it seems he is more than happy with the outcome.

"A large proportion of my time is spent working in Dryandra Woodland, providing ecotourism services and conducting school holiday programs," Anthony said.

"To be honest, I enjoy this part of my job so much that for most of the time it's actually more like fun than work."

With regard to his skills-based training course, Anthony recognises the value of providing new CALM recruits with a broad knowledge base.

"Some aspects of the training don't appear to be relevant to me in my current position, but I find when I'm conducting ecotourism and educational talks, that I'm continually challenged on, for example,

CALM's burning and forestry practices," he said.

"Without the broad knowledge that the training provided, I would have to give a lot of 'sorry, I don't know' answers."

### A cause for pride

Anthony also praises the training presenters, saying "the knowledge and ability of the various course presenters is something CALM should take pride in, with some of them standing out as more prepared and better communicators than many university lecturers I've encountered."

**B**rett Fitzgerald currently works in Kirup, the town in which he was raised, and worked for CALM when he was still at high school.

His family history with Kirup dates back to 1924, when his grandfather joined the Forests Department as a cadet with the first intake at the Forestry School in Ludlow, later becoming chief timber inspector for Kirup.

Brett's father also worked for 44 years with the Forests Department—before it became part of CALM—as the Kirup administration officer.

Currently, Brett's main duties at the Kirup Work Centre in the Blackwood District focus on the district's Nature Conservation Program.

In addition, he helps the State Forest Resources Business Unit with tree marking and he also helps with prescribed burning and wildfire suppression when required.

Recently Brett's duties have focused on the commencement of the Western Shield predator control program and the implementation of the new MAPINFO flora database in the Blackwood District.

However, his work also sees him involved in tasks as wide



Brett Fitzgerald, setting a fauna trap, as part of his animal monitoring duties. Photo by Don Boothey

ranging as mining industry liaison, conducting schools programs, liaising with community groups and reserve management.

Much to Brett's satisfaction, his work in the Blackwood area allows him to be involved in the management of a range of different land types.

"The Blackwood District tenure varies from jarrah forest to karri bush, and from easterly wandoo reserves to coastal areas such as Lake Jasper and Black Point," he said.

Brett joined CALM in 1995, after completing a degree in Environmental Biology at Curtin University.

### Honours project on jarrah

He continued his studies on a part-time basis, completing his honours project on the effects of thinning and fertiliser on jarrah stands.

This was carried out with the assistance of the CALM Dwellingup research team, and with senior research scientist Geoff Stoneman as one of his supervisors.

Like most of the CALM Skills-based Training Course graduates interviewed so far, Brett names one of the most valuable aspects of his training as the chance to meet other CALM staff.

### Value of social interaction

"It seems that a large part of the learning experience comes, not only from the training sessions, but also from the social interaction between the participants themselves and between them and the trainers," he said.

Brett probably best explains the value graduates place on the friendships formed during that time when he says:

"Roll on the first reunion!"



"Come on, give us a kiss" seems to be what this carpet python might be saying, as it heads towards Anthony Desmond's face. Photo by Michelle Boothey

THE recently re-established Executive Director's Scholarship has been awarded for the first time since the cadetship program closed in 1991.

This year's award, which was intended for one recipient, has gone to two—Gary Davidson of Mornington District, and Melfyn Price of Perth District.

Before the closure of

by Megan Hughes

the cadet school, one AWU staff member a year was encouraged to enter the cadetship scheme through the awarding of the scholarship. However, the closure of the cadetship program brought with it the demise of the scholarship.

Recognising the impor-

tant role the scholarship formerly played in providing AWU staff with a career opportunity to enter field officer positions within the Department, Executive Director Dr Syd Shea recently re-instated it.

In its new form, the award is designed to encourage staff to take on post-secondary studies, by providing the successful applicant with both financial support and study

time to ease the heavy burden of combining work and study.

Both winners had already completed units of the Certificate IV in Land Management so they are well aware of the hardship involved, and they clearly felt the scholarship would be of great assistance to them in that respect.

"Less than 30 per cent of students doing correspondence courses actually complete their studies," said one of this year's winners Gary Davidson.

"The major reasons cited are pressures of work and family commitments."

Gary also spoke of a less tangible benefit of the scholarship—"the boost to self-confidence that comes with succeeding in a field of quality applicants."

Gary has been with CALM for seven years, the first five of which were as reserves management assistant.

However, his work with CALM is now predominantly focused on the development of the Wellington Discovery Forest and with visitor management in the Mornington District.

The aim of his study



Gary Davidson packing up tools after carrying out repairs to a toilet block at Belevedere Beach on the Leschenault Peninsula. Photo by Peter Henderson



Melfyn Price. Photo by Megan Hughes

is to become a field officer, and it is through this that Gary hopes to develop from his current role in CALM and build a career in recreation and nature conservation.

Melfyn Price has worked for CALM since 1985, initially through a

Commonwealth employment program which saw him placed as a forest worker at Wanneroo.

From 1990, he worked as a reserve management assistant, and for the last two years has been employed as an acting overseer.

Like Gary, Melfyn aims

to study, graduate and be promoted to a field officer position and from there to continue developing his career within CALM.

With the help of the Executive Director's Scholarship, the goals of both recipients are now within their grasp.



## CALM sandalwood study 'Branded'

EXAMINING populations of sandalwood growing in pastoral regions in the Midwest and Goldfields is keeping Science and Information Division research scientist Jonathan (Jon) Brand's nose to the grindstone.

Jon was contracted by CALM in November 1995 to carry out a two-year study of the field ecology of Western Australian sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) and factors affecting its regeneration.

Since that time, he has been documenting the age

by Verna Costello

to size ratio and structure of sandalwood populations growing with different vegetation types and on a variety of landforms.

He has also been examining the levels of sandalwood regeneration under different land management activities on Ninghan, Burnerbinmah and Thundelarra near Paynes Find, and Goongarrie and Jeedamyra stations in the Goldfields.

"On these stations, I have established a series

of trials to study the effects of different harvesting procedures and grazing pressures on sandalwood regeneration," Jon said.

"I'm also involved with the relocations and establishment of sandalwood on farms in the Wheatbelt and Midwest regions, and I'm monitoring the growth of sandalwood trees established on farms by CALM staff during the past 10 years."

Before joining CALM, Jon worked for two years on Land Resource Surveys of Katanning and

Nyabing, for Agriculture, W.A., after completing a Master of Science (Biology) degree by research at Curtin University in 1993. The title of his Masters thesis was 'Phenotypic and genotypic variation within *Santalum album* in West Timor'.

When he isn't stomping around among the sandalwood, Jonathan likes to relax by playing tennis and golf. He would also like to do more SCUBA diving... "but there's not a lot of it about in the Goldfields," he said.

Jon Brand in CALM's Como glasshouse with three-month-old sandalwood seedlings, which are growing with tree lucerne (*Chamaecytisus*). Photo by Verna Costello

## NEW FACE AT COMO INFORMATION



Tracy Ferguson (on left), formerly of the CALM Albany office, has recently transferred to Perth to become the new Customer Enquiries Officer at the Como front-office information counter. Tracy will also work as the front-office cashier as well as relieve regular switchboard operator Michelle Griffin (on right).

Photo by Kevin Kenneally

## Luke and Mike pursue the birds

CALM rangers Luke Coney (Stirling Range National Park), and Mike Paxman (Porongurup National Park), were 'after the birds' at the Tree in the Rock picnic area in Porongurup National Park during a recent visit by the Royal Australasian Ornithological Union (RAOU).

The RAOU was holding its Southern Hemisphere Congress in Albany and CALM Albany organised and



hosted the early morning bird watching excursions. CALM also host-

ed major field trips to the Stirlings, Porongurups, Two

Peoples Bay and Walpole. Photo by John Watson

## Changes to Lunchtime Seminar dates

The Director of Corporate Relations Ron Kawalilak has changed his seminar date from June 25 to July 9, 1997. Would you, therefore,

please change the date on any posters, circulars or CALM NEWS clippings you may have.

Ron's topic for that day will be *Forest*

*Communications*.

Another date that didn't appear in the last CALM NEWS, but does appear on the posters, was August 13, when

Barry Jordan's topic will be *Blue Gum Plantations*.

STOP PRESS: The May 28 seminar has been postponed until further notice.