

CALM sandalwood study 'Branded'

by Verna
Costello

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

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



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