

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

JULY—AUGUST 1997



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New Bibbulmun a gold ribboned affair

THE new Bibbulmun Track is destined to become one of the great long distance walking trails of the world.

Premier Richard Court said the new 950-km track, from Kalamunda to Albany, would be one of the few long trails that offered walkers a virtually unbroken stretch of natural environment and spectacular scenery, and as a result it would quickly become a major tourist drawcard for visitors from interstate and overseas.

Major tourist icon

"The track should be regarded as one of the State's major tourist icons, attracting thousands of new users and giving people an opportunity to experience and learn about the natural wonders of the South-west," he said.

Mr Court was speaking at the official opening of the northern half of the new track between Kalamunda and the Brockman Highway. This 453-km section of the track winds through a wide variety of jarrah and wandoo forest and passes through or near the communities of Kalamunda, Mundaring, North Bannister, Dwellingup, Collie, Mumballup, Balingup and Greenbushes.

He said the new track provided those communities with a variety of opportunities to service walkers and create new nature-based tourism activities.

It also opened up a wide range of educational opportunities through the involvement of schools in track construction and maintenance as well as for expeditions and nature-based learning experiences.

Extensive consultation

The Building a Better Bibbulmun Project, a CALM initiative, has involved extensive community consultation, a process that is still under way as the track alignment is finalised for the extension from Walpole to Albany.

The project has involved a wide range of Government agencies, corporate sponsors and local community organisations.

For example, the Ministry of Justice has seen it as an opportunity to employ prisoners in a meaningful community project that will enhance their self-esteem, work skills and personal development. In this regard, the track has provided an opportunity for prisoners to give something back to the community.



Above: Premier Richard Court, flanked by children from Amaroo Primary School, cuts the gold ribbon to mark the official opening of the northern half of the new Bibbulmun Track at a ceremony held at the Harris River dam recreation site in August. Track Co-ordinator Jesse Brampton (behind Mr Court) looks on with satisfaction. Below: The Friends of the Bibbulmun received a Lotteries Commission grant of \$136,500 for a range of initiatives associated with the track. Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes presented the cheque to Friends' chairman Mike Wood. Also at the presentation were Lotteries Commissioner Anne Griffiths and CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea. Photo by Craig Stewart

The work has involved major improvements to facilities, built by CALM staff, prisoners, people engaged in employment and training programs, and local community groups. Twenty-six new campsites—with sleeping shelters, toilets, rainwater tanks, discreet tent areas, tables and barbecue rings—have been created, and three major foot bridges have been built across the Canning River, Balingup Brook and at the Harris River.

Funding for the project has come from almost \$2 million in sponsorship and grant funds and approximately \$3 million of 'in kind' contributions from CALM, the Ministry of Justice, Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) Programs, bush walking clubs, volunteer groups, service clubs, the Army Reserve and individuals.

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One of the most difficult tasks we face in CALM is to continuously improve our ability to communicate effectively with one another throughout the Department. All organisations—public or private—have the same challenge, as the rate of change and complexity of technology, social and political issues increases.

But CALM has probably a more difficult task than most organisations because of its diversity and the dispersed nature of its operations. But paradoxically our diversity of operations and skills, and the fact that we are represented in virtually every major town throughout Western Australia, also provides us with large returns on investing in improved communications.

For example, I was recently at a meeting in which the Maritime Pine Business Unit had arranged for Roger Armstrong to give a briefing on *Western Shield*. It readily became apparent that there was an excellent opportunity for people working on the maritime pine project to communicate to farmers the opportunities for them to plug into the *Western Shield* feral animal control program.

The newly introduced component of the maritime pine program—the provision of a variety of other trees for nature conservation and aesthetic roles—ties neatly into the biodiversity components of the salinity strategy.

Apart from the benefits we can derive from 'borrowing' logistical systems developed for other activities (for example, the *Western Shield* delivery system is based on the logistical system developed for aerial prescribed burning) interaction between often quite different parts of CALM can be the source of innovation.

The intranet is one of the new communication innovations that is an excellent forum for exploring potential synergies within the Department. I urge everybody who has access to it to make use of it.

Improved communication is also fundamental to human resource management in CALM. At various times in this column I have urged people to communicate directly with me if they have specific problems that are not being dealt with. I recognise, however, that this approach is seen by many people as a 'last resort' process.

I am very pleased that a 'CALM People Reference Group' has been formed which provides another vehicle for people in CALM to communicate their ideas and concerns about human resource management in CALM. The reference group reports directly to me.

I am confident that the group will ensure that CALM is not only passionate about the work we do but also is known as a Department that is compassionate about its people.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

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, Corporate Relations Division

WANTED

Dwellingup Science and Info Divsn., wants one box trailer 6' x 4'. Dual wheels preferred. O/wise single axle. Phone Gunnar Hornum on 9538 1105.



Above: CALM's Bibbulmun Track staffers Raelene Hick and Annie Keating with CALM Mornington District Manager Drew Griffiths and Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes admire the plaque that was unveiled to celebrate the opening of the northern half of the new Bibbulmun Track.

Bibbulmun gold ribboned affair (cont'd)

• From page 1

Major sponsors of the project include the Ministry of Justice, Alcoa of Australia, Regional Development Commissions, DEET, Worsley Alumina, Griffin Coal, Hedges Gold, Scotch College, Random Access, CSBP and Farmers, Mountain Designs, Culity Timbers and the Gordon Reid Foundation (Lotteries Commission).

The Federal Government's Regional Development Program is contributing \$1.38 million over two years for the project through the Southern Province Projects Group.

Mr Court welcomed this commitment by the Federal Government as the track would gain world-wide recognition for Australia as a whole and would generate significant economic opportunities for regional areas through which it passed.

The Lotteries Commission also had granted \$136,500 to the Friends

of the Bibbulmun Track for a range of maintenance, management and marketing initiatives. This funding will give the Friends of the Track a flying start and will aid significantly in ensuring the new track is quickly recognised as a world class long-distance walk.

Nature-based tourism

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the track was part of an overall program by CALM to create greater opportunities for nature-based tourism experiences throughout the forests.

Other initiatives under this program include the Tree Tops Walk in the Valley of the Giants, the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup, a 44-km self-guided radio tour through some of the finest old growth forest in the Shannon National Park, the opening of the 'trilogy of trees'—the

three soaring karris that serve as fire lookouts in the southern forests, and the Perup Wilderness Lodge east of Manjimup.

As well, there has been a significant upgrading of facilities in various areas throughout the forests, such as Wellington Mill near Collie, at Lewana near the southern end of the northern half of the Bibbulmun, and at numerous camping grounds.

As part of the Bibbulmun Track project, CALM has produced a new series of coloured maps that are now available to the public. These maps, along with other CALM publications such as its *BushBooks* field guides, would help walkers interpret the many different aspects of the forest they would discover along the way, and should be used instead of the 1988 *Guide to the Bibbulmun Track* for the track north of the Brockman Highway.

Staff Movements

Contract

Rachel Oddie, to Plantations Group, as Technical Assistant; Robert Troeth, to Walpole, as Forest Ranger; Mark Sellenies to Fire Management Branch, Kelmscott, as GIS Operator; Juanita Ciampini, to Plantations Group, Como, as Tech Assist; Tania Jackson, to Tourism Branch, as Planning Officer; Carissa Bathgate to Fire Management Branch, Bunbury, as Field Officer; Keith Claymore, to Wildlife Branch, Como, as Save The Bush Co-ordinator; Michael Hislop, to the Herbarium, as Technical Officer; Michael Power, to Plantations Group, as Albany Farm Forestry Facilitator; Robert Davis, to the Herbarium, as Technical Officer.

Permanent staff

Laura Beck to South Coast Region, as Finance and Administration Manager; Linda Sheehan to Plantations Group, as Administrative Assistant; Roderick Hillman to Walpole District, as Site Manager; Marilyn Mawkes, to Herbarium, as Clerical Officer; Laura Beck, to Albany, as Finance and Administration Manager;

Promotions

Nessie McIlhatton to Accounts Payable Supervisor, L 2, at Finance; Deanne Burton, to Conveyancing Officer, L 4 at South Coast Share Farms; Clive Coshan, to Financial Systems Officer, L 2 at Financial Services Branch; Rick Althuisen, to Budget and Reporting Officer, L 3 at Financial Services; Edward Hatherley, to Operations Officer, L 3 at Nannup; Gavin Butcher, to Manager, Plantations Group, Como.

Reclassifications

Terry Maher, Fire Protection, Bunbury, Senior Fire Operations Officer, Level 7; Colleen Clement Administrative Assistant, Bunbury, Level 3; Merilyn Kearney Forest Resources to User Liaison Officer Level 4.

Secondments

Larisa Vanstien to Fisheries Department, as Education Officer, from Mundaring; Ramon Ellery, to Finance, as Clerical Officer, from Rottne Island Authority; Jacqueline Jewell, to Marine Branch, from Dwellingup, as Administrative Assistant.

Transfers

Matthew Lloyd to Harvey as Forester, from Kirup; John Collier to DOPLAR as Operations Officer, from Kirup; Rosemary Melvey, to Swan Region as Admin Officer, from North Maritime Pine Division; Lindon Piggott to Manjimup as Sharefarms Business Unit Manager, from Blackwood District.

Resignations

Barbara Giles, from Dwellingup District, as Administrative Assistant; Stephen Toole, from Geraldton, as Reserves Officer.

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... LETTERS ... LETTERS ... LETTERS ... LETTERS ... LETTERS ... LETTERS ...

The following letter landed on Executive Director Dr Syd Shea's desk very soon after Channel Nine's excellent Television program *Witness*.

Congratulations on 'Project Eden'—a wonderful step in rehabilitating the fauna on the continent—one small change in consciousness, one large change to Australia!

Regards,
Robin Ramsay
Thora NSW

I write to congratulate the Department on the wonderful work it administers in the national parks of Western Australia, providing great opportunities for travellers.

I recently visited the Kimberley region for a month's holiday and had a most wonderful experience, due in great part to

the rangers employed at the national parks we visited, in particular Windjana, Geiki, Bell Gorge and the Bungle Bungles.

The first national park we visited was Windjana. Bruce Bond, the ranger, was extremely helpful and very knowledgeable about the area.

He gave us good advice about visiting the other parks all of which was most beneficial. From that

time on we found all the rangers to be efficient, pleasant and very dedicated to their profession.

The Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management is very fortunate to have such dedicated professionals working with their team and I would like to personally, on behalf of my friends, thank those men in particular.

I would be pleased if

you would kindly convey my thanks and best wishes to all concerned.

I am visiting Kakadu and Arnhem Land in October and trust my experience in the NT with national parks is as enjoyable as my visit to WA.

Keep up the good work.

Yours faithfully,
Barbara Mork
Ashfield NSW 2131.

Three-year sponsorship a winner for wildlife

THE war against introduced predators and the devastating impact they have on native wildlife has been bolstered by corporate sponsorship worth \$60,000 a year, for at least the next three years.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes recently announced that WA-based mining company Cable Sands would sponsor *Coastal Storm*—an expansion of CALM's nature conservation initiative *Western Shield*.

The biggest conservation project ever undertaken in WA, *Western Shield* aims to bring native wildlife back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators, namely European foxes and feral cats.

"Cable Sands sponsorship has enabled CALM to begin *Coastal Storm*, which will cover 200,000 ha of *Western Shield*'s South West operations," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The area covered by the Cable Sands *Coastal Storm* component includes the D'Entrecasteaux and Shannon

by Mitzi Vance

National Parks and adjacent multiple-use State forests and reserves.

"It will link with other programs within *Western Shield* to ensure that all major CALM-managed lands in the South West will be under a comprehensive and thorough baiting regime."

Mrs Edwardes said the partnership between CALM and Cable Sands augured well for conservation of the State's wildlife in its battle for supremacy over introduced predators.

Private sector input

"It is encouraging to see the private sector becoming involved in projects designed to achieve conservation," she said.

"More and more land-use companies are beginning to realise the benefits of rehabilitation and the need to conserve WA's native flora and fauna.

"The recent find of a new population of quokkas near a rehabilitated bauxite mine site in the

northern jarrah forest, which had been baited for fox control, is testimony to this.

"Cable Sands has set an excellent example for other State and nationally-based companies to follow."

The Minister said overall CALM had increased *Western Shield*'s baiting operations by 400,000 ha of land since it began the project last year.

"*Western Shield*, in addition to the *Coastal Storm* component, was also extended into the Sunlands of the Blackwood, the Donnelly Catchment and other areas of the South West and south coast," she said.

Mrs Edwardes said *Western Shield* was already generating positive results, with a number of native animals being reintroduced into areas they once roamed before the introduction of foxes and cats.

"Numbats have been reintroduced at Mt Dale and chuditch have been released at Lake Magenta in the Wheatbelt as a result of successful bait-

ing operations," she said. The Minister said CALM had already drafted and planned translocation proposals for a number of other endangered native mammals whose populations have declined drastically as a result of predation.

"Captive breeding programs have begun for native animal species whose populations are so low in the wild, that capture and relocation is not possible without intensive breeding," she said.

Excellent results

"A breeding program for malleefowl in Shark Bay has produced excellent results with more than 40 chicks being produced.

"Likewise we have seen the birth of a number of western barred bandicoots and bilbies in breeding programs here in Perth.

"As *Western Shield* progresses we hope to see more and more native animals thriving in the wild, and if its first year is an indicator of success, this will, no doubt, be achieved."



Cable Sands Managing Director Chris Davies and Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes with a bilby at the announcement of the company's \$180,000 sponsorship agreement with CALM. Photo by Ernie McLintock

CALM beats rest of world in cyberspace race

WESTERN Australia has gained significant exposure in 'cyberspace' with *NatureBase*—CALM's internet site—winning an international Web sites competition.

NatureBase—which came on line just 12 months ago—was awarded first prize in the academic/research/government sites section in the Metal-Workers' Contest, a competition run by Canadian Web site software provider, SoftQuad Inc.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the award, which carried a \$US10,000 prize, was

among the internet's most prestigious accolades and would lead to an increasing number of 'net surfers' visiting *NatureBase* and other Western Australian sites.

More than 500 entries

The competition attracted more than 500 entries that were short-listed to 40 finalists. Entry was open to sites that were registered users of the Web software, HotMetal PRO. Judging was based on organisation, integrity, accessibility and creativity.

Judges included leading

North American journalists in new media and senior executives from Web development firms and the winners were announced during a 'virtual ceremony' held on the internet in late July.

NatureBase was developed by CALM to bring Western Australia's natural attractions within reach of anyone, anywhere in the world, who had access to the internet.

The site was developed by CALM in conjunction with the WA-based internet consultant, Dow Digital. It is maintained by CALM Corporate Relations

Division. The site's webmaster is communications officer and *LANDSCOPE* editor David Gough.

"*NatureBase* is a tremendous window on WA," Mrs Edwardes said.

"It uses virtual reality and other multi-media to help visitors explore the State's great natural wonders such as Penguin Island off Rockingham and the Valley of the Giants tingle forests near Walpole.

"A search facility will soon put users in contact with CALM-licensed nature-based tourism operators.

"There is also a special 'For Schools' section that includes the *Western Shield* Action Pack, which is an educational activity for upper primary students to learn more about WA's native animals.

"The prize money will be used in the *NatureBase* schools and community information project to fund a range of multimedia educational activities that will be available on the site."

Mrs Edwardes said internet awards were major drawcards for 'net users to visit sites.

When *NatureBase* was

selected as SoftQuad's site of the month last March, it resulted in a noticeable upsurge in visits by the United States and Canada to the point that more than 20 per cent of people visiting *NatureBase* were from North America.

Third major award

This most recent award is the third major award *NatureBase* has gathered. In September last year, it was named best government site in the inaugural Telstra-Australian Financial Review Australian Internet Awards, and in June it gained a Gold Quill in the International Association of Business Communicators awards.

It was one of three Gold Quill Awards. The team of Carolyn Thomson, Penny Walsh, Nigel Higgs, Mitzi Vance and Ron Kawalilak won a Gold Quill Award in the Community and Government Relations category for a communications and public relations program, designed to create a high level of awareness of, and support for, *Operation Foxglove* and *Project Eden*.

The third award came when Ron Kawalilak won a Gold Quill Award of Excellence, in recognition of his work in directing the ongoing development of *LANDSCOPE*.

"I congratulate CALM and its staff on their achievements," Mrs Edwardes said.

"As word of the latest win circulates across the 'net' many more people from around the world will want to experience WA for themselves, having first visited the State through *NatureBase*."

NatureBase can be seen at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>. People who do not have direct access to the internet can visit the site on computers at CALM's WA Naturally information centre in Henry Street, Fremantle.

Applecross primary pitches in for wildlife



Applecross Primary School has donated \$1000 for feeding stations at the animal hide in The Hills Forest at Mundaring. The school presented the cheque to CALM Executive Director Syd Shea at an assembly which was attended by some special guests—'residents' of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Gooseberry Hill. CALM staffers Liz Moore (left), Matt Warnock and Ben Tannock and June Butcher (centre) from Kanyana took the woylie, echidna, bilby and boodie around to the classes so the children could see the animals. Photo by Gary Merrin, courtesy Sunday Times

Goldfields five cycle for fun and Flying Doctors



Kalgoorlie's notoriously stony-faced Paddy Hannan (seated left) obviously saw the occasion as a solemn one, as he waited outside the Town Hall for the intrepid five to 'push off' on their epic cycle ride to Esperance. From left to right they are: Ben Sawyer, Kim Phillips-Jones, Grant Pronk, Peter Jones and Warwick Roe. Photo by Graeme Sullivan of *The Kalgoorlie Miner*

WAS this really meant as a joke? This was asked a number of times about a proposal by Sandalwood Business Unit manager Peter Jones, to ride push bikes over the 400 kilometres from Kalgoorlie to Esperance.

Grant Pronk didn't believe he was serious, especially when Peter told him the start was less than two months away, but he was—deadly serious.

Three other staff members, Kim Phillips-Jones and Ben Sawyer from the Sandalwood Business Unit and I overheard the pair's discussion—and the duo became a quintet.

As the region's health and fitness co-ordinator, I saw an opportunity to rack up some brownie points with health and fitness instructor Linda Gilbert by pushing this as part of the region's health and fitness program.

Admittedly, I did not do

by Warwick Roe

a great deal from then on, as I became busy on other personal sporting pursuits, but Peter was a great deputy.

He organised many training rides to help prepare us all for the epic journey.

The training was not without incident.

One rider in particular did his best to get out of the challenge, first embarking on a game of social hockey so he could damage his knee ligaments. Later, he fell off his bike on a training ride, badly grazing his legs.

But on the day we were all there rearing to go. We averaged more than 100 km a day and had it not been for a strong head wind on the first day we would have completed the ride in three days. Honestly!

As it turned out, we completed the ride in a

little more than three days.

Along the way we rattled tins for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and managed to raise just under \$400.

The ride was such a success and everyone enjoyed themselves so much, that plans are already under way for our next challenge (probably next April), when we will tackle a 250-km ride from Lake Barley on Mount Elvire Station to Boorabbin along mountain-bike bush tracks.

If anyone else is interested in taking up this next challenge, they are most welcome to join in.

After travelling on a bicycle seat for hours on end you'll experience the singular sensation of leg muscles melting away, but despite this, you'll find it really is a great deal of fun. Come on, be in it, and phone Ben Sawyer on (08) 9021 2677, or fax (08) 9021 7831 for details.

Children learn about Bay and its unique diversity

COMMUNITY involvement is an important component of marine reserve planning, but if the public is to participate fully, there needs to be a general understanding of both the marine reserve concept and the planning process.

Jurien Bay has been identified for consideration as a marine reserve, and while a major community education campaign has been planned for

by Sue Osborne

all sectors of the community, a recent preliminary visit targeted local schools.

Marine Conservation Branch and Moora District staff worked with volunteers Ray Wilkinson and Gilles Monty to provide an action-packed program of slide shows, videos, laboratory exercises, role-play activities and

even a field excursion to Boullanger Island.

One hundred and twenty children from years five to 10 took part, and a fun time was had by all.

The young people involved now have a clearer understanding of the value of their local marine environment, the management concepts of multiple use and zoning, and the importance of community involvement in planning.



Project leader Sue Osborne and school children at Jurien Bay enjoy dressing up and role-playing the wide range of interest groups involved in the marine reserve planning process. Photo by Terry Koltasz

Camp open for big groups



Forest workers Mal Strange (left) and Anthony O'Neill reflect on their craftsmanship after completing the bush kitchen. To give a rustic look, second-hand corrugated iron was used for internal and external cladding. Photo by Glenn Willmott.

CALM's South West Capes District staff have recently converted Wharncliffe Mill, an old Forests Department pine sawmill, into a 'back-to-basics' group campsite.

The sawmill was operational from the late 1960s until its closure in the early 1980s.

The large bush pole sheds are still standing, and provide ideal protection during all weather conditions.

Following a few years of disuse, CALM has since recognised its value to ecotourism.

CALM recreation officer Glenn Willmott has been working on the project since early 1996, and after a slow but rewarding process, the camp ground is well and truly operational with the following facilities:

- hot showers, toilets and water
- a bush kitchen
- free electric barbecues and excellent lighting
- walk and cycle tracks in

- adjacent forest
- large open areas for camping
- beach volleyball court . . . and much more.

Construction of a 60-bed bunkhouse is also under way, while an abseiling 'climb wall', and interpretive activities, using the site as the starting point into the surrounding bush, are being planned.

Wharncliffe Mill is ideally located within walking distance (1.5 km) of the townsite, but still provides serenity and isolation, being nestled in State forest among old-growth karri and marri trees.

A marketing plan and advertising brochure have been produced, which see the site operating on a self-sustainable basis. That is, moneys generated from bookings are to be used on providing better camping and related facilities.

Current target markets are schools, scouts, police rangers, adventure groups, and so on.

However, some businesses and corporations have used the site for team-building exercises, with great success.

Activities such as caving and abseiling seem to be the most popular, while some groups prefer to walk the coastline or other tracks, or even visit wineries and other local attractions.

This site is the perfect base for any size or type of group visiting the Margaret River region.

This is indicated from its first year (1996-1997) of operation, when financial year bookings of about \$6,000 were earned from such groups.

So if you are a member of a sporting, service, or any other type of club (even a large informal group), Wharncliffe Mill will almost certainly suit you.

For further information, phone Margaret River District recreation officer Glenn Willmott on (08) 9757 2322, or fax him on (08) 9757 2930.

Trails conference in October

THE theme of the The Fourth Annual Trails Conference in October is 'Trailswest—Charting the Course', and will focus on the planning processes required at global, regional and urban levels.

A key speaker will be

Russell Irvine from Canada, where he was Director of Recreation and Sport for British Columbia, and through this role co-ordinated the provincial government's first agreement to support Trails B.C. which involved the 2000-kilometre routing of the Trans-

Canada Trail in British Columbia.

Staff who would like to know more about the Conference (date, venue, costs,) should contact Peter Bidwell by phoning him on (08) 9840 1217 or (08) 9334 0265.

Peter tackles Avon Descent

by Verna Costello

PICTURED far left is technical officer and kayak paddler Peter Speldewinde preparing to do battle with the caprices of the river in this year's Coates Hire Avon Descent.

Peter works in the Science and Information Division (SID) at Woodvale and is seen with his support team comprising former CALM consultant zoologist Ruth Morgan, WATSCU botanist Leonie Monks, Wildlife zoologist Peter Orell, WATSCU botanist Gillian Stack, and, (from Germany) Dagmar Doil, a work exchange employee with Agriculture WA.

CALM sponsored Peter by providing a Toyota Landcruiser as a support vehicle.

On its way from Northam to the finishing line at Bayswater, the Avon River passes through Walyunga National Park, and the sponsorship was in recognition of activities such as the

Avon Descent that make responsible use of national parks, and to encourage staff to become involved in the department's fitness programs.

The vehicle was used to take Peter, his kayak and his support crew to Northam and to enable the crew to follow him down river with spare equipment, food, and refills for his drink container.

Fitness for Peter meant six months training before the event, which, he said, was "very difficult to fit in around field-work commitments".

This year's competition celebrated the Avon Descent's 25th anniversary, with a disappointingly low water level of .40 metres, the lowest in about 20 years.

These conditions saw Peter dragging his kayak over four kilometres on the first day.

"There was a thick mist on the Saturday morning, that delayed the start for an hour," Peter said.

"There was just enough water flowing through the Avon Valley to make the rapids interesting, but not as spectacular as last year's.

"And the low water level in the last section of the river meant a very hard slog for competitors, who battled through the final 35 km.

"A big number of competitors failed to finish, and it took me 16 hours, 30 minutes over the two-day event, that saw me come 104th out of more than 200 single-kayak paddlers.

"All in all, I'm pretty pleased with the result, and I'm looking forward to doing better next year," he said.

Photo by Graham Clarke, whose son Alan (technical officer with SID at Woodvale) won second place in the single surf-ski division.



Big Brook Relay, It's nearly here!

FOR those who haven't seen the circular, it's Pemberton District's Big Brook Relay time, and in organiser Rod Annear's words, you should "limber up those hammies, stretch the quads and clean off the barbecue tongs".

The event will be held on Saturday, November 22, so there's no time to lose if you want to improve your fitness so the hamstrings and quadriceps don't snap on the day.

Events are crosscut sawing, cycling, running, canoeing, and swimming, with the winning team receiving the Karri All Sports Trophy.

There's also the Derriere Award for the team that finishes, not first, second or third, but with flair, style and panache—and last past the post.

For those staff who wish to stay the full weekend, accommodation will be available at the Pemberton Camp School, and Rod hopes to organise a dinner at a local restaurant or winery for the Saturday evening, after participants have finished pulling a tendon or two in the Relay.

Accommodation and breakfast costs per day are \$25 for adults and \$13 for students. Dinner costs will be advised when Rod has a better idea of how many will attend.

Just contact him before September 26, so bookings can be confirmed with the chosen eatery and Pemberton Camp School.

If you have not been approached by a colleague, (or strong-armed into it by the

boss), but you would like to join a team or form one yourself, contact Rod without delay for details, as entries must be in no later than September 26.

He can be reached by email at roda@calm.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 9776 1207 or fax (08) 9776 1410.

Above all, the Big Brook Relay is a family day, with children's activities and—for those minimally competitive grownups who enjoy becoming horizontal while leaning on a rope—there's a tug-of-war.

A sausage sizzle will be available at lunchtime on Saturday, but please bring other picnic or barbecue foods, fighting irons (cutlery), crockery and glasses, as well as your own frisbees, sailboards, canoes, and so on. See you there!

Meetings via the intranet that everyone can attend

A COMPANY chief executive officer was talking on radio recently, about a system on his company's intranet that was little short of brilliant.

by David Gough

Meetings are scheduled to take place for anything from one to five days, depending on the availability of people who are to attend, and the scope of the meeting's agenda.

Those attending the 'virtual meeting' visit a threaded group (similar to Karri Trails in the Let's Talk section of CALMweb), and add their thoughts to the topics, as listed in the 'virtual agenda'.

Participants in the discussion visit the site from time to time, or as they have a new idea, and leave comments, questions, answers or solutions in the appropriate thread. Moreover,

they can share documents, spreadsheets, images and the like.

At the end of the discussion period, the various comments are reviewed and decisions can be made.

The big advantage of a 'virtual meeting' is that people are not tied to a particular time or place—their input can be added whenever it is convenient for them to spend a few minutes on the net.

They do not have to sit listening to several people trying to put forward their different points of view, and then trying to answer those points, while competing with colleagues to be heard.

Each point can be viewed,

and an appropriate and well-reasoned answer given.

Even as you read this article, ways and means are being sought to develop an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) service within CALM (as well as looking to the future and real-time video conferencing).

With such a service, even staff in remote locations can take part in meetings.

It is doubtful that virtual meetings will ever replace the real thing (After all there's no coffee and bikkies!), but such meetings could help canvas a wider range of views and allow more people to attend at times that are convenient to them.

If there is sufficient interest in virtual meetings, the Karri Trails service can be modified to allow 'booking' of closed intranet 'conference rooms'.

New pump steps up battle against dieback fungus

WASH-DOWN and vehicle hygiene have been a part of life for more than 20 years at Dwellingup District, and after the findings of the Dieback Review Committee, they will continue to be an integral part of CALM's disease-risk management in the forests.

The pump at the Dwellingup wash-down station is finally being pensioned off after at least 10 years' work, to make way for a newer, more robust industrial-strength model.

Head mechanic at Dwellingup Stuart Hunter likes to point out that "it's not the original pump by a long shot—it's been rebuilt many times over, and probably hasn't an original part in its housing."

The new high-pressure system, fitted with a 5.5 kilowatt motor, discharges at 15 litres per minute. Eye protection, of course, must be worn.

The new model is fitted with an injection system that ensures the Comprox (a detergent) is added to the high-pressure wash at the correct concentrations.

Another cost-saving feature is the 45-second lag time in the

by Tammie Reid

automatic shut down—something lacking on the old pump system.

The company providing this equipment, Arrow Pressure Wash, also supplies a similar wash-down system, providing spot-free rinse systems for BMW Autoclasses.

"Clearly the system at Dwellingup is not quite as particular," says Joe Hayhurst of Arrow.

"It's more in keeping with the industrial lines we supply to truck depots and heavy haulage companies.

"We contract for all Rally Australia pressure cleaning during its event here, and are interested in installing robust systems that mean you don't see us again because the equipment does the job and lasts."

Peter Gibson, the forest ranger organising the installation, is working on a key-operation system instead of the open-to-all policy of the past.

"We just can't afford to have this open to the unsupervised or untrained public.



Forest ranger Peter Gibson hoses down a vehicle at the Dwellingup wash-down ramp. Photo by Tammie Reid.

"It's unfortunate because we'd like to encourage off-road users and anyone else who could be moving fungally infected soil about, to wash down regularly. However the

presence of chemicals, the high pressure and safety equipment requirements, not to mention the cost of the the pump itself, make the risks too high.

"Contractors and people needing access will be trained and issued with a key, and the wash-down ramp will still be accessible 24 hours a day to these people."

Anyone wanting more details on this heavy-duty wash-down system can telephone Peter at Dwellingup District on (08) 9538 1078 or fax (08) 9538 1203.

Following up on graduates, Ben and Matt



THIS completes the series of articles on the graduates from CALM's 1995-96 Field Officer Skills-based Training Program, with the focus on Ben Tannock and Matt Dowling who are now based at the Wildlife Protection Branch in Como.

Ben Tannock: With a lifelong passion to work within the natural environment, Ben felt that a career with CALM was the logical path to follow.

Setting out to achieve this aim, Ben gained his Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management at Edith Cowan University.

This led to the achievement of the first stage of his goal—work with CALM as a seasonal ranger—first in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in the South West Capes District, then in various national parks around the Albany District.

It was while working with the Albany District that Ben successfully applied for entry to the Field Officer Training Program.

by Megan Hughes

Since graduating from the Program his work as a wildlife officer sees him involved predominantly in the protection of flora and fauna, through the enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

A significant part of performing these duties has meant being involved in the apprehension of a number of people who have committed offences against one or more sections of the Act.

Other responsibilities include inspecting premises licensed to operate a protected flora and fauna business, and checking the credentials of members of the public who are licensed to keep protected fauna.

Rescuing animals

For Ben, the most enjoyable aspects of his work apart from the fulfilment of his ambition to work closely with wildlife in the natural environment, is the satisfaction gained

from the rescue and rehabilitation of sick or injured animals.

"In future, I hope to take the skills and knowledge I've gained through the Field Officer Training Program, together with the experience gained at Wildlife Protection and carry them with me to a country district appointment," he said

"With such an appointment I hope to further develop my knowledge and respect for the Australian bush and its inhabitants."

Matt Dowling's entry into CALM also followed the successful completion of a degree course at Edith Cowan University.

Unlike Ben, however, Matt's studies saw him gain a Bachelor of Biology degree, after which he followed much the same path as Ben, moving to Wildlife Protection Branch soon after being employed as a field officer recruit.

Like Ben, Matt's work sees him dealing, primarily, with law enforcement, which includes regulating licences and the carrying out of

inspections of nature reserves in the Swan Region to see that illegal activities are not occurring there. But if there is evidence of such activities, he locates and apprehends the people involved.

"I derive enormous satisfaction from knowing that as a result of my vigilance a few more of WA's animals or plants are safe," Matt said.

When asked what else he likes about his job, Matt said, "I thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the Monte Bellos Renewal Project last year—a once in a lifetime experience. In fact, I enjoy any opportunity to work in the outdoors with native animals and plants, and I hope in the future to become particularly involved in this type of work."

A buzz from whale watching

One of the advantages Matt sees in his law enforcement role is his occasional involvement in regulating the whale-watching industry off Fremantle and the whale-shark watching industry off Exmouth. Not surprisingly, Matt lists this work as one of the tasks he enjoys enormously.

He is also involved in providing education and guidance for members of the public on wildlife issues and is occasionally involved in the rescue of injured native fauna.

Matt's role in educating the public and rescuing wildlife have blended occasionally, as the result of high profile major marine mammal strandings, leading to the odd spot on television.

Not on your telly!

However, CALM probably won't be losing Matt to a career in the entertainment industry anytime soon, as he states vehemently, "being on TV is not all it's cracked up to be."

When asked about the skills-based training program, both recruits agreed that, although not everything they learned was directly applicable to their roles as wildlife officers, the program was an excellent way to be inducted into the CALM environment, and to gain a wider understanding of the roles played by other staff in other regions and branches of CALM.

Above left: Ben Tannock (left), waits to take measurements of a deceased and decidedly 'on-the-nose' bottlenose dolphin being unloaded by supervising wildlife officer Peter Lambert. Photo by Doug Coughran

Above right: Matt Dowling with female carpet python before the reptile's feeding time. Photo by Matt Warnock



CALM displays its wares at Eco Beach

CALM Executive Director Dr Shea, together with staff members Jennifer Brice, Kevin Kenneally, Alana Stingemore and Allen Grosse, joined more than 40 tourism wholesalers from around the world at the Australian Outback Adventure Workshop held recently at Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat near Broome.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea presented a paper on CALM's Policies to Create Nature-based Tourism Opportunities in WA.

Each wholesaler held appointments with a range of tourism suppliers, including

CALM, which used the workshop to promote *LANDSCOPE* Expeditions and the department's growing range of nature-based tourist attractions.

The workshop, set up in appropriately styled hessian huts on the beach, was organised jointly by the Western Australian and Northern Territory Tourism Commissions, to promote adventure-based travel in the north of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Left: CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea with Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat's Aboriginal guide Neil McKenzie.

Photo by Kevin Kenneally

Survey gathers facts for marine reserve proposal



Some of the team members involved in the Jurien Bay biological surveys. From left to right, seated: Mike Lapwood and Tim Daly; standing: Greg Ryan, Gilles Monty, Brad Durrant, Kevin Bancroft, Ron Shepherd, Emma Parkes and Eva Boogard. Trying to pass himself off as an octopus is project leader Jim Burt. Photo by Sue Osborne

THE waters of Jurien Bay and around the Beagle Islands (about two-and-a-half hours driving time north of Perth) have been identified in the Wilson Report as worthy of consideration for inclusion within a State-wide marine reserve system.

In January 1997, a preliminary survey was undertaken by marine biologists from CALM's Marine Conservation Branch and staff from Regional and District offices, together with help from volunteers.

The survey team used drop-down video techniques to investigate the sea bed at 400 sites between Cervantes and Cliffhead.

Data from this survey, together with satellite images, was used to update the marine habitat map of the waters of the Bay.

A more detailed biological survey was carried out in April and May by a CALM-led team of ten scientists, including research staff from Murdoch University and

by Sue Osborne

the Western Australian Museum, plus support staff and volunteers.

This was the first comprehensive biological survey of the marine flora and fauna undertaken in these waters.

Preliminary analysis indicates that the area includes an interesting mixture of tropical and temperate plant and animal species, extensive algal and seagrass communities, diverse invertebrate communities, particularly sponges, and a rich fish fauna.

Survey estimates of biodiversity and productivity at 40 sites within the proposed Jurien Bay Reserve will be used to determine the relative conservation values of each site.

This is vital information for the zoning process, and it will be used by the advisory committee assisting CALM in relation to the Jurien multiple-use marine reserve proposal.

Productivity is all about working smarter, not harder

PRODUCTIVITY improvement does not have to be about working harder or longer hours—just smarter—as a recent innovation in Forest Resources work has shown.

Whenever a new road is built and pipes laid to control the flow of water on them, the ends of the pipes need to be protected so that they don't become washed out. (See diagram.)

Until recently in Manjimup, this has meant surrounding the pipe ends with rocks or sandbagging them, which involves a lot of heavy lifting and double handling.

With a little innovation this task has been made much easier and as a result a lot more can be done in a day.

Instead of using a standard cement mixer to mix the sand and cement for the sandbags, this is now done at the local cement works. This combined sand and cement is loaded straight

by Deirdre Maher

into the back of a tip truck, and is ready to go out to work by 7.30 am.

Mixing up a load of sandbags once took up to four hours a day, which meant that staff weren't out of the gate until 10.00 am.

The sand and cement is bagged in the field, and instead of hard work at one end of a shovel a 'gravity fill' mechanism on the back of the truck is used.

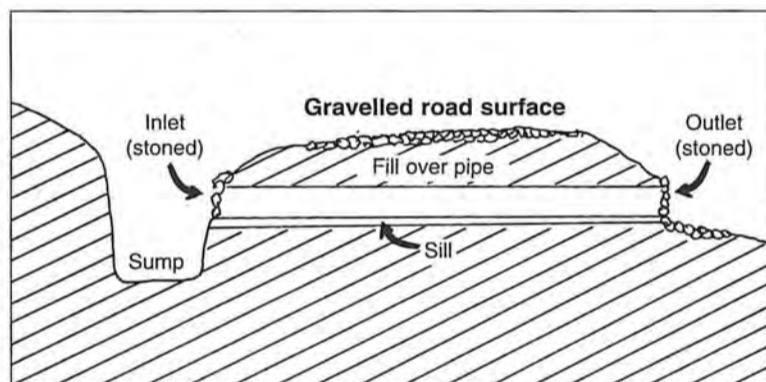
After discussing the design with forest resources roading officer Gary Stanger and senior operations officer Brian Moss, the mechanism was designed and built by Manjimup District forest worker and welder Steven Radomiljac.

The production rate using a cement mixer averaged 275 bags a day. With

the bags weighing about 35 kg each, this meant that the five people needed to do the job were, collectively, shovelling and lifting 9.6 tonnes a day. Not surprisingly, there were a few casualties with this method, usually in the form of back strains.

With the new method of using pre-mixed sand and cement, four people are able to put out 315 bags a day. This means that they have effectively increased the productivity from 55 bags to 78 bags per person, per day. That is a huge 42 per cent increase in productivity.

At the end of the day everyone is happier. Using gravity to their advantage, they haven't had to work as hard as they formerly did, and they know they have been more productive and, therefore, competitive enough to secure the work as an ongoing part of Manjimup District's works program.



Forest workers Steven Radomiljac (left) and Mark Radomiljac with adapted gravity-feed mechanism. Photo by Graham Norrish

How's your health?

A HEALTHY lifestyle involves the balancing of a number of factors. These include our exercise and recreation habits, our ability to manage the competing of work, family, and social demands as well as the things we put into our body. Using the following checklist, see how your nutritional intake adds up to provide a healthy balance.

Nutrition check list: Forget what you have heard about good and bad foods. Balanced eating means that you can eat all foods—it's just that it's best if you eat more of some than others. Is your diet well balanced? Do this quiz and find out how well you score. Tick the box if you answer yes.

- I eat at least 3-4 slices of bread a day (1 roll = 2 slices of bread) . . .
- I eat 1 serve of breakfast cereal each day—or an extra slice of bread . . .
- I eat at least 1 piece of fruit each day . . .
- I eat mostly whole grain breads and cereals . . .
- I eat at least 3 vegetables or have a salad most days . . .
- I eat at least 1 and usually 2 serves

of meat or meat alternatives each day (poultry, seafood, eggs, dried beans or nuts) . . .

- I spread butter or margarine thinly on bread or use none at all . . .
- I fry no more than once a week
- I use only poly- or mono-unsaturated oil for cooking (tick yes if don't use fat in cooking) . . .
- I avoid using oil-based dressings on salads . . .
- I use reduced-fat dairy products
- I cut the fat off meat and take the skin off chicken . . .
- I drink no more than 4 cups of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, coke or caffeine-containing drinks a day . . .
- I avoid adding salt to my food or cooking . . .
- I eat fatty snacks such as chocolate, chips etc., no more than once a week . . .
- I eat 3 serves of dairy food or a soy milk alternative each day (1 serve = 200 ml milk, 1 slice (30 g) hard cheese, 200 g yogurt or 200 ml fortified soy milk) . . .
- I would skip breakfast, lunch or dinner no more than once a week . . .

• I am aware of the best sources of iron and try to include an iron-rich food in my diet each day . . .

- When I drink alcohol, I mostly drink no more than 2 standard drinks on any day and would rarely drink alcohol more than is recommended as the safe drink-driving limit (tick yes if you don't drink) . . .
- I eat fast/takeaway food no more than once a week . . .

TOTAL _____
Scoring: for each 'yes' answer, score 1 point:

- 18 or more . . . Excellent
- 15-17 . . . Room for improvement
- 12-14 . . . Just made it
- Less than 12 . . . Poor

Very active people will need to eat more breads, cereals and fruit than indicated in this quiz, but to stay healthy no one should be eating less. Use this quiz as a personal nutrition check list or to rate a diet you may read in a book or magazine. It will help you to sort out the good diets from the fad diets.

Source: *The Taste of Fitness*, Hay and O'Connor.



Tony Friend with numbat.

Tony wins Fellowship

CONGRATULATIONS go to CALM Wildlife Research Centre principal research scientist Tony Friend, on winning a 1998 Churchill Fellowship, in recognition of his work in endangered fauna and feral animal tracking.

Tony has a long history in the area of conservation and management of endangered animals, and has been actively involved in the reintroduction of the endangered western barred bandicoot.

His study tour will take him to New Zealand, the USA, Zimbabwe and South Africa, where he will study the use of satellite tracking technology in the management of endangered fauna and feral animals.

Also included in his itinerary is investigation into the use of trained dogs to assist in locating animals in difficult terrain.

"These two techniques are used overseas and have particular applicability to Australia, but for various reasons have not been adopted by local wildlife researchers and managers," Tony said.

"In the United States, and particularly in New Zealand, dogs are frequently used to track down both rare and endangered animals and feral or pest animals.

"The use of dogs in New Zealand has had a huge impact on the success of the work on threatened birds such as the kakapo and takahe.

"In Western Australia, reintroduction programs for a number of threatened animals, such as the numbat, could benefit greatly by the use of trained dogs.

"My proposed visits to New Zealand and the United States will allow me to see the use of dogs in the field, and to bring back specialised procedures for their training.

"Rapid advances in technology and miniaturisation have allowed the development of radio tags that transmit to satellites and are suitable for quite small animals, bringing immense practical benefits.

"The use of this technology has been most developed in the United States, as well as being employed in a number of

other countries, but their use in Australia has been very limited.

"I'll be visiting Zimbabwe and South Africa to study field use of satellite technology, which will give me further insights into its applicability in Western Australia.

"Research and management in Western Australia, involving endangered species and feral animals, would be greatly enhanced by the introduction of both dogs and technology, and the Fellowship will enable me to see them in use and to learn about the support structures necessary to apply them here," Tony said.

At present, Tony is overseas, enjoying well-earned long service and annual leave until October 13. He tells us he can be reached via his normal email address, tonyf@calm.wa.gov.au or by voice mail +61 8 9405 5120 or fax +61 8 9306 1641. He says he won't promise to answer anything that involves him in work. But we know him better, don't we?

Meeting the local animals

NEARLY a thousand adults and children braved heavy downpours recently to enjoy a Native Animal Encounters Day organised by The Hills Forest.

With more displays this year, a large aviary provided by the Avicultural Society of WA, and even more animals and their carers to look at, and listen and talk to, the day once again proved popular, in spite of the rain.

Face painting (carried out under cover) proved extremely popular with even mums and dads walking around the displays, sporting anything from scorpions to possums and many other animals in between.

Having been introduced to the Honourable John Day, Member for Darling Range, Charlie Chuditch—

by Kate Baxter

The Hills Forest rascally mascot—entertained children all day, handing out prizes and generally having fun with QT the quokka, who was present, courtesy of sponsor of the day, Quokka Press.

Wildlife carers and CALM staff were available at information points to help with any questions that arose, and every one was able to get close to some of the animals they had heard about, but had not seen before.

Native Animal Encounters also offered plenty of competitions and entertainment in the amphitheatre, with live Birds of Prey demonstrations, Aboriginal stories and danc-

ing, comic relief from Jon Doust and Roger Montgomery and displays about CALM's feral predator control programs *Western Shield* and *Operation Foxglove*.

Manager Stev Slavin said he was very happy with the excellent turnout, given that the weather could have been better.

"Because of its popularity, we will run Native Animal Encounters a little earlier in 1998," he said.

"We were pleased to learn that so many people came as a result of seeing the information about the event on the front page of the QUOKKA publication.

"It's also gratifying to have the support that The Hills Forest project continues to enjoy from the local press."



CALM volunteer Paul Wheeler carries out one of the most unusual duties asked of him by The Hills Forest staff so far—to act as Charlie Chuditch's 'minder' on Native Animal Encounters Day. Photo by Jenny Yeatman



Volunteers David Pike, Jenny Hunten and daughter Kerri-Anne, with Annabelle Vowels planting snakebush (*Hemianandra Pungens*) at the entry island to Yanchep National Park (off Wanneroo Road). David propagated all the plants from local seed. Photo by Garry Hunten.

New garden beds laid

by Annabelle Vowels

AS part of the redevelopment plan for Yanchep National Park, the wildflower gardens have been extended beyond the kangaroo-proof fence.

While the beds are in CALM's care, the Wildflower Society has contributed towards plant selection and developing a planting plan.

Four CALM volunteers contributed their spare time for one day, when they completed a lightning-fast project to plant about 1,200 plants of 31 different species.

The southern beds are dominated by sand dune habitat species, while the northern beds reflect the

species found in the jarrah forest understorey.

These two themes are an extension of those located in the wildflower gardens inside the fence.

Four workers from Ecojobs, a joint initiative of APACE, Greenskills and Men of the Trees, with assistance from the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) also took part in the project.

They had considerable experience in large-scale planting projects and approached the task in a thoroughly professional manner.

Their work was fundamental in placing plants into groups and numbers, and in preparing the beds for the planting, that was to be their final task.

CALM staff built a temporary fence to keep out kangaroos while seedlings establish themselves over the ensuing four to six months. They also spread mulch to protect the plants from drying out.

In conjunction with the New Work Opportunities Program, (a government employment incentive scheme set up by DEET), CALM staff also installed a complete reticulation system to keep plants watered over the dry months.