

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1998



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## Key fire project gets under way



Local Government Minister and Warren MLA Paul Omodei unveils the sign at CALM's new Styles Tower in the Blackwood Valley while CALM Executive Director Syd Shea and Gordon look on. Photo by Paul Webster.

### New Blackwood tower honours Gordon Styles

FIRE protection in the Blackwood Valley has been stepped up with the introduction of a new CALM fire lookout tower in the Ellis Creek forest block between Balingup and Nannup.

Local Government Minister and Warren MLA Paul Omodei, who officially commissioned the new tower today, said it was a welcome addition to CALM's fire detection and management strategy for the area.

Originally part of the lighting system for the Leighton Beach marshalling yards at Fremantle, the tower is 46 metres high, with a three-metre square cabin on top. The structure is embedded in an 80-tonne concrete foundation.

Mr Omodei said the tower replaced three lookouts in the valley—Carlotta, Milward and Stewart—but extended the overall surveillance area to around 280,000 ha.

This provided fire detection for forests, parks, reserves, private property, community assets such as the Blackwood Valley and Sunlands pine plantations, and coverage into the Scott River area.

It was the third new tower CALM had built in the past three years. The lookout network now stretched from Mundaring in the north to Mt Frankland in the south, providing constant surveillance of more than 3,000,000 ha of the South West.

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A MAJOR national research project that aims to provide fire managers with a better understanding of how bushfires behave under dry summer conditions is under way in the forests behind Harvey.

The project—codenamed *Project Vesta* after the Roman Goddess of the Hearth—is part of a multi-million dollar six-year program that will build on the existing knowledge of fire behaviour and help develop a standard system that land managers and planners throughout Australia can use to predict the spread and intensity of bushfires.

This information is crucial in improving the safety of fire fighters and for protecting towns, community assets and environmental values.

The project is being undertaken jointly by CSIRO and CALM.

It has attracted world-wide scientific interest and is being supported by research institutions, fire and land management agencies throughout Australia and several local shires in the south-west forest region.

The experimental burns are being carried out now to take advantage of the weather conditions that are ideal for the research.

"Understanding fire behaviour provides the basis on which fire fighters plan their strategies and tactics," CSIRO Principal Fire Researcher Phil Cheney said.

"Scientific research and experience has taught us that while no two fires are the same, fires do behave according to certain rules.

"For example, we know fire behaviour is a relationship between the amount of fuel available, the weather conditions and the topography.

"Our existing fire behaviour models are quite accurate for low to moderate intensity fires such as prescribed burns.

"But we need to further investigate the relationship between fuels, weather and fire behaviour under the dry conditions we typically experience in summer. In particular, we want to gain a better understanding of how fire behaviour is affected by the age and structure of forest fuels.

"Intense fires in summer pose the biggest threat to life and private property as well as fire fighters themselves.

"A more accurate understanding of how these fires behave will not only make fire fighting more safe, it will also enable better planning for fire management, especially in areas such as the Darling Scarp near Perth, the Dandenongs near Melbourne, the Blue Mountains near Sydney and the Adelaide Hills."

During the project, researchers will light a series of four-hectare fires and measure as much information as possible about how the fires' rate of spread is influenced by the amount and type of fuel and wind speed.

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### Gold and Silver for NatureBase

NATUREBASE, CALM's internet site, has won Gold and Silver awards in the national Serif awards program sponsored by The Australian Institute of Professional Communicators and the Society of Business Communicators of Australia.



The Gold Serif Award was for excellence in web-site design, while the Silver Serif Award was for excellence in Government Communication, recognizing *NatureBase's* role in improving community access to CALM information and services.

The annual Serif Awards are a major Australia-wide program designed to recognise professional communication that demonstrates excellence and innovation.

Alinta Gas was the only other WA organisation to receive a Serif Award this year: a silver in community relations.





During one of the recent American election campaigns the winning candidate used as the slogan "It's the economy—stupid!" with telling effect. While I think economics is very important, the longer I am in this job the more I believe the slogan that all managers should have on their desks is "It's the people that count—stupid!"

It is so easy to be distracted from the fact that the people who work for CALM are its most important asset as we deal with the crazy agenda we face each day. It is not just the incredible skill and experience in the 1300 staff, 500 contractors and 2000 plus volunteers that constitute the CALM workforce, although the diversity and depth of our skills is mindboggling. Without motivation and capacity to work as a team the high potential returns on this asset will not be realised.

I get tremendous satisfaction from observing the enthusiasm and dedication of CALM people throughout the organisation—particularly when we undertake large-scale team projects which pull together people with diverse skills. Of course, I am conscious of the fact that not everybody agrees with the way things are being done and I know how hard it has been for some people to accept some of the changes in the way we do things. But we are not a military organisation and although as a public agency we do have a few constraints on us, it is important that CALM also has a diversity of views within it.

I am keen therefore to promote this creative environment in CALM and to give everyone the satisfaction of producing an even bigger capital return for the West Australian community from the personal investment that we all make in our work.

Over the next few weeks a draft corporate strategy is being circulated for people to comment on. This, once completed, will provide a concise description of our objectives and the strategies we will employ to achieve them.

But we are also experimenting with a range of new techniques to communicate what is going on in the department, including the intranet. It is also important that people make use of the CALM reference group and there is nothing wrong with direct communication with me or any person on the Corporate Executive (via fax if you can't get me on the telephone) if you have a concern or idea that you believe is not being considered.

This edition of CALM News acknowledges (and I hope we will be able to do more of this) the great contribution that two of our retired staff, Dick Perry and Gordon Styles, have made to conservation and land management in this State. They are classic examples of why it is "the people that count".

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

### For sale

Call diverter system. Master call MC-4044, Series 5. Telephone call diverter system suitable for single phone or switchboard systems. Please contact and negotiate with Jim Wilson, Mundaring District. Phone (08) 9295 1955.

Two Westinghouse one year old S1000 satellite mobilsat phones, recently served, and in excellent cond., each with following: reinforced fibreglass case, magnetic mount for antenna, facsimile card, Sharp FO155 fax machine, 12v - 240v inverter, two-pin plug 12v battery terminal power leads, marine-ply housing box. \$4,000 each - ono. Contacts: Allen Grosse/Warwick Roe. Phone (08) 9192 1036. Fax (08) 9193 5027.

### Wanted

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

# Key fire project gets under way

(from page 1)

Two sites in the jarrah forest have been selected for the research over a two-year period.

This year, the project will focus on an area east of Harvey known as Dee Vee Four (the junction of Chalk, Bednall, Surface and Nalyerin State forest blocks).

Next year, it is planned to conduct similar experimental fires in the McCorkhill block west of Nannup.

### Fuels buildup

CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said some of the experimental plots had not been burned for 19 years, resulting in a big build-up of fine leaves and twigs that dried out in summer and became flash fuels for wildfires.

"The sites have a range of understory age classes so the contribution of live shrubs to wildfire behaviour also can be studied," he said.

Safety is a major consideration during the research. CALM has prescribed burned buffers up to five km wide around

each of the experimental plots to minimise the risk of them spreading into adjoining research plots or into surrounding forest.

There is no private land within eight km of the research site. CALM will have more than 20 fire crews and 10 heavy-duty pumpers on the scene to mop up and make the area safe.

"As each of the research fires will cover four ha, we expect the fires will last for between 30 minutes and two hours, depending on factors such as temperature, wind strength and relative humidity," Mr Sneeuwjagt said.

Fire researchers from Canada, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania will join CSIRO and CALM scientists during the field work.

### Wide support

The project is being supported by CSIRO Forest and Forest Products; CALM; the Australasian Fire Authorities Council; members of the Forestry Standing Committee including the

Victorian Department of Natural Resources, State Forests of NSW, Forestry Tasmania, Queensland Department of Primary Industry; NSW National Parks and Wildlife; Parks and Wildlife Tasmania; Country Fire Authority of Victoria; South Australian Country Fire Service; NSW Department of Bushfire Service; Queensland Fire Service; Tasmania Fire Service; NSW Fire Brigades; WA Fire and Rescue Service; WA Bush Fire Service; Herman Slade Foundation; Shires of Harvey, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Mundaring; WA Volunteer Bushfire Association; the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction and the Bureau of Meteorology.

The project and its implications for fire management in other countries is attracting worldwide interest.

An internet site has been established to keep people up to date with progress.

The internet address is <http://ffp.csiro.au/vesta/index.html>

# New Blackwood tower honours Gordon Styles

(from page 1)

Mr Omodei said CALM operated an integrated fire detection system, with the towers enabling rapid detection and spotter aircraft providing the intelligence.

"The advantage of the tower system is that it provides continuous detection, whereas an aircraft has limitations when refuelling and when flying in a set direction," he said.

Towers also had the advantage in high wind conditions to continue to provide intelligence when

aircraft were grounded because of cross winds preventing landing and take off.

The new tower is named after Gordon Styles whose career with the Forests Department and CALM spanned 44 years. Mr Styles, now retired, was associated with many aspects of fire management in WA including:

- The development of aerial burning;
- The development of standard heavy-duty fire tankers and other fire appliances, some

of which are still in use today;

- The development of fire training programs; and—

- The preparation of comprehensive fire plans that are widely regarded as being the foremost example of integrated long-term fire management plans in Australia.

Mr Styles was recognised as one of the leading fire control officers in WA when he was awarded the prestigious Australian Fire Service Medal in 1995.

## CALMNEWS—JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1998

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## LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . .

Against all the criticism aimed at you for your burning-off policy, may I please thank you most sincerely?

Last January 3 (1997), I watched a fire roaring while Mairinger Way, while loading five hysterical dogs into my car, thankful I had saved them, but unable to do anything for

my chooks and birds.

During the day, everyone was coming into our service station and telling us "Mairinger Way has gone". I visualised 46 years of family photographs and treasures up in smoke. It wasn't until my 'vollie fire' son gave me a 'thumbs up' on one of his trips for water that I

knew that at least our home was spared, which was much more than for some people.

To see the roof as we turned into the street on the Saturday morning was unbelievable, although the eaves were singed. (Yes, that close!)

So, having just re-planted my wildflower bed,

# Staff Movements

### Contract staff

Glenn Batty, to Busselton as Farm Forestry Facilitator, Level 3; Bronwyn Macdonald, to Herbarium, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Lisa Findlater, to Corporate Information Services, as Customer Service Officer, Level 2; Nevin Wittber, to Mundaring State Forest Resources Business Unit, as Forest Officer, Level 1/2, from Harvey State Forest Resources Business Unit; Gareth Taylor, to Corporate Information Services, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Elizabeth Barrat, to Blackwood District, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Pascale Mcnamara, to Kalgoorlie, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Joe-Ann Sinagra, to Woodvale as Technical Officer, Level 3; Vicki Winfield, to Manjimup as Landscape Architect, Level 5; Michael Phillips, to Mundaring as Project Officer, Level 2; Dean Irving, to Park Policy and Tourism Branch as Project Officer, Level 2; Alicia Taylor, the Training Centre, Dwellingup as Assistant Training Officer, Level 1/2; David Gardiner, to Manjimup as Recovery Catchment Officer, Level 4; Kevin Bancroft, Marine Conservation Branch as Marine Conservation Officer, Level 3; Gary Angus, to Kalgoorlie as Regional Ecologist, Level 2/4.

### Permanent staff

Paul Roberts, as Merredin, District Manager, Level 5; Jeremy Spencer as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Jamie Birnie as Millstream Ranger-In-Charge, Grade 1/2, at Karratha; Teresa Gepp, as Land Planning Officer, Level 4 at Wanneroo.

### Promotions

Scott Wood, to Planning Officer, Level 6, Bunbury, from Harvey District; Ben Tannock, to Wildlife Officer, Level 3, East Kimberley District, from Wildlife Branch, Como; Karen Maisey, to Administrative Assistant, Level 2, South Coast Sharefarms; Wolfgang Tiedemann, to District Fire Co-ordinator, Level 4, at Manjimup, from Manjimup State Forest Resources Business Unit; Suzanne Curry, to External Funding Co-ordinator, Level 5, Park Policy and Tourism Branch; Roy Fieldgate, to Geographic Information Systems, Manager, Level 7, Information Management Branch, Como; John Dunn, to Spatial Data Manager, Level 6, Information Management Branch, Como; Kelly Gillen, to Geraldton Regional Manager, Level 8, from Albany; Barry Flett, to Technical Officer—Radio, Level 3, Manjimup.

### Reclassifications

Rick Currian, to Systems Administrator, Level 4, Human Resources Branch, Como.

### Transfers

Melissa Ford, to Park Policy and Tourism, as Clerical Officer, from Albany; Cathy Birch to Corporate Relations Division, as Customer Services Officer, from Corporate Information Services; David Guille, to Pine Sharefarms - North Maritime Pine, Kelmscott, as Assistant Area Co-ordinator, from Wanneroo; Julia Lewis, to Human Resources Branch, Como, from Information Services Section, Como, as Concept Applications Support and Development Officer.

### Seconded

Tim Bowra, to Perth District, as Regional Parks Coordinator, from Narrogin; Andrew Darbyshire, to Moora, as District Operations Officer, from Exmouth.

### Retirements

Lois Cade, Accounts Officer, Woodvale; Bill Buchanan, Administrative Assistant, Collie; John Schindler, Administrative Officer Kirup; Jean Butts, Clerical Officer Mundaring.

### Resigned

Chris Haynes, as Director Regional Services, Crawley; David Nile, as Area Co-ordinator, Collie Sharefarms; Peta Waterer, as Clerk, Marine and Coastal District, Fremantle; Bruce Telfer, as Forester, Mundaring; Rick Currian, as Systems Administrator, Human Resources Branch, Como.

and finished the repairs on fencing etc., I would dearly love to plonk some of the city dwellers in the middle of a paddock, light fires all around them (to burn the grass that someone wasn't allowed to burn), and see what they had to say after that. The feeling when seeing the smoke and smelling that

awful smell I think will live with many of us for many years, and we are all eternally grateful to everyone who helped us then, and all who are helping us now by destroying the fuel that could repeat the episode!

Thanks again,  
Joyce Sangster  
Wundowie, WA.



# Forest pioneer honoured

**DICK Perry first saw Gnangara as a young forester in 1925, arriving in a horse drawn sulky.**

His recent visit was an easy car drive through the suburbs, past the pine plantation he helped to establish, to the official opening of Perry Island.

The artificial island is part of the public open space at Ellenbrook, a residential development next to the Gnangara plantation. The island was named after Dick as a tribute to his pioneering work, which is explained on a series of information panels on the island.

Douglas Humphry Perry was born in 1902 in Sussex, England, and emigrated to Australia with his family in 1912.

He left school at 14, determined to be a farmer, but his mother persuaded him to apply for the first apprenticeships advertised by the Woods and Forests Department.

It was not only outdoor work, but unlike most apprenticeships, it paid a wage: ten shillings for a 48 hour week, plus study time, and a weekly allowance of 12 shillings and six pence.

by Caris Bailey



Dick Perry in 1922

Dick and Jack Thomson became the Department's first apprentices and started work in 1917 at the tree nursery in Hamel, south of Pinjarra. Both men spent their entire working lives with the Forests Department.

Dick's career stretched more than 50 years, during which time he worked on a great variety of projects, from surveying native forests on horseback to stabilising the sand dunes at Swanbourne.

Most significant of all was his work on maritime pine, or *Pinus pinaster*, which began in the 1920s.

The first pine seedlings

grown at the 'remote' Gnangara nursery turned bright yellow and wouldn't grow.

A missing fungus was responsible, one that helps roots to take up nutrients from the soil. The Gnangara nursery was growing healthy pines by 1929, but they still grew slowly in the plantation.

The Forests Department requisitioned half a ton of superphosphate and a quarter of a ton of blood and bone to use for trials—a novel request rejected by Treasury officials, horrified at the thought of having to fertilise whole plantations.

Treasury finally relented and to everyone's relief, the pines grew much better, but only needed to be fertilised on planting and then about every seven years afterwards.

In 1957, Forests Department scientist Dr Eric Hopkins began a tree-breeding program to produce pines with more useable timber, better suited to WA conditions.

There was a shortage of suitable parent trees growing in WA, so in 1963, the Department sent Dick to Portugal to collect cut-



Family and Executive Director Syd Shea joined Dick at the official opening of Perry Island. From left to right: John McMahon (son-in-law), Dr Syd Shea, Peter Keynes (grandson), Dick Perry, Krystal Keynes (great grand daughter) and Nancy McMahon (daughter). Photo by Clayton Sanders.

tings, pollen and seed.

He and his wife went to the Forest of Leiria, originally planted by royal decree in the 1300s and the source of the best performing maritime pine in WA.

The Perrys walked the forest for two years and finally identified 85 trees that were taller, straighter

and had less defects than their neighbours. They estimated that they looked at 250,000 trees for each one they finally selected.

The best trees were photographed and then had to be climbed—about five times in all to take different measurements and to collect samples to send

back to WA. Hundreds of buds were collected, some of them from 130 feet above the ground.

By the 1990s, the descendants of these clones were 70 per cent more productive than the original trees grown at Gnangara, a figure CALM scientists expect to

improve on as the maritime pine breeding program continues.

In 1991, Dick received Membership of the Order of Australia for his contribution to forestry and entomology. In 1995, he was made an Honorary Member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

## Mandurah office open

**CALM has opened a new shopfront in Mandurah.**

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, who officially opened the office, said the facility would become an important contact point for residents and visitors alike, who wanted to know more about the natural attractions and CALM's initiatives in the Peel region.

Mrs Edwardes said CALM undertook a highly diverse and integrated range of activities on a day-to-day basis.

However, the Department's role was becoming increasingly integrated into urban areas such as Mandurah and throughout the metropolitan area, as the Government implemented a number of environmental initiatives such as the Regional Parks Policy and the Wetlands Conservation Policy.

"The Peel is the fastest-growing region in the state, with Mandurah now the biggest urban centre outside Perth," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The Inner Peel Structure Plan will recognise the pressures that such rapid expansion is placing on the natural environment.

"One of the major aspects of the report will be the identification of substantial areas that should be set aside for conservation purposes.

"The reservation of these areas will mean that CALM and the Peel community will have a much closer relationship as they work together on issues such as management plans and other strategies to meet the needs and aspirations of the local people."

Mrs Edwardes said CALM had a long and close involvement in the region, particularly in the forested hinterland and along the coast in areas such as Yalgorup National Park.

"Dwellingup, for example, is not only a district headquarters, it is also an important base for CALM's Science and Information Division, particularly the Department's work on

dieback. More recently, the Division's *Operation Foxglove* team has been relocated to the centre.

"*Foxglove* is a joint effort between CALM and Alcoa of Australia that is part of our State-wide *Western Shield* program to restore nature's balance by controlling feral predators and reintroducing species of native animals that once occurred in abundance, but have been pushed to the brink by the ravages of the fox and feral cat.

"But initiatives such as *Foxglove* and *Western Shield* are more than conservation measures. They are inextricably linked with the development of regional Western Australia, particularly industries such as nature-based tourism."

Mrs Edwardes said the Peel region was also renowned for attractions in the hinterland. One of these was the Forest Heritage Centre and School of Wood in Dwellingup.

Other features included the Lane Poole Conservation Park, the former



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes (second from left), was delighted by Harvey Primary School children whose play, *Little Red Riding Woylie*, was performed to celebrate CALM's Mandurah office opening. With Mrs Edwardes are Sam Roberts (left), Paul Morris (standing), Natalie Burt (centre) and Joshua Krispyn.

Photo by Craig Stewart

Prisoner of War camp at Marrinup and the numerous national parks and nature reserves along the Swan coastal plain and in the Darling Range.

"Consequently, CALM's new Mandurah office will be an important contact point where residents and visitors alike can gain information on a wide

range of CALM conservation programs and attractions such as the forests, national parks and other conservation areas," she said.

The office, at Lot 31

Pinjarra Road, offers a range of CALM books, maps and other publications, as well as providing the public with access to CALM staff and expertise.

## Symposium attracts 80 delegates from 50 countries

**THE 80 participants in the week-long World Conservation Union Symposium, held in Albany in November, 1997 listened to speakers from the USA, Brazil, Canada, The Netherlands, Bhutan, Guatemala, New Zealand, Slovenia, Switzerland, Russia, Greenland, Bahamas, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, Germany and Peru, as well as Australia.**

The conference theme was *Protected Areas in the 21st Century: From Islands to Networks* and was opened by the WA Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes.

Mrs Edwardes spoke about the

by Penry Walsh

special qualities of Western Australia—its isolation, antiquity and extreme climate—and the way they had combined to produce native wildlife unlike any other in the world.

She also explained the key to Western Australia's approach to ecologically sustainable development—the concept of integration, describing how CALM integrates skills and resources, wealth creation and conservation, and protected area management with the management of surrounding lands and waters.

Symposium delegates were also introduced to some of the environmental challenges facing WA, particularly salinity, feral predators and dieback.

### Phosphite Action Team

Mrs Edwardes announced the details of a new dieback strategy, including the appointment of Kevin Vear as State Dieback Coordinator, and the establishment of a Phosphite Action Team within CALM.

She also explained how fox and cat control had meant that 10 native mammal species could be reintro-

duced into areas where they once roamed

The *Western Shield* Campaign against feral predators captured the imagination of many of the visiting delegates.

The sheer size of the project was a revelation to delegates—especially to those from small countries where there is little land that remains undeveloped.

The delegates had a chance to see some of Western Australia's unique landscapes first hand during a field trip through Stirling Range National Park.

There were gasps of delight as the

buses pushed on to Fitzgerald River National Park and delegates caught their first glimpse of the Southern Ocean at Point Ann.

Unfortunately there were none of the southern right whales that have made the spot famous as a lookout.

Instead, delegates were delighted with close-up inspections (and many photographs) of the area's distinctive plant, Royal Hakea, and other species.

A family of kangaroos also appeared, on cue, as the field trippers pulled into Two People's Bay for a traditional Aussie barbecue at the end of the day.



# 1997—A Year in Review

IF 1997 was significant for anything other than the events related below, it was for the winning of awards by CALM staff. We had 'em coming out of our ears! Among them were several cyberspace-type awards for our webpage, a top award for the management of CALM's mountain of records, one for The Hills Forest's new universally accessible campground, and numerous safety awards. Throughout CALM, staff were finding smarter (rather than harder) ways of working to achieve more, and in the bush, species thought to be extinct, as well as new strains of existing rare species, continued to be re-discovered by staff or volunteers. The Executive Director's Scholarship was reinstated and two more were set up in honour of outstanding CALM staff—Director of Economics the late Dr George Malajczuk, and Manager of CALM Plantations Business Unit the late Seamus Mulholland. Many CALM staff continued to carry 'serving the public' over into their private lives, becoming volunteers in CALM projects as well as other worthy causes outside the Department. They could be found spending their annual leave wrapping up Phase II of the Montebello Project, or adding yet another year to many others in the hazardous work of firefighting. Community events, such as the Broome-based Annual Festival of the Pearl and the Fremantle Annual Festival, saw many staff taking an active part on the day, as well as being involved in the preparations during the preceding days and sometimes weeks. All these and much more, added to the events set out below, saw CALM adding to its tally, yet another busy year of outstanding achievements.

## January

A fiery start to the year sees fires raging through much of the State, particularly in CALM's South Coastal District where 900 hectares burn in the Torndirrup National Park. The Stirling Range National Park also suffers its third big fire in as many years.

The conservation effort in the Yilgarn increases with the addition of 986 hectares of new reserve, containing the rare wattle, *Acacia lobulata*.

The State Government makes a grant of \$167,000 to help those affected by the Gracetown tragedy, following a submission from the Shire of Augusta and CALM, in consultation with the local community.

## February

One of CALM's initiatives under the Salinity Action Plan—Land for Wildlife, a voluntary program to help private landholders conserve native plants and animals on their land—is launched by new Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes on a farm at Carnamah.

Yanchep National Park's refurbished visitors' information centre, McNess House, is opened at the inaugural 'Sun and Stars' Festival—a joint collaboration between the Park and the Perth Observatory.

*Project Eden*, CALM's bold nature conservation program on Peron Peninsula in the Shark Bay World Heritage Listed area, makes tremendous progress in reducing the number of foxes. Monitoring shows the Peninsula is almost fox-free with 98 per cent control achieved. A free cat-sterilisation clinic in Denham, one of the first of its kind in WA, begins as

by Mitzi Vance and  
Angela Cardaci

part of the project. The clinic is jointly run by the Shire of Shark Bay and CALM, and encourages owners to sterilise their pet cats as a preventative measure to assist the area's conservation efforts.

Another success is the release of a rockhopper penguin back into the wild after being found at Margaret River in a weak state. Normally found much further south, 'Rocky' is nursed back to health by CALM staff. He soon gains national popularity after the TV show 'Totally Wild' dedicates an entire segment to his survival and recovery, not to mention his antics, at Penguin Island. Once well, he is released at islands off Augusta.

## March

Lightning strikes cause further bushfires with 2,500 hectares burning in Cape Le Grand and Fitzgerald River National Parks. Another wildfire north of Walpole causes haze over Perth. The fire burns through 6500 hectares before it is contained by CALM fire crews.

CALM wildlife officers rescue six dolphins stranded at Geogrup Lake on Serpentine River, north-east of Mandurah and return them to Peel Harvey Estuary. All the dolphins are in reasonably good health.

Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation signs a contract with CALM to cut 1000 tonnes of firewood at Collie and Nannup. CALM hopes the contract will increase employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

The Coles Supermarket chain further contributes to nature conservation in WA through its Easter Bilby initiative. CALM uses proceeds donated by Coles to create captive breeding pens for the species at Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre in Gooseberry Hill, and at Peron Peninsula.

## April

*Wonders of the Woodland*—a program by CALM's Wheatbelt Region, aimed at educating people about the many native animals and plants found in the region—is launched.

CALM formally announces an initiative under the Salinity Action Plan to boost the economy and the timber industry, with more than 750,000 hectares of tree crops to be planted on farmlands by the year 2020. Pines planted on privately owned land to meet an increasing demand for wood fibre exports could increase exports to \$2.3 billion a year.

Twenty-three loggerhead turtles found stranded on Perth beaches in the 1996 winter storms, are released back into the ocean off Exmouth by CALM staff. The turtles had been nursed back to health at Underwater World.

## May

A new quokka colony is found near a rehabilitated bauxite mine site in the northern jarrah forest near Jarrahdale. The colony was in an area that had been baited for foxes as part of *Operation Foxglove*, a joint initiative between CALM and Alcoa of Australia.

A critically endangered plant community will be conserved after a new nature reserve, encompassing a Southern Ironstone complex, is purchased near Busselton, under the Federal and State Governments' Conservation through Reserves Program.

## June

The first section of the Coastal Plains Walk Trail is officially opened



The Hills Forest manager Stev Slavin shows a much-impressed Ric Althuisen the Activity Centre's new universally accessible amphitheatre. Ric is budget and reporting officer with Financial Services Branch. Photo by Wayne Schmidt



Progress continued at a cracking pace on the Bibbulmun Track. Much of the work entailed 'hard yakka'. Here, CALM volunteer Susan Hunter, Parks Division senior policy adviser Dave Hampton and project officer Kate Hassall can be seen 'getting physical' as they dig holes for the legs of a picnic table. Photo by Annie Keating

by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes. The trail is the first long-distance walking trail in Perth's northern suburbs.

A native wattle—tangle wattle—thought to be extinct for more than 120 years, is re-discovered by CALM botanists on a road verge near Cunderdin in the Wheatbelt region.

Facilities at Monkey Mia are upgraded with the development of a world-class visitor centre, made possible by a \$400,000 Commonwealth grant under the National Tourism Development Program.

## July

The noisy scrub bird—which disappeared from the Darling Range soon after European settlement, and was thought extinct until rediscovered 35 years ago at Two People's Bay near Albany—is reintroduced to the jarrah forest inland from Harvey. The reintroduction to the site where it was first discovered is further evidence of the success of native species recovery plans under *Western Shield*—the biggest feral predator control program ever undertaken in Australia.

The *Western Shield* project is boosted further by corporate sponsorship from Cable Sands Ltd, worth \$60,000 a year for three years. The sponsorship will enable CALM to begin 'Coastal Storm', *Western Shield's* sub-program to control feral predators such as European foxes and feral cats in the D'Entrecasteaux and Shannon National Parks.

CALM wildlife officers are called to Balga to capture a Tasmanian devil, discovered hiding under a car by a resident. It is thought that the animal had been smuggled into the State.



# - A Year in Review - 1997



Community education continued to be regarded as a priority in 1997. One of the many programs run by the Department is the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course. Here we see staff selecting props for use in a role-playing segment. They are, from left, Narrogin District senior operations officer Steve Gorton, clerical officer Michelle Boothey and reserves officer Jackie Nichol, with Wheatbelt Region planning officer Daryl Moncrieff. Photo by Anthony Desmond



An example of working smarter, not harder saw forest workers Steven Radomiljac (left) and Mark Radomiljac (Steven's nephew) beside a gravity-feed mechanism for bagging mixed sand and cement. Steven, who is also a welder, designed and built the mechanism, which increases productivity by 42 per cent. Photo by Graham Norrish

CALM reminds the public that native animals have special needs and keeping such animals is illegal.

CALM's Internet site *NatureBase* wins the 'Hotmetal' international web site competition, beating 500 other entries. The \$US10,000 prize is used for further development of the site.

## August

CALM, in collaboration with Main Roads WA, embarks on a community awareness project to save the western long-necked turtle from being run over by cars in areas such as Herdsman Lake. The female of the species often goes wandering during September and January, in search of a place to nest. Unfortunately, it finds the sandy soil at residential properties and businesses inviting, but has yet to learn how to cross roads without being run over.

The discovery of a jarrah tree in the Hoffman State Forest north east of Harvey is added to CALM's list of significant trees. The tree, known as the 'Harvey King Jarrah', is estimated to be around 300 years old.

Birds on one of Australia's most endangered species list are raised in captivity. The Carnaby's cockatoos were raised from eggs and nestlings collected in the wild. The program is regarded as a success, with more than double the rate of chicks surviving than in the wild.

## September

A strategy is launched to establish WA as the leading State in Australia for eco-tourism. The strategy, developed by CALM and the Western Australian Tourism Commission, will help create an ecologically sustainable nature-based tourism industry while conserving the State's most popular natural attractions.

Twelve woylies are released into a specially built three-hectare compound on Peron Peninsula as part of *Project Eden's* native fauna recovery plans. The woylies had been captured from the wild in Dryandra Woodland near Narrogin in the Wheatbelt region and re-located to Peron. Five malleefowl are released into the wild at Peron. They are part of the population of 40 raised in CALM's captive breeding program at Peron Homestead.

## October

Chuditch and woylie populations are increasing at the Julimar Conservation Park where CALM had reintroduced the species over the

previous four years. Monitoring shows that all 30 of the chuditch trapped were Julimar-born and bred. Similar results occur with the woylies.

Numbats are in the limelight at Dryandra Woodland, with the launch of 'Numbat Season', which encourages people to visit the State's faunal emblem in the wild.

WA receives initial funding of \$23.5 million from the Natural Heritage Trust for a range of projects to conserve and manage land and water resources.

An international survey acknowledges WA's coral reefs as among the most pristine of the 35 countries taking part. The survey shows the WA reefs as generally in excellent condition, and showing no damage from direct human activities.

CALM officers trap a 3.35-metre salt-water crocodile in the River Farm Road area on the Ord River, after reports that the animal approached a dinghy and was exercising aggressive territorial behaviour.

## November

The Farm Forestry Advisory Service—a joint initiative between CALM and Agriculture WA—is launched. The service will help farmers integrate commercial tree crops into existing farming operations.

CALM fire crews are rewarded for their dedication to protecting Western Australians from the devastation of bushfires with presentations of National medals and clasps.

CALM and CSIRO announce *Project Vesta*—named after the Roman Goddess of the Hearth. *Vesta* is a six-year study into how fires behave, particularly more intense bushfires. It is supported by the Australian Fire Authorities Council and will help to more accurately predict and map the threat of wildfires.

The State Government announces its intention to implement the 33 recommendations made by the WA Dieback Review Panel. CALM was involved in the detailed assessment of the recommendations by the review panel.

Environmental experts from 48 countries gather in Albany for a symposium on protected areas in the 21st century. The experts discuss issues on resource and land use, involving farming, forestry, fishing and tourism interests, and look at the

possibilities of new partnerships and opportunities with the private sector.

## December

Two new spotter aircraft are introduced into CALM's air wing. The Champion Scouts replace CALM's ageing Piper Cubs that have given remarkable service since they were introduced in the 1970s. The Cubs had flown the equivalent of 50 times around the Equator. The new planes are 30 per cent faster and have twice the endurance of the old planes. They are nicknamed 'Numbat' and 'Chuditch', two of the endangered

species their surveillance will help protect from the ravages of unwanted fires.

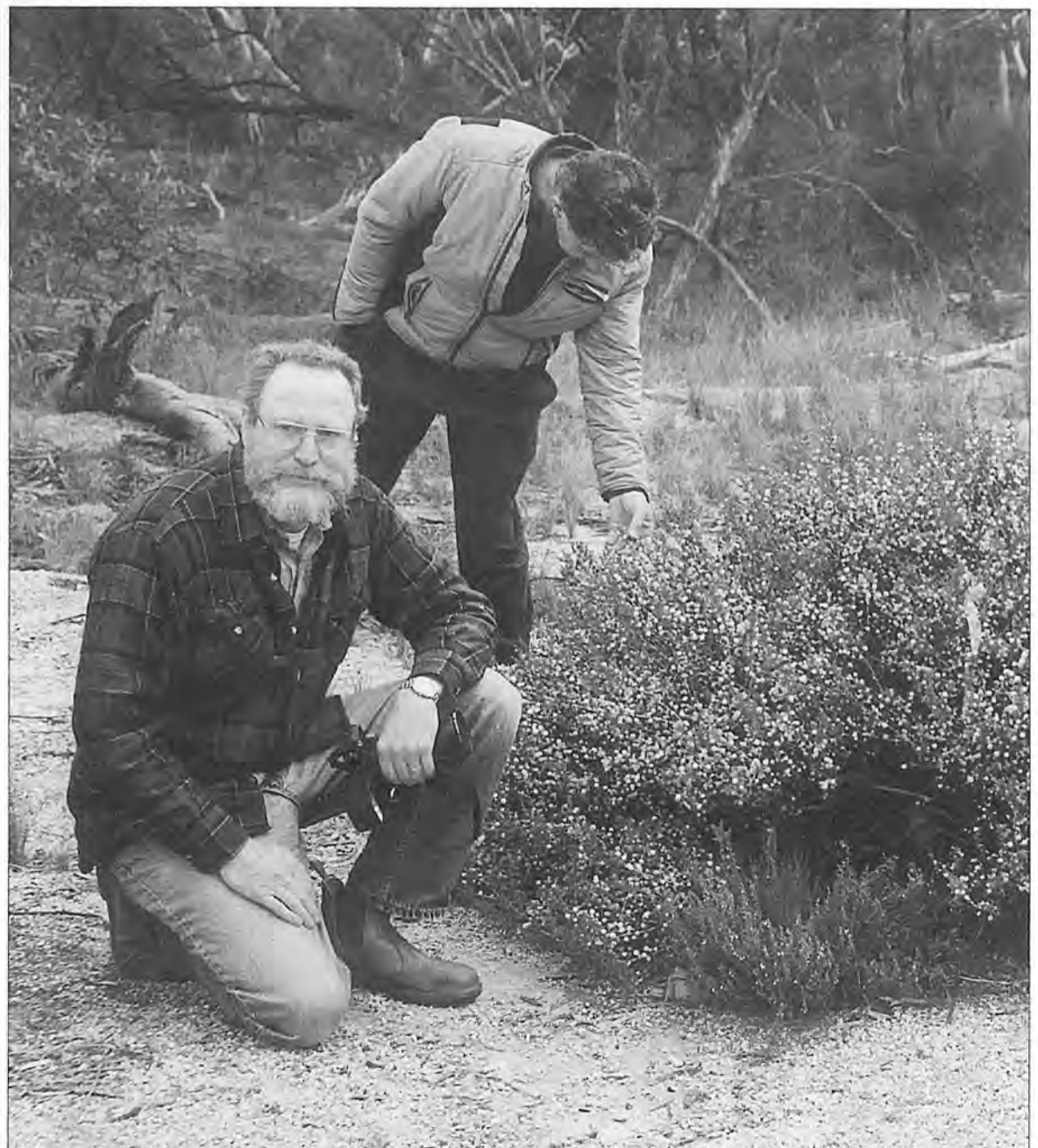
The first students graduate from the School of Wood, part of the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup.

CALM opens a new office in Mandurah to help people find out about the natural attractions of the Peel region, as well as provide a shopfront for CALM in the rapidly growing centre.

More numbats are released into the

wild, with 23 being reintroduced into wandoo woodland east of Mt Dale as part of *Western Shield*. They will join the 20 animals that were released in the same area in 1996.

Thirty quendas are relocated from the Dongolocking Nature Reserve near Dumbleyung to bushland near Mt Barker. The shift of homes was part of the long-term plan designed to protect Mt Barker's quenda population while roadwork for the Albany highway extension is carried out.



Throughout 1997, CALM staff and volunteers continued to find rare plant species. Here, Rob Buehrig (now retired from CALM) kneels beside *Symonthus bancroftii*. (It's the small clump that's not in flower in front of the 'black hole' in the wattle bush.) With Rob is Bruce Rock Volunteer Mal Harper. Photo by Greg Durell.





# Champion Scouts are to replace ageing Cubs

**AERIAL** surveillance of forest fires in the South West has been stepped up this summer with the introduction of two new spotter aircraft into CALM'S air wing.

The new Champion Scouts planes are being phased in to replace CALM's ageing Piper Cubs, which are no longer being manufactured.

Since aerial surveillance was introduced in 1971, the spotter fleet has notched up more than 130,000 flying hours and in that time the air wing has flown about two million kilometres or the equivalent of 50 times around the Equator.

During this time, there has been only one serious accident which involved an injury to the pilot, a remarkable record for the Piper Cubs and the 100 pilots who have flown them.

The spotter squadron has been a remarkable training ground for many of these pilots who had since gone on to much greater challenges in their flying careers. Some of the pilots are now 747 flight captains.

The Scouts are 30 per cent faster and have twice the surveillance endurance than the Cubs, and can maintain continual aerial reconnaissance for eight hours without refuelling.

The planes are the first two Scouts to be used by CALM, and mark the beginning of a five-year program during which the Cubs will be gradually replaced.

The new planes have been named 'Numbat' and 'Chuditch', two of the endangered species of animals found in the forest that the aerial surveillance will help protect from the ravages of wildfires.

*Left: Pictured launching the new Champion Scout aircraft is Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards. The Minister said that the introduction of aerial surveillance in 1971, coupled with the extensive fire lookout tower network that began in the 1930s, had provided WA with a forest fire detection system unequalled in Australia, and the envy of many countries overseas. Photo by Craig Stewart.*

# CALM earns high praise for safe workplace practices

**THE** continued success of CALM's Safety and Health Program indicates that we are on the right track in dedicating time and money to ensuring our employees return home from work each day fit and well.

We do have, however, about 150 staff needing medical assistance because of injuries each year, 32 of these having to take time off work.

### Gradual decline

The good news is that the figures are showing a gradual decline, and with sustained effort, we can look forward to an even better result next year.

Of particular note are the first-time qualifiers, the newly amalgamated Districts of Mornington and Blackwood, the Harvey Timber Technology Centre (previously listed under Harvey District) and Share-farms Lower West Group (previously listed under Collie District).

by Tom Wood

ously listed under Collie District).

The rest of the Department was not idle. In addition to winning the awards, (see box below) CALM was named the most successful organisation (for the fourth consecutive year), in the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention-GIO

Australia Safe Way Awards.

There were 87 organisations with more than 800 entries taking part. At the conclusion, there were 62 organisations with about 700 entries that reached their designated targets. CALM had 108 successful units.

All groups are to be congratulated on reaching their targets.

**During 1997, the following groups successfully completed one year or more, with no time lost because of injuries.**

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Bunbury District                          | 4 years as at March 97   |
| Manjimup District                         | 2 years as at March 97   |
| Pemberton District                        | 3 years as at April 97   |
| Goldfields Region                         | 3 years as at May 97     |
| Wheatbelt Region                          | 1 year as at July 97     |
| Sharefarms Lower West Group               | 4 years as at July 97    |
| South Coast Region (including Sharefarms) | 1 year as at August 97   |
| Harvey Timber Technology Centre           | 1 year as at August 97   |
| Mornington District                       | 1 year as at August 97   |
| Blackwood District                        | 1 year as at August 97   |
| Dwellingup District                       | 1 year as at November 97 |



*Wheatbelt Narrogin District recipients of an Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention Safety Achievement Award, are pictured with CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea (second from left). They are, left to right: Regional manager Ken Wallace, Dr Shea, operations officer Trish Nanni, Narrogin reserves officer Jacki Nichol, Katanning District manager Bruce Bone and Wheatbelt Regional planner Daryl Moncrieff.*

Photo by Nigel Higgs



# The HF wins a DA Award

**INTERNATIONAL** Day for People with Disabilities saw the manager of The Hills Forest Stev Slavin, hot-footing it down to Forrest Chase to receive a Disability Awareness Award on behalf of CALM.

Presenting the award, People with Disabilities (WA) Inc., President Tony Ganzer said that in designing The Hills Forest's innovative new campground, careful consideration had been given to the needs of people with a range of disabilities.

"The new facilities allow them to enjoy camping in a bush setting along with other members of the community," Mr Ganzer said.

"For example, students, both with and without dis-

by Kate Baxter

abilities, can integrate in an atmosphere of learning about the forest, its plants and animals, the environment and pressures on it, while enjoying the experience of camping in the great outdoors."

The Hills Forest Campground is available to all sections of the community, and boasts individual and group tent pads for up to 45 campers, an open camp kitchen with sink, hot and cold running water, electric barbecue plates and power points—and plenty of room for socialising. Campers also have access to showers and toilets in the courtyard area of the Activity Centre.

The Hills Forest

Campground has been made possible by generous funding from Alcoa of Australia Ltd, the Lotteries Commission through the Gordon Reid Foundation, and ACROD (the national Industry Association for Disability Services).

*Left to right, Recreation Planning and Design landscape architect Eamonn Fennessy, Park Policy and Tourism program co-ordinator Wayne Schmidt, Alcoa's public relations officer for mining Helena Cole, Stev Slavin, Minister for Disability Services Paul Omodei and Director of Corporate Services John Byrne. Photo by Lynda Olsen.*



## We're all proud of CALM, firefighters

ON Christmas Day the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Manjimup staff carpark was full.

Staff were missing this very important family day as they were fighting fires in the South West.

To all staff from CALM, Bunnings, volunteer firemen and South West shire employees who made Christmas Day safe for me and thousands to enjoy, we thank you and may God bless you for your unselfish and caring attitude and upholding country community spirit.

Wives, mothers, children, friends and lovers, you might have missed your loved one but no better gift for Christmas could they have given us than the protection of our lives and property.

Be proud of them—we are.

Jean-Jacques Amelia, Manjimup

## Scholarship winners

CONGRATULATIONS to winners of the Executive Director's Scholarship. Usually this goes to one person, but this year it goes to CALM Dwellingup District storewoman Taryn Linning, and to the Department's Walpole District overseer Peter Masters.

Also worthy of congratula-

tions are The Hills Forest manager Stev Slavin, who has won the inaugural Seamus Mulholland Scholarship, and environmental officer Kevin Crane, who has won the inaugural George Malajczuk Scholarship.

In the next issue of CALM NEWS we will see details of these four scholarship winners, written by Alan Byrne.

## A gourmet challenge

**Wanted:** people who enjoy the great outdoors and would like to help marine biologists discover more about Ningaloo Marine Park.

You need to like camping, cooking, fishing, beach walking, cooking, stargazing, cooking, boating, cooking, relaxing, four-wheel driving and, oh yes, did we say cooking?

Marine Conservation Branch is looking for one or more volunteer cooks/camp managers for five weeks in May (Well, there are five weekends in May) to organise catering and filling the tummies of staff, while they survey Ningaloo Marine Park and beyond.

So if you're looking for a vacation with a difference, with accommodation and meals supplied, this is it!

Find out more details and register your interest, phone Carolyn Williams of Exmouth District on (08) 9949 1676.

# Jurien Bay plans up and running



A boat excursion of Jurien Bay provided an opportunity for staff and committee members to both get to know one another and learn more about the area. From left to right: Ian Stiles representing the Shire of Cooroy and the tourism industry, CALM's Moora District manager David Rose, commercial cray fishing industry representative Graeme Boshammer, Midwest region nature conservation program leader Ron Shepherd and Nigel Sercombe. Photo by Sue Osborne.

THE first meeting of the Jurien Bay Advisory Committee agreed unanimously that the proposal to create a marine reserve in Jurien Bay had merit and it was therefore decided to proceed with the extensive consultative planning process.

The Advisory Committee, chaired by Midwest regional operations officer Nigel Sercombe, has 12 members representing the wide range of recreational, commercial, scientific, indigenous and conser-

by Sue Osborne

vation interests in the area.

At the second meeting, held in February, members considered the issue of reserve boundaries. At subsequent meetings, the committee will develop a draft zoning plan that will be presented to Government for further consideration.

In addition to servicing the Advisory Committee, CALM staff are undertaking a program

of broad community education and consultation to maximise community input.

As part of this process, community members will be encouraged to make their views known, firstly through their representatives on the Advisory Committee.

Later, after the preparation of a draft management plan and the formal issue of a Notice of Intent to create a marine reserve, members of the community will have a second chance to comment, by

making written submissions directly to CALM.

While the planning process might appear lengthy and complex, extensive community consultation is essential to take account of the diversity of interests and issues for consideration during the development of multiple-use marine reserves.

The open-door approach to decision making, where CALM's role is essentially one of facilitation, ensures a strong sense of community ownership and stewardship.

# CALMpeople Reference Group - What's it all about?

SUPPORTING CALM staff as they go about the business of achieving CALM's goals is an objective shared by a number of current initiatives, all of which cut across the usual program and divisional boundaries.

One of these, the CALMpeople Reference Group is a forum of ten people, each representing

a CALM Division. Each group member has been nominated by her or his Director and is expected to be part of the group for a minimum of two years.

### Informal link.

In short, this group acts as the eyes and ears of CALM's staff, to provide an informal but direct link between them and the

achievement of CALM objectives.

In the past 12 months the group has met seven times, its main focus being on looking at ways of rewarding, recruiting and retaining quality people, and strategies for supporting and developing people skills in supervisors and managers.

Pemberton District manager John Gillard says

that as an informal, advisory feedback system, the CALMpeople Reference Group welcomes input from CALM staff about strategic issues and concerns brewing in their own part of the world.

"While we take care not to duplicate or infringe upon the role of other committees and managers, we strongly believe that this group can be

instrumental in establishing and maintaining the integration of people and resources within CALM," John said.

"For instance, the things that the group would be interested in hearing from CALM people include what is important to them as employees, how they believe these values can be incorporated into the way we do things, and the way we reward and recognise individual and group efforts.

### Likes and dislikes

"We also need to know what they like about working for CALM as well as what they find frustrating, and suggestions on ways of optimising the good and addressing the bad."

Another group dedicated to supporting CALM staff as they go about their business is the CALM Peer Support Program, likened, perhaps, to the heart and soul of CALM.

This is a Risk Management Section initiative, and involves 15 people across the south-west of CALM's operations.

The Peer Support Program is one in which trained fellow workers provide support to colleagues in times of stress, or following incidents that may place great strain on

an individual's ability to cope. The program complements the formal system such as PACE WA, and was outlined in the January-February and September-October issues of CALM NEWS.

### Workshops

Another support program is the Conversation not Confrontation workshops run by Corporate Relations Division.

These workshops have been designed for CALM people and their families living in forest-based communities, to help them deal positively with situations when others in their local communities express extreme views and criticism of CALM.

The training addresses strategies and techniques that promote conversation rather than confrontation, and include structured responses, role playing and case studies, as well as exploring techniques on how to remain objective when under verbal attack ("It also helps to be six feet taller," was one insightful participant's comment.)

Another personal well-being and empowerment workshop doing the rounds has been Linda Gilbert's Health and Fitness Seminar, again offered to CALM people and their spouses.

This has been well received and given people a focus for reviewing and setting their own goals for health and well-being.

It is now fairly common knowledge that people in stressful occupations are less likely to burn out when they receive support in the workplace, and that stress becomes more manageable when people are given an opportunity to talk about their reactions.

For input to the CALMpeople Reference Group you can contact any of the following, by phoning Tammie Reid (08) 9538-1078; John Gillard (08) 9776-1207; Wayne Schmidt (08) 9334-0575; Lachlan McCaw (08) 9771-7998; Roger Armstrong (08) 9725-4300; John Skillen (08) 9442-0313; Cliff Gillam (08) 9334-0213; Bill Towie (08) 9582-9333; Tim Bowra, (08) 9405-0729 and Alan Briggs (08) 9334-0333.

For more information on the Conversation not Conflict workshops, contact Tammie Reid by phoning her on the number shown in the previous paragraph.

For information on the Health and Safety Seminar series contact Linda Gilbert by phoning (08) 9334-0397.



Members of the CALMpeople Reference Group, left to right, community education officer Tammie Reid, senior environmental officer Roger Armstrong, Pemberton District manager John Gillard, Human Resources Branch manager Cliff Gillam, monitoring and training officer Bill Towie, Perth District manager Alan Briggs, Park Policy and Tourism program co-ordinator Wayne Schmidt and regional services adviser John Skillen. Absent were Perth District regional parks co-ordinator Tim Bowra and senior research scientist Lachlan McCaw. Photo by Alicia Khoo





## Value adding with CALM-TAFE

Downstream processing and value adding to timber has been quietly growing over the past few years, thanks to the timber-drying courses run jointly by CALM and Technical and Further Education.

The courses are run at CALM's Timber Technology Centre in Harvey where research into timber drying has resulted in the development of low-cost, energy-efficient kilns.

The first course began in October 1994, since when almost 100 people have been trained in a wide range of timber-drying techniques.

The course involves participants attending classes one day a week for seven weeks, during which they receive instruction from lecturers drawn from the timber industry as well as CALM.

Topics covered include the relationship between the moisture content of timber and the surrounding atmosphere, the theory of why timber is kiln-dried, kiln operation, drying schedules, and instruments used.

The course is very much a 'hands-on' affair with students using CALM's high-temperature and solar-assisted kilns at the Harvey centre. They

also visit hardwood and pine mills.

CALM Timber Technology manager Ian Rotheram said that there was enormous potential for value adding and downstream processing of timbers such as jarrah, karri and marri since the introduction of the 10-year Forest Management Plan in 1994.

"Now more than half of the jarrah-sawlog intake is value added," Ian said.

"Some of the larger mills are using value added processes such as kiln drying for more than 80 per cent of their jarrah sawlogs and CALM and industry research has shown the

way for similar application to be made to marri and karri."

Technical and Further Education, in consultation with the furniture industry, is also supporting the development of value-adding by offering traineeships in furniture production and product knowledge.

The traineeships were developed in response to the needs of the furniture-manufacturing industry that had experienced a shortage in a number of skills in their workforces, particularly those in cabinetmaking, wood machining, and french polishing and finishing.

## Another 'Walk' success

THE Hills Forest third Annual Forest Walk was once again a great exercise in co-operation and teamwork, with a host of CALM experts offering their time and knowledge so the many families who came along could enjoy the day.

Senior research scientist David Ward represented CALMfire, while Kelmscott District forester Abe van de Sande staffed the dieback information point, and Park Policy and Tourism senior project officer Trevor Walley involved many participants in fire-lighting, and making glue for sticking stone knife parts together, at the Waugal Way information stand.

Mundaring forest ranger Barry Hooper and administrative officer Jean Butts were kept busy with questions on pine plantations and wild flowers, while Marine and Coastal District reserves

by Kate Baxter

officer Ian Gale returned to his former stomping ground to talk about the local forest ecosystem.

With a range of other subjects, including stream life and native animals, covered by local community specialists and volunteers, the Forest Walk was a great day out for those who braved the warmer weather.

Sponsored by Healthway's Be Active Every Day program, the Forest Walk was held in State forest behind Mundaring Weir.

Walkers enjoyed beautiful forest scenery, with spectacular views of the Helena Reservoir and later were able to relax at the Rosella Kitchen, enjoying its soup, with damper and billy tea once again lavishly provided by Mundaring District storeman Barry Rhodes and

acting overseer Brad Walter.

Programs officer Jenny Yeatman said that the day was made extra special with some great spot prizes donated by Mountain Designs and Healthway.

"And the organisation of the day ran much more smoothly with the help of the Go Bush! volunteers," she said.

Plans for The Hills Forest Walk '98 are already under way with seven and nine-kilometre walk options, and a shorter trail for special needs groups.

Above: Participants in the Forest Walk make glue for stone knife making, under the guidance of Trevor Walley. A mia\* can be seen in the left background. (Note: Often referred to as a 'mia mia', which, strictly speaking, is a 'confinement hut'.) Photo by Jenny Yeatman



Posing for a post-course pic are, left to right, manager of South-West College of TAFE Robert Smiley, CALM timber inspector at Harvey and course organiser Ivan Zirngast, Harvey TAFE manager Graeme Lymbery, CALM Timber Technology manager Ian Rotheram (squatting) and utilisation officer-course organiser Steve Davis. With the exception of CALM Timber Technology leading hand Brian Haines, second from right, the next nine men are from various timber companies. They are Des Cochrane, Dave Kennedy, Trevor Hadley, Ray Redden, David Cain, Martin van Laere, Phillip Lyle, Rodney Doust and Brian de Russet. Photo by Ken Utting, courtesy Harvey-Australind Reporter

## FMB Big Brook trophy winners

FINE weather heralded the dawn of yet another Big Brook Relay, and as a horde of finely tuned CALM athletes limbered up, anticipation in the crowd reached fever pitch.

Seventeen teams battled it out for their name to be scratched (OK, etched) on the coveted Karri Country All Sports trophy. They came from across the State—with the prize for greatest distance travelled going to the Midwest Maulers of Geraldton.

Event organisers Rod Annear and Dave Meehan were delighted with the turnout and, in particular, the debut of the Fremantle Flounders.

Some of the other teams to compete were the Rainbow Worriers from Albany, the Dwellingup Desperadoes, and the Comophobics.

Once again, the first leg of the event was the crosscut saw, and competitors launched themselves at it with ferocity.

Many found, over the next 30 minutes or so, that it wasn't as easy as it appeared.

From the crosscut, it

by Penny Walsh

was on to the cycle, and a motley collection of bikes and riders waited impatiently to start their 12-kilometre ride, the route taking them on a loop around the dam.

The next to test their endurance were the runners. They set off at a gallop along a scenic and winding 7.5-km gravel track that took them through the Big Brook forest.

After the run, the action transferred to the water, where one team of CALM paddlers turned on an amazing display of precision capsizing.

The rest sliced crisply through the Big Brook waves and left a collection of admiring onlookers in their wake.

The last leg of the relay was the swim, and the scene was set for a nail-biting finish. First out of the water was 'FMB' with team members coming from Bunbury and Manjimup. Team spokesman Alan Seymour claimed that the outcome had never been in doubt.

Indeed, it wasn't a new

experience for Alan. He's been part of the winning team three times at Big Brook—but never with the same combination of people.

The triumphant 1997 team was—Greg Strelein, Mike Buckton, and Richard Ford from Bunbury, and Jeremy Chick, David Anderson, Natasha Oke and Alan from Manjimup.

The winners said they'd be back to defend the title in 1998, and they'll be joined by second place-getters, the Giblettarians from Pemberton.

There were wild scenes of jubilation as the home team gained its first ever placing in the Relay. When asked whether they would feel the pressure of renewed expectations in the 1998 BB Relay, Rod Annear said that Pemberton people were accustomed to high-pressure situations.

The Wanneroo Wannabes filled third place, and Alan Sands said they were just relieved not to finish last. That honour went to Mission Impossible, a composite team from Como. Spokesman Peter Ryan said he and his

team mates weren't all that surprised at the outcome.

"Well, we were extremely confident that we wouldn't win! Our crosscut team had never used a crosscut saw, our canoeists had never paddled together, our runner turned up ready to do the crosscut, and our cyclist used a 25 year-old bike."

To add insult to injury, the Mission Impossible crew was later beaten by the tug of war by an all-girl team. Mission Impossible Captain, Emma Bramwell, is apparently keen to return to Big Brook in '98 and return the dunny seat trophy to its rightful owners—the Midwest.

Rod Annear said that special thanks should go to Dave Meehan for co-ordinating the day, Pemberton staff and crews for their help with preparation, and to all the team managers for getting their teams organised.

"We look forward to an even bigger turnout next year—especially from Walpole, Manjimup and Blackwood Districts!" he said.



Mission Impossible captain Emma Bramwell graciously accepts the dunny seat award from last year's recipient Midwest Maulers Scott Godley. Applauding her are, Peter Ryan, Clive Coshan and Rod Annear (behind Scott).

Photo by Penny Walsh