

# Two win 1998 Executive Director's Scholarship

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Dwellingup storewoman Taryn Linning, and overseer Peter Masters, two recipients of the Executive Director's 1998 Scholarship.

Usually awarded to only one CALM staff member, it has been awarded to two this year, and is an indication of the difficulty experienced in selecting from a highly promising group of applicants.

## Taryn Linning

As a 'true believer' in CALM's role as manager of WA's natural resources, Taryn decided long ago that she wanted to be a part of the management process, and feels that the Executive Director's Scholarship will give her the opportunity to expand her knowledge of forest management.

"It has come at the right time in my life. My children (Owen, 15 and Shannon, 12) are in high school, so we will all be studying together for the next few years," Taryn said.

"I would eventually like to specialise in fire protection (CALMfire), as this is the area that most interests me.

"It's challenging, involves sound planning, highly effective communication and teamwork, and it's satisfying when you know the job's been well done."

Taryn's career began in 1983

by Alan Byrne

when she joined the Forests Department as a clerical typist, where her duties also included radio communication, and weather observation.

In 1985, Taryn became the stores assistant for the newly formed CALM Department, and a year later took charge as storewoman.

"It was pretty difficult in the beginning, as having to deal with a female in this traditionally male role was new to the gang guys," Taryn said.

"But we all survived—I learnt a lot and they learnt to tolerate my never-ending questions."

In 1988, she joined overseer Barry Ashcroft's firefighting crew

She has since trained as a towerwoman, beacon operator, chainsaw operator, and a treemaker.

Taryn soon saw a need for those fighting the fires to be supplied with healthy meals that would maintain their energy through the frequently long hours and, together with CALM's health and fitness instructor Linda Gilbert, began introducing balanced meals of vegetables, fruit, fish, and so on.

The positive feedback eventually led to the formation of the Catering Task Force, which

introduced standards and training for catering throughout the Swan Region."

Other tasks that Taryn has tackled have been the development of computer programs for job prescriptions, apiary site management, risk management and the disease risk area permits.

She is also a peer supporter and the health and fitness coordinator for Dwellingup District.

## Peter Masters

Peter Masters joined the Forest Department in Wanneroo some twenty years ago as a forest worker with the Wanneroo crews.

After two and a half years under the guidance of overseer Don Harrison (now retired) Peter transferred to the Southern Forest Region, where he worked for a further fifteen and a half years in the Pemberton District crews.

Two years ago Peter successfully applied for his current position as an overseer in the Walpole District.

In 1997, Peter began his Certificate IV in Land Management studies at C. Y. O'Connor TAFE campus via distance education studies.

The Executive Director's Scholarship will allow Peter to complete his studies with less financial strain on the family budget.

Peter is very keen to secure a position as a national park ranger on the south coast. He therefore sees the necessity to complete his studies to become a competitive applicant.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys fishing and spending time with his wife and three daughters.

He is also a valued St John Ambulance Grade II officer and first aid instructor.

Dr Shea introduced the Executive Director's Scholarship because he believed there were many people in CALM, who, through no fault of their own, missed out in progressing their education.

He said that apart from benefiting the individuals who win the scholarships, the investment by CALM would be returned ten-fold because the recipients would be adding new skills to a wealth of experience and understanding of how CALM operates.

*Right: Taryn Linning, one of this year's two Executive Director's Scholarship winners. Photo by courtesy of Mandurah Telegraph.*

*Below: Peter Masters, an Executive Director's Scholarship winner, talks to children who could be potential St John Ambulance trainees. Photo by Linda Vivian.*



