

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MARCH—APRIL 1998



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## Another Western Shield win

WESTERN Australia has made another significant breakthrough in bringing native animals back from the brink of extinction.

The quenda, or southern brown bandicoot, and the tammar wallaby are to be removed from the State Threatened Fauna List as a result of their ongoing management under the *Western Shield* program.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes announced their removal from the list at Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre in Gooseberry Hill.

Mrs Edwardes said the removal followed a review by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, which examines the State's lists of threatened plants and animals, using criteria established by the IUCN (World Conservation Union).

"The tammar and quenda are the second and third mammal species to be removed from the State's threatened fauna list as a result of successful management," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The woylie was the first to be brought back from extinction and was removed from the State, national and international endangered species lists in 1996.

"The removal of three mammals from threatened species classifications as a result of conservation management is unprecedented and an internationally significant achievement for WA.

"It demonstrates the effectiveness and value CALM's *Western Shield* program."

Mrs Edwardes said WA was at the forefront in fauna recovery as a result of this program, which aims to bring the State's

by Mitzi Vance

native animals back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators, the European fox and feral cat.

"*Western Shield* continues to protect our unique native animals on more than 3.4 million hectares of CALM-managed lands through regular predator baiting, fauna reintroduction, recovery and monitoring," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The quenda and tammar are no longer considered threatened because of the success of recovery plans for these species under *Western Shield*."

Quendas (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*), found throughout the south-west of the State, now exist in high numbers where fox control is in place.

In Batalling, quenda trap success rates have increased more than 10-fold since the introduction of fox control in 1991. Quenda population recovery has also been achieved through animal relocations. At Dongolocking Nature Reserve, 24 quendas were reintroduced in 1994; this population has now grown to around 200 animals.

Tammar wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*) are found across the south-west of WA and on some offshore islands, including Garden Island. Tammars have responded very rapidly to fox control and are now increasing in abundance throughout their baited range.

Monitoring of Tutanning Nature Reserve since baiting began in 1984 has demonstrated an increase in numbers seen during standard surveys from four to more than 80.

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Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes with a tammar wallaby, one of the two native animals removed recently from the WA Threatened Fauna List. Photo by Ernie McIntock.

## Dieback control measures advanced

CALM is taking to the skies in its fight against the deadly plant disease dieback.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes has announced that CALM would use aircraft to spray areas of the Stirling Range National Park north-east of Albany, Cape Arid National Park east of Esperance, and key areas south of Busselton.

The spray—called phosphite, a neutralised phosphorus compound—would protect several species of critically endangered native plants that were highly susceptible to dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).

Mrs Edwardes said that phosphite posed no danger to humans, or native animals and plants.

"Dieback in Western Australia's native plants has been likened to a 'biological bulldozer' and a disaster of international significance," she said.

Mrs Edwardes said the spraying program was a priority under the State Government's dieback control initiatives announced at the World Conservation Union Conference held recently in Albany.

CALM and Environment Australia's Endangered Species Program for threatened flora and ecological communities are funding the spraying. It will be carried out by CALM's Phosphite Action Team.

Mrs Edwardes said target species included Stirling Range dryandra, Brown's banksia, mountain paper heath, yellow mountain bell, fringed mountain bell, Fairall's honeysuckle, dryandras, hakeas, and anadenanthos.

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## \$8 million dollar boost for tree crops industry

CALM has unveiled plans for an \$8 million tree nursery development in Manjimup to increase seedling production for the burgeoning tree crops industry.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the new facility would enable CALM to increase its seedling production to more than 45 million plants a year within the next four years. CALM currently produces around 23 million seedlings a year.

Mrs Edwardes said the main focus would be on maritime pines, a species identified as being ideal for tree farming in the 400 to 600 mm rainfall belt.

The integration of tree crops into existing farming operations would provide the basis of a major softwood timber industry as well as having major benefits for landcare programs, especially those combating salinity.

"CALM research in the past few years has revolutionised plant propagation techniques," she said.

"For example, CALM now can produce seedlings by using cuttings taken from genetically superior 'mother plants' rather than direct from seed.

"This enables genetic gains to be passed on to tree growers much more quickly than by using traditional methods.

"As well, these elite cuttings can be planted directly into containers and grown on to the seedling stage whereas previously, maritime pines seedlings were produced in open paddocks."

The Minister said the new facility would be highly automated. Once cuttings were set into containers, they would be automatically loaded on to racks that would run on rails so they could be pushed through the various stages of the nursery. Travelling boom irrigation systems would water the seedlings in the greenhouses and growing-out areas.

Mrs Edwardes said a new centre-pivot irrigation system had also been

installed at the nursery to irrigate the 'mother plants'. The irrigation boom was 320 metres long and could irrigate 32 ha in one rotation.

The 'mother plants' were grown in hedges and kept pruned at a height of around 500 mm. This produced a bushy habit with many shoots to provide the cuttings.

There were currently around 400,000 'mother plants' in hedges. A further 200,000 were in containers ready to be planted out this year.

These elite plants were expected to result in gains of up to 70 per cent in wood volume over unimproved stock.

Mrs Edwardes said that while mar-

itime pines would be the main species, CALM was also propagating cuttings of eucalypt hybrids.

These included a river red gum-Tasmanian blue-gum cross and a Tasmanian bluegum-flooded gum cross.

"The river red gum-Tasmanian bluegum hybrid has a higher salt tolerance than pure bluegum," she said.

"This will enable us to extend the range in which hardwood suitable for pulp logs can be planted.

"The Tasmanian bluegum-flooded gum cross is being sold to Queensland tree growers.

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Environmental problems around the world, particularly those associated with land and water, are often in an order of magnitude more difficult to resolve because of their scale.

I think this is one of the reasons why there is a huge literature describing the environmental problems we face and the serious consequences of failing to deal with them, but comparatively little material describing how the problems are actually being solved in the field.

Research, planning and community consultation are of course essential prerequisites to solving any environmental problem. But, I think sometimes, possibly because we compartmentalise the process, we tend to forget that these components of problem solving are the means to solve the problems not the end.

I believe CALM, along with many other agencies in Australia, is undertaking excellent research, planning and community consultation. CALM also, however, is in a unique position because it has the capacity to take the research findings and apply them on a scale that does make a difference to the problems in the field.

This edition of CALMNEWS provides two examples of how we are undertaking projects on a scale that will have a major impact on reversing environmental degradation.

The news that we have been able to move another two mammal species from the endangered species list is an example of how we are meeting 'real world performance indicators'.

The *Western Shield* program is based on superb research going back over 15 years. That research would have been to no end, however, if we hadn't been able to employ it on the grand scale we are with *Western Shield*.

Similarly, the story on the Manjimup Nursery is another example of how we are developing a scale of operations that will enable us to make a real impact on the salination problem in the agricultural zone.

Again, our ability to do this is based on excellent research into tree breeding and tree deployment going back 50 years, but all that wealth of information would be lost if we didn't develop the capacity to translate it into large-scale projects.

In the last edition of CALMNEWS I commented on how much pleasure I obtained from seeing people in CALM working together as a team on major projects. I am convinced CALM is able to do this because of our integrated approach to management.

For example, much of the technology that allows us to efficiently bait more than 3 million hectares of land for foxes is derived from the technology that was developed to enable us to carry out inventories of the forest and prescribe burn from the air.

It is also significant that we have only increased our full-time staff by one in the process of implementing the *Western Shield* program.

One of the only disadvantages of an integrated large-scale approach to solving environmental problems is that there are so many people involved who work exceptionally long hours to make these projects happen, that it is impossible to name all the people so that they get the appropriate credit.

I hope, however, that everybody involved in these projects gets the same immense satisfaction that I get out of seeing what an impact we are making on real world problems in the field.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea



Manjimup Hardwood Nursery supervisor Dominic De Luca with western blue gum seedlings. Photo by Ian Cugley, courtesy of the *Sunday Times* newspaper.

## \$8 Million dollar boost for tree crops industry (from page 1)

"Exporting plants to regions with summer planting seasons provides an opportunity to produce two crops a year which results in a better use of nursery resources."

Dr Shea said maritime pine plantings on cleared farmland this year were expected to be around 3,000 ha, or 4.5 million seedlings.

"Under the State Government's Salinity Action Plan, CALM in partnership with farmers, will be planting 15,000 ha a

year of maritime pines by around 2002," he said.

"This represents 22.5 million seedlings a year.

"It is envisaged that maritime tree crops ultimately will extend over 500,000 ha in the intermediate rainfall zone.

"This will provide a resource for a range of downstream processing and value-adding opportunities such as wood panel plants in regional areas."

Dr Shea said that while the scale of the proposal

might seem enormous, there were examples around the world that demonstrated it was achievable.

"One hundred years ago Napoleon III ordered that 1 million ha of pines be established in the Bordeaux region in southern France to combat wind erosion and water logging," he said.

"Those same plantings are the basis today of a multi-billion-dollar industry that provides employment for 30,000 people."

## Another Western Shield win (from page 1)

Mrs Edwardes said WA's success with wildlife recovery had prompted conservation agencies in other States to follow WA's lead.

"Genaren Hills Sanctuary in NSW, with the support of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, has sought advice and expertise from CALM as well as a number of woylies for translocation," she said.

"Genaren Hill Landcare Group aims to bring the woylie back into abundance by first reintroducing 12 woylies from WA into the feral predator-proof Genaren Hills Sanctuary in the central west of NSW."

Twelve woylies, eight females and four males, from WA's south-west were flown to NSW on Monday 20 April, 1998 for reintroduction at the sanctuary.

CALM staff also trained Genaren Hill Sanctuary staff in the past few weeks in the hand-ling, care and monitoring of woylies.

The Minister said *Western Shield* operated on an annual budget of \$1.33 million, including sponsorship of \$120,000 from Alcoa of Australia and \$60,000 from Cable Sands Pty. Ltd.

She said that with the support of private enterprise, farmers, other land-owners and local commu-

nities, CALM would be able to continue conservation efforts under *Western Shield*, ensuring that WA's unique native wildlife would be conserved for future generations.

\*See page 4 for *Western Shield* rescue plan for the last surviving mainland mala (*rufous hare-wallaby*)

### 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

Wheelchairs for elderly people to enjoy forest trails at Forest Heritage Centre, Dwellingup. Please phone Dwellingup Administration on (08) 9538 1078.

## Staff Movements

### Contract staff

Leonie Monks to Herbarium as Technical Officer; Anngi Tran to Perth District as Landscape Architect; Jenny Nichol to Parks, Policy and Tourism as Project Officer; Caitlin Prowse to Training Centre, Dwellingup as Assistant Training Officer; Volker Mischker to Esperance as Project Officer; Gareth Taylor to Information Management Branch Records Section as Clerical Officer; Dan Wildy to Science and Information Division as Research Scientist.

### Criteria Progression

Shelley McArthur, to Technical Officer, Level 3 at Research Centre, Science and Information Division Como.

### Permanent Staff

Linda Gilbert, as Risk Management Officer, Risk Management Section, Human Resources Branch, Como.

### Promoted

Ron Kawalilak, to Director Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Level 9, Corporate Relations Division; Morten Nilsson, to Senior Field Manager, Level 5, Collie Sharefarms; Charles Newman, to Field Manager, Level 4, Collie Sharefarms; Steven Pickering, to Field Manager, Level 4, Collie Sharefarms; Glenn Urquhart, to Management Accountant, Level 6, Financial Services Branch.

### Reclassified

Greg Durell, to Operations Officer, Level 4, at Narrogin District; Scott Godley, to Operations Officer, Level 3 at Moora; Susan Hancock, to Recreation and Tourism Program Leader, Level 6 at Geraldton.

### Resigned

Sue Ingram, from Corporate Relations Division, as Customer Services Officer; Rebecca Wolstenholme, from Moora, as Conservation Officer; Kim Cream, from Wildlife Protection Branch as Clerical Officer.

### Retired

Joe Stritoff, Senior Technical Officer from Science and Information Division at Como.

### Secondments

Pat Ryan, to Kununurra as Field Manager, from Geraldton; Lucy Tan, to Information Management Branch as Administration Assistant, from Finance (Financial Services Branch).

### Transfers

Dawn Prior, to Wildlife Protection Branch as Forest Reserves Clerical Officer; Tim Birmingham, to Dwellingup District, Farm Forestry Unit, as Operations Officer.

### CALMNEWS—MARCH-APRIL 1998

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## Dieback control measures advanced (from page 1)

After looking at systems orchardists used to protect fruit crops such as avocados that were susceptible to dieback disease, CALM scientists carried out extensive research on phosphite, and found that the compound was extremely effective in stemming the spread of dieback through plants.

"Aerial spraying is just one technique CALM is using to conserve the State's unique flora," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Seed from many endangered species has been collected and stored under specially controlled conditions at CALM's Herbarium in Como.

"This will ensure scien-

tists always will have access to the species for further research, particularly into pharmaceutical properties of the plants."

Mrs Edwardes said the phosphite treatment was expected to last for two to three years, and was a holding operation until scientists could develop other methods of protecting vulnerable species.

CALM is identifying other areas containing critically endangered species that could be protected by using phosphite.

An initial priority of the recently appointed Dieback Consultative Council (DCC)—formed to advise the Minister on matters relating to dieback management in

WA—was to advise on three of the recommendations made by the Western Australian Dieback Review Panel in its recently published report.

The recommendations are that:

- The Government adopts a dieback management strategy that identifies significant areas that can be protected, and concentrates available resources for hygiene measures;
- Fewer restrictions be placed on access to essentially unprotectable areas; and—
- CALM develops protocols to objectively identify and manage protectable areas.

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

#### Appreciation

On behalf of the City of Gosnells, I wish to express my appreciation for the assistance provided by your service in the recent bushfires.

The City of Gosnells staff have advised me that the response and on-ground management provided by your service was of a high standard and essential to the successful

#### outcome.

The efforts of agencies like yours often goes unrecognised in the community, but rest assured the City of Gosnells is indebted to your services.

Once again, I wish to express my deepest appreciation.

Yours sincerely  
Cr Norm Smith JP  
Mayor(City of Gosnells).

#### Dedication noted

On behalf of the Shire of Albany, I would like to express thanks and appreciation for the assistance your organisation provided during the recent fires at the rifle range reserve and adjacent areas of the Shire.

From all accounts, the support provided by your fire crews was invaluable and resulted in the timely

suppression of the fires with negligible property loss. The professionalism and dedication displayed by your personnel in difficult circumstances was commendable.

Please pass on my thanks to those concerned.

Yours faithfully,  
E H (JIM) Kelly  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Albany.

# 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.*



# Gnangara Park targeted for Clean Up to Fix Up Day

**ONE hot Friday in late February, scores of people could be seen descending on Gnangara Park in a spirit of cheerful determination.**

The motley crew included CALM staff and representatives from the Water Corporation, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Australian Army's 13 Brigade, Irwin Barracks, Clean Up Australia, and local shires.

There they were, toggled up under shady hats, and wearing sturdy boots, insect repellent and sunscreen, ready to kick off the Clean Up Australia Campaign that began Australia wide the following Sunday.

## Clean up to fix up

Their specific aim that Friday was to clean up Gnangara Park, and was the first of three Clean Up to Fix Up events planned for 1998.

The Clean Up 2001 Campaign goal is to repair 2001 environmental assets (of which Gnangara Park is the largest project site in WA), and restore them to the Australian community by the year 2001.

Its long-term objectives are:

- To actively promote community involvement,
- To develop partnerships with Government agencies (including industry, community groups and individuals) to create

sustainable solutions to environmental problems,

- To showcase Australian technology through its successful application to environmental problems such as habitat rehabilitation, conservation of rare and endangered flora, and fauna breeding programs;
- To help reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities in association with repairing and conserving environmental assets.

## Team spirit

By encouraging a more closely integrated multi-agency spirit between WA government agencies, industry, community groups and individuals, it is hoped that a sense of ownership of Gnangara Park will develop, and lead to more consultation and active participation in the park's planning and management.

Unfortunately, some sections of the community still tend to regard public lands as just open space on which to dump rubbish (even asbestos and cars!), and Gnangara Park is no exception.

The Gnangara Park that CALM will create over the next 30 years will cover 50,000 hectares from Gnangara Road to the Moore River—more than 100 times the size of Kings Park, and the biggest

native bushland reserve near any major city in Australia.

## Meeting objectives

Plans for Gnangara Park meet Clean Up to Fix Up objectives in aiming to restore natural habitats that protect threatened species of native plants and animals, as well as restoring and maintaining local bushland, parks and community recreation

areas.

The Clean Up 2001 initiative promises long-term community benefits for the area that comprises 23,000 ha of pine plantations and 27,000 ha of native bushlands including banksia and tuart woodlands, jarrah and marri stands, and wetlands.

Some areas will be transformed into a living 'conservation ark' for

rare plants and those hovering on the brink of extinction. Plant species from other parts of WA will also be grown.

The conservation ark concept will extend to native animals.

Several thousand hectares of land have been earmarked for enclosure inside a feral animal-proof barrier.

This will provide a

sanctuary in which colonies of native species that once roamed freely will be available for park visitors to see.

## Water protection

Water Resources Minister Dr Kim Hames, who launched Gnangara Park Clean Up 2001, said the park would continue to protect one of the metropolitan area's most vital underground water

sources—the Gnangara Mound—and help keep it unpolluted.

*Project officer Bill Cuthbert, clerical officer Deb Wheeler and nature conservation planning officer Teresa Gepp are happy to get out of the office and not get their hands dirty. All are with CALM's Perth District (Wanneroo). Photo by Therese Jones.*



# Albany gains AussieHost gold medal status

by Penny Walsh



CALM Albany recently celebrated gaining 'gold medal' status in the AussieHost customer service program, with the awarding of certificates to the latest group of staff to complete the one-day course.

Executive Director, Syd Shea, was on hand to recognise the region's golden achievement. The gold medal is earned when at least 90 per cent of the staff in a business have successfully completed AussieHost training. Albany is comfortably over the 90 per cent mark.

The program aims to raise the quality of service and hospitality available to visitors and customers in Australia. It looks at various ways to meet peoples' needs, and topics covered during the course include telephone courtesy, how to greet clients, and use of body language.

"A lot of it is common-sense stuff, but its still useful to do the course because its a bit like a refresher. It shows just how much people notice about what you're doing

and saying when you're on the job," said Torndirrup National Park ranger Tony Smith.

Regional Manager John Watson said that as well as equipping staff with new skills, the program benefited CALM as an organisation because use of the AussieHost symbol signalled the Department's support for excellence in customer service.

Albany District's latest AussieHost graduates with Executive Director Dr Syd Shea. Left to right they are Albany District ranger Tony Smith, reserves officer assistant Max Bending, Stirling Range National Park ranger Geoff Harnett, regional leader-planning and external resources Jude Allan, Dr Shea, clerical officer Teresa Bennett, and flora officer Ellen Hickman. Photo by Penny Walsh.

## Overseas visitors well cared for CALM bid to save mala

IN the last issue of CALM NEWS we reported on the launch of the World Conservation Union Symposium in Albany, with the theme, *Protected Areas in the 21st Century: From Islands to Networks*.

In this issue, we show readers some behind-the-scenes efforts that helped make the symposium run smoothly.

It was a case of all hands on deck down in Albany late last year, as the town played host to more than 80 delegates from 50 countries, with CALM playing an integral role.

Regional Manager John Watson said it was a mammoth task that had involved virtually all local CALM staff plus

by Penny Walsh

park rangers, and he was delighted with the way things had come together.

During breaks in a hectic schedule, CALM staff were able to introduce delegates to a wide range of local beauty spots.

Regional leader—nature conservation, Kelly Gillen, said the feedback he received was very positive.

CALM staff involvement was high throughout the week-long symposium, but perhaps the most labour-intensive event from a CALM point of view was an all-day field trip to the Fitzgerald River National Park and Biosphere Reserve, via the Stirling Range and Two People's Bay.

Expert CALM guides provided commentary as the buses made their way past paddocks full of bluegums and others that were salty, waterlogged and bare.

A stop at scenic Point Ann, with its coastal cliffs, pristine sand and clear Southern Ocean water was greatly appreciated. Once again, CALM staff were on hand to lead walking tours and explain local features.

The final stop was Two People's Bay, where delegates got a sneak preview of the stylish new Visitor's Centre, before trying the picturesque heritage trail and learning about the important role the reserve plays as a centre for threatened species research and management.

Delegates heard how the park is linked through major vegetation corridors to other reserves and areas of high conservation value.

They were introduced to the area's incredible

species richness—with more than 20 per cent of the State's recognised flora and the richest mammal fauna of any reserve in the South-West.

A stop at scenic Point Ann, with its coastal cliffs, pristine sand and clear Southern Ocean water was greatly appreciated. Once again, CALM staff were on hand to lead walking tours and explain local features.

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A GROUP of the last surviving mainland mala (rufous hare-wallabies) have travelled from the Tanami Desert, in the Northern Territory, to Dryandra Woodland in Western Australia's Wheatbelt.

Their journey was part of a long-term plan to re-establish the critically endangered mammals in their former range.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the move was part of the State Government's *Western Shield* Project—the biggest nature conservation initiative ever undertaken in Australia.

The Minister said *Western Shield* aimed to reintroduce 13 native mammals to 40 areas in the south of the State.

Mrs Edwardes said she hoped the mala would join other species such as the numbat, chuditch, woylie and quenda which had been successfully re-established.

"The mainland mala

has come very close to extinction in recent years," she said.

"There are fewer than 300 alive, and all of those are in captivity."

Although once common throughout central Australia, mala numbers have declined because of predation by foxes and cats, competition from cattle and rabbits, and changes in the frequency of fires.

### Animals safe

"In WA, we're fortunate to have a number of areas under the *Western Shield* program where mala can be safely released into the wild or brought into captive-breeding programs to provide animals for later release," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Dryandra is an ideal field-breeding site because fox control has been in place since 1982, and local populations of other native animals such as woylies, numbats and tammars are thriving there."

The 20 mala were captured before dawn and began the long trans-continental journey by car and plane.

They were escorted by a scientist from the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory and released into their new home at Dryandra around dusk.

Mrs Edwardes said the priority was to prevent undue stress to the animals.

Once released, they would be monitored closely and provided with extra food and water.

The Minister said that when numbers had increased, some of the mala would be moved to other *Western Shield* wildlife recovery areas across the State.

"This represents another important step in the *Western Shield* plan to reintroduce a whole range of medium-sized Wheatbelt mammals that have become locally extinct," she said.



CALM South Coast regional business manager Laura Beck and Albany District administrative assistant Helen Plowman chat with symposium delegates Penelope Figgis (Australia) and Juan Rito Larrucea (Spain) during a break in the program. Photo by Penny Walsh.

## New dieback council formed

ENVIRONMENT Minister Cheryl Edwardes has announced the membership of the recently appointed Dieback Consultative Council (DCC) formed to advise her on matters relating to dieback management in Western Australia.

The council is chaired by consultant faunal ecologist Dr Own Nichols.

Other members are Councillor Janet Atkins, representing the WA Municipal Association; John Tredinnick of the Forest Industries Feder-

ation of WA; Dr Felicity Bunny of the Department of Environmental Protection; David Sweet of Alintagas; Anna Napier of Main Roads WA; Cliff Morris of Western Power; John Gardner of Alcoa of Australia; Darren Herpich of Chamber of Minerals and Energy and chairman of the Northern Sandplains Dieback Working Group; Richard Bowering representing the flora industry; Dr Bernie Dell of the School of Biological and Environmental Science, Murdoch University;

Graeme Rundle representing community conservation groups; Steve Wilkie representing combined recreation associations; Dr Frank Podger, who is an independent dieback consultant; and CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea.

Dr Owens said members of the public were invited to informally network with council members as one way of ensuring that the council canvassed the widest possible range of viewpoints in providing advice to the Minister.

# Annual Sun and Stars Festival attracts big crowds



Even family members are roped in, but Noel Nannup's daughter Allison looks happy enough showing visitors her snake-handling skills with this carpet python. Meanwhile, her proud dad has taken the opportunity to record her on film.

CALM's annual 'Sun and Stars' Festival went off with a bang, as more than 700 carloads of visitors rolled into Yanchep National Park for a fun-filled day of activities, celebrating CALM's partnership with the community.

A number of CALM branches and projects were represented, with their staff lugging display boards, brochures and information equipment to Yanchep—to provide the 1500 visitors with information on conservation projects.

The Aboriginal Tourism Unit's Noel Nannup and Kevin Hill led with a guided walking tour around Lake McNess, a great display on traditional bush-tucker and medicine, and the building of a mia on the lake-side.

Not to be outclassed, the Maritime Pine Plantations group set up a display and brought along numerous seedlings for give-aways and sale.

The Land for Wildlife Display was also a roaring success, especially among the hundreds of kids who grabbed the free stickers that project officer Emma Bramwell brought along to accompany the display.

Before this got too far out of hand, the kids, along with adults, raced down to the lakefront to view the spectacular aerial water bombing displays generously put on by CALMFire.

Perth District also made their mark on the festival, and their territory, with an excellent display on Gnaragara Park, by Annie Grieg, and the Swan Coastal Plains Walk Trail by Therese Jones, not to mention a well stocked stall selling a variety of merchandise such as caps and t-shirts.

Near Yanchep Inn, the sandalwood promotion was boosted by free wine tastings of Hotham Valley Wines

by Mitzi Vance

Classic Red enhanced with sandalwood fragrances.

A sandalwood truck from pioneer days, and an informative display, with incense sticks, fragrant wood shavings, and historic photographs, enticed many adults into the newly renovated Yanchep Inn, and also perked their interest in this precious timber resource.

One of the stage-grabbers of the day, however, was the *Western Shield* project, with its mascot Charlie the Chuditch who, with a little help from native animals from Kanyana Wildlife Centre, wowed the crowd.

Boxes of *Western Shield* informative brochures were picked up like ice creams on a 40-degree day—which it was.

CALM's observatory was by far the biggest highlight for festival-goers, as Government astronomer Jamie Biggs led his team into amazing the crowd with a slide show and high-tech, awe-inspiring telescopes.

Yes—it was indeed a fantastic promotional day for CALM, and for the Wanneroo community.

The Wanneroo Police had the task—no doubt envied by some—of setting up a Dunk a Copper Competition, while the local SES and community art and crafts groups operated numerous stalls, not to mention continuous entertainment throughout the day.

The success of this year's festival holds great promise for next year, when Yanchep National Park will once again come alive with CALM festivities under the Sun and Stars.



CALM Observatory volunteer Bevan Harris is on hand for questions from visitors such as those seen here peering at the stars through one of the observatory's transportable telescopes. Photo by David Gough.

## Kevin to research Rotto corals

REPRODUCTION can be difficult when you're stuck in one place, under water and surrounded by predators, just ask any coral! But with the assistance of the Dr George Malajczuk Scholarship, Kevin Crane will study how the corals at Rottne Island overcome these obstacles.

Kevin is currently on secondment to the

by Alan Byrne

Environmental Protection Branch as an Environmental Officer from Swan Region's Marine and Coastal District.

"At present, little is known about whether the corals at Rottne Island are self-replenishing, or are simply a result of coral larvae drifting south in the

Leeuwin Current from coral reefs further north. This has great implications for their management"

"If they aren't self-replenishing, then greater protection will be needed, as their ability to recover from human or natural disturbance would be greatly reduced, and dependent on the availability of larvae drifting south," Kevin said.

The study will also enable Kevin to draw some interesting comparisons between the mass spawning of corals in the north-west of Western Australia (first documented by Marine Conservation Branch Manager Chris Simpson), and that of corals on the Great Barrier Reef.

"The mass spawning of hundreds of different species of coral over just a few nights each year is truly one of the world's great natural spectacles. But while we have known about this mass 'orgy' for nearly 20 years, the reasons for such occurrences remain a mystery," Kevin said

"By comparing these mass spawnings between a variety of geographic locations with differing environmental regimes, I hope to discover which factors are causing corals to spawn in such a fashion."

Kevin has a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in marine biology and aquaculture from James

Cook University in Townsville.

The proposed study forms part of his Honours which he is completing at Murdoch University.

Kevin first joined CALM in 1995 on contract to Swan Region's Marine Operations Unit, and the former Marine Branch.

He subsequently helped write and research *Dive and Snorkel Sites* in WA, numerous bush books, and his article *Slugs of the Sea* appeared in the Spring 1996 issue of *LANDSCOPE*.

Interestingly, Kevin's love of the marine environment stems from a rather unusual incident.

"When I was about 10 I remember finding a common seahorse when I was snorkelling. I wanted to take it home but was afraid to pick it up, so I speared it with a gidgee. An hour or two later I couldn't help but feel guilty, and although I tried in vain to bring him back to life, my attempts were fruitless," he said.

"Needless to say, I never used the gidgee again—and I still have the seahorse by my desk to remind me where it all began."

Kevin Crane introduces a Penguin Island touch pool and resident sea urchin to Orana Primary School year 2 pupil Natalie Staunton. Photo by courtesy of Sound Telegraph.



## Planes play vital roles in firefighting strategy

THE integration of aerial fire fighting techniques into bushfire fighting operations again proved an outstanding success this summer.

Fire and Emergency Services acting Chief Executive Officer Bob Mitchell and CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the planes had played an invaluable support role for ground crews in combating bushfires in and around the Perth metropolitan area and hills suburbs.

Two water bombers—Dromader M18-As—used during summer attended 54 fires compared with 47 last year when they were introduced on a trial basis.

They were exceptionally effective during a spate of fires in the Casuarina-Southern River area, where on one day about 10 fires occurred. (A man was subsequently convicted after pleading guilty to lighting four of these fires.)

### Minimal losses

"Water bombing was a definite plus in terms of minimising property losses and giving ground crews an opportunity to get in and attack the fires,

particularly with such a big number being lit deliberately," Mr Mitchell said.

"The planes also played a key role in preventing what was potential devastation as a result of fires in the hills suburbs of Darlington in February, and Mt Helena in January.

"The fires in those three particular areas occurred on days of high temperatures, a factor that has a big bearing on how a fire will behave in terms of intensity and the rate at which it will spread."

Aerial fire fighting is a rapid-response, first strike tactic to hold fires in their early stages of development while ground crews are mobilised.

### Cost-effective

Dr Shea said an evaluation of the fire bombing last year had shown it was also cost-effective, resulting in savings of around \$9 for each \$1 spent on the operation.

"A further factor which is particularly significant is that aerial fire fighting lessens the exposure of fire fighters—most of whom are volunteers—to potential personal risk and injury," he

said. The operation of the planes is a joint effort among the State's fire agencies—the Fire and Rescue Service, Bush Fires Service and CALM.

### Close co-operation

Dr Shea and Mr Mitchell said the operation was strengthened by the close co-operation among fire agencies and support organisations such as the Police, State Emergency Service, Air Services Australia Fire and Rescue, the RAAF, Army, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, St John Ambulance, local government authorities, Water Corporation, Western Power and private contractors.

"On behalf of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and CALM, we thank the many hundreds of volunteers and career staff of all agencies and contractors involved for their efforts in responding to fires throughout the summer," they said.

"The threat of bushfires is ever present and everyone needs to accept their fair share of responsibility when it comes to minimising the risk and hazards."

# Catching up with two more field officer graduates

THE following two 1996 field officer graduates to be revisited, exemplify the diversity of backgrounds that blend to make up the dynamic culture that is CALM, with its broad spectrum of invaluable knowledge and skills. The graduates are Paul Connolly and Natasha Oke.

Paul and Natasha have one thing in common—one that is often found among other graduates—and that is their passion for the natural environment and the satisfaction they draw from their work.

Paul Connolly's love for the outdoors manifested itself well before his employment with CALM.

"Having been brought up on a property bordering Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve, I developed a gargantuan thirst for the outdoors that has stayed with me," said Paul.

"This 'thirst' prompted me in 1993 to enrol in an Environmental Management Bachelor of Science degree course at Edith Cowan University's Jondalup Campus."

Paul seized every chance to broaden and strengthen his degree, by undertaking work experience with CALM whenever possible.

This included work as a Cape Range National Park ranger, and also as a research assistant on the

by Justine  
Murphy

Jarrah Stand Improvement Project with CALM Dwellingup, while in his third year of university.

"These experiences with CALM gave me a solid foundation for a future career with the department, and led me to apply to take part in the field officer recruitment program," Paul said.

Paul is currently enjoying his role as a wildlife officer in CALM, and as a member of the Special Investigations Unit in the Wildlife Protection Branch at Como, he has become something of a detective.

## Targeting 'baddies'

"Duties in this unit include investigations into some of the more high-profile wildlife 'baddies', including wildlife traffickers", said Paul.

"This has meant working closely with a number of external enforcement agencies, including WA Police Service, Australian Customs Service and various interstate wildlife agencies."

Paul's other responsibilities include the monitoring of the Whale Watch Industry off Perth Waters, and the Whale Shark Industry off Ningaloo Reef near Exmouth.

As for his most memorable CALM experience,

Paul said, "My involvement in the Montebello Renewal project as part of *Western Shield* was a highlight of my introduction into CALM, and likely to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that won't easily be forgotten."

Natasha Oke, takes us to Manjimup, where she is currently employed as a dieback interpreter with the Forest Management Branch.

Natasha has been fortunate in having spread her wings and experienced a range of lifestyles from an early age.

Born in Melbourne, she has lived in country Victoria, Papua New Guinea, Canberra and NSW, before moving to WA.

In 1995, Natasha successfully completed a Bachelor of Science—Resource and Environmental Management degree at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

On completion of her degree, Natasha began work as a seasonal fire fighter in CALM's Mundaring District for approximately five months, finding the experience invaluable as well as memorable.

It was while working in Mundaring that she was accepted into the Field Officer recruitment program.

## Dieback interpretation

In September 1996, Natasha began work as a dieback interpreter in



Overseer Brian Smith, left, supervises budding CALM firefighters Paul Connolly and Natasha Oke, as they grapple to control the 'marauder nozzle', during their Fire Management Course at Dwellingup. Photo by Alan Byrne

Manjimup, where a significant proportion of her time is spent in the forest looking for, and mapping, the presence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* before logging operations begin.

Rare Flora and other surveys that involve her in looking for the Armillaria fungus in karri regrowth, are among Natasha's other duties.

The chance to see areas of the forest that are not readily accessible by everyone, is what she enjoys most in her job.

"I must say, too, that the wildflower season in the South West is very impressive, and the chance to see a wide variety of native animals in the wild is something I'm not accustomed to elsewhere in Australia," Natasha said.

## Snakes!

"The large number of snakes in the South West, for example, is quite an eye-opener," she said.

The success of the training program is obvious in both Paul and Natasha who, like those who have featured in *CALM NEWS* before them, have found that the

program provided a valuable avenue of contact between fellow field officers.

They also agreed that while some aspects of the program were not relevant to their present positions in the department, 'knowledge is never a burden'.

"After all, who knows what the future may require of us," they said.

# 'Bilby' Buchanan retires again to travel around Oz



Just a few of the many colleagues and friends who farewelled Bill Buchanan, seated with his wife Berry. From left they are: Clerical officers Viona Cleggett, Lisa Proctor, Sue Howell, Karen Price, Anne Watts, Debbi Italiano and Carmel Baggetta. Photo by Steven Gunn

MORNINGTON District administration officer Bill Buchanan, retired recently—for the second time.

Ten years ago, Bill retired from the department in Manjimup after 23 years' service, only to find re-appointment two years later in Collie.

Bill was one of CALM's true gentlemen. He was highly professional, intelligent, capable, obliging and totally dedicated to his job.

His attention to detail was both exemplary and necessary, given the complicated nature of administration roles these days.

Bill was liked by everyone, although he often said of himself that he was a 'hard-man' when he became angry with people who did the wrong thing.

On the contrary, he was the very definition of self control, and would always react as appropriate to the circumstances.

Bill kept the district's budget under tight control and, under his administration, potential problems were frequently averted before they became an issue.

Even up to his last hour at work—and while his wife Berry waited in the office to set off for his farewell luncheon—he was putting the finishing touches to an important issue.

by Drew Griffiths  
& Viona Cleggett

His loyalty to his staff was exemplary, and all feel a great sense of loss at his departure.

They nicknamed him 'Bilby', based on his email name 'billb', and presented him with a beautifully framed photo of a 'Native Bilby'.

Bill claimed an aversion to, and an ignorance of computers, having probably been out of the workforce at a critical time when they were just becoming more widely used.

If his claim was true, there was no evidence of it; Bill produced reports and analyses second to none. Of course, he'd check the arithmetic in his head; sometimes he would even use a calculator!

'Bilby' will be sorely missed by everyone in the Mornington District.

At the time of writing, Bill and Berry had already set off to see again some of the places they enjoyed when they 'motored' and 'caravanned' around Australia during Bill's last 'retirement'.

They also look forward to returning, so they can spend more time with their three children Sue, Bill and Peter, and their eight grandchildren.

## Granite outcrops book out

LAND for Wildlife has published its second booklet — *How to Manage your Granite Outcrops*.

The booklet has been written by Penny Hussey, with help from many CALM staff and Wheatbelt landholders.

The Minister for the Environment, Mrs Cheryl Edwardes, launched the booklet

informally, when she presented a copy to Warwick Senior High School (a Land for Wildlife school).

The booklet, which makes liberal use of colour photographs, is a practical guide to assessing, managing and revegetating rock outcrops in the South West of Western Australia.

It will be useful to all land-

holders and managers with rock outcrops on their properties.

A copy of *How to Manage Your Granite Outcrops* has been distributed to relevant CALM Regions and Districts. Further copies can be obtained for \$10.00 from Land For Wildlife, Wildlife Branch, Como.



# Protecting whale sharks

THE State Government has released a management plan to ensure the ecological sustainability of one of the State's most important marine nature-based tourism attractions—the whale sharks that visit the Ningaloo Marine Park off the North West Cape.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the release of the management plan coincided with the annual return of the whale sharks off Ningaloo Reef.

"Organised interactions with the whale sharks now attract more than 2,500 visitors each year compared with around 1,000 five years ago," she said.

It is estimated that the value of whale shark tourism to the WA economy is currently about \$9 million a year, and expected to increase to about \$13 million by the year 2000.

Marine scientists know very little about whale sharks' biology or their ecology, and although their appearance in the Ningaloo Marine Park at this time is predictable, it is not known why they come, where they come

from, or where they go.

CALM currently has 14 licensed charter boat operators who offer whale shark interaction tours within Ningaloo Marine Park, where groups of up to 10 people at a time can swim with the animals under strict guidelines prepared by CALM in consultation with the tour operators.

The management plan, prepared by CALM's Marine Conservation Branch and endorsed by the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, details the research needed to gain a better understanding of the species and to determine the possible links between environmental factors and whale shark numbers.

This includes instigating long-term monitoring programs to assess how and why numbers of whale sharks at Ningaloo vary naturally, as well as to determine if any impacts are occurring as a result of increasing tourism pressure.

The overall objectives are to improve the management of whale shark interactions and

provide the scientific basis for modifying management controls to minimise any impacts.

Whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) can grow to more than 12 metres long and weigh up to 12 tonnes. They are considered rare and are a protected species in WA waters.

"The conservation of the whale sharks must remain paramount and this is why the Government is keen to work with industry in implementing the management plan," the Minister said.

"Providing tourists with high quality experiences such as interaction with whale sharks will help foster a greater understanding of, and sympathy for, our marine environment and natural heritage."

Revenue from whale shark licence fees generate around \$37,000 a year and is used to fund research and monitoring programs.

Copies of the management plan are available from the CALM office at Exmouth and at the CALM Marine Conservation Branch in Fremantle.



Lisa Wright and Christine Farrell pore over the mountain of texts they used to compile their bibliography. Photo by Penny Walsh.

## New bibliography finished

by Penny Walsh

TWELVE months and 2,790 records down the track, Christine Farrell and Lisa Wright from CALM's Science and Information Division at Woodvale can reflect on a job well done.

Together, they have created a database of all scientific reports produced by Science and Information Division staff since the creation of CALM in 1985, and from that, they have produced a bibliography of all the Division's scientific papers.

"It was a bigger project than any of us expected," said Christine.

"Our review of existing records kept providing us with leads to more and more information."

In the end, Lisa and Christine had to compile a list of everyone who had ever worked for the Science and

Information Division, including consultants.

"We searched for, and listed the records we had for each individual, then we sent these out with a request for each person to update where appropriate," said Lisa.

There were some people who couldn't be located, and others who failed to respond. But Lisa and Christine soldiered on through mountainous library catalogues, research plans, staff appraisals (which list publications), reports, journals, books, magazines and newsletters.

Because library catalogues and bibliographic records differ in style and content, each one had to be keyed in, categorised and verified individually—a painstaking task—but the hard work has paid off, and

the database is working well.

The plan is to make the bibliography available to all CALM staff through CALM Web as soon as possible. It will also be immortalised in print in a forthcoming issue of CALMScience.

According to Lisa, it's a great way of letting people know what's available in Western Australia, because the journal is sent to scientific organisations around the world.

Of course, the job is not over yet. Now that they have established the database, Christine and Lisa have to keep it up to date.

In fact, Lisa has an even bigger challenge ahead—to document all research carried out by scientists from the Forests Department, National Parks, and Fisheries (Wildlife) since 1890! She hopes to be finished by January 2000.

## Kids can win a night out

UPPER primary school students throughout Western Australia will have the chance to win overnight camps or excursion days to learn first-hand about threatened native animals by using an educational activities program.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the 'Western Shield Education Pack' was developed by CALM to encourage awareness of the conservation of WA's native animal species.

"CALM's Western Shield project is the biggest wildlife conservation program ever undertaken in Australia," Mrs Edwardes said.

"It aims to bring back from the brink of extinction native animal species by controlling introduced predators, the fox and feral cat.

"The Western Shield

Education Action Pack provides teachers with four ready-made lessons on WA's threatened native animal species.

"It includes teachers' notes, resource sheets, activity sheets and suggestions for extension activities that all link to primary school curriculum subjects of Society and Environment, Science, Mathematics and Language."

It has been written and compiled by CALM education officers in close consultation with the practising teachers.

Each action pack contains an entry form for classes that undertake the pack's activities, with each entry going into a draw to win an overnight camp.

A separate draw is also conducted for Perth metropolitan schools, the prize being an excursion day to The Hills Forest Activity Centre in Mundaring.

There will be eight winning classes from throughout the State for the overnight camps; 'A night out with the woylies' at The Hills Forest, 'A night out with the possums' at Batalling forest, 'A night out with the wallabies' in Perup Forest Ecology Centre and 'A day out with the numbats' at Dryandra Woodlands.

Mrs Edwardes said that at each of the day excursions and overnight camps, students would have the opportunity to view native animals and learn about conservation methods, including trapping and spotlighting.

"The action pack is an excellent way for teachers to encourage and promote awareness in children about the nature of our native wildlife, the partnerships between plants and animals and the WA environment," she said.

## Course takes the heat out of steam boiler operation



LATE in 1997, CALM Timber Technology decided that several of its staff members needed training in steam boiler operation.

They had engaged a local firm to do the annual overhaul on their boilers and found out that principal Ken Greenhill also provided an excellent one-day training course.

The course could comfortably handle about 10 people, so four of Harvey Timber Technology staff were promptly booked into the on-site course.

A few phone calls later, five from the Manjimup Nursery and one from Narrogin Nursery made up the ten participants.

Manjimup hardwood nursery machine operator Glen Samsa from the Manjimup nursery said participants were most impressed.

"The course taught our younger staff that a boiler deserves respect. Even Dominic Deluca (Hardwood Nursery Supervisor of many years) found it was a great refresher."

Bob Brittain, who keeps the boilers at Harvey in excellent condition, said that the course

by Ian Rotheram

was very well run and he had learnt how he could make quite a few improvements to the way he maintained and operated the boilers.

"For those who have little or no boiler experience, it was a very good way to start—after all, boilers can be lethal if they're not operated properly," Bob said.

Participants in the steam boiler operation course (left to right): Manjimup Hardwood Nursery supervisor Dominic De Luca, CALM Timber Technology's valwood production manager Bob Brittain, course instructor Ken Greenhill, machine operators Sandro Ciccone, Glen Samsa, Clarke Tassell, Angelo Femia and Carlo Renzullo, utilisation officer Steve Davis and technical officer Peter Hill. Not in photo is leading hand Brian Haines. Photo by Ian Rotheram.

# Bushwalks in the South-West a top-selling success



Leshenault Peninsula Conservation Park ranger-in-charge Peter Morris (left) looks pleased with the fact that Premier Richard Court launched Bushwalks in the South-West at 'his' park. Photo by Mitzi Vance.

by Mitzi Vance

CALM's latest addition, and first regionally based recreation publication, hit the bookstores with a vengeance over Christmas, and has claimed a spot in the top 10 best-sellers' list.

In less than a month, *Bushwalks in the South-West* became a best-seller and an essential guide for local residents and visitors to the many national parks in the South West of WA.

Launched in December by Premier Richard Court in Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park, the 166-page book is a comprehensive guide to 49 bushwalks, including mud maps and descriptions of plants and animals that walkers may see along each trail.

The Premier said the publication was an excellent tool in encouraging Western Australians to go bush and experience the natural wonders of our conservation reserves.

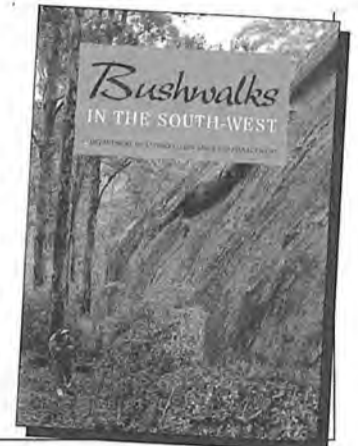
He said CALM had embarked on a very worthy process of encouraging people to experience our natural environment by providing informative guides to facilitate nature-based recreation in the State's conservation reserves.

The publication follows on

from CALM's recreation publication series that includes *Family Walks in Perth Outdoors* and *More Family Walks in Perth Outdoors*.

*Bushwalks in the South-West* also contains a guide to safe walking in the bush, detailing information on precautionary measures such as being aware of potential risk signs, the need to wear sturdy footwear and taking water, hat and provisions with you.

The book was compiled and edited by Carolyn Thomson-Dans with the assistance and support of a number of CALM staff from the South West region.



## Stev's win to help tourism

by Alan Byrne

CALM's inaugural Seamus Mulholland Scholarship has been awarded to The Hills Forest manager Stev Slavin.

Stev will use the scholarship to begin a Graduate Diploma in Business (Tourism), after which he intends to work towards a Masters degree.

"I believe, we have to develop an intimate link between tourism, conservation, and learning to preserve our natural estate," Stev said.

"If facilities are well designed and visitors actively involved, tourism can provide the money for conservation and sound land management.

"With a background in community education, recreation and some landscape design skills, I want this study to provide me with the skills to be part of this future for CALM".

Stev was born and raised in South Australia but 'escaped to the Wildflower State' in 1982, with a passion for Western Australia's flora.

After six years with the WA Main Roads Department's Landscape Section, Stev came to CALM in 1988, initially on a short-duration secondment as a regional interpretation and community education officer at the then Northern Forest Regional office in Kelmescott.

After three years at Kelmescott, he collaborated with senior interpretation officer Gil Field to develop the original proposal for The Hills Forest project in 1991.

Over the past six years, Stev has focused solely on the

development of the project, which is currently attracting 20,000 paying participants to its activity and educational programs.

Of the \$2 million dollars-plus spent on the project date, an average of 43 per cent has been from sponsors.

"It was a green fields project that started on little more than a space next to State forest in Mundaring, but with the enthusiastic spirit of the district staff, and the local community we have been able to build a great facility," Stev said.

Left: Listening intently to scholarship winner Stev Slavin are several cadets from The West Australian newspaper during a briefing on The Hills Forest concept. Photo by Nigel Higgs

## New Staff Development Co-ordinator

**HUMAN Resources Branch has a new face—that of Rosemary Seneviratne—who has taken up the position of Staff Development Co-ordinator.**

Originally from Singapore, Rosemary completed a degree in Political Science and English as well as a graduate Teaching Diploma at the University of Singapore, before immigrating to Australia.

She continued her studies and has post-graduate qualifications in Library and Information Science, Human Services Research, and Public Policy.

Rosemary comes to CALM from the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Centre (AMTC) in Perth, where she was Manager of Human Resources and Client Services.

Some of the positions she

has held include: Head of Education Services at the WA Museum; College Librarian at TAFE, WA; Deputy Principal of Wagin District High School; Staff Development Training Co-ordinator at TAFE, Victoria; Training and Development Consultant with the Office of Industrial Training, WA; and Human Resources and Staff Development Co-ordinator for the North Metropolitan Health Region (WA).

Rosemary has worked in several countries, where her employment history shows diverse experience in education, training, research and management.

For three years, she worked with the Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education in Indonesia, developing training and fellowship programs as well as resources and facilities.

She conducted research for the development of the Commerce Polytechnics' World Bank project design, including its educational specifications, and co-ordinated the training of teaching and administrative staff.

Rosemary has also worked for Australia on the international training scene. She served as an advisor on two national projects in Indonesia: Indonesia-Australian Technical Education and the World Bank Polytechnics.

Back in Australia her experience was used to establish the international unit at TAFE, WA, where she was the first Overseas Projects Officer.

As Staff Development Co-ordinator, she will be responsible for co-ordinating CALM's training and development efforts.

"My job will be to ensure the provision of the best and

most appropriate staff training, consistent with CALM's strategic directions," said Rosemary.

"Initially, the major focus will be on the evaluation of the Performance Management System, co-ordinating its implementation, and establishing a comprehensive profile and database of training across CALM."

Rosemary has a keen interest in art, especially Australian art, collects 'old things that are interesting and affordable', and likes listening to jazz and classical music. She is married and met her Australian husband while working in Indonesia.

Right: Human Resources' new Staff Development Co-ordinator Rosemary Seneviratne. Photo by Verna Costello.

