

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1998
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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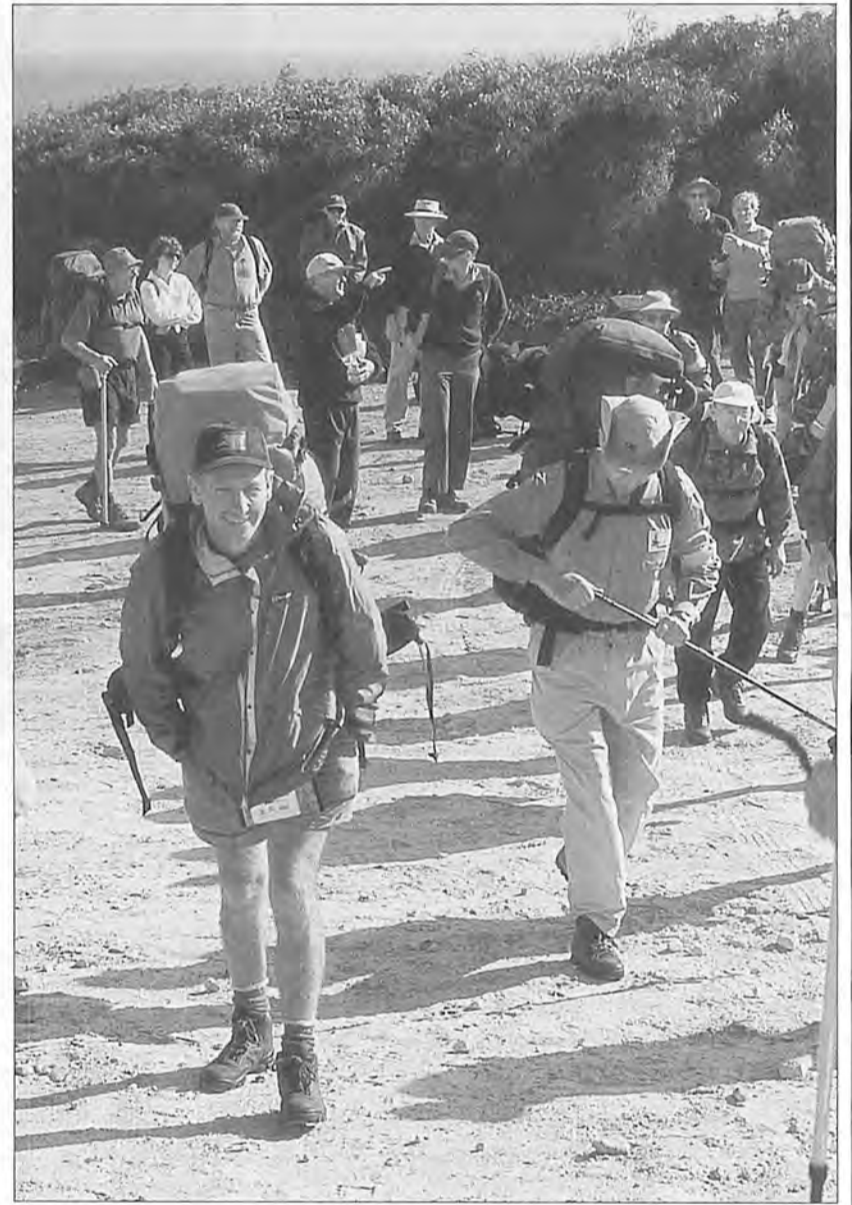


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Official opening of the Bibbulmun Track



Left: Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes cuts the ribbon to officially open the track. Above: Bibbulmun Track walkers set off from Sand Patch, near Albany. Photo by Annie Keating

Bush Rangers are raring to go!

CALM's Bush Ranger program is proving to be a big hit, with more than 300 secondary school students already signed up, and five more schools getting involved from the beginning of Term 4.

Two schools - Duncraig and John Forrest Senior High - have been trialing the voluntary program, which gives young people the opportunity to participate in nature conservation projects that promote personal development and practical life skills.

The program is aimed at 13 to 17-year-olds, with parents and community leaders being invited to join in leading, instructing and supporting cadets in programs.

CALM Bush Ranger Program Coordinator, Bronwyn Goble, said it had been an exciting project to be involved in.

"The response has been wonderful. We had a group from Duncraig Senior High School take part in a hands-on educational wildlife recovery session to mark National Threatened Species Day recently.

"They went to The Hills Forest in Mundaring, where they were given an overview of *Western Shield*, CALM's wildlife recovery program, and then learnt how to identify and monitor native wildlife."

"It was great to see their eyes light up as the pygmy

possums, black gloved wallabies, woylies and ring-tailed possums were brought out."

The cadets also tried their hands at mixing bait and setting traps for wildlife monitoring programs. Other training during the program will include First Aid, bush-craft and survival, navigation skills, park management, threatened plant and animal conservation, leadership and interpersonal skills.

Bush Rangers will be able to assist in a range of projects, from remnant bushland conservation to flora and fauna monitoring, research, and interpretation within WA's Regional Parks.

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A first-hand experience for this CALM Bush Ranger. Photo by Rolf Percy

THE cast of thousands who have worked together to 'build a better bibbulmun' were able to celebrate a job well done last month, as Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes cut a ribbon and farewelled the first team of 'end to enders' from the southern terminus in Albany.

The new track extends from Kalamunda on the outskirts of Perth to Albany on the south coast, winding 960 km through WA's magnificent forests and spectacular southern coastline.

"The Bibbulmun Track is one of WA's great natural tourist attractions," Mrs Edwardes said.

"While it's enjoyed by thousands of people every year for picturesque short walks and weekend camps, others see it as one of the world's great long-distance adventures.

"It will attract thousands of tourists, and provide a significant boost to small towns along the way."

The Building a Better Bibbulmun Project is a CALM initiative and has involved a wide range of local community groups, other Government agencies and corporate sponsors.

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

continued page 2



Over the past several years I have been developing an hypothesis about management which is simply that far too often "the bleeding obvious" is ignored. It is obvious that training and development is a critical factor in the performance of all organisations, yet far too often, despite the plethora of words about it, opportunities for training and development after initiation into departments or private companies are limited.

Training and development has always been critical to CALM because of our diversity, the constant need to produce more with constraints on financial resources, the rate of change of technology and the myriad of disciplines that we encompass. It is easy to get excited (as I do) about how new technology is opening up new horizons for us, but it is sobering to recognise that we won't capitalise on this new technology unless we have the training programs in place which permit people to use it.

Training in special disciplines will always be important to CALM, but it is even more important that we have people in the organisation who are multi-skilled because integrated management depends on people who can be "quarter-backs". That is, people who can take information from a variety of sources and marshal the resources to implement management on the ground.

One of the core areas of training in the Department is the fourteen weeks of competency training over a two year traineeship period that we provide our new recruits. There were concerns when we abandoned our own cadet scheme, because of costs, that the new scheme would not produce the same quality of field officers we have enjoyed for so many years. I am extremely pleased that the new system, which has resulted in the induction of over 60 outstanding graduates into CALM, is working very well.

Training is also about providing opportunities for people to undertake training at different stages of their career. I am very pleased that a number of AWU staff (we currently have 12 AWU employees enrolled at CYO O'Connor College of TAFE) have taken the opportunity to get the appropriate qualifications to progress into other career pathways in CALM. Corporate Executive have recently approved funding to appoint a coordinator to further develop this program and to develop other AWU training projects.

I was always grateful to the Forests Department who provided me the opportunity to undertake post-graduate studies, which I hope has subsequently proved a good investment. In 1998, CALM implemented the Dr George Malajczuk and Seamus Mulholland post-graduate scholarship schemes which are designed to give CALM people with graduate degrees the opportunity to progress further.

Corporate Executive has now approved funding which will assist people in CALM who wish to undertake under-graduate degrees as well.

In addition to the tertiary based courses, CALM offers a huge range of short courses like recreation, planning and design, media, fire management and so on.

While I think that we have made a good effort at providing training and development opportunities for anyone in CALM, training and development is so important that we can never rest on our laurels. Apart from contacting me or Cliff Gillam or Alan Byrne about training matters, I have specifically asked the CALM People Reference Group to be available for anybody in CALM who has ideas about how we should improve our training and development programs.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

Official opening of the Bibbulmun Track

(from page 1)

Sponsors include the Ministry of Justice, Trails West, the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track, Alcoa of Australia, Regional Development Commission, Employment Training programs, Worsley Alumina, Griffin Coal, Hedges Gold, Random Access, CSBP and Farmers, Mountain Designs, BP Australia, Alpha West, Midland Brick, Cullity Timbers and the Gordon Reid Foundation (Lotteries

Commission). The Federal Government's Regional Development Program has contributed \$1.38 million through the Southern Province Projects Group over two years for the program.

The Lotteries Commission also has granted \$136,500 to the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track for a range of maintenance, management and marketing initiatives. The Friends and CALM have

produced two videos that promote the track and tell intending walkers how to have a safe and enjoyable adventure.

Project Coordinator, Peter Bidwell, said that since work began on the new track four years ago, there had been major improvements to facilities.

"There are now 48 new campsites with sleeping shelters, toilets, rainwater tanks, tent areas and tables," he said.

"The whole project has been a team effort, with support from CALM staff, prisoners, and people in employment and training programs. It's a credit to everyone involved."

The new Bibbulmun Track is part of an integrated program by CALM to create greater opportunities for nature-based tourism in WA. To further enhance the Bibbulmun experience, a new series of coloured maps have

been produced and are available to the public. These maps, along with other CALM publications such as the popular *Bush Books*, help walkers interpret the many different aspects of the forest they will encounter along the way.

A new track guide for the northern section from Kalamunda to Brockman Highway has been released and a guide for the southern section is currently in production.



Bush Rangers from Duncraig Senior High School lend a hand on Threatened Species Day at the Hills Forest. Photo by Rolf Perey

Bush Rangers are raring to go!

(from page 1)

They will be encouraged to build links with local councils and community groups.

Project Leader, Liz Moore, said that support from CALM staff for the Bush Rangers Program had been overwhelming.

"A comprehensive series of Bush Ranger Manuals has been produced, and we couldn't have done it without the help of CALM staff from Esperance right through to the Kimberley. People have really gone out of their way, and

Bronwyn and I would like to send a special thank you."

More information on the CALM Bush Ranger Program is available on NatureBase at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au> or from Bronwyn Goble at Como (08) 93340137.

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

Plaudits for Ross McGill at Mirima NP

We are two San Franciscans hiking and driving from Perth to Kununurra. Of the many National Parks we have visited, we find Mirima the best. The trails, although quite short, are impeccably maintained. Ranger Ross McGill's lecturing was excellent!

Katemia Hollblad-Fedimar MD MPH
Jeff Fadunan PhD

Bibbulmun Bouquet

I am writing to tell you about a most pleasant experience I had on the Bibbulmun track.

One Sunday, my parents took me to Nanga. We left late, so we had little time to do anything except set up our tent then go to bed. The following morning, our plans were to drive to the Harvey-Quindanning Road and walk to the Dookanely Campsite. My Father and

I were to spend the night there and be picked up the next morning at Driver Road. However, while collecting camp fees, a CALM Officer advised us to be dropped off at Driver Road and walk to the Murray Campsite. We could then walk on the following morning to be picked up at Yarragil Formation. He made this suggestion because the Murray campsite was an enjoyable

place with a view of the river.

We took the officer's advice and headed off to Driver Road. It was a lovely walk to the Murray Campsite with stunning views of surrounding hills. When we arrived at the Murray Campsite, we were impressed. The facilities were excellent; running water, a wood heap and a practical hut. That night, we had a pleasant fire then

went to bed early.

The next morning we took to the track again to walk to Yarragil Formation where we had arranged to be picked up. The walk was through rougher terrain but I enjoyed the short walk thoroughly.

On a final note I wish to thank you for the concept of the Bibbulmun track and the way it has been implemented.

Xavier Harvey

Staff Movements

Contract Staff

Jay Huang to Information Services Section Clerical Officer, Level 1; Gillian Stack to Nature Conservation, Woodvale, as Project Officer, Level 2; Robyn Phillimore to Nature Conservation, Woodvale, as Project Officer, Level 3; Rebecca Evans to Nature Conservation, Woodvale, as Project Officer, Level 2; Dorian Moro to Woodvale as Research Scientist, Level 2/4; Sheila Hamilton-Brown to Woodvale as Project Officer, Level 2; Myles Mulvey to Perth District as Field Officer, Level 1/2; Neville Walliss to Wildlife as Technical Officer, Level 2; Chantal Laval to Dwellingup as Assistant Training Officer, Level 1/2; Jan Gathe to Herbarium as Project Co-Ordinator, Level 5; Warren Boggs to Karratha as Assistant Conservation Officer, Level 2/4; Nadine Guthrie to Woodvale as Technical Officer, Level 2; Meriel Falconer to Herbarium as Database Operator, Level 1; Kiri White to Calmscience Busselton as Wetlands Review Officer, Level 2/4.

Permanent Staff

Tony Eddleston, Marine And Coastal District, as Park Management Officer, Grade 2 Year 1; Lyal Woods, Marine And Coastal District, as Park Management Officer, Grade 2 Year 1; Peter Vickridge, Kirup, as Administration Officer, Level 3; Malcolm Burton, Millstream-Chichester NP, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1; Dave Griff Plantations Albany, as Assistant Area Co-Ordinator, Level 1; Ingrid Hunt, Karijini NP, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1; Enid Moore, Albany, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Pauline Leeson, Albany, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; David Bastiani, to Albany from Walpole, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Adam Meyer, Exmouth, as Reserves Officer, Level 2.

Promotions

Graeme Hobson to Area Coordinator, Level 3 at Collie Sharefarms; Bryan Nicholson to Supply and Facilities Officer, Level 2 at Supply Section; Mark Lush to Area Coordinator, Level 3 at Collie Sharefarms; Adrienne Yzerman to Administrative Assistant, Level 2 at Police Department; Alan Danks to Regional Leader Nature Conservation, Level 5 at Albany; Barry Hooper to Operations Officer, Level 3 at Mundaring; Ben Drouyn to Forester, Level 3 at State Forest Resources Business Unit, Harvey; Mark Giblett to Senior Field Manager, Level 5 at South Coast Sharefarms, Albany; David Mcmillan to Area Coordinator, Level 3 at South Coast Sharefarms.

Transfers

Kim Phillips-Jones from Manjimup to Sandalwood Bus Unit, Kalgoorlie, as Senior Operations Officer, Level 5; John Tillman from Walpole to Nannup as District Fire Coordinator, Level 4.

Seconded

Stephen Gray to Walpole as Field Officer, Level 1/2, from Manjimup.

Retired

Jack Bradshaw from Manjimup as Manager, Level 8; Christopher Hart from William Bay National Park, Walpole, as a Ranger Grade 2 Year 5.

Resigned

Bob Rickman from Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, as Senior Ranger, Level 1; John Dakin from Information Services Section, Como, as Support Coordinator, Level 3; Jackie Courtenay from Albany as Research Scientist, Level 2/4; Belinda Capper from Financial Services as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Leigh Whisson from Albany as Technical Officer, Level 2; Mark Norton from Walpole as Field Officer, Level 1/2; Leonie Noble from Communications Branch, Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1

Voluntary Severance

Alex Robinson from Manjimup Research as Technical Officer, Level 3

All hands on deck for the Great Sausage Drop



Back row, left to right: Zoe Clarke AWU Forest Worker Manjimup; Tub Liddelow senior technical officer Manjimup; Brian Whittred Conservation Officer Manjimup; Bob Wills AWU Forest Worker Manjimup; Michelle Rouffignac Keeper Perth Zoo. Middle Row: Mark Barley Wildlife Officer Manjimup; John Rooney Technical Officer Manjimup; Ian Wilson Nature Conservation Officer Manjimup; Ian Wheeler Technical Officer Manjimup; Nicole Boeyink Dutch university student; Cree Monaghan Veterinarian Perth Zoo; Alicia Brown Manjimup Resident; Raymond Redner Keeper Perth Zoo. Front Row: Melissa Gitsis Clerical Officer Manjimup; Jenny Anderson Perth Volunteer; Anne Smith Perth Volunteer; Robyn McCreanor Manjimup Aboriginal Corporation; Colin Ward Technical Officer Manjimup; Annemich van Beck Dutch university student; Allan Murray Honours student Murdoch. Photo by Adrian Wayne

THE intriguingly named Great Sausage Drop (GSD) was designed by CALM-Science to investigate whether medium-sized native mammals would be tempted to take up a new sausage-style fox bait that is being developed by CALMScience's Dave Algar and Joe-Ann Sinagra.

A non-toxic form of the sausage bait, impregnated with a marker substance (Rhodamine B), was used during the GSD. The baits were aerially dropped through the Kingston and adjacent State Forest blocks and left for two weeks.

At the end of the two-week period, a wide-scale trapping and sampling operation swung into action. Species such as the quenda, woylie, brushtail possum and chuditch were sampled.

The whiskers of randomly selected animals were taken and analysed for traces of Rhodamine B. This analysis gave project researchers an indication of just how attractive the native mammals of the Jarrah forest would find the sausage baits.

The results, which are still being compiled, will contribute to the fine-tuning of CALM's Western Shield baiting program - a wildlife recovery initiative that aims to bring our native mammals back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators such as the fox and feral cat.

Teamwork

Field Coordinator, Adrian Wayne, from CALMScience in Manjimup, said the whole exercise was a great example of teamwork.

"So many different groups

and individuals were involved and it's a credit to all of them that the project ran so smoothly.

The 1600 baits were made in Perth, dried using the Agricultural Protection Board facilities in Forrestfield, and impregnated with Rhodamine by Woodvale and Manjimup CALMScience staff.

Volunteers

District and CALMScience staff at Manjimup conducted the trapping with the help of volunteers. The Veterinary staff at Perth Zoo performed the anaesthesia (for whisker removal) and helped to process the animals. Woodvale CALMScience staff Dave Algar and Joe-Ann Sinagra were responsible for whisker analysis.

"In particular, I'd like to recognise the contributions of the Perth Zoo, CALM

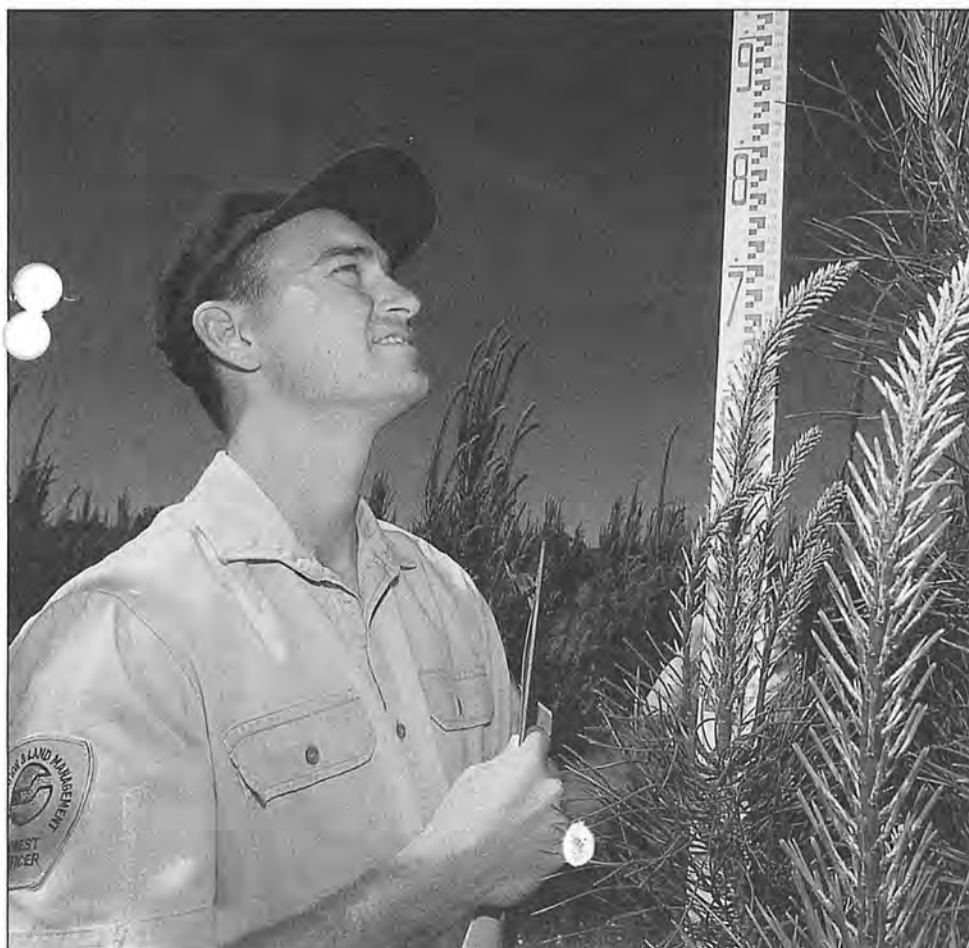
Manjimup District, and of course the many volunteers who give up their time to help us out," Adrian said.

The project also fostered cooperative research. Invitations were extended to the Biological and Zoological Departments of the major Western Australian Universities, Perth Zoo and the Western Australian Museum to piggyback their research on the CALM project.

"The whole exercise was labour and resource intensive. Providing other agencies the chance to collect samples and information for their own research at the same time has saved many thousands of WA research dollars. It also maximised our ability to best manage and conserve forest fauna through cooperatively increasing our research and knowledge base," Adrian said.



CALMScience Field Coordinator, Adrian Wayne with a woylie minus one of its whiskers. Photo by Bruce Ward



David Guille, Area Coordinator with Pine Sharefarms, assesses the growth of three-year-old maritime pine. Photo by Dennis Sarson

WA leads nation in tree planting

WESTERN Australia is implementing the biggest softwood and hardwood afforestation program ever undertaken in Australia.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has just completed another successful tree planting program with the production of 20 million seedlings for planting in WA and the eastern states.

This winter, CALM and the private sector have planted bluegums and maritime pines on more than 20,000 hectares of cleared farmland in the south-west.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea said the plantings brought to 120,000 hectares the area of cleared farmland that had been reforested with commercial tree crops in the past 10 years. This meant that WA was now at the forefront in

national reforestation and tree crops projects.

"In the higher rainfall areas, CALM and private companies, in association with farmers, are planting bluegums for use in producing fine writing paper. In the medium rainfall zones, CALM is planting maritime pines that will form the basis of regional manufacturing and downstream processing facilities in the future.

"Interest in maritime pines means that we are well on the way to achieving our target of planting 20,000 ha a year, in partnership with private landowners.

"By 2020, we expect to have 500,000 ha of maritime pines in woodlots on cleared farmland and 300,000 hectares of other species, including eucalypts for the production of oil. "New maritime pine plantings result in more resource and

will attract further investment in downstream processing facilities, particularly in regional areas where they have major benefits for local economies."

Dr Shea said CALM had begun an \$8 million expansion program at its plant propagation centre in Manjimup, to increase seedling production.

"Over the next two years, we will increase the number of seedlings from around 25 million to between 50 and 60 million a year," he said.

"The majority of this increase will be maritime pines generated using new propagation techniques from genetically superior strains.

These strains have faster growth rates and better timber quality than their predecessors, which makes them more attractive economically and environmentally.



Left to right: Darryl Bell, State Manager Coles Supermarkets, Don Henry, Executive Director Australian Conservation Foundation and Hon Cheryl Edwards with a baby bilby at Kanyana. Photo by Ernie McLintock.

Chocolate boost for bilbies

BILBY breeding facilities at Kanyana and Shark Bay are set for further success after a \$13,000 boost from the sale of chocolate easter bilbies at Coles Supermarkets.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards accepted the cheque from the Australian Conservation Foundation at Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre in Gooseberry Hill recently. She said it highlighted the

commitment of the private sector, the wider community and Government agencies to native animal conservation.

Twenty bilbies have now been born as part of CALM's captive breeding program—eight at Peron and 12 at Kanyana—and plans are underway for a new breeding site at Dryandra Woodland in the Wheatbelt.

Mrs Edwards said the co-operative effort of the ACF (which administers

the funds, along with the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society), Coles Supermarkets and the people who bought the chocolate easter bilbies would boost CALM's plans to secure the long-term future of the bilby.

Keith Morris, head of Biodiversity Conservation for CALMScience, said the bilby captive breeding stations were vital to the success of the species' recovery plan.

"Bilbies have been at Kanyana for almost two years and Shark Bay for about 18 months. Both facilities are modelled on the species' natural environment and both are getting good results."

"The money raised as a result of the chocolate bilby sales will go towards maintaining the existing facilities and funding searches for wild populations for translocation."

Controlling carbon

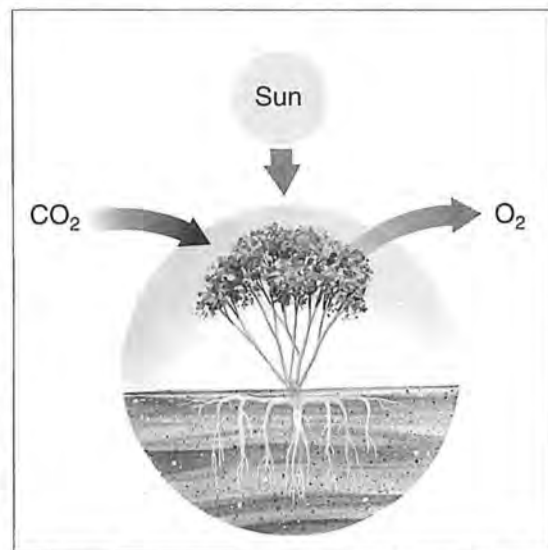
OVER the next two decades, the area of cleared farmland in WA that will be sown to tree crops will increase to 500,000ha. Not only will this generate 13 million tonnes of wood fibre, it will create a carbon sink of more than 200 million tonnes.

Marking Carbon Awareness Day recently, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards said that WA was well placed to become a key 'carbon sink' for international efforts aimed at combating the Greenhouse effect.

'Sink' in this context means any process, activity or mechanism that removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol, or a precursor to a greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere. Forests and other natural ecosystems are excellent absorbers of carbon.

Mrs Edwards said there was potential for the amount of carbon absorbed to double with the development of one million hectares of oil producing mallees in the drier parts of the Wheatbelt.

Referring to Australia's signing of the Kyoto Protocol on Greenhouse emissions last year, Mrs Edwards said the Commonwealth and State Governments needed to set the ground rules for carbon emissions and



Fueled by energy from the sun, plants take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and extract the carbon to make sugars. In trees, these sugars are converted into the complex carbon molecules that constitute wood. The remaining oxygen molecules are released.

sequestration.

"We need to remove uncertainty and provide an even greater incentive to landowners to incorporate tree crops into their existing management operations," she said.

Carbon Awareness Day aimed to raise awareness about carbon and some of the strategies that could be used to reduce carbon emissions. One of the day's sponsors was the Australian Youth Parliament for the Environment. WA has five representatives: Leonie Freeman - Year 12 John Forrest Senior High School; Ryan Durell -

Year 12 Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School; Katrina Naylor - Year 11 Thornlie Senior High School; Christopher Baroni - Year 10 Wyalkatchem District High School; and Sally Forrest - Year 8 Donnybrook District School.

CALM Corporate Relations has copies of the recent ABC TV show Landline that features CALM Executive Director Syd Shea and CALM's initiatives in carbon credits. Staff members who would like to borrow a copy can contact John Hunter in Corporate Relations on 9389 8644.

CALMweb is multi-award winner

CALM has won two prestigious awards for CALMweb, its internal website. The first came from the WA chapter of the Public Relations Institute of Australia, for excellence in employee communications. It was presented at the Institute's annual awards night in September.

The second came at a national level, when the website was 'Highly Commended' at the Public Relations Institute of Australia's Golden Target Awards in Brisbane.

One of the driving forces behind CALMweb is David Gough, Communications Officer with CALM Corporate Relations Division. He said the awards were a pleasant surprise.

"CALMweb is a team effort, so I'm delighted on behalf of all the people who contribute to the site. Each division or branch is responsible for its own pages on the web, so there are about 40 CALMweb authors so far," David said.

As well as giving people a sense of ownership, the wide spread of contributors ensures the information that goes up on the site is relevant to each section.

"CALMweb is a really powerful communications tool and we haven't even begun to see its potential. As well as helping staff share knowledge, it helps them get to know each other. It integrates a wide range of day-to-day operations and activities into one web-based facility that can be accessed by almost everyone in CALM."

As well as being a useful source of information on CALM policies, forms, manuals and administration instructions, CALMweb will eventually allow employees to carry out simple Human Resource tasks, such as applying for annual leave, on-line.

Many of the key features of the site have been developed in-house. Some of the core members of the Authors'



CALMweb authors standing left to right: David Burbidge, Bruce Richardson, Karn Shaddock, Warwick Boardman, Allan Burbidge, David Gough, John Dunn and front Director Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Ron Kawalilak with author Steve Grasso. Photo by Penny Walsh

Group have particular skills in information architecture, programming and design.

"For example, the Human Resources team is building an online information manual called CALMpeople that will provide a one-stop shop for information on employees' rights and responsibilities, EEO policies, pay rates, workplace and enterprise agreements," David said.

"The challenge with CALMweb is to think about the way you work, and then be flexible enough to let the site help you work smarter. Consider things like on-line meetings and training, frequently asked questions, or a 'who's who' and 'who does what' in your area."

Thirty-seven of CALM's 41 major offices in WA are now linked to CALMweb. Terminals are also being

installed in work centres. The Information Management Branch plans to have everyone connected by 1999.

CALMweb authors are: David Gough, Steve Grasso, Grace Silvestro, Dawn Prior, John Vodopier, Bruce Richardson, Paul Gioia, Alex Chapman, Kathryn Lee, Lisa Wright, Allan Burbidge, Simon Woodman, Jill Pryde, Pamela Burgoyne, Julia Lewis, Trevor Morgan, Frank Mansillas,

Christine Farrell, Karen Shaddock, Ben Richardson, Bob Mitchell, John Dunn, Jan Rayner, Matthew Sapsworth, David Burbidge, Ray Lawrie, Beng Mahon, Val Erceg, Bruce Maslin, Jacqueline Baxter, David Lamont, Kevin Bancroft, Taryn Linning, Mike Choo, Brad Wilkins, Warwick Boardman, Greg Heberle, Paul Jones, Emma Bramwell and Suzanne Curry.



Spot the interloper. Photo by Babs & Bert Wells/CALM

Chuditch travel tales

FOR proof of the success of CALM's Wildlife Recovery Programs, one need look no further than Salmon Gums, where a farmer reported seeing a strange-looking animal near his chicken pen earlier this year.

The farmer, Greg Kenney, immediately contacted Esperance CALM Wildlife Officer, Les Coyne, who thought the description sounded like a chuditch.

"First, I thought it must have been a possum or a bandicoot, but then the chap started talking about spots," said Les.

"He also mentioned that the animal looked like it had an ear

tag, which could only mean it was released from a captive breeding program by a CALM research team."

After a second sighting, Les delivered a suitable trap to the farm, and viewed a video of the interloper, made by Mrs Kenney.

"After I'd seen the video, there was no doubt about it," said Les.

The animal was duly caught and delivered safely to Les at Esperance. He then contacted CALM's Woodvale Research Centre and confirmed that the ear tags matched that of a male animal released at Cape Arid National Park in April.

At the time of its release from Cape Arid, the chuditch weighed 1,900g. When it was captured, 180 kilometres away, it weighed only 12g less - not bad for such a trek.

"The intriguing thing is - why did this animal keep walking? Their traditional range stretches to 15 square kilometres, but this individual crossed the Norseman Highway and just kept walking."

The wandering chuditch has since been re-released at Cape Arid. There have been no repeat sightings around Salmon Gums - so far.

This story was based on an article in the Gnowangerup Star.

Threatened Species - making a difference

NATIONAL Threatened Species Day—a day designed to stimulate public awareness of the need to conserve our native wildlife for future generations—was celebrated in September.

WA is a world leader in wildlife conservation, but Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said that more could and would be done.

Initiatives to help threatened species include the introduction of new biological diversity conservation legislation to replace the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

There will also be the progressive establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) conservation reserve system. There will be specific recovery

programs for threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities, as well as programs to deal with threatening processes such as feral animals, weeds, dieback and salinity.

Mrs Edwardes said that, as a State, WA had the best record in Australia for developing and implementing wildlife recovery plans to conserve our

threatened species.

"Through wildlife recovery programs like *Western Shield*, CALM is bringing native animals back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators - the fox and feral cat," she said.

Baiting on more than 3.5 million hectares of land throughout the State, coupled with captive breeding

programs and animal translocations, has meant that CALM has been able to successfully bring some species back from the brink of extinction.

The State's fauna emblem, the numbat, is one such species which has benefited from conservation management and is now no longer considered 'endangered' but 'vulnerable'. Likewise,

the population of chuditch has grown as a result of management and its status changed to vulnerable (see Chuditch Travel Tales above).

Mrs Edwardes said that a real milestone in the wildlife recovery program was the removal of three species - the woylie, tammar and quenda - from the State's Threatened Species List.

"Work is also underway to conserve our native flora - the most diverse in the world - with at least 12,000 species of flowering plants."

In 1991, 53 species of WA native flora were listed as presumed extinct; today the number has been reduced to 23 and in the past eight years 18 species have been rediscovered.



CALM Narrogin Rural Advisory Officer, Peter White, shows volunteers how to use a pottiputki.

Duncraig SHS students discover *Western Shield*

MORNINGTON District Forest Rangers, Rob Brazell and Mitchell Davies were guest lecturers at a Duncraig Senior High School science camp at Logue Brook recently.

They spoke with a group of Year 11 Biology students about CALM - its people, its functions, and the lands and waters it manages on behalf of all Western Australians; and about *Western Shield*—CALM's Wildlife Recovery Program and the management

of threatened fauna.

While Rob has made quite a few presentations to students, it was Mitchell's first time, and he was relieved that things went well.

"The students seemed really interested and they had plenty of questions lined up for me at the end - ranging from timber harvesting and forest management issues to prescribed burning," he said.

Duncraig SHS Head of Biological Sciences, Martin Coroneos, said the presentation

was greatly appreciated.

"The key thing was that the students had an opportunity to ask the tough questions, and also see the conservation side of what CALM does with programs like *Western Shield*."

"It's important that students get out in the bush as part of their studies. A lot of them would love to get involved in conservation work, so it was good for them to hear about life as a CALM Ranger," Mr Coroneos said.

Putting their Potti-putkis into action

A GROUP of CALM employees have been helping Western Power in its commitment to plant one million trees by 2000.

Peter White, Trish Sprigg and Clare Anthony were involved in part of the company's Greening Challenge near Narrogin in the State's south. The trio joined 400 other volunteers to plant more than 200,000 tree seedlings over four weekends in the Hotham River Catchment.

with thanks to
Western Power

Peter, from CALM's Narrogin office, has been involved in the Challenge for the past three years as a volunteer weekend group coordinator. Trish runs the CALM Nursery at Narrogin and oversees the growing of the seedlings for Western Power, while Clare Anthony volunteers her Saturday evening to

give a slide show and spotlighting tour for the volunteers.

The Greening Challenge was established in 1996 to accelerate local farmers' landcare strategies by helping to stabilise soil, improve water quality and reduce salinity. To date, more than 760,000 seedlings have been planted.

About 40 sites within the Hotham River Catchment were selected for the project with the help of landcare officers, LCDCs and local farmers.



Duncraig Senior High School Students left to right: Mark Appleton, Dean Taylor, Daniel Grant and Kristy McAvan with some of the species that will benefit from *Western Shield*.

More Field Officer Graduates from 1996

CONTINUING our series tracking the paths of graduates from CALM's fourteen-week Field Officer Skills-Based Training Course.

by Alan Byrne

This issue we catch up with Richie Boykett in Nannup and Kellie Agar and Jeremy Chick in Bunbury.

Richie is Assistant to the CALMfire Coordinator at Nannup. He says his transfer to the role in 1997 presented him with an intense learning experience, especially in light of the many recent changes made to CALM's burning practices.

Before Nannup, Richie had spent time in Dwellingup as a treemarkers under the guidance of Ian 'Sam' Freeman and Peter 'Ivan' Gibson.

Richie joined CALM as a Field Officer recruit in 1996. He had already studied in a number of areas, including mine-surveying, surveying and cartography, and had completed an Associate Diploma in Environmental Management through Edith Cowan University.

When he was unable to find work in environmental management, Richie started a Graduate Diploma in Geographic Information Systems at Curtin University.

He says that he is looking forward to his future

in CALM, and sees it as a great opportunity to see more of our state from the unique perspective we have as managers.

He doesn't have a definite plan about where he will be in the future, but looks forward to meeting more of the diverse collection of people that make up CALM.

He said he was particularly grateful for the support and advice he has received from staff at Blackwood District.

Kellie works as an Interpreter in the Forest Management Branch of Central Forest Region, Bunbury. Her position allows a certain amount of mobility but Kellie has chosen to live in Bunbury after growing up in the metropolitan area.

Kellie gained her Bachelor of Science (Biology) with Honours in 1994 at Curtin University. Like Richie, she couldn't find work in environmental management until 1996.

Her major duties have been interpreting and mapping for the presence of Phytophthora species, but in recent times she has also been involved in compilation of the Dieback database "Data About Dieback" or "DAD". It is used to speed



Chainsaw instructor Tom Wood demonstrates some of the finer points to Field Officer graduates left to right Jeremy Chick, Kellie Agar and Richie Boykett. Photo by Alan Byrne.

up interpretation procedures.

Kellie's role in CALM has increased her understanding of the flora and fauna of the southwest jarrah forest. Her future goals include becoming involved in research projects and studying part-time in

Management or Environmental Impact disciplines.

Jeremy is also a Dieback Interpreter based in Bunbury. In his short time with CALM, Jeremy has worked at Pemberton, Manjimup, Yanchep National Park and

Kelmscott Forest Management Branches.

Jeremy grew up in Perth and completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Management) at Edith Cowan University, Joondalup in 1995. He has been a keen surfer for many years and his trans-

fer from Manjimup to Bunbury has meant a base in Busselton, where he can take advantage of the local surfing spots.

Jeremy thinks he is fortunate to have a position that allows him to enjoy the natural environment of the southwest as well as forge friendships

with people of similar interests.

He has realised his immediate goal - of being transferred to the Busselton area - and, like Richie, doesn't have a definite plan about where he'll be in 10 years, except to say that it will be with CALM.



Outdoor education enthusiasts standing left to right Doug Coughran, Jane Thorson, Bob Cooper, Paul Connolly, Kevin Morrison, Peter Lambert, Kingsley Miller, Rick Dawson, Matt Dowling, David Mell, Julie Gale, Darren Graham and Andrew Ando with Matt Warnock and Peter Pennings at the front.

Things that go bump in the night

COMO-BASED wildlife officers attended their second component of Bob Cooper's outdoor education course earlier this year on a property east of Lancelin. The first was held in 1997 at Icy Creek, south of Dwellingup. That course focused on navigation, water acquisition and treatment, poisonous plants and fire lighting.

Have you ever done a night navigation exercise through jarrah forest just relying on your night vision and a compass? After having sent a number of small teams off on dif-

by David Mell

ferent courses in the pitch black, course convenors Bob and Jane had a very entertaining night listening to the crash and thud of team members stumbling through heavy undergrowth and falling over logs. The exclamations of alarm and the peels of laughter echoed through the valley, and Bob said it was better than an hour of comedy on television.

The Lancelin course focused on Aboriginal tool making and coastal survival skills. After a

presentation on the types of tools made and the materials used by Aborigines, including cultural aspects of the process, participants collected resin, flaked and knapped stone and tried their hands at making bush knives, digging sticks and nulla nullas. The tools were hardened using fire and decorated with ochre. Coastal survival education involved a presentation on identifying marine organisms, with particular emphasis on venomous species. The course culminated in a trip to Lancelin Island where the lessons were put into practice.

The courses provide a good opportunity for participants to further develop their flora and fauna identification skills - an important aspect of a wildlife officer's job. They also develop and maintain a team spirit. Learning new skills, developing existing skills and interacting with team members in a bush environment is a great experience. The outdoor education courses provide an enjoyable learning opportunity in which something as simple as sitting around a campfire can be an important and rewarding experience.

Wattles on ROM

CALMScience Botanist Bruce Maslin recently celebrated the launch of a CD ROM he has been working on for the Kalannie Land Conservation District Committee. It was launched by Joanna Seabrook, an advisory committee member of the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, at the recent Kalannie Field Day.

The CD ROM, *Wattles of the Kalannie Region: their identification, characteristics and utilisation*, was funded by a grant to the Kalannie LCDC from the Lotteries Commission's Gordon Reid Foundation. The same grant also paid for a new computer for the Landcare Centre in Kalannie.

"The whole project was a very positive one, especially the interactions between the local community and CALM. The LCDC and the Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society had already gathered a good base of survey information. The CD ROM project brought it all together. It also resulted in significant additions to the collection of wattles held in the Kalannie LCDC herbarium," said Bruce.

Wattles of the Kalannie Region gives users an easy way to name the 70 species of Acacia that occur in the area, and to access information about them. Each species is illustrated with colour photographs, a line drawing and a distribution map showing where it occurs. There is also a written description of the species, along with informa-

tion on their biology (eg. when they flower and fruit), the soil types they prefer, how they can be used in revegetation, and their commercial potential, if any.

"The whole project took about 18 months, and during that time there was tremendous support from the local community. There have also been some great spin-offs, including a research paper describing new species, a proposed book on local Acacia species (funded by the Dalwallinu shire), interest from other LCDCs and the wider scientific community, and Commonwealth funding for a similar program on a national scale," said Bruce.

The CD ROM is a powerful tool for local land managers, who can use it to guide their selection of species for use in landcare and nature conservation programs. Issues such as growth characteristics, salinity tolerance, soil preferences, and suitability for use as windbreaks and erosion controls, can be taken into account.

"I've been pleasantly surprised by the range of professional as well as private land managers who are making use of the CD ROM. It's a great practical resource, both in terms of salinity control and biodiversity," Bruce said.

Copies of *Wattles of the Kalannie Region: their identification, characteristics and utilisation* are \$50 each and available from Angela Waters at Kalannie Tree Supplies phone (08) 96662131 or fax (08) 96662141.

Descending with descendants

WHEN Dwellingup-based Senior Training Officer Alan Byrne was asked to write up some Mandurah dive trails for the latest CALM dive trails publication, he had no problem choosing a dive partner - his son, Matthew.

Matthew, aged 12, has been a keen swimmer and snorkeller from an early age. In fact, all his interests involve getting wet: surfing, sailing, snorkelling. He has a keen interest in marine natural history and, not surprisingly, is thinking about studies in the marine science area.

Matthew has already helped his father put together touch pools for the Penguin Island Visitor Centre, and is now co-

by Tammie Reid

author of the Blue Bay Snorkel Trail.

Blue Bay, near Halls Head, is a great place for family snorkelling. Being only 50 metres from the beach, a protected bay, small grassed area for picnics and an after-swim public facilities shower, make it ideal for a land base.

"The area has some great overhangs, and Matthew is quite good at diving below the ledges to get a good look at the marine life busy underneath," said Alan.

"On this particular dive, we saw sponges, ellis sea fern, soft corals, many of the coloured fish from the benthic fish community such as the banded

sweep and small wrasse, also sea stars, small octopus and sea urchins."

And what is a land-based Training Officer doing writing about dive trails? Although a forester by training, Alan has lived in Mandurah for years and says it gives him the best of both the marine and terrestrial worlds.

Part of Alan's work for CALM is as principal dive and rescue trainer. This means running dive courses at Ningaloo once a year. Just like his son, Alan spends most of his weekends wet.

More Dive and Snorkel Sites in Western Australia retails for \$14.95 and is available from Como, WA Naturally, Angus & Robertsons, Dymocks and some Dive Shops.



Senior Training Officer Alan Byrne with son Matthew and daughter Jessica. Photo by Deb Byrne

Steering committee to encourage CALM quality

A STEERING Committee has been set up within CALM to work on a Performance Development System that will meet the needs of CALM people, corporate objectives and Public Sector obligations.

The Performance Development Steering Committee (PDSC) is chaired by CALM Science Director Neil Burrows with members from a wide range of CALM operational areas including Nigel Sercombe, Peter

by Rosemary Seneviratne

Dans, John Gillard, Alan Briggs, Michelle Bolitho and Tammie Reid. Rosemary Seneviratne is Executive Officer and Brenda Smith is Minute Secretary of the committee.

Their job is to review current practices in CALM and establish the framework for a performance devel-

opment system that is applicable to the individual employee and allows for periodical monitoring and evaluation of the system within the workplace. The ultimate aim is to improve the quality of the work environment.

Committee Member, John Gillard, has designed one performance management process that focuses on improving team and individual efforts through regular feedback, coaching, training and development.

"The key to the system is defining each person's role and contribution, then reviewing and altering this on an annual basis to match the works program. It is an evolving process, there are long term goals to meet and the system must be able to work towards them," he said.

The committee believes an effective performance management system will help people develop to meet their potential in a supportive work

environment. It will also help maintain regular dialogue between managers and their staff, and ensure that CALM can meet new challenges.

People in CALM are encouraged to contact the members of the Committee if they wish to make suggestions, share ideas and provide information that could help develop a framework that is flexible and can meet local needs.



Keith Mungham and Beth Read from CALM Science Busselton with Ian Charchalis from Mornington District adopt safe working practices near the biosolid stockpile.

Photo by Ian Dumbrell

CALM Science in the biosolid

STAFF from Busselton CALM Science division in conjunction with the Water Corporation, Softwood Business Unit and Mornington District staff, have recently established a biosolids research trial in Myalup plantation. Biosolids are the stabilised organic solids produced by a wastewater treatment plant. They are high in organic matter and contain essential plant nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium, copper and zinc. Unfortunately, they may also contain heavy metals, organic pesticides and pathogens.

The research trial involves the application of approximately 1000 tonnes of biosolids to 11.6 ha of 17-year old *Pinus pinaster* using a tractor-drawn manure spreader (dung

by Ian Dumbrell

flinger). Two biosolids application rates have been used, with the higher of the two rates calculated to yield equivalent rates of nitrogen and phosphorus as current mineral fertiliser applications used in plantations. The lower rate is half of the higher rate. In addition to the biosolids treatments, there is a control treatment receiving no fertiliser, and a mineral fertiliser treatment of 500 kg/ha DAP and 250 kg/ha Urea.

The objectives of the trial are to determine the growth response of *P. pinaster* to biosolids and assess the value of biosolids as a fertiliser replacement in plantations. Also, to use a valuable product in an environmentally respon-

sible manner and determine the feasibility of applying biosolids to plantations on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Monitoring of the trial will include tree growth measurements, foliar nutrient analysis, and soil and groundwater analysis for nitrogen, phosphorus, a number of heavy metals and pathogens. Monitoring began several months before the application of the biosolids, to gain baseline information, and will continue for at least three years.

The Water Corporation currently produces 66,000 m³ of biosolids annually. If this trial proves successful, the Water Corporation will have another option available for disposal of its biosolids and CALM will have access to an alternate valuable nutrient supply for its plantations.

November 18 could be a night to remember

ACCORDING to Government Astronomer, Dr Jamie Biggs, keen sky watchers may be in for a two-hour treat on 18 November. There is evidence that this year's Leonid meteor shower may increase from its usual rate of 20 shooting stars per hour to a spectacular display of around 1,000 shooting stars per hour (officially earning it 'meteor storm' status).

Of course, nothing is certain, and Jamie stresses that meteor storms are difficult to predict. For this one, you'll need to be out of bed, with eyes trained about 20 degrees above the horizon toward the northeast, at 3.40am!

If it does happen, the meteor storm promises to be quite a sight. Leonid meteors are the debris from Comet Tempel-

Tuttle (named after its co-discoverers). Every 33 years this comet orbits the Sun and its orientation is such that it crosses the Earth's orbit. A close approach to the Sun is no guarantee of increased activity, however. Recent Leonid storms have only been observed in 1799, 1833, 1866 and 1966 (not in 1900 and 1933 as expected).

The prediction for this year is being taken very seriously. A storm of meteors, typically sand-grain sized, may pose a hazard to the 500 satellites orbiting the Earth.

"There were relatively few satellites aloft during the 1966 Leonid storm, but with 500 up there now, this will be the first time we have faced such a potential threat to modern communications systems," Dr Biggs said.

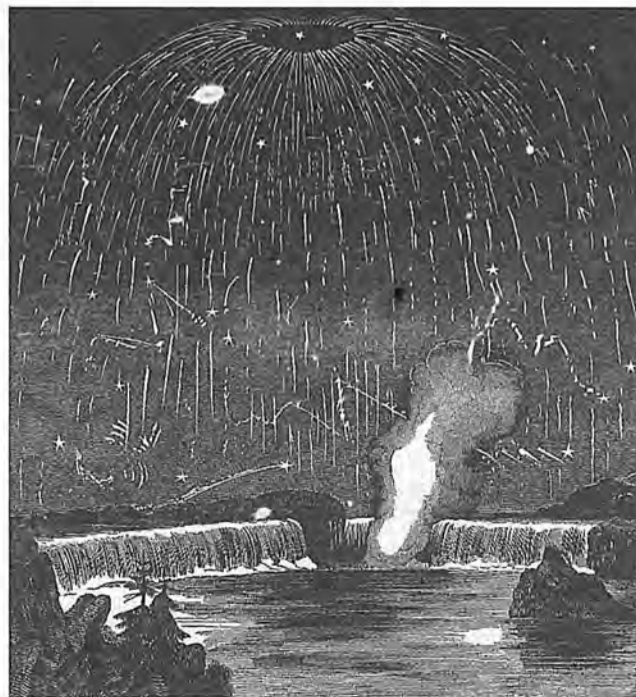
"Satellite damage from small meteoroids less than one thousandth of a millimetre across will be insignificant, but millimetre-sized meteoroids could create a plume of charged particles that short circuit the electronics of modern satellites."

In order to reduce the risk, satellite controllers are organising to position their satellites to offer the smallest possible target for Leonid meteoroids on the 18 November. For those not involved in satellite navigation, Jamie suggests a viewing site away from bright lights with a clear view to the north eastern horizon, a warm rug, and a chair.

The constellation Leo will rise above the east-north-east horizon in Perth by 2am (the meteoroids are dubbed Leonid because they appear to emanate from this constellation). Leo's brightest star, Regulus, should be visible to guide viewing. If the shower or storm starts early, it may be possible to see meteors rising up from below the horizon.

By 3.40am, Leo will be about 20 degrees above the horizon toward the north east (twenty degrees is the distance between the tip of your thumb and little finger when your outstretched hand is held at arm's length). Sites east and north of Perth see Leo rise earlier than in Perth, and those north can also see Leo higher in the sky.

"We are very fortunate, because the peak time will occur when the constellation is above the horizon in Western Australia and there will be virtually no moonlight present. Weather permitting, this is our best opportunity for the next one hundred years," Jamie said.



A view of the 1833 Leonid meteor storm from Niagara Falls. From Smith's Illustrated Astronomy

Scholarships available for all CALM people

APPLICATIONS are now sought from CALM people interested in continuous learning opportunities within the Department.

The first two scholarships honour the personal attributes and significant contributions to CALM of the late Dr George Malajczuk and Seamus Mulholland. The third scholarship - The Executive Director's Scholarship - is for AWU staff within CALM.

The Dr George Malajczuk Postgraduate Scholarship

George had a distinguished career with both the Forests Department and CALM. His doctorate in applied mathematical

by Alan Byrne

programming techniques, relating to plantation planning, set the standard for many later developments in this field.

George was the technical excellence underpinning many of CALM's initiatives, and it is this technical excellence that is to be fostered and nurtured with the scholarship. It is designed to provide continuous learning opportunities in a range of science disciplines and has a monetary value of up to \$20,000.

The Seamus Mulholland Scholarship

At the relatively young age of 32, Seamus was a

brilliant economist and was heading the important plantation strategy aimed at fighting the state's salinity problem.

He was a well-respected leader who demonstrated a delicate balance of courage, wisdom and integrity, and it is this leadership quality that is to be fostered and nurtured with the scholarship.

The scholarship is designed to provide continuous learning opportunities in a range of management and leadership disciplines and has a monetary value of up to \$20,000.

Candidates can either enrol in post-graduate studies or in executive development programmes that are approved by the

Executive Director.

Scholarship candidates should obtain an application form from senior training officer Alan Byrne at Dwellingup and follow Policy 36.

The Executive Director's Scholarship

This scholarship is made available to all AWU staff to financially assist them in the post-secondary studies required to enter field officer positions throughout the State.

Since the closure of the Field Cadet Training Programme in December 1991, AWU personnel have had limited opportunities to enter field officer positions.

Prior to the closure, the

Executive Director would offer one position per year to an AWU staff member to enter the second-year cadetship course at the Dwellingup Field Officer Training Centre. Applicants were interviewed and assessed for suitability to complete both the second year of the two-year cadet programme and about four units of the first-year TAFE studies, via external studies.

In 1996, the scholarship was reintroduced and since then four AWU staff members have been successful and are currently studying Certificate IV in Land Management offered by TAFE.

The Executive Director's Scholarship will be

advertised annually in October, inviting interested AWU personnel to apply in writing. Applications for this year close on 27/11/98.

Applicants will be interviewed and assessed via the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) aptitude tests to ascertain their suitability to study at either the certificate or tertiary level.

The successful applicant is provided with quarterly instalments of \$250 over the four-year TAFE course of study, or \$333 over the six-year tertiary course of study. That is a total of \$8000 for the tertiary programme and \$4000 for the TAFE course.

The instalments are

designed to cover campus fees, books, stationery, stamps and incidental costs associated with external study, and to contribute towards the cost of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).

The successful applicant will receive the support of his or her District/Branch manager in approving five hours per week for study leave during college semesters. Office space and access to a departmental computer will be provided if available.

For further information on the Executive Director's Scholarship, contact Senior Training Officer Alan Byrne at Dwellingup on (08) 95381200 or fax (08) 95381244.



The Bibbulmun Track 'end-to-enders' about to set off from the southern terminus at Albany on their eight-week 960 km journey to Kalamunda. Photo by Annie Keating

Bibb Trekkers tackle 960 km journey

ON Sunday 13 September, 15 people embarked on an incredible journey. They left their various jobs and families behind for eight weeks to become the first to walk nearly 1000 km along one of the world's greatest long distance trails, WA's new Bibbulmun Track.

Bibbulmun Walk '98, is the opening event for the track which has undergone a massive realignment and upgrade, and which now stretches from Kalamunda to Albany (the same distance as Paris to Rome).

The 15 'end-to-enders' will be joined by six corporate relay teams and 20 people walking five-day sections. They range in age from 24 to 71 years and include beginners as well as experienced bushwalkers from all walks of life.

Their journey will take them along

by Becky Shrimpton*

spectacular coast, through giant tingle, across heathlands, karri and jarrah forest, skirting farms, down into valleys, and over rugged hills to the northern terminus at Kalamunda, where they are due to arrive on Saturday, November 7. Led by volunteer, Bonnie Hennessey, the participants are staying mainly in the new purpose-built campsites on the Track. Where the trail leads them through the nine towns enroute, some will undoubtedly choose the attractive option of a warm bed and a hot shower.

So what drives these people to give up their creature comforts, fill a backpack and take to the Track?

"The opportunity to be one of the first end-to-enders," said Dave

Hartley of Perth, who walked the old track end-to-end in 1990. Dave also represents the WA Rogaining Association, one of many organisations that generously helped to build the Track's impressive new facilities, which include 48 campsites with three-sided timber shelters, water tank, and toilet.

For Jan Price, from Esperance, walking the Bibbulmun has been a goal since 1978 when she first heard of the Track, which originally stretched from Kalamunda to Northcliffe before being extended to Walpole in 1988.

Walter Reeve started walking at the recommendation of his doctor. "I never feel freer, better or more at ease than when I am in the bush," said the healthy 71 year old.

Paul Gebhard, one of the younger walkers, is a computer network engineer walking five days as part of AlphaWest's team (a major sponsor of the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track). Paul is looking forward to "a break from the fast, everyday city life by getting back to nature". His Managing Director, Hugh Beggs, is also walking - "for peace of mind!" he said.

CALM has also entered a team. One team member, National Park Ranger Charlie Salamon, helped select the Track route in the Walpole District and is keen to see the outcome of the Build a Better Bibbulmun Track Project. Also on the team is CALM's Health and Fitness co-ordinator, Linda Gilbert, who devised a training program specifically for event walkers.

CALM district recreation officers along the route will be providing sup-

ply drops for walkers, interpretation activities, and the occasional BBQ welcome. The event is also supported by the Lotteries Commission through 'Trails West' (WA's trail co-ordination agency) who are represented on the Ministry of Sport and Recreation Team.

All the walkers had the chance to meet up at a pre-walk briefing in July and many are sharing equipment and space-saving ideas. Most walkers have embarked on rigorous training programs to cope with carrying a full backpack for distances up to 23 km a day.

Regardless of their backgrounds or reasons for taking part, for most participants, Bibbulmun Walk '98 will be an experience they will never forget.

*Becky Shrimpton is Executive Officer of the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track

Lookout honours local environmental law expert

THE memory of one of Western Australia's leading law officers, who had a special expertise in environmental law and worked closely with CALM for many years, has been honoured with the naming of the Graham Delaney Look-out and Walk at Walpole on the south coast.

The lookout is part of the new Bibbulmun track and has views over the Normalup Inlet from a rise above Coal-mine Beach. The walk wends for 4 km to an existing lookout at Hill-top, east of the town, where visitors can view the inlet, Southern Ocean, Frankland River and Casuarina Isles.

Mr Delaney, who was Deputy Crown Solicitor, died in March this year.

Brilliant

He was regarded as a brilliant lawyer who made an outstanding contribution to law and in particular environmental law in WA.

Attorney General Peter

Foss officially opened the lookout and walk last month at a ceremony attended by many of Mr Delaney's Crown Law colleagues.

Mr Delaney was closely involved with the development of the Bibbulmun Track, giving advice to CALM on its construction through nature reserves.

CALM Executive Director, Syd Shea, said there had also been tremendous assistance from many community groups, Government agencies, prisoners, volunteers and the private sector in building the Track.

"Prisoners have contributed greatly to its

establishment, both in the form of field crews working directly on laying the trail, and in prison workshops fabricating shelters, barbecues and signs."

Contribution

"The in-kind contribution from the Ministry of Justice is worth more than \$1.5 million, without

which the project would not have been possible," he said.

At the official opening, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes presented certificates of appreciation to prisoners and Ministry of Justice officers who had worked on the southern section of the Track.