

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1998



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## New hope for plant species

THE prospects of hundreds of threatened plant species in Western Australia are a lot brighter with the launch in November of *Western Everlasting*—a major government initiative aimed at conserving threatened plant species in Western Australia.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said that *Western Everlasting* would promote the conservation of threatened flora on a number of fronts.

"As part of the initiative, threatened flora management programs will be finalised for each region or district in the South-West Botanical Province, from Shark Bay to Israelite Bay.

"Threatened flora recovery teams will co-ordinate and implement recovery work. Members will be drawn from local government, landholders, wildflower societies and government agencies as well as scientists with specialist flora conservation knowledge."

Mrs Edwardes said that *Western Everlasting* would reduce the impact of threats such as *Phytophthora* (which causes dieback) and weeds, and look to establish new populations of threatened species in suitable habitat.

"Dieback disease is a major threat to many native plant species and communities. World-class scientific research by CALM scientists has demonstrated that the application of phosphite can prevent the spread of *Phytophthora*. This will be one of the strategies of *Western Everlasting*."

CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre will also be upgraded and expanded as part of the initiative.

"Seeds of threatened plants can be used to establish new populations, and long-term seed storage is an important hedge against a species disappearing in the wild."



After launching *Western Everlasting*, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes shows CALM's new book *Threatened Flora of Western Australia* to John Forrest Senior High School Bush Ranger cadets, left to right, Kim Nardi, Erika Beazley, Belinda Dettmer and Sean Lee-Tuck. Photo by Ernie McLintock

Mrs Edwardes said that public education was another important goal of *Western Everlasting*.

"Public support and understanding of nature conservation initiatives is vital for the protection of our wildflower heritage.

"Publications such as CALM's new book *Western Australia's Threatened Flora* provide people with compre-

hensive information on threatened species, as well as the steps being taken to save them.

"Similarly, the on-line database *FloraBase*, administered by CALM's Western Australian Herbarium, means that people throughout the State have instant access to the latest information on 12,500 flowering plant species.

"If it is to succeed, *Western*

*Everlasting* is dependent on the support of all sectors of the community, from business and industry, research institutes and conservation groups to private land owners and volunteers."

*FloraBase* is part of CALM's award-winning *NatureBase* internet site. It can be accessed at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

## Bibbulmun 'an outstanding model for public sector partnerships'

A PARTNERSHIP between two State Government agencies that has significantly improved tourism and recreational services in regional WA,

has been recognised at this year's annual Premier's Awards for Public Sector Management.

The Premier's Awards have been established to formally recognise and reward the achievement of excellence within the public sector in its relationships with the Western Australian community.

### Stimulus for innovation

They focus on performance and service delivery, and aim to further stimulate innovation through the promotion of highly innovative projects, activities and displays of creative leadership within the WA public sector, leading to better service to the community.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and CALM on the Bibbulmun Track project had won the Provision of Services to Regional WA Category of the awards.

"CALM embarked on a project to upgrade, realign and extend the Bibbulmun Track in 1993 to make it WA's only true-long distance walk trail with enormous potential for recreation and nature-based tourism," she said.

### Co-operative partnership

"In achieving this it has formed a number of co-operative partnerships with local communities and organisations including the Ministry of Justice.

"The Ministry of Justice has played a significant role in building a better Bibbulmun Track with more than 100 prisoners working on the project over the past two years.

"This included building equipment in prison shops and working in crews constructing the new walk trail.

"More than that however, it has enabled the MOJ to build a successful rehabilitation program for minimum security prisoners and has also seen the establishment of a Walpole Work Camp.

"This program, which has fostered great enthusiasm in prisoners, prison officers and the local community, has become well known as one of the most innovative and rewarding projects of its kind.

## Sponsorship to help Western Shield

by Mitzi Vance

CALM's race to bring native animals back from the brink of extinction has been bolstered by corporate sponsorship of \$120,000 from WA-owned Westralian Sands.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes announced the sponsorship in Capel earlier this month at a function hosted by Westralian Sands and attended by representatives from CALM, the local community, local shire authorities and the media.

The funding, to be spread over three years, has enabled the Department to expand its ground-breaking wildlife conservation program *Western Shield*.

Mrs Edwardes said the sponsorship marked more than just the beginning of a new partnership in nature conservation, it represented a further development in the biggest wildlife program ever undertaken in this nation.

The 'Westralian Sands New Dawning' component of *Western Shield* covers the program's operations over more than 100,000 hectares of forest and reserve lands in the area from near Capel, to Nannup and Margaret River. Its addition means that all conservation reserves in the South-west are under a comprehensive baiting regime.



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Westralian Sands Director Valerie Davies at the launch. Photo by Steve Lloyd-Smith

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The last two or three weeks have seen some torrid times for CALM. A number of people from within the Department have asked how we are coping, and the best way I can describe it is by drawing an analogy:

The other night, as I was flicking channels, I came across the world championship wrestling program. I am sure we could learn something about how to take knocks from some of the gentlemen performing, but I was also taken by the standard technique wrestlers use when they are in some gruesome submission hold. They crawl at a glacial pace until they can get a hand on the ropes, at which time the referee breaks the hold. In many respects I feel we are in the same situation in that the rope in our case is Christmas, when I am sure that light and happiness will displace the concerted attacks that we have had to suffer (principally in silence) in recent times.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment in detail on any of the comments and articles that have been run over recent times about CALM. Despite the fact that one columnist accused us of using the 'Nuremberg Defence', the truth is we are a State Government agency, responsible for management, not policy formulation.

While some sections of the community appear to believe that it is legitimate to have 'captive Government agencies', responding to sectional interests in the community, our loyalty and responsibility is to our Minister and the Government—we implement not formulate Government policy. To do anything but this would be anti-democratic.

Given the amount of antagonistic comment on CALM in some of the media, I think it's important that we do not forget that this has been a year of major achievements.

This has been reflected in the fact that CALM has received a number of major awards. To mention just a few—the national Banksia Award for Conservation for the *Western Shield* program—a major Western Australian tourism award for the Tree Top Walk—a host of awards for our communications, including the prestigious Alex Harris Award for science reporting—a Silver Award from the Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia for the best map production in an Australian competition in the last two years—the Government Technology Productivity Award and, most recently, the Premier's Award, which we shared with the Ministry of Justice, for the Bibbulmun Track. (We have won major awards in two out of the three years that the Premier's Awards have been running.)

There have also been some major milestone achievements. For example, this year saw the establishment of over 100,000 ha of *Eucalyptus globulus* on farmland in the south-west of the State, achieving the objective with private companies that was set in 1987, two years ahead of schedule.

We have recently initiated the Maritime Pine Program, which is a critical element of the State Salinity Strategy. *Western Shield* has been expanded so that we are now baiting more than three million hectares of public land for fox control. The success of this program is evidenced by the fact that we now are receiving complaints about the negative impact of what were once rare native species on adjoining farming property.

*Western Everlasting*, the plant equivalent of *Western Shield* has been launched. We have also taken a leading role in developing carbon sequestration strategies; there are now more than eight million visits to CALM-managed land each year (including 200,000 visits per year to the Tree Top Walk), more and more people are volunteering to work with us and programs like the Land for Wildlife Scheme, which now has more than 300 members, has taken off—dare I say 'like wildfire'?

I am always reluctant to list our achievements for two reasons. Firstly, we should never become complacent, we will always make mistakes and there is always going to be plenty more to do, but given the criticism we have suffered recently I thought it was important to remind everybody in CALM just what has been achieved this year. Secondly, inevitably when you list achievements you always miss out many worthwhile projects and it is not possible to identify all the groups and all the individuals in the Department who are making an outstanding contribution to achieving our objectives.

I am extremely proud of the people who work in CALM and I am particularly pleased about the way that we can formulate teams that capture diverse skills and actually do things for conservation rather than talk about them. I know (and this applies particularly to people who are going to have to fight the wildfires, which will inevitably come this year) that there are times when working for CALM is not very pleasant, but on balance I think we have one of the most enjoyable and rewarding jobs that an organisation or an individual could wish for.

My thanks to everyone, and particularly your families for the contribution everybody has made this year. Have a happy Christmas and I look forward to an exciting but safe New Year.

Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director

# Sponsorship aids *Western Shield*

(from page 1)



This new sponsorship agreement is due in part to the negotiation and persuasive skills of CALM's Wildlife Branch manager Gordon Wyre, who has been responsible for getting Westralian Sands and Cable Sands behind the project.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said one of the main reasons behind *Western Shield*'s success to date was largely due to the commitment and professionalism of CALM staff involved in the project.

"Their dedication has seen a large number of native animals already successfully reintroduced into areas they once roamed before introduction of exotic predators.

"The most notable recent release has been captive-bred bilbies into Dryandra woodland—the first release of the threatened species in the State.

"Four captive-bred bilbies, three from Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre and one from a breeding program at the Alice Springs Desert Park were released into the 10-hectare feral proof enclosure at Dryandra."

Dr Shea said this landmark

release was due to the work of many people involved in the species' recovery plans, including Woodvale principal re-search scientist Tony Friend and group manager Keith Morris, *Project Eden* vet Colleen Sims, Narrogin District reserves officer Clare Anthony, and June and Lloyd Butcher and the many volunteers at Kanyana Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre.

Successful fox-baiting has also led to the first numbat reintroduction in the southern coast region of WA. Up to 20 numbats were reintroduced in December into Stirling Range National Park, north-east of Albany by CALM Albany staff Alan Danks a Mal Grant. This reintroduction of WA's faunal emblem marked the return of the threatened numbat to the region—62 years after it was last sighted there.

Left: Westralian Sands Director Valerie Davies presents sponsorship cheque of \$120,000 to Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards. Photo by Steve Lloyd-Smith

## Sun & Stars 1999

YES folks, CALM's annual festival at Yanchep National Park is coming up soon. The festival has been a great success over the past two years, and proved to be a valuable way for CALM to promote its many different facets in an enjoyable way to the Perth community.

Festival co-ordinator Julie Price is seeking help and co-operation from CALM's divisions. So for those other divisions that have not been involved to date, get some CALMspirit and join in the fun. Please contact Julie on (08) 9561 1004.

## Bibbulmun 'an outstanding model for public sector partnerships'

(from page 1)

"It has led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and the Ministry of Justice, which will see prisoners continue to maintain the Bibbulmun Track and become involved in other CALM conservation projects."

Mrs Edwards said the 963-kilometre Bibbulmun Track, which extended from Kalamunda to Walpole, provided walkers with the opportunity to travel through a virtually unbroken stretch of natural environment.

"It offers people the chance

to experience the best scenic and natural attractions of the south-west, whether they are on a short stroll or walking the entire length of the track," she said.

"The track also provides more opportunities for local businesses such as accommodation, restaurants, and other retail and transport services."

In the words of the Premier's Award citation, "The Bibbulmun Track is an outstanding model for public sector partnerships."

### CALM NEWS—NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1998

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## Staff Movements

### Contract staff

Betha Loudon, to Woodvale, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Elisha Ladhams, to Woodvale, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Melissa Millar, to Plantations Group, Como, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Denise Walsh, to Plantations Group, Manjimup, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Marc Mackinnon, to Research Branch, Busselton, as Technical Assistant, Level 1; Lisa Cowan, to Planning and Visitor Services, Como as Landscape Planner, Level 2; Candice Ringrose, to WA Herbarium, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Kus Kuswardiyanto, to WA Herbarium, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Sun Shu Yin, to CALMScience, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Susan Kelly, to Wildlife Conservation, as Regional Bushcare Facilitator, Level 3.

### Promoted

Peter Bamess, to Operations Officer - Log Roads, Level 4 at Manjimup; John Edwards, to Field Manager, Level 4 at South Coast Share Farms, Albany; Jeannie Thomas, to Project Accountant, Level 2, Financial Services Branch; Rod Mell, Grants Administrator, Level 4 at CALMScience; Peter Sharp to Senior Policy Adviser, Level 7 at Crawley.

### Seconded

Brett Fitzgerald, to Kirup, as Operations Officer, Level 3.

### Transferred

Richard McAlinden, to Dwellingup, as District Fire Co-ordinator, Level 5; Peter Fishwick, to Karratha, as Operations Officer, Level 4; Andrew Webb, to CALMScience, Woodvale, as Technical Officer, Level 3.

### Retired

Ivan Martin, from Manjimup, as Forester.

### Resigned

Keith Woodward, from South Coast Sharefarms, Albany as Area Co-ordinator; Gail Fishwick, from Albany as Clerical Officer; Adam Wincza, from CALMScience, as Technical Officer; James Burt, from Marine Conservation Branch, as Marine Conservation Officer; Penny Baalman, from Forest Management Branch, Bunbury, as Field Officer.

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

### Praise indeed

**Excellent Customer Service:** I am writing to congratulate you on having such wonderfully customer-focused staff.

I had arranged with two other couples, with two young children, to meet at Charlie's Flat, Dwellingup on Saturday 7 November 1998. To my dismay, on arrival at River Road, I discovered that Rally Australia had taken over the area and we were denied access. The Rally Australia people suggested we speak to your staff at the CALM office in Dwellingup.

By the time I reached the CALM office I was feeling quite anxious. My two young

children were restless, my wife and I thought our plans for a well-earned weekend away in the tranquil bush were lost, and worse still, we would not be able to locate the other two couples.

It was in this state of mind that I entered your CALM office and met Lisa Craig. Nothing was too much trouble for her. Lisa soon had our two children happily drawing on used paper and providing good advice to my wife and I on alternate camping sites in the area.

She also contacted John, a ranger in the camping area, to alert him of our plight and contacted Tim who was able to provide helpful advice on an

alternate access to Charlie's Flat.

Whilst attending to our concerns, Lisa was also busily answering telephone calls from other tourists and conducting two-way radio communication with several other people.

Due to Lisa, we were able to enjoy two wonderful days at Charlie's Flat. Our friends also met Lisa and received the same excellent service. She is really a credit to you and your agency.

Thank you for having such well-trained and helpful staff. Please convey my appreciation to Lisa Craig. She is truly an asset to your organisation and a very special person.

Yours sincerely,  
Keith Millard  
Baskerville WA 6056

### Burn appreciated

At our last meeting a vote of thanks was moved for the excellent job done by your staff in doing a controlled burn around the township of Jarrahdale.

Our members and residents of the town were very pleased with the result and would like you to pass on our appreciation to your staff.

Once again, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,  
Maxine Stockwell  
Secretary  
Jarrahdale Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

# WA's fauna conservation gets 'thumbs up'

WESTERN AUSTRALIA is leading the nation in native animal conservation according to world-renowned environmentalist Vincent Serventy, sometimes called the 'father of conservation in Australia'.

Returning to WA's shores recently for a short visit, Mr Serventy was 'pleasantly surprised' and 'extremely pleased' with his home State's drive to restore its natural biodiversity, particularly its relentless fight for wildlife recovery.

With more than 50 years spent in environmental work and, numerous national and international conservation awards and achievements, including a Member of the Order of Australia, he is more than a worthy assessor.

This long-serving President of the Wildlife Preservation Society's enthusiasm for CALM's wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*, and its semi-arid zone component *Project Eden*, cannot be underestimated.

His whirlwind visit to WA, saw him take in a tightly scheduled three-day tour of the magnificent natural attractions in the World Heritage-listed Shark Bay, in particular the fauna conservation work being done at Peron Peninsula under *Project Eden*. What he found and saw was beyond his expectations.

"It was exciting to see this work," he said. "Everything was as good as the literature and articles said."

"It's an excellent project run by very dedicated people who use a range of ingenious methods to control feral animals.

"The trapping runs, animal releases and breeding programs for hare wallabies and boobies on the peninsula are quite impressive.

"What staggered me most was the project's eradication of predators. They got rid of goats, rabbits and foxes and built a fence to stop them from coming back onto the peninsula.

## Barking dog device

"They use this marvelous barking dog device over the grid-way near the entry to the fence.

"What excited me most was the research into controlling feral cats. You can control foxes but cats have been much harder.

"I'm excited about this work as cats are much more choosy over baits."

"The whole thing is very



Above: A tourist feeds a dolphin at Monkey Mia, while world-renowned naturalist Vincent Serventy looks on with satisfaction. Below: Vincent Serventy. Photos by Kerry Berrington, courtesy Sunday Times

by Mitzi Vance

impressive, including the way they (CALM) manage the dolphins at Monkey Mia," he said.

"The area now has so many eco-tourism attractions, which is the way to go."

"I understand tourists are staying longer in the area now to view the native wildlife conservation methods.

"I remember 50 years ago, there was only one pub and a couple of shops, now the place has almost everything conceivable—resorts, restaurants and shops."

Mr Serventy said the *Western Shield* project was 'massive', and as a West Australian-born, he was proud that WA was leading the nation.

"New South Wales has begun to implement an Eastern Shield project based on CALM's *Western Shield*.

"Although the *Western Shield* project is expensive—around the million dollar

mark—it's well received and needed," he said.

"It's the way to go—get everyone involved including private landholders—everyone should go green."

Mr Serventy's desire to achieve this and showcase CALM's wildlife recovery initiatives has made him determined for CALM to play a significant role in the Wildlife Preservation Society's Earth 2000 conference in Sydney.

Organised to stimulate worldwide interest in conserving wildlife, Mr Serventy believes this major international conference in Sydney will provide a conservation blueprint for the first years of the new millennium.

As organiser of the conference, he has invited CALM to participate and allocated the opening day for it to display and explain its *Western Shield* project.

"CALM's work on controlling feral animals is recognised in many parts of the world and

we hope from this conference other States will be encouraged to follow suit."

Talking with, and listening to Mr Serventy about his long-time dedication and love for the natural bushland of Australia, people feel his excitement and enthusiasm in working to bring native animals back from the brink of extinction.

His commitment continues undiminished.

It is as intense as it was forty years ago, when he tirelessly fought to protect his favourite native animal the numbat by campaigning against bauxite mining in Dryandra, in the Wheatbelt region.

His unrelenting letter-writing, lobbying and published book 'Dryandra' helped create Dryandra Nature Reserve, one of the only places in WA today where people can view numbats in the wild.

With more than 60 books published on wildlife, the environment and conservation, and



with his significant contribution to environmental education, CALM is indeed fortunate to have this important naturalist support and recognise the innovative conservation work being done in WA.

As Mr Serventy recently stated in a national article,

"Success is seldom easily won."

"I enjoy a fight—you win, you lose, you regroup and fight again."

With this fighter on WA's side in the war against foxes and feral cats, we can be sure native mammals will be alive and in abundance well into the future.



School children Nathan Piccoli and Deahn Mercer help feed penguins with Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Penguin Island Experience Supervisor Glenn Smith. Photo by Craig Stewart

## New junior ranger kit launched

by Mitzi Vance

MARINE nature conservation looks set to be a part of many young Western Australians' summer school holidays with the launch of the *Penguin Island Junior Ranger Kit*.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes launched the kit at Penguin Island earlier this month, amidst gales of laughter and fun with CALM Marine and Coastal Districts technical officer George Watson providing great 'touch pool' entertainment for special guests Safety Bay Primary School Grade 5 students.

The touch pool, with its creepy crawlies and colourful shell creatures, is one of a number of activities detailed in the kit and designed to foster awareness in children of the need to conserve our coastal marine life.

Mrs Edwardes said the *Penguin Island*

*Junior Ranger Kit* was created to promote caring for the marine environment by preserving and protecting wildlife and the natural features of marine landscapes.

"Activities are designed to help children learn how to care for the natural vegetation and other marine habitats by picking up litter, staying on boardwalks and marked trails, obeying signs and being aware of ocean swells and dangerous rocks," she said.

"It also provides easy to understand information on common marine life such as seaweed, silver gulls and penguins as well as common forms of food chains, showing the many relationships between marine plants and animals."

Some of the activities in the kit include a beach-combing guide, word-maze, diary for marine life observation, and a treasure map. Though the kit is designed for use at Penguin Island, many of the activities can be done at any of WA's beaches, making the kit a useful long-term educational tool for children.

The warm response from children to the kit can be attributed to the kit's creator and chief master junior ranger George Watson, who along with Shoalwater Islands Marine Park ranger Terry Goodlich made the launch a great success. Acknowledgment must also go to CALM Corporate Relations Graphic Designer Tiffany Aberin, whose animated inspired design will ensure this kit is in great demand over summer.

# Visitors study CALM's tree improvement methods

SENIOR research scientist Trevor Butcher has been busy recently, hosting four Indian foresters who visited Western Australia as Fellows of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), sponsored by the World Bank.

Dr Rao, and Messrs Singh, Zaidi and Parkhe had never been to Australia before, but by the time they left, they had certainly seen a great deal of WA.

The purpose of their 10-week visit was to learn more about tree-improvement programs, seed production and the establishment and management of seed orchards.

Time spent in the laboratory and propagation centres was followed by field trips to demonstrate the practical results and gains from CALM research.

Their studies took them from Kununurra in the north to Albany in the south. They also spent three weeks in Manjimup working with research scientist Richard Mazanec and nursery technical officer Mike Cully, and squeezed in a day on the water taking a closer look at visiting whales.

"It's been a wonderful experience and we've been exposed to many new ideas and activities," said Mr Zaidi.

"Although the forests in India are very different, we'll certainly be able to use some of



Flanking CALM research scientist Trevor Butcher (centre) are World Bank-sponsored Fellows of the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organisation (from left to right) Azam Zaidi, Bharat Parkhe, Abbareddy Rao and Anil Singh. Photo by Penny Walsh

by Penny Walsh

the techniques we've seen here.

"Forests in India are very mixed, with many varieties of flora and fauna. In Western Australia, we saw a more specialised operation, with specif-

ic techniques in managing certain species."

"We learned by trying things ourselves, which will help when it comes to teaching others on our return to India. We believe we can modify methods to suit whatever species come our way," said Mr Singh.

"A very good way to reach people and to motivate them, is for them to see the results growing in the field," said Mr Parkhe.

"As well as tree-breeding and propagation techniques, the quality and style of interpretation and facilities in the

forests was of great interest."

The visitors asked that special thanks go to Trevor Butcher, their guide throughout the trip, and to all CALM-Science and Operations staff who took the time to explain their work and share their knowledge.

As well as learning from their WA hosts, the visitors gave CALM staff an insight into how forest managers in India successfully deal with, for example, weeds management to improve productivity in North Bengal and the use of wetlands in Assam.



Sandalwood research scientist Jonathon Brand (right) has an iron grip on Dean Irving's football, which he'll surrender only if Dean can get him a game with Subiaco. (Just kidding.) Photo by Verna Costello

## Family, football, work come first with this medal winner

When Dean Irving wasn't working for CALM last winter, he was busy playing football in the ruck for Subiaco—and winning the 1998 Simpson Medal.

The Simpson Medal was the reward he earned while playing brilliantly at this year's Western Australia versus South Australia State game.

Dean's sporting career includes seasons with the West Coast Eagles from 1990 to 1993, making it to the grand final in 1991,

by Verna Costello

and with Melbourne from 1994 to 1997, before signing up with Subiaco this year.

Contracted to the Department's Farm Forestry Unit, Dean works on the CALM-Oil Mallee Association joint project, identifying which trees have a high oil content, collecting their seeds, and arranging for them to be planted at

CALM's Manjimup tree nursery.

Dean says this year will see him finishing his studies towards a degree in Environmental Management.

"After that I'll be doing more of what I enjoy most of all—getting out and about with Sheila and our 16-month old daughter D'Arcy.

"I really enjoy my work, but I'm away from home, sometimes for days at a time, and when I'm in the city, there are

football matches, training, and study, leaving me with far too few hours to spend with my family.

Congratulations Dean on your Simpson Medal win. It's been said that high achievers in sport tend to carry this characteristic over to other areas of their lives. Based on this premise, CALM can look forward to some winning performances from you as part of its high-flying team.

## Frank's a real survivor

WHO among you can guess what birthday CALM's Director of Projects Management Frank McKinnell was celebrating when this pic was taken. No, there are no prizes for those who get it right!

On the day, it was business as usual, with only appropriately inscribed balloons to remind him that the day held some significance.

After hours, however, colleagues and friends celebrated with the 'low-key party animal', toasting him on surviving five decades,

surprising him with an appropriately decorated cake, and presenting him with a bottle of Penfold's St Henri red wine.

There was also an informal 'at home' to look forward to.

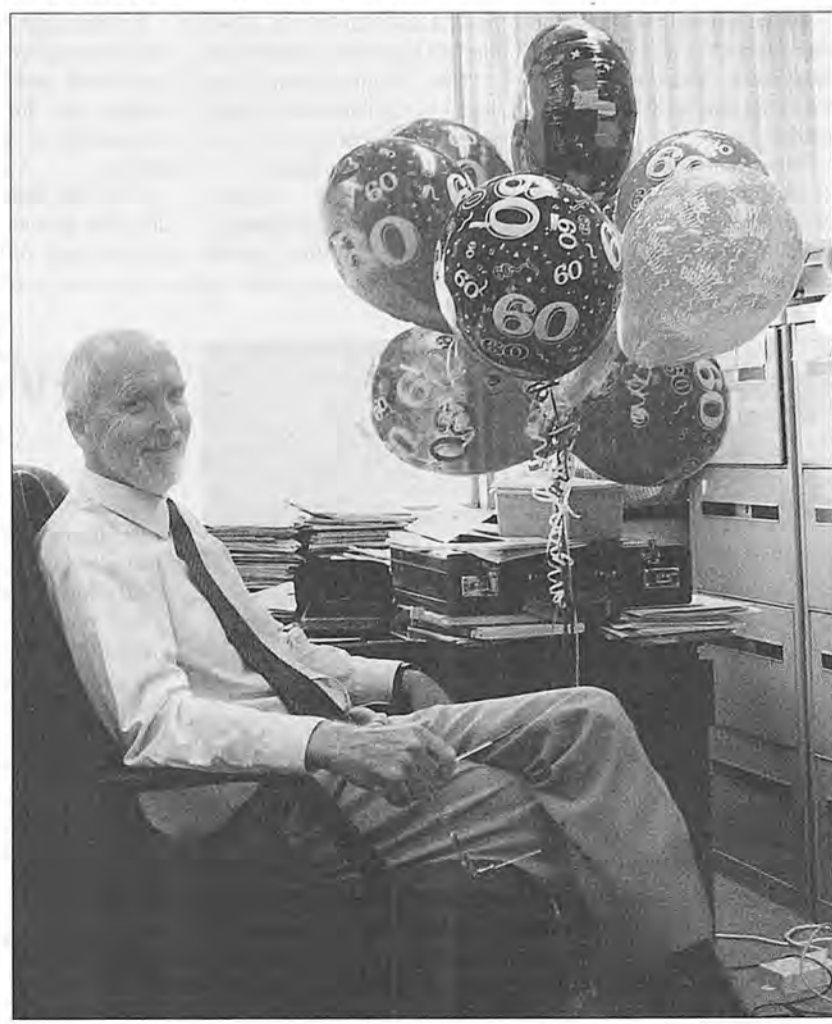
This took the form of a high tea on the weekend, with family members dropping in.

Any birthday after forty that marks yet another decade on planet earth is worth celebrating—even more than a 21st. Why? Because it means you're one of life's survivors, that's why!

As for his view of the matter, he says he doesn't feel any different from a 21-year-old Frank McKinnell, "Except that I'm smarter, wiser, more discerning, have more children, more patience, and a few more dollars in my pocket."

On behalf of the staff CALM NEWS represents, may you enjoy the rest of this and many future years, Frank, and may they prove even more satisfying than those of the past.

Photo by Verna Costello





Pictured with Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes are, from left to right, Vice-President of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy and Manager for Mining, Alcoa of Australia Ltd Russell Williams; Manager Kemerton Silica Sand Bill Taylor; Sons of Gwalia Environmental Manager Simon Williamson and CALM Environmental Protection Branch Manager Frank Batini. Photo courtesy Sons of Gwalia

## Minister announces landmark agreement

**A RECENT landmark agreement between CALM and Kemerton Silica Sand Pty Ltd (KSS) will see 198 hectares of private land, worth \$1 million, managed by the Department for conservation purposes.**

The land, to be called Kemerton Nature Reserve, contains sensitive wetland areas and lakes, covered by an environmental protection policy, and lies near the Kemerton industrial area, about 25 kilometres north of Bunbury.

A subsidiary of Gwalia

Consolidated Ltd, KSS put forward a proposal to develop a silica sand-mining operation in the area, and approval was granted once it was agreed the sensitive Kemerton wetlands be managed by CALM to ensure their protection and conservation.

Announcing the agreement, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said it was an excellent example of how government and the mining industry could work together to benefit the environment.

"The Kemerton wetlands are

in relatively good condition, with rich, diverse native vegetation, and this agreement will ensure the conservation of the area's genetic diversity. At the same time, KSS will be able to carry out its silica sand-mining operation on adjacent, less sensitive land," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Also CALM will be able to maintain and restore the natural environment, and protect and promote the study of indigenous plants and animals."

A report prepared by the Environmental Protection

Authority found the that Kemerton lakes and wetlands were significant because they were some of the few remaining on the southern Swan Coastal Plain that were not surrounded by cleared land and receiving nutrient-enriched run-off.

The report said that widespread clearing had meant many wetland plant communities were no longer represented elsewhere in the region, so the diverse plant life found in the less disturbed areas of the wetlands warranted protection.

Since European settlement, more than two-thirds of the lakes on the Swan Coastal Plain have been destroyed or severely degraded, and it is important that those that remain are protected.

KSS and CALM will work together to produce management guidelines for the area, covering issues such as:

- dieback prevention measures
- dieback prevention plant and animal protection
- dieback prevention surface water and ground water management

- dieback prevention fire management, and
- dieback prevention control of weeds and feral animals.

Gwalia's decision to vest part of the Kemerton land in the conservation estate is part of its ongoing commitment to environmentally sustainable development.

The company has undertaken to monitor the water level and vegetation in the sensitive wetlands areas and will take remedial action, such as adding water, should monitoring indicate it is necessary.

## Project Vesta receives a five-year sponsorship boost

**PROJECT VESTA, a six-year research program run by CALM and the CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products Division, has received a welcome \$1,000 shot in the arm from the Shire of Mundaring.**

Shire President John Ellery said the Shire had decided to support the research with a \$5,000 sponsorship over five years because it was likely to have major benefits for local residents and the Shire's volunteer fire brigade network.

Cr Ellery was speaking at the presentation of the \$1,000 cheque for the first year of the sponsorship to CALMfire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt, who received it on behalf of the *Project Vesta* team.

"The initiative shown by Mundaring Shire is greatly appreciated and reflects the Shire's commitment towards integrating fire management into its overall planning strategies," Rick said.

"It also shows that the Shire has adopted responsibility for mitigating the impacts of fire on life, property, community assets and environmental values."

The research—code-named *Project Vesta* after the Roman Goddess of the Hearth—aims to build on existing knowledge of fire behaviour, and to develop a standard system that land managers around Australia will be able to use to predict the spread and intensity of wildfires.

The knowledge gained from the research will also help determine the hazards to be found in differing types of fuel, and enable more accurate mapping of the threat of wildfires to towns, community assets and



Mundaring Shire President John Ellery hands a \$1,000 cheque to CALMfire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt. With them is the Shire's fire management officer Bruce Telfer (formerly CALM Mundaring District forester). Photo by Rolf Perey

environmental values.

Cr Ellery said that understanding fire behaviour was critical to controlling wildfires and in planning fire prevention strategies, particularly

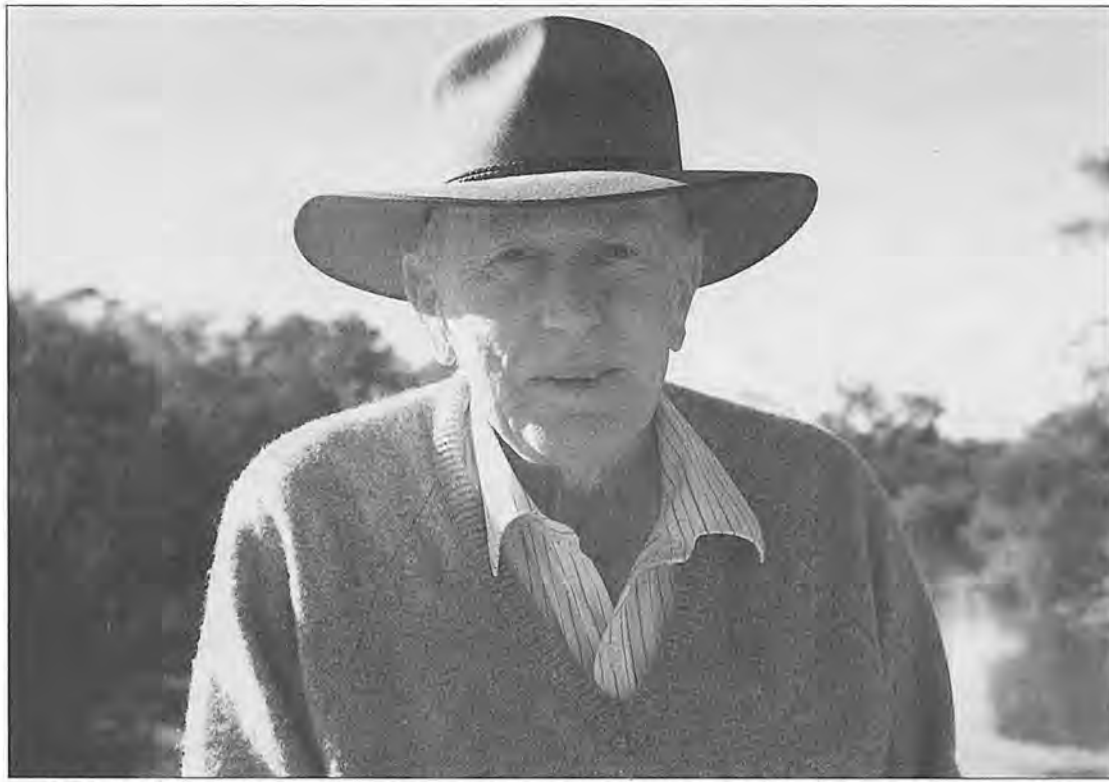
for areas such as the hills.

"In the past few years, we have had four devastating fires at Mt Helena, Chidlow, Wooroloo and in John Forrest National Park," he said.

"Our volunteer fire brigades are the first line of defence against the ravages of these intense bushfires, and support for continuing research such as that of *Project Vesta* will

help make their job much safer."

People who want to know more about *Project Vesta* can visit its internet site at <http://www.ffp.csiro.au/vesta/index.html>



It's doubtful anyone knows the Avon River as intimately as Jim Masters, OAM. He is seen here at one of its many picturesque spots. Photo courtesy of Avon River Management Authority

## Jim, a volunteer without peer

ONE of the most dedicated champions of nature conservation in Western Australia has, because of continuing ill health, withdrawn from the CALM Volunteers Register.

He is Jim Masters, OAM, affectionately known as The Old Man of the River, because of the large volume of meticulous research he has carried out on the River Care Project.

An outcome of this was *The Principles of River Management, based on the Avon River experience*, written by Jim and published by the Avon River Management Authority in 1996.

The research, in addition to his many years' commitment to wildlife

by Verna Costello

and environmental protection in general, brought him recognition a few years ago with the Order of Australia Medal.

Apart from running his farm, Jim also found time for active involvement with conservation-linked bodies other than CALM.

They include working with the former Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, local government authorities, the Toodyay Naturalists' Club and the Birds Australia group.

He has also written, co-authored and contributed chapters to wildlife and

environmental books and other publications.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club member Raye Paynter, who provided much of the information for this story, describes Jim as follows:

"As well as highly intelligent, Jim is very much a practical man, who could always be counted on to hop in and help whenever there were busy bees, or lend a tractor when and where needed."

Mundaring district operations officer John Carter said that Jim played a significant role in the Avon Valley Biological Survey, carried out in conjunction with CALM by the Toodyay Naturalists' Club.

"He is an expert on birds and has provided

CALM with a large volume of records, spanning many years of bird sightings in the Avon Valley," John said.

"His depth and breadth of knowledge continue to be a priceless resource."

Now in his early eighties, Jim continues to be a pragmatist, with few romantic notions about Mother Nature, one of his often-repeated quotes being "In nature, there are no rewards, only consequences".

Western Australians have much for which they should be grateful to Jim Masters—and so does CALM. We wish him many long years of watching his work for nature conservation bear the fruit it deserves, for this and future generations.

## This pair doubly valuable



PICTURED about to cut their birthday cake are CALM Herbarium volunteers Margaret (left) and Barbara Evans.

It was no ordinary birthday the twins were celebrating; it was their 90th, and a livelier pair of nonagenarians you would be hard pressed to find.

When asked if they would agree to pose for photographs, they unself-consciously entered into the spirit of the occasion with the ease of seasoned actors, further endearing themselves to the friends and colleagues helping them celebrate their special day.

Margaret and Barbara first became associated with the Herbarium in 1986, when they proof-read the two-volume book *Flora of the Perth Region*. When the CALM Volunteers scheme came into being in 1990, they promptly registered and have remained with it ever since.

Their work includes the all-important mounting of plant specimens, and sorting lichen specimens.

Staff and volunteers provided the cake at the morning tea held at the Herbarium, then it was back to work for everybody—including Margaret and Barbara.

# Volunteers impress

by Neville Marchant

CALM Herbarium volunteers have completed the mounting of their 100,000th plant specimen, and were recently congratulated on their impressive achievement by Herbarium staff members at a special function to mark the occasion.

The number of specimens is now 450,000, so the volunteer effort has contributed more than 20 per cent of the total number of specimens that make up the State collection.

An essential task of any herbarium is the painstaking fixing of each pressed specimen to a special card. At the CALM Herbarium, the task is largely carried out by a team of trained volunteers.

Each plant specimen chosen for mounting is different, some have stout stems, some are prickly some are huge; all need to be secured to the special

large card which makes a herbarium sheet.

The specimen mounter needs to be careful in arranging the specimen on the sheet so as not to obscure an important plant part and has to ensure that the correct label is affixed.

Collections Manager Chang Sha Fang and technician Phil Spencer as well as other staff have trained selected volunteers so that the Volunteer Mounting Team is highly efficient as well as productive.

There is still a great deal of contact with staff who are ultimately responsible for the standard of specimen preparation, but the volunteer program has provided an estimated \$300,000 worth of support.

This is what it would

have cost the Herbarium to employ more staff to mount 100,000 specimens.

Because of the help received, the curation staff has been able to incorporate many more specimens into the State collection than would have been possible otherwise.

It also means that curation staff has been able to process a long-standing backlog of specimens, and these have now been incorporated into the Herbarium for scientists to use.

The Herbarium has a highly successful volunteer program. Many of the helpers are professional people in their own right, some have retired and others are seeking jobs.

They all have one thing in common; they have an interest in WA plants, and while they work, they are learning more about the fascinating flora of WA.



Daphne Edinger gleefully prepares to plunge her knife deep into the cake, as she joins fellow volunteers and their 'minder', CALM technician Phil Spencer in celebrating the 100 thousandth plant specimen mounting. From left rear they are: Chris Hollister, Nora Best and Phil. Front Pat Angel, Daphne and Gwen Abbott. Photo by Verna Costello

## A happier Christmas ensured last Easter

LIVE bilbies were released into Dryandra woodland recently because people bought chocolate bilbies rather than bunnies last Easter.

Because of these purchases at Coles Supermarkets, funding of a bilby captive breeding project was made possible.

The project is part of CALM's *Western Shield* program, and is run jointly with Kanyana

Native Fauna Rehabilitation Centre.

More and more true-blue Aussies are choosing to develop an Easter bilby culture that is more appropriate to this country, than the northern hemisphere's bunny.

The thought of a bunny may evoke a temporary 'warm fuzzy', but in Australia, the rabbit it 'cute-ifies' does not!

This animal, through no fault of its own, has

wreaked havoc by destroying Australian native species' habitat—an added reason to give the chocolate version the heave-ho.

The release and conservation of the bilbies (the live ones) was a first in WA for the species, and would not have been possible without this contribution by the community.

The released bilbies can now be expected to enjoy a predator-free Christmas.

# CALM, Aquinas and Western Power go nest building

by Emma Bramwell

THE Swan and Canning Rivers, in the heart of our beautiful city, attract many species of birds not normally seen in such close proximity to a city centre.

A notable example of this is the osprey, a pair of which had been nesting in an ancient dead tuart tree on Mount Henry Peninsula, adjacent to Aquinas College.

Unfortunately, the tree had fallen and the osprey pair no longer had a suitable nesting place on the Peninsula.

Concerned at the loss, Aquinas College science technician Mrs Jan King contacted CALM Land for Wildlife coordinator Penny Hussey to see what could be done to remedy the situation, and Penny suggested she approach Western Power.

The osprey recovery project came to fruition with the erection of a nesting platform, supported by a recycled, 11-metre-long telegraph pole that Western Power donated and placed in position.

Park Engineers Pty. Ltd. production manager, and former Aquinas College student, Mr Gary Azzalini built the one-metre-square steel nesting platform, which was then secured to the top of the pole.

A derelict osprey nest, salvaged from a chimney stack that had been demolished at Burswood by Swan Cement, was mounted on the platform in the hope of attracting the ospreys.

With a bit of luck these birds may be able to nest again on this Land for Wildlife site on the lower Canning River.



Land for Wildlife administration officer Emma Bramwell (far right) and Aquinas College students William Harfield (next to Emma), and Luke Fiorentino (centre) with unidentified classmates, help Western Power's Neil Smith with the installation of an osprey nesting platform. Photo by Rachel Nordeck, courtesy Aquinas College



Lotte, trying to hold the interpretation award at a safe distance from daughter Jessica, had a battle keeping her from cutting more teeth on it. "Whoa! mum, I mean to win lots of these when I grow up. They look yummy."

Photo by Verna Costello

## Stumpy's a winner!

**STUMPY the stromatolite has won a national award for CALM!**

Because Stumpy is a cartoon character, he was not alone in this. Helping him was a highly motivated team, comprising:

Senior interpretation officer Gil Field—with wacky ideas, Interpretation officer Lotte Lent—with words and images, Project officer Karen Shaddock—designer, Mid West Region nature conservation program leader Ron Shepherd—ecologist, Mid West Region planning officer Sue Hancock—planner, and Clerical officer Denise Griffith—carrying out the nuts 'n' bolts tasks. Cartoonist Terry Roberts created Stumpy.

The award was made by the Interpretation Australia Association, with the judges unanimous in their decision. Following are extracts from their citation:

"Stumpy Interprets the Stromatolites" was judged the winner of the 1998

Interpretation Australia Awards (non-personal category) for its verve and simplicity in communicating an obscure topic.

"The cartoon character 'Stumpy' achieves a light, easy, visitor-friendly tone, and the simple interactives built into the series of signs engage visitor participation . . . and thus meets a primary aim of heritage interpretation—site protection. Congratulations!"

The stromatolites at Hamelin Pool, in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, were in danger of becoming seriously eroded. Visitors to the site often unwittingly compacted them—just by walking on them.

It became imperative that pedestrian traffic be discontinued, and that visitors be given reasons why, emphasising the fragility of the stromatolite communities, while keeping in mind the added goal of enhancing visi-



tors' experience. (Further details on how this was done will appear in the next issue of CALM NEWS.)

The project team was highly delighted with its award, while the ever-smiling Stumpy took it all CALM-ly in his stride.

"We're all thrilled that our interpretation has been nationally recognised," said Lotte, "and it's great that CALM places a high value on effectively communicating with visitors."

"The Mid West Regional staff worked very hard to make the stromatolite interpretation come alive; it was a credit to them. "Way to go Stumpy!"

## Minister launches new land rehabilitation book

WHILE announcing the landmark agreement between Kemerton Silica Sand Pty Ltd (see story top of pg5) and CALM, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes took the opportunity to launch the third volume of *Mining and the Community: A Growing Relationship*.

Produced by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA, Inc., the book aims to continue raising public awareness about minerals companies and the community working together on environmental projects, and

to further encourage similar initiatives by others in the minerals and energy industry.

The book contains case studies of collaborative initiatives that range throughout the State from the Pilbara through to the Goldfields, and to the Kemerton wetlands of the south-west.

Earlier volumes were launched in April 1991 and March 1997.

Mrs Edwardes said that mining was a multi-billion dollar industry in WA, and played a major role in the

State's and the nation's economic development.

"In this respect, the State government is committed to sustainable development, by finding a balance so that conservation of our wildlife and landscapes can be integrated with development," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Kemerton Nature Reserve is an excellent example of the type of case studies that appear in this most worthwhile publication.

"Other case studies, describe where CALM has developed

partnerships with mining organisations such as Alcoa of Australia Ltd and Cable Sands WA, in order to achieve conservation objectives such as wildlife recovery under its *Western Shield* program.

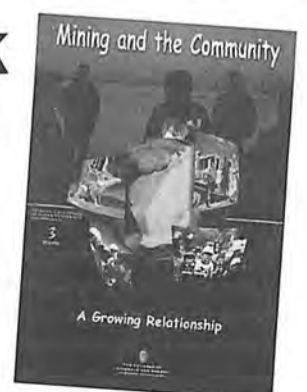
"More than that, it also illustrates the growing awareness in the mining sector of the need to incorporate environmental planning in company proposals.

"This increasing awareness and growing sense of environmental responsibility is one of the factors that contribute to

the popularity of these publications and why they're so much in demand.

"They showcase successful ventures of companies really working with the community on environmental projects, and encourage other organisations and local communities to get involved together and see real results.

"I congratulate the Chamber of Minerals and Energy for its vision and insight in providing the community and business leaders with this tool," Mrs Edwardes said.



The book is available, free of charge, from Ms J Aberdeen Chamber of Minerals and Energy, 12 St. George's Terrace, Perth. Telephone (08) 9325 2955.



Field day participant Cicely Howell listens intently as Jack Kinnear explains to Land For Wildlife enthusiasts the habitat requirements of rock wallabies. Photo by Penny Hussey

## Final field graduate

by Alan Byrne

IN the final story on the 1996 field officer graduates, we meet Amanda Smith from the Wheatbelt Region.

Amanda was one of the fifteen people who graduated earlier this year following the fourteen weeks competency-based training course.

Amanda spent most of her early years growing up in the Albany area, later moving to Bunbury to complete her high school studies at the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

Her love of the natural environment was fostered as a child, by her father Ray Smith, a former CALM wildlife officer.

After completing her high school studies, Amanda was accepted into Murdoch University to study for a Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science degree, complet-

ing it in 1995. Amanda was then appointed to the Forest Management Branch Bunbury from July 1996 to April 1997 where she was involved in the Mapping and Inventory section.

In May 1997, she was appointed assistant area co-ordinator with the Lower West Sharefarms group, based in Collie.

In February 1998, Amanda was able to secure her current position as catchment recovery officer in the Wheatbelt Region, where she was able to fulfil her initial ambition of working for CALM in nature conservation.

Her current duties include implementation of the Toolibin Lake Recovery Plan, preparation of tenders, contract

management, monthly groundwater monitoring, seasonal surface water monitoring, liaison with the Recovery Team and Technical Advisory Group and planning and implementation of the Toolibin catchment revegetation.

In her spare time, Amanda likes to scuba dive, read and travel, and at the time of writing, she is travelling through Europe with fellow-graduate Megan Hughes.

While Amanda has achieved her main ambition to work in nature conservation, she sees the future as one of great opportunities to develop her skills and expand her knowledge, so she can have greater influence in the future management of the State's natural resources, particularly nature conservation.

## Land for Wildlife impresses

by Avril Baxter

WATCHED by a be-mused rock wallaby population, more than 50 people were found recently marvelling at the breathtaking beauty of flowers growing in and around granite outcrops at Merredin's Mt Caroline Reserve.

The visitors were guests of CALM at its Land for Wildlife first ever major field day.

The Land for Wildlife scheme has been running in Western Australia since 1997, and has more than 300 members.

It encourages and helps landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on

their properties. Private landholders have a major role to play, not only in conserving the native flora and fauna already there, but to develop suitable conditions for animals to be reintroduced into their native habitat.

CALM principal research scientist Jack Kinnear explained to the visitors how his research into fox predation on rock wallabies was one of the studies that led to the development of CALM's highly successful *Western Shield* program.

"Rock wallaby numbers

around Mt. Caroline have increased from 10 to 276 in the last 16 years of fox control, and their offspring have migrated to a rock outcrop eight kilometres away," he said.

The importance of regional fox control was reinforced by CALM senior zoologist Peter Mawson.

"Farmer's can work with CALM in controlling foxes, so that when native animal numbers build up within CALM reserves, there is somewhere safe for their young to go, when they start dispersing," he said.

"In addition to fox control, regeneration on and

around granite outcrops also needs to be encouraged, to provide a diverse and plentiful range of food and home sites.

Land for Wildlife co-ordinator Penny Hussey was much impressed with the turnout.

"We'd hoped that by showing landholders the extremely attractive native animals and plants that should be on granite outcrops, they'd be encouraged to manage their land appropriately," she said.

"From the enthusiastic response, I'd say the day was highly successful, so we now hope to run similar field days in other types of landscape."



## Tour operators learn about the Nyoongar way of life

by Verna Costello

ABOUT 40 tour operators recently enjoyed a hands-on learning experience at the Balga Mia Village in Yanchep National Park.

There, they discovered how to light a fire, using sticks, make string from sedge grass, and glue (from materials that included droppings generously 'donated' by the ubiquitous kangaroo).

They then used the glue to make a 'taap' or serrated-blade bush knife.

The tour operators were guests of Aboriginal heritage officers Noel Nannup, Kevin Hill and Koodah Cornwall from CALM's Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit—and the activities were just a few of those that are now available to local, interstate and overseas tourists.

Before moving from the village to take their guests on a 'walkabout' along the Yanjidi Trail, the heritage officers described how the on-site temporary dwellings (known as mias), which were in progressive stages of construction, had been made.

The group made six stops along the trail, reflecting the Nyoongar people's six seasons, and how it was necessary to follow them as they changed, adapting their diet to whatever food was most plentiful in each season.

They also learnt that inhalants to relieve nasal congestion had been around for thousands of years, and that there were several deceptively easy ways to catch a wild duck—like lying in wait under the water and grabbing their feet as they paddled overhead!

### So what's new?

As for one of the more recent fads so popular with the wider community—aromatherapy—the question uppermost in the heritage officers' minds was "So what else is new? Nyoongar women have been practising it for thousands of years!"

The morning finished with a delicious lunch, prepared by Kevin Hill's



Noel Nannup (centre) shows how sedge grass is prepared for string making, while volunteer Delvine Cornwall (left) and her dad Koodah finish plaiting the grass. Kevin Hill at rear looks on with tour operators, a few of whom are seen here. Photo by Verna Costello

mother Madge and aunt Anne.

Damper, bush potatoes and tomato relish, were on

offer to titillate the taste buds. These accompanied the aromatic kangaroo brawn, kangaroo tail (rich-

ly reminiscent of ox-tail), and emu cutlets, any one of which was sufficient to break the resolve of this

mostly vegetarian writer. **Note:** For further information on tour content, entry fees, and times and

days the tours operate, etc., please phone Yanchep National Park on (08) 9561 1004.



## Projects for volunteers

**VOLUNTEERS!** The question has been asked before, but it still bears repeating: where would we be without them?

More than 1,500 CALM-registered volunteers contribute many hours to continuing programs such as caring for sick or injured animals, landscaping with native plants, searching for rare plant species, and many other tasks, as well as a variety of one-off projects. *The Montebello Renewal*, spanning three years, is one major project in which volunteers joined staff (several of the latter giving up part of their annual leave to become volunteers themselves).

And still CALM has members of the community phoning and writing to find out how they can become involved in the Department's conservation mission.

Staff members are also approached by their friends and family, so to help them and anyone else who happens to be reading this, the following sets out some of the programs and projects that need volunteers, continuously, on a seasonal basis, or in emergency situations as they arise:

### Statewide

**Campground hosts:** Ongoing project—Statewide. Contact: Marg Buckland (08) 9334 0333, to find out where and when hosts are required. Campground hosts welcome campers, provide information to campers and visitors and help them enjoy their stay. Operating in some parks and forests. Caravan and/or camping equipment required.

**Whale Rescues:** Ongoing training project—Statewide. Volunteers on call in emergencies. Contact: Marg Buckland (08) 9334 0333. Westwhales, a voluntary group, has combined with CALM to organise an efficient emergency whale-rescue program.

**Wildlife Carers:** Ongoing project—Statewide. Contact: Marg Buckland (08) 9334 0333. Wildlife Carers are individuals who are prepared to rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned animals. Birds, mammals and reptiles are nursed back to health and released again when capable of fending for themselves.

### Perth metropolitan area

**Co-ordinator of Volunteers:** Phone Michael Phillips (08) 9295 2244 to find out what, when, where volunteers might be needed in the Perth metropolitan area.

**Marmion Guides:** Ongoing project. Contact: Peter Dans or John Edwards (08) 9432 5111. Volunteers have a common interest in the management and care of the Marmion Marine Park and liaise closely with CALM.

**Earth Carers:** Ongoing project. Volunteers on call, as required. Contact: Michael Phillips (08) 9295 2244. Earth Carers are trained in interpretation of the environment and assist with education and information at shopping centres and other displays.

**Shoalwater Islands Volunteers:** Ongoing project. Contact: Terry Goodlich (08) 9592 5191. Shoalwater Islands Volunteers are a group of people trained to help staff, on a rostered basis, by giving information and guided tours to the public, and by assisting in the day-to-day running of the Penguin Experience.

**Friends of Shoalwater Islands Marine Parks:** Ongoing project. Contact: Terry Goodlich (08) 9592 5191. A group of local people concerned with the management and care of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and the surrounding area. The group liaises very closely with CALM.

**Friends of Lake Forrestdale:** Ongoing project. Contact: Leon Griffith or Lyndon Mueller (08) 9405 1222. The Friends of Lake Forrestdale was established to help CALM in managing the reserve. The group focuses on recreation management and environmental concerns.

**Canning River Regional Park Volunteers:** Ongoing project. Contact: Annie Greig (08) 9405 0777. The Canning River Regional Park Volunteers is a joint project between the City of Canning and CALM. The volunteers are involved in interpreting, for visitors, the history of the Canning River and its natural and cultural values.

**The Hills Forest Volunteers:** Ongoing project. Contact: Michael Phillips (08) 9295 2244. Volunteers help with delivery of the Go Bush! and Sensational! Summer Nights activity programs at The Hills Forest Activity Centre in Mundaring, and in nearby State forest and national parks.

**Yanchep National Park Wildflower Gardens:** Ongoing project. Contact: John Wheeler (08) 9561 1004. Members of the Northern Suburbs Branch of the Wildflower Society are re-organising and upgrading the plant species in the Yanchep National Park Wildflower gardens.

**Call of the Koala:** Ongoing project. Contact: John Wheeler (08) 9561 1004. Volunteers help with management of the Koala Colony, by planting and establishing tree plantation and by seeking sponsorships or other external funding for the project.

**Bridal Creeper Removal Group:** Ongoing project. Contact: John Wheeler (08) 9561 1004. Volunteers help remove bridal creeper from Boomerang Gorge on selected workdays.

**Avon Valley Biological Survey:** Ongoing project. Contact: John Carter (08) 9295 1955. Volunteers are involved in surveying of both flora and fauna in the vicinity of Avon Valley National Park.

### CALM's WA Herbarium, George Street, Como:

**Friends of the WA Herbarium:** Ongoing project. Contact: Chang Sha Fang (08) 9334 0500. The Friends of the WA Herbarium are mostly keen amateur botanists or people with an interest in native plants. They assist herbarium staff with many aspects of management of the collection.

### Woodvale Research Centre, (Ocean Reef Road):

**Wildlife Research:** Intermittent. Contact: Sue Pegg (08) 9405 5100. Assisting with scientific research projects on native plants and animals. Keenly sought after by work-experience students at tertiary institutions.

### CALM Operations HQ, Hayman Road, Como:

**Forest Research:** Intermittent. Contact: Richard Tan (08) 9334 0299. Research programs at Como are aimed at increasing the overall knowledge of forest diseases, entomology, tissue culture and other laboratory and field-based work. Keenly sought after by work-experience students at tertiary institutions.



Robyn Weir and Jodi Earnshaw on duty to answer questions about local marine life and the proposed marine reserve.

Photo by Sue Osborne

## Marine Conservation a hit at Expo

by Mike Lapwood

**THE 1998 Jurien Expo held on November 7 was an outstanding success for CALM's Marine Conservation Branch, with about 400 people visiting the Department's research vessel *Bidhangara* and display in the main marquee.**

Many of these visitors took part in beach activities and came into contact with a variety of marine animals and plants, including species of sea stars, sea urchins, molluscs, sea grass and hermit crabs and so on, collected from the nearby reefs.

A great hit with both children and adults was the sea-life touch pool on board the *Bidhangara*, where CALM

officers also demonstrated the use of a variety of scientific monitoring instruments.

The drop-down video camera on board was very popular, with the children checking out life at the bottom of Jurien marina.

Beach activities included sand sculpture competitions, tug-o-war and treasure hunts, which were also popular with the young and the young at heart.

Entries in the CALM-sponsored underwater photography competition was of an exceptionally high standard

and the judges had a very difficult time in choosing a winner. After much deliberation, Peter Nicholas of Attadale was announced a worthy recipient of the prize, with many other entries receiving a commendation from the judges.

An estimated 180 people viewed CALM's display, and heard their questions answered by staff on a wide range of issues regarding the proposed marine reserve at Jurien. The WA Marine Life CD-ROM was also very popular.

CALM staff attending to visitors were Mid West regional manager Kelly Gillam; Moora District manager David Rose;

Marine Conservation Branch ecologist Sue Osborne and project officer Jodi Earnshaw; Mid West community education officer Melinda Bolt; marine and coastal districts reserves officer Ian Gale, and WA Naturally customer service officer Robyn Weir.

The were ably assisted by CALM volunteers Tim Grubba, Emma Parkes, Brenda Lapwood, Camille Grubba, Maxine Birkin and Chontarle Pitulej provided invaluable support.

Overall, this year's Expo was an outstanding success and Marine Conservation Branch staff look forward to participating again next year.

## Staff commended for maintaining service beyond the call of duty

**AS part of its ongoing Good News project, the Midland Kalamunda Reporter recently published the following letter, commending CALM staff who went out of their way to help an injured walker and her colleagues.**

"I speak for a group of experienced long-distance walkers from Queensland and England, who have been walking the northern section of your Bibbulmun Track.

We were overwhelmed by the beyond-the-call-of-duty assistance, care and concern afforded our group by your local CALM staff.

The occasion was an unfortunate accident in which one of our group suffered a broken ankle.

While we were well prepared—with good equipment,

mobile phone and first aid materials—we were truly amazed at the speedy response to our call and the efficiency in dealing with the situation.

More than that, we are all extremely grateful for the warm, caring way that they ensured our injured friend was safely in a hospital and all other members of the party assisted back to base.

Our walking intentions have had to be postponed until next year, but the track is a great experience and we will be back." (Signed by Jim Wilkinson, Allora, Queensland.)

The following completes the story, and identifies those involved.

After colleagues of the injured woman contacted a friend living in Lesmurdie, the

friend phoned State Emergency Services, who then got in touch with CALM.

Mundaring District forester Jamie Ridley located the group at Mt Dale at 12.30 p.m. and took the injured woman and two of her colleagues to the Kalamunda Hospital.

He then arranged for national park ranger Paul Tholen to pick up the other two people in the group, and bring them to CALM's Mundaring office.

At the hospital, the injury was diagnosed as a multiple fracture, and Jamie was informed that the woman needed to go to Swan District Hospital. He took her there, and waited while she was admitted. (She apparently needed surgery and flew back to Queensland a day or two later.)

Meanwhile, Paul drove the

group back to their friend's place in Lesmurdie.

Jamie returned to the Mundaring office about 4.00 p.m., after informing the group of their friend's medical status and providing excellent support for the woman and her friends.

While Jamie Ridley is the key player in this rescue story, he is not alone among CALM staff, many of whom go to great lengths to help our 'clients'.

For more on how CALM staff are impressing people with their excellent service to the community, read in 'Letters' on page 2 how Dwellingup District clerical officer Lisa Craig helped a worried family, while meeting the demands of an exceptionally busy day.

# Staff unwind at Annual Big Brook Relay

THE sun shone brightly on the Big Brook Relay for 98, and the competition was fast and furious. Fifteen teams battled it out in sweltering conditions (well, kind of sweltering) for the coveted Karri Country All Sports trophy.

After a two-minute silence in memory of Big Brook Relay stalwart Peter Rado, who passed away recently, competitors launched themselves into the event.

Some of the teams to grace the field included the Marine Marauders, the Sons of Simmo, Comotose, the Woodvale Wanderers, Albany Whalers, Cape Crusaders, Dwellingup Desperadoes and The Dark Side.

Tireless event organisers, Rod Annear and Dave Meehan from Pemberton, once again did a sterling job of drumming up support from CALM staff near and far.

"A few teams pulled out at the last minute but the turnout was pretty good and we certainly had the best weather on record—it usually pours with rain," Rod said.

Apart from a noticeable shortening of the swim leg, the testing course varied little from previous years. Word quickly got around that the swim was lopped by Rod, who wasn't feeling the best, and happened to be the designated swimmer for his team. He was quick to own up:

"I was nominated to do the swim about five minutes before I set the course. I wasn't feeling great, and we've had complaints about the swim leg being too long in the past, so I decided to cut it from about one kilometre to 400 metres. I won't be making that mistake again!"

In fact, since Pemberton is

Story and photos by Penny Walsh

going to gain the services of swimming supremo Natasha Oke next year (after she transfers from Manjimup to Pemberton), Rod is seriously thinking of making the swim leg much, much longer.

First off the blocks were the crosscutters, and it was quickly clear who the novices were, but even the beginners eventually managed to work their way through five rings of Dwellingup's finest regrowth jarrah (salvaged from a roading operation).

From the crosscut it was on to the cycle, and a 12-kilometre loop around the dam. The standout performance came from Brent Johnson of the Woodvale Wanderers.

Brent's bicycle had a mind of its own and kept slipping up a gear, especially on inclines, making progress arduous and very time-consuming (at least, that's Brent's story)

From the cycle it was on to the winding seven-kilometre run through the forest. Competitors were really feeling the heat by now (literally, as well as figuratively).

There were plenty of red faces by the end of the leg, not to mention one or two rolled ankles.

The prize for commitment above and beyond the call of duty went to John Lloyd from Mundaring who decided to run anyway, even though he didn't officially have a team. Some people are gluttons for punishment.

The paddlers were next, and never has a more skilful bunch of canoeists graced the water. Last minute advice about which end of the canoe was the



Sawdust flies as the Big Brook Relay competitors for 1998 put their back into the crosscut. Foreground: Ian Moore and David Anderson (partly obscured) from FMB coached by John Webb. Rear: Arvid Hogstrom and Dean Irving of the Comotose team.

front and which was the back, paid off handsomely for one novice team.

Controversy raged, however, when one crew was left up a brook without a canoe (so to speak). It seems that in their haste, one of the teams ahead of them had jumped in the wrong canoe and headed for the open seas. The canoeless team was less than impressed.

But who could fail to be impressed by the two strapping lads from Woodvale who donned grass skirts and warpaint for their sojourn on the water. Dorian Moro and Paul Van Heurck made quite a splash in their tribal get-up.

Last but not least, the infamous 'sprint' swim, made even more infamous by a couple of scuba-equipped 'sharks' (complete with fins) who looked uncannily like Ian Gale and George Watson from Marine and Coastal District.

While the endurance swimmers muttered under their breath, the sprinters hit the water kicking and were soon headed for the finish line.

The team that came out on top, Forest Management Branch from Manjimup, must surely rank up there with the best to have tackled the Big Brook Relay.

This is the second year FMB has emerged triumphant, but team spokesperson Alan Seymour has tasted Big Brook success four times.

He insists that FMB wasn't expecting to win in 1998 and half way through the event you would have believed it—the team was running ninth!



Jim Cocking accepts the Derriere Award in the traditional way, on behalf of his team of tail-enders (left to right) Janine Liddel, Alanna Chant, Jo Wallace, Deanne Pember and Kathy Himbek. Tim Brett was presumably hiding when this photo was taken.

Seasoned competitors Greg Strelein, Mike Buckton and Richard Ford from Bunbury, David Anderson, Natasha Oke and Alan from Manjimup, were joined by Ian Moore, also from Manjimup, in the winning team.

The prize for persistence goes to Alan Sands, who was in the second-placed 'Destroyers' from Perth District/Regional Parks. Alan has come second or third in every one of the 11 Big Brook Relays he has attended.

Despite the heartache, he plans to be back again next year. And he reports that the cross-cut gets easier the second time around (especially with a good saw, and someone who is fit on the other end of it).

Coming in third were the

Cape Crusaders from Margaret River and Busselton. Team spokesperson Glenn Willmott admitted that the Crusaders did train a bit before the event.

They even organised a canoe a month in advance, rather than the night before, which is usually the case.

The Cape Crusaders said they'd be back for Big Brook 99, and they called on everyone in CALM to support the event:

"The folks down in Pemberton do a great job of organising the day, and it would be nice to see them getting more support. What about a team from the AWU?" said Glenn.

Of course, there's a special place in the hearts of all who attend Big Brook for

the team that brings up the rear. This year it was a crew of animal researchers, dieback interpreters, and a district officer hailing from Manjimup, Bunbury and Dwellingup.

But perhaps they could be forgiven for feeling a little hard-done by, since theirs was the mysterious vanishing canoe! Team spokesperson Deanne Pember says they'll be back next year—for revenge.

Thanks go to Rod Annear, Dave Meehan and the Pemberton staff and crews for all the work they put into organising the day and preparing the course.

Next year they're hoping for an even bigger turnout. "Especially from Walpole and Blackwood Districts!" said Rod.



Brent Johnson of the Woodvale Wanderers holding the 'yellow jersey' (cow) awarded for his efforts in the cycle leg.



## ... and here's some more

by Tammie Reid

Big Brook is not just about relays; there are a number of other fiercely contested titles being decided during the day.

For example, there's the team with the most impressive catering and gourmet picnic spreads (always difficult to rival Emily Humble's CALM Timber Technology team-effort).

Then there's the hotly contested Pemb Challenge tug-of-war. Pemberton was defeated for the first time in Big Brook history this year, Manjimup taking the honours.

And the grand finale is the sudden

death, bush rules volleyball play-offs. Being the last event of the day, some people drift off for one reason or another and miss out on the excitement and the drama.

This year, the last, dusty, hot volleyball battle was between Comotose and the Albany Whalers. Appeals were made about the light, umpire favouritism, lack of court lines, and a sagging net that even allowed Mitzi Vance of the Big Brook debutante team 'Au Naturel'

from Corporate Relations to deliver blood curdling net spikes (Mitzi is all of five feet and a bit).

Rather like Banjo Patterson's Geebung Polo Club battle, the Como mob was the one left standing as the dust cleared and the sun set on another great day by the waters of Big Brook Dam, Pemberton.

Left: The stylish 'Au Naturel' volleyball team (rear left to right) Tiffany Aberin, Trudy Peel, Penny Walsh, Debbie Watson. (Front) Mitzi Vance and Tammie Reid. Photo by John Lloyd

# NPNCA members check outcomes of decisions



NPNCA members and CALM staff get back into shoes and socks. From left to right they are, Rick France, Terry Adams, Hugh Browne (behind Terry), Keiran McNamara, Tom Day, Jim Williamson (seated at rear), Hamish Crawford, Tammie Reid (seated right foreground), Aminya Ennis and Rick Sneeuwjagt (behind Aminya). Photo by Pat Barblett

## KICKING off their shoes and socks, National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority members waded up the creek without a paddle.

Armed only with torches, they were guided through Stockman's Sally Cave by National Park ranger Rick France.

This was only one stop among many in a tour organised for them by Moora District man-

by Tammie Reid

ager David Rose and NPNCA executive officer Aminya Ennis, to see for themselves some of the park and reserve issues of the 'Turquoise Coast'.

NPNCA chairman Tom Day believes these field trips are vital for the Authority to remain in touch and relevant.

"We deal with so many items at a round table, metropolitan level. When we get out and visit as a group it's immensely gratifying to see some of the directives we've made on behalf of the community we represent yielding positive results," Tom said.

"Some of the areas we visited on this trip have been on our books for a long while—

Beekeeper Nature Reserve, Mt Leseuer, the Pinnacles, and the squatters shacks at Gray and Wedge Island.

"Over two days, we covered a lot of ground, physically and mentally, getting about in one of the Pinnacles four-wheel-drive tour buses, via the sandhill and naval firing range route—not to mention rescuing bogged beachgoers along the way!

"Having NPNCA member Marion Blackwell on board was a bonus. Her expert knowledge of the botanical richness of Mt Leseuer, was invaluable.

"Combining our monthly meeting with presentations from regional manager and past NPNCA member Kelly Gillen, made it a packed and comprehensive field visit."

NPNCA members thanked the CALM staff who had led them through the busy schedule.

"The hard decisions they often have to make as a result of the Authority's directives, show that a good deal of careful thought is given to following them through—and all carried out in a thoroughly professional manner," said NPNCA member Pat Barblett.



## John 'Butts out' after 30 years

REGIONAL manager Bruce Harvey (right) using a microphone, cleverly disguised as a glass of lolly water, says farewell to a retiring John Butts, left, with the able assistance of 'Town Crier' Dave Ward.

They are pictured at the Elizabethan Village Restaurant in Kelmscott, where staff and friends had gathered to celebrate John's launch into the hectic world of retirement.

John is taking outstanding leave to bring him up to his official retirement date of January 21, 1999, and completing nearly 30 years service with the Forests Department and CALM.

Born in England, John completed his National Service in the British Army in the 1950s. He served in South Georgia in the Falkland Islands as a customs officer for the whaling fleet from 1957 to 1959.

He returned to England for four years as a customs officer before journeying to Zambia where he continued his customs work from 1964 to 1967.

He then moved to Australia to a position as statistics officer with the Fremantle Port Authority in 1968.

In June 1969, John was appointed to the Forests Department at Mundaring as administrative officer,

working in this capacity until he was promoted in 1989 to regional administrative officer at Kelmscott.

He survived seven different district managers at Mundaring, and four regional managers at Kelmscott.

He also spent time as a relief officer in Como State Operations Headquarters as the senior administrative officer and in the computerisation of pine delivery notes.

His role as a regional administration officer saw him keeping an eagle eye on budgets and in close consultation with staff across the region. He also made a significant contri-

but ion to administration seminars and the drafting of administration instructions.

John retires just short of 65 years of age, after nearly three decades of conscientious and loyal service.

He joins wife Jean, who recently retired from CALM Mundaring, and they plan to enjoy themselves in their Mundaring hills environment, sallying forth from time to time to travel to other WA attractions. They have two daughters, Helen and Clare. At the time of writing, Helen was due to present them with their first grandchild.

Photo by Ralph Smith.

## Wool, I'll be damara-ed

HANDS up all those who caught the ABC Channel 2 program **LANDLINE** on October 25!

Those of you who did would almost certainly have been mind-boggled by the report on the damara, a breed of sheep that causes considerably less land degradation than any other breed.

This is because it covers four times as much ground in a day as a merino, so its grazing is less concentrated.

But it is worth visiting the **LANDLINE** site for a host of other astonishing information. You will find it on: <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/arch.htm>

Then mouse-click on '1998 Series' followed by another click on 'October

by Verna Costello

25, 1998—Damara Sheep' for the text, which gives much of the information from the television program.

Quite apart from the reduced land-degradation factor, the information could also make a vital difference to sheepbreeders you meet in the course of your work.

If they are hard hit by low wool prices, and might consider sheepbreeding for meat, there are contact names, phone numbers and email addresses of breeders provided at the end of the text. The video of the program could also prove a worthwhile investment for them at \$25.

Not wishing to be accused of trespassing on Agriculture WA's preserve I'll not go on about how the hair-growing breed can grow wool in cooler climates (And when it does, it doesn't need shearing!), nor about its resistance to disease and parasites that eliminates the need for drenching or parasite control, its high tolerance of heat and stress, and so on.

Got your interest, yet? No? Well you might like to visit the site anyway and click your mouse button on 'October 11, 1998—*Western Shield*' and August 2, 1998—Carbon Credits. The only drawback is that you won't discover anything you hadn't already learnt in **CALM NEWS** and **LANDSCOPE**.

## Timely verse

CALM Wanneroo overseer Ted Haddrill penned the following at the end of the last fire season, but in the light of recent events, now seems an appropriate time to share Ted's thoughts with **CALM NEWS** readers:

I live in the south of Westralia  
I'm bordered three sides by CALM;  
They burn the bush every few years,  
but it doesn't do any harm.

It can get very depressing,  
as the fire creates lots of smoke.  
For a couple of days we put  
up with this,  
'tho' sometimes we feel we will choke.

But hold on, I'm not complaining  
about workers or those higher up;  
We're grateful they do it, we still have  
a home;  
And we don't need another Dwellingup!

# Staff pass tests, confirming fitness for firefighting



Narrogin District construction and maintenance worker Martin Clarke and Narrogin Region's recreation and tourism planning officer Daryl Moncrieff show how reeling in a 'live' hose is done. Photo by Alex Agafonoff

A CIRCUIT that includes reeling in a hose, lifting three 20-kilogram drums off the back of a ute, raking a five-metre-long, one-metre-wide trail, and carrying two fire hoses over a 80-metre obstacle course is not everyone's idea of fun.

But it was part of the annual fitness test for firefighters, which was combined with the annual Wheatbelt Regional Conference in Narrogin, an ideal time and place for its staff to take part.

Starting at 8.15 a.m., sharp, one hot and windy November day, CALM staff from Merredin, Narrogin and Katanning took part in a gruelling workout, with the aim of proving to their peers that they were indeed fit for the coming fire season.

Non-firefighting staff also took part (although half way through the walk, some of them wondered why!)

Facilitator Narrogin District senior operations officer Steve Gorton did an excellent job of getting everyone into line, ably assisted by reserves officer Brian McMahon (also

by Trish Nanni

from Narrogin District), who made everything look easy.

The fitness test was in two parts, consisting of the circuit, and a walk or run. Most of the non-firefighters declined the invitation to join in the circuit, being happy to watch the 'pros' showing them how it's done.

Needless to say, everyone found this part of the test a breeze. Well, nearly everyone. Then it was time for the 'hard slog'—six laps around the trotting track (Oh, for horse!), or three laps for those few who decided to run.

A strong headwind provided an extra challenge for the enthusiastic walkers and runners, making for some strangely punctuated conversations. "Hey mate, huff, wait for me, puff."

All in all, it was great fun and a successful session, proving that CALM's firefighting staff (and even some non-firefighters) in the Wheatbelt Region are fit and raring to go.

## Mrs Gill's gift to wildlife

FAMILY members of the late Sarah Gill, recently installed a commemorative plaque on land bequeathed by her to CALM.

The land, comprising about 40 hectares, was part of the Gill family farm, which is located near Lake Kwonnicup, about 40 kilometres north-west of Mount Barker.

One of the late Mrs Gill's sons, Charlie, continues to operate the sheep farm, which also has a bluegum plantation managed by CALM's South Coast Sharefarm group.

In accordance with Mrs Gill's wishes, the reserve has been gazetted as an A-class nature reserve for the purpose of 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna'

by Greg Mair

The reserve has not been cleared for many years, and shows little sign of the farming activities conducted there many years ago.

There are two lakes on the reserve, providing a valuable refuge for waterfowl and other animals, such as the brush tailed wallaby, bandicoot and echidna.

A flora search conducted by Walpole District staff in October yielded almost 100 species, and there is little doubt that further searches will see more species added to the list.

Highlights of the day when the plaque was installed, were

the sighting of a wide range of orchids and a pair of mating tiger snakes—a sight seldom seen!

Gill Nature Reserve is within the Upper Kent catchment, which is under the focus of the National Dryland Salinity Research, Development and Extension Program.

As such, it will provide a valuable opportunity to link revegetated areas, as catchment groups implement strategies to address waterlogging and salinity issues within the Upper Kent.

CALM is particularly grateful for gifts of land such as that made by Mrs Gill and her family, and where valuable additions to the conservation estate can be made.



Left to right, Charlie, Elizabeth and her husband Kerry Gill, (sons and daughter-in-law of the late Mrs Sarah Gill) with the commemorative plaque. Photo by Greg Mair



## Celebrating a book's 21st

IS Matthew Williams trying to read Greg Keighery's thoughts?

The two research scientists are pictured at a function celebrating the release of the 21st Bush Book—*Bugs in the Backyard*—at the BookCaffe's Mill Point Road premises in South Perth.

Nearly 50 people were there, mostly contributors to the Bush Book series and book trade representatives.

Marking the occasion, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said Bush Books had become one of the State's publishing success stories, with more than 80,000 copies sold in the two-and-a-half years

since the first one was released.

"One of the underlying motives for producing the Bush Books is the belief that people are more likely to support conservation measures if they understand just what it is that needs to be conserved," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The success of the series reflects the growing interest in WA's plants, animals and landforms, and by stimulating people's understanding, Bush Books, like so many other CALM publications, are making an invaluable contribution to CALM's conservation work.

The title *Bugs in the Backyard*, is particularly apt, as even bugs in suburbia are part

of the ecosystems that make up our wonderful environment, and they're well worth conserving, even if some of them bite!" she said.

Bush Books combine scientific accuracy with easy to understand writing, and are available throughout WA.

Bush Books are produced by CALM Corporate Relations special projects officer Carolyn Thomson-Dans, with the assistance of a wide range of experts from within and outside CALM.

They are designed by Sue Marais, Maria Duthie, Tiffany Aberin and Gooitzen van der Meer.

Photo by Verna Costello