# Cyclones, floods failto beat Exmouth, Moora staff

and Elaine hit the north-west Exmouth and flood-ravaged house, believing their own coast, extending many kilo- Moora coped during and after home was unlikely to withmetres inland and down the deluge: beyond Geraldton.

They hit with a force that and wildlife animals like warnings, some reaching limit- within the Shire of Exmouth stuffed toys. Buildings and ed fruition, others fading away administration complex, was trees were tossed around like or crossing other parts of the severely affected by the storm Leggo blocks, and floods north-west coast, Exmouth was and substantially flooded. added their own form of misery finally hit with the biggest Much office equipment was for those caught in their path.

become zephyr breezes, flood the past 100 years. to test the endurance of those town.

LAST March Cyclones Vance of how CALM people at decided to shelter in another

## The Exmouth Experience

Long after the cyclones have the Australian mainland over records were lost.

But 'West Aussies' are a tough, nity was aware of the potential Street, Exmouth.

### No serious injuries

Fortunately, no-one was seri- Exmouth. ously injured, and this was probably helped by the fact that cleared of debris and mud, so the cyclone arrived during day- that salvaged equipment could light hours and was not over be stored in a reasonably prothe town for long.

That timing certainly provided a few hours of apprehensive sonal circumstances at home, entertainment for house-bound CALM staff tackled these tasks

In the aftermath of these types vigour. of events, there are inevitably Local staff were urged on numerous stories of almost and buoyed by the positive attiunbelievable happenings, most- tude of mobile ranger Terry ly related to flying objects and Bloomer, and the quiet resolve the behaviour of some buildings shown by the unflappable and infrastructure.

By now, most of these stories circumstances was another have been recounted in other inspiration for us all. publications and some of the

Most of the CALM staff liv- There was no power avaling in Exmouth suffered little able for working, lighting or damage to their homes, but refrigeration and water sur-Caroline Williams and husband plies to the town were mt Tim's house was almost com- available. pletely destroyed.

Fortunately, they exercised homes made it difficult to wish shrewd judgement, born of and flush toilets, adding to the experience while living in discomfort felt by most of the Northern Queensland, and they townspeople.

sections of the Department Vance. stand a Category Five cyclone. It turned out to be a sound The CALM office, situated

mental services.

tropical storm experienced on irreparably damaged and many

The building had become damage in particular continues Cyclone Vance had come to uninhabitable and all that could be salvaged was taken to the whose path they have crossed. While the Exmouth commu- CALM depot site in Nimitz

enterprising lot, as is testified consequences of a tropical Buildings at the depot site in the following two accounts cyclone over the town, it was were damaged in the storm but from Doug Myers (Exmouth) unlikely that many were pre- could be patched to make them and Paul Blechynden (Moora) pared for its unrelenting fero- fairly waterproof, an essential requirement in the heavy postcyclonic rain and the threat of other cyclones approaching

Power unavailable

Lack of reticulated water in

Some of the buildings were modate tourists. Led by acting ranger-in-

In spite of their difficult pering and cleaning-up program. with a sense of urgency and

Glenda Rykers in greatly trying in the sixties and seventies.

demonstrated that trait in deal- Sunday morning.

Services Branch, Como.

Offers to help from other ing with the chaos of Cyclone

were gratefully received by Local CALM staff have dis-Exmouth staff, but it was diffi- played an extraordinary capaccult to take advantage of them ity to cope with the trauma immediately after the event, associated with the storm itself mainly because of the lack of and the subsequent hard grind accommodation and funda- when dealing with its conse-

However, equipment and I am both proud and honessential stores that were sent oured to be working with such proved invaluable, especially people.

the large generator arranged by In conclusion, I would like John Skillen from Corporate to offer our sympathy to Headquarters and fleet supervi- CALM staff in Moora.

sor Alan Jones from Financial While the source of their troubles may not have received The generator made it much the same media interest associeasier to keep 16,000 frozen ated with our cyclonic event, we fox baits from adding to the suspect their outcomes may be town's enormous disposal significantly worse than ours.

## The Moora experience

Having solved our immediate office needs, staff attention By the weekend of March 20 then turned to getting Cape and 21, Cyclones Elaine and Range National Park into a Vance had indirectly turned the suitable state to again accom- town of Moora into an inland

After two days of constant charge Terry Harrington, park rain (and more than half the maintenance workers Chris District's annual rainfall), the Davis and Lindsay Steer Moore River swelled its banks, from their flooded homes by office, houses and other busiembarked on a major rebuild- threatening the town of Moora. boats, tractors and loaders, and nesses in town.

the Swan Region, and proved Saturday evening, much to the astation. to be excellent helpers in terms relief of many residents.

US Navy contingent based here ing a renewed assault on the the murky waters of the biggest

Many residents were rescued and debris from the Moora

Following the evacuation of evacuated to Perth—far away Throughout the clean-up, They were assisted by Len people from their houses, the from the dangers of further many stories were told of loss-Zamudio and Pat Foley from waters began to recede on the flooding and the attendant dev- es, near misses and lucky

Through the mud, sludge After four long days of toil, CALM's Moore District Just when we thought it safe of their energy and expertise. This relief was short-lived, and general mayhem, CALM's the office was stripped, cars management and staff thank all to remove the sandbags and Len was able to entertain us as the same people were rudely Moora office—along with drained, houses made habit- those volunteers who donated return to normal life, the specwith stories of the time when he awakened in the early hours of other business premises, homes able, and a temporary office set their precious time and energy tre of flooding returned on lived in Exmouth as part of the Sunday to find the waters mak- and cars—was inundated by up in the CALM sheds.

flood in living memory.

Barely visible are David Rose and Kelly Gillen as they slosh

through the thick mud in the arcade where CALM's Moora

office is located. Photo by Anne Smith

Major natural disturbances Some people drove, others As the muddy waters dried, Because of the extent of the Gillen, Moora District senior already full catchments, resultand their aftermaths tend to walked, and many swam to an army of CALM volunteers flooding, the CALM Moora ranger Keith Hockey, ing in a repeat of the March bring out the best in people, higher ground as the waters from Gerald-ton, Kalbarrie, office, including all office Nambung National Park ranger flooding. and the residents of Exmouth invaded the town, peaking mid- Cervantes and Wanneroo equipment and files were Luke Bouman, Moora District Havng learnt from the allpitched in to clean the sludge severely damaged.

Greg Kitson, Luke Bouman and Scott Godley take a break

### Severe damage

to helping with the cleanup. Friday, May 28.

from cleaning out Moora premises. Photo by Anne Smith

They include: Midwest Storm clouds once again Regional manager Kelly gathered to deliver more rain to

ranger Rick France, Midwest too-recent experience, Moora Region community education was better prepared to protect officer Melinda Bolt, Kalbarrie what remained.

National Park maintenance While the last road remained officer Greg Tapley, Geraldton open, some people left town District operations officer Greg for Perth, and others stayed Kitson, Geraldton District with their homes, arming themadministration officer Kate selves with piles of sandbags Bovis, Midwest Region bush- and the grim determination that care facilitator Ann Maree this flood couldn't possibly be

However, damage to some Sousa, Barry Curnuck, and homes and lives was as bad, Thanks also to staff from all if not worse, than before, other centres, who contacted added to which was the the District office with offers of prospect of a winter just about

The slow process of rebuild- Although the cleanup is well ing has begun. However, it will progressed, the legacy of these still be quite some time before events is a stronger District the office is repaired and back team that has twice been put to

AFTER the above story was than proven itself. written, more floods tested Knowing the impact these

O'Callaghan, Midwest Region as bad as the first. reserves officer Anthony Des- Fortunately, the waters mond, and Perth District forest peaked below the March high workers Alan Jenkins, Chris tide mark.

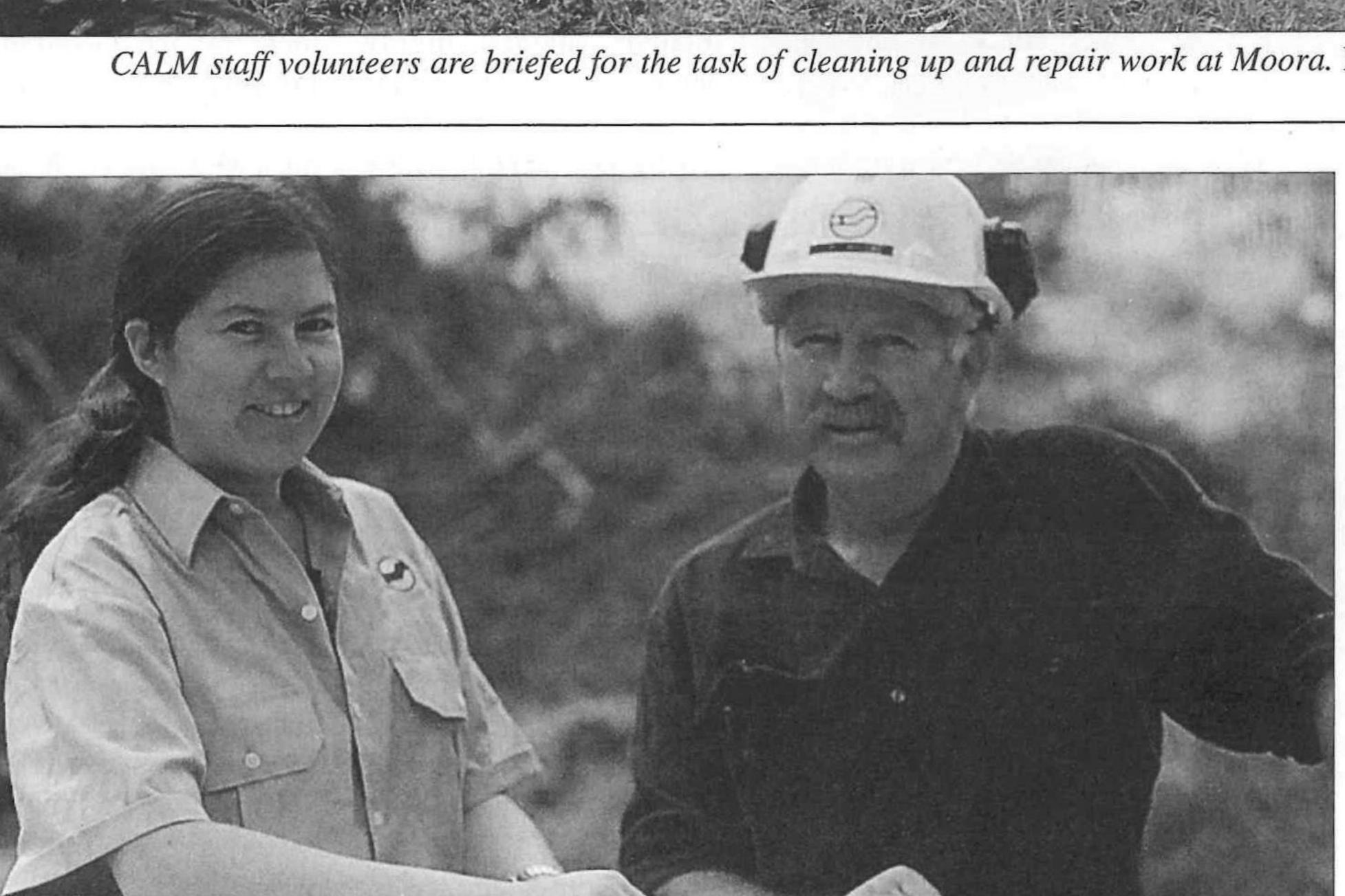
Graham Elsdon. help and to wish us well.

to business as usual.

Paul Blechynden relates:

the test and both times more

the mettle of the people of events have had on Moora staff Moora—and again they and their families, our thoughts weren't found wanting, as and support go out to our Exmouth colleagues.



At Walpole, Chantal Laval discusses the tree-felling training competency package with CALM

CALM staff volunteers are briefed for the task of cleaning up and repair work at Moora. Photo by Scott Godley

training officer Merv Smith. Photo by Bill Towie

## Introducing Chantal Laval

THIS introduces a new face Training Centre in Dwellingup, into CALM's field officer proand a new position in and her first priority has been gram." training officer with a direct study any external program in on how best to provide training focus on training and sup- 1999. port for CALM AWU people. "With CALM's competency- for field-based wages employ-

Her main tasks involve based training, many training ees. advising people of CALM's hours we do for our work "I plan to get around to all preferred external study oppor- can be accredited towards work centres to discuss the tunities, personalising study external study courses," issues relevant to continuous programs, assisting with enrol- Chantal said. ment and unit selection "In fact we're finding many

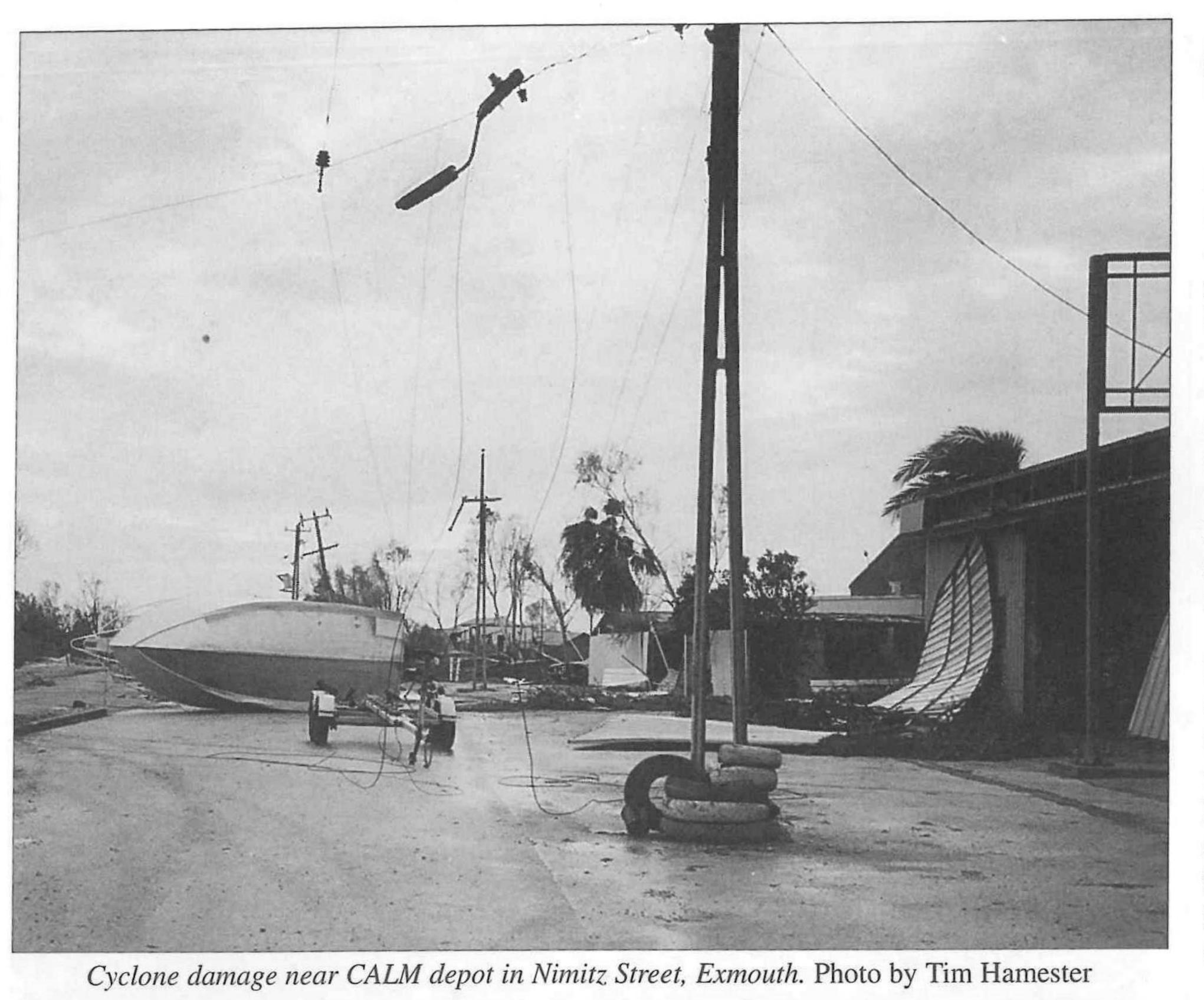
CALM's AWU people.

CALM—Chantal Laval, who to identify AWU people who As my position is a new iniis the part-time assistant are currently, or intending to, tiative, I'll be seeking feedback

and development opportunities

processes and identifying any of these people are already part Dwellingup Training Centre training needs related to con- way towards a tertiary qualifi- and can be contacted by phone tinuous learning among cation—the Certificate IV in on (08) 9538 1200, fax (08) Land Management. This is the 9538-1244, or by emailing me Chantal is based at the minimum entry qualification on chantall@calm.wa.gov.au

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Been there, done that! Marine Conservation Officer Caroline Williams and husband Tim Hamester are veterans when it comes to cyclones, which probably explains why they appear so calm amid the ruins of their home. Time delay photo taken by Tim

## Forest Resources' annual conference voted best yet

ORGANISERS of this year's State Forest By Tammie Reid Resources Business Unit Conference had no idea ment practices.

ments, look to the future Tuckey said. and strengthen work com- The main change for mitments.

conference organiser Liz RFA

Guest speakers includ- that all conservation ed Federal Minister for lands, including multiple-Forests Wilson Tuckey, use State forests will be CALM's Executive vested in a single State Director Dr Syd Shea and Conservation Authority, Forests Director Don while a new Forest Keene; and Forest Production Commission Industries Federation of will be responsible for Western Australia, Exe- commercial negotiations

The main message was native forest produce. of a continued State and A third new agency, The communities. 6 CALMNEWS May—June 1999

just how strategic the "The RFA will ensure event would turn out to that both conservation reserves and multiple-use On the eve of the sign- forests in WA remain ing of the Regional Forest among the best managed Agreements (RFA), the in the world, while WA's three-day conference of unique timbers are put to more than 60 people gath- the most profitable and ered to review achieve- innovative use," Mr

the Department was the "After months of announcement by the uncertainty about the RFA State Government of a outcomes and the future significant overhaul of the of CALM, we had the State's two conservation decisions and outcomes and forest agencies folhot off the press," said lowing the signing of the

The overhaul will mean cutive Director Bob Pearce. for timber and other

Federal government com- Forest Industry Advisory The new arrangement tions were more transpar- Keene reinforced that significant part in this ers with their work cut out mitment to a viable timber Board, will be formed to would remove CALM's ent and accountable.

CALM remain an inte- work.

This year's Forest Resources Conference organising committee comprised of Liz Blee, Bill Towie, Todd Brittain and Neville Holland, seen

here with the Federal Minister for Forests Wilson Tuckey (centre). Photo by John Clarke

timber industry and timber ensure forest management Director Syd Shea and and that the Business Unit the best yet—which and the commercial opera- Forests Director Don would continue to play a leaves next year's organis-

industry, based on sustain- advise State government current native forest com- The message from grated conservation and The conference was troversial as this year's able native forest manage- on issues concerning the mercial responsibilities and CALM's Executive land management agency, considered by many to be event proved to be.









