

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MAY—JUNE 1999



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## GNANGARA PLAN LAUNCHED



Gnangara Concept Planning officer Sandra Krupa, Perth District manager Alan Sands, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Dr Syd Shea discussing the concept plan at Gnangara pines. Photo by Norm Bailey

THE State Government has unveiled a concept plan for a conservation and recreation reserve network more than 200 times the size of Kings Park, and extending north from Gnangara Road near Wanneroo almost to the Moore River.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, who released the plan in the Gnangara pines in May, said the concept would create a reserve system similar in size to that of Perth's current metropolitan area.

"The concept plan builds on the State Government's vision for a park for the children of the next millennium, and fulfils a 1996 election promise," Mrs Edwardes said.

The plan's study area extends over 91,000 ha and encompasses the proposed Gnangara Park as well as existing nature reserves, conservation parks and other public land.

The area covers much of the underground water reserves—the Gnangara Mound—that supply nearly 40 per cent of Perth's drinking water.

It includes a large area of relatively undisturbed native woodland between the coast and the Darling Scarp as well as the 20,000 ha of maritime pines in the Gnangara, Pinjar and Yanchep plantations.

The concept plan was prepared by a technical working group with representatives from CALM, Water and Rivers Commission, Water Corporation, Ministry for Planning, Department of Minerals and Energy and the Department of Environmental Protection.

"Following the announcement of the proposed Gnangara Park in 1996, more than 400 people and organisations sent in submissions or expressed interest in hearing more about the proposal," Mrs Edwardes said.

"In the past two years, the technical working group has considered these initial submissions and had a high degree of intensive liaison with stakeholders, including interest groups and local government.

"The concept plan is the result of that analysis and takes into account multiple planning requirements as well as the interests of a large number of stakeholders including recreationists, timber producers, miners, commercial wildflower pickers and beekeepers.

"The next step is a four-month submission period for interest groups and the public to comment on the concept plan."

The plan sets out four primary values and identifies objectives to create a balanced management framework, taking into account various uses and conservation values of the area.

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## WA leads in tree planting

A RECORD 27.4 million tree seedlings are being produced at CALM's nurseries in Manjimup and Narrogin for planting out this winter on farms and in native forests.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the record number reflected the increasing interest in tree crops among Western Australian farmers who were now leading the nation in the rate of expansion in area under tree crops.

"The rate of increase in plantings in Western Australia is now three times the national average," she said.

"This has seen the tree crops estate increase from around 130,000 hectares four years ago to more than 212,000 ha today.

"It is expected that a further 25,000 to 30,000 ha of cleared farmland will be planted with tree crops this winter."

CALM's Plant Propagation Centre at Manjimup will produce 26 million seedlings including 12 million Tasmanian bluegums, 6 million maritime pines, 2 million radiata pines, 4.5 million karri and 1.5 million mixed species.

The Narrogin nursery will produce 1.4 million seedlings, of which around 700,000 are oil mallees for use in the lower rainfall areas of the wheatbelt.

Mrs Edwardes said the first stage of an \$8 million expansion at the Manjimup nursery was due to be completed this year. This would increase seedling production to 35 million next year.

"When the overall development is completed in about three years, total seedling production will be around 55 million a year, she said.

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Children from Kosovo help Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes plant a tree as part of the Arbor Day '99 celebrations (see page 3). Photo by Craig Stewart

## Double to CALM in tourism awards

THE world-renowned Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk has cemented its reputation as a regional tourism attraction in the international arena by winning its second WA Tourism Award—the second year in a row.

It, along with the innovative Building a Better Bibbulmun Track Project, received accolades at the annual Western Australian Tourism Awards held in Perth on Friday 11 June 1999.

The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk

won the prestigious Significant Regional Attractions Category of the awards, while the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project won the Tourism Development Projects Category.

To complement CALM's win in the nature-based tourism industry, CALM expedition leader Kevin Coates was named as a finalist in the Facet Golden Guide Award, for his work in CALM's popular LANDSCOPE Expeditions.

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We do not generally do things in CALM for trophies and prizes. We have dedicated and motivated people, who find the rewards of working to achieve things they believe in, sufficient to sustain their efforts.

Notwithstanding this apparent diffidence in seeking public acclaim, CALM has won many awards in recent times, most, if not all of them reported in earlier issues of CALM NEWS.

Modesty, however, should not prevent us from seeing that the recognition of our achievements that comes from organisations external to CALM is to be valued and should serve to encourage us.

Recently, the Tree Top Walk and the Bibbulmun Track Project won major awards at the State Tourism Awards Night—The Tree Top Walk for the most significant regional attraction, and the Bibbulmun Track for the best tourism development project. Both these projects are now automatically submitted as State entries in the National Tourism Awards.

What is significant about these projects is that they encapsulate CALM's integrated approach to solving environmental challenges, while creating community and tourism benefits.

The Tree Top Walk and Ancient Empire provide opportunities for the public to experience the tingle forest in a unique and non-impacting way. Before its construction, it was a site with declining visitation and damaging impacts on the trees. The Valley of the Giants and the Ancient Empire have experienced more than 500,000 visitors in the two-and-a-half years since its development.

The Tree Top Walk project has already won a number of design awards.

The Bibbulmun Track project took an existing rudimentary facility to an international standard long walk with facilities and information of exceptional standard. Measures taken indicate that some 53,000 walkers have used the track this year.

Most importantly both projects involved a cross-section of staff with varying skills and responsibilities, planners, landscape architects, cartographers, interpreters, land managers, recreation planners—and the list goes on. In an integrated team effort involving different regions, districts and divisions these projects came together to be recognised as leaders in this State.

What is most exciting is the level of community interest and involvement as well as departmental input. A vast array of volunteers is maintaining the Bibbulmun Track under the guidance and instruction of the Friends of Bibbulmun Track. The FOBT is a dynamic, innovative group, successfully seeking and winning resources—human and financial—to ensure that the Bibbulmun Track maintains its quality and focus.

The Track project has also been the catalyst in demonstrating the benefit of involving prisoners in work in the natural environment. Not only has a great contribution been made to developing the track, prisoners have gained self-esteem and a sense of future from their involvement.

So, although we do not set out to win them, the acknowledgment of awards does give us good reason to stop, acknowledge and celebrate, along with the community and all our partners, the skills, involvement and achievements of CALM staff.

Jim Sharp, Acting Executive Director

## GNANGARA PLAN LAUNCHED

(from page 1)

The primary values are:  
**Nature Conservation**—to protect and enhance existing biodiversity, threatened species, wetlands and vegetation as well as restoring flora and fauna habitats;

**Resources**—to protect the quality and increase the quantity of groundwater for the public drinking water supply, to harvest pines over the next 20 years and to assist in managing mining for sand, limestone and other resources;

**Recreation and Interpretation**—to develop a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities and public access as well as activities such as nature-based tourism;

**Heritage**—to protect natural and cultural values including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal values and to interpret these aspects.

Mrs Edwardes said the pine resource was being re-established on cleared private farmland under sharefarming agreements with CALM. So far, almost 5000 ha of maritime pines had been planted on farms and this year's plantings would extend over 10,000 ha.

The aim was to plant 150,000 ha in partnership with farmers over the next 10 years. Ultimately, more than 500,000 ha of maritime pines would be planted

along with a further 50,000 ha of native WA tree species as part of the State Government's Salinity Action Plan.

Mrs Edwardes said the study area had been divided into six zones loosely based on land and vegetation characteristics as well as recreation and interpretation concepts.

"Themes have been proposed for each of these zones although the overall emphasis is on nature conservation and water protection," she said.

"A large part of the area will be included in CALM's *Western Shield* program, which is bringing 30 native animals back from the brink of extinction.

"A wide range of low-key recreation uses, including trail-bike riding, horse riding, four-wheel driving, camping and bushwalking also will be catered for."

Copies of the plan are available for \$5 from CALM offices in Dundee Road, Wanneroo, and Hayman Road, Como. Copies of the plan also can be viewed at local shire offices and libraries, as well as CALM's website:

<http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

CALM is also arranging a series of public information nights in Wanneroo, Bullsbrook and Gingin.

## WA leads in tree planting

(from page 1)

"The expansion is part of the State Government's Salinity Action Plan to establish 150,000 ha of maritime pines on cleared farmland over the next 10 years.

"This will be the forerunner to a longer term aim of at least 500,000 ha of maritime pines in the 400 to 600 mm rainfall zone.

"As well, a further 50,000 ha will be revegetated with native species to help restore the natural biological diversity of the region."

Mrs Edwardes said tree crops on farms were an integral part of the drive to combat land and stream salinity by lowering water tables.

"On-farm tree crops, particularly maritime pines, also create the base resource for a range of regionally-based downstream processing and manufacturing enterprises for products such as laminated beams and other

structural timbers," she said.  
"Plantation management and harvesting, and downstream processing will be a major boost to regional employment and diversifying regional economies.

"The pines will become increasingly important in ensuring a supply of structural timber as the construction industry moves away from native hardwoods in line with the Regional Forest Agreement strategy to use native timbers in high value end products."

Tree crops were also among the spearheads of the nation's commitment to meeting greenhouse gas emission targets under the Kyoto protocols.

"CALM research indicates that in the South West, from Geraldton to Esperance, there are approximately 3 million ha of cleared land that could be used for tree crops, with a further 8.5

million ha in the pastoral region that could be regenerated with native species," Mrs Edwardes said.  
"Over the next 30 years, tree crops and native vegetation rehabilitation could lock up more than 200 million tonnes of carbon and have an impact on reducing the global warming potential of greenhouse gasses.

"Commercial end uses for tree crops, as well as the potential for international trading in carbon credits, will also make on-farm tree crops increasingly attractive to landowners.  
"CALM has begun a pilot scheme with BP Australia to study the potential of on-farm tree crops as carbon sinks.

The increasing domestic and international demand for wood fibre means the cost of sequestering carbon will be offset by the return from timber products."

## Double to CALM in tourism awards

(from page 1)

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the awards recognised CALM's ability to successfully integrate tourism and recreation with conservation.

CALM Executive Director Dr Shea said the success of the Tree Top Walk and the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project was due to the hard work and dedication of CALM employees who have been involved in the projects.

The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk is one of the State's most popular tourism attractions with more than 200,000 people visiting it each year.

It has provided a unique means for people to interact with nature while protecting the ecosystem of the sole Tingle Forest in the world.

Similarly, the Building a Better Bibbulmun Track project has provided walkers with access to the most scenic and natural attractions of the South West.

The 950-kilometre trail from Kalamunda, in Perth's Darling Range, to Albany on the south coast, has been realigned and revitalised to encourage people to go bush and experience the natural wonders of WA's South West.

Director of Parks, Recreation Planning &

Tourism Jim Sharp said that the awards acknowledged the skills of CALM staff in planning, developing and managing significant tourism projects in natural areas

"Staff have worked well together and with local community groups such as the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track, as well as with the private sector in creating and managing these projects," Jim said.

CALM Marketing Co-ordinator Rod Quarman said that awards confirmed the quality facilities and services provided by the Department to the tourism industry and the public.

"Congratulations to all staff associated with the Tree Top Walk and the Bibbulmun Track—we can now look forward to the judging of the national awards in November," Rod said.

"These awards position the Department along with the best in the State and show that CALM can justifiably be proud of the facilities and service it has developed.

"The Tree Top Walk and the Bibbulmun Track are world-class attractions in the forefront of establishing Western Australia as the premier nature-based tourism destination in the world."

## Staff Movements

### Contract staff

Wayne Stalder, to Midwest Region, asst. Conservation Officer, Level 2/4; Kerrie Soltwish, to Human Resources Branch, Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Trevor Smales, to Information Management Branch, Como, as Cartographic Officer, Level 4; Fiona Martyn, to Corporate Information Section, as Indexer, Level 2; Cameron Hennessy, to South Coast Region, as Field Officer, Level 1/2; Liesl Jonker, to Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle, as Planning Officer Level 4; Belinda Cale, to WA Threatened Species and Communities, Woodvale, as Project Officer, Level 2; Shane French, to Information Management Branch, as Research Officer (GIS), Level 2/4; Anne Rick, to Wildlife Branch, as Land For Wildlife Officer, Level 4; Mark Sheridan, to Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle, as Cartographic Officer, Level 4; Vince Hilder, to Pemberton, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2, from Kirup; Kirilly White, to Bioconservation Group, Busselton, as Wetlands Review Officer, Level 2/4; Lawrence Cuthbert, to Albany District, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Alex Rogers, to Perth District, as Reserves Officer, Level 2.

### Permanent staff

Priscilla Shepherd, as Clerical Officer, Level 1, Albany District; Geoff Rolland, as Liaison Officer, Level 4, South Coast Sharefarms Albany; Shirley Tonkin, as Clerical Officer, Level 1 Albany.

### Promoted

Steven Braack, to Technical Radio Officer, Level 3, Radio Communications, Como.

### Reclassified

Aminya Ennis, as Executive Officer, Level 5, Corporate Executive, Crawley.

### Transferred

Bruce Bond, to Coral Bay, Exmouth, as Mobile Ranger, Grade 2, from Esperance; Don Boothey, to State Forest Resources Business Unit, Blackwood District, as Operations Officer, Level 3, from Kirup; Mike Carter, to Pemberton, as Forest Officer, Level 5, from Mornington District, Harvey.

### CALMNEWS—MAY-JUNE 1999

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

### Grateful thanks

Following are extracts from Exmouth District Manager Doug Myers' letter, following the havoc wreaked by Cyclone Vance:

Please pass on my thanks to all those CALM personnel who expressed

their concern and offered assistance to Exmouth staff, following the onslaught of Cyclone Vance. It has been really appreciated by all of us here!

Exmouth staff have responded extremely well to the challenges that have

been thrust upon them by this storm, and morale in the District is remarkably high.

We have managed to re-establish ourselves in reasonable circumstances and are now operating near normal capacity.

I would like to make

special mention of the effort put in by mobile ranger Terry Bloomer.

He was exactly the right type of person to have here in the days immediately following the cyclone, ready to tackle any task, however unpleasant. His vocal ex-

uberance was a welcome encouragement for local staff when some of the rehabilitation process looked a bit daunting.

Once again, thanks for your support, and we look forward to seeing you up this way in the near future.



# Arbor Day a hit with children

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN** primary school students showed children from Kosovo the meaning of Arbor Day by getting them to help plant more than 300 seedlings in Canning River Regional Park as part of CALM's Arbor Day '99 celebrations.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes officiated at the event and helped students from Ferndale Primary School, Kinlock Primary School, Sir David Brand School and Kim Beazley School celebrate WA's Day of Trees with the State's special international visitors.

Even in the rain-drenched, mud-creating weather, children and CALM staff alike enjoyed themselves with tree planting, a bush band, morning tea and viewing of native animals such as the bilby, echidna and kangaroo.

The seedlings planted by the children were part of revegetation works around Canning River Regional Park's new 2.2-kilometre recreational pathway—a major addition to the

by Mitzi Vance

recreation and conservation values of the southern metropolitan region.

Officially opening the pathway on the day, Mrs Edwardes said it would provide a continuous link between Kent Street Weir and Leige Street for walking, cycling or roller blading through parkland and native bushland.

She said the pathway was one of a number of projects that CALM had begun in regional parks throughout Perth since it took over their management from the Ministry of Planning in 1996.

The pathway's construction was the result of a co-operative effort between CALM, the City of Canning and BikeWest WA.

Mrs Edwardes said opening the pathway on Arbor Day highlighted the fact that recreational values could be successfully integrated with the conservation and management of native bushland.



Perth District (Wanneroo) information officer Anne Greig persuades three youngsters to make friends with a brushtail possum. Photo by Craig Stewart

## Loyal service rewarded

**ARBOR DAY '99** did not pass without one of the most important events on the Department's calendar taking place—the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to long-serving CALM staff.

More than 830 years of dedicated service to the responsible management of Western Australia's forests were recognised at the Arbor Day celebrations at Canning River Regional Park.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Dr Syd Shea presented 31 CALM officers Certificates of Appreciation for their long-term commitment to the forests of Western Australia.

"A tremendous amount of work—scientific research, nature conservation, tourism and recreation and water catchment management—is required, in addition to

forestry operations, to ensure our beautiful forests are managed sustainably," she said.

"Arbor Day provides a very fitting time to recognise the dedication of people who work in our forests—people who often go unrecognised.

"However, many other people have given long periods of service which has helped to ensure all the values of WA's native forests are managed sustainably.

"These values include—not only tree planting and management—but nature conservation, tourism and recreation, and protection of our water catchments."

### Statewide

The 31 CALM people honoured come from CALM offices throughout the State from Swan Region, which covers the metropolitan area stretching out to Dwellingup,

Mundaring, Jarrahdale, Hillarys and Wanneroo, to Manjimup and Pemberton in the State's south.

Award recipients included: David Bottrill, administration and finance manager, Central Forest Region; Brett Humble, recently retired as senior operations officer, Mornington District; Suzanne Howell, receptionist, Harvey Office; Ray Bell, works co-ordination overseer, South West Capes District; Ron Howes, Nature Conservation worker, South West Capes District; Greg Voigt, operations officer, South West Capes District; Brad Bourke, silviculture officer, Blackwood District; Max Nicol, plantations officer, Blackwood District; John McKenzie, CALM Fire district officer, Perth District; Neil Osman, overseer, Perth District; Peter Beatty, nursery



Children from the Kim Beazley Special School were guests at the Arbor Day '99 ceremony. Photo by Craig Stewart

operations officer, Manjimup Plant Propagation Centre; John Evans, CALM Fire officer, Southern Forest Region; Peter Grime, area co-ordinator, Maritime Pine Project; John Brealey, manager, Manjimup Nursery; Domenic De Luca, Hardwood Nursery supervisor, Manjimup; Andy Rynasewycz, senior forester, Central Forest Region; Wayne Keals, supply co-ordina-

tor, Forest Resources; Bill Towie, monitoring and training officer, Forest Resources Division; Neville Holland, Kirup District forester; Greg Lange, senior forester, Dwellingup District; Steve Prokopszyn, research officer, Timber Technology Unit; Darryl Jackson, timber inspector, Southern Forest Region; Michelle Cocks, logging operations information

system officer, Central Forest Region; Trevor Butcher, research scientist, CALM Science; Shelley McArthur, technical officer, CALM Science; Graeme Liddelow, technical officer, CALM Science; David Hunter, recreation officer, South-

ern Forest Region; John McDonald, overseer, Northcliffe Office; Charles Taylor, forester, Southern Forest Region; Carlos Cicchini, forester, Manjimup District; John Hunter, public affairs officer, Corporate Relations Division.



Three of the 31 long-serving CALM staff who received Certificates of Appreciation from Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes. They are, from left David Hunter, Suzanne Howell and John Brealey. Photo by Craig Stewart



# Bush Ranger instructors attend workshop



CALM Bush Ranger instructors with Esperance Senior High School 'pause for a pic' with Gary Paul (far right). They are Stewart Barker, Melissa Walker and, in front, Dave Thompson. Gary is a Bush Ranger instructor at the Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School at Wongatha. Photo by Verna Costello

ONE aim of the CALM Bush Ranger Instructors' recent two-day workshop at Point Walter Conference Centre was that they discover the importance of networking with each other to achieve a cross-fertilisation of ideas.

And network they did! CALM Bush Ranger instructors from country units such as Waroona District High School forged strong links with instructors from city units such as Duncraig Senior High School.

One of the many positive outcomes of this networking has seen new unit instructors invited by the more experienced to work with them on nature conservation and land management projects throughout the State.

The 45 instructors also met their counterparts from the two pilot schools Duncraig and John Forrest Senior High Schools, and community groups such as Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and the

Moore River Rehabilitation Centre at Guilderton. The 19 CALM Bush Ranger school units can be found right across Western Australia, from Tardin in the north to Esperance in the south, all offering a diversity of expertise and experience, which is recognised as a significant strength of the program.

There are currently more than 800 students taking part in the program.

The school-based instructors represent a variety of curricula. There are teachers from science, society and the environment, English, outdoor education, home economics, maths, drama, and woodwork.

A principal and deputy principal, a chaplain, school-based youth workers and CALM staff have also taken on the role as instructors for the school units.

Another aim of the recent workshop was to show instructors the many

resources available in CALM and the local community.

One major resource to become available in the near future is a Bush Rangers page on CALM's website *NatureBase*, where they will be able to exchange ideas and organise joint projects.

Instructors were treated to a demonstration of *NatureBase*, and encouraged to signify interest in taking part.

The success of the workshop was reflected by the John Septimus Roe Unit's leader Carleen Edwards, the day after the conclusion of the in-service, when she to CALM's State co-ordinator Bronwyn Goble:

"Today, I've booked a campsite at The Hills Forest, organised my unit to participate in the workshop on CALM's Marine Community Monitoring Program, and have liaised with CALM staff to develop our unit's first nature conservation and land management project."

## Alicia recommends The Effective Manager Program

THE first tutorial for the second intake of CALM people embarking on The Effective Manager Program will take place at the Fremantle Port Authority on July 2, 1999. (See page 4, CALM NEWS, March/April 1999 for information on the program.)

For those attending the tutorial, the following testimonial by CALM Sharefarms-Midwest acting area co-ordinator Alicia Taylor is provided to reassure them that their participation in the program will be well worth while. In fact, Alicia has articulated her studies into the Diploma of Management course starting on July 18:

"Who'd want to go back to study so soon after finishing a university degree?"

This question was my knee-jerk reaction to the proposition that I take part in the program," said Alicia.

It was something that my

By Tammie Reid

managers at the time, Alan Byrne and Tym Duncanson, were urging me to do.

They saw the merit of working with a range of CALM managers in a program that was relevant to the work I was getting into.

So I started. The program was well run, with less pressure than I'd expected, and very different from my university studies.

It's about real situations, daily events and people. We learn from each other; there are varied perspectives and a wide range of experiences to share between us.

### Reality-based

The course is self-paced, and the assignments are based on the work happening around us every day, in situations that are real for us.

Overall, it's helping me

become more aware of the decision-making process, and to have confidence in my own approach.

For the tricky decisions, we learnt that it's OK to have 'a gut feeling', but by coming at it from another direction and working it through the pros and cons, we'd either validate the gut feeling, or dismiss it.

I'm also able to see that there can be more than one set of 'right' answers.

I believe it's a great opportunity for those new to CALM to forge networks with other managers, many of whom face the same challenges—and we do learn from each other.

The effect is that the realisation that we really are a vital part of the organisation occurs sooner—and that's a highly satisfying feeling.

Right: Alicia Taylor. Photo by Verna Costello



Photo by Verna Costello

## Expeditions win accreditation

LOOKING extremely pleased with themselves are Kevin Keneally and Jean Paton—and rightly so!

They are seen here displaying the Accredited Tourism Business Certificate recently awarded to CALM.

The accreditation was awarded by the Tourism Council of Australia (WA), following an intense half-day workshop where Kevin and Jean presented a detailed documentation of their *LANDSCOPE Expeditions*' management system.

The chief aim of the National Tourism Accreditation Program is to ensure that tourism industry standards of service delivery meet and, where possible, exceed clients' expectations.

"We are the first Western Australian business to be listed under the 'Research Expeditions Category', and are entitled to display the Tourism Council of Australia (TCA) national logo as an Accredited Tourism

by Verna Costello

Business," Kevin said.

"One of the first uses for the logo will be its appearance on the cover of the *LANDSCOPE Expeditions* brochure for the year 2000.

"We'll also be listed on the TCA (WA) website. Readers can quickly access the *LANDSCOPE Expeditions* entry by going directly to: <http://www.tourism.org.au/branches> Mouse-click on 'Western Australia', then WA Accredited Tourism Businesses'. If you want to browse around the TCA site generally, it can be accessed at <http://www.tourism.org.au>

"We should see more people becoming aware of *LANDSCOPE Expeditions* and, because we're now an accredited business, required to adhere to the highest of quality assurance standards and professionalism, they can be confident in the knowl-

edge that the Expeditions' are well organised.

"They'll also be able to feel confident that they'll have a holiday that's almost certain to be very different to anything they've experienced before; they'll learn a great deal and gain satisfaction from knowing they've made a positive difference to the conservation of WA's wildlife.

"This should lead to increased funding for more research projects, as people clamour to take part in the Expeditions," Kevin said.

Accreditation also brings TCA (WA) discounts in promotional campaigns in both the national and international market place.

Kevin is CALM's co-ordinator of Science Publications and *LANDSCOPE Expeditions*, and Jean is *LANDSCOPE Expeditions* officer. Both are based at Como and can be contacted by phoning (08) 9334 0401 or (08) 9334 0561, or by faxing (08) 9334 0498.



# Karijini NP plan released

**EIGHT years of consultation and collaboration with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the lands and the wider Pilbara community has culminated in the release of a management plan for the Karijini National Park.**

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the plan contained strategies to manage natural features as well as provide a focus for the way in which the land's traditional owners and the local community can be involved in sharing and caring for one of the State's biggest conservation areas.

The plan further honours the Government's commitment at the traditional Aboriginal owners—represented by the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation and tribal elders—will have direct input into the management of the park through a Karijini Park Council.

The council will include tribal elders of each of the

Panyjima (pronounced Bunjima), Yinhawangka (Innawonga) and Kurrama (Goora-ma-oo as in book) people, representatives of the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation and representatives from CALM.

A second committee, the Karijini National Park Advisory Committee, will also be formed to represent the broader interests of the Pilbara community.

Mrs Edwardes said the council and the advisory committee would consider priorities for management strategies, assist CALM in developing a five-year implementation plan and review progress annually.

The advisory committee will have representatives from a broad cross section of the Pilbara community and will be appointed by the Minister on the basis of expertise, experience, personal interest and community profile. Government representation

will be kept to a minimum.

Mrs Edwardes said five big wilderness zones totalling about 170,000 ha, or nearly 30 per cent of the park, would be classified under the CALM Act.

As well, CALM and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority had agreed in principle to establish residential lease areas for traditional Aboriginal people in the park. Living areas would be agreed between the Minister and the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation and formalised by a lease.

The private development and operation of accommodation and tourist facilities also would be examined. It was expected that the main emphasis would be on campgrounds, safari-style units and serviced accommodation such as a park lodge.

This represented a unique opportunity to establish tourist facilities in one of the State's most spectacular natural areas.



Russell Wormes. Photo by Chantal Laval

## Russell and Vince winners of Director's Scholarship

by Chantal Laval

**CONGRATULATIONS to Russell Wormes and Vince Hilder, winners of the 1999 Executive Director's Scholarship.**

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

**Vince Hilder:** Originally from a farm in Franklin (west of Cranbrook), Vince studied for a Certificate of Agriculture at Albany TAFE, and gained employment as a stock inspector with the Department of Agriculture, (now AGWEST).

A change of career saw Vince enter the mining industry, and eventually move to CALM at Kirup District, where he was a seasonal fire fighter.

It was not long before his ability to operate machines was

recognised and he became one of the key operators for the district.

To increase his suitability for a permanent position, Vince applied for the Executive Director's Scholarship to help him study for a Certificate IV of Conservation and Land Management.

The scholarship has enabled him to move on to the Pemberton District where he works as a forest ranger.

**Russell Wormes:** For twenty-five years of his working life Russell was involved in broadacre agriculture on his family's farms.

First-hand experience of the effects of salinity and land degradation was the motivation for Russell to join CALM.

Russell says he is encouraged by the State Government's development of the

Salinity Action Plan, and aspires to work in Sharefarms.

Starting out as a forest worker in the Walpole District, he has now secured a position as an overseer with South Coast Sharefarms in Albany.

His desire to reach his goal led Russell to apply for the Executive Director's Scholarship, to help him study for the Certificate IV of Conservation and Land Management.

Through participation in various CALM training courses, such as chainsaw maintenance and First Aid, Russell had already completed more than half of the required hours to finish his Certificate IV.

Both Vince and Russell have found CALM to be very supportive of the continuous learning incentive, which has enabled them to pursue their career opportunities.

We wish Vince and Russell every success in their studies.



Renowned WA artist Robert Juniper (right) congratulates George Duxbury on his latest book. Photo by George's son Troy

## By George, he's done it again!

**BACK in 1984, when he was CALM ranger at Fitzgerald River National Park, George Duxbury published a book of verse titled *A Bush Waterhole*. Well, he's done it again!**

George has published another book of poetry and yarns called *Spirit of the Bush*. In fact, he has also had his first book reprinted, after being out of print for about 14 years.

The poetry and the yarns cover a wide range of subjects and reflect the places where George has lived, worked or visited during a life spent in and around the Western Australian bush.

One story tells how a forest worker, Charlie McIlhatton, rescued George from bushfires in the lower South West on two separate occasions during the early 1960s.

Now located at Mundaring District as John Forrest National Park senior ranger, George is basking in the afterglow of the successful launch of both books.

About 85 people turned up to witness renowned Western Australian artist Robert Juniper launch the books.

Complimenting him on his efforts, Robert revealed that he and George had crossed swords after his appointment to the John Forrest.

"He made me take my dog out of the park!" Robert said. "Little did I suspect back then that this could be a poetic man of great sensitivity.

I've taken the time to read most of George's work—and I must say I'm impressed.

Robert also complimented the illustrators of the books, former ranger's wife, Carolyn

Gillies-Gray, (*A Bush Waterhole*) and George's friend Von Carlsen of Bayswater (*Spirit of the Bush*).

Readers can visit George's website, where both book covers are displayed, together with a potted history plus pic of the author, 'slaving over a hot computer' to produce yet another literary gem.

The web page, which was produced by typographer and friend Mark Williams, can be accessed at: <http://www.type-tamer.com.au/duxbury/>

*Spirit of the Bush* and *A Bush Waterhole* are available direct from George at PO Box 219, Glen Forrest, WA 6071. They cost \$15.00 each, plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Ordered together, they cost \$25.00, plus \$4.00 postage and handling—saving the purchaser \$5.00 over all.



Vince Hilder. Photo by Chantal Laval



# Cyclones, floods fail



Cyclone damage near CALM depot in Nimitz Street, Exmouth. Photo by Tim Hamester

LAST March Cyclones Vance and Elaine hit the north-west coast, extending many kilometres inland and down beyond Geraldton.

They hit with a force that treated people, livestock, pets and wildlife animals like stuffed toys. Buildings and trees were tossed around like Leggo blocks, and floods added their own form of misery for those caught in their path.

Long after the cyclones have become zephyr breezes, flood damage in particular continues to test the endurance of those whose path they have crossed. But 'West Aussies' are a tough, enterprising lot, as is testified in the following two accounts from Doug Myers (Exmouth) and Paul Blechynden (Moora)

of how CALM people at Exmouth and flood-ravaged Moora coped during and after the deluge:

## The Exmouth Experience

After many years of cyclone warnings, some reaching limited fruition, others fading away or crossing other parts of the north-west coast, Exmouth was finally hit with the biggest tropical storm experienced on the Australian mainland over the past 100 years.

Cyclone Vance had come to town.

While the Exmouth community was aware of the potential consequences of a tropical cyclone over the town, it was unlikely that many were prepared for its unrelenting ferocity.

## No serious injuries

Fortunately, no-one was seriously injured, and this was probably helped by the fact that the cyclone arrived during daylight hours and was not over the town for long.

That timing certainly provided a few hours of apprehensive entertainment for house-bound residents.

In the aftermath of these types of events, there are inevitably numerous stories of almost unbelievable happenings, mostly related to flying objects and the behaviour of some buildings and infrastructure.

By now, most of these stories have been recounted in other publications and some of the media.

Most of the CALM staff living in Exmouth suffered little damage to their homes, but Caroline Williams and husband Tim's house was almost completely destroyed.

Fortunately, they exercised shrewd judgement, born of experience while living in Northern Queensland, and they

decided to shelter in another house, believing their own home was unlikely to withstand a Category Five cyclone.

It turned out to be a sound decision!

The CALM office, situated within the Shire of Exmouth administration complex, was severely affected by the storm and substantially flooded.

Much office equipment was irreparably damaged and many records were lost.

The building had become uninhabitable and all that could be salvaged was taken to the CALM depot site in Nimitz Street, Exmouth.

Buildings at the depot site were damaged in the storm but could be patched to make the fairly waterproof, an essential requirement in the heavy post-cyclonic rain and the threat of other cyclones approaching Exmouth.

Some of the buildings were cleared of debris and mud, so that salvaged equipment could be stored in a reasonably protected environment.

In spite of their difficult personal circumstances at home, CALM staff tackled these tasks with a sense of urgency and vigour.

Local staff were urged on and buoyed by the positive attitude of mobile ranger Terry Bloomer, and the quiet resolve shown by the unflappable Glenda Rykers in greatly trying circumstances was another inspiration for us all.

## Power unavailable

There was no power available for working, lighting or refrigeration and water supplies to the town were not available.

Lack of reticulated water in homes made it difficult to wash and flush toilets, adding to the discomfort felt by most of the townspeople.



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 Resources Business Unit Conference had no idea just how strategic the event would turn out to be.

On the eve of the signing of the Regional Forest Agreements (RFA), the three-day conference of more than 60 people gathered to review achievements, look to the future and strengthen work commitments.

"After months of uncertainty about the RFA outcomes and the future of CALM, we had the decisions and outcomes hot off the press," said conference organiser Liz Blee.

Guest speakers included Federal Minister for Forests Wilson Tuckey, CALM's Executive Director Dr Syd Shea and Forests Director Don Keene; and Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia, Executive Director Bob Pearce.

The main message was of a continued State and Federal government commitment to a viable timber industry, based on sustainable native forest manage-

By Tammie Reid

ment practices.

"The RFA will ensure that both conservation reserves and multiple-use forests in WA remain among the best managed in the world, while WA's unique timbers are put to the most profitable and innovative use," Mr Tuckey said.

The main change for the Department was the announcement by the State Government of a significant overhaul of the State's two conservation and forest agencies following the signing of the RFA.

The overhaul will mean that all conservation lands, including multiple-use State forests will be vested in a single State Conservation Authority, while a new Forest Production Commission will be responsible for commercial negotiations for timber and other native forest produce.

A third new agency, The Forest Industry Advisory Board, will be formed to advise State government on issues concerning the



This year's Forest Resources Conference organising committee comprised of Liz Blee, Bill Towie, Todd Bruttain and Neville Holland, seen here with the Federal Minister for Forests Wilson Tuckey (centre). Photo by John Clarke

timber industry and timber communities.

The new arrangement would remove CALM's current native forest commercial responsibilities and

ensure forest management and the commercial operations were more transparent and accountable.

The message from CALM's Executive

Director Syd Shea and Forests Director Don Keene reinforced that CALM remain an integrated conservation and land management agency,

and that the Business Unit would continue to play a significant part in this work.

The conference was considered by many to be

the best yet—which leaves next year's organisers with their work cut out to be as timely and as controversial as this year's event proved to be.



# to beat Exmouth, Moora staff

Offers to help from other sections of the Department were gratefully received by Exmouth staff, but it was difficult to take advantage of them immediately after the event, mainly because of the lack of accommodation and fundamental services.

However, equipment and essential stores that were sent proved invaluable, especially the large generator arranged by John Skillen from Corporate Headquarters and fleet supervisor Alan Jones from Financial Services Branch, Como.

The generator made it much easier to keep 16,000 frozen fox baits from adding to the town's enormous disposal problems.

Having solved our immediate office needs, staff attention then turned to getting Cape Range National Park into a suitable state to again accommodate tourists.

Led by acting ranger-in-charge Terry Harrington, park maintenance workers Chris Davis and Lindsay Steer embarked on a major rebuilding and cleaning-up program.

They were assisted by Len Zamudio and Pat Foley from the Swan Region, and proved to be excellent helpers in terms of their energy and expertise.

Len was able to entertain us with stories of the time when he lived in Exmouth as part of the US Navy contingent based here in the sixties and seventies.

Major natural disturbances and their aftermaths tend to bring out the best in people, and the residents of Exmouth demonstrated that trait in deal-

ing with the chaos of Cyclone Vance.

Local CALM staff have displayed an extraordinary capacity to cope with the trauma associated with the storm itself and the subsequent hard grind when dealing with its consequences.

I am both proud and honoured to be working with such people.

In conclusion, I would like to offer our sympathy to CALM staff in Moora.

While the source of their troubles may not have received the same media interest associated with our cyclonic event, we suspect their outcomes may be significantly worse than ours.

## The Moora experience

By the weekend of March 20 and 21, Cyclones Elaine and Vance had indirectly turned the town of Moora into an inland sea.

After two days of constant rain (and more than half the District's annual rainfall), the Moore River swelled its banks, threatening the town of Moora.

Following the evacuation of people from their houses, the waters began to recede on the Saturday evening, much to the relief of many residents.

This relief was short-lived, as the same people were rudely awakened in the early hours of Sunday to find the waters making a renewed assault on the town.

Some people drove, others walked, and many swam to higher ground as the waters invaded the town, peaking mid-Sunday morning.



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

Many residents were rescued from their flooded homes by boats, tractors and loaders, and evacuated to Perth—far away from the dangers of further flooding and the attendant devastation.

Through the mud, sludge and general mayhem, CALM's Moora office—along with other business premises, homes and cars—was inundated by the murky waters of the biggest flood in living memory.

As the muddy waters dried, an army of CALM volunteers from Geraldton, Kalbarrie, Cervantes and Wanneroo pitched in to clean the sludge

and debris from the Moora office, houses and other businesses in town.

Throughout the clean-up, many stories were told of losses, near misses and lucky escapes.

After four long days of toil, the office was stripped, cars drained, houses made habitable, and a temporary office set up in the CALM sheds.

## Severe damage

Because of the extent of the flooding, the CALM Moora office, including all office equipment and files were severely damaged.



Greg Kitson, Luke Bouman and Scott Godley take a break from cleaning out Moora premises. Photo by Anne Smith

CALM's Moore District management and staff thank all those volunteers who donated their precious time and energy to helping with the cleanup. They include: Midwest Regional manager Kelly Gillen, Moora District senior ranger Keith Hockey, Nambung National Park ranger Luke Bouman, Moora District ranger Rick France, Midwest Region community education officer Melinda Bolt, Kalbarrie National Park maintenance officer Greg Tapley, Geraldton District operations officer Greg Kitson, Geraldton District administration officer Kate Bovis, Midwest Region bush-care facilitator Ann Maree O'Callaghan, Midwest Region reserves officer Anthony Desmond, and Perth District forest workers Alan Jenkins, Chris Sousa, Barry Curnuck, and Graham Elsdon.

Thanks also to staff from all other centres, who contacted the District office with offers of help and to wish us well.

The slow process of rebuilding has begun. However, it will still be quite some time before the office is repaired and back to business as usual.

**AFTER the above story was written, more floods tested the mettle of the people of Moora—and again they weren't found wanting, as Paul Blechynden relates:**

Just when we thought it safe to remove the sandbags and return to normal life, the spectre of flooding returned on Friday, May 28.

Storm clouds once again gathered to deliver more rain to already full catchments, resulting in a repeat of the March flooding.

Having learnt from the all-too-recent experience, Moora was better prepared to protect what remained.

While the last road remained open, some people left town for Perth, and others stayed with their homes, arming themselves with piles of sandbags and the grim determination that this flood couldn't possibly be as bad as the first.

Fortunately, the waters peaked below the March high tide mark.

However, damage to some homes and lives was as bad, if not worse, than before, added to which was the prospect of a winter just about to begin.

Although the cleanup is well progressed, the legacy of these events is a stronger District team that has twice been put to the test and both times more than proven itself.

Knowing the impact these events have had on Moora staff and their families, our thoughts and support go out to our Exmouth colleagues.



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



At Walpole, Chantal Laval discusses the tree-felling training competency package with CALM training officer Merv Smith. Photo by Bill Towie

## Introducing Chantal Laval

**THIS introduces a new face and a new position in CALM—Chantal Laval, who is the part-time assistant training officer with a direct focus on training and support for CALM AWU people.**

Her main tasks involve advising people of CALM's preferred external study opportunities, personalising study programs, assisting with enrolment and unit selection processes and identifying any training needs related to continuous learning among CALM's AWU people.

Chantal is based at the

Training Centre in Dwellingup, and her first priority has been to identify AWU people who are currently, or intending to, study any external program in 1999.

"With CALM's competency-based training, many training hours we do for our work can be accredited towards external study courses," Chantal said.

"In fact we're finding many of these people are already part way towards a tertiary qualification—the Certificate IV in Land Management. This is the minimum entry qualification

into CALM's field officer program."

As my position is a new initiative, I'll be seeking feedback on how best to provide training and development opportunities for field-based wages employees.

"I plan to get around to all work centres to discuss the issues relevant to continuous learning.

"I'm based at the Dwellingup Training Centre and can be contacted by phone on (08) 9538 1200, fax (08) 9538-1244, or by emailing me on [chantall@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:chantall@calm.wa.gov.au)



# Abe discovers new plant

By Mike O'Donoghue

A PLANT species, new to science, has been located by CALM forester Abe Van der Sande.

It was while undertaking a dieback survey in an area of State forest west of Brookton, that Abe stumbled across an unusual *Dryandra* in an area of low heath surrounded by jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*).

Closer inspection revealed that the plants contained a number of characteristics that differed from any species he had seen before.

Abe provided *Dryandra* specialists Alex George and Margaret Pieroni with details of his find and, to his delight, Alex confirmed that Abe had indeed discovered a new species.

Several hundred plants were found at the site, and further

surveys by CALM staff identified two more populations with an estimated 1000 plants.

Not to be outdone, CALM's prodigious rare flora volunteer Fred Hort took up the challenge and located a further population of 2000 plants.

The species has been provisionally named *Dryandra insulanemorecinta*, meaning 'island surrounded by trees', and has been added to CALM's Priority Flora List.

It has been listed initially as a Priority 2, which highlights the need for further surveys to be undertaken, so that its conservation status in the wild can be more accurately assessed.

The discovery of a new WA flora species is significant and of considerable interest to both science and the wider community. It also shows that, even in areas close to Perth, there is still much botanical work to do.

Abe has worked as a dieback interpreter in CALM and the previous Forests Department for a total of thirty years.

During this time, he has acquired extensive knowledge of many plant species in the forest, particularly *Dryandra* species, which are useful dieback indicators.

WA is certainly blessed to have such rare plant discoveries so close to its capital city, and with keen-eyed people like Abe Van der Sande on the lookout, WA's already rich floral heritage is further enhanced.



Louise Austen, The Hills Forest Programs Leader for CALM, guides a Halt The Salt activity. Students, Tara Hoburn, Jessica Purdy and Millie Mitchell, from Applecross Primary School use a salinity meter to demonstrate the difference in salinity between rainwater and rising groundwater on cleared land. Photo by Wendy Hayter

## Science, salinity and schools

DURING National Science Week in May, Applecross Year 6 Primary School students joined forces with CALM to launch Halt The Salt activities.

Through hands-on action, students learnt about the importance of maintaining trees in catchments to prevent salinity—a serious environmental problem in the Wheatbelt and agricultural areas of the South West.

The activities took place on the Catchment Carers' Trail in The Hills Forest, Mundaring—a trail that was developed jointly by CALM and the Water Corporation to help students understand how forests are managed for a variety of uses including water catchment.

This interactive trail is designed to help students focus on issues such as salinity, erosion, nature conservation and the water cycle.

These activities are aimed at

By Liz Moore

the 4000 students, who walk the Catchment Carers' Trail each year, gaining a better understanding of the causes of salinity.

There are several 'stations' along the trail, where students work in groups, performing activities that relate to erosion, dieback, logging, mining, and fire in the forests.

For the third year in succession, Applecross Primary School students have a fund-raising day, sponsored by Parents and Friends groups, for The Hills Forest's conservation and education programs, with \$1000 as this year's target.

As part of the launch activities students used salinity meters to demonstrate the difference in salinity between rainwater and rising groundwater on cleared land—a demon-

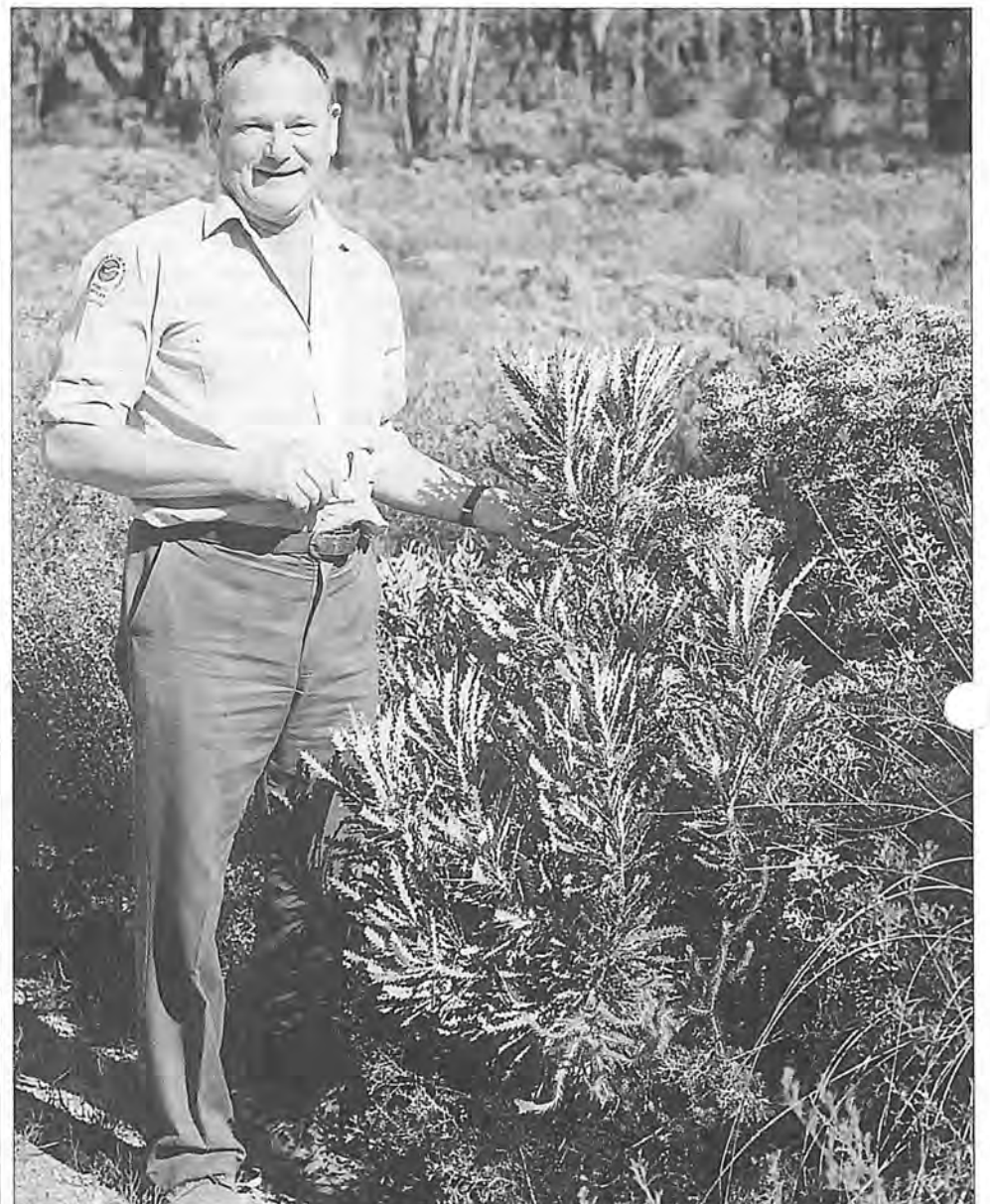
stration method developed with the CSIRO Science Education Centre.

They also brushed up their mathematical skills, using calculators to estimate the huge volume of water pumped out of the groundwater by trees in a small area of the Mundaring Weir Reservoir catchment.

Class teacher Jan Holland expressed her enthusiasm for the trail and its activities, describing them as "Engaging, relevant and linking with the new curriculum".

Salinity is one of the most serious environmental threats facing Western Australia, and has destroyed animal habitats, threatens biodiversity and has already affected vast areas of cleared agricultural land, wetlands, rivers and whole valley floors.

By understanding the causes, students will be better able to contribute to solving the problem.



Abe Van der Sande with the provisionally named *Dryandra insulanemorecinta*. Photo by Margaret Pieroni

## GIS wins Gold this time

By Colin Pearce

At the end of March, CALM received its second WA Land Information System (WALIS) award in three years for compilation of metadata.

The Department received the Silver Award in 1997, and this year received the State's Gold Award.

Metadata is a term used for data that describes other data—in other words it is information that contains details such as the origin, format, specifications, ownership,

physical location, accessibility and so on, of a specified set of data.

The availability of up-to-date and detailed metadata is essential if the data is to be used properly. For example, maps depicting forest types can only be interpreted and used correctly if this is done in conjunction with the relevant metadata, which would include a definition of the types, the date of

compilation, and the precision and source of the data.

For geographically related data, highly detailed metadata standards, (known as Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council standards) have been adopted throughout State government agencies, including CALM.

Because of CALM's many and varied activities, the department has an enormous range of spatial data, held in an equally

wide range of locations. This year's Gold Award to CALM was made in recognition of the achievement by the Geographic Information Section (GIS) in collecting and compiling metadata from such diverse and geographical dispersed sources.

The metadata collected so far has been made available for the WALIS 'Interrigator' CD, and will eventually be placed on CALMWeb, making it accessible throughout the Department.



Information Management Branch manager Colin Pearce believes in 'down with the old, up with the new'. Here, he has just removed last year's Silver Award to make way for this year's Gold Award, held by acting database administrator Steve Jones. Photo by Verna Costello

### Careful! Photographs are fragile

An increasing number of photographic prints have been arriving for use in CALM NEWS and other publications with their surfaces ruined by ink marks.

This is because those

sending them in have written a caption on the reverse, turned them over and placed the back on the front of another print. Occasionally, we have been able to crop out these marks, but when they

appear across the subject of the photo, they cannot be used.

Even when the ink seems to be dry, wet or humid weather, or accidental spills while in transit can still have a

damaging effect. To be absolutely sure that prints arrive in good condition, it is a good idea to place a piece of paper between them, and cardboard around them for protection from bending or piercing.