

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 1999



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Karri, tingle report out

by Mitzi Vance

THE State Government has released the report by the Ministerial Advisory Group on improving the management of karri and tingle forests in Western Australia's South-West.

The group, chaired by Professor Ian Ferguson, head of the School of Forestry at the University of Melbourne, provided independent recommendations to the Government on forest management including economic use and environmental and community values.

The report, in effect, sets a new course in forest management which aims to encourage greater community involvement in decisions about forest management in the State.

This will mean at least 86 per cent and up to 90 per cent of the State's old-growth karri forests in WA will be preserved—an increase of more than 9,000 hectares, or equivalent to at least an additional 15 per cent on the level set out in the RFA.

The report's key recommendations that the Government has adopted include:

- an immediate end to logging in karri/tingle old growth and karri/tingle two-tiered forest. (Two-tiered karri forest is forest that has been selectively logged in the past);
- logging will not be permitted in the sensitive areas of karri old growth within 16 blocks, including Beavis, Burnett, Carey, Dawson, Deep, Gardner, Giblett, Jane, Keystone, Northcliffe, Ordnanee, Sharpe, Swarbrick, Thomson, Wattle and Wye;
- an end to harvesting old growth karri after the year 2003;
- the maximum old growth karri coupe size to be 40 ha, which is half the current size. (The average clear-fell patch is expected to be reduced to 13-15 ha);
- clearfelling to be the preferred harvesting method for karri old growth and karri two-tiered forest due to the safety hazards associated with mature karri trees; and
- negotiations to buy-out will commence with the timber industry to reduce the level of karri sawlogs harvested to an average 149,000 cubic metres per annum. The current contracted level is 168,000 cubic metres a year. From the year 2004 the annual yield will be 50,000 cubic metres.

continued page 2

Two Bills herald fresh approach to nature conservation in WA

CONSERVATION of the State's natural resources will take a new direction under legislation Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes has introduced into Parliament.

The Forest Products Bill and the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill introduce significant changes to improve the way the State's forest resources are managed, setting out a structure that ends the Department of Conservation and Land Management's control over commercial forest activities.

"This will ensure that the competing needs of land conservation and commercial forestry will be kept completely separate," Mrs Edwardes said.

"It is appropriate that we approach the next millennium with a new vision of how we will manage and care for the State's natural resources."

Through the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill, all conservation issues will be overseen by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. CALM will be renamed the Department of Conservation.

The Conservation Commission will have nine members, appointed because of their expertise in this area, but no employee of the Department of Conservation or the new Forest Products Commission will be included.

Control of the State's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves will also be the responsibility of the Conservation Commission.

The Forest Products Commission will manage the accountability of harvesting and selling of the State's forest resources.

This Commission also will be responsible for ensuring that the forest industries remain viable and sustainable into the future, thus protect-



Close encounters with native wildlife provide a powerful way to motivate children to care for WA's native species—including those threatened with extinction. Here, Liz Appelt shows Falls Road Primary School children identifying features of a western brush wallaby. Liz works part-time for CALM, conducting wildlife courses for adults as well as children at The Hills Forest Activity Centre. Educational programs such as this will remain a high priority in the new Department of Conservation. Photo by Jiri Lochman/CALM

ing jobs and communities in the South-West.

To further ensure that competing interests are kept separate, each commission will report to different Ministers.

Under the Forest Products Bill, the Forest Products Commission will advise the Minister for Forest Products on the production, yield value and prices of forest resources. It is also required to inform the public on forest resources industry policies and programs.

A memorandum of understanding is also being proposed between the Conservation Commission and

the Forest Products Commission to outline ways that both will work together in forest management.

"Neither the Conservation Commission nor the Department of Conservation will have a role in establishing prices for forest resources, but instead that will be the province of the Forest Products Commission," Mrs Edwardes said.

Part of the new role of the Department of Conservation consists of:

- integrated management of conservation land and waters, including all State forests and timber

reserves, sandalwood and plantation timber;

- preparing scientific advice and drafting policy for ecologically sustainable management of land, including levels of production of forest resources; and—

- recouping timber production, regeneration and forest management costs for timber subsequently harvested by the Forest Products Commission.

Mrs Edwardes said the proposed legislation provided innovative, creative and progressive visions for the State's conservation areas, particularly the native forests.

New CEO to lead us into the year 2000 and beyond

DR Wally Cox was appointed Acting Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in late November, replacing Dr Syd Shea who moved to the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet.

Dr Cox comes to CALM with impressive credentials, and a wealth of expertise, much of which is relevant to the

by Verna Costello

responsibilities of his new role.

He gained his Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) at the University of Western Australia, followed by a Ph.D. (University of California). Dr Cox is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, the Australian

Institute of Company Directors, and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Dr Cox has chaired the State Tender Committee; the Independent Audit Group; which reports to the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council—all from 1996 to the present day. He has been a Member of the Metropolitan Planning Council (1990-1995)

and of the Standing Committee of the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (1989-1995).

Spanning nearly 35 years, Dr Cox's career includes:

- Chief Executive Officer, Subiaco Redevelopment Authority, (1996-1999) and the East Perth Redevelopment Authority, (1995-1999);

- Acting Director General, Ministry for Culture and the Arts, (1997-1998);

- Managing Director, Water Authority of Western Australia, (1989-1995);

- Director, Department of Regional Development and the North-West, (1983-1989).

He began his career in the Department of Agriculture and was Regional Manager,

Kimberley Region - Department of Agriculture, Kununurra (with responsibility for the Ord Project) from 1981 to 1983.

Dr Cox has had published more than 60 publications dealing with urban renewal; water industry policy and management; public sector management; and regional development and technical agriculture.

Turn to page 3 for details of an interview with Dr Cox.



CALM is a multifaceted organisation. Not only do we have key roles in the areas of nature conservation, parks and recreation, forest management and timber management we also have people with a fantastic range of competencies to implement these roles.

The perception of our organisation over the last few years has been affected by the debate over old growth forests. This debate has shown that the community values old growth forests and this has resulted in decisions to protect areas of existing old growth, at least 86 per cent in the case of karri, and reductions in log harvesting.

The debate rightly or wrongly has seen CALM at times perceived as an organisation that:

- has an internal conflict between its conservation and harvesting roles;
- has been reluctant to release information; and
- does not adequately consult with the community.

Government has responded by introducing legislation to separate the roles through the creation of a Conservation Commission, a Department of Conservation and a Forest Products Commission.

The Corporate Executive of CALM over the next six weeks will be considering a range of strategies to implement structural change arising out of the legislation but also cultural change to address all of these issues.

In considering such changes the Corporate Executive will establish processes to manage the changes and I would expect these to include:

- a communication strategy to ensure employees are kept fully informed;
- a public consultation strategy to provide guidance and support for making our processes more inclusive; and
- a review of our organisational values.

These changes will be built on a foundation of strengths. Recent visits to work groups at Como, Manjimup, Pemberton and Walpole have highlighted the capability of our organisation to provide quality services through enthusiastic and competent employees.

The challenge is to build on these strengths to position both the Department of Conservation and the Forest Products Commission to be equally as successful in carrying out their respective charters.

This edition also sees the end of another successful year for CALM and its employees. I thank all of you and your families for the support provided during 1999 and wish each of you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director



Face-painting is popular with young visitors to the Tree Top Walk in the Valley of the Giants. Here, CALM Walpole staff, Helen Nash (foreground) and Nikki Ross are busy 'painting and decorating' during the school holidays.

Karri, tingle report out

(from page 1)

In releasing the report, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said that the group was appointed as part of the Government's commitment to ecologically sustainable forest management and as part of the accelerated changes, following the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

The group's key recommendations had involved field surveys and extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community.

In preparing the report, the group considered a range of issues affecting ecological sustainability, product delivery and end use, as well as the development of silvicultural prescriptions, re-generation, soil conservation, environmental performance, research, social issues and planning.

Mrs Edwardes said the advisory group also had recommended initiatives to increase CALM's fire management resources in the South-West.

Recommendations

The recommendations included water-bombing operations to southern forest areas, an additional 25 seasonal fire crew, and a community education program focusing on prescribed burning.

The report on karri and tingle forests would now be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

To complement the MAG Report, the Government also announced the framework for the development of a jarrah strategy, which would include changes in jarrah forest management over the next few years:

- areas of particular community attachment will have a strong emphasis on local community involvement in decisions regarding management and harvest operations;
- enforced value-adding requirements including regular value adding audits for all jarrah supply contracts and a capacity to terminate contracts for failure to meet value-adding requirements;
- consideration of the development of a competitive tendering process to encourage greater utilisation of lower value jarrah sawlogs;
- lower value timber cut—but not to be sold under existing contracts—be offered for sale by public tender; and
- limits on using native timbers for purposes such as railway sleepers or structural timber

unless it can be demonstrated that the resource would otherwise be wasted.

Independent Expert Group

The Minister also announced that an independent expert group would be appointed to review native forest operations and timber yields. The five-member task force was part of the process to prepare a new forest management plan to apply from 2003.

Draft terms of reference for the review would be sent to stakeholder groups or comment.

To coincide with the Minister's announcements, CALM also released its logging plans for next year and indicative logging plans for the years 2001 and 2003. The indicative plans have been released for public comment.

An independent consultant has been appointed to collate and report on public submissions.

Written comments should be sent to: Ms Jemma Gallagher, ERM, Reply Paid 1, PO Box 7338, Cloisters Square 6850 by January 31, 2000. Copies of the plan are available on the Internet at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au> or from the consultant on 1800 653 031.

Sensational summer nights program 2000

LOOKING for variety during the summer holidays? Look no further than The Hills Forest—where a unique rammed earth amphitheatre, nestled in the forest, has been developed by CALM at Mundaring.

Here, and at the John Forrest National Park, visitors of all ages and abilities learn about our forests and natural environment through enjoyable, nature-based, hands-on activities throughout the day and night.

With lighting and sound systems hidden in spectacular bushland settings, visitors can enjoy bush as well as jazz bands, comedians, theatre with Barking Gecko, and music under the stars.

To find out what activities are taking place and when, telephone (08) 9295 2244 and so you don't miss out, you'll need to book soon.

The Hills Forest offers excellent value family entertainment and wonderful forest learning experiences—all on balmy summer nights... See you in the forest!

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Staff Movements

Contract staff

Carrie Douglas, to Narrogin, as Technical Assistant, Level 1; Susan Murphy White, to Merredin, as Revegetation Development Officer, Level 2/4, from Narrogin; Meagan N Bardon, to GIS Section, Como, as Research Officer, Level 2/4; Dale Harvey, to Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Barbara Green, to Albany, as Coastal Planning Officer, Level 5; Fiona Falconer, to Como, as Off-reserve Conservation Officer, Level 3; Neville Walliss, to Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1 Julie Adams, Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1

Permanent Staff

Cecilia Hurley, at Denham, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Tony Bennell, at Wildlife Licensing Section (Transport), as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Skye Keillor, at The Hills Forest, as Programs Officer, Level 4; Jodie Miller, at Forest Management Branch, Manjimup, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2; Stefan De Hann, at Manjimup, as Forest Ranger, 1/2; Claire Anthony, at Narrogin, as Reserves Officer, Level 1/2; Vincent Fordham Lamont, at Como, as Customer Services Off, Level 2; Emma Fiorentino, at Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Andrew Ando, at Como, as Wildlife Officer, Level 1/2; Bruce Brand, at Geraldton, as Forest Assessor, Level 1/2.

Promoted

John Gault, to Admin Assistant, Level 4, at Dwellingup; Andy Darbyshire, to District Operations Officer, Level 4, at Lancelin (Moora District); Jeffrey Bennett, to Senior Operations Officer, Level 5 at Pemberton; Kevin Crane, to Marine Conservation Officer, Level 2/4, at Marine & Coastal District, Fremantle; Kylie Dyson, to Relieving Administrative Assistant, Level 2, at Crawley; Rosa Riberio, to Finance Officer, Level 4, at Como; Andrew Milne, to Area Co-ordinator, Level 3, at Busselton; Robert Edwards, to Area Co-ordinator, Level 3, at Albany; David Griffiths, to Area Co-ordinator, Level 3, at Albany; David Atkins, to District Fire Co-ordinator, Level 4, at Moora; Matthew Dowling, to District Wildlife Officer, Level 3, at Merredin; Peter Batt, to Operations Officer, Level 3, at Mundaring.

Reclassified

Pamela Burgoyne, as Administrative Assistant Level 3, at Como.

Seconded

Matthew Warnock, to Mundaring, as District Wildlife Officer, Level 3, from Como; Terry Goodlich, Visitor Interpretation Section, (Como), as Visitor Interpretation Officer, Level 4, from Marine & Coastal District; Neil Stephens, to Como, as Clerical Officer, Level 1, from Mundaring; Mitchell Davies, to Katanning, as Operations Officer, Level 3, from Harvey; Greig, Anne, to Como, as Visitor Interpretation Officer, Level 3, from Perth District; Donna Gosatti, to Cygnet Hall, Crawley, as Receptionist/Accounts Clerk, Level 1; Emma Bramwell, to Katanning, as Recovery Catchment Officer, Level 3, from Como.

Transferred

Alex Agafonoff, to WA Threatened Species Unit, Woodvale, as Project Officer, Level 3, from Merredin; Kate Didlock, to Woodvale, as Administrative Assistant, Level 2; from Human Resources; Zoe Szolkowski, to Dwellingup, as Field Officer, Level 1, from Albany; Don Herberson, to Dwellingup, as Administrative Assistant, Level 4, from CALMfire, Ingrid Hunt, to Lane Poole Reserve, as Ranger Grade 1, from Karijini National Park; Michelle Boothey, to Narrogin, Clerical Officer, Level 1, from Crawley; Karen Bettink, to Nannup, as Dieback Interpretation Officer, Level 1/2, from Kelmscott; Peter Bidwell, to Albany, as Regional Leader, Recreation and Tourism, Level 6; David Anderson, to Dwellingup, as Dieback Interpretation Officer, Level 1/2.

Retired

John Mckenzie, from Perth District, as Senior Operations Officer.

Resigned

Richard Mitchell, from South Coast Sharefarms, as Area Co-ordinator; Ian Morphet, from Wildlife Branch, Como, as Bushcare Administration Officer; Rechelle Dyer, from Katanning, as Field Officer; Christie Mahony, from Forest Management Branch, Manjimup, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2; John Winton, from Esperance, as Operations Officer, Level 3; Roxane Shadbolt, from Denham, as Manager, Level 5; Joe-Anne Sinagra, from Woodvale, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Candice Ringrose, from WA Herbarium, Como as Technical Officer, Level 2.

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

Kudos for rangers

During August and September of this year, my family and I had the good fortune to enjoy some of the sights of your great State. We spent 10 weeks travelling from Adelaide to Darwin, then out through the Kimberley to Broome, and then south to Perth and back to Adelaide.

During that time we spent a night at Windjana Gorge where we met two of your employees—Terry

Bloomer and Kevin Hughes. Both rangers were great ambassadors for your service and had a fantastic rapport with the visitors, in particular the younger ones.

Even before we got in to WA, travellers we met with children told stories of 'the two rangers who check your journals' at Windjana Gorge, and their great attitude.

Kevin in particular took time out to explain many of the wonderful

idiosyncrasies of the Windjana Gorge region and its ecosystem. We enjoyed a great evening with him, and the children learnt some fascinating secrets about their country and their responsibilities to it. The depth to which his teaching sank in has been evident now we are home, as we hear both the children recounting to their friends 'the reasons why dingoes and raptors are at the top of the food chain'

or 'how termites recycle the grass of the Kimberley' among other stories.

From their time talking with Kevin, both the children have come away with a greater awareness of the impact of their actions on Australia's sometimes fragile environment. They are also much more conscientious about protecting that environment.

Of all the rangers we came in contact within

three different States, Kevin was the standout for his enthusiasm and desire to show our next generation of Australians just what they have and how important it is to protect it. He is a great credit to your service and we could only ponder the fantastic influence he and Terry are having on all those who are fortunate enough to meet them.

Sincerely Colin Mellen and family
Warradale, SA



Lee Fernie (volunteer), Dr Allan Burbidge (CALMScience) and Sarah Comer (CALM South Coast Region) taking data on a bristlebird caught for translocation to Nyuts Wilderness.
Photo by Carl Beck

Bristlebirds sing again at Walpole

90 YEARS after the last recording of a bristlebird west of Albany, the Western Bristlebird is again singing in Walpole Nornalup National Park as a result of a recent translocation by CALM staff on behalf of the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team.

Four birds captured at Two Peoples Bay were released into the Walpole Nornalup National Park in September by a team of CALM staff from Albany, Woodvale and Walpole, assisted by volunteers Ross and Marion Muir of Walpole.

The release is the very first translocation of Western Bristlebirds and included the birds undertaking a two-hour vehicle trip, then being carried in specially designed backpacks on a seven-km walk to the translocation site.

Since then the bristlebirds have been monitored daily by listening for their distinctive song at dawn and dusk. Volunteers and CALM staff involved in the monitoring have heard at least two birds sing during each monitoring period with the birds appearing to be in the process of setting up territories.

It is believed that the bristlebird became locally extinct west of Albany due to clearing for agriculture, fire regimes associated with

coastal grazing leases and predation by foxes.

These threats have been reduced since the gazettal of the Walpole Nornalup National Park and the development of a range of Fire Management Regimes for ecological diversity, including 'No Planned Burn' combined with the introduction of CALM's wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*, which has seen the area aerial baited for foxes four times a year.

The release site within Walpole Nornalup National Park was selected as its long unburnt vegetation appears to be very similar to the habitat occupied by bristlebirds at Two Peoples Bay.

Monitoring of the released bristlebirds will continue for another month and, if no problems occur, a further four bristlebirds may be translocated into the area from Two Peoples Bay.

If this is also successful, further translocations of bristlebirds to other areas of the national parks around Walpole may be carried out.

The translocation of bristlebirds into the area follows the successful translocation of other threatened species of native fauna such as chuditch and woylies to national parks within the Walpole District over the last 12 months as part of *Western Shield*.

Applications called for now

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is calling for applicants for about 100 Fellowships. They will be awarded in 2000 for the year 2001. Features are:

Overseas travel for about 4-10 weeks, or more, if appropriate. Fares, fees and a living allowance paid. Income supplement considered. Average value in vicinity of \$15,000. Closing date for applications is February 20, 2000.

For further information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (approx. 24 cm by 12 cm) to:

Application Forms
The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
218 Northbourne Avenue
BRADDON ACT 2612
Enquiries: (02) 6247 8333. Internet address:
http://sunsite.anu.edu.au/churchill_fellowships

Dr Cox and his vision

WALLY Cox had been in his new position as CALM's Acting Executive Director for only two weeks when the following interview took place. It had been an extremely busy fortnight, during which he met and spoke to many staff at many levels. For CALM NEWS readers, he describes some of his impressions up to the time of the interview, how the restructure will affect staff, the most pressing priorities and challenges for the new Department of Conservation, how we will be working with the new Conservation Commission and Forest Products Commission, what expertise he believes he can bring to the Department, his management style, and more—including a brief glimpse of Wally Cox the private man, the family man:

Welcome to CALM! How would you describe your first two weeks on the job?

The first two weeks have been hectic, but enjoyable, basically a case of trying to meet as many people as possible, starting to talk to stakeholders, and very quickly getting on top of key issues facing the organisation. Having done that, of course, you take the opportunity to start planning for the next step, which is three months, six months, twelve months. It's been an exciting two weeks—anything but quiet!

It's fair to say that, because of the proposed legislative changes concerning CALM, some staff are concerned about how the restructure will affect them and their jobs. Is there anything you'd like to say to CALM employees about this?

Well, the Minister in her message to CALM employees at the time of her announcement of the new legislation indicated that the decision to separate the two functions within CALM is not about reducing the number of jobs inside the organisation. So I think that's the first assurance employees have. The second assurance is that yes, there will be changes. Those changes are very much about setting up a Forest Products Commission and of course, the Conservation Commission and the Department of Conservation that supports that Commission. But the way to manage this is, I hope, to put in place very good processes, including a communications plan to make sure that people understand the changes and are kept informed about the changes that are taking place. The bottom line is that we will be laying the foundations for two very good organisations out of the existing organisation called CALM.

Before taking up the challenge of this new position, you would have formed an opinion concerning the performance and strengths of the Department in the past... in the work of CALM people. What's your view of the Department and the people in it?

I've had the pleasure, of course, of working with CALM as a supplier, and as a customer, for some 34 years. Now it's not just CALM—it's CALM's predecessors, as well of course. And the reason for saying that is that I used to work in Agriculture and in Agriculture we used to deal quite closely with our colleagues in the then Department of Forests and of course a subsequent department—called the Department of Conservation and the Environment.

I also worked quite closely with CALM in my capacity of Managing Director of the Water Authority, where our Water Resources Division worked very, very closely with the people in CALM in terms of management plans for catchments. As a result of that interaction, I think it's fair to say I've got a very, very high regard for the professionalism of the organisation, the professionalism of the people who work in the organisation and I think we've got the fantastic ability to build the foundation for two very good organisations.

How do you see the role of the new Department of Conservation changing over time? And how would you see us working with the new Conservation Commission and the new Forest Products Commission?

The legislation has been introduced in Parliament, but still has to be debated by Parliament. It proposes a number of entities. The first entity is the Forests Products Commission, and of course, the staff who support it. The second entity is the Conservation Commission, and then, of course, the Department of Conservation, whose prime role is to support the Conservation Commission, but at the same time also to provide services to the new Forests Products Commission by way of a series of bureau services.

The changes are going to be predominantly in the forest areas at the present time where, unashamedly, the new Forest Products Commission's role will be to emphasise the harvesting of timber products, the sale of timber products, the marketing of timber products and the promotion of value adding of those products. But the harvesting of those products will be in the context of approved plans, and those plans will be jointly prepared by the Department of Conservation and the Forest Products Commission. They'll be considered by the two respective Commissions, they'll be assessed by the EPA, they'll be approved by the Minister for the Environment and then, of course, the final harvesting of the timber products from the areas managed by the Department of Conservation will be very much in line with the approved plans that have been through a very extensive process of public consultation.

The mainstream programs of nature conservation and parks will continue.

What are the main challenges we face?

As an organisation, we face a number of challenges. There's the challenge that arises out of new legislation, and the challenge of setting up two organisations, effectively, three organisations: a Conservation Commission, a Forest Products Commission and a Department of Conservation. We must set them up in a way that ensures they'll succeed and meet the expectations of Parliament in terms of the separation of accountability and the separation of roles.

But I think the biggest challenge we face isn't that at all. I think that, as a result of the debate over the past eighteen months to two years over forest issues, it's fair to say that the credibility of CALM has suffered to a degree. We've now got to rebuild our credibility in the eyes of the community and that will be a top priority for both organisations as they become established over the next six months.



Your career in the Western Australian Public Service spans a wide range of senior executive positions over a number of years, in policy development, agriculture, regional development and resource management. Are there any key projects or parts of your background that you see as being the most significant and useful in your new role as Executive Director of CALM?

The role of Executive Director is one of leadership. It's leading a team of people to implement the programs of government and, in that context, all the background has been highly relevant in terms of working out how to succeed, what motivates people, and how to get people to focus on achieving successful outcomes on behalf of the community of Western Australia.

In terms of my specific background, I think it's fair to say that my six years with the Water Authority, as it was known then, particularly the water resource management side of it, is highly relevant, because many of the issues faced there are exactly the same issues faced by CALM. It's about management of resources, it's about the sustainable management of resources, and it's about working with a range of government agencies and the community to achieve that outcome.

There's another bit of background that's highly relevant—at one stage I headed up a Department of Regional Development in the North West, and the focus there was to promote the development of the rural and the country areas of Western Australia, and that, of course, is one of the challenges faced by the South West, as they deal with the changes that are taking place with reductions in the timber cut. Those communities face significant changes, and I think that my regional development background will be helpful in identifying ways in which those communities can address the issue and obtain a bright future.

People talk about management 'style' and organisational 'culture'—that is, the way things get done within an organisation. How would you describe your management style, and how will that affect the culture of CALM?

OK. One of the lessons I've learnt over my many years as a chief executive—now some 16 years—is that you can only achieve things by working with people, and through people. So my management style is very much one of empowering people to do the job that is expected of them, but in a context of working on plans for the future, plans for the organisation, and plans for different parts of the organisation—then allocating resources for those plans to be implemented—and then basically creating an environment of empowerment for our directors and managers to achieve the results on behalf of the organisation. That will certainly become part of the culture of how we do business in CALM in the future, and certainly how I would like to see the new organisations do business.

The second part of my style is building trust. We really need to be a very open organisation, and be receptive to the identified needs of our customers—our customers, of course, being the community of Western Australia. So again, I would be encouraging the two new organisations that are going to be established to become very open organisations that are very customer-focused, so we can actually meet the needs of our customers and meet their expectations.

Looking ahead, what would you like the Department to have accomplished in the next six months? In the next two years?

The priority in the next six months is to effectively implement the establishment of the new agencies—that is the Conservation Commission, the Forest Products Commission and our Department of Conservation—that must be the first priority. The second priority during that time is to start building on the good work of the past, to create new cultures for the organisation and to re-establish, in some areas, our credibility.

Finally, the private Wally Cox... the family man... your likes and interests away from the office. Would you let us in on the more private side of Wally Cox?

I have a wife whose name is Kay, and who's an Exercise Physiologist and does research into health and fitness aspects of women—particularly elderly women. We've got three children: One's having a year off from university while he travels. The second one has just finished her second year of a geography degree and the third one will be doing his TEE next year.

We're also in the throes of building a new house, which comes at a time when I've got more than enough to do without having to worry about a new house! In terms of fitness, I jog most days of the week to try and stay fit. But basically, what I do outside of work is try to keep some time apart for the family, because without that, of course, one doesn't have a complete and balanced life.

Former staff honoured in scholarship awards

AS promised in an earlier issue of CALM NEWS, the following is a feature on recipients of special awards at the Field Officer Graduation Ceremony.

The ceremony provided an ideal opportunity for longer-serving CALM officers, as well as field officer graduates, to be recognised and rewarded. Awardees included:

- Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Branch conservation estate officer, Carissa Bathgate who won the Keynes Award.
- Marine Conservation Branch oceanographer Nick D'Adamo, recipient of The Dr George Malajczuk Post Graduate Scholarship.
- Marine and Coastal District manager Peter Dans, winner of The Seamus Mulholland Scholarship.

The following profiles were written by CALM senior training officer Alan Byrne.

Carissa Bathgate

The recipient of the premier award in the Field Officer Training Course—the 1999 Keynes Award—was Carissa Bathgate for her high level of achievement in both theoretical and practical work throughout the course.

It was Carissa's love for wildlife that led her to enrol at Murdoch University to study a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Environmental Science.

During this time, Carissa undertook volunteer work with CALM, which enabled her to be involved with turtle tagging in Exmouth, fauna monitoring

at Mundaring and biological surveying at Millstream-Chichester National Park.

After successful completion of her degree in 1996, and contract employment in a wide variety of positions, Carissa was keen to establish a more secure and permanent career, so she applied for a CALM Field Officer position in December 1996.

Carissa found the pre-requisite of employment, the Field Officer Training Course, to be invaluable, providing her with a varied range of skills and knowledge, an invaluable network of CALM contacts and friends, and the opportunity to experience and gain an insight into the variety and extent of CALM's activities.

Carissa's first posting was with the Ground and Aerial Survey Section of Bunbury's Forest Management Branch where she co-ordinated and undertook the stratification and early growth monitoring of Tasmanian blue gums on South Coast and Lower West Sharefarms.

She also assisted with the mapping of sharefarm planting areas and different aspects of logging operations using global positioning systems.

While based at Bunbury, Carissa also took part in the Dwellingup Science and Information Division's Hollow-bearing Tree Research.

In mid 1997, Carissa applied for what is now her current position with CALM, Conservation Estate Officer with the Parks Recreation, Planning and Tourism Branch, based at Como.



Nick D'Adamo. Photo by Paul Webster

Carissa is responsible for seeking additions and changes to CALM-managed nature reserves, conservation parks and national parks, as recommended in CALM management plans, DEP reports, and written referrals from DOLA and CALM Districts and Regions.

Carissa also investigates and prepares reports for submission to senior staff, the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Minister for the Environment on any land-tenure proposal relating to CALM-managed lands.

Carissa recently began her Masters in Natural Resource Management at UWA.

Nick D'Adamo

The 1999 Dr George Malajczuk Post Graduate Scholarship will help Nick D'Adamo in his work at the University of Canterbury (UC), Christchurch, New Zealand, where he is exploring, in detail, aspects of Cockburn Sound's behaviour.

Cockburn Sound is a semi-enclosed embayment just south of Fremantle. It is about 20 metres deep, and is prevented from having rapid exchange with the ocean by barriers such as Garden Island, the solid rockfill causeway at its southern end and the shallow sill (Parmelia Bank) across its northern opening.

Pollution in the Sound has led to incidences of contaminated seafood and excessive algal growth. Most of the once expansive and luxurious seagrass meadows that provided

shelter and breeding grounds for a wide variety of marine life in Cockburn Sound have been smothered by algae over the years and died off in the process.

One reason Nick's research was recognised as worthy of support by the Executive Director is that the oceanography of Cockburn Sound has many characteristics that reflect those of other semi-enclosed embayments that fall within CALM's existing and future management obligations along the Western Australian coastline.

He is using experimental methods, which involve the use of laboratory tanks. The flows being studied and photographed in the tanks are laden with dye and illuminated by intense sheets of laser light.

This technique has been extensively used at UC for other research in coastal oceanography, such as the study of the motion and dispersion of sewage plumes.

Nick will also spend some time documenting his work in the form of a PhD thesis.

Dr. Bob Spigel, who has extensive experience in closed and semi-enclosed systems such as Cockburn Sound, is supervising Nick at UC.

Nick has been with CALM's Marine Conservation Branch as its oceanographer since May 1996, before which he was with the then Environmental Protection Authority.

Further information on the Dr George Malajczuk Post-Graduate Scholarship is available from Alan Byrne at the



Peter Dans. Photo by Paul Webster

Dwellingup Training Centre by e-mailing, or telephoning him on (08) 9538 1200.

Peter Dans

Peter Dans, the 1999 Seamus Mulholland Scholarship winner, began studies for a Graduate Diploma of Business in 1992, completing half the course before studies were put on hold indefinitely in 1994.

He applied for the 1999 Seamus Mulholland Scholarship to allow him to complete the Graduate Diploma and continue to a Master of Business Administration.

Peter studied for his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Western Australia (UWA), combining part-time study with work, teaching windsurfing, and building and repairing windsurfing equipment.

He began working with CALM in 1989 on a six-month contract, undertaking various technical duties in the Marmion Marine Park.

The initial contract was extended with the imminent creation of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park in early 1990, and Peter gained permanent employment as a technical officer in 1991.

Following the release of a management plan for Penguin Island and the Shoalwater Islands in 1992, Peter began working on its implementation.

In 1993, management responsibility for the area passed to Jarrahdale District and Peter won a position as Reserve Management Officer.

Later in 1993, Peter was seconded to the position of Marine Operations Manager—Swan Region and was formally appointed to the position in 1996.

With the reorganisation of the Swan Region in 1997, the Marine and Coastal District was created, and Peter was appointed as its Manager.

Much of his energy over the past six years has been devoted to leading the planning and establishment of new visitor facilities on Penguin Island, as well as the establishment and consolidation of day-to-day management of the three marine parks—Marmion, Shoalwater Islands and Swan Estuary.

"We all know that most public sector agencies will continue to face increasingly tight financial situations," Peter said.

"I believe that the future will see a need for managers of natural resources to develop a greater breadth of skills with an emphasis on business management principles."

Peter's record to date shows promise of a future up there with the best.

For further information on the Seamus Mulholland Scholarship, please contact Alan Byrne at the Training Centre Dwellingup by e-mailing, or telephoning him on (08) 9538 1200.

Murray Carter, who received the Lane Poole Memorial Trust Award, and field officer graduate Julie Gale, who received the Executive Director's Merit Award will be featured in the next issue of CALM NEWS.



Carissa Bathgate. Photo by Verna Costello

CALM's creation of great books continues . . .

CALM has expanded its range of Western Australian educational and recreational publications by five.

These include two additions to its popular Bush Books series, bringing the series' total to 23. They are *Threatened and Rare Birds of Western Australia* and *Orchids of the South West*.

The others are *Jeemuluk, the young noisy scrub-bird*, CALM's first children's picture book, a new-look *Wild Places, Quiet Places* and *Wonders of Western Waters*.

Threatened and Rare Birds of Western Australia contains 71 pages of more than 20 of these birds. Each page carries a description and a photo-

by Cathy Birch

graph, information on life history, habitat, feeding and the threats that they face.

Orchids of the South West is a guide book that covers a small selection of some of the most common orchids readers would be likely to encounter in the area. Although widespread, they are each unique and extremely beautiful.

The book provides botanical information on plant habitat, distribution, flowering periods and distinctive features. All Bush Books retail at \$5.95.

Jeemuluk tells the entertaining tale

of a young noisy scrub-bird's journey to find a home, and how CALM helps to ensure this happens.

It is beautifully illustrated and engagingly written. Children between 8 and 10 years will enjoy reading this book for themselves, while younger children, will love having it read to them.

Available in both hard cover (RRP \$19.95) and soft cover (RRP \$12.95), proceeds from the sale of this book help support CALM's endangered species recovery program for the noisy scrub-bird.

Wonders of Western Waters—The Marine Life of South-Western Australia introduces an extensive and

astonishing range of marine life that includes various seaweeds, seagrasses, corals, molluscs, sea stars, sea squirts, fish, mammals and much more. The book also features superb photographs and contains well-researched and presented information. RRP \$16.95.

Wild Places, Quiet Places is now completely revised and extended, with an attractive new look and format, more information, more maps and more breathtaking photographs of WA's beautiful South West. RRP \$19.95.

CALM produces a number of publications that contain much more than well-researched information. They have been written for the lay reader,



and include many strikingly beautiful photographs.

Remember, CALM staff members receive a 20 per cent discount on CALM-produced publications.

Cabaret Cave now open at Yanchep National Park

THE Cabaret Cave, a unique venue located in the heart of Yanchep National Park, on the doorstep of Perth, is well known by many Perth families as a venue for a wide variety of functions.

These have included debutante balls, weddings and formal dances from the time it originally opened in the 1930s until the cave was closed in the mid-1970s.

Recent restored and renovated, the cave has retained much of its significant cultural and heritage values.

The cave's custom-designed concrete floor, decorative columns and built-in seats have turned this natural chamber into a truly unique and creative venue that is ideally suited for any type of special event.

The cave's acoustics,

by Mitzi Vance

layout and constantly moderate temperature makes it a venue that is comfortable for visitors, who can ponder on eras gone by.

The cave's re-opening has already attracted great interest from the community, including a highly successful End of the Century Caving Party for 200 people, yoga classes and birthday parties.

The cave's reopening was part of a major improvement program carried out over the past four years to upgrade Yanchep National Park's services and facilities for visitors.

Work has included the upgrade and opening of Yonderup Cave, new walk trails, the establishment and opening of a Balga Mia Village, the

beginning of the 100-kilometre Coastal Plains Trail walk, upgraded picnic and barbecue areas and access for people with disabilities.

Yanchep National Park is a high-quality bushland retreat for the people of Perth where they could relax, picnic or participate in the numerous activities the park has to offer.

While the park has retained its original character, much of it has also changed and those who have not visited it in a long time may be pleasantly surprised by what it now has to offer.

Yanchep's ranger-in-charge John Wheeler said that visitors loved Cabaret Cave.

"There's definitely an energy-charged feeling about the place—maybe the walls have absorbed lots of 'good time' vibes from the 1930s," he said.



Nick Holliday (left) and CALM's South Coast Regional manager John Watson near Bald Head, Torndirrup National Park. Photo by Ray Downes

Nick much impressed

NICK Holliday, Regional Director of the South West Region of the Countryside Agency in England, visited Western Australia as a key speaker at the Annual State Trails Conference held in Perth.

After the conference Nick visited the South

West of the State, walking several sections of the Bibbulmun Track, parts of the Cape-to-Cape walk in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and all of Bald Head Walk at Torndirrup National Park near Albany.

Nick has a particular interest in long-distance trails, and the South West

Coast Path in his region is almost identical in length to CALM's Bibbulmun Track.

He was very impressed with the standard of work that had been carried out on CALM's paths and also noted the great attention being paid here to visitor risk management.

Metrobus pulls out of Perth District

METRO Bus staff redeployed to CALM's Perth District have provided invaluable assistance over the past 15 months. Sadly for the District, they are now redeployed to other projects outside CALM—Graffiti Busters being one!

During the time they were with the Perth District they took on almost the whole gamut of the District's day-to-day works, ranging from tree planting to high pruning, and working within the various sections of Nature Conservation, CALM-fire, Softwood logging, Yanchep National Park and Recreation and Tourism.

by Myles Mulvay

The Metro bus guys gained a wealth of unforgettable experiences, undreamt of during their bus-driving days—taking part in controlled burns and attending wildfires are only two examples.

Nevertheless, they didn't balk at any task assigned to them, tackling everything with gusto and a great sense of humour.

And Perth District benefited from the wide range of skills they brought to CALM, which enabled many jobs to be carried out with great success.

Testimony to some of

their work will be around for a long time in the form of newly named roads such as Metro and Omnibus Road in the northern pine forest, as well as trees planted in rehabilitated areas such as the Western Swamp Tortoise protective reserve of Twin Swamps, and the IP14 Conservation Park.

Perth District is indebted to the guys for their time and effort, and the numerous tasks completed, which because of a lack of various resources, had not been possible for the District to undertake sooner.

We wish them well in their future jobs.



Guess who's mum forgot to pack their canoe? From the Crawley Co-op team, Jordan Hampton (son of senior policy adviser Dave), and Donna Sachse (ex CALM, Geraldton, now with the Environment Minister's office). They're showing off their 'barbed wire canoe award', specially crafted for thinking the sporting equipment was laid on. Photo by Dave Hampton

No losers in Big Brook Relay

SET out below is a blow-by-blow description of the 1999 Big Brook Relay, carefully crafted by CALM Parks Policy and Tourism's senior policy adviser Dave Hampton and Corporate Relations' Bush Ranger Co-ordinator Bronwyn Goble. And it shows just how much blood, sweat and tears staff are prepared to shed for the honour and glory of winning the highly coveted trophy:

Who'd have thought it would be a photo finish between The Integrators

(Southern Forest Region blokes) and the Como Cobras, but we were beaten by an eight-foot hired shark (Rod Davidson, a friend of Risk Management's Linda Gilbert).

Como's only team started well, with Peter Ryan (Audit) and the writer (Dave, not Bronwyn)—arguably, the B B Relay's oldest participant—finishing 12th in the cross-cut saw event.

Mad Mike Bodsworth (Planning) shot us up to 4th place on the bike. CALM spouse Hayden Gilbert took us to 3rd

place with the runners. (Well Linda's husband feels married to CALM!)

Paddle people Annie Keating, of Bibbulmun Track fame, and I (Bronwyn, not Dave) held the position against the odds with the Integrators' canoe close on our sterns over the whole 3 kilometres.

Our star swimmer Linda Gilbert overtook two male competitors, but was pipped for first place by Rod the eight-foot ring-in.

As you can tell we were just in it to have a grand day out.

And a great Saturday it was down at Pemberton, with 19 teams from across the Districts, including Midwest and Albany in CALM's last Big Brook Relay for the 20th Century.

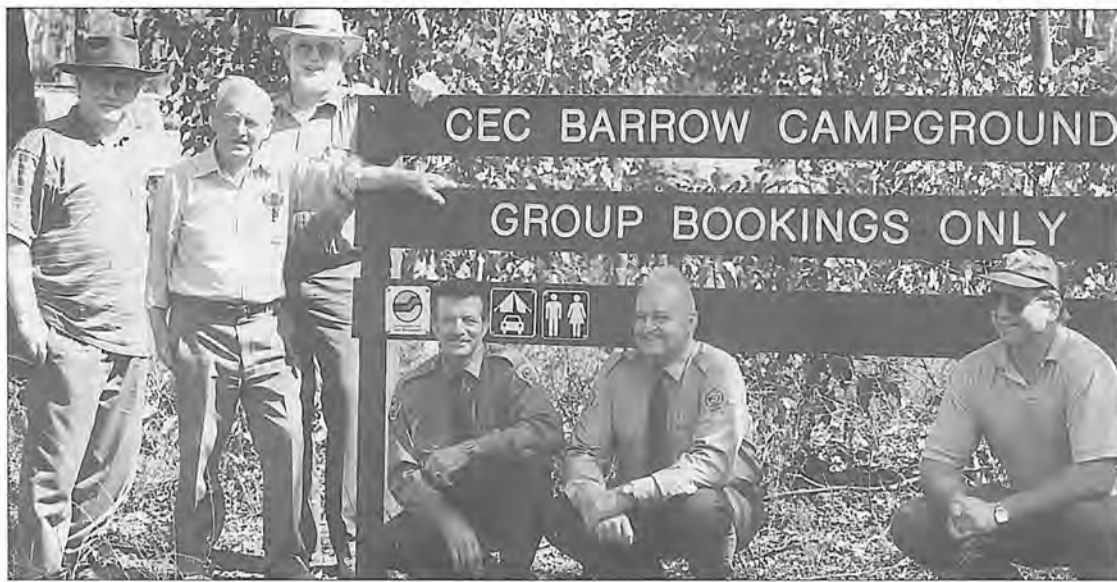
Many thanks to Pemberton District staff, particularly Doc Meehan and Rod Annear.

Hope to see many more teams next year—especially from Como and Crawley.

Psst! Did you know this was the first time Alan Sands' team finished unplaced?



From left: Como Cobras Hayden and Linda Gilbert, Pete Ryan, Dave Hampton, Bronwyn Goble, Annie Keating, Mike Bodsworth—and props. Photo by Jordan Hampton



From left: The then CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, Cec Barrow, senior ranger George Duxbury, rangers Trevor Smith and Jim Maher, and former ranger Bill Evans. Photo by Jill Duxbury

New campground opened

A NEW campground, established where the ranger's residence used to be in the Avon Valley National Park, was named The Cec Barrow Campground and officially opened on Sunday October 24.

The campground was named in honour of the original ranger, Cecil Barrow, who lived in, and worked to establish the Avon Valley National Park.

The ranger's residence was removed from the site in 1995, and as a campground to accommodate big groups had long been a pressing need, Mundaring District rangers decided to revamp

by George Duxbury

the area to meet that need.

They received valuable assistance from Eastern Suburbs Four-Wheel Drive Club members, who had approached CALM's District staff some years earlier, volunteering to work in the Avon Valley.

Their aim was to provide a focus for club members on the importance of caring for the environment.

They have carried out a number of projects, from shifting toilets into the park from others parts of the District, and replacing

those burnt by a wildfire in 1994, to helping with traffic access and parking during the annual Avon Descent.

The Club members willingly took on the task of setting up the campground, connecting toilets to the existing septic system, building stone walls and many other tasks, to make the place a success.

An interpretive plaque, bearing Cec Barrow's name can be seen in the campground, as can the main notice at its entrance, which Cec himself was invited to unveil at the official opening ceremony.

About fifty people attended, including

CALM's then Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, members of the Eastern Suburbs 4WD Club, and representatives of the Bushfires Board and Northam Tourist Bureau, as well as other rangers who had worked in the park.

It is believed to be only the second time that a feature, or facility in a national park has been named after a ranger.

The first was the Len Otte Nature Trail at Cape Arid, which was named following Len's tragic death at the park.

For more on Cec Barrow's work to establish the Avon Valley National Park, see page 8.

Female fellers in fine fettle



Appropriately toggged up with safety goggles and hard hat, Blackwood District forest ranger Janine Liddelow checks her scarf line for accuracy. Photo by Bill Towie

THE first tree-felling course (Level 2 Intermediate) was successfully conducted in Manjimup recently.

Participants included staff members Karleene Bain (Walpole), Natasha Oke (Pemberton), Lynn Heppell (Manjimup), Janine Liddelow (Blackwood) and Chantal Laval (Dwellingup).

The State Forest Resources Business Unit (SFRBU) is committed as a Duty of Care requirement to ensuring all staff involved in harvesting activities are adequately trained in tree-felling

A logging coupe is a highly hazardous area, especially for the uninitiated, although with an accredited training pro-

by Bill Towie

gram we can train our staff to become competent tree-fellers.

Not only do they learn how to fell trees safely and competently, but more importantly they become increasingly aware of the importance of general bush safety, hazard identification, risk assessment, directional falling, rehabilitation, tops disposal, habitat and crop tree protection—all priority requirements of tree-markers and coupe managers.

In the past, this training was provided by Forest Industries Training Services (FITS), but now that this training is provided internally, we can cus-

tomise the training to better meet our needs—while still meeting the Australian Competence Standards.

The CALM Chainsaw and Felling Services (CALMCAFS) team consists of Merv Smith (Walpole), Greg Lange (SFRBU), Brian Smith (Dwellingup), Tom Wood (Harvey) and the writer.

It has taken us some time to acquire the training facility and to put together the courses for accreditation.

CALMCAFS was fortunate enough to receive support from Stihl WA, who generously donated six chainsaws and other training aids.

A Guideline on Chainsaw Use and Qualifications has been

drafted, and is very useful for managers who need to understand their duty of care requirements in regard to use of chainsaws and training.

Training for CALM personnel is basically free, however a nominal fee is charged to cover travel, accommodation and the cost of consumables. Non-CALM personnel are charged at market rates for training as well.

Courses offered include: Chainsaw Maintenance and Handling; Basic-Level 1, Intermediate-Level 2, and Advanced-Level 3; Tree Felling.

Bill Towie is the CALMCAFS co-ordinator and can be contacted at CALM Mandurah.

Wandoo Woodlands Workshop

DRYANDRA Woodland looked beautiful, as always, when more than 60 people assembled on November 7 for a two-day workshop organised by Narrogin District's Land for Wildlife officer Avril Baxter.

On the first day, participants looked at the different kinds of habitats that can be found within the woodland, while senior zoologist Peter Mawson from CALM's Wildlife Branch explained what features were suitable for various native animals. The role of understory, especially for small bird habitat, and the use of fire was also discussed.

As dusk started to fall, Clare Anthony gave a talk on some of the region's more interesting fauna, followed by

Nathan McQuoid of Greening Australia on the detail of Wandoo regeneration.

To fortify the inner person, everyone consumed quantities of pizza, then set off spotlighting. The night was cool, calm and very dark. Numerous grey kangaroos, woylies and possums were seen, as well as the occasional tammar, but no chuditch or nocturnal birds were sighted.

At dawn the next day the birds were more cooperative, the highlight being watching a pair of striated pardalotes bringing food to their noisy nestlings, via such a minute hole, you'd wonder anything could get into it!

Then it was down to business, discussing management techniques in detail, and trying to work out what would be

an appropriate goal to aim for.

Brett Beecham talked here about looking at the bigger picture, while Penny Hussey highlighted techniques for remnant bush management.

For an example, the group visited Land for Wildlife members Ed and Linda Blanchard's property at Popanyinning to look at actual management issues and devise a suggested management plan.

The day concluded with a brainstorming session on just about every aspect of getting the message across.

The participants were about equally divided between Land for Wildlife members and advisors, but everyone agreed that the two days had been informative, entertaining and very worth while!

Butterfly garden at Como

WHEN an access ramp was built early this year at the Como Training Centre, the adjacent garden bed had to be heavily disturbed.

Supply Services' supply manager Greg Beange decided to re-plan the bed, with the idea of saving water.

Greg approached Planning Branch officer Robert Powell, known to be interested in local plants. Despite some concern about the site's winter shade and summer sun, Robert agreed to give local plants a try.

Several species were kindly donated by the City of South Perth, through its then environmental officer, Mark Taylor.

The bed was cleared in late May, and some large granite rocks dug out and piled up at one end. Planting was carried out

in early June by several Como staff, under the direction of Planning Branch's conservation-estate officer Carissa Bathgate.

Seed of the annual native pellitory, collected from Robert's garden, was scattered among the granite rocks. Pellitory is the food-plant for caterpillars of the yellow admiral butterfly and the silver Y moth.

Although uncommon in Perth, admiral butterflies are highly mobile, and use their excellent sense of smell to find pellitory on which to lay their eggs.

In late October, Robert saw that most of the pellitory had been removed (probably by mistake), but that the green looper caterpillars of the silver Y moth were feeding on the few remaining plants.

Some of the leaves

were bent into shelters, suggesting the presence of very young admiral larvae. Nearby was an almost fully grown larva of the blue-spotted painted lady, which had been feeding on daisy plants.

Robert collected the large larva and two tiny admiral larvae for captive rearing at home.

The large larva pupated, and the painted lady emerged in mid November, whereupon Robert and Carissa released it at Como.

The two admiral larvae grew rapidly. One later perished, the other pupated, and the butterfly emerged in late November, when it too was released at Como.

With these encouraging results, the Como group intends to take up butterfly gardening again next year.



Carissa and Robert about to release the painted lady. Photo by Verna Costello

CALM cares, CALM is recognised

THE prestigious Dr Louisa Alessandri Award for Excellence has been awarded to CALM for its strategy to assist people with disabilities to experience Western Australia's beautiful natural environment.

The award recognised the Department's work in improving access to the State's nature-based recreation and tourism areas for people with disabilities.

CALM was also awarded the State Government Agencies Award at the inaugural Action on Access Awards. Disability Services Minister Paul Omodei announced the awards on the International Day of People with Disabilities.

The award is named in the honour of the late Dr Alessandri, the former Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Disability Services and of the Disability Services Commission.

Part of the award-winning strategy developed by CALM was to ensure

by Suzette Ribeiro

that access to WA's most popular natural attractions such as the Tree Top Walk and The Hills Forest, was provided to all, including those with disabilities.

Acting Executive Director Dr Wally Cox said the strategy's main aim was to take positive steps to maintain and expand, where possible, services and facilities on CALM-managed lands for people with disabilities.

"Much of CALM's drive to achieve the best possible access to CALM recreation and office facilities by people with disabilities has been the result of a dedicated team of staff, led by former Executive Director Dr Syd Shea," he said.

"The team, comprising John Byrne (Chairman), Steve Grasso, Ron Kawalilak, Wayne Schmidt, Alan Sands, Helen Ferguson, Ric



From left Dr John Byrne and Dr Wally Cox with the two awards and Disability Services Minister Paul Omodei. They are pictured outside the Corporate Executive offices, the approach to which has a gently sloping, railed ramp from the car park. Photo by Verna Costello

Althuizen and Cliff Gillam, along with assistance from Alan Scott, and Pippa Daly-Smith of the Disability Services Commission, has

achieved and implemented a great deal to date.

"One particular achievement of note is the installation of an innovative PVC pipeline at Monkey

Mia that allows people with disabilities to be wheeled into the ocean and experience time with the dolphins.

"It is a commitment

that CALM will continue to rank as a high priority in the future."

The Department also has an active Disability Services Committee that

meets regularly, focusing on the disability plan, discussing how and where services, facilities and programs should be defined and maintained.

CALM man heads north to Alaska

LAST July, Gascoyne District operations officer Brad Barton, and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Alaska's chief ranger Randy King exchanged jobs, homes and cars for six months.

Brad is working for the United States National Park Service in Glacier Bay National Park, a World Heritage-listed site in South East Alaska, and at the regional office in Anchorage.

He has worked on a wide variety of projects, which include observing the US National Park management regime in Alaska, and writing a prospectus

for commercial tour boats and charter boats to operate within Glacier Bay National Park.

Other work includes establishing visitor and employee safety audit procedures, along with observing communication and liaison with traditional Tlingit Indian groups, regular patrol trips with enforcement rangers, and presenting information on CALM to various groups.

"Glacier Bay is very different to Shark Bay, with 75 inches of rain a year, snow, mountains, glaciers, rainforest, moose and bears, but surprising-

ly, many issues are similar," says Brad.

"The park service deals with increasing demands for ecotourism, on both land and water, and the associated conflicts this creates.

"Commercial concessions, indigenous land claims and access rights for traditional hunting and fishing, mixed public reception to park management and park activities, and major issues pertaining to marine and terrestrial wildlife interaction. Sound familiar?"

"Glacier Bay receives between 350,000 and 400,000 visitors a year.

From late June to September, the park receives about 150 cruise ships, each carrying up to 2500 people. There are also charter boats and tour boats, some taking 150 people a day into the park."

A major highlight for Brad was a nine-day rafting trip on the Tatshenshini-Alsek Rivers with Park Service staff from Canada and the United States.

"This was an annual management trip to look at impacts on the wilderness areas along the river by commercial and private rafting groups," said Brad.

"The sheer size of the area, its wilderness and wildlife, together with the breath-taking scenery have left indelible impressions on my mind."

Meanwhile, back at the park, Brad claims he's being used as 'bear bait' to test the veracity of 'dangerous bear activity' rumours.

"They assure me it's safe, but I'm betting they've got a VCR ready to capture some Funniest Home Video material," said Brad.

Note: Randy King has promised us his impressions of WA for a future edition of CALM NEWS.



Is it a gigantic penguin? No it's Gascoyne District operations officer Brad Barton—wrapped up warmly against the freezing Alaskan weather while hiking at Walker Glacier on the Alsek River (It wasn't even winter when the pic was taken!) Photo by Carol Barbee (wife of Alaskan Regional Director of National Park Service Bob Barbee)

Aboriginal heritage walk tours take off at Fremantle

by Mitzi Vance

A guided Aboriginal Heritage Walking Tour of Fremantle looks set to become one of Perth's most popular tourism attractions.

CALM's innovative Aboriginal, Tourism, Education and Training Unit has developed a one-hour walking tour of Fremantle that includes narrative and insight into the Aboriginal history of the area.

The tour begins at the Western Australian Maritime Museum and takes in the spectacular Roundhouse, and many other interesting sites.

Conducted by one of the unit's Nyoongar staff, the tour depicts the history of the port area both before and after European settlement—particularly the important role the town played as a meeting and trading centre for the Nyoongar people.

In developing this tour, both CALM and the WA Maritime Museum, with support from the WA Tourism Commission, has provided a truly multicultural



Senior Aboriginal heritage officer Noel Nannup (right) showing visitors historic Nyoongar sites at Fremantle.

interpretation of the maritime precinct.

This partnership will see the museum taking bookings for the tour, and co-operative marketing opportunities being

developed into the tourism and education markets featuring a 'Sails and Spears' theme.

Initially, the tour will be operated for public tours at 11.30 a.m. Wednesday, Friday

and Sunday, but pre-booked groups can be catered for by arrangement at other times.

The tour is expected to prove a great asset, not only in the promotion of Fremantle, but

more importantly the role Nyoongar people have played in the developing history of Fremantle.

The development of the walk was another example of

CALM's commitment to the development of a quality and sustainable Aboriginal tourism product, leading to employment opportunities through tourism in local communities.

CALM has already established an Aboriginal cultural experience at Yanchep National Park, that gives people the opportunity to experience Aboriginal heritage through guided walks and activities such as tool-making in a real Balga Mia Village.

This experience, which employs three people of Aboriginal heritage full time, is extremely popular with school groups and tour operators.

Senior Aboriginal heritage officer Noel Nannup said that the success of the Balga Mia Village tours indicated that there was a large and growing interest in Aboriginal history and culture among the wider community and overseas visitors alike.

"This led us to explore the possibilities available through Aboriginal heritage tours such as the Fremantle tour," Noel said.

New campground honours ranger Cec Barrow



Cec Barrow, former ranger-in-charge of Avon Valley National Park, stands proudly alongside the interpretation plaque at the official opening of the Cec Barrow Campground. Photo by Jill Duxbury

For many years, the area now known as Avon Valley National Park was an Australian Army training ground but, with the advent of the standard gauge railway through the valley in 1963 the Army relinquished its use of the area.

With the lack of a visible presence to manage the area, many people began to hunt kangaroos and ride trailbikes, as well as collect firewood indiscriminately.

In the early 1970s, the Avon Valley National Park was created, and by 1979 a ranger, Mr Cecil Barrow, was appointed.

His accommodation was a transportable house, located on the site of the recently opened campground named in his honour. (See page 6)

by George Duxbury

On his appointment, ranger Barrow had the unenviable task of bringing law and order to the park, which often meant confronting shooters, who were sometimes the worse for liquor, and other people who were determined to break the law.

It says much of his strength of character and persuasive communication skills that he was never injured in any of these confrontations.

Ranger Barrow also set up the original picnic and camping areas throughout the park, receiving little in the way of help or money.

By his own efforts in obtaining materials, and through a great deal of

hard work, he was able to provide the people of Western Australia with a national park that became a privilege and a pleasure to visit.

On Cec Barrow's retirement in 1990, other rangers followed to maintain and police the park, but none had the difficulties that he had suffered.

The house was removed in 1995, and the ranger was based out of the park. As the site already had a number of amenities, it was decided to establish a campground capable of catering to large groups.

With the co-operation and a great deal of help from the Eastern Suburb. Four-Wheel Drive Club, the site is being continually upgraded for the comfort of all who have the pleasure of using it.

Above and beyond the call of (volunteer) duty!

MAGIC abounds in The Hills Forest, according to two long-standing volunteers Linda and Michael Phillips.

They were married recently in The Hills Forest amphitheatre, in the presence of family and many friends—many of whom were staff and other volunteers from the Activity Centre.

"The Hills Forest is a special place for both of us. It's where we met, and it has a casual forest environment that really sums up what we're all about," said Michael.

Linda, a dieback interpreter,

by Kate Baxter

was included in the first volunteer intake to The Hills Forest in 1991, with Michael joining up the following year.

Michael has been working full-time for the past two years at The Hills Forest as the resources officer and Swan Region volunteer coordinator.

Linda and Michael knew each other for some time before finally getting together on one of the 4-wheel drive Out 'n Back Go Bush!

activities nearly two years ago.

After they had shared a tent overnight, Michael managed to get his new Landcruiser Ute severely bogged. "I knew she had to be the one for me" said Michael. "We didn't argue—even after we'd survived the embarrassment of being towed out by a Suzuki Sierra!"

Michael and Linda spent their honeymoon down south, exploring more of CALM-managed lands including the Treetop Walk, Beedelup Falls and Shannon National Park.



Pictured above are Information Centre supervisor June Ellis and, seated below, assistants Robyn Weir and Dianne van der Plank. Photo by Verna Costello

Finalists in friendliness

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff of CALM's WA Naturally Information Centre, which was a finalist recently in the City of Fremantle's inaugural Family-Friendly Freo Awards.

The Awards recognise initiative by those individuals, community groups, businesses and government services operating within the City, who contribute to a more family-friendly environment for residents, shoppers, workers and visitors.

"We were absolutely delighted to find ourselves among the 1500 nominees.

Then to learn we were one of the 50 finalists—well, that was an even greater thrill," said WA Naturally's supervisor June Ellis.

"Members of the public had been invited, via the local media, to nominate those they believed worthy of the award, so knowing we were held in such high regard by so many in

the local community was very heartwarming.

"Transperth pipped us at the post in the government services category, but we're already gearing up for next year, and hoping we can win an award in the tourism and recreation category.

"While we are a government department, we believe that, given the type of service we provide, the tourism and recreation category is more appropriate for us."



Linda and Michael with Charlie Chuditch as best man? In fact, the 'best man' was former staffer Larissa Vanstien—and she gave Michael away!