

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2000



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## Awards for CALMweb

MORE Australian gold and a little diamond was 'mined' recently by the communications team at CALM.

The team responsible for CALM's Intranet site "CALMweb" comprising David Gough, Steve Grasso, the 40-strong CALMweb Authors' Group, and CALM's Director of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Ron Kawalilak received two Gold Serif Awards in Sydney recently. The awards were for excellence in the employee communications and web sites-multimedia categories.

In addition, Ron received the 1999 Diamond Serif Award as Communicator of the Year.

The Serif Awards are a national program recognising excellence and innovation across a range of professional communications activities.

These annual awards are presented by the Australian Institute of Professional Communicators and the Society of Business Communicators, a national network association encouraging and facilitating professional development in Australia.

CALM's "CALMweb" site earlier won the employee communications category in the 1998 Public Relations Institute of Australia (WA) State Awards for Excellence.



At the launch of Operation Southern Skies were CALM Central Forest Region Manager Bob Chandler, CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt; Emergency Services Minister Kevin Prince; Forest Products Minister Paul Omodei and FESA South West Director Greg McKay. (Getting 'in touch' with the water bomber is Rick's nine-year-old son Martin Sneeuwjagt.) Photo by Nigel Higgs

## Water bombing an effective firefighter

A MOVE to strengthen bush fire fighting resources in the South-West by basing two water-bombing aircraft at Bunbury paid dividends just hours after the initiative was launched.

Operation Southern Skies—the name given to the joint program between CALM and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)—was launched on January 5 by Emergency Services Minister Kevin Prince.

Two hours later, the planes were dropping water on a wildfire near Dwellingup and on a fire in a private pine plantation near Kirup.

CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said although the planes would be based in Bunbury, they also

would be able to operate out of other airstrips throughout the south-west including Dwellingup, Collie, Busselton, Nannup and Manjimup. These would provide forward bases from which the aircraft could attack fires in their early stages of development.

The project follows on from the aerial suppression operations based out of Perth Airport that proved to be a highly successful and cost-effective means of reducing the extent and damage from wildfires in the outer-metropolitan area in the past three fire seasons.

Mr Prince, who launched the project at Bunbury airport, said there was no doubt that WA had one of the worst fire environments in the world.

"Fortunately, in the past 40 years in

WA we have been spared the devastation of widespread wildfires such as those in Sydney five years ago and in Victoria and South Australia in 1983," Mr Prince said.

"A major reason is that for the past 40 years in WA, we have had a fire management program to reduce the fuel build up through prescribed burning—particularly in the forest areas which are dotted with towns and communities."

Mr Prince said that over the past few years, CALM had put in a tremendous amount of work in relation to minimising smoke impacts in the metropolitan area. It had liaised closely with the Bureau of Meteorology and other agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection

to refine smoke management models.

"This work has not only reduced the number of smoke events in Perth, it also has curtailed the number of days available for prescribed burning," he said.

"This has led to a situation where much of the forest is carrying fuel loads that are well above their optimum. In fact, the Ferguson Report into Karri and Tingle Management found that up to 60 per cent of the southern forests are carrying high fuel loads."

Mr Prince said there was no doubt that fuel loads were a major factor that influence fire behaviour. This had been strongly identified by CALM's own research as well as collaborative fire behaviour research with CSIRO.

"This fire behaviour research has

shown that fires can burn deceptively slowly in heavy fuel loads. But once the wind reaches a certain threshold, thought to be between 12 and 15 kilometres an hour, then fires in heavy fuels can literally 'blow up'," he said.

Mr Sneeuwjagt said the extension of aerial fire-fighting tactics to the South-West would not replace conventional fire preparedness, prevention or suppression strategies and tactics.

"Fire prevention and fuel reduction are essential if suppression is to be effective," he said.

Since Operation Southern Skies was launched, training days have been held for CALM staff, volunteers and FESA staff in several locations including Bunbury, Dwellingup, Manjimup and Albany.

## Nature-based tourism icon competition open

IF you had \$2 million to develop a nature-based tourism icon in the spectacular karri forest what would you choose?

This is the question the State Government is putting to Western Australians in its bid to develop a new attraction that will boost tourism and community development in the

karri forest areas of Manjimup and Nannup.

People and communities of the South-West are invited to submit their ideas for such an icon through a 'concept' competition.

The competition, managed by Contract and Management Services, is open to all individuals, families, schools,

TAFE Colleges, universities and all interested community groups.

The closing date for entries is March 17. Ten entries will then be chosen as possible concepts by a Ministerial-appointed judging panel.

Prizes to be won include five three-day family holidays at the Broadwater Resort in

Busselton or Perth for best individual or family entries; a two-day guided visit to Perup Forest Ecology Centre for best primary school entry; and \$500 towards any school excursion for best high school entry.

CALM Planning, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Jim Sharp, also part of

the judging panel, said the judges would be looking for concepts that were:

- innovative;
- buildable;
- environmentally responsible;
- ecologically sustainable;
- provide enhanced visitor experience of the area;
- assist visitors to understand and appreciate the natural

processes of the forest; and—provide tangible benefits to the local communities in the Manjimup/Nannup region.

"What we want to develop is another nature-based tourism attraction like the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, combining conservation and recreational values," he said.

continued page 2



I have almost reached the half-way mark! That is I have met half the people in CALM!

As the opportunity arises, I have been visiting various Directorates, Regions, Districts and Branches within CALM.

I'm impressed by the diversity of our responsibilities and the dedication of our people. Whether it be Western Shield, forest management, corporate support, recreation or fire management, people are making a contribution and obtaining satisfaction from this.

I have also been meeting with a number of stakeholders including representatives of environmental groups, the timber industry, communities and other Government agencies. With limited exceptions there is general recognition of the quality of staff within CALM and the contribution made by CALM in managing the environment.

Both stakeholders and our people have identified opportunities to enhance the scope of CALM's activities or the way we do business.

A number of these will be addressed as part of the strategic planning process for both the new Forest Products Commission and the Department of Conservation. The first workshop on planning for the proposed Forest Products Commission has been held with some 30 managers, senior staff and Directors involved. The equivalent session with comparable staff from the conservation parts of CALM will be held on 29 February. Some initiatives, however, cannot wait for the new organisation to be established.

A number of initiatives have or will be commenced. These include:

- Development of a Public Participation Strategy, training for relevant staff and the establishment of a panel contract to engage facilitators for the development of future management plans.
- Preparation of a communication strategy to provide CALM people and the community with improved access to information on a range of topical issues. The community is interested in additional information on issues such as salinity and forest management.
- Encouraging a culture of responsiveness and openness in dealing with customers and stakeholders. This includes encouragement for our scientists to publish the results of research.
- Developing close relationships with sister agencies such as the Water and Rivers Commission, Agriculture, Water Corporation, Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Authority etc. to improve our combined efforts in addressing major environmental issues such as salinity.
- Introduction of an Individual Performance Development Policy. This aims to ensure each employee clearly understands their specific role in meeting branch, district, regional, program and organisational objectives. The program will involve employees meeting with their supervisor twice per year to discuss progress in achieving performance to identify opportunities for improving the way we do business and to identify training and development needs.

The program will be "kick-started" by the Corporate Executive with each Director meeting with the Executive Director in May.

The Directors have each given a commitment to roll down the program within their parts of the organisation.

"Just in time" training will be provided as the program is introduced into each part of the organisation.

**Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director**

# Nature-based tourism icon competition open

(from page 1)

"A competition is an ideal way for everyone who lives and works within the South-West to 'have a go' and voice their own ideas on what should be developed in the area."

The competition is not limited to one project, or one location—there could be multiple projects. However, the preferred site for a major project was the spectacular karri forest of the

Manjimup/ Nannup region.

Expressions of interests will be called to develop the chosen 10 concepts further. Of these, up to four finalists will be asked to develop more detailed plans.

The competition, recently announced by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, was part of the Coalition Government's commitment to develop new

tourism opportunities in the South-West as part of the Regional Forest Agreement.

Information packages and entry forms for the Forest Icon Concept Competition can be obtained from CAMS on (08) 9721 2266 or Fax: (08) 9791 3058 or from visiting the Forest Icon Concept Competition link on the CALM Projects web page <http://www.calm.gov.au>

# Heritage-listed inn soon to be restored and renovated

**HISTORIC Yanchep Inn has been given a new lease of life with the signing of a lease agreement that will see around \$3 million invested in upgrading the inn, situated in the heart of the Yanchep National Park.**

CALM has recently executed a lease agreement with Yanchep Inn Nominees, owned by business operator Mr Tony Villanova.

The new 21-year lease will see the heritage-listed building restored and renovated, as well as the construction of a new kiosk/cafe, tea-room and up to 30 new motel units.

The Yanchep Inn has played an important role in the early social and recreational history of Western Australia, and the

signing of this lease has ensured that the building is upgraded to meet heritage standards. At the same time, it will provide visitors with modern facilities that are in harmony with the surrounding conservation and cultural values of Yanchep National Park.

The upgrade will complement the major improvement program undertaken at the park, which includes infrastructure work and the development of new visitor experiences such as the Aboriginal Mia Village.

The inn is expected to be a major drawcard, not only for families and couples looking for a holiday in close proximity to Perth, but also for the corporate sector to use for

business seminars and conferences.

It is also expected to provide new employment opportunities for the area.

The proposal presented by Mr Villanova consists of three stages, with work due to begin in March this year.

The proposal will guarantee the long-term future of the inn, and is in line with the park's management plan and recreation masterplan.

The new lease has been approved by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC), and is currently awaiting Minister of Planning approval as Yanchep National Park falls within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Regional Scheme.

# Staff Movements

## Contract Staff

Raewynne Whelligan, to Mundaring, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Craig Grocke, to Regional Parks, Fremantle, as Planning Co-ordinator, Level 5; Paul Harrison, to Forest Management Branch, Bunbury, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2; Damion Kuret, to Albany, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2; Kerry Soltwisch, to Corporate Relations Division, as Customer Services Officer, Level 1; Pauline Southgate, to Wildlife Branch, as Field Officer, Level 1/2; Jarrod White, to Bunbury as Forest Ranger, Level 1; Michelle Roche, to Manjimup, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Barbara Slade, Kensington, Clerical Officer, Level 1.

## Permanent Staff

Michael Lapwood, at Broome, as Marine and Coastal District Operations Officer, Level 4; Eamonn Fennessy, at Planning and Visitor Services, Kensington, as Landscape Architect, Level 5; Paul Mc Cluskey, Wheatbelt Region, Program Leader Recreation and Tourism, Level 5/4.

## Promoted

Leanne Thomas, to Indexing Team Leader, Level 3, at Corporate Information Services Branch, Kensington.

## Transferred

Dr Sydney Shea, to Department of Premier and Cabinet, as Executive Director, Level C16, from CALM Corporate Executive, Crawley; Chris Mather, to Karijini National Park, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1/2, from Walpole District; Ian Herford, to South Coast Sharefarms, Albany, as Liaison and Promotions Officer, Level 6, from Albany District.

## Reclassified

Ray Fremlin, as Manager Technical Services, Level 7, Plantations Group, Busselton.

## Seconded

Justine Murphy, to Timber Technology, Harvey, as Technical Officer, Level 2, from Forest Management Branch, Bunbury; Donna Schase, to Environment Minister's Office, as Clerical Officer, Level 3, from CALM People Services Branch.

## Resigned

Jane Scott, from Geraldton, as Projects Officer, Level 4; Michael Keenan, from Manjimup, as Computing Services Officer, Level 3; Tanya Stacpole, from Wildlife Branch, Kensington as Bush Care Facilitator, Level 4.

# Scientific group's report is released

**A REPORT by a scientific working group on CALM's forest research and monitoring programs has been released.**

The Forest Monitoring and Research Commission in 1997 appointed the working group, comprising five scientists. That commission was established as part of the Ministerial Conditions attached to the Forest Management Plan (1994-2003).

The working group consisted of three independent scientists—Associate Professor Bernie Dell, chair (Murdoch University); environmental consultant and Environmental Protection Authority member Dr Libby Mattiske; and environmental management and research consultant Dr Owen Nichols—

and two CALM scientists, Dr John McGrath and Mr Keith Morris.

Its brief was to review CALM's forest research and monitoring programs and the priority given to them, as well as identify any gaps in current programs.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the 38 recommendations outlined in the report would be very useful in determining future priorities for research and monitoring in the State's South-West forests.

The broad findings of the working group are:

- current research and monitoring activities appear to be either individual or corporate-driven. The former results in fragmentation of effort. Good planning and communication can

result in the more effective use of integrated study sites;

- CALM has a very good administrative structure for its research;

- boundaries of research, and monitoring programs are sometimes obscure;

- monitoring in the past appears to have been somewhat ad hoc but there has been significant recent progress in co-ordinating and implementing monitoring programs;

- monitoring of prescriptions is reasonably easy but it is more difficult to determine if the prescriptions are actually achieving what they are meant to do;

- CALM has a wide range of quality research and monitoring programs in place;

- significant funds have recently been injected into forest research largely as a result of recent forest management inquiries;

- the ability of CALM to adapt to current and future research and monitoring needs depends on the existence of wide departmental knowledge and particular skills. The loss of expertise in some areas was a concern expressed by some workers;

- planning, though often on a three-year basis, must address the desir-

- ability for long-term corporate forest research;
- gaps identified include topics where new sets of information are required or need to be pulled together; and—
- future working groups need to be given realistic time to achieve their objectives.

CALM Science Division Director Neil Burrows said CALM would be working through the report's recommendations to implement them in conjunction with other initiatives stemming from the recently-released Ferguson Report on Karri and Tingle Management and other recent forest management inquiries.

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

### Prompt response

The following was addressed to CALM's Blackwood District manager Murray Carter:

Just a note to thank you and your staff and crews for their efforts in controlling the fire started by a lightning strike in our Southampton Pine

Plantation on January 5 2000.

I know that many of your people had just returned from the Leeman fire and had hoped to get a bit of a break. However, the promptness of your response and the absolute professionalism of the people at the fire rein-

forces what a fantastic fire-fighting team CALM has.

Russell Walter\* was at the fire and was also very impressed with the performance of the water bomber which will obviously be a major asset for the South West.

Can you please pass on our thanks to your people;

their help was greatly appreciated.

Regards,  
Richard Bredahl  
Operations Manager  
Bunnings Treefarms.

\* *Russell Walter is Bunnings Manjimup regional forester and fire officer, and a former CALM fire officer.*

## CALMNEWS—JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000

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# Cartographers never die, they just get charted away

WE all know about old growth and icons, and the 100-year forest. Well, in the Geographic Information Services (GIS) section of Information Management Branch (IMB), Rod Properjohn, Graham Hoare and Craig Thurley can match these.

They have more than a '100 years' combined service with both the Forest Department and CALM, so they qualify as 'old growth' and, with a century's experience between them, could be regarded as 'icons'.

They each have a Diploma in Cartography, and started with the Forest Department as cadet draftsmen, Rod in 1962, Graham in 1963 and Craig in 1968.

Since then, they have gained skills and experience in manual mapping, colour map production, photogrammetry, plantation mapping and tenure mapping.

They have seen IMB evolve out of the Land Information Branch, formerly the Drafting Branch, and before that

the Mapping Branch.

In the past decade, all three officers have firmly grasped computer technology in mapping and geographic information systems—a doddle for such 'wise old blokes'.

Project leader Rod prepares and supervises the maps required for management plans, tourism and recreation mapping, aerial burns and aerial surveillance as well as other 'one off' products. He is also responsible for seeing that maps are produced to an agreed standard and specification.

In his spare time, Rod is a leading wine authority, educator and writer.

Graham is program leader of the Tenure Group, which provides both textual and graphic information, on CALM-managed lands and other crown reserves. The Group prepares maps for excisions and additions to CALM-managed lands, and also prepares lease diagrams and maintains the spatial representation of apiary sites. (Now there's a term to conjure with!)



If Craig Thurley (centre) is about to sign on, he's a couple of decades too late—and that's not funny, whatever the grins worn by Craig, Rod Properjohn (left) and Graham Hoare might indicate. The 'sign-on book' is a time-keeping relic from 1970. Photo by Verna Costello

Graham, among others, was instrumental in developing the Tenure Information System (TENIS). He is also executive officer of CALM's Geo-

graphic Names Committee. Some of his leisure time is spent dragging a caravan around WA and fishing. Craig is the Data

Acquisition Group's program leader. This group maintains the topographic information layer covering the State's South West, and includes

roads, hydrography, contours and cultural features. Out of working hours, Craig has simple tastes, enjoying movies, fine

food and relaxing with an ice-cold beer or a wine. All in all, there is not a lot that these three don't know.

## Overseas staff exchange a successful first for CALM

JUMPING from a boat on to the back of a dugong is one experience that Randy King will member for many years to come.

At the time, Randy was one half of a highly successful six-month international staff exchange with Brad Barton, Gascoyne District operations officer, based at Denham. (see story in CALM NEWS November-December 1999 issue).

"The 'jump' was something of a leap of faith," said Randy, "But, it was

the only way we could safely capture the animals, attach radio satellite telemetry and other equipment, then release them—as part of a dugong study project.

"Some explaining was needed, however, after one community member was told that the first person to jump on a dugong was Randy!" \*

"All went well, nevertheless, and it became an exciting co-operative project involving the local Aboriginal community."

Randy also worked on

a wide variety of resource and public-use management programs, with an emphasis on the marine components of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

These included assistance in co-ordinating and implementing a co-operative CALM-Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation study of dugongs, implementation of inter-agency marine zoning prescriptions for Shark Bay marine reserves, preliminary work toward development of a marine pests

prevention/response/detection strategy, completion of a Memorandum of Understanding with the local shire, authorising CALM rangers to enforce management laws concerning the use of the jetty, commercial filming activities, and evaluation and resolution of charter vessel-related issues.

"Although the environments and resources are very different, I was struck by the similarities of the short-and long-term issues and challenges we face as managers of pub-

lic resources and conservation estates," said Randy.

"Through my work with CALM, I've learned new perspectives and approaches to issues, which I'll be working with in Alaska.

"Hopefully, I've made a contribution to CALM as well, perhaps by offering a different perspective on issues and programs."

Randy said that his work exchange program with CALM had been extremely rewarding.

"I can't overstate the

value of the experience, both professionally and personally," he said.

"I want to thank the many people who made this experience possible, including the Barton family for making their lives a part of ours; my many CALM colleagues who tolerated my questions and accent with grace and humour, and most importantly, Paul Brown, Kelly Gillen, Peter Heselwood, and Alan Walker for their support for the exchange program."

Randy, his wife Sally, and their children: Mackenzie (11), Dylan (8), and Skylar (5) are now back in Alaska, while Brad and Peta Barton, and their children, Thomas (4) and Emily (2) have returned to WA.

\* It is a widely held belief that sailors who reported sighting a mermaid were, in fact, seeing a dugong which, from a distance, may have looked like a woman—particularly to sailors who hadn't seen one for many months!



Sally, Mackenzie, Dylan, Skylar and Randy King enjoy a break at Coral Bay.

## Rikki approves

FORMER CALM media liaison officer Penny Walsh, now Public Relations Co-ordinator with the Water Corporation, sent a copy of a letter written by the 11-year-old daughter of one of her colleagues Phil Kneebone

Penny says that Rikki had recently returned from a school camp at Dwellingup and has been singing the praises of 'all things CALM' ever since. Rikki felt moved to put her appreciation in writing:

Dear CALM,

I would like to say thankyou to all of you at the Bureaus all over the country. I am saying thankyou for all different issues but one issue stays in my mind and that is this—you have done so many great things for our environment and I appreciate that so much. What would WA or I might say the whole of Australia do without you?

Yours sincerely

Signed: Rikki Kneebone.

## Expo in August

FOR those involved, or interested, in agroforestry, and whose appointments diary or yearly planner fills up early in the year, please note that Agroforestry Expo 2000 will be held on Saturday August 26 at the Flax Mill in Boyup Brook.

Last year's Expo attracted and generated a great deal of interest among many farmers, concerned about the devastation caused by salinity, as well as various agencies and advisers catering to farmers' needs.

Further information is available by contacting the co-ordinator Monica Durcan on (08) 9291 8249, or email: mducan@inet.net.au

It was a year of great change for the Department—not the least of which were the introduction of legislation into Parliament to separate the roles of CALM through the creation of a Conservation Commission, a Department of Conservation and a Forest Products Commission, and the appointment of Dr Wally Cox to replace Dr Syd Shea as CEO to take the Department through these changes.

At the same time, all divisions in CALM—Regional Services, Forest Resources, CALMScience, Nature Conservation, Corporate Relations, Corporate Services, and Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism—maintained a solid record of achievements and successes through the year.

The challenge will be for all of us, whether we are in the Department of Conservation or the Forest Products Commission, to build on our strengths and carry out our respective charters successfully in the future.

Until then, this is an opportunity for us to reflect on the past year and all that CALM staff have achieved as we head into the 21st Century.

## January

Central Forest Region began the year first off the mark with the release of the Leschenault Peninsula Management Plan. This was soon followed by the opening of the upgraded Canal Rocks Foot Bridge in the South West Capes District—a popular attraction for the Yallingup area.

January also saw the

by Mitzi Vance

start of the next phase of *Project Vesta*, a joint scientific research program between CALM and CSIRO. More than 60 experimental fires were lit in forest west of Nannup and east of Harvey as part of the project.

A history-making partnership was also formed when BP entered into an agreement with WA to explore the feasibility and management of tree plantations for carbon sequestration, as well as landcare and biodiversity.

## February

Management zones were gazetted in February for Shark Bay Marine Park—WA's biggest marine reserve—paving the way for conservation values to be managed while providing for recreational and commercial uses.

"Sun & Stars" Festival 99 again hit a high note with record numbers of people flocking to CALM's community day. The day's success was due to the dedication of Yanchep National Park, Perth District and Perth Observatory staff, with help from team players from Bibbulmun Track Office, Aboriginal Tourism Unit and the Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Branch.

## March

The third month of the year saw wildlife recovery efforts under way to conserve the endangered dibbler species on Boullanger and Whitlock Islands.

A world-class visitor centre was opened at one of WA's greatest conserva-



CALM's Bushranger Program continued to gather strength, recruiting another 800 students from 15 senior high schools. They contributed 100,000 hours to nature conservation projects. Pictured at a schools cadet expo are CALM's Matilda Bay Reserve ranger Wayne Taylor; CALM-registered wildlife carers from Moonshadow Raptor Rehabilitation Amanda and Stuart Payne and Chris Gairns with John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School students Fiona Held (and black kite), Ben Marson and Brent Van Senten. Photo by John Hunter

tion sites—Two People's Bay Nature Reserve—home to two rare native animals, the noisy scrub bird and Gilbert's potoroo.

A contract was also signed between CALM and Mount Romance of Australia for the production and marketing of sandalwood oil derived in WA. This involved the supply of up to 1000 tonnes of sandalwood a year.

Cyclone Vance also hit the State forcing the closures of Cape Range National Park and major mop-up work around parts of the mid-west and north-west of the State.

## April

April saw the adoption of a new strategy to combat environmental weeds, further strengthening the State's commitment to conserve WA's biological diversity.

Captive-bred chuditch from Perth Zoo were reintroduced to their new home in Mt Lindesay National Park as part of the wildlife recovery program Western Shield. This marked a milestone in the project as more than 800 native mammals have been returned to their former home ranges as a result of successful fox control.

## May

The Regional Forest Agreement was released by the Federal and State governments in May. The RFA outcomes included an increase in formal conservation reserves by 12 per cent, the creation of 12 new national parks and the addition of 45,700

hectares of old-growth forest to existing reserves. In addition it provides for a \$59 million timber, tourism and regional industry package to help forest-based industries exploit new opportunities.

This month also saw the development of a partnership between CALM and the Ngaanyatjarra People for the conservation management of WA's Central Ranges and Gibson Desert regions.

The concept plan for a recreation and conservation reserve more than 200 times the size of Kings Park in the Gnarup pines region was also released.

Meantime, woylies were transported for the second time to Genaren Hills Sanctuary in New South Wales under Western Shield, further cementing WA's reputation for effective native wildlife recovery.

The popular Bush Book series also achieved a mile-

stone having sold 100,000 copies. This reflects the immense interest in the State's natural environment among Western Australians and visitors.

## June

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

A record 27.4 million tree seedlings were produced at CALM's nurseries in Manjimup and Narrogin for planting on farms and in native forests during the winter months; and WA joined forces with South Australia to bring the bilby back from the brink of extinction. CALM exchanged WA captive-bred bilbies with South Australia to ensure diversity and new blood in breeding programs.

June saw the start of

CALMFire's winter fire management program, in particular the start of prescribed burning to reduce the threat of summer wildfires.

More than 830 years of dedicated service to the responsible management of WA's forest was honoured on Arbor Day '99 at a function at Cannir River Regional Park.

At the same function CALM's Perth District staff and Regional Parks staff celebrated Arbor Day in style, despite the rainy weather, with school students and children from Kosovo.

Eight years of consultation with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the lands and waters in the Pilbara region culminated with the release of the Management Plan for Karijini National Park.

## July

Six CALM staff were honoured with National Medals for their dedicated



Walpole District staff Steve Gray and Karlene Bain releasing a chuditch at Mount Lindesay under the Western Shield project. Photo by Brent Johnson



Recognising the importance staff training in these rapidly changing times, CALM ran a number of courses and workshops for staff at various levels. Here, dieback co-ordinator Kevin Vear is seen presenting the results of a working group's findings at a 1999 CALMfire workshop for regional and district managers, fire incident controllers and duty officers. Photo by John Hunter

service in protecting Western Australians from devastating bushfires.

Premier Richard Court announced that logging in old growth karri and tingle forests would end when current contracts expired in order to accelerate changes to forest management in WA.

Forty western swamp tortoises—the most endangered tortoise or turtle on earth—were released at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve, north-east of Perth.

A new award designed to boost the career development of female staff within CALM was launched. The \$20 000 June Craig Scholarship was developed to encourage all women in CALM to achieve their aspirations and further their careers.

July marked the month that CALM excelled in its captive breeding programs with more than 50 endangered native animals been captive-bred under Project Eden—the arid zone component of Western Shield.

## August

A major success was achieved for Land for Wildlife this month with more than 420 landholders in rural WA on the register of the voluntary scheme.

Headway was also made into feral cat control with the eradication of these introduced pests on fontebello islands, off the Pilbara coast. This was a significant achievement for environmental protection in the State.

CALM's Swan Region headquarters also relocated from Kelmscott to Kensington. A new front counter, the "CALM Outdoors Shop" was opened in Armadale as a result.

CALM Herbarium took centre stage with a commemoration exhibition of William Dampier's landing at the WA Museum. The exhibition contained

a range of Dampier's original plant specimens and was a great success.

## September

A 600-hectare natural bushland area, larger than Kings Park, was created in Kwinana by the joining of Leda Nature Reserve and the IP14 Conservation Park. It is a joint conservation project between CALM and Edison Mission Energy, which is providing assistance through sponsorship of environmental protection and revegetation projects.

Fifty woylies from Dryandra were translocated to Peron Peninsula under Project Eden. This was the fifth reintroduction of woylies and the largest translocation to Peron since October 1997.

Fox-baiting for wildlife conservation was also extended to include Avon valley and Walyunga national parks—creating a buffer of fox controlled areas in Perth's Hills.

CALM also embarked on a special partnership with Japanese Inbound Tour Operator Wattleland Pty Ltd to establish wildflower tours for Japanese tourists. This partnership involves Wattleland Pty donating a percentage of funds to CALM's Threatened Species Unit.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes announced legislation of two new Bills that allows for the reorganisation of the Department through the creation of the Forest Resources Commission and the State Conservation Commission.

The Department also announced that it would employ 57 permanent and seasonal workers in the south-west for summer 1999/2000.

## October

Kalgoorlie office was in the headlines for October with the release of the Draft Management Plan for Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park and

Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve. The Arboretum was also officially opened after a three-year major improvement program.

New measures were announced to encourage farmers to participate in the Maritime Pine Project. Advance payments of up to \$2000 a hectare will be paid to farmers to take part in the tree-planting project.

The draft Masterplan for management of the Wedge and Grey coastal areas near Jurien Bay, was also released for public comment. Meantime, CALM's Marine Conservation Branch officers descended on the North West Cape to undertake a field study of the seabed habitats for a proposed extension of the Ningaloo Marine Park.

Forty captive-bred dibblers from Perth Zoo were released on to Escape Island in Jurien Bay. This followed the successful release there of 26 dibblers in 1998.

## November

The 11<sup>th</sup> month of the year marked the departure of long-term Executive Director Dr Syd Shea. After almost 15 years at the helm and a multitude of accomplishments, Syd moved to the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet. With his departure came the arrival of Dr Wally Cox with a background encompassing strong scientific and administrative experience in government.

The fire season started early with CALM fire officers suppressing a number of fires in the Wheatbelt and along the south coast.

To increase awareness over the summer months the *SummerSafe Sunday* campaign was launched by Emergency Services Minister Kevin Prince. The campaign aimed to reduce bushfires (and the damage they can cause), through partnerships with the community and fire-fighting agencies.



Janine Liddelow (CALM Nannup) radiotracking dibblers (inset) on Escape Island, Jurien Bay. Main photo by Dorian Moro, inset photo by Andrew Crawford.

The Western Australia passport was also launched. It is a joint initiative between Passport Promotions and the Department that offers discounts to attractions. A percentage of the funds from the passports goes to CALM for nature conservation initiatives.

November also saw conservation measures in Marmion Marine Park enhanced by sanctuary zones; the opening of the newly renovated Cabaret Cave at Yanchep National Park; the opening of a custom-designed jetty at Penguin Island; and the launch of a guided Aboriginal Walking Tour of Fremantle by CALM's Aboriginal Tourism Unit.

CALM's Internet site *NatureBase* won the Highly Commended award in the Public Relations Institute of Australia Awards for Excellence Program, while CALMWeb, the Department's internal website won two Gold Serif Awards from the

Australian Institute of Professional Communicators in the Employee Communications and Multi-media categories.

## December

The fire season was literally on the boil during December, with bushfires breaking out at Collie, Serpentine, Mt Dale, Gnarara Pines and in numerous places in the south-west.

Fire suppression efforts were helped by the start of water bomber operations in the metropolitan area.

A \$2 million major tourism attraction among

the State's tallest karri trees was also announced as part of the RFA. The project called for tenders for a 'forest icon' concept.

On the nature conservation front, one of the ocean's most awesome animals, the white pointer—or great white shark—joined the list of threatened species in WA. The new list included 120 threatened and 13 presumed extinct animals, and 334 threatened and 22 presumed extinct plants.

December also saw the release of the new and expanded *Wild Places*, *Quiet Places*—one of the

State's most popular nature-based tourism books.

The final management plan for the year was also released for two of the State's most significant conservation estates—the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks.

This final launch ended what was a successful and change-filled year for CALM—the last year as the Department of Conservation and Land Management. There is no doubt that we can all look forward to the new challenges 2000 brings.



Graphic designers Gooitzen Van der Meer, Maria Duthie and Sue Marais, with public affairs officer John Hunter—part of the Corporate Relations team behind the many publications produced during the year. Photo by Mitzi Vance



CALM external funding co-ordinator Suzanne Curry and Channel Nine General Manager Paul Bowen discuss the various features of the Western Australia Passport at its launch in November. Photo by Craig Stewart

# Farm forestry courses show ways to fight salinity

**THE Farm Forestry Courses** continue to attract lively interest from people looking for ways to grow trees as a cash crop or as a means of fighting the grim fight with salinity. The possibility that they might combine the two makes the proposition even more attractive.

The recent Midwest Introduction to Farm Forestry Course was held to introduce commercial farm forestry concepts to those in a position to advise farmers on their revegetation options.

The 17 participants in the three-day course were mainly from the Midwest Region, within the rainfall zone up to 300 mm.

They included community landcare co-ordinators, revegetation or bushcare officers, agribusiness consultants, CALM and Agwest development officers

Participants visited demonstration sites on farms, where they had the opportunity to closely question and learn from practicing farmers.

The emphasis was on commercial tree-cropping options such as maritime pines, oil mallees, and



Inspecting treated bluegum posts at Bunning's Mundijong premises are, left to right, CALM Sharefarms assistant area co-ordinator Eliza Cummings, Moora farmer and business consultant Will Easton, Calingiri farmer and agricultural contractor Rob Anspach, Bunning's Mundijong manager John Fletcher, Bridgetown farm forester and course co-ordinator David Jenkins, Gingin plantation manager Bruce Jamieson, AgWA's Gingin development officer Tracey Gianatti, Central Coastal Districts Business Enterprise Centre manager Norm Skoglund. Photo by Bob Hingston

species of eucalypts that produce quality sawlogs. All grow well in the medium-to low-rainfall zones. They examined a range of farm forestry

designs in the Gingin region. They included a paulownia plantation; two-row irrigated belts of Sydney bluegum between wildflowers and

horticulture; a 'spider web' belt-planting layout of commercial eucalypt species, with other crops in between; and a eucalypt sawlog plant-

ation near Chittering. This was followed by a demonstration of the farm forestry cycle by following the various stages on two properties

in the Badgingarra and Dandaragan areas from planning, implementation and silvicultural management.

Course participants were

also introduced to various aspects of the forestry industry and its markets, visiting several industry processing plants.

Networking is an important facet of these courses, where informal discussions can lead to closer interaction between the agencies serving farmers.

While participants and co-ordinators spent their nights in the comfort of Club Capricorn in Yanchee, the days proved to be a test of endurance, due to the long distances covered in the bus, the hot weather and late nights.

Notwithstanding these trials, the course was hailed as a success by participants and course co-ordinators alike.

The co-ordinators were Bob Hingston of CALM's Busselton Farm Forestry Unit, David Jenkins of Jenkins Agroforestry Developments, Bridgetown, and Agriculture Western Australia (AGWEST) Gingin farm forestry advisor Tom Mitchell.

Speakers included Clayton Sanders of CALM's Softwood Business Unit, Wanneroo, and CALM Sharefarms manager John Kaye.

## Walpole stays in touch

**INVOLVEMENT** in local events such as agricultural shows, field days and the like provide excellent opportunities for CALM's regional and district staffs to put the Department's conservation message across.

Equally important, these events also help to establish and maintain relationships with members of the local community, who get to see and know the 'human face' of CALM.

Take the Walpole Bionia Festival for example. This popular event saw staff from the Walpole Office and the Tree Top Walk staffing a CALM display and entertaining visitors.

Face painting was extremely popular with the younger festival goers and provided an opportunity for Tree Top Walk

staff members, Helen Nash and Nicole Bellanger, to pass on information on our native animals while showing off their artistic talent.

They also helped children to make headbands decorated with motifs of some of these native animals.

Entertaining activities such as these link the message with the activity, and are remembered and looked forward to when the festival comes around again.

While the Tree Top Walk staff kept the younger festival participants entertained, Walpole District National Park Rangers Carl Beck and Lanny Bleakley staffed the CALM display.

They provided information on a range of activities, including Threatened Species

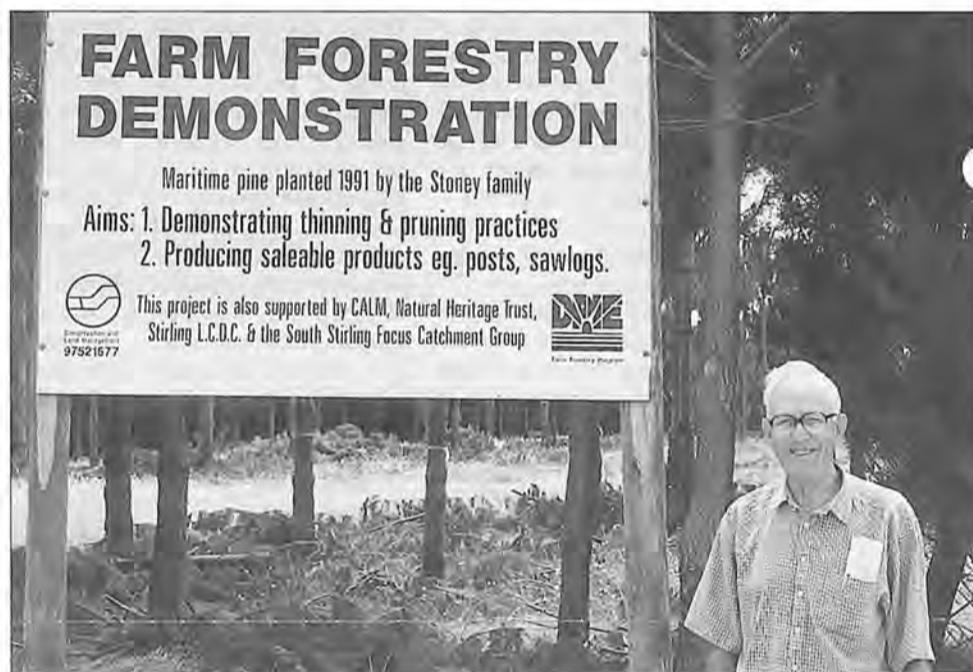
Management, Western Shield, Bionia Management, Coastcare, and the Southern Forest Region's Volunteer program.

Feedback from the community was positive, with visitors eager to take home many of the broad range of pamphlets to read at their leisure.

Walpole District staff also held displays at the Tree Top Walk on Threatened Species Day, and expect to do the same at the forthcoming Walpole and Denmark Easter Markets.

Much of the display material used has been developed locally and is available for use by any CALM region or district staff holding a display.

For further information, please contact Carl Beck by email, phoning him on (08) 9840-1027, or faxing (08) 9840-1251.



## Alex impressed with maritime pine plantation's progress

**PICTURED** above is retired CALM forester Alex Hart, looking enormously pleased with the impressive growth of maritime pine in an agroforestry trial site at South Stirling.

The on-going trial, which Alex helped set up in 1991, is on the Stoney family's farm, which lies south of the Stirling Ranges near Albany.

Here, alley systems of maritime pine and native species have been established on sand dunes that surround a saline swamp.

While assessing the site back in 1991, Alex realised that maritime pine was the most suitable species to grow, as it would perform well in deep sand, and address wind erosion as well as providing shelter for livestock.

We now also know that maritime pine plays an invaluable role in controlling groundwater recharge and salinity.

The trial was one of many that were established on farms throughout the agricultural region in 1991 by the International Tree Crops Institute (ITCI), of which Alex was a member.

The plantings were funded by ALCOA Of Australia Ltd. and Greening Australia, and were designed by Alex and other members of ITCI, with establishment work being carried out by individual farmers.

Story and photo by Michael Power

The agroforestry designs implemented in these trials were originally developed in China and New Zealand, including systems called 'New Zealand lambing haven', 'Chinese forest net' and 'wide-spaced trees'.

In the lambing haven and forest net designs, rows of trees are planted in a grid, whereas the wide-spaced tree design consists of parallel rows of trees separated by alleys of pasture.

Alex retired from CALM in 1987, as tree advisor and officer-in-charge of the seed centre at Kensington, having completed 30 years' service, the early part of which was with the Forest Department, then with CALM.

Alex's began his forestry career as a cadet in Papua New Guinea, after which he joined the Forest Department at Manjimup.

In 1999, Farm Forestry Unit Senior Technical Officer Bob Hingston set up a thinning and pruning trial at the site to demonstrate the management required to produce high-grade sawlogs from widely spaced maritime pine.

A joint CALM and AGWEST groundwater monitoring study is also under way to determine the effect of maritime pine on recharge.

## Kensington, not Como

**THERE** are two sound reasons for staff to remember to use the correct physical address of CALM's Operational Headquarters, which is Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington.

One obvious reason is to help visitors to find us.

The other reason is that the avenue is named in honour of DH (Dick) Perry, who worked for the Forests Department—one of the organisations that were merged in 1985 to form the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

CALM's Operational Headquarters and Swan Region's offices are located in the western precinct of Technology Park, where roads are named in honour of Western Australians who have made important contributions to

by John Byrne

technology. (Check if this is only in the western precinct.)

Dick Perry was responsible for the planting of pine trees in the Collier plantation, and the mature trees are now a feature of Curtin University, the Collier Park Golf Course and Technology Park.

His work led to significant technological improvements in site classification, pine nutrition and pine genetics of plantations throughout Western Australia.

The practice of referring to the Department's facilities as being located in Como probably dates from when the Forests Department offices that served the Collier Pine Plantation really were located

in Como on the other side of Hayman Road, adjacent to the current offices.

These old offices were demolished some years ago.

All of CALM's current buildings in the area (including the WA Herbarium, off George Street), are in the suburb of Kensington. Dick Perry Avenue (which is accessed via the same entrance from Hayman Road as in the past), is located entirely within Kensington and is shown as such in the latest street directories.

The postal address at the Bentley Delivery Centre is unchanged, but please remember that as far as the location of CALM's Operational Headquarters is concerned 'Como' is no more. Long live Kensington!

# Last in series, first in their fields

**THIS concludes the series on recipients of special awards at the 1999 Field Officer Graduation Ceremony.**

The ceremony provided an excellent opportunity to also recognise and reward longer-serving officers, as well as field officer graduates. They included Blackwood District manager Murray Carter, who received the C E Lane Poole Memorial Trust Award, automatically becoming a Fellow of the C E Lane Poole Memorial Trust. The award provides financial assistance to CALM officers to take part in study courses that are relevant to their employment. Keith Wombell writes of Murray as follows:

## Murray Carter

Murray began his career with CALM in 1985. He spent four years as a forest ranger in Pemberton, supervising harvesting contractors and assisting with the District environmental protection program.

He then became ranger-in-charge, looking after Pemberton District's national parks and co-ordinating the District's conservation program.

Then followed a stint as Katanning District manager, followed by his present role as Blackwood District manager.

In his current role as Blackwood District manager, a significant amount of Murray's time is committed to liaising with special interest groups, neighbours, and various other community and civic groups.

A consistent area of concern among many of these people is the effectiveness of CALM's monitoring of the environment both before and after timber-harvesting operations.

With this concern in mind, Murray made good use of his award by travelling to New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania to study the extent of such environmental monitoring carried out in these States.

He took particular interest in their level of surveying flora and fauna (before and after timber harvesting), and the legislative framework within which this operated.

He said that the methods employed by each State in managing biodiversity in relation to native forest harvesting were quite varied.

"For instance, half of Tasmania's native forest harvesting occurs on private property," Murray says.

"Forest management operations must be approved by the Forest Practices Board, which also audits the results of such operations. The Board has a wide range of constituents,



Murray Carter, after receiving his C E Lane Poole Memorial Trust Award. Photo by Paul Webster

including: Forestry Tasmania, private forestry companies, forestry consultants and the Wildlife Service.

"Victoria is quite similar to WA; while State Forests of New South Wales operates under a heavy regime of compliance with licensed conditions of operation."

Murray said the tour provided an excellent opportunity to gather information to further enhance the way we manage the biodiversity issues in relation to native forest harvesting in Western Australia.

"My next challenge is to work through the huge amount of data, written material and observations gathered on the tour and to put together a report to the Trustees," he said.

## Julie Gale

Senior training officer Alan Byrne contributed the following, about the recipient of the Executive Director's Merit Award:

Julie Gale was in Asia enjoying a well-earned holiday, when she learnt that she was the recipient of the 1999 Executive Director's Merit Award.

The award goes to the field officer graduate who displays the best all-round performance in both the theoretical and practical areas.

Like so many CALM field officers, Julie Gale has a strong appreciation for the natural environment, and was looking for a job where she could, not only 'be amongst it' but also active in its protection.

This motivated her to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management at Edith Cowan University (ECU).

Qualification in 1996 subsequently led to Julie joining CALM as a 1997 field officer recruit, with her area of employment with CALM being at the Dwellingup Training Centre.

After about seven months, and in line with her original motivation, Julie took up a position in the Wildlife Protection Section at Kensington as a wildlife officer. To Julie, this means, primarily, managing the interaction between people, native animals and plants.

"It often presents a variety of chal-



Julie Gale with friend Madge, the Stimpson python, who is heading towards Julie's shirt sleeve to check out her CALM badge. Photo by Verna Costello

lenging and unpredictable situations," Julie said.

"These can range from relocating kangaroos, to tracking down nest robbers, presenting school talks, providing advice to the public, monitoring the whale watch industry, and helping Customs officers 'bust open' animal smuggling rackets.

"There's never a dull moment, and always plenty to learn!"

One of the most challenging and enjoyable aspects of being a wildlife officer for Julie is the investigation of crimes against wildlife. This requires using innovative ways

of acquiring and analysing information so that appropriate action can be taken to either prevent crimes or catch those who are responsible.

Julie believes that the competency-based training program that CALM runs for field officer recruits was very helpful to her career development in a variety of ways.

"Apart from the practical value of the training itself, the Dwellingup Training Centre also provides invaluable advice and guidance to ensure recruits find the job that best suits the Department and the individual's needs," Julie said.



Carl Beck with the happy couple, Kylie and Dennis. Photo by John Oldfield

## A wedding to remember on the Bibbulmun Track

**LIKE all good weddings the first one held on the southern section of the Bibbulmun Track had a crisis, some excitement, one unusual guest, and an ecstatically happy couple.**

The marriage of the two New Zealanders Dennis Esler and Kylie Bennett took place in the shade of a large marri tree on a Bibbulmun Track clearing, overlooking the Frankland River.

However their preparations hit a major snag when Kylie—transporting equipment and food to the wedding site along forest tracks to the east of Walpole—was confronted by a fallen tree blocking the only access road.

This resulted in CALM's Walpole staff, who were preparing to knock off for the weekend, reassuring the much-distressed young woman, as they prepared to make an

instant mercy dash to remove the fallen tree.

The following day arrived with clear skies and mild temperatures, and a perfect wedding day was assured.

Most guests departed from Walpole about mid morning, walking about three kilometres from Sappers Bridge along the Bibbulmun to the wedding site.

Meanwhile, CALM Walpole ranger-in-charge Carl Beck transported Kylie, her maid of honour Marie Billett, marriage celebrant Marjorie Cole and some elderly guests along forest tracks to a point where the group was required to walk only 1.2 km to the wedding site.

Allowing the guests a 15-minute head start Kylie, resplendent in wedding dress (and sneakers), arrived with her maid of honour.

A last-minute guest also arrived with Kylie and Marie—a slightly injured pigmy possum they found along the track, and which they carried to the wedding!

Throughout the service, it was kept warm in Carl Beck's first aid kit.

Most guests stayed overnight at the hut 'to help Kylie and Dennis celebrate their wedding night', walking back to Sappers Bridge the next morning.

Kylie and Dennis stayed an additional night to relax and clean up the site before heading back to Perth to fly to Europe on a two-year working holiday.

Kylie and Denis hope to complete another end-to-end walk along the Bibbulmun in three or four years' time, when CALM's Walpole staff will be happy to welcome them back.

# A thought for our wildlife carers - a vital force

**PEOPLE** in most Western Australian towns have some contact with native wildlife, and it is often the rescue of abandoned or injured infants that first sparks interest in the animals that share our land.

Like the young pygmy possum brought in by the family cat, and nursed back to health by a family member. Or the baby wattle bird that toppled from its nest and fell on good times with food, shelter and its own private swimming pool, all provided by humans until it could fly again.

The task of caring for these sick, injured or orphaned animals almost always falls to the caring volunteer.

In an effort to recognise the importance of the role of volunteer carers, CALM's Walpole District staff organised a Wildlife Carers' Course for the Southern Forest Region.

The weekend course was

conducted by Wildlife Rehabilitation Consultants, with the aim of providing volunteer wildlife carers with an increased understanding of correct examination procedures, diagnosis, nutrition, treatment, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned animals.

The course was a great success, with 35 wildlife-carers from as far away as Boyup Brook and the Porongorups involved in an interactive, informative and often humorous weekend.

The course also provided an excellent opportunity for the formation of supportive relationships between the wildlife carers, who exchanged ideas and experiences, and provided emotional support which, it is hoped, will be maintained on a continuing basis.

CALM Walpole forest ranger Karlene Bain, who also works within the District's Nature Conservation Program,

believes that WA is very lucky to have a wide range of habitat suitable for native fauna.

"With CALM's Western Shield program reducing feral fox numbers, native animals have a better chance to survive, reproduce, and increase quite dramatically," she said.

"However, with increasing urbanisation and the impact of visitors on the natural environment, casualties among our wildlife are becoming more and more common.

"Care of sick, injured or orphaned animals is often an expensive, time-consuming and thankless task. Yet it is one that has been voluntarily taken on by more than 100 wildlife carers throughout the State, the dedicated efforts of whom are much appreciated by CALM staff.

*Note: Members of the public who find wildlife in need of care should contact their local CALM office for details of wildlife carers in their area.*



*Pond-dipping for mini-beasts: Special needs assistant Maria Goodsell supervises Saffron Walsh (left), Danelle, daughter of Walpole District recreation and tourism officer Howard Manning, and Ashleigh, granddaughter of CALM carpenter Alan Hexter. Photo by Carl Beck*

## Kids and 'critters' meeting

**THEY** spend their time in the bush, are hard to see, eat almost anything—and that's just the kids!

CALM's Walpole staff have discovered this on a number of field trips with students from the Walpole Primary School.

They help students to learn more about the State's native animals, as part of the science curriculum, with the children helping with animal surveys, undertaking pond dipping for 'mini-beasts' (tadpoles, small marron, water bugs and mosquito larva).

On one field trip, ranger-in-charge Carl Beck and District assistant nature conservation officer Karlene Bain presented slide shows of the native mammals found around Walpole to the kindergarten, pre-primary and year 1-4 classes.

Carl and Karlene also explained why some of our

animals are under threat, what CALM is doing to protect them and the simple things the children could do to help.

On another occasion, the school's pre-primary staff organised about 20 kindergarten and pre-primary students to attend a morning of pond dipping and hunting for mini-beasts in water holes at the Walpole Golf Course.

After Carl explained the importance of water animals to the eco-system, the children used small nets they had made from stockings and coat hangers to hunt for the mini-beasts, which they returned to the water as soon as they finished studying them.

A bonus was the children's teamwork and enthusiasm, which was so infectious, it rubbed off on the parent helpers!

The senior students got their chance to help CALM in

the first week of the 4th term, when the Year 7 class took part in their ongoing project to monitor native animals in Giants Block, as part of the Western Shield program.

The students were involved in setting and checking traps, measuring, weighing and recording details for each animal captured, before returning them to their environment.

Animals captured during the week-long project included bush rats, quenda (southern brown bandicoot), brushtailed possums and woylies.

The capture of the woylies (some with pouch young), which had been translocated back into the area earlier in the year, was exciting as it again proved the positive effect that Western Shield's reduction of fox numbers by baiting is having on our native animals.



*Sue Smith and Liz Appelt are employed by CALM to help members of the community learn about native wildlife. (Just don't ask Sue what species of waterbird she's displaying on her windcheater.) Photo by Karlene Bain*

## Consultation group planned for registered wildlife carers

**PLANS** are under way to form a Wildlife Carers' Consultation Group, comprising registered wildlife carers and some CALM staff.

The aim is to provide an improved line of communication between the Department and the carers, and it is visualised that the Environment Minister will formally recognise

appointments to the group.

Wildlife carers are individuals who rescue, nurse and rehabilitate sick, orphaned and injured native wildlife, with release of the animals back into the wild as the ultimate goal.

The Group's wildlife carers will be drawn from across the Perth metropolitan area, with members representing the dif-

ferent categories of wildlife being cared for, e.g. birds, reptiles, mammals, etc. etc.

To help other registered carers outside the Perth metropolitan area, it is planned to circulate a regular newsletter throughout Western Australia.

For further information contact Marg Buckland on (08) 9334 0251 or email her at margb@calm.wa.gov.au

## Perth Outdoors still popular

**AN** initiative from CALM's Perth Outdoors Strategy in 1994 was to bring the great outdoors to Perth people.

This resulted in the presentation of the popular Perth Outdoors displays at Perth metropolitan shopping centres.

Our current Perth Outdoors display is a wonderful mixture of creative activities and discovery for children, and practical information for adults. The display encourages people to go out and discover our great local recreation spots, including national parks, conservation areas and marine reserves.

Public response to CALM's most recent Perth Outdoors displays at Lakeside Joondalup and Bassendean Village Shopping Centres continues to be overwhelmingly positive. Even when our live wildlife display finishes and the ani-

by Marra Apgar

mals go home for the day, adults and children remain fascinated and entertained.

Many adults show that they are still children at heart by crawling through the simulated wetlands tunnel with their children.

The display also features an information table where people collect information on where to have their next family picnic or holiday adventure.

Although the display features attractions in the Swan region, the volunteers staffing the stand also receive enquiries about national parks in other regions.

People are frequently looking for somewhere special to take overseas visitors, too.

The Perth Outdoors displays

are held during school holidays at suburban shopping centres, and can also be booked for other events.

Families discover the displays at these centres and keep bringing their children and friends back to visit throughout the week.

The display is supervised by two CALM employees and a dedicated team of volunteers.

If you know of anyone who enjoys interacting with the public (especially children), and introducing them to our native animals, please let Robyn Weir know by phoning her on (08) 9474 7026 on Fridays.

We are always looking for new volunteers. If anyone is interested in their CALM attractions being promoted by the Perth Outdoors display, Gae Mackay can give you further information on (08) 9474 7039.



*Yanchep National Park visitor services officer Eve Taylor shows young visitors to the Perth Outdoors display at Lakeside Joondalup Shopping Centre a very healthy koala—a resident of the park. Such experiences motivated many people to also visit Yanchep NP. Photo by Marra Apgar*