

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



MAY—JUNE 2000



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Wellington—one of 12 new national parks

THE State Government's commitment to create 12 new national parks throughout the south-west forest region was further demonstrated with the transfer of land acquired to create the Wellington National Park to the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Premier Richard Court said the 4300-hectare Wellington National Park would be a core of a continuous conservation reserve encompassing 10,000 hectares around Wellington Dam and in the forest between Collie and Dardanup.

The State Government has bought 3000 hectares of land formerly owned by the Worsley Timber Company to be incorporated into the National Park.

Mr Court said CALM would manage the new land and surrounding forest for nature conservation. The new land would be included in CALM's Western Shield program to control introduced predators such as the European fox.

Other parts of the 10,000-hectare conservation reserve network include the Gervasse, Lennard and Davis forest blocks which adjoin the new park along its western boundary.

"The Worsley land contains some magnificent stands of jarrah and blackbutt forest," Mr Court said.

"These include some of the biggest blackbutt trees recorded in the central forest region, with one more than 41 metres high and more than 2.4 metres in diameter near the base.

"The addition of such beautiful forest and landscape to the conservation reserve network is part of a \$9.5 million investment for the future in the Wellington district."

The new land adds a further 56 km of waterline around the Wellington Dam to the reserve system and brings to more than 100 km of dam frontage set aside for conservation.

The 12 new forest national parks being created following the Regional Forest Agreement will cover a total of 72,300 hectares. The overall forest conservation reserves has increased by more than 150,000 hectares through the RFA and subsequent actions by the State Government. These reserves contained 70 per cent of old-growth jarrah and 86 per cent of old-growth karri.

The State Government had allocated \$250,000 in the 2000-01 Budget to begin the planning process for parks management.

The RFA would also provide \$1 million to develop facilities and services for visitors to the new national park.

CALM's Director of Parks and Visitor Services Jim Sharp said the purchase of private land surrounding the dam had increased the opportunity for recreation and tourist developments including campsites and day-visitor facilities. This, combined with the Potters Gorge private hotel/chalet project, would be a significant boost for tourism in the Collie region.

continued page 2



Providing moral support for the Hon Barbara Scott, MLC, who is about to plant the first tree at Woodman Point Regional Park on Arbor Day 2000, are from left, Ben Carr, representing Woodman Point Regional Park Community Advisory Committee; Ben's son Adam; Brooke Till, with spade at the ready; Ben and Carl Moreschi; CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox; Coogee Primary School teacher Keith Brown; Samantha Samarelli (partly obscured); Eric Boutens and Luke Gonnella. The children were from Coogee Primary School.

Photo by Ernie McLintock

Highly Commended award for CALM Bush Rangers

WESTERN Australia's innovative conservation cadet unit—CALM Bush Rangers—has been highly commended in the Young Australia Award for Environmental Achievement in Schools.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said CALM Bush Rangers, developed and co-ordinated by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, was the first 'conservation-oriented' school cadet corps in Australia and had attracted strong interest from other states.

It is part of the WA Cadets Scheme of the Office of Youth Affairs.

The award was announced to commemorate World Environment Day. It was open to all primary and secondary schools to recognise an outstanding project or program that promoted awareness of environmental issues and sustainable solutions.

Mrs Edwardes said that in less than two years, Bush Rangers had grown from nothing to a contingent of 800 students in 23 schools spread from Kalbarri, Mullewa and Tardun in the north, to Coolgardie, Norseman and Esperance in the east, and to Manjimup, Bunbury and Waroona to

the south and west as well as in the Perth metropolitan area.

The students put in more than 100,000 hours to nature conservation projects over the past year.

The Bush Rangers concept was part of CALM's program to work with schools to foster a conservation ethic in young Western Australians.

"The success of the program in large part is due to the practical nature of the conservation and environmental management projects various corps undertake," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The activities of the Bush Ranger units is as varied as their locations. For example, Bush Rangers at Esperance are creating an underwater dive trail around Woody Island as well as helping CALM rid the island of feral predators such as cats.

"In Perth, Bush Rangers at John Forrest Senior High are producing termites for the numbat captive breeding program at Perth Zoo.

"Bush Rangers have also worked alongside CALM scientists, monitoring threatened species such as chuditch, numbats and ring-tail possums in the Perup Nature Reserve east of Manjimup."



CALM Bush Ranger Co-ordinator Bronwyn Humphreys (right) hears about a tree-planting exercise at Duncraig Senior High School from Senior Bush Ranger Emma Gardner and Bush Ranger 1st Class Paul Clausen. Photo by Verna Costello



One of the desirable features of a modern organisation is to be a learning organisation. This reflects the need to constantly update knowledge and skills to cope with a changing environment.

The challenge is for each of us to identify areas in which we can gain the benefit from additional learning and then make/find the time to acquire knowledge and/or skills. In my case, I still make the time to read management journals and books and attend seminars and workshops.

Corporate Executive has also recognised the need to develop staff for future leadership roles in the Department of Conservation and the Forest Products Commission.

Curtin University has been contracted to undertake two live-in programs in 2000-2001. The centrally-funded program will target employees from a range of areas including the regions to expose them to the principles of management and leadership. A focus of the program will be that the Directors and I will participate as presenters and panelists to set the strategic direction for the organisations and provide feedback to participants.

There will be two programs each with 20 participants in 2000.

You have previously been advised that the Individual Development and Performance Enhancement System (IDAPES) would commence from July 1, 2000 to provide a clear link between organisational objectives and the individual's contribution towards these objectives.

IDAPES also provides an opportunity to identify work-related training needs and stimulate discussion between employees and their supervisor on performance and opportunities for improvement. I have now met with Divisional Directors to finalise position plans for the Directors. Each Director will now roll down the process so that all employees will have a clear understanding of how they contribute to the organisation. The first of the formal feedback sessions will commence in December 2000.

The function to celebrate the transfer of the previous Worsley Timber Company land from the Water Corporation to CALM marks the start of the Wellington National Park which will ultimately exceed, along with the adjoining conservation reserve, some 10,000 hectares.

The function was a spectacular success helped no end by the outstanding work of a number of CALM people, including those from the Mornington District Office, Corporate Affairs, the Bunbury Regional Office and Parks and Visitor Services Division.

Congratulations to all participants! The Premier's parting words on boarding the aeroplane were "A very professionally run function".

The establishment of a Forest Products Division as a precursor to the Forest Products Commission is gathering momentum. Congratulations to Gary Bettison, Paul Biggs, Mike Buckton and Gavin Butcher who have been appointed acting managers of Corporate Services, Industry Development and Marketing, Native Forest Operations and Plantations respectively. They, along with Don Keene, Acting General Manager, form the interim Corporate Executive and will now progress the transfer of staff to the Forest Products Division.

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes (left), Kalamunda Deputy Shire President Elizabeth Taylor and Local Government Minister Paul Omodei admire a stand of jarrah trees in Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. Jarrah trees are among many plant species threatened by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Photo by Rod Taylor, courtesy of *The West Australian*

New manual launched to fight plant disease

The State Government has released an important aid for local government to help in the battle against dieback.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Local Government Minister Paul Omodei have jointly released guidelines that will help metropolitan and country areas in the fight against dieback, the highly destructive root rot disease caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Mrs Edwardes said 'Managing Phytophthora Dieback—Guidelines for Local Government' was designed to protect biodiversity values by controlling and reducing the spread of disease.

She said the guidelines would be an invaluable tool in giving local government, community groups, and private landholders information required to manage dieback disease.

"Local Government has been of great support in tackling what is an enormous challenge to the conservation of our wonderful biodiversity," the Minister said.

"Dieback has been likened to a 'biological bulldozer' and while

much of the public focus has been its impact on jarrah, there is a very real threat to the bushlands and heathlands which are habitat for many other species that succumb to its scourge.

"These guidelines are part of an overall strategy in combating dieback. Other measures include the introduction of chemical treatments to protect populations of threatened species, as well as a new policy based on the recommendations of an independent panel of experts who reviewed phytophthora management."

Local Government Minister Paul Omodei said the threat of dieback was not something that government alone could manage.

"The fight involves a commitment by the whole community, similar to the Government's approach to salinity," Mr Omodei said.

"Fighting dieback involves all of the community in a range of strategies and these guidelines, produced by the Dieback Working Group, will help local government in managing dieback in a community-based way.

"The Shire of Kalamunda has been a major sponsor of these guidelines and we hope they will prove an important tool in the fight against dieback in bush, heathland and forest throughout the South-West."

Mrs Edwardes said that by implementing the procedures in the guidelines, local government would be making a very positive contribution, not only in stemming the spread of dieback, but also in providing a lead to their communities and environmental groups.

CALM's Phytophthora Management Co-ordinator Kevin Vear said that local government agencies had been crying out for a practical guide on how to best manage the problem of plant disease caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

"The guidelines deliver local government the weapon they need to help minimise the destruction of their remnant bushlands by this pathogen" he said.

CALM, the Kalamunda Shire Council and the Natural Heritage Trust provided funding for the guidelines.

Wellington-one of 12 new national parks

(from page 1)

AS part of the ceremony held to announce the creation of the Park, the Premier also announced that woylies were to be returned to the Wellington forests between Collie and Dardanup.

CALM Mornington District Manager Drew Griffiths said the release,

which took place at dusk on the day of the announcement, would not only restore the species to parts of its former range, it would also enhance the Department's schools education programs that would be run at the Wellington Discovery Forest in September.

CALM Mornington nature conservation officer Rob Brazell said monitoring the area over the past few years had recorded native species such as chuditch, quenda (southern brown bandicoot) and brush tailed possums. Ring tailed possums had been seen in the neighbouring pine plantations.

Rob said the 3000 hectares of private land that had been bought to create the Wellington

National Park had now been included in the baiting program which would extend the area of suitable habitat for native species.

The woylies for the translocation have come from Batalling forest, about 30 km east of Collie, where the population has increased dramatically as a result of fox baiting. Batalling is the location for CALM's Wildlife Branch fauna-handling courses held each year.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, Forest Products Minister Paul Omodei, local MLA Dr Hilda Turnbull and CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox attended the ceremony to create the Park.

The ceremony was also

Staff Movements

Contract staff

Paul Hyndes, to Regional Services, Purnululu National Park, East Kimberley District, as Seasonal Ranger, Grade 1; John A Clayden, to Parks, Recreation, Planning & Tourism- Regional Parks, Fremantle, as Landscape Architect, Level 2/4; Judith Davidson, to Nature Conservation Division, Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle, as Marine Conservation Officer, Level 1; Jillian M. Green, to Regional Services, West Kimberley District, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Roslyn Wear, to Regional Services, Gascoyne District, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Gwenyth Plunkett, to Parks Policy & Tourism Kensington, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Kieron Wogan, to Parks Policy & Tourism, Kensington, as Project Officer, Level 2; Amice Italiano, to Narrogin District, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Alice Reaveley, to Regional Services, Mid-West Region, Moora District Office, as Conservation Officer, Level 2/4 from Parks Policy & Tourism, Kensington; Nicole Robinson, to CALMScience, Kensington, as Research Scientist, Level 2/4.

Permanent Staff

Lily Simpson, as Clerical Officer, Level 1 at Forest Management Branch, Manjumb District Office.

Promoted

Owen Donovan, to Field Manager, Level 4 at Forest Resources, CALM Sharefarms, Midwest, located at South Guildford; Peter Grime, to Field Manager, Level 4, Forest Resources, CALM Sharefarms, Midwest, located at South Guildford.

Reclassified

Jude Allan, as Environmental Officer, Level 5, Nature Conservation Division, Environmental Protection Branch, Kensington; John Asher, as Environmental Operations Officer, Level 3, Nature Conservation Division, Environmental Protection Branch, Bunbury; John R Edwards, as Senior Field Manager, Level 5, Forest Resources, South Coast Share Farms, Albany.

Transferred

Jude Allan, to Regional Services, Albany, as Planning Officer, Level 5, from Nature Conservation Division, Environmental Protection Branch, Kensington; Sarah Adriano, to Regional Services, Kalgoorlie, as Reserves Officer, Level 1/2; from CALMScience, Dwellingup; Scott Godley, to Regional Services, Giekie Gorge National Park, West Kimberley District, as National Park Ranger, Grade 2, from Regional Services, Moora, David Rose, to Regional Services, Gascoyne District, as District Manager, Level 6, from Regional Services Moora; Stella King, to Crawley, as Administration Assistant, Level 3, from Marine Conservation Branch; Fred Ayton, to Human Resources Branch, Department of Premier & Cabinet, as Clerical Officer, Level 1, from CALMPeople Services Branch, Kensington.

Retired

Richard Pemberton from Albany District, as Ranger-in-Charge, Torndirrup National Park.

Resigned

Winston Kay, from CALMScience, Wildlife Research, Woodvale, as Research Scientist, Level 5; Sandra Krupa, from Perth District, as Senior Planning Officer, Level 6; Carrie Douglas, from Narrogin District, as Technical Assistant, Level 1; Ian Gale, from Marine & Coastal District, Fremantle, as Operations Officer, Level 3.

LETTERS

BELOW are extracts from a fax from the Principal of West Greenwood Primary School David Bryant:

Re Fantastic Organisation and Great Public Relations—20 staff from my school went to The Hills Forest Centre for a School Development Day.

The organisation by Liz (Moore) and Wendy (Hayter) was very thorough and they worked hard to accommodate our needs, and if anyone can teach a love of the environment, Louise Austen can.

We had a wonderful and memorable day, thanks to those great people. You should be proud of them.

If the budget can stand it—double their wages!

marked with a traditional welcome to the land by Joe Northover, Custodian for the local Ngalang Boodja Aboriginal Council.

At the end of May, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes officially opened the Wellington Discovery Forests' new activities centre and launched a new register of significant trees.

Mrs Edwardes also presented a gift to former Central Forest Region Manager Don Spriggins who had been the driving force behind the Discovery Forest concept.

Drew Griffiths said the events of the past few weeks had meant Mornington staff had been particularly busy, but they had run with the challenge and done a sterling job.

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“Thar’s brains in them thar hills”



Photo of Stev Slavin by courtesy of Georges France Photography

IT must be the pure, cool air up at Mundaring that allows the brain cells to operate well because two of the staff at The Hills Forest have received recognition of their academic efforts.

Resources and Volunteer Co-ordinator Michael Phillips was recently named ‘Outstanding Part-time Student’ in the Land Management Certificate IV course at Midland TAFE.

His lecturer Ted Johnson said Michael was a great asset to the course and was always prepared to share his knowledge of the jarrah forest and community education.

Also, Manager of The Hills Forest Stev Slavin was placed on the Edith Cowan University Dean’s List for 1999, in recognition of his

finishing within the top five per cent of those graduating from the University last year.

Stev was the inaugural Seamus Mulholland Scholarship winner in 1998. In that year he began the Graduate Diploma in Business (Tourism) and is now completing a Masters in Business Administration at Edith Cowan University.

“Developing a business orientation to work is essential for the future, and this department’s role to manage the natural estate means that we will be working closely with the tourism industry,” Stev said.

“That’s why courses like these are important for future land managers.”

On behalf of all CALMpeople, we congratulate Stev and Michael.



Michael Phillips. Photo by Kate Baxter



Knock-off time for two interpreter-training groups. They had spent an afternoon navigating (using aerial photos), and field interpreting in Donnybrook Block, Bunbury. From left, they are Tony Raudino, David Tarrant, Jodie Watts, Christine Nicholas, Julia Northern, and Alex Moylett. Photo by Tammie Reid

Learning to spot plant diseases

by Tammie Reid

NINE new field officers recently attended a course in Detection Diagnosis and Mapping of Disease in Native Plants Caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.”

They were fit, enthusiastic and all capable of applying ‘stereo vision’ to a type of detective work called ‘disease interpretation’.

Understanding, detecting and mapping the occurrence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (the pathogen that causes dieback), involves skills, knowledge and understanding that develop over time.

When the senior interpreters from Forest Management Branch decided to run the course, they were mindful that these skills and talents couldn’t be acquired overnight.

Senior interpreter Peter Blankendaal said that this required a fair degree of ‘sleuthing’, whereby the interpreter must observe and process many details to assess a situation.

“By gathering information about vegetation, soils, drainage characteristics, and other environmental factors like the fire intensity and years since the last fire, the interpreter builds a likely scenario of how the disease is or isn’t expressing itself,” Peter said.

“This is backed up with laboratory tests of root tissue and soil samples. Our task is to produce current maps, demarcate disease boundaries in the field, and identify protectable areas.

“From here, operational staff, with the assistance of interpreters, can plan hygiene to protect demarcated areas from the risk of human activities spreading roots and soil infested with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

“Our training courses are intensive with a trainer-to-trainee ratio of about 1:3.

“The four-day program involves a large amount of field-based coaching, combined with indoor theory sessions and photo interpretation—and we immediately follow up the classroom learning with on-the-job experience.”

Peter said that it probably took about two years of full-time practice before a new interpreter could confidently take a lead role.

“We team up people to make the most of their experience, while nurturing their development during their daily work,” he said.

“It’s hands on, eyes on, with course participants building up eye muscles with the photo work, and confidence in their field navigation and observations.

“Our courses are run on a needs basis, and are listed in the training manual. Anyone interested in this line of work can phone Greg Strelein at Forest Management Branch in Bunbury on 9725 5922.

Avril is up there among the best

CONGRATULATIONS to CALM’s Narrogin District Land for Wildlife officer Avril Baxter, who won the Wagin Woolorama Runner Up in the Best Indoor Display award for the year 2000.

Woolorama is a one of this State’s largest shows with a focus on wool and the latest in

technology. Over two days, it is attended by about 30,00 people from the rural community throughout Western Australia.

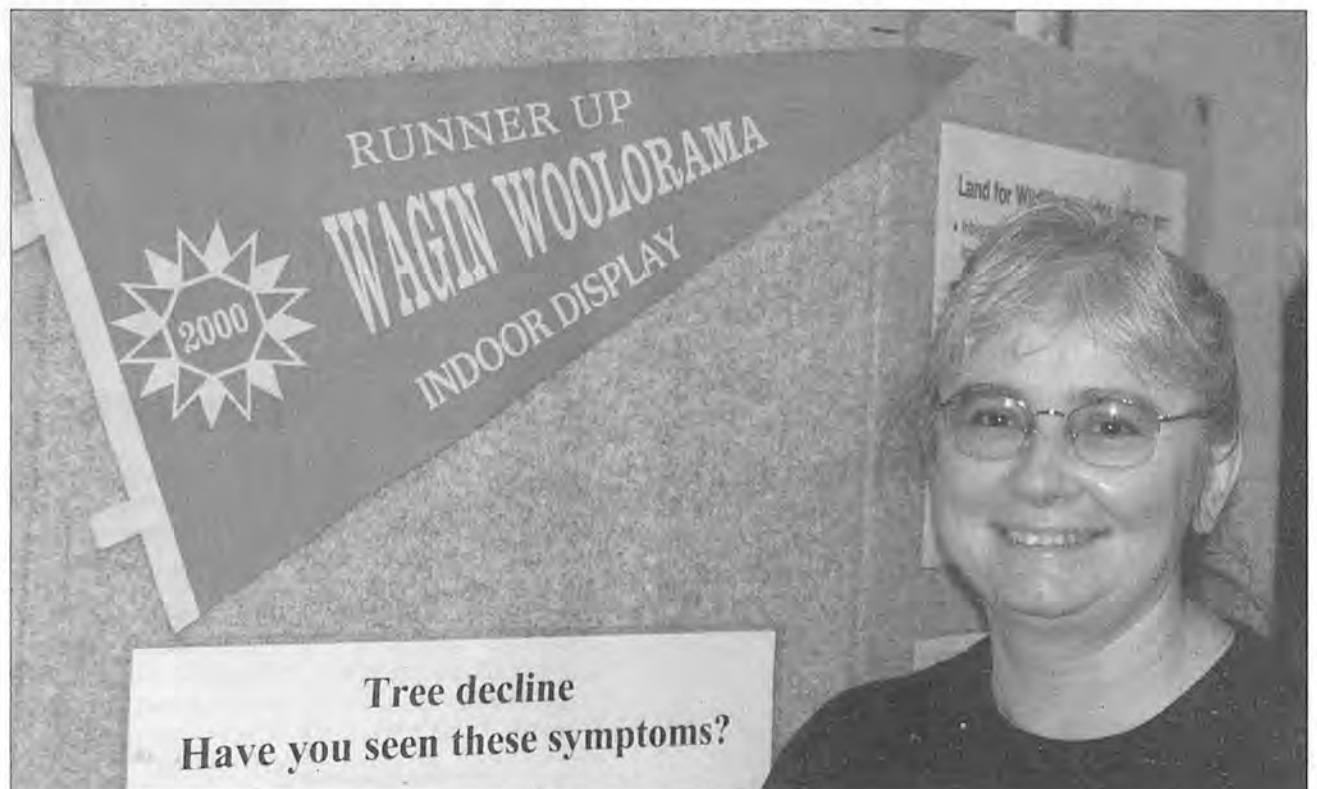
This year, a number of organisations including the Blackwood Basin Group, Bushcare, Community Landcare Co-ordinators, Roadside Conservation Committee and

CALM Sharefarms Maritime Pine, combined to co-ordinate their message under the banner ‘Wild about Landcare’.

As always, Avril’s message about integrating native plants and animals with other property-management activities attracted a lot of interest among landholders, who showed particular

interest in native grasses. They also reported sightings of the small marsupials on display—another testimony to the success of our Western Shield Program. Well done, Avril.

Avril Baxter, looking justifiably pleased with the outcome of her efforts. Photo by David Lamont





Bill Coad (Perth volunteer), Chris Hollister (Perth volunteer), Geoff Brand (Serpentine-Jarrahdale Regional Herbarium) and Jan Gathe (Project Co-ordinator) examine some of the plant specimens collected and processed by the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project members. Photo by Verna Costello

Herbarium celebrates a milestone

A SPECIAL event was celebrated recently at the CALM Herbarium in Kensington.

During the four years it has run, the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project has contributed 10,000 plant specimens to the State Research Collection housed in the CALM Herbarium.

The specimens represent an equal total of duplicate specimens in the various regional herbaria.

This innovative program now has more than 80 community groups that collect, press and maintain herbaria of their local plants.

Working with them are 25 of CALM's Kensington Herb-

by Jan Gathe

arium volunteers who identify the plant specimens and help in the processes needed to incorporate them into the CALM Herbarium records.

All of the information included with the specimens is added to the CALM Herbarium's large database, and is available through the FloraBase website, a vital tool in the conservation of the State's unique plants.

Included in the 10,000 specimens were:

- many that extended the known range of the species
- priority species

- declared rare flora species
- species thought to be extinct
- species that had been collected only once or twice before
- new species that had not been named or described before.

Members of the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project are, therefore, adding significantly to the dissemination of knowledge about our native plants.

The people who had been involved in the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project from its inception in 1996 were invited to morning tea at the Herbarium. Some of those able to attend were:

- John Holley (Natural Heritage Trust)

- Beth Hughes (Greening Australia WA)
- Joanna Seabrook (Greening Australia WA Foundation Board Member)
- Dr Steve Hopper (Kings Park and Botanic Gardens)
- Leigh Sage (original co-ordinator of the project)
- Dr Ken Atkins (Principal Botanist, CALM Wildlife Conservation Section)
- CALM's Perth Herbarium volunteers
- Regional Herbarium representatives
- CALM Executive Director Wally Cox also attended and met many of the volunteers, examples of whose excellent work were on display.

Acronyms - clear as mud!

PERHAPS ACRONYM is in itself an acronym meaning "A Cynical Review Of Nothing You've Missed"

Of course the REAL motive for creating and using an acronym is a worthy one—as a form of technical shorthand—but if the message is missed, then what's the point?

But let's not be too negative about acronyms. Some people enjoy them as a bit of a challenge, so those readers who do might like to sink

by Richard Tomlinson

their mental teeth into the following:

Australia has adopted a new national reference system. It is called the Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994, which abbreviates to GDA'94.

It will replace both Australian Geodetic Datum, 1966 or 1984, AGD'66 or AGD'84, respectively (Well,

it's one or the other). OK so far?

Part of both systems is a 'reference ellipsoid'—and for AGD'66/'84, it is the Australian National Spheroid—ANS. For GDA'94, it is the Geodetic Reference System, 1980 (GRS80).

Both systems are defined in curvilinear co-ordinates—latitude and longitude expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds of arc.

Most applications we use call for rectangular co-ordinates expressed as eastings and northings in units of metres.

Today, this means that AGD'84 latitude/longitude values are projected, using the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection, based on the ANS, yielding Australian Map Grid (AMG) co-ordinates.

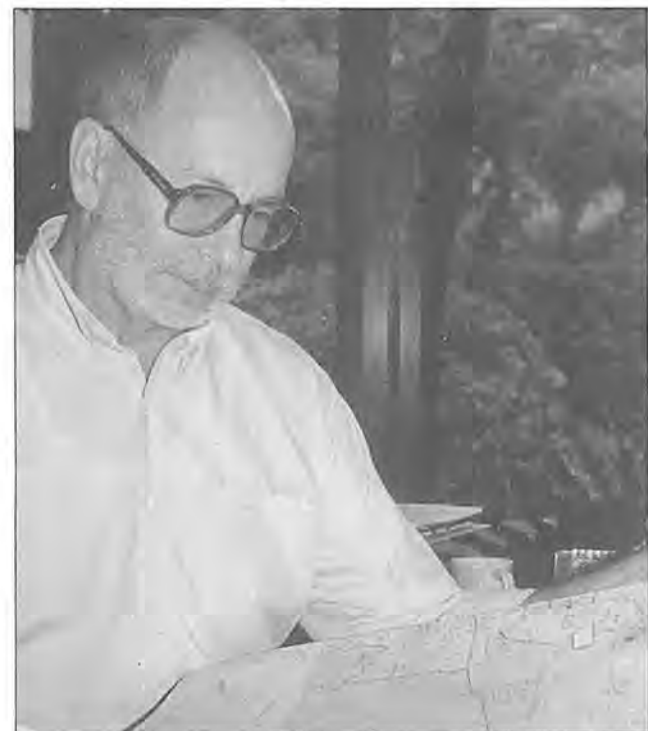
In the proposed system, GDA'94 latitude/longitude values are projected, using the same UTM projection, based on the GRS80, but CALM will get Map Grid of Australia (MGA) co-ordinates.

So, AGD'84 goes to GDA'94, ANS goes to GRS80 and AMG goes to MGA.

Now that was quite clear and straight-forward, wasn't it?

There'll be another lesson in UC (Un-Confusion) in the next issue of CALMNEWS.

OMDB! (Over My Dead Body!) Editor.



Richard Tomlinson on a search and destroy mission to eradicate acronyms from maps. Photo by Verna Costello

Greenhouse experts meet in Perth

AN international high-level forum on greenhouse sinks, attended by nearly 100 senior representatives from 28 countries, was held recently in Perth.

The forum provided participants with an opportunity to discuss a range of issues, in preparation for more formal negotiations later this year, when the annual conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will meet in the Hague.

One of the issues to be discussed at this annual conference will be greenhouse sinks.

The forum was convened by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill, and co-ordinated locally by Paul Biggs, policy adviser with the Office of the Minister for Forest Products.

Paul said that the discussions were vital to Western Australia's plantation and farm forestry program.

"The potential revenue for greenhouse sinks could provide the breakthrough in the funding of the large-scale tree

crops in agricultural areas that are so vital for addressing salinity, erosion and other land degradation issues," Paul said.

Together with officers from Agriculture WA, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Western Power, CALM, hosted a field trip to Wandering and Narrogin, demonstrating maritime pine and oil mallee plantations.

CALM Sharefarms Midwest area co-ordinator David Guille and Farm Forestry Unit manager John Bartle highlighted the concepts of sharefarming and integration with agriculture, along with the environmental issues being faced in the region.

The field trip gave delegates from overseas a first-hand perspective of revegetation in our agricultural landscapes, which may be very different from those in their own countries.

Note: Details of CALM's plantations and tree farms as well as carbon sequestration can be found at http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/projects/plantations_splash.html

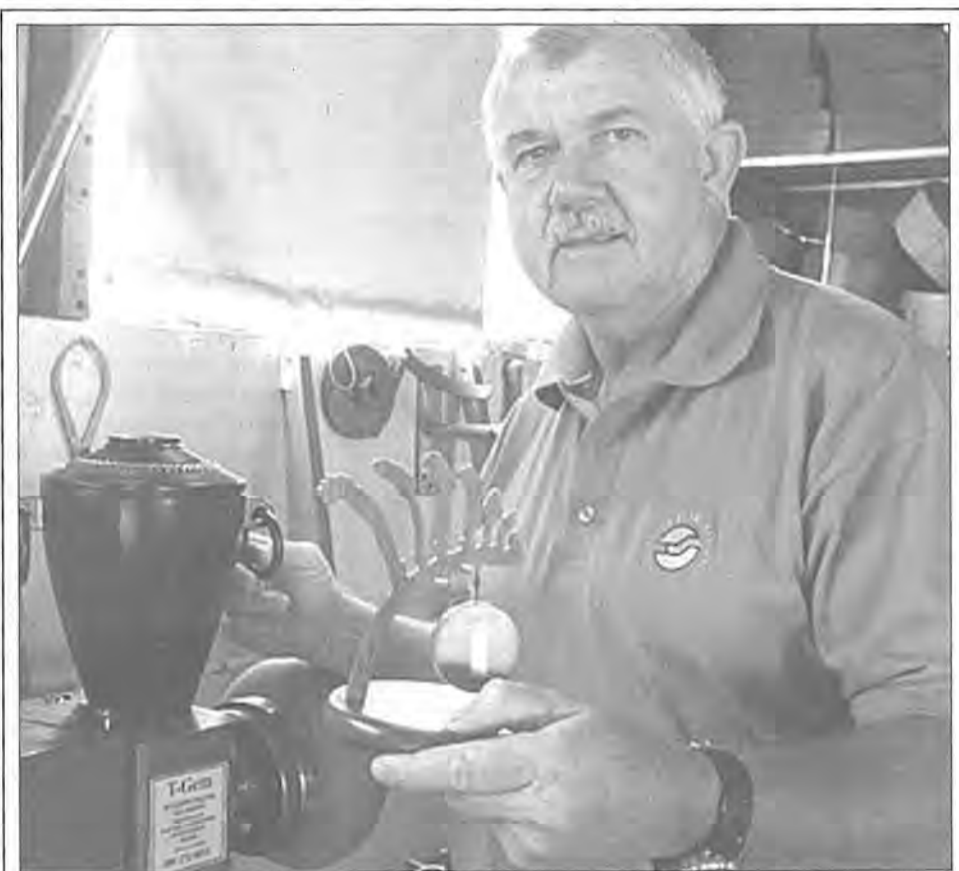
Caption correction

THE caption below the photograph of the first recipients of the June Craig Trust Award on page 1, March-April 2000 issue of CALM NEWS listed Tracey Rankin (far right) as Donna Green. (Donna, unfortunately, was unable to be present.) Jay Gimbo should have read Jay Gomboso.

Also, in the "Trust Awardees meet their patron" article on page 2, (2nd column from right), Mrs Craig was shown as "... Chairwoman of Penrhos Ladies College". This should



have read "... Chairwoman of Presbyterian Ladies College."



The other Charlie and the Royals

CALM South West Capes senior operations officer Charlie Broadbent is up there with the professionals when it comes to designing and carving beautifully crafted works of art from South West timbers.

His talent was recognised recently when he was commissioned to make six jarrah centrepieces for the table at which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh sat during a luncheon held in their honour at Busselton.

Each piece illustrated a kangaroo paw. Charlie also created a Grecian urn carved from a grasstree (or balga tree), and decorated with braided leather, for an exhibition of local arts and crafts to mark the occasion of the royal visit.

Now all we want to know is what happened to the centrepieces after the luncheon. Thrown out with the breadcrumbs? Surely not! Photo courtesy Busselton Dunsborough Mail

Tracy - a CALM-ly designing woman revels in her work

by Tammie Reid

SENIOR landscape architect-planner Tracy Churchill—the fifth in the Women in CALM series—provides the following insights into her work and herself:

"A principal role of landscape architects within CALM's Recreation and Landscape Planning and Design Section is to plan and design recreation facilities on CALM-managed land.

"These comprise camping grounds, picnic sites, walk trails, roads, parking areas, toilets—right through to major projects like the Tree Top Walk and Tingle Shelter in the Valley of the Giants at Walpole."

Tracy was the design leader in the latter project, liaising with external architects, structural engineers and other team members.

"The positioning of the walk way and shelter was critical, and so I was involved at an early stage," Tracy said.

"Identifying the best location for them, as well as access

and amenities was done from a spotter plane.

"Flying low over the karris was a stomach-churning experience! Fortunately, our pilot Tammie Kelly was air-sickness-immune."

Tracy's projects are mainly in country areas, but projects such as the continuing design work for Yanchep National Park, presents quite different challenges to do with the need for more 'urban' solutions.

Projects range from broad-scale planning such as the Gnarara Park Concept Plan through to master plans for major recreation sites like John Forrest National Park, and small site plans for areas such as Bruce Rock.

"It's a case of pulling together all the components that make public access possible," Tracy said.

"This has to be done in a way that 'nestles' them into the environment, without their

becoming disruptive—thereby giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy satisfying experiences.

"They need to be able to move around comfortably without unduly impacting on the environment."

"As a specialist branch, we work across all CALM Districts, but mainly with officers allocated to the recreation and tourism program," Tracy said.

Tracy is one of CALM's 10 landscape architects, who might fill positions in design, strategic planning, as recreation and tourism leaders, or even as a District Manager.

Tracy said that interacting with people was what she enjoyed most about her work.

"A lot of our work is about getting people to understand ideas and actually transferring those ideas onto the ground," she said.

"I also like being in the bush, solving problems and playing a part in restoring and protecting the natural environment."



CALM Bush Ranger unit leader Gerald Fontaine, standing at rear, with senior Bush Rangers Kristy McKay (right) and Sarah Rayson, (front). CALM Bush Ranger 1st Class James Wishart, whose story appears below, is on the left. They are pictured among bana grass and sugar cane grown for Perth Zoo animals by CALM Bush Rangers at John Forrest Senior High School. Photo by Verna Costello



Tracy Churchill. Photo by Verna Costello

CALM Bush Ranger James - the Birdman of Bayswater

READERS may remember CALM Bush Ranger James Wishart's story in the March-April issue of CALM NEWS, and the promise of more in subsequent issues. Below, James, who is a student at John Forrest Senior High School, tells of his and his fellow Bush Rangers' work with the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary:

"The city of Bayswater is a highly urbanised area with more drains than creeks! Nevertheless, as a result of my involvement in the Sanctuary, I now realise the importance of wetlands," James says.

"I've also enjoyed working with local community people who share my interests.

"It's been interesting to learn how councils and community groups are run and being part of that. It's been great working with different age groups. Our team at the Bird Sanctuary varies in age from me, aged 14, to Eric Singleton himself—aged 85!

"My Bush Ranger friends and I have been involved in the planning and maintenance of the wetland, building bird ramps along the Bayswater main drain to

the Swan River and on the wetland island.

"The black swan hens and the blue-billed ducks are highly entertaining to watch as they waddle up the ramps.

"We regularly maintain the bird-watching hide, removing graffiti and painting it so visitors can truly enjoy the experience!

"Because of my particular involvement I'm now a committee member at the Sanctuary. This has involved my working as a team member, which requires a high level of commitment on my part, and I've been happy to be given this responsibility.

"I enjoy being able to have my say about what is going to happen at the wetland.

The sanctuary has its own newsletter, and CALM Bush Rangers have had articles in it."

Note: Because of James's dedication to his work at the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary, the City of Bayswater sponsored him and the group's instructor to attend a week-long environmental education experience 'Catchments, Corridors and Coasts'. James impressions will be the topic in a future issue of CALM NEWS.

CALMTEX attracts significant ecotourism interest

ABOUT 120 travel and tourism representatives from interstate and throughout Western Australia gathered in Perth recently for CALMTEX 2000.

Welcoming the representatives, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said CALM's annual information exchange was an innovative and direct way of informing the tourism industry how they could best use and protect nature-based attractions on CALM-managed lands.

Mrs Edwardes said the exchange brought together tourism operators and CALM staff from as far north as the Kimberley to as far south as Esperance, with a number of travel

and tourism industry representatives from the Eastern States.

"WA's great tourism sites such as the Bungle Bungle, Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk and the Monkey Mia dolphins are all natural attractions that are located on conservation lands," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Through CALMTEX, the department is able to provide the travel and tourism industry with necessary information on all these sites, and how they can use nature-based attractions in their tours, without detrimental effect to the environment."

Mrs Edwardes said CALM was committed to ensuring that all Western Australians and visitors to WA were

provided with the opportunity to appreciate its natural attractions.

"One of the best ways to achieve this is by seeing that the best information and advice is available to members of the tourism industry," she said.

"This ensures people have the opportunity to experience nature, while protecting its intrinsic environmental values.

"By providing this information in such a direct way, CALM is actively meeting its objective of a balance between recreation, tourism and conservation."

Mrs Edwardes said that last year's event had been a great success, indicating the need for this type of exchange

between the tourism and travel industry and CALM, which had worked with Regional Tourism Associations and the WA Tourism Commission to organise CALMTEX," she said.

"The event was funded by CALM's Commercial Tour Operator Licence Fund, which meant that the industry would directly benefit from the revenue it created."

CALM marketing co-ordinator Rod Quartermain said he was pleased to see CALM staff and tourism representatives getting their joint message across to the industry.

"Many of the visitors were amazed at what CALM is doing in this area and said that they now had a much

better understanding of how the Department interacted with the industry," Rod said.

"A lot of bridges were built during the day, and the feedback was encouraging as well as useful."

Typical of such feedback were comments by Global Gypsies' Jeremy Perks, who said that CALMTEX "was well worthwhile, and kept operators up-to-date, particularly on regional attractions."

Andrew English from Australian Pacific Tours said "CALM's Tourism Information Exchange was a good opportunity for Eastern States operators to network with local operators and suppliers."

Field officer recruits graduate

by Chantal Laval

GRADUATION certificates were presented recently to 11 CALM officers, marking a step forward in the development of training for the conservation of biodiversity in Western Australia.

Presenting the certificates, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the graduation followed the successful completion of a 14-week CALM training course the officers had undertaken in stages over the past two years.

"Since its establishment, the CALM Field Officer Recruit Training Program, which comprises nationally endorsed short courses by the Training Accreditation Council of WA, has grown beyond all expectations," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The high degree of skill and commitment of our up and coming conservation and land management officers is very much evident in the people graduating today.

"The officers were chosen following a rigorous selection process, in which close to 150 applications were received, out of which only 12 people were selected.

"The course covered a wide range of skills from four-wheel driving, hardwood silviculture and fire management to first aid, worksafe skills and community interaction.

"The focus of the course is to teach field operations and procedures, based on CALM management plans and current operations."

Mrs Edwardes said one of the greatest challenges the State Government had was to ensure the creation of skilled jobs for WA's young people and she was encouraged to see this in the conservation and land management area with this graduation.

A solid foundation

"More importantly, the training has provided Western Australians with a solid foundation on which they can develop full and satisfying careers," she said.

The Keynes Memorial Award, which is the premier award, was awarded to Stefan de Haan for his high level of achievement throughout



Field officer graduates, standing: Jackson Parker, Stefan de Haan, Michael Lobb, Steve Gray; Organisational Development Co-ordinator Alan Byrne; Kristian Narducci, Myles Mulvay and Bruce Brand. Seated: Christy Mahoney, Alicia Taylor, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox, Karlene Bain and Jason Pember. Photo by Paul Webster

the course, both in practical and theoretical work.

Stefan has a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Management) from Edith Cowan University. He has been appointed as a Forest Ranger-Assistant Recreation Officer based in Manjimup.

The CALM Executive Director's Merit Award for the trainee who displays the best all round performance in both theoretical and practical areas was presented to Alicia Taylor.

Alicia has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management (with Honours) and is currently employed as Acting Area Co-ordinator with CALM Sharefarms Mid-West, based in South Guildford.

Mrs Edwardes also presented the June Craig Scholarship Award to June Ellis, Supervisor at WA Naturally; Carol Dymond, currently on secondment as a Project Manager

for the Standing Committee of Forestry in Canberra; Dr Jay Gomboso, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director of Nature Conservation; Donna Green, Walpole District's Fire Co-ordinator and Elizabeth Moore, Community Education Officer.

The annually awarded June Craig Scholarship, has been developed to encourage all women in CALM to achieve their aspirations and further their career development.

It provides financial assistance of \$20,000 that can go towards the cost of participation in seminars, tertiary or TAFE courses, or educational travel.

June Craig is a fine example of a WA woman who had made contributing to the community and conserving the environment a way of life, a means of self-expression—and a career.

The Executive Director's

Scholarship, made available to all CALM's Australian Workers Union staff to assist them financially in their post-secondary education studies to enter field officer positions throughout the State, was awarded to Bradley Hasson from CALM's Mundaring District and Christina Gilbert from CALM's Collie District.

The Dr George Malajczuk Scholarship, which is available to all CALM people who have an undergraduate qualification, was awarded to Mike Meinema and Peng Soong.

Mike is currently employed as Geraldton District manager and Peng is Information Services Branch manager at CALM's operational headquarters in Kensington.

The post-graduate scholarship has been named in honour of the late Dr George Malajczuk, who had a distin-

guished career with both the Forests Department and CALM.

The Seamus Mulholland Scholarship, available to all CALM people wishing to pursue further education in the management and leadership area, was awarded to Kellie Agar.

Kellie has a Bachelor of Science with Honours from Curtin University and will use the scholarship to pursue a Graduate Diploma of Business Management Studies at Edith Cowan University in Bunbury.

The scholarship has been named in honour of the late Seamus Mulholland, who had a distinguished career as a leader and manager within CALM.

Note: Winners of the above awards, who have not recently featured in CALM NEWS, will be featured in future issues.

Brad's Alaskan tale draws a crowd

PICTURED after the first Lunchtime Seminar for the year are Gascoyne District (Denham) operations officer Brad Barton (left), Mundaring District manager John Lloyd and Park Policy and Tourism reserves officer Sharon Colliss.

John and Sue were among those staff who packed

CALM's Kensington Training Centre to hear Brad describe his experiences in Alaska, where he took part in CALM's first international employee exchange program.

Brad said his experiences taught him that, while the two environments were totally different, the issues were very much the same.

There was a long and lively response at question time—which is why John and Sue took a breather while they waited their turn. John (who is to be congratulated on winning a Rotary Scholarship), was particularly eager to find out how Brad had handled the logistics of the exchange.

Photo by Verna Costello



Bush Ranger instructors meet

CALM FIRE senior fire officer Drew Haswell (second from right) with CALM Bush Ranger instructors, from left, Nellie Petrovich (Rossmoyne Senior High School), Carleen Edwards and George Gorges (John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School), Lisa Rogosky (Como Senior High School). Drew was taking them through the intricacies of interpreting map overlays in fire risk assessment.

Nellie Petrovich, Carleen Edwards and Andrew Paul (Mt Lawley Senior High School Unit Leader) are to be congratulated on successfully completing the Nationally Accredited Bush Fire Awareness course sponsored by CALM Fire.

The Inservice was held for 50 CALM Bush Ranger instructors from across the state including Units as far away as Kalbarri, Mullewa, Tardun, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Norseman.

Each Unit delivered information on their community and conservation projects, including conservation camps.

To broaden instructors' knowledge base, representatives from CALM Fire, CALM Science, Marine Conservation, Risk Management, Training, and Naturebase delivered talks and demonstrations on how the CALM Bush Rangers could be involved in these Branches.

Photo by Verna Costello

Christina and Bradley share a scholarship

CONGRATULATIONS to Bradley Hasson and Christina Gilbert, winners of the Year 2000 Executive Director's Scholarship.

The Executive Director's Scholarship is made available to all Australian Workers Union people, to financially assist them in their post-secondary education studies to enter Field Officer positions throughout the State.

The scholarship also provides the recipients with study time to ease the burden of combining work and study.

Christina Gilbert

Christina's interest in fauna management stems from her previous career as a veterinary nurse.

From the age of 14 Christina spent her school holidays working for the local vet in Kalamunda, gaining as much experience as she could. A move to Wongan Hills saw her working for the then Department of Agriculture at its research station.

Christina joined CALM in 1997 as a seasonal firefighter and treemaker.

After 12 months she was involved in rare flora surveys and fauna trapping and monitoring.

Currently her main duty as CALM's Collic District storewoman, but

by Chantal Laval

she is also involved in fire duties, fauna management and assisting with the running of the new bait factory in Harvey.

With the eagle eyes of the district staff watching over her, Christina has been encouraged to stick to her study timetable, with the scholarship enabling her to continue with her studies at a faster pace than she initially visualised.

Chris has completed about half of the modules for her Land Management Certificate IV.

Brad Hasson

As the old saying goes 'persistence pays off'.

It certainly did for Brad Hasson, who was unsuccessful in his 1999 scholarship application, but remained undeterred from applying for the Year 2000.

His enthusiasm and progression with his studies gave him the edge needed to succeed.

Brad started his career with CALM in 1988 at the Kensington Herbarium, assisting with the propagation of plants in the native garden.

He was later transferred to Kensington Operational Headquarters as a groundsman, working

in this capacity for the ensuing five years.

It was at the beginning of the 1994 fire season that Brad began duties as a forest worker with the Mundaring District.

Although the majority of his duties involve hardwood silviculture and fire, Brad has also been heavily involved in fauna management, and helping with the reintroduction of the woylie, numbat and tammar wallaby into the Mundaring District.

This included demonstrating trapping and handling techniques to primary school students attending Night Out with the Woylies activities, and aerial and hand baiting with the Western Shield 1080 fox-baiting program.

These activities helped fuel Brad's interest in nature conservation and wildlife, and he enrolled in the Land Management Certificate IV early in 1999; he hopes to complete the course before the end of 2001.

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

We wish Brad and Chris every success in their studies.



Christina Gilbert (right) with Kelvin ('Kelly') Bennett and quokka during a trapping exercise. Photo by Caroline Brocx



Bradley Hasson. Photo by Chantal Laval



Albany District park rangers meet

THE Albany District probably has the largest district ranger team in CALM, forming the bulk of the District's workforce in the field, which covers an area of 350 km from east to west.

They manage more than 500,000 hectares of national parks in diverse areas from mountain peaks, coastal wilderness and high visitation sites.

They attend quarterly meetings, organised by the Albany District Parks Manager Martin Lloyd, to discuss park management, visitor risk, financial and other major issues relevant to work in progress.

It is unusual for all of the rangers to

meet at the one time, as any one or more of them can be on annual leave, attending a training course or engaged in an essential field project.

Recently, all of them, including one mobile ranger, were captured on film by Regional Manager John Watson.

They are, at rear: Lindsay Brown (ranger-in-charge, Fitzgerald River National Park.); Dave Wilson (reserves assistant, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve); Geoff Harnett (assisting ranger, Stirling Range National Park); Charlie Salamon (ranger-in-charge, Porongurup National Park); Bruce Bond (mobile ranger); and Luke Coney (ranger

in Charge, Stirling Range National Park.).

Seated are: Neil Scott (ranger-in-charge, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve); Mark Roddy (assisting ranger, Torndirrup National Park); Martin Lloyd (Albany District parks manager); Richard Pemberton (ranger-in-charge, Torndirrup National Park); Lanny Bleakley (assisting ranger, Fitzgerald River National Park); and Mark True (assisting ranger, Fitzgerald River National Park).

The day the photograph was taken was the last one with CALM for Richard Pemberton before his retirement (see story on page 8).

Agencies unite in fighting arson

Fire agencies and the Police have been stepping up their efforts to reduce the number of bushfires caused by arsonists.

Staff from CALM, the WA Police Service, and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority have been taking part in a wildfire investigation training course in the forest around Mundaring.

The aim of the course is to train investigators to track down the point where a fire started, and identify the possible cause.

CALM fire acting manager Drew Haswell said that in the past three years, suspicious and deliberately lit fires were responsible for half of all fire incidents attended by the fire services.

In that period, CALM and volunteer bushfire brigades had suppressed more than 2000 fires suspected of being deliberately lit.

"The estimated value of damage caused by wildfires deliberately lit in suspicious circumstances is conservatively estimated at more than \$10 million," Mr Haswell said.

"And this doesn't include the intangible nature conservation environmental values and their intrinsic costs, as well as those associated with community hardship, losses to business continuity and risks to firefighters."

Mr Haswell said agencies needed to work closely together

to tackle the problem.

Fire investigation helped identify causes that could lead to preventing, or at least reducing losses as a result of fires, and can help in detecting and apprehending arsonists.

The course involves lighting a series of fires in the forest. Officers then use a series of techniques to trace the head-fire back to the point of origin.

"It requires a solid understanding of how bush fires behave," Mr Haswell said.

"For example, factors such as wind, topography and the amount of available fuel (such as forest debris) all influence fire behaviour.

"By understanding these factors, fire investigators can quite accurately find the point of ignition and collect any evidence of the possible cause.

"It also helps in building a profile of suspected arsonists." Mr Haswell said the training course was just one of a series to steps towards improving the State's wildfire investigation capacity.

Other measures included sharing information and intelligence on the occurrence of fires lit in suspicious circumstances; using data, information and research to develop a more preventative approach to them; and increased firefighter awareness, protection and management of the distinctive signs of such fire lighting.

Families return to upgraded Woodman Point

CLOSE to the beach and jetty, Woodman Point Regional Park has always been a popular spot for diving enthusiasts and fishing fans, as well as for walking, running and cycling.

And now that CALM's Regional Parks Unit has transformed the old, somewhat unsafe playground equipment, it has a new lease of life as a safe, fun experience for children and a load off the minds of parents.

Now, more families, like that of Alenka Persichillo of Spearwood, have returned to visiting Woodman Point regularly.

"We used to come to the old playground, but less so recently," Mrs Persichillo said.

"One day, we decided to try it out again, and the children just loved the new playground."

"It's a great picnic spot too, with good, clean facilities—and it's just down the road from home."

But visitors are coming, not only from surrounding beachside suburbs, but through to Armadale and the burgeoning suburbs along the Kwinana Freeway.

The new playground has been developed by the CALM

Regional Parks Unit, which has taken over the management of Woodman Point from the Ministry of Sport and Recreation.

CALM landscape architect Annabelle Vowels, who is responsible for the design and co-ordination of the playground upgrade, said that it was the first step in a range of improvements CALM had planned for Woodman Point.

"We moved on the playground first, because of safety issues, and we did it in consultation with the local Woodman Point Advisory Committee."

"The next step will be the completion of a long-term management plan—around summer 2000–2001."

"This will guide further development in the park, such as facilities to the north of the recreation area, including more shade trees, weed management, and bushland restoration."

"Also planned is additional perimeter car parking, close to the northern end of the recreation area," Annabelle said.

The CALM Regional Parks Unit was formed in 1998 to manage eight regional parks around the metropolitan area.

Management plans for each are currently being drafted.



Mrs Alenka Persichillo, right, and her daughter Jessica check out the playground equipment at Woodman Point Regional Park with CALM landscape architect Annabelle Vowels. Photo by Christine Silbert



Richard and Jackie looked well pleased with the farewell gift from staff. Photo by John Watson

Richard Pemberton retires

AFTER a 15-year period working as a ranger, mainly in the South Coastal Region, Richard Pemberton has called it a day.

Before the formation of CALM, Richard worked on several park projects in a redeployment program at the Stirling Range National Park.

Soon after the completion of the program, Richard was appointed ranger-in-charge at Cape Arid National Park.

by Martin Lloyd

Here, Richard and his wife Jackie enjoyed the peaceful isolation of the park for a few years, creating and maintaining park facilities.

In the early 1990s, Richard transferred to the ranger-in-charge position at Tomdurrup-West Cape Howe National Parks, where he remained until his retirement.

The successful industrial rubber belting laid on degraded four-wheel-drive tracks at West Cape Howe was one of many notable accomplishments during his Albany career.

Nine years later they are still intact.

A farewell luncheon was attended by District staff, where Richard was presented with a framed photograph of the Gap, an area that is close to his heart.

Campground hosts move on

by Tammie Reid

AFTER three months as volunteer campground hosts at the Shannon National Park campground, Audrey and Tom Tomlinson have taken up a similar position at Mitchell plateau (West Kimberley).

"Initially we were just passing through WA, and had stopped at the Shannon for a week's rest from travelling," Audrey said.

"We've been two years on the road, and prefer the camping life to being tied to a house, so when asked if we were interested in being volunteer campground hosts, we jumped at the chance."

"It was coming up to a busy period and we agreed to stay one month. This stretched out and became a very busy, but nevertheless highly rewarding role."

Audrey has captured much humour from the way of life at the Shannon campgrounds in a journal, complete with illustrations.

For example, there was Paddy from Ireland, seeking his country's sister River Shannon. It was the end of summer when he and Audrey pushed through the tea tree to find only a bone-dry creekbed. Audrey is keen to share these and other experiences, and is putting the final touches to her latest writings.

She has had several works published, and one book called *Bugs And Bouquets* can be found in the Library Information Service of Western Australia (LISWA).

"My idea is to pass these on to subsequent Shannon campground hosts and others in similar roles around CALM," she said.

"Shannon National Park has a nation-wide reputation among travellers as a beautiful forest place to stay, with quaint cot-

tage shelters, AND a Braemar hot water system that works overtime—especially at East

"Many visitors are friendly, family-based groups, who know and love the forest and do a lot of camping."

"Some have a problem understanding why dogs aren't permitted in National Parks, while others expect chopped wood, change for \$50 notes, shops, movies at night and organised activities!"

A woman who admits to a love of people, Audrey's work as a midwife and nurse has taken her to China, and Cape York as well as England's dockside areas.

Audrey's husband Tom, a retiree from the police force, has a practical, no-nonsense approach to life. He is direct, politely inquiring—and always has a mischievous twinkle in the eye.

Let's hope they never leave Western Australia.



Audrey and Tom sheltering in their camper van from the Bunbury rain, as they passed through on their way to the warmer climes of the Kimberley. Photo by Tammie Reid

Agroforestry Expo 2000

AGROFORESTRY Expo 2000 will be held on Saturday August 26, 2000 at the Flax Mill in Boyup Brook.

- Some of the major focuses will be:
- Agroforestry as a 'tool' in the management of salinity
 - Value adding and end markets
 - Attributes and species required by various buyers
 - Specifications for various industries
 - How growers can achieve these standards

The Expo will provide the best information available on water use and the placement of

the most appropriate species of trees for maximum benefits—also what help is available. The information will be relevant to all rainfall areas.

It will be a family day with plenty of entertainment to occupy the children, leaving parents free to gather the information they need to embark on, or develop, their agroforestry venture from the wide range of exhibits, demonstrations, talks and tours.

For further details contact the co-ordinator Monica Durcan (08) 9291 8249 or email her at mdurcan@iinet.net.au