

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

JULY—AUGUST 2000



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New parks in Goldfields and North West



Attending the announcement of the Goldfields Woodlands National Park are (standing, from left), CALM's Goldfields Regional Manager Ian Kealley and Executive Director Dr Wally Cox, with Premier Richard Court, a young unknown visitor, and Mark Neville, MLC. Seated on Boondi Rock are traditional owners Cadley Sambo and son Billy-Joe. See story on page 2. Photo by Rob Thomas

WESTERN Australia's conservation reserve network has been extended by more than 840,000 hectares with the creation of a series of new parks and management areas in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields.

The new reserves, which have been vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, are:

- Mitchell River National Park—115,300 ha
- Lawley River National Park—17,570 ha
- Camp Creek Conservation Park—1,270 ha
- Laterite Conservation Park—12,200 ha
- King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park—392,100 ha
- Goldfields Woodlands National Park—64,000 ha
- Goldfields Woodlands associated conservation park and management area—88,000 ha
- Cane River Conservation Park—148,000 ha

Several of the new parks join existing parks or reserves. The Mitchell River National Park abuts the Prince Regent Nature Reserve creating an overall conservation area of 750,000 ha.

The new Goldfields Woodlands National Park and associated conservation park and management area join the Boorabbin National Park (26,000 ha) and an area of more than 140,000 ha that has been earmarked for inclusion in the new park. This will create a contiguous network of conservation reserves covering 311,000 ha.

Cane River Conservation Park adjoins Mt Minnie Station (148,000 ha), which is managed by CALM for conservation values.

Premier Richard Court and Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards officially announced the parks at a series of functions in July and August.

continued page 2

CALM firefighters in US

SIX CALM senior fire managers are part of an 80-strong contingent from Australia and New Zealand helping their United States' counterparts combat the worst bushfire outbreak in North America for almost 50 years.

The team, chosen for their expertise in forest fire management as incident controllers, planning, operations and logistics officers, has been based in north-west Montana assisting with fires near the township of Troy, where more than 40 fires have been burning for several weeks.

The CALM team is:

- CALMfire Senior Operations Officer Terry Maher, Bunbury (team leader);
 - Central Forest Region fire coordinator Kevin White, Bunbury;
 - Senior Environmental Officer Roger Armstrong, Bunbury;
 - Kevin Haylock, CALM Forest Products Division, Harvey;
 - Walpole District Manager Greg Mair;
 - CALMscience fire behaviour specialist Dr Lachie McCaw, Manjimup.
- CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said Australia, New

Zealand and the US had had a close association in regards to fire management for more than 50 years, with regular visits and contact through the Forestry Fire Control Officers Group and the US National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group.

"The fact that all three countries use the same incident control system means there is a high degree of compatibility across the agencies that are sending personnel," Rick said.

"This has been borne out in the time since the crew has arrived and taken on senior positions alongside their American counterparts.

"In fact, the feedback we have received, both publicly and privately, is that the CALM people have settled in extremely well and their expertise is greatly appreciated by US bushfire officials."

Team leader Terry Maher has been based in the nearby community of Libby where he has been liaising among the forces. In early September, he was scheduled to become area commander for north-west Montana.

Roger Armstrong is Deputy Incident Commander for the Troy South Complex. Greg Mair has been Information Officer,

while Kevin White and Kevin Haylock have been Divisional Commanders and Operation Branch Directors. Lachie McCaw has been attached to the area command as a fire behaviour and planning specialist.

In the last week of August, the team managed to catch a few days 'r and r' at Sandpoint on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille after spending a 14-day stretch of 12 hours on, 12 off.

Rick Sneeuwjagt was due to fly to the United States in early September to assess the contribution of the Australian-New Zealand contingent and discuss future mutual aid arrangements with US fire authorities.

"There's no doubt that we will gain substantial benefits through the experience of the CALM team in the US," Rick said.

"When the team returns, the aim will be to ensure that their experience is passed on to CALM and other WA fire agencies.

"In fire management, you never stop learning so the more experience on which we can draw, the better."

Note: See page 6 for Kevin Haylock's account of his first fortright in the US of A.



Olympic torch bearer Damien Jameson, who works with CALM as a forest worker, couldn't believe his luck when he was selected to carry the torch down Bridgetown's main street. To reassure himself that his experience had been real—and not the product of some wild fantasy—he bought the torch! And when you read his account of the event at the foot of page 3, you'll probably think he is still living deliriously on cloud nine.



Recent visits to the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne reminded me that we are in a seven-day-a-week business.

CALM has responsibility for a number of national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves that contain attractions, or are a major attraction in their own right, e.g. Purnululu, Mitchell River, Francois Peron.

These attractions are a major drawcard for large numbers of visitors who expect to receive services irrespective of the day of the week. CALM, and CALM employees have responded through the introduction of a number of flexible work arrangements such as use of casuals, contract employees, and no-fixed-hour agreements or awards, and the use of volunteers. The visitors I talked to appreciated the quality of service and information provided.

As visitor numbers grow, however, it will require us to be even more innovative in the way we accommodate seasonal, weekend and morning peak demands.

The visit also reinforced the importance of volunteers to CALM. These community-minded people numbering some 3,400 in 1999-2000 provide assistance to CALM in a variety of roles. I talked to a number of volunteer camp hosts who loved the opportunity to help protect their piece of unique environment, while enjoying the company of fellow hosts and visitors.

The recent official openings of a number of national and conservation parks including Mitchell Falls, Goldfields Woodland, Lawley River and Wellington National Parks and the Camp Creek, Laterite and King Leopold Ranges Conservation Parks has added a large area of land to the conservation estate. CALM now manages in excess of 22,000,000 hectares of land for conservation purposes, or approximately 8 per cent of the State's land area. While a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system is important so is responsible management of the other 92 per cent of the State's land area.

This can only be done by the landowners and community with the assistance of government agencies such as CALM, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection.

CALM's own Natural Heritage Trust-funded bushcare and wildlife programs are two important initiatives supporting the community in achieving sustainable natural resource management.

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director

New parks Cont'd

CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox said the new reserves made a valuable addition to the conservation estate CALM managed on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

"The declaration of the parks is part of CALM's overall aim of ensuring that we have a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve network

across all the biogeographic regions of the State," he said.

"These new parks not only bring us closer to that aim, they also provide many new challenges for CALM in terms of liaising with local communities and traditional owners to ensure that we manage them for their wide range of values."

Goldfields park opened

A NEW national park of more than 64,000 hectares has been officially opened on the Goldfields, forming the core of a new conservation area.

Opening the Goldfields Woodland National Park (which lies west of Coolgardie), Premier Richard Court said that it was part of a new conservation reserve network that extended over almost 152,500 ha on either side of the Great Eastern Highway between Coolgardie and Southern Cross.

"In addition, a further 150,000 ha will be added to the network to create a series of conservation lands in the region that will ultimately total more than 300,000 hectares," Mr Court said.

CALM's Goldfields Regional Manager Ian Kealley said the conservation area represented a microcosm of the Eastern Goldfields.

"It contains a wide variety of eucalypts including original stands and regrowth areas of salmon gum, gimlet, ribbon-barked gum, mallees, red morrel, redwood, and woodline mallee," Ian said.

"The eucalypts also come in for international attention, as the Goldfields is the only place in the world where so many tall trees grow in such an arid environment.

"Land management people from countries such as China, Africa and

several Mediterranean countries are now using Goldfields eucalypts for re-vegetation projects in their arid zones.

"There's also a range of acacias, banksias, callistemons, hakeas, melaleucas, sandalwood and an undescribed species of grass tree.

"An amazing range of the various ecosystems of the region can be found, including granite outcrops, natural salt lakes and sandplain heaths.

"Fauna surveys (which included the neighbouring Boorabbin National Park) have revealed 17 species of native mammals, four species of frogs, 52 reptile and 51 bird species."

Ian said that the history of the conservation area revealed a unique association with the early development of the Goldfields.

"Timber cut from the woodlands fuelled the pumping stations along the water pipeline between Mundaring and Kalgoorlie, which was completed in 1903," he said.

"In fact, parts of the new national park are former pump station firewood reserves.

"Also, the western part of the reserve includes remnants of the historic Kalgoorlie woodlines which were narrow-gauge railway lines used to haul timber into Kalgoorlie and Boulder for the mines and boilers following the discovery of gold.

Mr Court said the declaration of the park was

part of the Government's commitment to conservation of the State's natural environment and creating opportunities for nature-based tourism activities in regional Western Australia.

"The Government is strongly committed to achieving a balance by creating a comprehensive conservation reserve network while at the same time appreciating the various competing land uses in the Goldfields," he said.

"We want to encourage a conservation ethic that recognises the rights of future generations, and the responsibilities of the present generation to manage natural resources so they remain a part of all our futures."

The area also has much to offer for recreation and tourism, with the potential to develop a number of recreation and camping sites within the park and along the Great Eastern Highway, and provide a tourist route to incorporate the different biological and historical features.

These include distinctive rock catchments along the historical Goldfields railway and pipeline next to the Great Eastern Highway, the heritage trail from York to the Goldfields and a section of the historic Holland Track that brought the ever-hopeful prospectors to the Goldfields from the port of Albany in the early goldrush days.

Staff Movements

Contract staff

Tracy Heaperman, to Corporate Information Branch, Kensington, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Jeff Richardson, to Regional Services Branch, Karratha, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Hema Krishnan, to CALMpeople Services, Kensington, as Policy and Diversity Officer, Level 5; Helen Coleman, to CALMScience WA Herbarium, Kensington, as Project Officer, Level 4; Michael Christensen, to Southern Forest Regional Office, Manjimup, as Computer Services Officer, Level 3; Jason Schmidberger, to CALMScience WA Herbarium, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Richard Reid, to Parks and Visitor Services Branch, Kensington, as Apiary Site Officer, Level 2; David Robertson, to Information Management Branch, Kensington, as Cartographic Officer, Level 4; Robert Huston (Bob), to Mundaring District, as Operations Officer, Level 3

Permanent staff

Trevor Burslem, at Walpole District, as Manager, Tree Top Walk, Level 5; Kerry Troeger, at Corporate Relations Division, Kensington, as Publications Subscriptions & Sales Officer, Level 2; Ann Woodhams, at Corporate Information, Corporate Services, Kensington, as Indexer, Level 2; Ross Williams, at Corporate Services Division, Information Services Section, Kensington, as Services Delivery Manager, Level 6; Phillip Smeeton, at Yanchep National Park, Perth District, as Visitor Services Manager, Level 4

Promoted

Brett Fitzgerald, to Project Officer, Level 4, Denham District; Peter Gibson, to Fire Operations Officer, Level 4 at CALMfire, Wanneroo, from Dwellingup District.

Transferred

Stella King, to Corporate Headquarters, Crawley, as Administrative Assistant, Level 3, from Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle; Robert Hagan, to Bunbury District, as Project Officer, Level 7, from Manjimup; Neil Stephens, to Swan Region, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Pam Burgoyne, to Corporate Information Section, Kensington, as Help Desk Team Leader, Level 3, from CALMScience Herbarium, Kensington; Luke Coney, to Torndirrup-West Cape Howe National Park, as Ranger-in-Charge, Grade 2, from Stirling Range National Park.

Retired

Raymond F Bailey, from Corporate Relations Division, Crawley, as Manager, Programs and Publications, Level 7; Pamela Sapsworth, from Corporate Executive, Crawley, as Executive Assistant, Level 5; John Leslie Robson, from Swan Region, Kensington as Operations Officer, Level 4.

Resigned

Marcus Benbow, from Corporate Relations, Kensington, as Sales & Distribution Officer, Level 2; Anthony G Clarke, from Collie Sharefarms, Forest Resources, as Assistant Area Co-ordinator, Level 1/2; Matthew Lloyd, from State Forest Resources Business Unit, Harvey, as Forester, Level 3; Neville Walliss, Wildlife Administration, Kensington, Technical Officer, Level 2; Trevor Smales, Information Management Branch, Kensington, as Cartographic Officer, Level 4; Peter Grime, from CALMScience Sharefarms, South Guildford, as Field Manager, Level 4; Carlos Raphael, from CALMScience, Forest & Tree Crops, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 3.

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

Dear Dr Cox
I would like to express my appreciation to you and your department for the tremendous event at Collie to celebrate the transfer of the Worsley Timber Company land from the Water Corporation for management as a national park.
I was impressed by the thought that was put into the event, the siting, the involvement of the local community, including local Aboriginal representatives, and the professional way the event was conducted.
Could you please pass my

thanks to all your staff who were involved, particularly Mr Drew Griffiths and Mr Leon Price who coordinated the event in Collie, and Mr Nigel Higgs who supported them.
I understand that with the many responsibilities and expectations facing staff, there is an extra challenge posed by the additional work involved in organising such an occasion.
With kind regards,
Yours sincerely
RICHARD COURT MLA
PREMIER
The following letter from

Christine Silvester of Narrogin to Pemberton District Manager John Gillard praises roading forest resources officer Peter Bamess for his willingness to help a visiting member of the public:
Recently I visited the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton and had the misfortune to leave my coat behind there. I returned and asked the man at the kiosk if it had been handed in, but unfortunately it had not. I understand that his name is Peter Bamess. I gave him my address and asked if he could let

me know if it had been found. Not only did he find the clothing but he also forwarded it to my father at Narrogin CALM.
I am most grateful for this kind action and would ask you to pass on my sincere thanks.
He is a pleasant, very proud and informative person at the kiosk and a Good Samaritan as well.
The following arrived from Tim and Heather Parslow after Mr Parslow had recovered from a broken hip while touring in July:

My family and I visited the Purnululu National Park. Unfortunately, I had an accident, falling awkwardly and breaking my hip, a few hundred metres short of Cathedral Gorge.
We would very much like to express our deep thanks for the help we received from the rangers on that day.
They organised my evacuation by stretcher to the airstrip, and subsequent pickup by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).
I was flown to Derby Hospital, and from there sent

down to Perth for the operation on my hip. The operation happened within a couple of hours of my arrival there, for which I was grateful.
Your staff may be interested to know I was looked after very well and allowed to fly back to Alice Springs on the following Sunday.
My wife and family meantime had driven back home and met up with me in Alice.
Once again our thanks for attending to me so professionally, both at the scene of the accident and at the Airstrip awaiting the RFDS to arrive.

Five new parks in the North West announced

SOME of the most spectacular landforms in the Kimberley are to be found in two new national parks and three new conservation parks.

The new parks also include remnant rainforest and one of the most complete and diverse ranges of native animal species found in Australia.

Announcing the opening of the parks at a ceremony on the Mitchell Plateau, Premier Richard Court said the creation of the parks would enable the areas to be managed to conserve these values, as well as the region's distinctive Aboriginal heritage and culture.

"The Government has been in consultation with Aboriginal people to develop co-operative management arrangements for the parks and to provide opportunities for Aboriginal enterprise and employment," said the Premier.

Four of the new reserves are in the Mitchell Plateau area, while the fifth encompasses almost 400,000 ha of the former Mt Hart pastoral lease which includes an extensive tract of the King Leopold Range. Altogether, the parks cover nearly 540,000 hectares.

"The Mitchell River National Park takes in the stunningly beautiful Mitchell Falls, which have



The announcement of the opening of the King Leopold Range Conservation Park was held at the Mt Hart Homestead, a tourism complex run by Taffy Abbotts in partnership with CALM. The Complex includes new accommodation quarters, as well as an 'al fresco' facility. Attending the opening were CALM Broome maintenance worker Lyndon Quaife (standing, left), Director of Parks and Visitor Services Jim Sharp, Broome District administration officer Jill Green and parks maintenance worker Henry Corpus, CALM Kimberley Regional Manager Chris Done, Ken Fitzgerald (who donated the Mt Hart 'al fresco facility'), and Mt Hart Complex Manager Taffy Abbotts. In front are Premier Richard Court, CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and CALM East Kimberley District Manager Allen Grosse. Photo by Nigel Higgs

become an icon for travellers to the Kimberley," the Premier said.

CALM's Kimberley Regional Manager Chris Done said that the area was habitat for at least 42 native mammals, among the largest number of any comparable area in Australia. Surveys have recorded 19 frog species and 77

different native reptiles.

"It also has abundant birdlife with more than 160 species recorded and is the world's richest area for mangrove birds," Chris said.

The plateau is also dotted with small patches of rainforest that contain plant species quite different to those found in the surrounding savannah.

Although the plateau is mainly dominated by an open eucalypt forest, some areas contain dense stands of livistona palms, while ancient cycads are common in other areas.

CALM's Director of Parks and Visitor Services Jim Sharp said the Mitchell River National Park abutted the northern boundary of the

635,000 ha Prince Regent Nature Reserve, which effectively created a continuous conservation reserve of three-quarters of a million hectares.

"The King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park takes in areas such as Bell Gorge and the Lennard River Gorge, which already attract many visitors," Jim said.

The layers of rocks that make up the Kimberley basin are more than five kilometres thick, their origins dating back 1,900 million years to Precambrian times.

About 560 million years ago, these layers were pushed up over older volcanic rocks, creating a range more than 300 km long.

Erosion over millions of years has created the rugged terrain with steep valley walls and folded and faulted rock formations.

The King Leopold Ranges and Mitchell Plateau are in some of the most remote and inaccessible country in Australia. Early biological survey work has indicated that these may be the only mainland areas of the State from which there have been no species extinctions since white settlement.

The reservation of these areas will not only help conserve these extremely important natural ecosystems, they will also help develop a sustainable nature-based tourism industry in WA's north.

Mr Court said the Mitchell Plateau region was highly valued by scientists as a living laboratory and was a mecca for biologists and tourists seeking insights into tropical biodiversity in the Kimberley. Species new to science had been discovered and it was thought that more awaited discovery.

The creation of the Kimberley national and conservation parks are the latest in the Coalition's commitment to open up 15 new national parks and three conservation reserves throughout the State.

New building for telescope opened at Observatory

CALM's Perth Observatory now has its own 'Millennium Dome'—a new building to house a telescope for the popular Star Viewing Nights.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes opened the new building early in August and said admission fees from the Observatory's public Star Viewing Nights and support from the Observatory volunteer group members had funded the new facility.

"These viewing nights see Observatory staff and volunteers taking community groups and individuals on guided tours of objects in the night sky," Mrs Edwardes said.

"The name of the new building—the Millennium Telescope Building—is entirely appropriate.

"Not only are we on the eve of a new millennium, but the name embodies a positive statement about

the future in keeping with the experiences we all enjoy when looking at the wonders of the night sky."

CALM's Government Astronomer James Biggs said the new building housed a 40-centimetre Meade LX200 telescope bought during the Observatory's centenary year in 1996.

"The fibreglass dome was purchased and transported from the USA, and Observatory workshop staff carried out many of the essential tasks, such as assembling the dome and installing the equipment," he said.

"The new building will greatly ease the congestion sometimes experienced in the older building, which, until now, had housed two of the three telescopes used in the Observatory's Star Viewing program.

"The Meade telescope has the biggest aperture of the three tele-

scopes used on Star Viewing Nights, and it's popular with the public, not only for its size and greater light-gathering power, but also because it's fully computer-controlled.

"Finding an object to view is quite simple. The database number or sky position is entered into the telescope's keyboard and the computer directs the telescope towards the object.

"Plans are under way to fit the telescope with an electronic camera and computer system for scientific observations as well as on Star Viewing Nights for the public.

"Our Star Viewing Nights are a major component of the Observatory's service to the community, with almost 4,500 visitors attending the viewing nights last year."

Bookings can be made by telephoning the Observatory on (08) 9293 8255.



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes was much impressed with the Meade LX200 telescope in its new home. Photo by Frnie McI intock

Damien 'torches' along Memory Lane

(from page 1)

"I RAN two feet above the tar while carrying one of the world's greatest symbols of hope—a flame that began its life with the rays of the sun on Mount Olympus. What a buzz!"

This is how CALM forest worker Damien Jameson describes his feelings as he carried the Olympic torch down Bridgetown's main street.

"Nothing could have prepared me for the feeling of seeing a fellow torch bearer running towards me with his torch on that cold, rainy July 4 morning in Bridgetown," he said.

"And when the flame passed between our two torches I'm sure I levitated! Every torch bearer I've spoken

to since has expressed similar feelings."

"The 500 metres took only about two minutes. It was all over so quickly, I even thought about turning around and running the street again, but the security policeman running to my left might not have understood. Such a short time, but two minutes of my life I'll never forget."

"Being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch was a surprise, and an honour. What had I done to deserve it?"

"One beautiful thing about the Olympic Torch Relay is that it really belongs to the people. Wherever it goes it sparks a celebration of community.

"I guess it was with this in mind that the organising committee had ex-Olympians—the elite, if you like—sharing the flame with the common man (and friends would say that they don't come more 'common' than me).

"Whatever the reason, I felt both humble and excited to be chosen."

If readers know of any other CALM staff or CALM-registered volunteers who were Olympic torch bearers when the flame came to Western Australia, or involved in the Olympics in any other way, please email CALM NEWS editor Verna Costello with details and, if possible, photographs.

Old Pilbara station to take on new role

A FORMER pastoral station in Western Australia's Pilbara region has been given a new identity as a conservation park.

Cane River Conservation Park, about 100 kilometres south-east of Onslow, extends over 148,000 hectares and includes several landforms and vegetation types of particular significance not found in other conservation reserves in the Pilbara.

The new park was announced in August by Federal Environment Minister Senator Robert Hill and Western Australian Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes.

Mrs Edwardes said the Cane River pastoral station was bought in 1996, and was funded jointly by the State and Federal Governments through CALM and the national reserve system program, now part of the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

Senator Hill said the reservation of Cane River Station was one of several important additions to WA's conservation estate in the Pilbara in Western Australia's North West under the national reserve system program in the past few years.

"Almost two million hectares of land have been bought to add to WA's conservation estate through the national reserve system program in the past two years," he said.

"The focus of the program in WA is on

buying land that supports ecosystems that are not represented, or are poorly represented elsewhere, or that contains threatened ecological communities, and to protect these areas in the National Reserve System.

"Importantly, the program is also designed to involve landholders and indigenous people in conservation and land management."

Mrs Edwardes said an interim plan identifying management objectives for the medium term had been developed.

The station had been understocked for several years before it was bought and the rangeland was generally in good condition.

CALM's Pilbara Region manager Chris Muller said that Cane River comprised colluvial spinifex-covered plains, strikingly contrasting sandstone ranges including the Parry Range and Mt Minnie, and granite outcrops.

"The park is important from a conservation perspective because it contains plant and geological associations not found in other conservation reserves in the region," Chris said.

"The conservation park has a number of tree species, including snakewood, bloodwoods, river red gums and cajuputs, and biological surveys have revealed a rich reptile fauna and a large suite of native mammals, including the northern quoll and a range of native rodents."



Jason Barrow and Brenton Clinch instructing TAFE students on how to make Balga resin bush glue.
Photo by Chantal Laval

Trainees enjoy teaching others

by Chantal Laval

CALM, in conjunction with the Western Australian Department of Training (WADOT), has employed two Aboriginal Heritage officers, Jason Barrow and Brenton Clinch, under a Landcare Traineeship.

Over a 12-month period they will be employed full-time at Yanchep National Park with on-the-job training and various courses provided by CALM and Aboriginal Group Training.

Jason Barrow

Graduating at the top of his aeronautics class at high school, Jason Barrow was set to enter the Air Force to pursue his dream of flying. However, a sporting injury prevented him from following this career path.

Enrolling in a Bachelor of Science degree course at Murdoch University, Jason discovered another passion—natural resource management.

Jason began his employment with CALM at Yanchep National Park in April 1998 as a casual interpretation officer, working every second weekend.

Still a student at the time, he was keen to gain as much experience as he could, 'putting his hand up' for anything that was available.

From working in the office, cave guiding, koala care, and park maintenance he gained a great depth of knowledge, and an awareness of the hard work involved in running

one of the State's most popular national parks.

Jason is a natural in his role as a tour guide. He comes from a long line of educators, his grandfather Len Hayward was the first Aboriginal teacher and principal in WA, and both his mother and father were teachers.

Brenton Clinch

Dancing at a Tupperware party was one of the more unusual jobs that Brenton Clinch encountered while working as an Aboriginal Dancer for Western Creations Group.

He has also performed at the Entertainment Centre, and was invited to a cultural exchange with North American Indians.

Through his work as a dancer, Brenton met

CALM's Senior Aboriginal Heritage officer Noel Nannup,

Believing he would be an asset to the Department, Noel recommended Brenton for the traineeship at Yanchep National Park.

Brenton came to the Department with a Traineeship in Tourism and Heritage, working the previous six months as activities officer for the Karri Valley Resort.

Combining his previous experience with his new skills, Brenton has thrived in his duties at the park.

Both Jason and Brenton have thoroughly enjoyed their traineeship and are looking forward to continuing with further study to enhance their career opportunities within CALM.



Congratulations to CALM Bush Ranger Unit leader Lisa Rogowsky, who has been selected by the Western Australian Returned Services League (RSL) to take part in the ANZAC Day ceremonies at Gallipoli in 2001. Lisa is pictured with Meg Hyde and Daniel Sims, who are with the CALM Bush Ranger Unit at Como Senior High School.

"I'm so thrilled," Lisa said. "I can't think of a greater honour than to be chosen to visit and stand on the very soil on which so many gallant men and women risked (and sometimes sacrificed) their lives for their fellow Australians and their families." Photo by Adrian Porter

Kevin's 'golden guiding' attracts coveted Golden Award

LANDSCOPE Expeditions leader and respected ornithologist Kevin Coate has been awarded the State Tourism's FACET Golden Guide Award.

Western Australia is the only State to offer an award for guiding, and this award is a WA innovation that recognises excellence in tour guiding.

It is designed to encourage individual tour guides and to enhance tourism product and visitor experiences.

Kevin, who has devoted most of his life to nature-based tourism, says of himself: "My life is my work, and my work is my life."

"I began my career as a Forests Department cadet and the older foresters encouraged me to develop my natural history inter-

by Jean Paton

ests. I bought my first company, Cross Country Safaris, in 1975, and I've never looked back."

Kevin founded one of the State's first wildlife tour operations, Coate's Wildlife Tours, in 1980. He is a pioneer of the nature-based tourism industry in Western Australia. He and his wife Yvonne, researched and wrote the first tour guide booklet on the Pinnacles, now Nambung National Park.

Pioneering history is another of Kevin's interests. He and Yvonne have written three books on Lonely Graves of Western Australia, including one that details burials at sea. In their travels all over the State, they have documented many sites and

uncovered poignant and remarkable stories in the process.

The quintessential bushman, Kevin has led natural history tours all over Australia as well as overseas. He also passes on his knowledge through community organisations and is currently president of the WA Naturalists Club.

"Kevin is one of the pioneers of the nature-based tourism industry, and has earned the respect of the industry and the scientific community," said LANDSCOPE Expedition's Scientific Co-ordinator, Kevin Kenneally, who nominated Kevin for the award.

"He combines knowledge and enthusiasm with a caring and congenial personality. He richly deserves the award, and it's a very popular win," Mr Kenneally said.



Happy Golden Guide Award recipient Kevin Coate, flanked by Kevin Kenneally (left) and Jean Paton.
Photo by Margaret Allen

Selflessness of firefighters commemorated in stone



CALM firefighters Owen Fisher, Simon Caunter and Sam Greer (Perth District); Doug Giles, Eugene Winmar and Trevor Farmer (Mundaring District); with Brian Smith and Steve Thomas (Dwellingup District) and the flame-shaped rock.



Four firefighters 'handprint' wet concrete foundations of the Firefighters' Memorial. They are (from left) CALMfire crewman Doug Giles, Parkerville Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade captain Laurie Hudson, Perth Fire and Rescue Service, career firefighter Nathan Boothman, and Secret Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service captain Kevin Archer. Looking on is Emergency Services Minister Kevin Prince.

THE contribution of firefighters to the Western Australian community was commemorated in July with the dedication of a special memorial in Kings Park.

Premier Richard Court joined firefighters from all over the State in a dedication service for the Firefighters' Memorial Grove.

Located in Forrest Drive, near the DNA Observation Tower, the memorial is a symbolic gathering place, designed by Perth artist Jon Tarry.

Built from Toodyay stone and

granite, it follows the form of the stars of the Southern Cross, with a central arc, representing the base of a tree hollowed by fire.

A 10-tonne rock set into the earth and shaped like a flame, is a reminder of the inherent danger of fire in the environment and the community.

Mr Court said the memorial honoured all firefighters who had served in Western Australia, and in particular the 27 known to have died while on duty since records were first established.

"It is important to recognise the

dedication and commitment of the tens of thousands of men and women who have protected our community and our environment over many decades," the Premier said.

"Currently there are around 1,000 career firefighters and more than 18,500 volunteer firefighters throughout WA.

"People shouldn't take our firefighters for granted. They're on call around the clock, often putting their lives on the line.

"Our firefighters provide an essential community service, not only in

fighting fires, but in fire prevention and educational programs, responding to hazardous materials spills, to road accidents and other rescue situations.

"I'm sure this memorial will become a special meeting place for firefighters, their families and their friends for many years to come."

CALMfire manager Rick Sneeuwjagt said the memorial—the first of its kind in Australia—was a joint project between the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens.

"Initially, the aim of the memorial project was to mark the Centenary of the Fire and Rescue Service, but was expanded to acknowledge firefighters from all fire services," Rick said.

"Both authorities agreed to develop a memorial that was a unique public artwork with a community educational focus about the dangers of fire.

"The bottom line is that fire prevention's a community responsibility; everyone has a responsibility to play his or her part to lessen the risks that confront our firefighting men and women."

Dr Malajczuk award shared by two

STUDYING part-time is providing a great challenge for Peng Soong, manager of the Information Services Section of Information Management Branch, and co-recipient of the year 2000 George Malajczuk scholarship.

Peng has to juggle her time between work, study and being a mother to her two children.

"When you're a mother, you'll always be a mother, no matter how old your kids are," Peng said.

"Last night I had to pick up my daughter at 2.00 a.m., and then drop off my son at work because his car had been stolen."

Peng has used her scholarship for a Postgraduate course in Electronic Commerce at Curtin University.

"So far I've found the learning experience to be very exciting," Peng said.

"I'm not only gaining knowledge and skills in modern electronic commerce and business, but I'm interacting with other businesses and organisations through my fellow students.

"The new knowledge and experience has aided me in performing my roles within CALM."

Peng is a great advocate for further education, and she has already

by Chantal Laval

completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

"I find the whole experience rewarding and fulfilling and I encourage all CALM employees to pursue further education whenever they can," she says.

We congratulate Peng on her scholarship win and her dedication and effort towards continuous learning.

The other winner of this year's Dr George Malajczuk Post Graduate Scholarship, Mike Meinema, began studying for a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management in 1999.

His aim was to consolidate 17 years of field work, and to develop further his ability to deal with environmental issues across a variety of work areas.

Mike completed a Forests Department cadetship in 1982, and has worked as a forest officer in Busselton, Walpole and Perth Districts, including four years as dieback interpreter in the Southern and Northern Forest Regions.

Mike completed his Bachelor of Business degree at Edith Cowan University (ECU) in

1997, majoring in Management Studies, with minors in tourism and environmental management.

This involved combining part-time study with work, family commitments and a move to Geraldton in 1995 to take up his current position as District Manager.

Much of Mike's work over the past four years has been focusing on the ongoing management of terrestrial reserves, rare species management and Kalbarri National

Park, for which a management plan is currently being developed.

Time is also spent addressing issues relating to management of the Abrolhos Islands and the increasing number of pastoral leases purchased for conservation across the Murchison land division.

Mike said he believed that as CALM's conservation management role continued to expand to include more marine and pastoral areas of the State, managers would

need to continue developing their skills and knowledge to ensure the best management practices were applied.

"The knowledge that I'll gain from completing my studies can be readily shared with other staff and used on a daily basis to achieve positive conservation management outcomes," he said.

For information on Dr George Malajczuk the man, see right, and for information on how to apply for the scholarship, see below.



Mike Meinema and Peng Soong. Photo by Paul Webster

Dr Malajczuk remembered

The Dr George Malajczuk Postgraduate Scholarship is open each year to all CALM people who possess an undergraduate qualification.

It is designed to provide continuing education opportunities in a range of study disciplines and has a monetary value of up to \$20,000.

The scholarship is in honour of the late Dr George Malajczuk who passed away in January 1997 at the age of 52. He had a distinguished career with both the Forests Department and CALM.

On completing his undergraduate degree with the University of Western Australia George Malajczuk began his career with the Forests Department at Harvey. He completed his Masters

by Chantal Laval

and Doctorate at Yale University.

His Doctorate in applied mathematical programming techniques relating to plantation planning set the standard for many subsequent developments in this field.

Later, he was appointed regional leader (planning) for the Northern Forest Region, before being appointed principal economist and subsequently Director of Economics.

George Malajczuk provided the technical excellence underpinning many of the Department's initiatives. It is this technical excellence that is encouraged and nurtured with the scholarship award.

Calling all applicants

Applications are now sought from CALM staff interested in continuous learning opportunities within the Department.

Qualifications are becoming important in the modern workforce, and combining study and work has become a common method of developing careers.

CALM recognises the significant commitment that is needed to successfully study and the scholarships program is designed to provide support, incentive and recognition for those who make the commitment.

The 2001 Scholarship document that outlines the six available scholarships has been circulated to all Districts and Work Centres. Application forms are available from the CALMWeb and can be found at <http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/drb/csd/hrb/training/scholarships.html>

The closing date for all applications is October 1, 2000.

For further information please contact the CALM Training Centre on (08) 9538 1200.

Field officers hone their skills

DURING the course of their training, field officer recruits undertake a variety of projects designed to familiarise them with CALM's many operations, and to enhance their personal skills.

These included forest management, driver training, fire suppression, dieback management, workplace supervision and first aid courses, to name but a few.

Below, one of the 1998 recruits, Meredith Soutar, who is now CALM's South West Capes Sharefarms flora officer tells readers of some of her experiences:

"As part of our exposure to nature conservation, we spent a week in Manjimup with the CALMScience forest ecology research team which is involved in the Kingston Project.

"We participated in fauna

management research at Kingston State Forest, where the effects of timber harvesting on native species were being investigated.

"We also took part in fauna surveys involving grid and road transects, spotlighting and radio-telemetry.

"The data collected will help identify habitat use and population changes over time and under various silvicultural treatments.

"The week was filled with many enriching and entertaining moments, some of which are etched deep in my mind.

"One of these memorable moments was seeing for the first time both a numbat and a chuditch in the wild, also having a young quenda sleep contentedly in my hand while his mother was measured.

"Another was watching,

with a mixture of admiration and amusement, the cool professionalism of Ian Wheeler ('Wheels' to his friends and colleagues), as he handled a possum that suddenly sank its teeth deep in to his finger. (Its social graces were appalling.)

"Some of us also had our 'five seconds of fame' when the Quantum TV crew filmed the CALM-assisted research by PhD student Peter Adams from Murdoch University. Peter is studying the occurrence of toxoplasmosis and other parasites within native mammals and the potential parasite exchange from feral cats to native animals.

"Everyone involved shared their expertise with each other, and we left with a greater appreciation of our amazing wildlife—and a developing addiction to the bean bag game 'hacky sack'!"



Animal handler John Rooney and Jacqueline Maguire taking measurements of a captured woylie. Photo by Peter Hill



President of IAA Rosy Black, training program convenor Gil Field and Gillian Savage from Environmetrics discuss the plan for the following day's hands-on activities at The Hills Forest in Mundaring. Photo by Verna Costello

'Fire in the Belly' - developing the craft of interpretation

WHAT exactly do CALM interpretation officers do?

Put simply, CALM's interpretation officers explain WA's natural environment, (the bush and its inhabitants), our culture and our heritage to those willing to learn. But their methods of 'explaining' go well beyond talking, writing and handing out brochures.

For example, watching a performance, seeing an artist's view, experiencing a dancer's interpretation, hearing a song or poem, or better still, participating yourself in a performance, and writing your own poem can sometimes leave a more lasting impression than a lecture. And then there's The Web!

Interpreters tend to be a passionate bunch, according to CALM Visitor Interpretation Services' senior interpretation officer Gil Field, who says it is this passion that drives the profession of interpretation.

And so it was fitting that the official theme of the Interpretation Australia Association's inaugural National

Training Program, held in Fremantle and The Hills Forest in July, should be titled 'Fire in the Belly'.

This was exemplified through images (e.g. the program's 'dragon' logo), songs about fire, and stories about their personal passion from Western Australian visual, literary and performing artists

These included artist Robert Juniper, writer/presenter Harry Butler, Nyoongar story teller Noel Nannup, Brenton Clinch's emu dancing, singer-songwriter and storytelling blues man Matt Taylor, Playback Theatre and a display by wildlife artists, Ian Dickinson, Kellee Merritt, Philippa Nikulinsky, Shane Pickett and Terry Roberts.

The Fremantle venues were the Fly By Night Club and the Fremantle Education Centre, (both listed by the National Trust of WA).

The training program included the planning and designing of signs and outdoor exhibits, publications and a website;

tours, programs and activities; and broadscale interpretation planning and evaluation.

The hands-on study area for the training program was The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, and included John Forrest National Park and the Mundaring Weir (gateway to the National Trust of WA's Golden Pipeline Project). This project links many sites and stories of significance between Perth and Kalgoorlie along the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.

The training program neatly co-incided with the centenary year of the John Forrest National Park—WA's first national park.

Participants in the National Interpretation Training Program and other interested parties can purchase the workbook, together with outcomes of the training program on CD ROM, from the IAA c/- CALM's senior interpretation officer Gil Field: phone (08) 9334 0580, fax (08) 9334 0583, or email gilf@calm.wa.gov.au

Kevin describes first two weeks in the Montana Rockies

KEVIN Haylock of CALM Forest Products Division, Harvey, found a few minutes from an incredibly hectic schedule to send CALM NEWS some impressions of his first two weeks in the Rocky Mountains in North West Montana:

One aspect of the fire organisation in the USA that is very different from Western Australia is the setting up of base camps.

Arriving mid-morning we saw a grassy paddock marked out in sections with flagging tape. By mid-afternoon, a tent city had sprung up comprising sleeping quarters for the first 50 fire fighters, semi-trailer-mounted kitchen and mess for up to 1,500 people, toilets and showers and vehicle refuelling facilities.

During the day, linesmen installed six power poles with transformers, lights and power outlets to run office equipment for the incident planning team.

A cache of fire equipment arrived in several truck loads. Waste management is taken care of via rubbish bins, a collection squad and a truck-sized skip bin.

Walkways are laid out using pine chips, and water trucks keep the dust down.

A camp commissary is set up to sell boots, cigarettes, cloths and 'bear repellent'*

By the third day of camp, T-shirts were on sale featuring a logo and 'Troy South Fires 2000'.



Colleen Clements, CALMfire Bunbury (left), Lorraine Doherty, Environmental Protection, Kensington, Anna Maru, CALMfire, Kensington, and Rick Sneeuwajagt, CALMfire manger, were at Perth Airport to farewell the CALM contingent travelling to the United States. The team is Kevin Haylock (next to Colleen), Kevin White, Terry Maher, Lachie McCaw, Roger Armstrong and Greg Mair. Photo by Nigel Higgs

The trading of hats, badges and even fire jackets is really popular among fire crews. People in the base camp wear T-shirts from fires over the past few seasons.

Security is provided by the US Forest Service Law Enforcement

Squad and the County Sheriff.

Accommodation is in the form of a one-person tent, a 2-cm thick foam mattress and a sleeping bag.

I'm not sure that the accommodation arrangements will feature highly in our report recommendations to

CALMfire for aspects of US fire management to be considered for adoption in WA.

*Kevin was most grateful for the briefing he received on bear identification on the morning of the CALM team's departure. The crew was warned

to carry bells and pepper spray in the event they came across wild bears. They were also briefed on bear identification. Brown bear scats are smallish and contain seeds and nuts. Grizzly bear scats are a bit larger, contain bells and smell of pepper spray!



Pat on back for CALMpeople group

CONGRATULATIONS to the CALMpeople Reference Group on its Highly Commended award in the People Management category of the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Public Service.

The group is pictured with Environment Minister Cheryl

Edwardes after they met at Operational Headquarters in Kensington, where members described for the Minister their roles in the departmental divisions they represented.

Mrs Edwardes was clearly impressed with the function and achievements of the reference group, as well as the roles

adopted by individual members.

"It's obvious, too, that you have a firm grasp on the kinds of issues that are important to staff, or are most likely to impact on them, and you have excellent rapport and support from senior staff," Mrs Edwardes told them.

Pictured with Mrs Edwardes (centre front) after she presented

them with the award certificate are, front row from left: Brenda Smith, John Skillen, Cliff Gillam, Mrs Edwardes, Tracey Rankin, and John Byrne, and back row from left: Rod Simmonds, Roger Armstrong, Michelle Widmer, an almost obscured Tammie Reid, Alan Briggs and Nigel Sercombe. Photo by Verna Costello

Dealing with blots on the landscape

WHEN it comes to management of the visual landscape, what you see is what you get, or rather, what you see determines the feeling you get.

Visual landscape management is based on the premise that the visual quality of a landscape is a resource in its own right, and can be assessed and managed in much the same way as other values such as animals, plants, timber or recreation resources.

The management of visual landscape values and impacts on CALM-managed lands and waters is co-ordinated by Planning and Visitor Services Branch landscape architect Eamonn Fennessy.

Eamonn and senior landscape architect Richard Hammond form part of an inter-agency working group, collaborating with landscape architects and planners from the Ministry for Planning (MfP) and Main Roads WA to address landscape planning and design

issues of common concern.

The group is currently drafting a set of new visual landscape planning and management guidelines.

The negative visual impacts of plantation establishment and harvesting, telecommunications towers, wind farms, rural-residential development, extractive industries, tourism developments, and roads cannot always be totally eliminated. However, the provision of common sense guidelines can ensure changes to landscapes are considered in the planning and design of all proposed land uses and alterations.

The group is identifying the negative visual impacts of various land uses, and developing guidelines for reducing them through better planning and design.

The guidelines will be presented in a ring-binder file, to allow new topics or revisions to be added incrementally. Photographs, sketches and bold illustrations will convey each

guideline concept in a practical way.

The guidelines are a first in Western Australia and are targeted at relevant CALM, MfP and Main Roads WA officers. However, other State and local government agencies; landscape architecture, environmental planning and design consultants; developers and land managers will benefit greatly from the guidelines.

Importantly, the guidelines will define a consistent method for assessing the visual character of landscapes for all government departments, and a consistent cross-agency approach that can be adapted to the individual needs of each agency with ease.

Eamonn is seeking input and feedback from interested CALM officers. A brief survey will be circulated in coming months to establish areas of interest or concern (especially those that may have been overlooked), and seek ideas and interesting case examples.



From left, CALM's Richard Hammond and Eamonn Fennessy, Ministry for Planning's Stephanie Clegg and Tara Cherrie, and Joseph Filia of Main Roads WA. Photo courtesy Ministry for Planning

Timber workers enjoy new jobs

OLYMPIC torch bearer Damien Jameson (see front page and page 3), along with four other men, Neil Roberts, Alan Thorburn, Ken Jeffery and Russell Cullum, began working at CALM as forest workers in October 1999.

They were employed under a special project created after the State Government introduced the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA), and timber merchants Whittakers Ltd closed down.

Manjimup District Senior Operations Officer Brian Moss has been impressed with their determination to get on with life and has this to say about them:

"Right from the start, they embraced their work with CALM wholeheartedly and, in general, seem to relish every minute of it.

"As for Damien, he's so keen to create an avenue for possible long-term employment with the Department, that he's already enrolled at TAFE, and is studying for Certificate IV in Land Management (Forestry).

"He intends finishing the 600-hour course in three semesters."

Come to the Reunion

THE Murdoch University Environmental Science Association invites all past environment/marine science staff and students to a reunion to celebrate 25 years of the discipline.

The reunion will be held from 6.00 pm on Friday October 6 at the University's Tavern and Function Room (car park 78).

There will be a dinner, displays and presentation, prizes, the 'groovy' 70s-style Jungle Boogie band and a limited free bar—all for the tiny cost of \$20. (Partners are also welcome)

For further details, phone 9360 2488 or email: muensa@hotmail.com



Alanna Chant (left) and Melinda Bolt examine the recently discovered hidden beard heath. Photo by Greg Kitson

Alanna finds a rare plant among roadside vegetation

CALM's conservation officer at Geraldton, Alanna Chant recently rediscovered a rare West Australian wildflower, *Leucopogon marginatus*, (hidden beard heath).

The plant, which had not been seen in the wild for 15 years, was found in roadside remnant vegetation during a survey at one of its known earlier collection sites. The site had been surveyed on many previous occasions, but no hidden beard heaths could be found.

Alanna also discovered several hidden beard heath populations in a nearby nature reserve. Coincidentally, Mike Hislop from the WA Herbarium also located the species in the same reserve during surveys that he undertook, completely independently of Alanna.

Hidden beard heath has only been collected on three previous occasions.

by Mike Meinema & Melinda Bolt

The original type specimen was collected in 1903 by W.V.Fitzgerald, from the Arrino Sandplains, and was not collected again until 1978. Only 100 plants were known from the wild, and the plant was not seen after the mid-1980s.

During the recent survey, Alanna also discovered new populations of two other threatened flora species, *Conostylis micrantha* and *Conostylis dielsii* subsp. *teres* on the nature reserve. These finds have improved the status of these species in the wild, and show the importance of nature reserves in terms of the conservation of flora biodiversity.

Western Australia's Midwest Region is renowned for its floral

diversity, with a significant number of species endemic to the area. The demands of agriculture and other supporting land uses across the Midwest have resulted in a significant decrease in the distribution of many species. A considerable number of species have become rare and endangered, with some threatened with extinction.

The "Protection and Recovery Actions for Threatened Flora in Geraldton District" project, funded through the Natural Heritage Trust's Bushcare program, focuses on improving the chances of survival for threatened flora through appropriate management, and the development of community interest and involvement in flora conservation. Such interest and community involvement continues to grow, with many positive outcomes already achieved.

A day in the life of a Perth Outdoors volunteer!

BEEP! Beep! Beep! Thump!!! Six o'clock already—Aaargh! Into the shower to wake up. Mmmm, life-giving hot water; thinking "poor Gae, or maybe it's Robyn, had to be up and out by five so removal truck can load up display equipment".

Grab a piece of toast and a cuppa, gotta get there before seven to help set up—Oh, for a MacDonald's hotcake breakfast!

Of course, it's cold and the car doesn't want to start—hope I don't wake up the kids. Hit the road still yawning—not much traffic, at first.

There's the shopping centre, there's the truck—and here's the rain. Here we go again—two hours assembling the display. And no lights on either!

10:30—it's been fairly quiet, but that's all about to change. Here comes Isobel Hughes, wildlife

by Gregg Thorn

carer extraordinaire, with her menagerie of sick, injured and orphaned animals.

Suddenly there's a crowd, pressing to get a glimpse, and hopefully a pat of some of Australia's finest. And I don't mean us dudes in the red shirts.

12:30—Aaargh, the tamarin wallaby has just peed for the second time on my jeans.

Isobel's dealing with a joey with diarrhoea—whoops, now her shirt's got three kinds of poo on it—wallaby, echidna and cockatoo; she looks a right scruff!

Isn't this the day Dr Cox is visiting us? Isobel had better clean herself up. Glad it's not my shirt!

Mind the cocky? Ah, sure, why not! Plomp him on my shoulder, chain in hand.

Hey, you little *@#!

Shadow's a red-tailed black cockatoo who's chewing my ear and pinching bits all around my neck. In the distance, some mean-minded CALM people are laughing at my predicament—enjoying my occasional frozen-fish-eyed look as I think red-tailed black thoughts. He nibbles me again—twice. We finally make the connection—Shadow doesn't like males!

Whew, look at the time. Clock off, go home—stinking like something else! Come back tomorrow? Sure, why not? Volunteering's like life—you gotta be in it!

Gregg took the opportunity to interview CALM's Executive Director Dr Wally Cox during his visit to the Forest Lakes Shopping Centre for Swan Region volunteers' Nature Network News. See below for extracts from this interview.



The late Rick Hughes with sons Blake (left) and Hayden.

Sad farewell to Rick Hughes

ON Tuesday June 13, Rick Hughes lost his long and courageous fight with cancer. He did so with great dignity and forbearance.

by Jeff Bennett*

Rick was born in November 1956 at Pemberton, where he grew up. He became a fully qualified mechanic with Bunnings, remaining with them until 1980, when he joined the Forests Department (later to be part of CALM). There, he drove a heavy duty truck for 10 years, and was part of Pemberton works coordinator Tom Lindley's crew. Tom remembers Rick as happy-go-lucky, very conscientious and keen to learn.

Although employed as a forest worker at CALM's Pemberton District, it was Rick's love of motor vehicles and trucks that eventually led to his driving the Scania Prime Mover for many years. He knew

how to 'work the truck long and hard to earn its keep', organising shifts from home on countless occasions to ensure that the truck was working to its maximum capacity.

During his truck-driving career, Rick transported seedlings from the Manjimup Plant Propagation Centre to many parts of the South West, as well as carting heavy plant around the District for roading and fire-control activities.

Ron Turvey, one of his closest mates, can remember that Rick would say "The bigger the machine the better". When he wasn't driving the truck, Rick could be found helping mechanic-in-charge Ian Trigwell in the workshop. Ian regarded Rick as a person who could be relied on. He never let a job beat him, taking great pride in

mastering its complexities. He tackled anything from chainsaws to 'dozers'.

Rick married Lois Kelly in September 1983, and they had two sons, Blake and Hayden (now 7 and 4, respectively). The boys are proud of their dad and love the Department where their father worked with unswerving loyalty and dedication.

His love for his family was obvious. On weekends, he spent time with his family at Windy Harbour and on numerous coastal trips. Other weekends would find Rick fixing his friends' motor vehicles.

Rick first realised something was wrong with his health in 1995 when on secondment to Karijini National Park, where he carried out prescribed burning operations with operations officer Denis Marshall, bull-dozer operator Ron

Turvey and forest worker John West.

Rick's long illness, with operation after operation—all borne without complaint—slowly took its toll, but he never lost hope, fully expecting eventually to get back to work.

Staff supported Rick during his illness, then when his sick leave ran out and he was on leave without pay, Pemberton staff donated part of their annual leave to help Rick's family pay some of his medical bills.

Rick will certainly be remembered as much for his wit and humour as his ability to work with minimal supervision—all qualities much admired by his workmates.

Farewell Rick, from all your workmates and your many friends.

*It is understood from Jeff that his story was written with a great deal of input from "The Pembri Crew".



CALM volunteer Gregg Thorn. Photo by Verna Costello

Dr Cox on value of volunteers

CALM Executive Director Dr Wally Cox and Regional Services Director Alan Walker, recently visited the Perth Outdoors display at Forest Lakes Shopping Centre.

During his tour, Dr Cox generously agreed to an interview with CALM volunteer Gregg Thorn (pictured above) on the subject of 'Conservation and Volunteers'. Here is what Dr Cox had to say:

"Conservation is about the community appreciating the natural resources which are a part of our environment, and how we relate to those natural resources.

"So we have a structure with a series of government agencies with this responsibility. But ultimately, it's individuals in the community, and the community collectively that makes conservation work.

"To get that message out, CALM is very, very keen to further develop the programs we already have.

"Firstly, a schools program, where we actually encourage young people as they go to school to understand the basic elements of ecology, and their role in that environment.

"Secondly then, extending that to the wider community; shopping centres fit into that strategy. It's about providing information to the community.

"And finally, we've got the mass media campaigns. The most recent ones have been the 'WA Forests Today' and the 'WA Plantations' newsletters, which are to ensure that people have access to information so they can form their own views on those sorts of topical issues.

"So the Shopping

Centre Program is absolutely critical to us. We can't operate those programs, or many of the other programs, including our education programs, without the involvement of volunteers. The reason for that is very pragmatic.

"Firstly, we never have enough money to provide the resources for all the activities we'd like to undertake.

"Secondly, the volunteers are a facet of the community; they appreciate the opportunity to be involved, at the same time they learn, and take the messages back to other members of their community.

"So, the Shopping Centre Program is important, volunteers are important—and we hope to build on those to further encourage the community to get involved and participate in conservation issues."



District wildlife officer Ben Tannock (left) and reserves officer Brett Lewis prepare to capture the adventurous crocodile. Photo by Shad Nixon

Eat your heart out Croc Dundee!

WHEN on-the-ball tour operator Adam Read of Triple J Tours spotted an adventurous saltwater crocodile where it ought not to be, the operator promptly contacted CALM's Kimberley Regional office in Kununurra.

The sighting was in the Ord River just below the main dam, and between lakes Argyle and Kununurra, and—like Lake Kununurra and the Upper Ord River—is a Crocodile Control Zone, managed by CALM.

On the way to verify the sighting, CALM Kununurra wildlife officer

Ben Tannock, reserves officer Brett Lewis, and parks and recreation officer Neil Taylor (on leave from CALM's South West Capes District), spotted a 1.9-metre 'salty croc' much further downstream, where Spillway Creek enters the Ord River some 30 kilometres below the Lake Argyle Dam wall.

The animal was promptly captured, and a hessian bag placed over its head to reduce its vision, thereby limiting its capacity to lunge. It was then bound and taped to restrict its movement in the boat.

Whether or not this was the animal

originally sighted, was not entirely clear, although it closely matched the tour operator's description of its size. With this uncertainty in mind, the group continued to the spot where the original sighting was made.

When the sighting of a crocodile in Crocodile Control Zones is reported, the Department is obliged to investigate.

In this case, luck was on the side of the CALM officers, as the croc was sunning itself on the sandbank, which meant its capture was carried out without injury to either human or beast.