

CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT



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SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2000



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Fire officers come home with honours



Western Australia's US firefighting team, CALM fire officers (from left) Terry Maher, Roger Armstrong, Kevin Haylock, Lachie McCaw, Greg Mair and Kevin White. They were pictured on their return to Perth. Photo by Ernie McLintock

SEVEN of our firefighters returned to Perth after more than five weeks of arduous work tackling some of the United States' biggest forest fires.

CALMfire Manager Rick Sneeuwjagt, Terry Maher, Kevin White and Roger Armstrong from Bunbury; Kevin Haylock from Harvey, Greg Mair from Walpole and Dr Lachie McCaw from Manjimup contributed significantly to the enormous effort needed to save the lives of US citizens, stop towns being incinerated and protect forests.

They received an enthusiastic welcome home from Perth's television, radio and print media, and special congratulations from Premier Richard Court, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and US Consul General, Sallybeth Bumbrey.

As cameras rolled and mikes were thrust under noses, the firefighting contingent told their stories to the public. But before they even arrived in Perth there was praise from a Sixty Minutes program filmed in Montana with Roger Armstrong from Bunbury.

Their arrival in Perth in late September was punctuated by TV, radio and print interviews, hugs and kisses from families, and requests for future interviews. There was even a cocktail party hosted by the Environment Minister at Parliament House a couple of weeks later.

continued page 2



Esperance Bush Rangers out in the field.

Bush Rangers a huge success

STUDENTS have taken to CALM's Bush Ranger program like ducks to water.

It's an outstanding success with 800 secondary students joining Australia's only youth conservation project.

Bush Ranger projects

Projects include growing exotic and native species for zoo fodder, harvesting termites for numbats at the zoo, working at bird sanctuaries and wetlands, carrying out joint projects with the mining industry and pastoralists, growing endemic plants for farmers, restoring sand dunes and bushland, and growing plant homes for native animals.

Program co-ordinator Bronwyn Humphreys said any student could become a Bush Ranger.

"It's not just the brightest students who join—it's often students with a love of land and nature," she said.

The Bush Ranger program was piloted two years ago. Schools receive Government subsidies for each student as

well as a \$5000 grant when they join to buy items such as photographic or nursery equipment.

The program is now embedded in all three education sectors in WA—at 22 government, independent and Catholic secondary schools.

The Bush Ranger program has three 120-hour courses. Students who complete them are nationally accredited under the Vocational Education Training (VET) system with the credentials appearing on their Year 12 leaving certificates.

CALM Bush Rangers can start the VET program in Year 8.

Bronwyn thanked Alan Byrne, CALM's senior training officer based at Dwellingup, and his team who'd worked to get the Bush Ranger program nationally accredited.

Thanks to CALM staff

"I'd also like to thank all the CALM staff who've contributed to the development of the CALM Bush Rangers program in their districts and branches to help make it the success it is," she said.



November 20 marks the date for the launch of the Conservation Commission and the refocused Department of Conservation and Land Management. This follows the establishment of the Forest Products Commission with responsibilities for management of plantations, harvesting of timber from production forest, the sale of logs, management of contracts and development of the timber industry.

The process of establishing the new organisations has involved a deep commitment by a number of our employees particularly those in the Corporate Services and Forest Production areas. All those involved are congratulated on their contribution which has resulted in a relatively seamless separation.

The establishment of the Conservation Commission will enable CALM to refocus on its role as a land manager with responsibilities for managing some 22.5 million hectares of national parks, nature reserves, conservation areas, state forests and timber reserves. CALM also has responsibility for managing a number of marine parks and reserves and is heavily involved in off-reserve conservation.

The CALM Strategic Plan for the period 1999/2000-2004/05 will shortly be distributed to all employees and provides direction for CALM. This high level plan identifies our VISION and MISSION, highlights our VALUES and principles, defines our OBJECTIVES and outlines some of the STRATEGIES to be employed to achieve our OBJECTIVES.

Purchasing Directors are now engaged in preparing Business Plans to identify specific outputs that they will be purchasing from provider Directors. These plans will be finalised for workshops to be conducted in mid November and when finalised will provide the basis of resource bids to Treasury as part of the State Budget process.

Eventually roll down of the various plans will provide guidance to every employee through IDAPES as to how your contribution links to the organisations objectives.

A first for CALM! Congratulations to Dr Margaret Byrne who will become the first female member of the Corporate Executive. Dr Byrne will be acting Director of CALMScience for two months while Neil Burrows concentrates on documenting research results for projects under his leadership. This acting appointment recognises the changing workforce in CALM with women making significant contributions in many facets of CALM's operations.

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director



The head of Curtin University's Department of Environmental Biology, Professor Jonathon Majer, talks to farmers on the field trip. Photo by Avril Baxter

Tree decline seminar a success

NEARLY 100 farmers, extension officers and research scientists converged on the Great Southern town of Kojonup to discuss the issue of declining tree populations.

They attended a seminar organised by CALM's Land for Wildlife, Greening Australia, Kojonup Landcare Incorporated and Agriculture Western Australia.

Guest speakers included the Head of Curtin University's Department of Environmental Biology, Professor Jonathon Majer; Murdoch University's senior lecturer

in plant pathology, Dr Giles Hardy; CSIRO research scientist Jeremy Wallace; CALM research scientist Dr Stuart Crombie and Curtin University plant pathologist, Dr Elaine Davison.

Tree decline was seen as the long term result of environmental changes. The isolation of trees in paddocks, rising water tables, stock damage, fertiliser and herbicide application, and root damage from cropping were some of the long-term predisposing factors, the final blow often coming from pathogens such as canker fungi.

Replanting more understory species, fencing from stock and planning for the replacement of old paddock trees were some of the solutions offered. Farmers were encouraged to form partnerships with shire councils, ecological specialists, research organisations and relevant government bodies.

One of the seminar's organisers, Avril Baxter, Land For Wildlife Extension Officer from CALM, said farmers enjoyed the seminar and established a working group to take the issue of tree decline further.

CALM wildlife officers help Olympic tourists

THREE of our field officers swapped wildlife for people when they were selected to be honorary wildlife officers at Sydney Harbour during the Olympics.

Lindsay Brown, Mike Paxman and David Grosse joined a small band of Australian rangers to add some Australian talent to the Olympic proceedings.

Lindsay, Ranger-in-Charge of the Fitzgerald River National Park at Jerramungup; Mike, Ranger-in-Charge of the Kalbarri National Park, and David, Operations Officer in the Kimberley Region based at Kununurra, were invited by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service to assist

with the massive influx of tourists.

They spent a week around Darling Harbour (life's tough for some) absorbing the atmosphere and dispensing directions, providing helpful tips, helping in emergencies, managing traffic, monitoring visitor numbers and patrolling.

They also had to ensure the Sydney Harbour foreshore—a national park—was kept in pristine condition.

Dressed in CALM ranger's uniforms and wide brimmed hats, they even had the opportunity to tell Olympic visitors about the parks and wildlife in Australia's westernmost state.

The three were part of a

contingent of rangers from around Australia recruited by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's Olympic Guest Ranger Project.

Mike Paxman said the experience was fantastic.

"The opportunity to meet fellow rangers from across Australia was a highlight," he said.

Lindsay Brown said he was staggered by the size of the crowds, loved meeting fellow rangers but loved coming home to the bush and the stars.

Lindsay, Mike and Dave sent CALM News their memoirs but it was a little too late for this edition so a feature on their role at the Olympics will appear in the next edition.

Fire officers come home with honours cont'd

THE men were part of an 82-strong Australian and New Zealand contingent which spent five weeks managing the worst US

forest fires in 50 years.

Uncontrolled fires raged across 13 US states, burnt more than 2.7 million hectares of forests, hundreds of homes and killed 11 firefighters—something that Premier Court said should send a powerful message to WA people.

Our men were based in one of the worst-hit areas in north-west Montana (the other areas being Idaho and Wyoming) fighting fires started mostly by lightning. The fires were fanned by hot, dry winds through steep, inaccessible mountains within forest which hadn't been

burnt in more than 100 years. The total damage bill is estimated to be billions of US dollars.

Their effort was part of an international firefighting force from the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand assembled to control the fires.

The WA team members held senior positions with the Incident Control System including controller, planner, liaison officers, fire behaviour analysts and tactical, divisional and incident commanders.

Environment Minister Mrs Edwardes said a big

Staff movements

Contract staff

Teresa Dimascia, to Parks and Visitor Services, Kensington, as Project Officer, Level 2; Andrew McCarthy, to CALMScience, Kensington, Plantations Business Unit, as Project Officer, 2/4; Kim Hanafee, to CALMpeople Services, Kensington, as Payroll Officer, Level 1; Jacqui Maguire, to Planning & Visitor Branch, Kensington, as Reserves Administration Officer, Level 1/2; Jason Barrow, to Yanchep National Park, ex Wages staff, Perth District, as Aboriginal Cultural Officer, Level 1; Iris Flenady, to Mundaring District, as Programs Officer, Level 4; Brett Lewis, to Kununurra, as Reserves Administration Officer, Level 1/2; Mark Cowan, to Kalgoorlie, as Regional Ecologist, Level 5.

Promoted

John R Grenfell, to Supply & Facilities Officer, Level 2, Supply Section, Financial Services Branch, Kensington; Geoff Harnett, to Ranger, Grade 2, South Coast Region, Albany; Keith Hockey, to Moora as District Manager, Level 6, Midwest Region; Je' Alford, to Co-ordinator & Environmental Officer, (Level unknown), Department of Minerals & Energy, Kalgoorlie, from CALM Environmental Protection Branch, Kensington; Brenda Smith, to Administrative Assistant, Level 2, CALMpeople Services; Gerard Ots, to Indexer, Level 2, Corporate Information Services, Kensington; Jian Huang, to Administrative Assistant, Level 2, Information Services Branch, Kensington; John Dunn, to Manager (Level 7), Geographic Information Services Section, Information Management Branch, Kensington.

Transferred

Geoff Young, to Regional Services, Kununurra District Office, as Operations Officer, Level 5, from Regional Services, Kalgoorlie Regional Headquarters; Allana Edwards, to Broome District Office, as Business & Finance Officer, Level 3, from Kununurra Regional Office; Lisa Procter, to CALMpeople Services, Kensington, as Personnel Officer, Level 2, from Collie District, Stephen Mills, to South Coast Region, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1, from Pemberton District; Steven Braack, to Fire & Emergency Services Department from CALMradio, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Peter Dans, to Mundaring District, as District Manager, Level 6, from Marine & Coastal District; Terry Court, to Forest Products Division, Southern Forest Branch, Manjimup, as Senior Forester Rooding, Level 5, from Forest Resources Division, Manjimup; Craig Gardiner, to Forest Products Division, Northern Forests Branch, Harvey, as Operations Officer (Harvesting), Level 3, from Forest Resources Division, Harvey; Vincent Hilder, to Blackwood District, as Forest Ranger, Level 1/2, from Pemberton District.

Reclassified

Greaves, Debbie, Corporate Relations Division, Crawley, to Finance & Administration Manager, Level 4.

Resigned

Malcolm Burton, from Millstream-Chichester National Park, Pilbara Region, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1; Rod Hillman, from Perth District Regional Services, as Park Manager, Level 5; Carissa Bathgate, from Planning & Visitor Services Branch, Kensington, as Conservation Estate Officer, Level 3; Elisa Cummins, from CALM Sharefarms, Midwest Region, South Guildford, as Assistant Area Co-ordinator, Level 1/2; Jane Tomsons, from CALM Sharefarms Midwest Region, Guildford, as Conveyancing Officer, Level 3; Terence John Radford, from Plantation Business Unit, Kununurra, as Nursery Officer, Level 2.

Retired

Shirley Dennett, from Forest Products Division, Rivervale, as Administrative Assistant, Level 3; Don Keene, from Forest Products Division, Rivervale, as Acting General Manager, Class 3; Thomas Harvey Wood, from CALMpeople Services Branch, a Principal Health & Safety Officer, Level 5.

LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTE

Dear Editor,

As visitors from the UK, my wife and I have twice, since our arrival, enjoyed the pleasure and privilege of visiting Yanchep National Park.

The experience has proved so memorable that I feel obliged to write to you to express in all humility—our sincere appreciation to all those members of your staff who have and continue to contribute to this unique project.

At the same time I wonder if you would be kind enough to give consideration to the following suggestion that I truly believe would enhance even further the interest and

pleasure of future visitors.

I refer to the provision of name/species plates for the native trees that add so much to the magic of Yanchep.

I personally feel very guilty for not knowing more about these wonderful specimens and it would be most helpful to read on the tree itself a plate with the 'common' name and details of its growing cycle, etc.

With again many thanks to all connected for enabling my wife and I to gain further understanding of the 'Bush'.

Yours respectfully,
H. Godfrey
Kinross, WA.

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Rick Sneeuwjagt



The western barred bandicoot. Photo by Babs & Bert Wells/CALM

Western barred bandicoots successfully relocated

WESTERN barred bandicoots—extinct in the wild on the Australian mainland until recently—are on the move.

In early September they were reintroduced to Dryandra Woodland north-west of Narrogin and in late September another 25 were translocated to South Australia.

The interstate and intrastate migration follows the success of captive and island breeding programs.

It was a 'first' on two counts. It was the first time in more than 90 years the marsupial has existed naturally in the south-west and the first time it had been translocated across state borders.

The western barred bandicoot survives naturally on Bernier and Dorre Islands in the World Heritage listed Shark Bay area. The last mainland sighting of the species was at Rawlinna on the Nullarbor in 1929.

Following the successful breeding program run jointly by CALM and Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, the animals were released in the wild and in a temporary enclosure at Dryandra, and in a 14 square kilometre rabbit, cat and fox-proof enclosure at Roxby Downs in South Australia.

The interstate bandicoots were taken from Bernier Island by CALM research scientists and Arid Recovery Project staff on September 24 and transported immediately to South Australia. They were fitted with radio collars and tracked daily.

Food eaten by western barred bandicoots—berries, seeds, insects and roots—is found naturally in Roxby Downs.

Records show they used to inhabit land from the edge of the Nullarbor Plain to the River Murray. Bones were found in sub-fossil deposits near Roxby Downs.

The bandicoots will be joined by up to 20 boodies (burrowing bettongs) that will be added to the 10 successfully relocated to Roxby Downs last year.

The translocation of the bandicoots is hot on the heels of the successful release of bilbies at Roxby Downs in April.

CALM's Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend was involved in both projects.

He said evidence suggested the western barred bandicoot became

by Sue McKenna

extinct on the mainland because of altered fire regimes, land clearing, grazing by sheep and rabbits and predation by introduced animals such as the European fox and feral cat that were 'killing machines' when it came to the State's native wildlife.

He said the Dryandra relocation was part of CALM's *Return to Dryandra* project under the *Western Shield* umbrella which plans to reintroduce up to 30 native animal species to areas where they have become locally extinct.

Tony said the re-establishment of western barred bandicoots followed the release of bilbies at Dryandra in April.

"Dryandra Woodland is within the former range of the western barred bandicoot and is considered an ideal habitat," Tony said.

"The woodland suffered a lower loss of vertebrate fauna than other areas in the south-west of WA, a fact which could be attributed to the abundance of various species of *Gastrolobium* or poison peas which naturally contain the poison 1080.

"Because native animals have evolved with poison peas, they have a high level of tolerance to 1080 but tiny amounts are lethal to introduced animals such as foxes and feral cats."

The size of Dryandra, its diverse habitat, wide fauna spectrum and the effectiveness of ongoing fox control make it an ideal fauna reconstruction site. Other marsupials including the rufous hare-wallaby or mala, the burrowing bettongs or boodie and the merine or banded hare-wallaby may also be released as part of *Return to Dryandra*.

Dryandra Woodland is an archipelago of mainly wandoo, powderbark wandoo and brown mallet forest blocks extending over almost 24,000ha west of Narrogin on the western edge of the wheatbelt.

Tony said that in the past 70 years foxes had driven bandicoots and other small native wildlife including bilbies and burrowing bettongs almost to the point of extinction.

"The captive breeding program is lifting the numbers to the point where species can be reintroduced into safe habitats," he said.

All clear on the safety front . . .



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards (fourth from left at front) with Perth District staff.

ATTENDING 236 fires in the past 12 months was all in a year's work for staff at Perth District Headquarters in Wanneroo.

But the biggest victory was fighting hazards without having a lost time incident.

The record was so impressive Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards took time out to present staff with a special safety award to

acknowledge the milestone.

"It's a tribute to the incredible level of emphasis the Department places on the safety of their crews," she said.

Many staff were redeployees from other Government agencies who had to be trained in CALM's safe work practices.

Mrs Edwards said CALM was committed to providing and main-

taining a safe and healthy environment for its employees.

"Occupational safety and health are an integral part of everything the Department does."

She said she was delighted CALM was so successful at this year's IFAP/GIO Safeway awards where the Perth District featured prominently with seven successful teams.



Part of the whale and tissue samples that were sent to the museum. Here we can clearly see barnacles growing on the teeth. Photo by Carolyn Williams

Rare whale on Coral Bay beach

A RARE Blainville's beaked whale usually found in the deeper ocean was washed up near Coral Bay recently.

by Carolyn Williams

CALM's Exmouth District Office received a call from the Bayview Caravan Park in Coral Bay to say a whale—still alive—had been found on the beach near Point Maud.

Marine Conservation Officer Carolyn Williams and Marine Reserves Officer Adam Meyer quickly put a plan of action together and drove to Coral Bay, picking up Curt Jenner and Ross McLaren-Nicole from the whale research vessel "Whalesong".

But by the time they reached the whale, it had unfortunately died.

Relaying messages to CALM's Principal Zoologist, Nick Gales, via radio they ascertained it was a *Mesoplodon densirostris*, or Blainville's beaked whale.

They took photographs and skin samples, and sent the head to the WA Museum.

Because it was found at a remote sandy beach, it was impossible to use a backhoe or other heavy machinery

to move the whale so mobile ranger Bruce Bond towed the carcass up the beach for burial.

To assist in finding a cause of death, the whale was dissected to allow inspection of the stomach, which was empty, as were the intestines.

One of the four-metre whale's teeth was damaged and the jaw was swollen, so the whale may have had difficulty in eating and ultimately died of starvation.

A whale of this species has not been recorded in Ningaloo Marine Park before.

CALM on ice

AUSSIES on ice could be the theme of a cultural exchange between CALM and the US National Parks' Authority's Alaskan Region.

Interested CALM employees were asked via their email systems to consider a one-year exchange to chillier climes to improve their experience and problem

solving skills.

The exchange starts on March 1 next year at Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve.

Living will be at a remote location, with plenty of interaction with traditional owners.

CALM News will keep you posted with who gets to go where.

Kids plus maths equals money for the environment

KIDS plus maths plus the Olympics equals money for the environment.

by Sue McKenna

The sum of the equation resulted in more than 400 Applecross Primary School students donating \$1000 from a maths fun day to CALM's The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.

The total amount raised by the school for the Mundaring centre, which runs programs for schools as well as the enormously popular Go Bush activities for the public, is \$4000.

This year students and their teachers organised a 'Maths and the Olympics' activity fun day as the

fourth annual activity to raise money for environmental awareness.

Each year \$1000 has been donated to Centre where it has been used to fund a viewing hide, create habitat for threatened species and launch activities to control salinity.

This year the money will be spent on educational sessions from the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Gooseberry Hill, which runs CALM breeding programs for endangered wildlife species.

Our Acting Director of

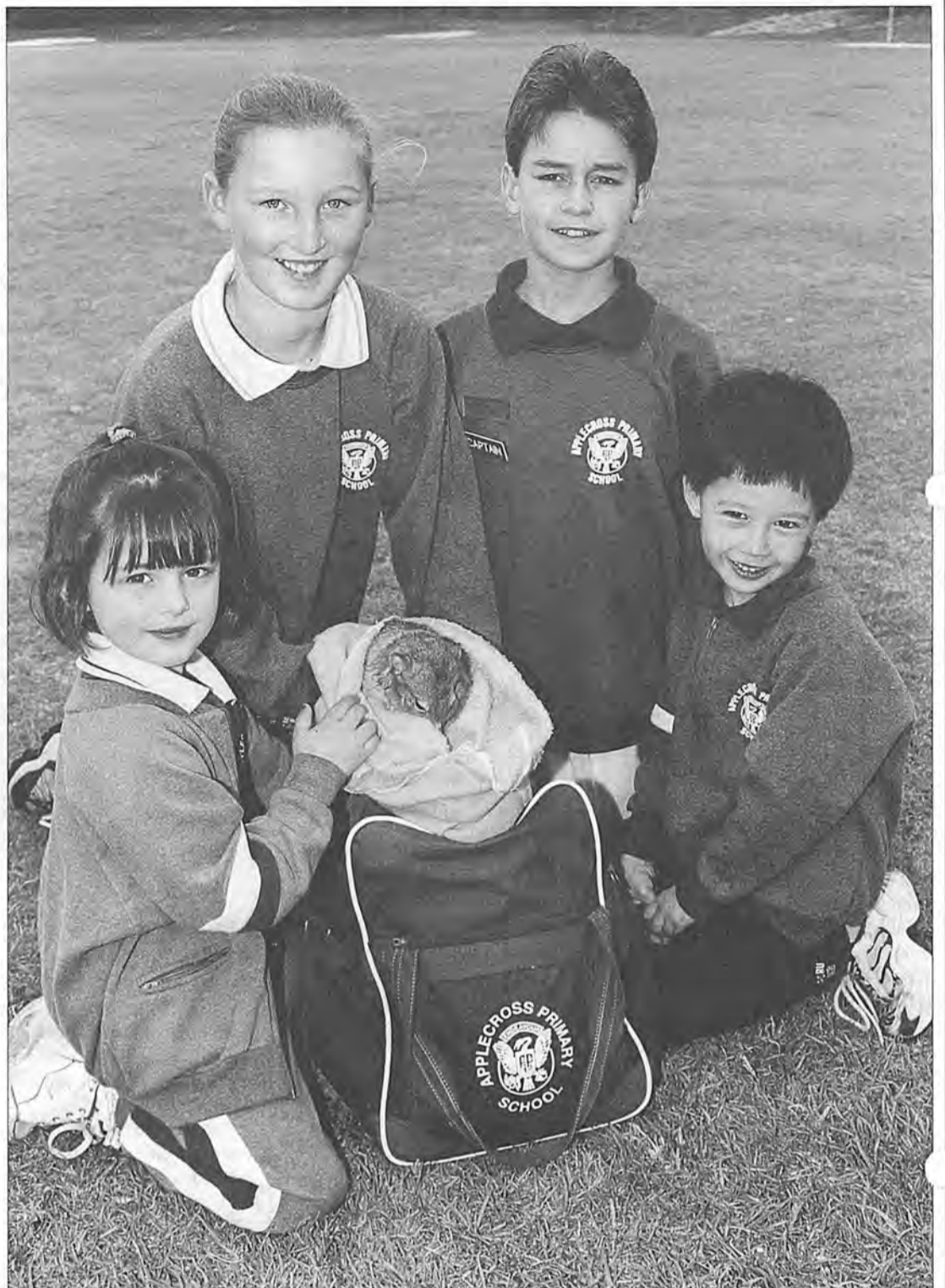
Nature Conservation, Gordon Wyre, said he appreciated the way friends, family and neighbours sponsored the students to raise funds.

"It's a big thrill for people at CALM to see students making the environment such a notable part of their studies and gratifying to know we have children who are committed to saving native species," Gordon said.

"Many small animals have disappeared from the mainland and this will help to get rid of the scourge of feral cats and foxes. It's a tremendous effort and thanks very much."



"Eat your heart out." Billy the burrowing bettong gets his teeth around a \$1000 cheque from Applecross Primary School for The Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring. CALM's Acting Director of Nature Conservation, Gordon Wyre, accepted the money. It will be used to bring the founder of the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, June Butcher (pictured) and her staff to the discovery centre to provide educational sessions. Photos by Ernie McLintock



Applecross Primary School pupils (from left) Maimee Gunn, Sarah Ventor, Jack Morrison and Eamon Roche tuck Billy the burrowing bettong into a schoolbag.

Volunteers create herbarium records

A DEDICATED team of volunteers is building up the Central Forest herbarium collection in line with CALM's WA Herbarium at Kensington.

Wildlife officer Andrew Horan and Nature Conservation program leader Kim Williams are working with the volunteers.

Andrew explains:

"The idea is to take a regional scientific collection begun in the 1960s and create a reference herbarium for public use. Our collection contains some unique specimens dating back to 1916.

"There's a network of 40 regional herbaria across the State. They're important community resources regularly used by the public for research, and to appreciate our flora.

"To validate our collection so that it can be incorporated into the Kensington

by Tammie Reid

Herbarium, each sample goes through a strict process.

"Its identification and specimen quality is checked; location information is converted to latitude and longitudes and an e-file is created within the Kensington Herbarium system.

"The specimen and its corresponding file are sent to the Herbarium database staff at Kensington. It's time consuming and exacting, but worth it in the long run.

"So far, more than 2100 specimens have been processed and more than 1500 hours have been logged on by volunteers.

"With so many of us working on this task it gives a real boost to getting things done and to our own levels of enthusiasm.

"We plan to move into flora

survey work in the Busselton and Collie areas, and want to take advantage of some of the group's great photographic skills for the Florabase website."

Group's genesis

The group's genesis originated from a talk on threatened flora given by Kim and Andrew to the Bunbury Naturalists Club in 1998.

Interested members volunteered to help out and the group has expanded to include other interested community volunteers, including South West College students.

The collection is held under lock and key at CALM's Bunbury office.

People wanting to access it can contact Andrew Horan or other Nature Conservation staff at Bunbury or can turn up on a Tuesday morning when the group is flat out working on the collection.



From left, Shirley Fisher, Kate Bustom, Lyn Clarke, Barr Edwards and Gordon Payne working in the Central Forest Herbarium in the Bunbury CALM Regional Office. Photo by Andrew Horan

Kellie wins Seamus Mulholland Scholarship

THIS year's \$20,000 Seamus Mulholland Scholarship was awarded to Kellie Agar from CALM's Bunbury regional centre.

Kellie has spent the past four years in the field—rain, hail or shine—keenly observing the south-west forests for *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

disease symptoms. Kellie is part of a team of people producing the Hygiene Management maps that underpin CALM's forest management.

Kellie has a Bachelor of Science degree 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.

Available to all CALM staff, the scholarship is in honor of Seamus Mulholland who passed away in December 1996 aged 32.

Seamus was a brilliant economist who headed CALM's plantation strat-

egy aimed at fighting the state's salinity problems. He graduated with a joint degree Bachelor of Science Forestry and a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University after beginning his studies at the University of Western Australia. He returned to UWA to complete his

Masters of Science in Natural Resource Management.

Seamus was a well-respected leader who demonstrated a delicate balance of courage, wisdom and integrity. It is this leadership quality that is to be fostered and nurtured with the scholarship.

Management plan for Jurien Park

A POSSIBLE marine park at Jurien Bay may be the first in a series of world marine conservation reserves in WA.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes released an indicative management plan for the marine park at Jurien Bay in early October as part of the Coalition Government's New Horizons policy to create marine reserves.

The indicative management plan—released for a three-month public comment period—is a guide about how the proposed reserve would be managed.

Visitor increase

With an increase in visitors as a result of the planned new coast road linking Lancelin and Leeman, pressures on the marine environment are expected to increase.

"It's an important area

for marine biodiversity, having an unusual mix of tropical and temperate flora and fauna species. The area is also a breeding area for Australian sea lions, has extensive seagrass meadows and exceptionally high water quality," Mrs Edwardes said.

"It is popular for various marine-based recreational activities and supports a number of important commercial fisheries, including the valuable western rock lobster fishery."

She said the proposal to create a multiple-use marine park would ensure a framework was in place to provide for increases in recreational and commercial use of the area and to ensure they did not impact adversely on the pristine environment of the region.

The proposed Jurien

Bay Marine Park is one of five marine conservation reserves the Government has identified as short-term priorities. Others are in the Dampier Archipelago/ Cape Preston area and Montebello/Barrow islands, Geographe Bay/Capes/Hardy Inlet region and the Walpole/Nornalup estuaries. A review of the management plan and extensions to the Ningaloo Marine Park off the North West Shelf are also being considered.

Community interest

"A crucial part of the proposal's development has been the involvement of the community-based advisory committee," Mrs Edwardes said.

CALM conducted a broad public participation process to allow community input.

Interested people have been encouraged to read



At the launch of the indicative management plan for the proposed Jurien Bay Marine Park were CALM Mid-West Regional Operations Officer and Chairman of the Jurien community advisory group Nigel Sercombe (left), Marine Parks and Reserves Authority Deputy Chairman Ian Finlay, CALM Marine Conservation Branch Manager Chris Simpson, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, Dandaragan Shire Deputy President Mike Kenny and MRPA Member Angus Horwood. Photo by Nigel Higgs

the plan and make a submission to CALM. By doing this, the final management will reflect a balanced view about how

the new park will be managed for today's and future generations.

For more information contact Nigel Sercombe

on (08) 9921 5955 or Chris Simpson on (08) 9432 5100. Copies of the indicative management plan are available from

our offices in Fremantle, Geraldton, Moora and Cervantes and on our Internet site at <http://www.naturebase.net>

CALM children's book recognised in award

A CALM children's book about the adventures of a young noisy scrub-bird has been declared a notable book by the Children's Book Council of Australia.

The book, *Jeemuluk, the young noisy scrub-bird* was also shortlisted for the Wilderness Society's 2000

Environment Award for children's literature and the Crichton Award for children's book illustrations.

Written by Corinn Wallace Hine and stunningly illustrated by Carol Ann O'Connor, it's a delightful tale about the life of a young male scrub-bird in WA.

Jeemuluk is the Noongar Aboriginal People's name for the noisy scrub-bird.

Jeemuluk's woes in finding a place for a nest, his capture by CALM rangers and his release into a safe place in the wild give children an enjoyable lesson about

why and how we preserve wildlife.

The book mirrors the successful translocation of noisy scrub-birds from Mt Gardner, near Albany, to areas east of Albany and the Darling Ranges near Perth in the past 20 years.

People who buy a book, which

retails for \$21.95 hard cover copy or \$14.25 soft cover, support CALM's endangered species recovery program for the noisy scrub-bird.

It's available at bookstores or from CALM's Kensington office. For more information phone (08) 9334 0333.

Bibbulmun Track a fantastic experience

SEASONAL ranger Wendy Birmingham and I began our 12-day, 210km Bibbulmun Track trek to Collie from Mundaring in May.

Day one was to Gringer Creek. We were each carrying 19kg so it didn't take long for the shoulders to feel the strain.

Day two was to White Horse Hills. There were plenty of hills and every part of the back, neck and shoulders felt the effects of our packs. The views were spectacular; breathtaking from the top of Boonering Hill. We staggered into camp on sunset.

Day three I opened one eye to see a fit couple in their late forties doing warm-up exercises. My legs seized up in the night and I had bad 'flu. Wendy wasn't feeling much better. We set off for Mount Wells and more hills.

Day four followed a wet and windy night at Mount Wells (the old Meters Stove was cranking) before the day's walk to Chadoora campsite.

by Ingrid Hunt

Wendy's husband and children turned up with a cooked meal.

Day five we reached Dwellingup where we stayed in beds and had a shower . . . Because of my 'flu I aborted the 13km walk to Swamp Oak so Wendy walked with her two children (aged 4 and 7). I met them at the hut that night.

Day seven to Murray Hut was a huge walk across Dwellingup's hills. The 'flu virus hit me hard so the next day Wendy soldiered on alone to Dookanelly and I met her there that night.

Next day we set off for Possum Springs. The hills were steeper and longer and the pack didn't feel any lighter. I dared not look at Wendy as we passed a man walking in his boots and underwear!

We were joined by the Mornington District's Ranger-in-Charge, Peter Morris and

Recreation-maintenance staffer Scott Hunter for four days. Their local knowledge and stories—one about big cat sightings—had Wendy and I in fits!

The humour continued around the campfire. There's nothing like forward planning. . . Scott buried casks of wine at each hut so all he had to do was remember the hiding spots!

The walk gave me an understanding of the track and an opportunity to get to know—and gain knowledge from—CALM staff in other districts.

I have a lot more to offer people who ask about the track. In spite of hills and sore muscles, it's the only way to appreciate the bush. You'll be amazed how much you'll get from it.

Oh . . . We found a new purpose for dishwashing liquid . . . It's a great shampoo! And the things you can do with noodles would make an interesting recipe book!



Ingrid Hunt (left), Peter Morris and Wendy Birmingham at the Possum Springs camp on the Bibbulmun Track near Collie. Photo by Scott Hunter

Increasing demand by Bibbulmun Track walkers

THE number of tourists walking all or part of the 963km Bibbulmun Track has doubled in the past two years.

The latest CALM study shows the walkers were evenly spread across all age groups and sexes.

A total of 35,000 walkers clocked up 215,000 walking days on the track during 1999/2000.

Day walks were popular

with 34 per cent of walkers but most locals, interstate and international tourists preferred multi-day hikes with friends or family.

The study concluded there were high levels of visitor satisfaction thanks to the facilities provided by CALM and our rangers.

An amazing 96 per cent of those surveyed said they'd walk the track again because they were impressed with

facilities and features.

Forty per cent of the 598 people surveyed said they were interested in packaged commercial tourist activities on the track. Twenty per cent used commercial transport to reach the track, and 15 per cent stayed in commercial, off-track accommodation during the course of their walk. Each walker spent between \$130 and \$230 on equipment and specialist supplies in Western

Australia during the previous 12 months.

The proportion of interstate and international tourists doubled since 1997/98, representing an eightfold increase in the number of walkers from outside Western Australia.

Our Director of Parks, Recreation and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp, said he was delighted with the survey results.

"It shows the Bibbulmun

Track met its objective of being an accessible and ecologically sustainable walking experience for visitors and the community. At the same time it contributed to regional economies and natural and biological diversity," he said.

The Friends of the Bibbulmun Track hosted a successful program of guided walks and events associated with the track. Most events

in autumn and winter were booked out but an even better and more diverse spring-summer calendar is available.

For more information on the survey results, contact CALM's Bibbulmun Track Coordinator Annie Keating on (08) 9334 0265. For your copy of the spring-summer calendar of events, contact the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track on (08) 9481 0551.



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes is pictured with the West Coast College of TAFE's director of academic development, Geoff Hawke (left), Yanchep's visitor services manager Phil Smeeton (centre) and Noongar elder Cedric Jacobs. Photo by Ernie McLintock

Wangi Mia 'talking place' shelter opens at Yanchep

THE new heart of Yanchep National Park—an Aboriginal 'talking place'—was officially opened in September.

The stunning Wangi Mia (talking place) shelter is the axis of the park's upgraded facilities including refurbishment of the inn and new tea-rooms to be completed by the end of the year.

The new limestone and timber facility is part of more than \$3 million of work to beautify and improve the park.

Completed work comprises foreshore improvements, new car parks, new walk trails, upgraded caves access, reticulation of the waterfront to provide lawns for picnickers, new barbecues, renovated toilets and administration buildings, improvements to the golf course and a more easily accessible Lakeview picnic area.

The Wangi Mia is part of CALM's commitment to create a cultural focus for the park using its Aboriginal Heritage Unit.

"Up to 200,000 visitors a year will be able to experience and learn about Aboriginal culture and take part in tours," the park's visitor service manager, Phil Smeeton, said.

A fifth of Yanchep National Park's visitor services staff were Aboriginal, and all had contributed to the creation of the Wangi Mia.

Phil said Yanchep's Aboriginal heritage school tours attracted 15,000 primary, secondary and tertiary students annually. They learnt about how Aboriginal people lived in the bush, tool making, bush foods, mias (bush camps) and cross cultural understanding.

Each year another 40,000 people visited the park on coach tours to see the koalas, caves or take part in Aboriginal heritage tours.

Phil said the Wangi Mia had a shop for visitors to buy wildlife and Aboriginal memorabilia. There was also a replica bush camp within the shelter.

Phil said CALM's partnership with Balga TAFE's pre-apprentice stonemasons and carpenters, Mission Australia's Work for the DOLE group and Main Roads' redeployees resulted in more than 3000 hours' voluntary work saving almost one third of the \$150,000 cost.

"This building is a meeting point for social groups, families, tours and school parties. It is also something of which every volunteer can be proud," Phil said.

Stroll into spring and summer

Stroll into spring by stepping through one of 50 walks contained in our latest 'Family Walks in Perth Outdoors' book.

The book—complete with maps, directions and tips on native wildlife—is so popular it's in its fourth edition.

It has the most up-to-date information on walks and tracks with redrawn maps and changes to routes included.

Most walks are less than 30 km from central Perth so pack a picnic, take advantage of the warm weather and choose a nature reserve to enjoy.

The book gives details on 11 walks around the hills, 19 walks in northern districts, seven walks along the river and 13 walks in the southern suburbs.

You get advice about snakes, what to pack in your kit bag, whether wheelchairs can get

around the tracks and what to do if you get lost!

If you want some ideas on walks try these: the Point Walter to Blackwall Reach walk, the Kings Park Scarp Track, the Trigg Bushland Trail, the Echidna Trail at Walyunga National Park, the Ghost House Walk at Yanchep National Park, the Claremont Foreshore Walktrail, the Little Oven Circuit in Mundaring, the Valley to Valley Walk at Ellis Brook or Kitty's Track in Jarrahdale.

Distances range from 400 metres to 18 km. There is also information about how long the walk should take to complete at an easy walking pace.

The book includes four new walks, two at Yanchep, one at Noble Falls and the other at Banksia Woodlands.

Public participation workshops



The old and the new . . . Pictured at the first workshop run at Swan Region with trainer Gae Synnott were Doug Simpson, on his first day at CALM in his role as Perth District's landscape planner, and Jim Williamson, who has been with CALM 43 years. Doug found the framework useful and similar to planning processes used in his landscape planning portfolio.

Photograph by Verna Costello

SIX public participation workshops have been run for CALM staff in the past few months.

More than 130 people from Kenington, Manjimup, Geraldton, Bunbury, Katanning and Yanchep took part in training that builds on experience and involves the community in CALM's work.

Many participants came from the regional services area but others came from wildlife, plantations, park planning,

by Tammie Reid

CALMScience, Coastcare and Bushcare programs.

The training introduced CALM's new policy, strategy and resource manual which was prepared with significant input from CALM staff and community stakeholders, and based on world-wide best practice principles.

CALM's Executive Director Wally Cox said the workshops

were designed to build awareness, confidence and judgement.

"I see the manual evolving over time taking into account feedback we get from the community and CALM staff.

"It will continue to be part of how we conduct business.

"Ultimately we hope it will result in better conservation and participation outcomes."

If you'd like more information, phone Tammie Reid in the Bunbury office on 9725 4300.



Plenty of planning brings Expo success

YES, it was on again . . . a bigger and brighter Agroforestry Expo for 2000, building on the inaugural Expo held last year that attracted more than 800 people to the venue at Boyup Brook.

AGWEST and CALM produced displays for the Expo which was again held at the Boyup Brook flax mill.

Displays about agroforestry, including farmer case studies, were updated and other displays about revegetation on

by Peter Watt & Leonie Offer

farms using plantings of oil mallee, sandalwood, olives and examples of native timbers of the Wheatbelt were created.

CALM, drawing on staff and expertise from their Farm Forestry Unit and Timber Technology Centre (Judi Pitcher from the centre is pictured with a member of the public) showed exciting

end-product uses of Western Australia's fabulous native timbers using timber samples and pieces of furniture.

There were also many other displays including working displays such as wood turning and the use of a portable mill. There were also seminars and field tours to nearby farms.

Key themes addressed included market trends, successful species and using agroforestry to manage salinity.



Home away from home . . . Kaye Vaux outside her 'tropi' tent.
Photos supplied by Kaye Vaux



Kaye Vaux with her slithering shower experience. The snake was found under the shower floor's wooden slats!

Kaye answers the call of the desert

PRISCILLA, cinematic Queen of the Desert, is out. Kaye Vaux is in.

Meet the new Desert Queen: Kaye Vaux, at 79 almost an octogenarian, who's just made her third trek to the Gibson Desert on a Landscape Expedition.

The lady from Ongerup, between Gnowangerup and Jerramungup, started her affair with the desert in 1994 when she made her first Landscape visit to the Gibson Desert.

Not having enough of a good thing, she followed it up with annual trips to Queen Victoria Desert east of

Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, Peron Peninsula, the Gibson Desert again, the Little Sandy Desert and the Gibson Desert AGAIN this year.

"I just LOVE deserts," she said. "I love being away from everything and having no news, no TV and being out in the open spaces. The deserts have something very special—the stars, the moon shining on your face and the absence of human interference."

She's showered with snakes, sleeps swag style in a 'tropi' tent made of mosquito netting, uses her

toothbrush as a shoe horn and gets up at 5.30am to help CALM staff with surveys, measuring quadrants, trap setting and looking for cat and dingo tracks.

"Sometimes we look at the pit traps and see what animals fell in—lizards, spiders, scorpions and others," she said.

She's never met a Landscape tour member she didn't like.

"You meet complete strangers, all sorts of people and all ages, usually in their 40s, 50s and 60s, bank managers, German tourists,

masseurs, farmers. The lot," she said.

"It doesn't matter who you are or what you're doing because everyone respects everyone else. There are no toilets—just a shovel and a roll so you drop behind a bush, if there are any, and do your business.

"No one cares. I often wonder how people who haven't been in that style of thing before would handle that!" she laughed.

When she gets home she doesn't want to turn on the TV or radio.

"It feels as if you've suddenly come back to civilisation and

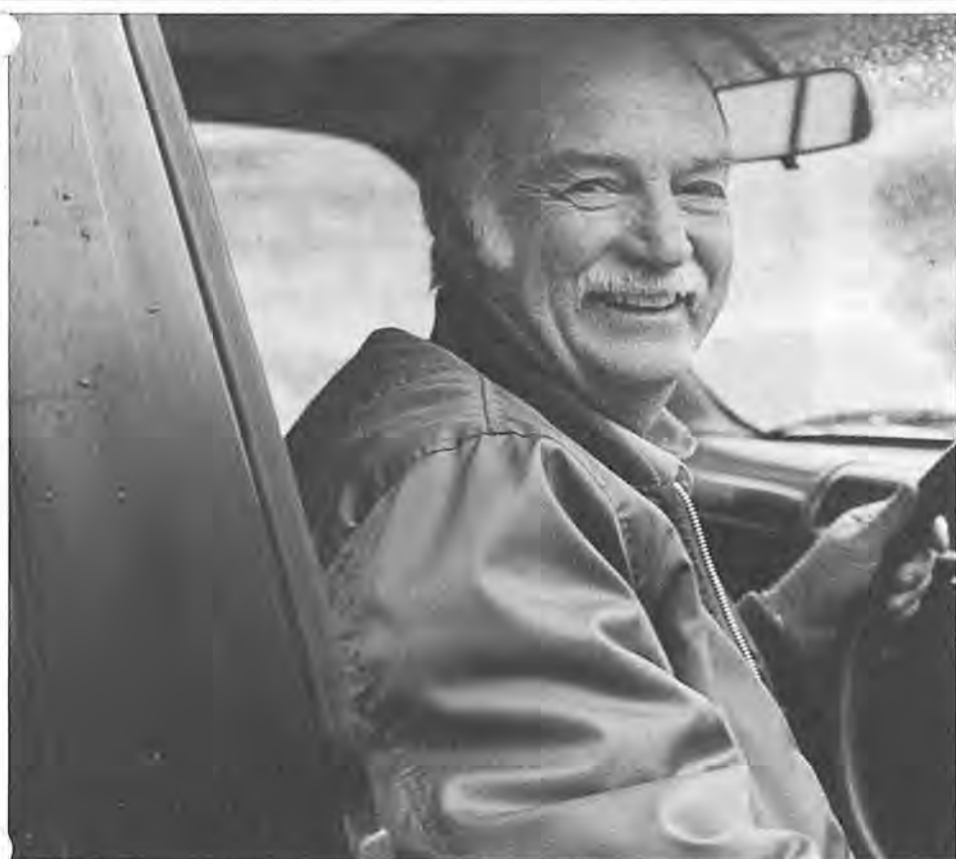
you're being crowded out," she said.

But the aversion soon wears off. Kaye's soon ploughing through week-old newspapers and tuning in to her favourite radio station.

And washing the smelly, dusty clothes at least twice to get the red dust out.

"I love what I'm doing out there. It's a great experience . . . You do things you never dreamed you could do and you love it!"

If you're interested in knowing more about Landscape Expeditions, contact Jean Paton on (08) 9334 0401.



Recovering from his ordeal, Wayne was more than pleased to be able to help at the Interpretation Australia Association's inaugural National Training Program, hosted by CALM.
Photo by Verna Costello

The eyes have it

PERTH District recreation officer Wayne Taylor is one very lucky man. Here, he tells us of his recent, nearly disastrous experience:

"I was pruning a pygmy date palm at home, and began pulling a cut frond from the trunk, when it became caught up.

"Suddenly, it sprang free, striking me in the face; it all happened so quickly, I didn't even feel the 78-cm (three-inch) spike penetrate my left eye. It went in and out in seconds.

"I spent a very uncomfortable night and by early next morning I'd lost all sight in that eye, so my highly alarmed wife Judy drove me immediately to Doctor Yeung, our family physician.

"He lost no time in referring me to Fremantle Hospital, where I was hospitalised for the next six days.

"I was placed under special-

by Verna Costello

ists' care, and throughout the first day they spent probing, prodding, scraping and cleaning the eye—then they injected it with a very high dose of antibiotics. Apparently this saved my sight.

"For the next three days, several drops were administered to the eye every hour on the hour, so I had no sleep.

"The eye was so badly infected by bacteria from the spike that the specialist couldn't see the back of the eye and he couldn't tell me if my sight could be saved until after it had cleared up three weeks later.

"Judy and I spent a few very anxious weeks waiting for the results, and it was with enormous relief early in July that we learnt from the eye specialist Mr Frederick Nagle that I was in the clear.

Reflecting on his experi-

ence, Wayne said that not only could he have lost the sight in his left eye, but he later learned that the spike had penetrated through the back of the eye, missing his brain by a hair's breadth!

"I'd like to thank the doctors, nurses and other staff at Fremantle Hospital for their excellent care, particularly as they're so short-staffed," Wayne said.

"And I thank Yanchep National Park staff for their good wishes and the much-appreciated fruit basket. Likewise, Wanneroo staff for their card and kind thoughts."

Obviously, Wayne, someone up there is looking after you—and we are all grateful for that.

Note: Wayne has been working on Garden Island, relieving ranger-in-charge Trevor Smith (on annual leave), and returned to Wanneroo early in October.

Interpretation is 'The Real Thing'

A CALM book showing tour operators and tourist industry gurus how to promote and conduct ecotourism businesses has been launched.

'Developing Ecotours and other Interpretive Activity Programs' focuses on the interpretive component of ecotourism—the most dynamic and least understood aspect of running an ecotourism business, says author Gil Field.

Gil is CALM's Senior

by Sue McKenna

Interpretations Officer and winner of the 1999 Georgie Waterman Award for Excellence in Interpretation. He said the book would help operators realise that interpretation—the way people experienced nature—was the ecotourism product.

"The travel and the accommodation, the meals and the mateship are the other ingredients that add that little bit

extra—the icing on the cake," he said.

"The main product is the way people experience nature, be it walking a track, stroking dolphins, watching whales, going rafting, climbing down caves or visiting land formations.

"This guide is an invaluable tool for survival in this fast growing niche market."

Gil said there was increasing pressure on tour operators to deliver quality ecotourism experiences.

"This publication targets those energetic individuals who bring together a passionate interest in heritage and environment and a desire to earn an income in the area of their primary interest," he said.

The book was published hot on the heels of the successful 'Best Recipes for Interpreting our Heritage, Activities for Ecotour Guides and Others' also written by Gil Field.

The Ecotourism Assoc-

iation of Australia, Edith Cowan University, the Western Australian Tourism Commission, Monash University, O'Reilly's Guest House and Ecotour Guide training Consultant, Alice Crabtree provided advice and assistance in putting the book together.

Each book costs \$27.50. They are available through our website (<http://www.naturebase.net.au>) or by contacting Denise Griffith on (08) 9334 0564.



All systems go at Wellington Discovery Forest

WELLINGTON Discovery Forest sprang into life in September when more than 700 teachers, parents and students took part in forest activities.

Excursions catered for pre-primary to TAFE students and culminated many hours' work by dedicated teams from the CALM Mornington and Bunbury offices and Corporate Relations.

The driving forces were Peter Henderson, Program Leader Parks and Visitor Services, and Rob Brazell, Nature Conservation Officer, with local management adding support. There has also been keen interest from the local community.

After a successful professional development day highlighted by the release of woylies into the forest, 27 teachers left with resources to use in the classroom.

In no time Anne Watts from the Collie Office was inundated with calls from schools wanting to book excursions. She came to grips with booking sheets, record sheets and jug-

by Liz Moore

gling the bookings. It soon became evident we'd have to expand the period over which we offered excursions from two to four weeks.

It was all systems go to prepare for the arrival of the first groups at the end of August. Leon Price from the Collie Office oversaw the groundwork to ensure the Discovery Centre, trails and all props and equipment were ready for the big day. Kelsey Panizza and Wink Ferris, our new local leaders, were off to Mundaring for a week of intensive training with myself and The Hills Forest Discovery Centre leaders.

At a briefing session for staff in the CALM Bunbury Office 14 CALM staff ranging from environmental auditors, and botanists to wildlife officers volunteered to take part in the programs; a wonderful response!

Carmel School was first off the rank with an evening session in the Discovery Centre for a group of Year 12 geographers

staying at the Wellington Mill Cottages. They were followed by lively groups of Glen Huon Year 6 and 7 students who for three days discovered the many values of Wellington Forest, became *Ecosystem Explorers* and through the Western Shield *Back from the Brink* activities learnt how they could contribute to nature conservation.

Year 12 biologists from Collie Senior High School and TAFE students challenged me with questions about integrated forest management as they walked the Total Forest Trail. Jo Northover, local Aboriginal Custodian of the land, kept students spellbound with his special communication skills and songs.

Feedback was positive with people asking for booking dates next year. Wellington Discovery Forest's curriculum-based education programs look set for expansion if they continue the way they've begun.

Enquiries concerning these programs can be directed to Liz Moore, Community Education Officer, e-mail: lizm@calm.wa.gov.au, phone



CALM excursion leader Kelsey Panizza (left) shows Collie Senior High School student Chris Sprigg and teacher Allen Daniels how to set a trap as part of the *Back from the Brink* program.

Photo by Liz Moore

(08) 9334 0387 or Anne Watts, Mornington District Office phone (08) 9734 1988.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mornington District staff were

quick to praise the skills, professionalism and infectious enthusiasm of Liz Moore when asked to review this article for CALM News. Everyone agreed that Liz's experience and organising skills were pivotal in making the project work. They all thank you, Liz.

Big Brook in November

THIS year's Big Brook Relay at Pemberton is set to be a BIG event. So mark Saturday 18 November in your diary now!

With changes to CALM still in process, the opportunity for competition and rivalry for the coveted Karri All Sports Trophy has intensified. Event organisers Rod Anear and David Meehan have been studying the form guides for both the Department of CALM and the Forest Products Division and feel the FPD may be struggling.

"Looking at the form guide it's hard to see the FPD mustering much of a challenge. Many of the FPD staff may have dominated the event in the past, but many look past peak form and fitness. We believe they will struggle to match the Essendon-like form of those left in CALM," they said.

Asked to comment, FPD veteran Terry Court offered an opposing, and typically forthright one-word response. "Crap," he said.

Muster a team

So the challenge is on. Any work centre that can muster a seven-person team, comprising a pair of cross-cut sawers, a cyclist, a runner, two canoeists and a swimmer should enter a team. Entry forms, event rules and course details are available on the CALM web <http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/index.html> or by calling Rod Anear on (08) 9776 1207, or emailing him at roda@calm.wa.gov.au.

Entry is strictly limited to 20 teams so get in early. After the event organisers are planning to hold a CALM wake which is also shaping up to be a big event.

Country ho(s)e-down stops foot in mouth . . .

THREE CALM forestry workers had their hoses put to an unusual use out the back of beyond recently.

Our intrepid trio Damien Jameson (last seen on the front cover of the previous CALM News as an Olympic torchbearer), Neil Roberts and Russell Cullun answered a distress call on the Williams Road east of Dwellingup.

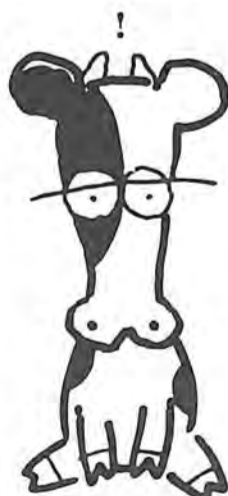
There our heroes found a damsel in distress (a frantically waving farmer's wife) and wilting strongman (weakened farmer) who'd pulled their car and trailer onto the verge.

"She was waving frantically and the gentleman was very relieved to receive some hefty help," Damien said.

The reason for their distress? Their pet was in the dual-axled trailer.

The pet was a large cow. The problem? The cow had slipped on the trailer floor and was upside down, all four legs

by Damien Jameson



in the air with its body jammed across the width of the trailer.

"No amount of pushing or shoving by the couple could move the poor animal which was, by now, covered from head to hoof in good, healthy manure," said Damien.

Braving cow kicks, flying dung, a pungent smell and the farmer's language (torrid by all accounts)

our CALM heroes managed to slide the large bovine around and position its legs into a space that allowed her to stand again on all fours.

"And what a pitiful sight it was," lamented Damien. "Poor Bessie . . . covered from head to tail in its own mess and not looking happy."

Not wanting to see any creature standing in its own . . . well . . . our lads offered to hose Bessie down.

"She'll love you for life if you would," said the relieved owners.

So Bessie enjoyed a gentle spray and her trailer a good hose-out courtesy of CALM.

"If I ever see you blokes in a pub in Albany the drinks are on me," called the farmer.

And with a happy flick of Bess's tail they headed off, leaving three CALM forest workers with some smelly laundry of their own.

True story and all in a day's work.

Australia to host next International Ranger Association conference

AUSTRALIA will host the next International Ranger Association congress, at Wilson's Promenary in Victoria, with up to 400 Rangers world wide attending, according to the Australian Ranger Association's (ARA) WA executive member Steve Dutton.

The Australian Ranger Association, a professional association for rangers across Australia, met in Perth before the IRA congress.

CALM support

"We had excellent support from CALM," ARA President, Kristen Appel, senior district ranger at the Watarrka National Park in the Northern Territory, said. "They made staff available and arranged guides and transport for field trips."

"The great part about our jobs is that people go to National Parks for holidays, while we go to work and on holidays to National Parks!"

Her comments were echoed by Glen Jameson from Warrandyte State Park in Victoria, who said CALM had gone to great lengths to ensure they had an enjoyable,

educational and worthwhile conference.

Wildflower attraction

"And because of the wildflowers it was a terrific time to come," he said.

Kristen Appel said one of the first things to be

auctioned for fundraising for the International Congress would be her vest which sports all IRA world congress and ranger badges, and badges from Australian rangers in every state.

She has sewn them to a NSW Parks and Wildlife

Commission's fleeced-lined vest. The Australian patches are on the front and the international patches on the back.

Kristen said any money she made would be returned to the IRA and the ARA, which were self-funded.



Pictured at John Forrest National Park included (from left) John Forrest National Park's retired senior ranger and delegation tour guide, George Duxbury; John Forrest's ranger-in-charge, Keith Tresidder; East Kimberley's ranger-in-charge, Ross McGill; Victoria's Warrandyte State Park ranger Glen Jameson (front); Queensland's Porcupine Gorge and White Mountains National Park ranger Grant Anchen (back); Northern Territory's Watarrka National Park's senior district ranger, Kristen Appel; Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park ranger Matt Le Duc; and the ranger-in-charge of Yalgorup National Park, south of Perth, Steve Dutton (front right). Photo by Rolph Perey



Kristen Appel models the vest to be auctioned.