



Pictured at the Field Officers' Graduation Ceremony are (starting from rear left): Ben Giovanetti, Julia Northin, Ryan Mincham, Kristian Pollock, Sarah Adriano, Nola Withnell, Caitlin Prowse, Chantal Laval, Kris Nostrini, Dr Wally Cox, David Evans, Jeremy Gorman, David Tarrant, Natasha James, Peter Murray, Maria Lee, Meredith Soutar, Dr Judy Edwards, Karen Bettink and Alan Byrne. Photo by Ernie McLintock

Field officers graduate

DEDICATION to natural resource management by 19 young people was rewarded in May at a presentation ceremony in Fremantle.

Environment Minister Dr Judy Edwards presented the graduating field officers from CALM and the Forest Products Commission with certificates acknowledging their completion of a 14-week training program. All graduates are now working as field officers throughout the State.

Dr Edwards said CALM's Field Officer Recruit Training Program had gained hugely in popularity since it began in 1995.

"Since it started, 116 people have graduated, many becoming experts in their fields," she said.

"Today's graduates will be tomorrow's leaders in natural resource management. They have learnt the skills they'll need in

by Sue McKenna

their jobs to take care of the environment in a way the community now demands of them."

This year, 24 of the 240 young people who applied were granted a place in the program. During the program, four left to work for mining companies and one took up employment with a shire.

Dr Edwards said the program trained people in four-wheel driving, silviculture, recreation planning and design, community liaison, fire control, first aid and fauna management.

"These graduates will go on to develop satisfying careers in specialist positions, forming a pool of skilled staff as the result of CALM's intensive focus on training for the future," she said.

Dr Edwards said she was encouraged to see

half the graduates were women.

"It points to a trend away from traditional male domination in natural resource management, particularly in forestry," she said.

The CALM Field Officer graduates are:

Sarah Adriano and David Evans (Kalgoorlie), Karen Bettink (Merredin), Ben Giovanetti (Perth), Jeremy Gorman (Harvey), Cameron Hennessy and Natasha James (Esperance), Chantal Laval (Dwellingup), Maria Lee, Nola Withnell and Peter Murray (Manjimup), Jacqueline Maguire (Kensington), Ryan Mincham (Mid-West), Julia Northin (Nannup), Kris Nostrini (Albany), Kristian Pollock (Jarrahdale), Caitlin Prowse (Mundaring) and Meredith Soutar (Busselton) and David Tarrant (Bunbury).

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Field officers graduate

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The Keynes Memorial Award went to Caitlin Prowse, for her high level of practical and theoretical work during the CALM Field Officer Training Program.

The Field Officer Graduation Ceremony was part of CALM's general awards presentations for excellence in the Department. Winners included district managers, Aboriginal trainees, nature conservation officers, scientists and operations officers.

The Executive Director's Merit Award: David Evans, operations officer at the FPD's Arid Forestry Branch in Kalgoorlie, for exceptional theoretical and practical performance.

The Executive Director's 2001 Scholarships: Ken Ninyette, who began his CALM career as an Aboriginal trainee in Collie in 1986 and whose work promotes Aboriginal culture within natural resource management, and Gary Treeby, who began with CALM Sharefarms Group in Albany supervising contractors and liaising with farmers, and who now works for the FPC in Albany.

Dr George Malajczuk Postgraduate Scholarship: John Lloyd, CALM

Mundaring District manager (now on extended leave) for completion of a Master's degree in Coastal Management at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada. (The scholarship is named after a former CALM Director of Economics renowned for his scientific excellence.)

Seamus Mulholland Scholarship: Nigel Sercombe, CALM's regional operations officer in the Midwest Region, to take up business studies at Curtin University. (The award honours Seamus Mulholland, a CALM economist who drowned in 1996 aged 32.)

Lane Poole Award 2000 and 2001: Michelle Widmer, CALM's plantations fire coordinator won the 2000 award. John Carter, nature conservation program leader in CALM's Mundaring District, was awarded the 2001 Lane Poole Award. (The award honours the first Conservator of Forests and provides financial assistance to travel or study for CALM and FPC staff.)

June Craig Awards: The Minister presented five CALM women with this award, which is designed to encourage career development and to further recipients' expertise. They

were presented to: Jennie Cary, CALM's Senior Marine Ecologist in the Marine Conservation Branch in Fremantle, who will look at ways to improve the level of public participation in natural resource management; Anne Cochrane, manager of CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre and a research scientist at the Western Australian Herbarium, who will use her award to visit the new Millennium Seed Bank in the UK and test the seed germination capacity of the WA seeds stored at the bank; Christina Gilbert, from CALM's Collie office, who will take part in a cat eradication program; Jay Gomboso, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director of Nature Conservation, who used the award to deliver a presentation to the Society for Ecological Restoration's 12th International Conference in the UK and who will deliver a presentation about WA's biodiversity conservation strategy to the 13th conference in Canada; and Ann-Maree O'Callaghan, a regional bushcare facilitator in the Midwest, who will study how rural communities can implement change and sustainable development.







