

Lost your block?

BYRON, Fly Brook, Sheepwash, Styx, Stockyard and (taking out the prize for stating the obvious), **Trees**, can be found in a recently published book, *Lost your Block? The origins of WA's forest block names*.

Researched and written by former Forests Department and CALM staff member, John Sclater, the book contains about 525 names, some unusual and some obscure.

Byron was named after Rupert, the 11th Lord Byron, and a descendant of the famous poet. So publicity-shy and retiring was he, content to enjoy working his

nnybrook farm, that few local folk were aware they had a British peer in their midst.

Even a US frigate, the USS Chesapeake lends its name to a forest block, along with the British ship HMS Shannon, which captured it.

by Verna Costello

Lost Your Block? also provides other details such as locations, block sizes, maps, and photographs (one, a dramatic portrayal of coastal dunes moving into karri forest at Calcup Block, while another shows a World War II tank in Wilga Block).

John Sclater arrived in WA from Scotland in 1958 as an assisted migrant nominated by the Forests Department.

During the next 11 years, his work took him over most of the south-west, with long spells at Dwellingup, Shannon River and Harvey.

After three years on a Colombo Plan project in Laos, he returned to the Department in 1972 and worked on development of pine timber milling, marketing and logging operations.

In 1980, he was seconded to

the Asian Development Bank for two years to work on a reforestation project in Nepal.

Once back in WA, John began working on hardwood logging operations.

When CALM was formed in 1985, he soon became involved in the development and implementation of the then 'new' Timber Strategy.

John retired in 1989 as CALM's timber production manager.

Fascinated by the unfamiliar place names of a new country, in particular the forest block names, he often found that their origins were based on opinion and supported by very little factual information, prompting further research.

Lost Your Block? can be purchased from the author (Ph: 9592 2090) for \$35 plus \$7 postage, or by writing to him at 20 Hubbard Place, Safety Bay, WA, 6169.



Author John Sclater shows CALM media liaison officer Sue McKenna some of the more unusual forest block names and their origins. Photo by Verna Costello