

CALM NEWS

Print post approved PP665002/00001



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AND LAND MANAGEMENT

MAY — JUNE 2001



Agreement seeks to protect plants

HUNDREDS of thousands of Western Australia's native plant seeds have been delivered to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the United Kingdom, as part of a world-wide project to store seeds as insurance against plant extinctions.

Part of an initial consignment, comprising 34 seed collections, was handed over to Tim Pearce, International Co-ordinator, Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew when he visited Perth early in May.

Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the seeds' voyage was part of the Millennium Seed Bank project for flora conservation. The project involves the collection and storage of seeds from 24,000 species around the world.

Dr Edwards said in the next 10 years, seeds from 1,000 species would come from WA, which was recognised as being one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

The rest of the consignment of WA seeds has been taken to the Millennium Seed Bank annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, south of London, by Anne Cochrane, manager of CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre based at CALM's Herbarium in Perth.

by Sue McKenna

"They cover 30 poorly known species, and left with Ms Cochrane early in June," Dr Edwards said.

Dr Edwards said Ms Cochrane—who received one of CALM's June Craig awards to encourage women to develop their careers—would use her scholarship to visit the new Millennium Seed Bank, which will use new seed-testing equipment to carry out seed-germination trials on the WA seeds.

"Seventy five per cent of plant species found in the south-west of WA are found nowhere else in the world," Dr Edwards said.

"The area also has a high concentration of rare and threatened species, restricted to small areas and with few plants which are often poorly known."

The seeds will come from trees, shrubs, climbers and herbs from areas such as the Stirling Ranges, the Wheatbelt and the kwongan heathlands of the south-west of WA.

Dr Edwards said the aim of the Millennium Seed Bank was to collect and conserve 10 per cent of the world's seed-bearing plants, mainly from the world's drylands, by 2010.

Continued page 2



Anne Cochrane hands over to Tim Pearce some of the 34 seed collections bound for the United Kingdom. Tim is International Co-ordinator, Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where the collections will be stored. Anne is CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre Manager, and is based at the Department's Herbarium in Kensington. Photo by Verna Costello



Pictured at the Field Officers' Graduation Ceremony are (starting from rear left): Ben Giovanetti, Julia Northin, Ryan Mincham, Kristian Pollock, Sarah Adriano, Nola Withmell, 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 Withmell 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).

Continued page 3

CALM supports the International Year of the Volunteer



In this issue

- Kulin farmer's find - page 3
- US fire expert visits WA - page 4
- Top science award finalist - page 5
- Tribute to the late John Dorlandt - page 5
- CALM Bush Rangers visit Gallipoli - page 5
- Rottneest Herbarium handover - page 7



The Machinery of Government changes have now been announced. CALM will, subject to legislation, be renamed the Department of Conservation and the Chief Executive Officer will be known as the Director General.

Subject to further negotiations, it is proposed that coastal management will transfer from the Ministry for Planning to CALM. Other functions expected to transfer to CALM include support for Bush Forever, additional regional parks and the conservation management role from DEP.

The big change in the Environment and Heritage portfolio is the establishment of a new Department of Environment, Water and Catchment Protection based on the integration of the existing DEP and Water and Rivers Commission.

Retirement from the public service after 35+ years (or 39+ covering my cadetship) including nearly 18 as a CEO, I suspect gives one the right to reflect on a number of issues.

Here goes!

1. The WA public service remains a truly international best practice example of government ensuring access for the community to a range of services.
2. The common theme that carries through is that we have highly capable and highly committed people.
3. The level of technical knowledge and expertise of employees has increased significantly in all areas.
4. The community has higher expectations of the public service, is more critical of shortcomings, and desires to be increasingly involved in setting direction.
5. Employees also have expectations in line with those of the community. That is the opportunity to be genuinely involved in their agency.

CALM has been at the cutting edge of some of these issues. CALM is fortunate that it has highly competent and dedicated people who are acknowledged as delivering very good services to the community in the area of conservation.

We still need to adjust the way we do business in line with community expectations. In particular our public participation processes need to be further enhanced to ensure the community has the opportunity for genuine involvement in CALM's processes.

We also need to maintain our terrific work with volunteers—some 4,000 registered volunteers—without whom we could not deliver our conservation outcomes.

Internally we need to build on the strong foundations we have to encourage on-going learning at all levels to not only enable us to meet the community's expectations but also to provide a climate within CALM where employees have the opportunity to be creative, excel and enjoy their work.

I have enjoyed my role with CALM and I look forward to maintaining links into the future.

Great organisations are built on having outstanding employees. CALM has outstanding employees!

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director

Staff movements

Contract staff

Carole Elliott, to WA Herbarium, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Kaylene Carter, to Marine Conservation Branch, Fremantle, as Community Liaison Officer L1/2; Steve Gray, to Katanning District, FPC, Manjimup, as Reserves Officer, Level 1/2; Paul Winton, to Regional Parks Fremantle, as Commercial Planning Officer, Level 4; Hayley Valentine, to Land Administration, Kensington, as Reserves Officer, Level 1/2; Christine Dunning, to Geraldton, as Clerical Officer, Level 1; Christine Freegard, to Wildlife Administration, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Jason Schmidberger, to CALMScience (Herbarium) Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Robert Thorne, to Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism, as Indigenous Heritage Trainee, Level 1; Chontarle Pitulej, to Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism as Indigenous Heritage Trainee, Level 1; Marissa Maher, to Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism, as Indigenous Heritage Officer, Level 1; Hayley Valentine, to Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism, as Conservation Estate Officer, Level 1/2; Lucy Sheehy, Parks, to Recreation, Planning and

Tourism, Land Admin Section, as Reserves Officer, Level 1/2; John A Clayden, to Regional Parks, Fremantle, as Landscape Architect/Planner, Level 5; Beth Macarthur, to CALM Science, Dwellingup, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Marika Maxwell, to CALMScience, Dwellingup, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Lesley Polomka, to the Herbarium, Kensington, as Research Scientist, Level 2/4; Peter Speldewinde, to South Coast Region, Albany, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Richard Walne, to Visitors Centre, Karijini National Park, as Business Development Manager, Level 5; Paul Legear, to CALM Science, Moora, as Farm Forestry Development Officer, Level 4; Alex Williams, the Herbarium, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Beryl Crane, to the Herbarium, Kensington, as Administration Officer, Level 3; Andrew Crawford, to CALMScience, Biodiversity Conservation, Kensington, as Technical Officer, Level 3; Oliver Looker, to GIS Section, Kensington, as Research Officer Level 2/4 from CALMfire, Kensington.

Permanent staff

Paul Tholen, Perth District, Yanchep National Park, as National Park Ranger, Grade 1;

Louise Oorschot, as Administrative Officer, Level 3 at Regional Parks Branch; Melissa Robinson, as Cartographic Officer, Level 2, Geographic Information Section, Kensington; Peter Wilkins, as Ranger In Charge, Level 2, Fitzgerald River National Park, South Coast Region.

Promoted

Milwant Gill, to Personnel Officer, Level 2, CALMpeople Services Branch.

Criteria progression

Anne Cochrane, WA Herbarium, Senior Research Scientist, to Level 6.

Reclassified

Ben Davies, Forest Management Branch, Bunbury, Forester (Photogrammetry and GIS), to Level 4; Ric Althuizen, Financial Services Branch, Reporting and Budgeting Officer, to Level 4; Brad Colton, as Payroll Coordinator, Level 3, CALMpeople Services Branch; Val Cave, as Business Analyst, Level 5, Planning and Visitor Services Branch.

Transferred

Kerry Rodan, to Jurien, Midwest Region, as Administrative Assistant, Level 2, from Ministry of Justice; Mark Robert, to Technical Services Branch, Kensington, as

Technical Services Co-ordinator, Level 4, from Fisheries WA; Stephen White to Nature Conservation Division, Kensington, as Senior Environmental Officer, Level 5, from Narrogin District Office; Kevin Lockyer to Fitzroy Crossing, as National Park Ranger, Grade 2, from Broome District Office.

Temporary transfer

Richard McAlinden, to Dwellingup Training Centre, as Occupational Health and Safety Consultant, Level 5, from CALMpeople Services Branch.

Seconded

Gary Davidson, to Forest Products Commission, Northern Forests Branch, Harvey, as Operations Officer, Level 3, from CALM, Collie District.

Temporary deployment

Peter Fishwick, to Jurien, Moora District, as Parks and Visitor Services Leader, Level 5, from Karratha; Matt Cavana, to Parks, Recreation and Tourism, as Systems Development Officer, Level 4; Brett Fitzgerald, to Carnarvon as Snr Operations Officer, Level 5, from Denham; David Whitelaw, to Karratha, Pilbara Region, as Regional Leader Parks and Visitor Services, Level 4, from South West Capes,

Busselton.

Retiring

Wally Cox, from Corporate Executive, Crawley, as Executive Director, Class 7; Karl Mucjanko, from Mundaring, as Ranger Grade 2; Kevin Hughes, from Cape Le Grand, as Mobile Ranger, Grade 2; Leigh D Davis, from Geographic Information Section, Land Management Branch, Kensington as Project Officer, Level 5.

Resigned

Caroline Williams, from Exmouth, as Conservation Officer, Level 2/4; Craig Grocke, from Regional Parks, Fremantle, as Planning Co-ordinator, Level 5; Paul Cannon, from CALM people Services, as Acting Workforce Systems Analyst, Level 5; Malcolm S Graham, from Katanning District, as District Operations Officer, Level 4; Gary Kravainis, from CALM fire Kensington, as Equipment Development Officer, Level 4; Marc Mackinnon, from Forest and Tree Crops, CALM Science, Busselton, as Technical Officer, Level 2; Jason Foster, from Perth District, as Field Officer, Level 1/2; Stuart Crombie, from Forest and Tree Crops, CALM Science, Kensington, as Research Scientist, Level 5.

LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS

Emailed thanks

The following thank you was emailed to CALM following the Carramar-Neerabup fires:

As residents of Springpark Trail, Neerabup, my partner Pat and I wish to convey our sincerest thanks for the excellent job your team did in containing the recent fires and rapidly restoring power to the area.

From our patio, we could see the fireballs some 400m away,

certainly frightening for us and we can't imagine what it was like for your team at the front line. We have endeavoured to take sensible precautions on our property and will continue to upgrade these on consultation with the fire department.

Thank you once again for a job well done!

Best wishes from
Jennie Pell and Pat Burke.

Agreement seeks to protect plants

(from page 1)

"The stored seeds would be used to re-establish plant species that are lost (or become lost) from their natural habitats.

"The British Government Millennium Commission has given \$83 million to the project. CALM and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority are co-

operating with the Royal Botanic Gardens in a 10-year project aimed at safeguarding key elements of WA's unique flora.

"Ms Cochrane's visit will strengthen our collaborative ties with our UK partners, enable an exchange of information, and include WA as a vital part of a world wide project," Dr Edwards said.

Preparing to sign an historic agreement that will see hundreds of thousands of Western Australia's native plant seeds stored in the United Kingdom are: (left) Tim Pearce International Co-ordinator, Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (in the UK); Wally Cox, CALM Executive Director; and (standing) Steve Hopper, Chief Executive Officer, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. Photo by Verna Costello

If you're a breeder . . .

CALM scientists and technical staff who are involved in the breeding of native animals in captivity may be interested in the following:

The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), an international organisation dedicated to protecting the planet's biodiversity, is holding its annual meeting at Rottneest Island.

The CBSG has a membership of 963 across 93 countries, and is based at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley, a suburb of Minneapolis. Its website address is: <http://www.cbsg.org>

Perth Zoo will host the CBSG Annual Meeting, which takes place between Friday, October 19 and Sunday, October 21, 2001, inclusive.

For further details on registration for the CBSG Annual Meeting, accommodation arrangements, etc., please phone Merri Blakemore on 9474 0339, or fax her on 9368 1878, or email her at: merri.blakemore@perthzoo.wa.gov.au



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 Callcup 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.



Dave Quicke shows Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards a precious specimen of the climbing, purple-flowered Traveller's Joy clematis. The specimens became the half-millionth flora species to be added to CALM Herbarium's collection and its database.

Photo by Norm Bailey

Kulin farmer's discovery

A LIFETIME love of plants has made Kulin farmer Dave Quicke the proud collector of the WA Herbarium's half-millionth flora specimen. (See CALM NEWS March-April 2001 issue—page 1.)

Spotting a purple-flowered species of the traveller's joy clematis made Dave stop in his tracks on a water supply reserve near his 1,700-hectare Wheatbelt farm.

"I'd never seen this type before," he said of the November 1999 experience. "There were about 30—not the white-flowered species that grows abundantly in the area but a climbing, purple-flowered version," he said.

He took the new specimen

by Sue McKenna

to the Kulin-Kondinin Regional Herbarium, where he is president.

Its details were added to the WA Herbarium's database and the attractive plant became its 500,000th specimen.

Dave's love of plants has seen him elected as president of the local wildflower society and working as a CALM volunteer. He is also concerned with the salinity that threatens his farm.

The land is planted with 33,000 oil mallees as part of a CALM-State Salinity Strategy project that Dave expects will increase in size as new plants

are tested to beat salinity and provide crop revenue.

"We started planting in 1994 so the first lot will flower this year. We're hoping to process the crop at the oil mallee plant being established in Narrogin," he said.

He set up test bores last year to see how much water was coming up under the oil mallee paddocks.

"We found there was none. Hopefully we'll be able to divert any runoff into a big creek and stop the area flooding again, so that will be great," he said.

Dave added he might set up a seed orchard on a remnant vegetation block that has oil mallees, banksias, melaleuca and acacia trees.



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

Homestead in CALM's care

IN early April, CALM became responsible for the day-to-day running of the historic Ellensbrook homestead and surrounding property near Margaret River.

CALM was invited to manage the property in conjunction with its owner, The National Trust, with the possibility of a future tripartite partnership with the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

The homestead was donated to The National Trust in 1978, as a condition of the sale of the property to the State Government.

Ellensbrook is an important part of the region's cultural identity, and in recent years has become a social icon. Special events, such as concerts, have become regular occurrences, and are well attended by the local community.

CALM's acting Parks and

by Debbie Micallef

Visitors Services officer, Glenn Willmott, said special events would still be permitted.

"As long as they conform to National Trust guidelines and the events pose no threat to the ecology of the surrounding Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, they'll be welcomed," Glenn said.

Ellensbrook was built by the Bussell family in 1857 and added to over several decades until around 1903.

The area (called Mokidup by the original Nyoongar occupants) has significant cultural and spiritual value to the local Nyoongar community.

A walktrail leads from the homestead to a lush green area around the ever-flowing Meekadaribee Falls, which

are known to the Aboriginal community as the "moon's bathing place". According to a tragic legend of illicit love, the falls are said to be haunted.

The early building and farming of the property also involved significant input by the local Nyoongars, the Wardandi people.

CALM trainee ranger, Ken Ninnette, has been employed as a guide to inform visitors of the cultural significance of the area, and to help facilitate a partnership with the indigenous community to provide cultural information about the site.

"It's a great opportunity to marry the indigenous and European cultures—and prove that it can be done," Ken said enthusiastically.

"The site has much to offer, and could be cultivated as an educational environment."

Field officers graduate

(from page 1)

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 Ninnette, 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 co-ordinator 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.

Volunteer doesn't let the grass grow under his feet

AN 'unemployed botanist' has become one of CALM's treasures by identifying and illustrating 84 species of Wheatbelt grasses in a new book.

Alex Williams, formerly of the Atomic Energy Commission at Lucas Heights in NSW, describes himself as an unemployed botanist but works zealously as a CALM Herbarium volunteer three days a week.

His book *An Illustrated Key to the Perennial Grasses of the Avon Wheatbelt* is a partial update of an edition published more than 50 years ago by the then Government botanist, Charles Gardner.

"Grasses are notoriously difficult to identify because they have no colourful flowers or distinctive features obvious to the untrained eye by which to identify them," Alex said.

by Sue McKenna

"The flowers are so small and specialised that you can't see them with the naked eye.

"What I've done is to illustrate each step in the key so that people who need to identify them can easily distinguish and classify them."

His book is the first to combine illustrations with words instead of the traditional written key, and is designed for use by herbarium volunteers, farmers, shires and land care groups. It also gives the grasses common names as well as their scientific names, and names that have been changed since Gardner's time.

Alex started working at CALM by coincidence two years ago when he drove a disabled volunteer to the

Kensington herbarium and was invited to join them. His career as a botanical researcher, an environmental delegate to the United Nations, an author of two books on the environmental impact of uranium mining and seven years of missionary work had ended because of chronic fatigue syndrome.

The rest is history: Alex's fascination and expertise with flora saw him donate his skills to CALM and the people of WA.

"I value the work I do for CALM very much, and I enjoy it because it's wonderful to come to work and be appreciated for your knowledge," he said.

His next step is to produce a similar book on the 347 grass species in WA's south-west.



Rick Gale is greeted by CALM's Walpole District manager Greg Mair. Photo by Terry Maher

US fire expert visits WA

ONE of America's most senior fire officers Rick Gale, Chief of Fire and Aviation for the United States National Park Service, visited WA in early May to learn more about CALM's fire-management systems and fire-training programs.

His four-day trip was to cement the long-standing relationship between US and Australian firefighters and to share his 44 years' firefighting experience with WA colleagues.

Rick gave three presentations to CALM and Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) fire staff at Kensington, Bunbury and Busselton.

In turn he received plenty of feedback from CALMfire staff and others on a wide range of topics including fire research and prescribed burning.

He spoke about the US incident control system and

by Sue McKenna

different approaches to fire leadership and management. He provided information about the US fire policy that is now focusing on reintroducing fire into fire-adapted forest ecosystems.

"In the US, land managers and conservationists are pushing for more prescribed burns because they've seen the impact of wildfires sweeping through overgrown and unhealthy forests that haven't had a fire in 100 years. They've seen the devastation, the loss of wildlife and habitat," he said.

He said one of the problems in the US was that fire suppression had been used for 80 years but, because of heavy fuel loads, this had not worked with the wildfires that swept through many mid-west states in July and August 2000.

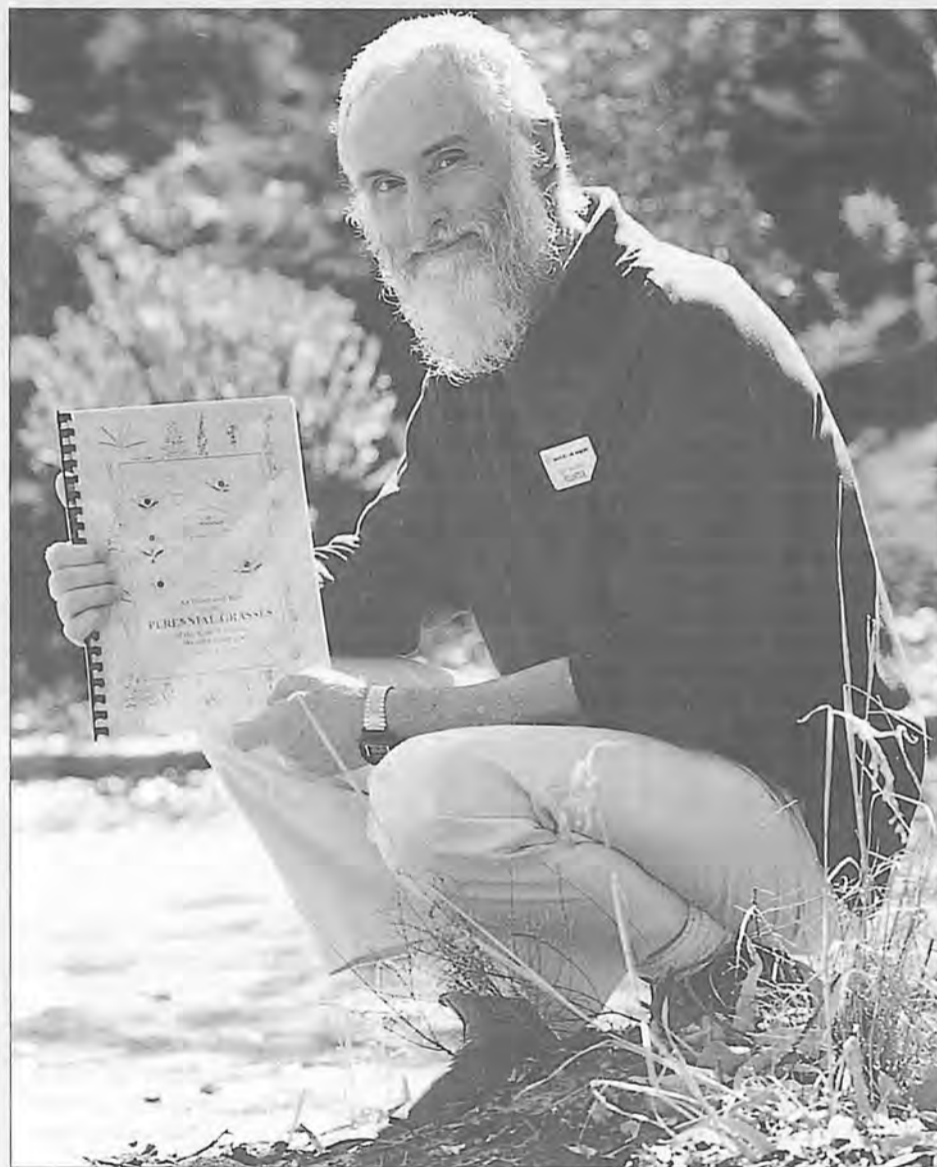
The many thousands of

fires were beyond even the enormous US resources. This resulted in Australian and New Zealand fire bodies—including six CALMfire officers—being called in to help control the blazes.

Rick said that the US Congress had approved an increase of \$3 billion per year to help restore and protect forests and rural communities. A large proportion of this would be allocated to hazard-reduction works including prescribed burning.

"One solution is that we may have to reduce fuel loads, using mechanical means, hand in hand with prescribed burning," he said.

Rick visited the south-west and, with CALMfire's manager, Rick Sneeuwjagt and CALM Science Director Neil Burrows, addressed people involved in fire management ranging from CALM, local shires, volunteer fire brigades and other agencies.



Alex Williams and his book. Photo by Norm Bailey

Mark is CALMfired up

I'VE been in the Como Senior High School CALM Bushrangers since 1998 when it first began. In 1999, I was selected to attend a CALMfire program.

This was the first time the three-day program had been run. It included a theory test, a practical test on the equipment that we would be using for the controlled burn, and the controlled burn itself around the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup.

Before the actual burn, we had to create a fire-break around the Centre (using nothing but rake hoes), so that the Heritage Centre would not burn down. The fire-break itself took a great deal of time and effort, and it would not

by Mark Armstrong

have happened if it weren't for our close-working team spirit.

Part of the course involved a biodiversity survey of previous fire burns at two-five-and nine-year recovery periods. We had to burn an area that had not been burnt for 10 years.

We lit the fire and watched it burn for about three hours before it eventually died down and slowly extinguished itself as all the fuels (forest debris, etc.) were burnt and there was nothing left for the fire to consume.

Then we started the mop-up. Two of us were given a knapsack containing water and

fire retardant, and were directed to put out small spot fires and any remaining embers.

Since the CALMfire program I have joined the Darlington Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. I'm currently doing my WA Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Training Course at the Mundaring Fire School Training Centre.

I would like to especially thank Kris Narducci from CALMfire for taking an interest in the CALM Bush Rangers participating in the course. I think he has helped me to choose the volunteer path that I have chosen to take since the program.

Note: Mark is a CALM Bush Ranger and Year 11 Como Senior High School student.



CALM Bush Ranger Mark Armstrong. Photo by Bronwyn Humphreys

Colin a finalist in top science awards

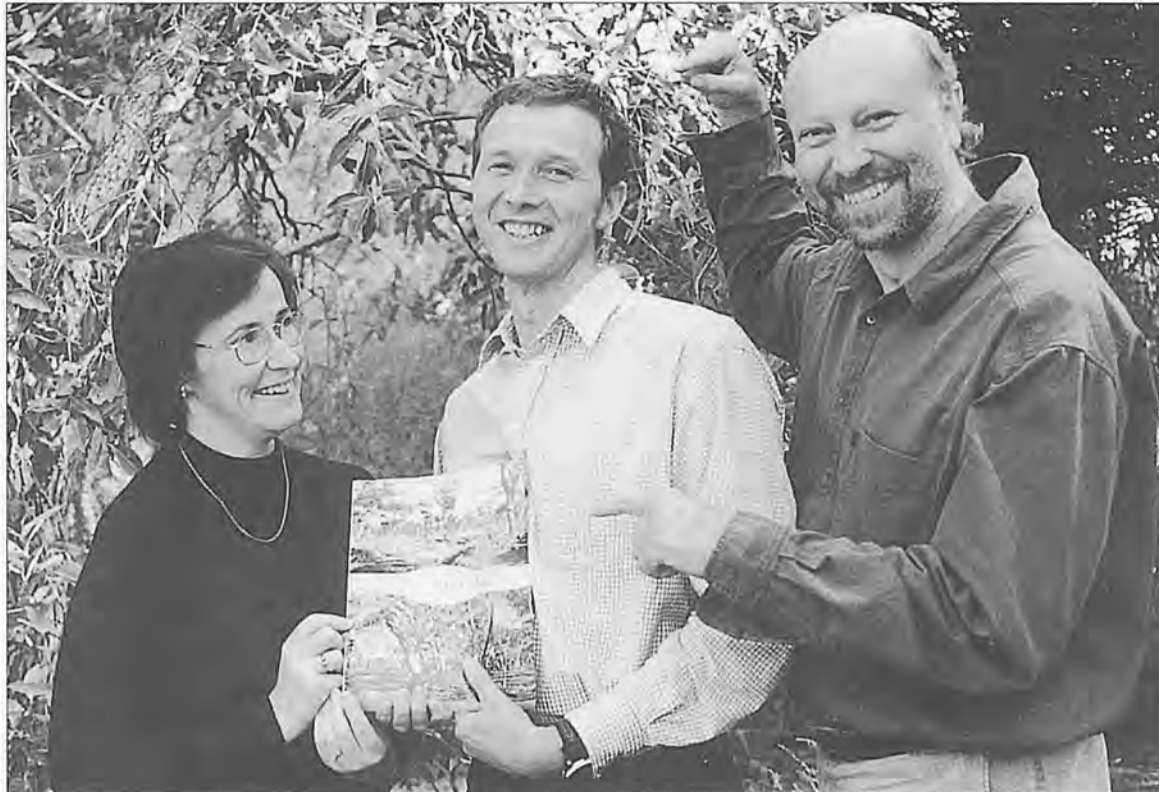
by Sue McKenna & Neil Burrows

THE Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are recognised as Australia's most comprehensive and coveted science awards. They were launched in 1990 to reward excellence in Australian science and raise the profile of science in the community.

Of the 13 categories, the Royal Botanic Gardens (Sydney) Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research is awarded to an individual, team or organisation for innovative scientific research that makes an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Australia's biodiversity.

CALMScience senior research scientist in Biodiversity Conservation, Colin Yates, and Professor Richard Hobbs (Environmental Science, Murdoch University) were among the four finalists in this category of the prestigious Eureka Prizes.

The nomination was for their cooperative research focusing on the conservation of temperate eucalypt woodlands across Australia, and on the experimental restoration of degraded woodlands in Western Australia. This culminated in a synthesis of the research in a book edited by Colin and Richard, *Temperate Eucalypt Woodlands in Australia*.



CALM Herbarium principal research scientist David Coates (right) points out that Colin Yates is the one we should admire, and that the book Colin is holding is the one that contributed to his recent success in the highly coveted Australian Museum Eureka Prizes. Meanwhile, CALMScience principal research scientist Margaret Byrne is content to look hugely impressed. Photo by Verna Costello

The project has brought together information on Australian woodlands; identified gaps in our knowledge and has culminated in the development

of a woodlands management guideline.

"These woodlands are the quintessential image of the Australian bush,

celebrated in art and literature, as well as being important biologically," Colin said.

"Their loss would be lamented and

their conservation celebrated by many."

Hundreds of farmers, land care groups and management agencies are now using the book's Woodlands Tool Kit to restore degraded woodlands and regenerate plants.

"The conversion of temperate eucalypt woodlands into agricultural lands represented one of the most significant vegetation changes in Australian history," Colin said.

"The widespread clearing of these ecosystems resulted in a massive loss of biological diversity and widespread land degradation."

The project started by the identification of the factors that had caused the degradation, enabling universal restoration guidelines to be developed.

The duo's work was assisted by scientists, land managers, policy makers and the general public.

Colin Yates has worked at CALM for two years, designing, implementing and co-ordinating research into critically endangered flora to assist their recovery. Before working for CALM, he won the CSIRO Post-Doctoral Fellowship to develop techniques and guidelines to restore degraded remnant salmon gum woodlands.

The Award presentations appeared on ABC television in mid-May.

Tribute paid to John Dorlandt

ON April 6, CALM lost one of its most dedicated, long-term staff members when CALMScience administrative and finance manager John Dorlandt suffered a fatal heart attack while at work in the Department's Herbarium at Kensington.

Born on April 20, 1941 in Haarlem, Holland, John migrated with his family to Australia in 1951. He grew up firstly in Mundaring, and then Donnybrook, where as part of a large family he enjoyed a full and happy childhood. This was no doubt the basis of his ever-optimistic and happy nature that his friends and colleagues knew so well.

After a period with a Donnybrook drycleaning establishment (where he won a reputation as 'the master of the pencil

by John McGrath

pleat'), John joined the Forests Department in 1965.

For the next 13 years, he worked in the south-west timber towns of Kirup, Shannon River, Walpole, and Dwellingup.

In 1978, John moved to Kensington and spent the next 23 years managing the finances of the Forests Department's Research Division, now known as CALMScience Division.

A committed and loyal colleague who believed in a 'fair go for all', John's meticulous application to his tasks, and his knowledge of the Department's finance system were second to none.

These qualities, combined with his gregarious nature, enabled him to

stay in touch with all the budgetary machinations at both a Divisional and Departmental level, so that it was almost impossible to out-flank him in a financial discussion.

An enduring memory that will long remain among his colleagues is that of a trusty HB pencil with its eraser cap stuck jauntily behind his ear. Unfazed by its presence in the era of keyboards, email and spreadsheets, he knew that if the electronic balance sheet failed, he could still do the job the 'old fashioned' way.

Away from work, John led a full and diverse family life, his practical nature extending well beyond his ability to massage a balance sheet.

His interest in, and knowledge of most things mechanical was

renowned, as was his generosity in sharing this information with others. Many of his colleagues' motor vehicle 'investments' were influenced by John's advice.

Another of John's great passions was fashioning furniture out of pieces of timber that others may have used for firewood. This talent fitted well with his philosophy that nothing remotely useful should be trashed.

John's untimely passing has left a hole in the CALMScience Division that will be difficult to fill, due to both his unsurpassed knowledge and his practical, gregarious, helpful and happy nature.

His friends and colleagues extend their sincere sympathy to his wife Marge, children Steven, Leonie and Karen and their families.



John Dorlandt.

CALM Bush Rangers visit France and Gallipoli



Lisa Rogowsky (left) and Chenelle Davies.

IT was undoubtedly one of the most exciting experiences when we were selected to represent the Western Australia in the Spirit of ANZAC Tour, 2001.

The tour was sponsored by the Office of Youth Affairs and the WA Returned Services League, and after many months' waiting for our journey to begin, we found ourselves at last at Perth International Airport on the afternoon of April 18.

Just like the ANZACs who embarked on their journey to distant lands 86 years ago, we too were nervous with excitement and unsure of what to expect.

However it soon became obvious to us all that we were

by Lisa Rogowsky & Chenelle Davies

in the midst of experiencing an emotional odyssey that will forever burn bright in our memories.

Our arrival in France was heralded by weather not unlike that experienced by our soldiers in 1916. It was cold and wet, with the Somme River overflowing and the mud deep enough to drown in.

Throughout our travels to villages such as Villers-Bretenoux, Poziers and Bullecourt (all of infamous memory) we were welcomed with such warmth and generosity that the cold was easily forgotten.

The memory of the ANZACs is so ingrained in the culture of many of these small villages near Amiens, that our pride in our country grew even stronger. Never before had we been made to feel so special for being Australian.

Perhaps the most intense, the most thought-provoking and emotional experience for us all was to stand on the beach at Gallipoli on April 25 in anticipation of the Dawn Service.

To wait and watch in the darkness, listening to the water lapping and waiting for the sun to rise, it was easy to imagine the ANZACs just out of sight—also waiting for the light of day. Only we were going home to our families with memories that we would cherish forever.

A retired Drafty Hunter is not so retiring

AFTER more than 45 years Colin 'Drafty' Hunter has retired. The good news for work colleagues and other friends is that he and his wife Margaret will continue to live in Pemberton.

Drafty has worked in many roles, first with the Forests Department and later with CALM. But he will be best remembered for his tireless work as 'caterer' at fires, filling the role with distinction.

He was always a welcome sight, delivering loads of cheek while ensuring the firefighters were fed and watered.

Drafty will also be remembered for his impeccable maintenance of CALM's Pemberton District recreation sites.

He set an exceedingly high standard for recreation-site presentation, with all of them neat and tidy, and supplied with plenty of firewood for the barbecues. Even the ground under and surrounding the tables was raked clear.

Drafty always liked to start work early and

by David Meehan

make his way out to the Warren National Park. Once there, he'd place his order for smoko with the campers, who invariably gave him a hot cuppa and some cake.

In exchange, he would regale them with yarns about the area and its local characters, among whom he would feature strongly.

Pointing out native birds and other animals to visitors was something in which Drafty also took great delight—but pity help any feral cat that crossed his path!

While his official title was forest workman, his colleagues think of Drafty as a Southern Forest icon.

Drafty has probably received more fan mail than that famous Oz singer and entertainer John Farnham—and the mail continues to arrive from all over the world.

He had a way with words and could tell a story that had tourists



Drafty and Margaret Hunter enjoying the farewell function are surrounded by Drafty's friends and colleagues. They are, from left, Alan Daubney, Alan Hatfield, Wayne Fox, John McDonald, Tom Lindley, Dennis Marshall, Kevin Barnsby, Stan Bamess and Ron Farr. Photo by John McKenzie

hanging off every word. Trying to put a dollar value on this kind of visitor liaison would be

daunting, if not downright impossible. Drafty will be sorely missed, but don't bet

your life savings on his staying out of circulation in and around Pemberton. You could

lose everything, including your shirt. If you just keep an ear cocked for roars of

laughter, you could find that he's still entertaining campers and other visitors to the area.

Four-wheel drivers lay tracks

OVER one long weekend, a 120-strong group of CALM volunteers, who are also members of the WA 4WD Association, visited D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

They were from 10 clubs, which belong to the Association, and the purpose of the trip was to help CALM improve access tracks to the coast in the Fish Creek area.

Lengths of conveyer belt donated by ALCOA of Australia were successfully laid, creating a solid base for vehicle traffic over an otherwise very soft and almost impassable section of track. This method has

already been used successfully in other areas along the south coast.

National Park ranger, Paul Udinga said that the work went smoothly and that a highly satisfying outcome was achieved.

"The volunteers and CALM staff worked tirelessly together to ensure that the work was completed that weekend," Paul said.

"We were overwhelmed by the number of volunteers and next time will have to plan more work to keep everyone fully occupied."

More track stabilisation work is planned in local national parks to improve access tracks and reduce the impact of vehicle traf-

fic in environmentally sensitive areas.

Paul said that many tracks in the Fish Creek area still needed some work and that many others could also be treated.

"When we create one good track, it keeps people off the vegetation and stops them creating more tracks. On some soft, steep dunes there's a maze of tracks that has been created by vehicles trying to cross the soft sand," he said.

"Correct driving technique, including lowering tyre pressure, also helps protect the environment and makes travelling easier."

The volunteers also

collected rubbish along the beach as part of the Clean Up Australia Campaign.

The weekend was highly successful, mainly due to the energy and enthusiasm shown by the volunteers involved, and the organisation of the work by CALM staff.

CALM will continue to work with the WA 4WD Association and other interested community groups to help protect the park environment and improve visitor access and facilities.

Community groups interested in helping should contact Paul Udinga at CALM's Pemberton District office on 9776 1207.



Nigel Sercombe, winner of this year's Seamus Mulholland Scholarship, and Kathleen Mulholland, (sister of Seamus) at the Field Officer Graduation celebrations.

Nigel wins scholarship

IT seemed a natural progression for Nigel Sercombe, after completing the CALM-coordinated Certificate IV of The Effective Manager Program and the Diploma of Management through Challenger College of TAFE in Fremantle, to continue adding to his knowledge base with a Graduate Business Qualification in Business Administration.

Now, having won this year's Seamus Mulholland Scholarship, Nigel will be able to finish his Graduate Diploma and articulate it to a Master of Business Administration at Curtin University.

Nigel will also take part in CALM's Leadership and Organisational Development Program, which will earn him credit points towards his post-graduate studies, adding to his list of qualifications, which include a Theology Degree and Teacher Training.

by Chantal Laval

Nigel began his career with the Forests Department in the Goldfields region in 1978. He then began a cadetship at the Dwellingup Cadet School (now Training Centre), graduating in 1980.

His first posting was as a forest guard in Walpole and then Manjimup, and in 1983 he was seconded to Broome for five months to manage the Broome tree nursery.

It was in early 1984 that Nigel resigned from CALM to undertake his theological studies, and in the ensuing three years, he worked as a Youth Worker with a church in one of Perth's suburbs.

Nigel recommenced employment with CALM in 1988 as a training officer based at the CALM Training Centre.

In mid 1992, he took up his current position of regional operations officer in the Midwest, where he

is responsible for the co-ordination of all operational activities in the Midwest Region.

His responsibilities cover occupational health and safety, staff training, fire management, environmental protection, reserves management, Aboriginal liaison, and the establishment and management of marine reserves.

Nigel is also responsible for the management of Geraldton District, which includes Kalbarri National Park, five recently purchased pastoral properties in the Murchison, approximately 30 nature reserves and the Coalseam Conservation Park.

The Graduate Business Qualification will provide Nigel with practical and relevant material that will further equip him with key leadership and management skills, while leading to a postgraduate qualification.

Nigel will complete his course through external studies.



Laying black rubber conveyer belt is dirty work, as Armadale 4WD club members (from left) Bob Smith, Bob Wakelin, and Mark Kemp can testify. CALM Pemberton Districts Recreation Supervisor (inset) even managed to totally blacken his face. Photo by Sally Cook

Mundaring District going down new paths

MUNDARING District AWU staff are covering a lot of ground with their timber boardwalks.

Over the past few years, the team has undertaken most of the boardwalk construction on Penguin Island. This has led to commissions for a range of projects on sites as far away as Kununurra.

The team includes staff from Jarrahdale, led by overseer Geoff Styles. Construction work for other CALM districts and regions has formed an increasing part of the works program for Jarrahdale AWU employees.

The Penguin Island project led to work for Moora District on Lancelin Island, the Kununurra boardwalk, interpretive shelters for the Wheatbelt Region, toilets on Garden

Island, work for the Town of Cambridge at Lake Monger and various projects for the Regional Parks Unit around the metropolitan area.

Together with Mundaring staff, the team has recently finished a 100-metre long boardwalk linking a cycle path in Canning River Regional Park. The three-metre wide boardwalk is designed for use by both cyclists and walkers—the scale of the project is demonstrated by the fact that it took more than 7,500 stainless steel screws to build.

The Mundaring District team is now working on vehicle gates for Darling Range Regional Park, and later this year, will build a viewing platform over Mundaring Weir for the Kalamunda Shire as part of the Golden Pipeline project.



Overseer Geoff Styles on the new boardwalk in Canning River Regional Park. Photo by Peter Dans



These lever arch folders are less than half of the collection, containing Rottnest Island flora specimens, recently handed over to the Rottnest Island Authority by the CALM Herbarium. Poring over them are, from left, Noreen Kennealy, Elizabeth Rippey, Jon Dodd, Jan Gathe and Neville Marchant. Photo by Verna Costello

Rottnest acquires herbarium

by Jan Gathe

NEXT time you go to Rotto, instead of heading for the Quokka Arms, make your first stop at the Museum, where there's a display featuring some of the island's plants.

These pressed and mounted plant specimens will have come from the newly-formed Rottnest Island Regional Herbarium.

This important collection of plants growing on Rottnest is an outcome of a Rottnest Voluntary Guides' Association (RVGA) major project.

Over the past three years, the 40 Guides involved (assisted by Dr Jon Dodd and Elizabeth Rippey), collected, documented, pressed and collated close to 300 different collections, which include both native plants, and 'aliens' that have

become naturalised on the island. A number of these are of species that have never before been collected on Rottnest.

A collection of this size and standard is an outstanding achievement and represents many hours spent in the field and indoors identifying and processing the specimens.

This hard work and commitment by the RVGA was celebrated recently when the herbarium was officially handed over by CALM's Herbarium Director Neville Marchant to Claire Wright representing the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA).

The new herbarium is one of 74 across the State, all of which are electronically linked to the CALM

Herbarium databases, which enables access to information about the plants in their collections.

This linkage also ensures that the Regional Herbaria are kept informed of any name changes that may be made to specimens in their collections.

The new Rottnest Herbarium makes a highly significant contribution to the Island's natural history knowledge base, and its value will become even more evident as visitors want to learn more about the natural history of the island.

The Rottnest Voluntary Guides are congratulated for their foresight and effort in creating this Regional Herbarium, which furthers knowledge and enhances conservation of the flora of this special part of Western Australia.

Ben's surveying in Mongolia

THERE'S no truth in the rumour that East Kimberley District wildlife officer Ben Tannock is swanning around in Mongolia. 'Swanning' is definitely not the operative word.

Ben is part way through a three-month project with the Mongolian Environment Department, carrying out voluntary survey work in a 1.75-million-hectare protected area, where he expects to be dealing with deer, boar and, maybe

a few bears. He said the project is funded (or part-funded) by the UK government, and involves disadvantaged children from the UK and various third world countries.

Ben's first stop was London, before setting off for the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator.

In July, he expects to be in Ireland for a brief holiday with relatives and friends, and a look at how the Irish handle environmental issues.

Women in CALM No 7 - Tracey Rankin

by Verna Costello

A MEMBER of Amnesty International, Tracey Rankin sees parallels between its work and that of her work as acting Human Resources Policy and Diversity consultant in CALMpeople Services Branch.

"Broadly speaking, Amnesty is about human rights, whereas my job often sees me dealing with employees' rights," she says.

Recently appointed to the position, Tracey is involved in the preparation and review of Human Resources policies, resolution of grievances, Equal Employment Opportunity issues and cases management of CALM and Forest Products Commission redeployees.

"I thoroughly enjoy the challenges and the human contact, so I've no immediate plans to leave either CALMpeople Services or CALM," Tracey said.

Before starting the climb to her present position with CALM, Tracey was a nationally accredited figure skating coach (wheels not ice), but because of a recurring knee injury, she was forced, with

great reluctance, to give up her career.

Her first job was with CALM's Records Branch, as 'searcher', hunting daily through people's offices for missing files.

"To my great relief, I was eventually transferred to Human Resources Branch (HR) in 1988 to assist with the establishment and running of the Traineeship Program," Tracey said.

"I found the work considerably rewarding and, realising this was where my future lay, I began studying for a BSc. (Psychology), with the aim of returning to an HR career.

"Meanwhile, I continued to work in a variety of roles in CALM, including a spell with the Minister's Office.

"Soon after acquiring my degree, I returned to CALM as a leave clerk, progressing to personnel, then senior personnel officer, and recently, I acted for 14 months as Workforce Services and Planning manager, while Michelle Bolitho was on

maternity leave.

"It was a roller coaster ride, coinciding with the establishment and staffing of the Forest Products Division, then the Forest Products Commission and the Conservation Commission. Talk about 'planned parenthood'—Michelle's timing was perfect for her—and for my career development."

Tracey has begun post-graduate studies in organisational psychology, but believes there is life outside study and work.

Her other interests include eating out, attending concerts and movies with friends, and all kinds of dancing. A former classical ballet student, she is currently learning Irish dancing and the salsa.

Tracey has also travelled extensively throughout Europe and Australia (except Tasmania).

She is a voracious reader, with very catholic tastes, from works by AS Byatt to Jane Austen, from Amy Tan to Sebastian Faulkes, and so on.

"I've also had a few pieces published," she says offhandedly, before resolutely clamping up.



Holding her Irish dancing shoes, Tracey Rankin looks over just a few other tokens of her wide-ranging leisure interests. Photo by Verna Costello



Greg Broomhall submits to the clippers wielded by Tim Mitchell, who could afford to smile, but only for a wee while longer. Then he, too, was shorn in support of Men's Cancer Research.
Photo by Ian Herford

Close shave for charity

SHAVING heaps of heads to raise money for Men's Cancer Research was the aim of a Me No Hair Day held in Albany.

Organised by staff from CALM Albany District and Forest Products Commission (FPC) South Coast Sharefarms, the evening was a resounding success, with 11 people agreeing to have their heads 'exposed to the gaze of the vulgar public'.

They were Sylvia Leighton, Tim Mitchell, Barry Jordan, Greg Broomhall, Peter Bidwell, Paul Harrison, Bob Edwards, John Edwards, Neil Worrell, Lawrence Cuthbert, and Red Morehu. The night started off well with Paul Harrison hesitantly (but nevertheless bravely) taking the plunge.

Not wishing to be out of

by Sharelle Smith & Laura Beck

step with those sporting the fast becoming 'trendy' bald heads, Paul Blechynden also opted for a free haircut.

Children, partners and workmates were well entertained, as family members were transformed into 'baldies'—and laughed about it! Newly elected Labor Member of Parliament, Peter Watson was also seen enjoying the event.

'Dag of the Night' was Peter Bidwell. He arrived as a clown with orange hair, then transformed himself into a lout sporting a leather jacket and a tattoo.

Ian Herford videoed the event and ran an auction for the honour of shaving off

Greg Broomhall's moustache and John Edward's facial hair. (John doesn't have a great deal 'on top' so he had to be shaved elsewhere to justify the many donations pouring in.)

Keen competition for these 'privileges' added \$300 to the fund, and the sausage sizzle—with local businesses generously donating produce—earned \$100.

Boronia Worrell also deserves a huge thank you. After she completed her day job as a hairdresser, she cheerfully volunteered at the evening event and also provided razors.

The total amount raised was \$2,900. This far exceeded expectations and we thank all who contributed to the event in aid of such a worthy cause.

John wins Lane Poole

by Chantal Laval

CONGRATULATIONS to Mundaring District's John Carter—winner of the year 2001 Lane Poole Scholarship.

Like so many CALM employees, John's appreciation for the protection of the natural environment saw him seeking a career with CALM.

He joined the Department as a field cadet in 1985, and his first posting was to Jarrahdale, where he worked for three years in Environmental Protection.

John then spent one year in Kirup where he was involved in softwoods tending (planting and pruning of pines), and for the three years following he worked in Merredin co-ordinating that District's conservation program.

Since 1992, John has occupied his current position as Mundaring District Nature Conservation program leader.

In this role, John is responsible to the District Manager for all nature conservation matters and land tenure issues, in particular statutory planning proposals occurring under the Town Planning and Development Act and Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act adjacent to State forests, national parks and nature reserves.

Over the past decade John has seen a dramatic increase in developments, particularly subdivisions, with many of these adjacent to CALM-managed land.

As these planning proposals have a potential impact on biodiversity values and management practices, John would like to be able to make sound recommendations of practices, procedures and methods that may be applied in CALM's management of the statutory planning process.

With this in mind, John plans to use his scholarship to visit Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to study the impact of development on State forests, and conservation lands in

urban and semi rural locations.

He will visit State government land management and planning agencies to identify developments that are recognised as being compatible with, and protecting forest and nature conservation values.

John will use the tour as a unit towards his Bachelor of Science—Land Management. He is a third of the way through his degree, which he is completing via external studies with the University of Sydney.

Charles Edward Lane Poole (1885–1970), after whom the scholarship was named, was the first Conservator of Forests appointed under the 1918 WA Forests Act. His work laid the foundation for forest management in WA. The scholarship provides financial assistance towards travel or study opportunities for CALM and Forest Products Commission officers.



Lane Poole Scholarship winner John Carter.
Photo by Chantal Laval

RAAF remembered in park

CALM has collaborated with the RAAF Association in Albany to commemorate the war-time role of Stony Hill, in Torndirrup National Park.

by Martyn Lloyd

when the war started and the RAAF occupied the area.

The RAAF replaced previous structures with Radar No. 35 Albany Station in 1943, which had a 90-mile range, 180-degree sweep of the coast to look for submarines and shipping.

Other buildings and bunkers were built on the hill to house officers, men, a cook house, and two Ford V8 engines for power. Buildings were very basic and built of steel plates on wooden frames and plastered with a cement

lime and cows' hair mixture. The station was closed in September 1945 and today a few remnants of the occupation can still be identified.

The RAAF Association approached CALM's District Parks Manager, Martyn Lloyd, about putting a plaque on Stony Hill to commemorate this history. Together with Torndirrup Ranger-in-charge Luke Coney and Ranger Mark Roddy, they fixed the heavy brass plaque on Stony Hill.

The plaque was unveiled recently as part of Albany's Federation Program by Her Worship, the Mayor of Albany, Alison Goode.

Staff survival skills tested

CALM's East Kimberley staff had their survival skills put severely to the test recently.

A two-day workshop in Kununurra conducted by the survival expert's expert, Bob Cooper of Bob Cooper Outdoor Education, saw participants brushing up on old bush-craft skills, and learning new navigation and survival techniques.

It was the first time the course was run in the Kimberley, and in spite of the remoteness and hazards associated with the Region, it was welcomed enthusiastically and attended by the entire Kununurra team.

The first day saw Bob debunking popular myths about survival and bush craft, and instilling into us a level of common sense and practicality. Videos and personal stories impressed on all the need to appreciate that emergencies could spring up anywhere and at any time.

by Alex Bowlay

Day two saw theory being put into practice near Kununurra in the appealing surrounds of Valentine Springs, which became our classroom, complete with high humidity and head-high cane grass making for a challenging but rewarding day.

The first activity was an enthralling lesson, adopting the stone tool technology of Australian Aborigines to make improvised knives and other cutting tools.

This was not easy, but with much persistence—and perspiration, everybody was soon 'knapping'—the correct term for striking very hard, smooth, water-worn rocks against each other to produce delicate, but extraordinarily sharp-edged 'flakes', used throughout the day to slice and dice bush tucker.

Basic field navigation exercises were next, with all

groups successfully completing traverses over terrain that was 'interesting', to say the least. Navigation, using the sun, and different methods of water collection followed.

Bob Cooper's custom survival kits were handed to each participant. Those familiar with the kits know they are a cornucopia of survival items, including a compass, knife, first-aid gear and fire-lighting equipment, packed into a container no bigger than a soap box.

More unusual items included stock cubes, glucose tablets and tea bags. For conscientious recyclers, tea bags can be reused up to 20 times. The kit can be customised to include extra items preferred by each individual.

The day culminated in fire making, using nothing more than a wooden bow, string, a few sticks and plenty of friction. The author remains thankful that the survival kit contains idiot-proof means of fire lighting.



Alex Bowlay steps high as he ploughs through bulrushes during the survival course.
Photo by Geoff Young