

Bush Books a natural inspiration



Helping CALM at the launch of Bush Books were (from left) Liz King of Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Gooseberry Hill, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, CALM wildlife researcher Brent Johnson, Katie McCreadie from Raptor Retreat, Environment Minister Peter Foss, and June Butcher and Johanna ter Wiel, both from Kanyana.

HOW can you tell a humpback from a southern right whale, a jarrah from a marri or a kestrel from a kite?

CALM has produced the first seven books in a new series aimed at inspiring residents and visitors to WA to take a greater interest in our natural environment.

Bush Books are a series of practical field guides to help people discover and learn about the State's unique plants, animals and special features, region by region.

Environment Minister Peter Foss, who launched the books recently, said Western Australia was a treasure trove of nature's wonders.

"The number of bizarre and wondrous natural attractions in this State is unparalleled, so it is not surprising that when it comes to biodiversity, WA is in the 'mega' class," he said.

"Conserving this immensely diverse biological resource is a huge challenge, but one that can be attained if people become more aware of our native plants and animals."

Although there is a number of excellent field guides to WA's flora and fauna, most of them are too technical for the layperson and not easily available.

Bush Books are pocket-size, and each is based around a defined geographic region which contributes to their relevance and ease of use.

The books are inexpensive, retailing for \$5.95 each, and are available from many outlets throughout the State including most bookshops, many newsagents, CALM offices, RAC shops, tourist bureaus and numerous other specialist outlets, such as camping and dive shops.

The first seven books in the series are *Birds in the Backyard*, *Mammals of the South West*; *Whales and Dolphins of WA*; *Common Trees of the South West Forests*; *Common Wildflowers of the South West Forests*; *Common Birds of the South West Forests* and the first from a series for the Kimberley region, *Common Plants of the Kimberley*.

New titles in the series will be produced and it is envisaged that ultimately each re-

gion in the State will have its own series. The books are informative, scientifically accurate and of souvenir quality. The standard of photography is exceptionally high and additional illustrations show people how to recognise the tell-tale signs of animals in the bush, as well as how to identify whale and dolphin species from tail flukes, dorsal fins and 'blows'.

Birds in the Backyard also includes informative tips on making suburban gardens 'bird friendly'.

The books were edited and co-authored by a CALM special projects officer, Carolyn Thomson, with the assistance of a wide range of experts including CALM staff Brent Johnson, Judy Wheeler, Andrew Brown, Greg Keighery, Kevin Kenneally, Chris Done, John Hunter and Dough Coughran, and John Dell of the WA Museum.

They have been designed by the CALM Corporate Relations award-winning creative team that designs *LANDSCOPE*—Sue Marais, Maria Duthie, Sandra van Brugge and Gooitzen van der Meer.

Western Australia tree planting sets record

THIS winter will see record numbers of commercial trees planted in rural Western Australia.

CALM will plant more than 21 million seedlings in share farming partnerships and in its own plantation and native forest operations.

This is on top of the millions of seedlings that will be grown on farms using seed from CALM's stockpile of more than 200 million native seeds.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea said the number of seedlings was more than 10 per cent above the previous record number supplied from CALM's nurseries in Manjimup and Narrogin.

Dr Shea said CALM's elite Western Blue Gums and Tasmanian bluegums made up almost half the number of seedlings produced by CALM this year.

bluegum plantations has been phenomenal and highlights the big inroads that have been made in the past few years in revolutionising the way in which we are developing the State's agroforestry industry," he said.

"This year, CALM will supply 6.6 million Tasmanian bluegum seedlings and three million Western Blue Gums for planting out under share-farming agreements as well as in private plantings.

"Of these, one million Tasmanian bluegums and 100,000 Western Blue Gums will be exported to South Australia and Victoria. This reflects the premier position Western Australia has established in researching and developing this species as the major farm tree crop."

Other seedlings produced at the nurseries are karri (4 million), pine (3.2 million

pinaster) and oil mallees (2.3 million). A further 1.2 million oil mallees will be produced on contract for CALM by private nurseries at Canna, Kalannie, Cunderdin, Narembeen and Esperance.

CALM also will produce 800,000 seedlings of mixed hardwood species. The three tonnes of native seeds held in the seed store cover more than 450 species.

Dr Shea said that in the past, the biggest problem facing agroforestry had been finance.

However, CALM initiatives had provided that finance through attracting \$150 million in overseas investment over 10 years. Six major overseas companies now were involved in three bluegum sharefarming arrangements at Albany and in the Wellington catchment around Collie.

These sharefarming arrange-

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