

## RARE WALLABIES SIGHTED

Rare spectacled hare wallabies have been sighted further north than previously recorded in WA.

Two of the rare animals were recently photographed 170 km west of Kununurra on Gibb River Rd, near the Durack River Crossing.



Department of Agriculture staff Phil Wiese and Belinda Wyckstra saw the wallabies in their car's headlights after they stopped to wait for another vehicle. They showed the photos to staff at CALM's Kununurra office, who identified the animals as spectacled hare-wallabies.

While spectacled hare-wallabies are common on Barrow Island, they are now

rare on the Pilbara mainland and believed to be extinct in the State's tropical desert areas. They can still be found in parts of the Northern Territory and Queensland.

There have only been two previous recordings of the species in the Kimberley - one from St George Range near Noonkanbah Station in 1911 and one from 100 km south-east of Derby in 1958.

The spectacled hare-wallaby lives in tussock and spinifex grassland. In the Pilbara, frequent burning of this grassland by pastoralists has prevented the development of large spinifex hummocks required for shelter. On Barrow Island the animal spends the day in hides tunnelled into these large hummocks.

The species once occurred on the Montebello Islands, but became extinct there due to feral cats, well before the atomic explosions of the early 1950s.

It is a selective feeder, eating colonising shrubs and the tips of spinifex leaves.



Two rare spectacled hare-wallabies were recently seen way beyond their known range.

The wallaby tunnels hides into large spinifex hummocks. Photos- Jiri Lochman



## CONFERRING ON CORRIDORS

A major international conference was held in Busselton in September to examine the effectiveness of corridors of vegetation in wildlife management.

Entitled "Nature Conservation and the Role of Corridors", the conference followed a similar one held in 1985, which examined the role of remnants of native vegetation.

In Western Australian agricultural areas, little remains of the original native bush. If wildlife is to survive in farming areas, it will have to be in the patches of bush that remain, and it is important that they are connected by corridors of native vegetation to permit movement of wildlife.

The conference, from September 11-15th, was organised and sponsored by CALM, the CSIRO, the Main Roads Department and the Roadside Conservation Committee, with assistance from ALCOA and Westralian Sands.

It attracted a capacity attendance of 100 wildlife scientists, landscape architects, foresters, planners, engineers and members of the general public, from all over Australia and seven other countries.



Illustration- Tim Harvey

Five speakers reviewed areas such as values of corridors, movement of flora and fauna, inventory and management. Each day workshops examined topics related to the day's theme.

By bringing together scientists and managers, the conference helped to achieve a greater understanding of the value of bush corridors and how to manage them.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE MAGIC** of Kings Park has been captured in a new botanical guide, *Bushland Plants of Kings Park*. Written by Eleanor Bennett, the book gives a complete detailed guide to the Park's native flora. It is illustrated with more than 70 beautiful paintings by Patricia Dundas and features a detailed history of Kings Park, a comprehensive map and colour



photographs of the bush. Divided into five major categories- trees, shrubs, twining, herbs and grasses- the book gives botanical and common names and is an excellent reference for plant lovers. *Bushland Plants of Kings Park* is available from the Kings Park Board Office or all good bookshops for \$29.95. The book was sponsored by Westralian Forest Industries.

# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME FIVE NO 1 SPRING EDITION 1989



Perth people were devastated when a fire tore through their favourite bushland retreat. But, with Spring, new life and colour is returning.



Rottnest isn't the only unspoilt island on Perth's doorstep- what about Penguin, Garden, Seal and Carnac Islands? They are steeped in history and provide a haven for some unique wildlife.



Algae has clogged the estuaries near Mandurah, killing fish and creating an eyesore. What is the solution?



Explore the waterways of the South-West by canoe.



Jarrah dieback- the word strikes fear into any forester's heart- but research is fuelling the fight against the killer fungus.

## FEATURES

<b>ISLAND INTERLUDES</b>	
KYLIE BYFIELD .....	10
<b>THE DAWESVILLE DILEMMA</b>	
ANDREW BELL .....	18
<b>RISING FROM THE ASHES</b>	
BOB DIXON .....	25
<b>STILL WATERS RUN</b>	
TAMMIE REID AND TANYIA MAXTED .....	33
<b>TREE KILLER</b>	
BRYAN SHEARER AND RAY BAILEY .....	38
<b>A STATELY COLLECTION</b>	
CAROLYN THOMSON .....	45
<b>PUTTING DOWN ROOTS</b>	
TANYIA MAXTED .....	51
<b>PHOTO ESSAY</b>	
WILDFLOWER WONDERLAND .....	56
<b>REGULARS</b>	
<b>IN PERSPECTIVE</b> .....	
4	
<b>BUSH TELEGRAPH</b> .....	
6	
<b>ENDANGERED</b>	
FOREST FROGS .....	17
<b>URBAN ANTICS</b> .....	
58	
<b>SPECIALS</b>	
<b>PHOTO COMPETITION</b> .....	
29	
<b>LIFT-OUT POSTER</b>	
HUMPBACKS HEAD SOUTH	

## COLLECTION

What's new in Kings Park this spring? Artist, Susan Tingay, couldn't resist this magnificent collection of spring orchids. From left- cowslip orchid (*Caladenia flava*), jug orchid (*Pterostylis recurva*), King spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*), donkey orchid (*Diuris longifolia*), rabbit orchid (*Caladenia menziesii*), and pink fairy orchid (*Caladenia latifolia*).

Back Cover: *Stimson's python* (*Morelia stimsoni*)  
Photo-Jiri Lochman



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