

CAPE CRUSADERS

West Cape Howe National Park will soon have a draft management plan and users of the Park are helping to put it together.

The Park, on the south coast between Albany and Denmark, was declared in 1985. Its sandy beaches and rocky headlands, tall karri forest and low wind-pruned coastal heaths are home to fauna such as the ringtail possum, the quokka and the Red-eared Firetail.



The Cape includes Torbay Head, the southernmost point in WA, and has impressive cliffs of "black granite" (actually a rock called gabbro).

Fishing, camping, bush-walking and picnicking, diving, rockclimbing and hang-gliding are popular Park activities.



*Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park provides one of the premier hang-gliding spots in WA.
Photo - Tony Tapper*

The area has suffered badly from uncontrolled vehicle use over the years and user groups are keen to see the damage repaired. Groups and Park visitors from as far away as England have been consulted.

CALM's South Coast Region held a workshop, attended by 60 people from 14 user groups, near Albany late last year.

The participants considered management issues such as access, dieback, information, fire management, visitor facilities and rehabilitation. Strategies for managing each

issue were developed in an intensive workshop session.

One thing was clear - current use is causing serious erosion of coastal dunes. The plan will rationalise access routes to halt this process. A few stable tracks are needed to replace the myriad of unstable ones that currently criss-cross the Park.

Signs advising drivers to lower their tyre pressure when in sand country were suggested to help reduce damage to sand dunes. These are about to be installed in the Park.

"All four-wheel-drive owners should be carrying a tyre pump in their vehicle to enable them to adjust tyre pressures to suit the terrain," said one participant.

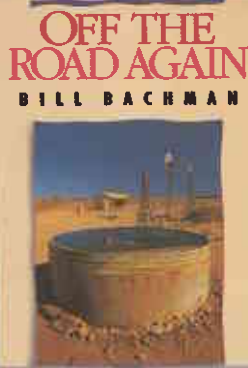
Community involvement in the draft management plan has achieved more than just an exchange of ideas. Interaction among user groups is also improving understanding of the Park's different uses and of the range of views about its management.

Community support is essential if the final plan is to be implemented successfully. In the case of West Cape Howe, we're off to a flying start.

IAN HERFORD

BOOK REVIEW

FREELANCE photographer Bill Bachman has written and photographed a new book, entitled *Off the Road Again*. It slowly took shape as Bachman and his wife made their way across the "top end" - through Central Australia, the Northern Territory and the Kimberley. Although the text is well written and entertaining it is the photographs that dominate the book. Bachman has produced



some inspiring images of the Australian outback. Some photographs emphasise the landscape's vast foregrounds, empty horizons and enormous skies. Others home in on slabs of colour, slices of light and detail: Bachman shows that the Australian landscape is as much about shape and texture as about space and light.

Off The Road Again retails at \$16.95 and is available from most bookshops.

Scented sun orchid (Thelymitra nuda) can be seen flowering at West Cape Howe during warm, sunny weather.

*The well-known black cliffs of West Cape Howe.
Photos - Tony Tapper*



LANDSCOPE

VOLUME FIVE NO 3 AUTUMN EDITION 1990



Rock-wallabies threw down the gauntlet to scientists trying to trap them for research. Who ended up winning the catch-me-if-you-can contest? See page 35.



Scientists will use modern technology to restore two rare and endangered mammals to an area in the Gibson Desert from which they have become extinct. See page 10.



Shells, tiny crabs and sundry other creatures are sure to please the curious naturalist who invades the intertidal zone at low tide. Explore the place where the shore meets the sea on page 23.



Waterbirds flock to the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands in their tens of thousands, some travelling over 10 000 kilometres from summer breedings grounds in northern China and Siberia. Turn to page 17.



It's the burning question! Is prescribed burning in spring or autumn better for the jarrah forest? Or is there another alternative? See page 28.

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C O V E R

The designs of desert artist Benny Tjapaltjarri show events associated with the Pakuru or golden bandicoot dreaming in the Gibson Desert. The three central roundels depict rockholes and the others represent hills. The background dots show the vegetation of the area.



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