

ZOO STORY

"Truly conservation-minded" is how Perth Zoo describes itself these days.

It has adopted a mission - as stated in 1988 - "to contribute to the conservation of wildlife and to encourage the development of positive community attitudes towards conservation of life on earth."

Issues now addressed by the Zoo's exhibits include degradation of soil, the need for conservation and wise use of energy, the global overview and motivation of realistic action by governments, organisations and individuals.

Forty-four animal species kept at Perth Zoo are the subject of Australian and international conservation programs. Three programs have been developed

with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to ensure survival of the western swamp tortoise, numbat and chuditch. The zoo is the only place in the world where the numbat can be seen on display. The numbat exhibit itself - the way the animal is presented and the supporting interpretive materials - won this year's Australian Heritage Award for Nature Conservation.

The Zoo recently opened two new exhibits - Microworld and the Conservation Discovery Centre - and will open an African Savannah exhibit later this year. A joint venture



A young Sumatran orang-utan. Photo - Jiri Lochman

between CALM, the Zoo and academia, now being developed, will see an Endangered Species Centre established just outside Perth. The proposed centre has attracted Commonwealth and

State funding and is expected to become a centre for conservation biology training and research in south east Asia and Australasia.

WAYCHINICUP: NEW NATIONAL PARK

Two new areas of national park in the Waychinicup area near Albany have been gazetted. These areas, together with the existing Mount Manypeaks and Arpenture Nature Reserves, complete stage one of the Waychinicup National Park. The park now extends from Normans Beach, across Mount Manypeaks and the Waychinicup River mouth, to the Cheynes Beach area.

The next stage is to extend the park from the coast, inland across the main Waychinicup

River valley, to the South Coast Highway. Cheyne Road Nature Reserve will also be included, completing stage two. The various areas of national park and nature reserve will then be amalgamated formally to establish the Waychinicup National Park.

The original proposal to create the national park was made in 1981 by John Watson, CALM South Coast Regional Manager. It was supported by the EPA South Coast Reserves Working Group for the Albany

Shire coastline, and subsequently by the Albany Shire Council and the EPA.

The Waychinicup area is very scenic, with unusual granite rock formations and views both inland and along the coast. It is already popular for bush walking, rock climbing, fishing and family recreation, and when completed will form a relatively small yet magnificent national park of approximately 14 000 hectares.

Additionally, it is an area of very high conservation values. It contains several species of restricted or declared rare flora, including *Banksia verticillata*, *Banksia brownii*, and *Asplenium obtusatum* (shore spleenwort),

which was recently found at only its second known mainland location. The area contains a similar number of flora species to that found in the famous Stirling Range National Park, which is approximately ten times the size. According to CALM Senior Research Scientist Greg Keighery, the coastal heath around Mount Manypeaks is exceptionally diverse - possibly the most diverse in Western Australia.

Restricted or declared rare fauna include the elusive dibbler and the noisy scrub-bird. The latter was reintroduced to the area between 1983 and 1985 and its population has subsequently expanded, indicating local breeding.

The recent progress towards the establishment of Waychinicup National Park is a highly significant step in nature conservation and the development of Australia's national park system.



Looking west from the summit of Mt Manypeaks. Normans Beach and the western addition to the park are in the middle distance, Mt Gardner and Two Peoples Bay beyond. Photo - John Watson

LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SIX NO. 1 - SPRING EDITION 1990



In the central Kimberley, a screw-pine-surrounded creek - just one of the threatened areas in this fragile frontier. Turn to page 22.



Until 1984 more was known about what was underneath the Nullarbor than what was on top. But with such a vast area to study, where do we start? See page 16.



Public awareness and involvement is vital in the conservation of WA's rare and endangered flora. Page 49.



Ten WA mammal species have become extinct in the last 200 years. What can be done to ensure no more are lost forever? Page 28.



Forests protect our environment. They also provide timber. How do we strike a balance? Turn to page 35.

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C O V E R

Dolphins and whales are perhaps the best-known inhabitants of Western Australia's coastal waters. But this unique area is also home to an astonishing range of marine flora and fauna, from sea-turtles and coral reefs in the north to sea-grass banks and great white sharks in the south. See page 10.

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