



*The effects of agriculture leave little native vegetation.*

*Photos - Professor John Fox*

Bali for fans and ornaments. Dr Fox said that javanese and Chinese records of the 13th and 14th centuries mention Timor as a source of sandalwood. Little else of tradeable value seems to have been used until the development of a beef cattle industry to Java in the 1910s. The dramatic increase of the cattleherd, together with poor agricultural practices, had led to a

dwindling resource of sandalwood.

Dr Fox said research was required on sandalwood to assist in developing effective methods of raising seedlings (sandalwood is a root parasite and requires a host), in planting (it is grazed by cattle), and in selecting trees for preservation of important genetic resources. In Australia, some sandalwood is being grown in the Kimberley, and access to seed from superior trees from Timor will be vital to the project.

## ELLENSBROOK

There are many special places in Western Australia, away from the daily hum of city traffic. Ellensbrook, a National Trust home in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park near Margaret River, is one such place. Aborigines were attracted to the area by its combination of fresh water and seashore, features that draw us there still. Department of Conservation and Land Management district manager Ian Rotheram is one of many who have discovered its beauty:

'I first visited Ellensbrook when a friend wanted to show me a little-known but special and historical place within Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Our walk of a few kilometres was rewarded when we came upon the old crushed shell and limestone home tucked into the sandhills next to the Ellen Brook.

'Alfred and Ellen Bussell spent a decade of their young lives at Ellensbrook in the mid-1800s. Theirs was a meagre existence, which gradually improved as their one-room hut was built onto and as they managed to sell some of their produce. Unhappily, two of Ellen's children died at Ellensbrook and are buried nearby, and she was apparently

glad to move to nearby Wallcliffe.

'Legend has it that long ago another young couple were drawn to the area. Nearby Meekadarabee, or resting place of the moon, is the resting place for two young Aboriginal lovers who eloped there until their families caught and killed them.

'The old sandy track has recently been upgraded to a road, and CALM has built a walk trail to the waterfall at Meekadarabee. Other facilities are proposed to ensure protection of this beautiful spot.

'There is still much to do around the home and in the national park. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the National Trust have to harness the enthusiasm and vision that many people have for Ellensbrook. In years to come it will be a special place for many Western Australians - a unique place in which to contemplate our cultural and natural heritage.'

*Ellensbrook is a National Trust home.*

*Photo - Ian Rotheram*



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# 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.*

*Illustrated by Martin Thompson.*



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