

PURNULULU WINS GREEN TOURISM AWARD

In spite of stiff competition from 14 countries worldwide, including the United Kingdom and Kenya, the Purnululu National Park, home of the Bungle Bungle massif, became the winner of the first international Tourism for Tomorrow Awards for 'green' tourism. The award was made in recognition of the success in integrating the needs of local people and the environment with the demands of tourism in Purnululu National Park. (See *LANDSCOPE*, Summer 90-91.)

When announcing the award recently in London, eminent conservationist Dr David Bellamy said, "The Bungle Bungle is a particularly outstanding project in that the authorities have created a tourism destination of enormous interest and physical beauty whilst maintaining the traditional Aboriginal homeland and customs."

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has held extensive negotiations with the Purnululu Aboriginal Corporation (PAC) over the Purnululu National Park since 1986. The Corporation represents the interests of the area's traditional Aboriginal custodians and played an important role in the development and ongoing management of the park.

"It is very pleasing to have our work recognised and rewarded in this way," said Mary Colreavy, CALM's policy adviser responsible for Aboriginal issues.

"Our negotiations with the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Purnululu area in the preparation of the plan showed we were dealing with some



very new and innovative concepts, and we couldn't rush things," she said. "I think both PAC and CALM have learnt a great deal in these past four or five years and I look forward to a successful partnership in protecting and caring for this national park and its visitors."

The agreements reached for the park are expected to provide a model for the management and protection of other areas of conservation and Aboriginal significance in Western Australia. Purnululu Aboriginals live on leases within the national park and continue to carry out their traditional role as custodians. Aboriginal rangers have also been trained and employed in the park.

WA Tourism Minister Pam Beggs said the park was acclaimed as the best of its kind in the world. "This is a feather in the cap of the Government agencies and local

people who have been involved in the conservation of the Bungle Bungle," said Mrs Beggs. "The Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Western Australian Tourism Commission worked very closely with the tourism industry in the planning of the park," she added.

CALM's Director of Parks, Recreation and Planning, Chris Haynes, said winning the award was a great honour for all concerned.

"The winning of an award like this, while being prestigious, will also keep us on our toes. As soon as a place gets 'on the map' everyone wants to visit it and inevitable pressures begin to mount," said Mr Haynes. "Our objective will be to maintain the natural physical environment, fulfill our commitments to the Aboriginal people of the park and provide

*The Bungle Bungle massif.
Photo - Andrew Burbidge*

a good experience for visitors."

The annual awards were introduced in the UK by the Tour Operators Study Group (made up of Britain's leading 19 tour operators), the British Tourist Authority and Thames Television's travel and holiday show, *Wish You Were Here...?*

In closing, Dr Bellamy said of the awards, "It is gratifying to find that the travel industry is working seriously with its partners to encourage practical means of harmonising the needs of the environment with those of tourists. These unprecedented awards are already making a positive and active contribution and the response in its first year has been remarkable."



Visitors from around Australia are discovering what those who live nearby already know - D'Entrecasteaux...C'est Magnifique. Turn to page 10.



Seabirds nest on Pelsaert Island in the Houtman Abrolhos by the million. See page 17.

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There's more to invertebrates than slugs, maggots and spiders. Turn to page 28 to find out just why invertebrates are so important.



What has happened to Fitzgerald River National Park since the 1989 wildfire? See page 34.



Explore the Dampier Archipelago, a group of rocky islands with a violent past and a wealth of wildlife. Turn to page 48.

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C O V E R

Invertebrates play an important role in the ecosystem of WA's jarrah forest. Earthworms, termites and ants fragment leaf litter and mix organic matter. Some soil and litter invertebrates stimulate plant growth. Soil insects such as larval beetles feed on roots, stimulating the plants' growth rate. Our cover illustration is Philippa Nikulinsky's impression of this process at work in the jarrah forest.



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