

## FROGS, FROGS, FROGS

The chance to see some of Australia's rarest frogs will be the highlight of a "frogging weekend" at Ludlow Forest in October.

"Frogs, Frogs, Frogs", a course offered by the University of Western Australia's extension program, will examine recent developments in the frog world, including reports of a worldwide decline in their numbers.

Course participants will also participate in spotlighting, trapping and censusing programs and study practical programs designed to

conserve two of Australia's rarest frogs.

This is the first time this course has been offered in the beautiful setting of the Ludlow tuart forest. The Friends of the Tuart Forest will provide tea, damper and hot soup.

Senior Research Scientist Grant Wardell-Johnson, who has been studying the frogs of the area for several years, will take the course. People wishing to attend the weekend on October 25 to 27 should telephone Jean Collins at the University of Western Australia on 380 2579.



*Banjo frogs (Lymnodynastes dorsalis) are common near Ludlow.*

*Photos - Grant Wardell-Johnson*



*The green and gold tree frog (Litoria moorei) may be seen in its native habitat at Ludlow.*

## LEARNING ABOUT LOGGERHEADS

A number of baby loggerhead turtles found recently on beaches from Perth to Bunbury have added to knowledge about the rarely seen reptiles.

It's unusual for such a large number of the species - normally only found in the warm waters of the North West - to be found so far south, and it's probably the first time that such a large raft of hatchlings has been seen in the Perth area since 1964.

At least 30 loggerheads were taken in to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) by people who found them on the coast. They are probably around six months old.

CALM turtle expert Bob Prince said the turtles were hatchlings born last summer at nesting sites near Shark Bay and off the North West Cape.

"They would have swum out to sea after hatching and have since drifted south in the warm Leeuwin Current," he said.



"Strong westerly fronts off the WA coast blew them out of the current and on to southern beaches."

Although CALM has been carrying out a marine turtle research program for the past five seasons, studying six species of turtle found off the WA coast, Bob said not much was known about west coast loggerheads.

Loggerheads grow to a shell length of 1.2 metres and weigh 140 kilograms, whereas the baby turtles brought in to CALM have a shell length

ranging from 60 to 80 mm.

"Like other marine turtles, they spend most of their lives at sea, only coming to shore to nest when they reach adulthood at about 25 to 30 years of age," he said.

"The adults range widely. One turtle tagged and released at Exmouth in February 1988 was caught 15 months later in the Northern Territory.

"Only about 300 to 500 adult female loggerheads are thought to nest in WA each year, each laying about five or six clutches of around 100

eggs. The survival rate of hatchlings is extremely low."

*Photo - Dean Lee*

Bob said a recorded decline in the loggerhead turtle population on Australia's east coast had led to further concern about WA's population.

Information gleaned from any sightings or finds would help CALM understand the current status of WA's loggerhead turtle populations.

The turtles that were washed up are being cared for at UnderwaterWorld until they can be returned to northern waters. Biologists there have been assisting in rehabilitating stranded or injured marine animals for the past few years.

"The turtles should ideally be kept in a warm 22 to 23 degree seawater aquarium, fed fish and kept until they are at least three years old before being released into the wild," Bob said.

# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SEVEN NO. 1 SPRING EDITION 1991



A wave of colour is spreading from Shark Bay to Jurien and inland to Meekatharra. Our story on page 10 takes you into Wildflower Country.



The WA Museum is 100 years old. It houses a staggering four million specimens of insects, marine animals, fish, birds, reptiles and frogs. Page 22.



Seven species of microscopic dieback-disease fungi are attacking WA's unique wildflowers. See page 28.



The rugged Pilbara landscape has some hidden delights. On page 16, go up hill to Hamersley Range, then down Dales and other spectacular gorges.



How does WA's conservation heritage look to the people who look after it? Turn to page 26 for some great photographs from a recent competition run for CALM staff.

## FEATURES

<b>WILDFLOWER COUNTRY</b> CAROLYN THOMSON, STEVE HOPPER, GREG KEIGHERY AND PENNY HUSSEY .....	10
<b>UP HILL, DOWN DALES</b> ALAN PADGETT, STEPHAN FRITZ .....	16
<b>COLLECTIONS OF A CENTURY</b> PATRICK BERRY .....	22
<b>THROUGH CALM EYES</b> .....	26
<b>WILDFLOWER KILLERS</b> BRYAN SHEARER, RAY WILSON AND MIKE STUKELY .....	28
<b>OF MISTS AND MOUNTAINS</b> JOHN WATSON .....	35
<b>SPACE INVADERS OF A WEEDY KIND!</b> PENNY HUSSEY .....	39
<b>PARADISE ON THE EDGE</b> TONY FRIEND .....	45
<b>DRAWING THE LINE</b> ROBERT POWELL .....	49
<b>R E G U L A R S</b>	
<b>IN PERSPECTIVE</b> .....	4
<b>BUSH TELEGRAPH</b> .....	5
<b>ENDANGERED QUENDA</b> .....	15
<b>URBAN ANTICS</b> .....	54
<b>S P E C I A L S</b>	
<b>PHOTO COMPETITION</b> .....	9
<b>KIDS AND TREES</b> ARBOR DAY POSTER COMPETITION .....	52

## COVER

Out now! Wildflowers are blooming in the vast tracts of country north of Perth, especially in the northern sandplains and Murchison, which is experiencing a bumper wildflower season following heavy winter rains. Philippa Nikulinsky's illustration shows some of the wildflowers for which WA is justly famous: the splendid everlasting, buttercup, red leschenaultia, Sturt's desert pea, catspaw, wattle, native wisteria, black kangaroo paw, flame pea, and scaevola - all covered in the newly released book Wildflower Country. See page 10.



Managing Editor: Ron Kwallak  
 Editor: Ray Bailey  
 Contributing Editors: Verna Costello, David Gough, Tanyia Maxted, Carolyn Thomson  
 Designers: Sue Marais, Stacey Strickland  
 Finished art: Sue Marais, Steve Murnane and Stacey Strickland  
 Advertising: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (09) 389 8644 Fax: 389 8296  
 Illustration: Doug Blight, Sandra Mitchell and Sally Watson  
 Colour Separation by Prepress Services  
 Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print

© ISSN 0815-4465 All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.



Published by Dr S Shea, Executive Director  
 Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
 50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia 6152.