

## DOLPHIN DANGERS

People and dolphins mingling together at Monkey Mia may seem idyllic, but it creates special problems for managers of the area.

In 1990, the dolphin researchers at Shark Bay noticed Peglet, the calf of one of the offshore dolphins, entangled in fishing line. The calf's predicament was first seen when the dolphins were swimming among boats moored offshore from Monkey Mia. They followed the mother and calf for an hour as the two headed out to sea.

By the next day the calf had become disentangled,

which was fortunate, as it would have been almost impossible for local staff to catch it. However, the calf suffered lacerations to the melon (forehead) and dorsal fin.

In another incident, Nipper, a calf of Nicky, a regular beach visitor, became entangled in fishing line near Monkey Mia. Nipper's habit of following his mother to the beach allowed locals to catch him and remove the line.

In both cases, the offending fishing line may have originated from the activities of recreational fishers using the jetty. As a result, it was decided to ban fishing from the Monkey Mia jetty for the first nine months after the birth of a calf.

Young dolphins have a high mortality rate. Despite



their apparently playful and carefree nature, infants must learn to negotiate the marine environment, find fish, find friends, find mum and avoid sharks from an early age. Let's hope that humans can learn not to add to the many hazards that these delightful mammals already face.

*Nicky, the mother of a calf who became entangled in fishing line.  
Photo - Carolyn Thomson*

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Over the years, CALM has enlisted the services of artists to interpret the natural environment and educate the community. One such artist works with children, helping them to express through art what they see and feel about the environment. In another medium, CALM recently commissioned three plays for the Woodworks Festival organised by Curtin University.

CALM's commitment to art as communication was taken a step further in 1990 with the

appointment of an artist-in-residence, Guundie Kuchling-Fesser.

The challenge of portraying the Western Australian bush has been a driving force for the Austrian-born artist since her arrival in WA in 1987.

"The land is very important to me and I'm acutely aware of its deep meaning for us all," she said.

*An artist and her work.  
Photo - David Gough*



Taking up her appointment after two successful solo exhibitions in Perth, Guundie travelled to Karijini National Park, then known as Hamersley Range National Park.

"I'd visited the area once before and found the complexity of its forms quite overwhelming," she said.

"It's only when you sit down quietly and look with patience and perseverance that the land reveals its structures. Only then do you feel the spiritual significance of the land, and only then do you begin to see through the complexity and understand the order and meaning.

"Then everything falls into place. All is clear, distinct and serene - for one fleeting moment - and this has to flow onto the paper.

"This is the challenge for me and my work, the process being symbolic and transferable to all other areas of my life."

After bringing home more

than 100 drawings and watercolour paintings from Karijini, Guundie selected a few motifs and worked on them in a different medium again - the lino-cut. In October, 1991 she held another solo exhibition with 23 hand-coloured lino prints. Her next step will be to combine the drawing and sculpting of figures she had done in Austria with her landscape drawing in WA.

Guundie graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Vienna in 1980. She became a teacher of arts and has completed study tours through Europe, north Africa, Madagascar and the Seychelles. Between 1981 and 1987 her work was featured at 10 exhibitions in Austria and once in Madagascar. Between 1989 and 1991 Guundie's work has been shown in three solo and several group exhibitions in the Perth metropolitan area, where she continues to work as a painter, sculptor, printmaker, and writer.

# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SEVEN NO.2 SUMMER EDITION 1991-92



When European scientists first set foot on our shores they found a bewildering array of animals and plants. Péron the Explorer takes an intimate look at the French scientist whose name lives in Western Australia's newest national park. See page 20.



This tour of the Gascoyne's desert coast guides you through Shark Bay and WA's newest national park. See page 10.



Close to where the fictional Gulliver is believed to have been shipwrecked lives one of the world's oldest organisms. Lilliput's Castles, on page 34, describes the creatures and the ecosystem they have built.



Seagrass covers 3 700 square kilometres of the ocean floor around Shark Bay. Grasses of the Sea, on page 42, takes us on a journey through these underwater meadows.



At first glance, Shark Bay is dry, arid and inhospitable. But if you look more closely you discover its Hidden Treasures. See page 16.

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## COVER

Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), the commonest turtles found along our coast, begin to congregate in the waters of Shark Bay from the end of July. The Bay is the southernmost nesting area for these long-lived animals. During summer, female green turtles lay their eggs on the white sandy beaches of Bernier, Dorre and Dirk Hartog Islands, and occasionally at the northern tip of Peron Peninsula. Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky.



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