

It is now possible for people with an interest in nature conservation to work alongside scientists and researchers from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), as paying volunteers in important field-based research projects, often in remote areas of Western Australia.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions is a program designed to improve public understanding of native plant and animal species, ecosystems and natural processes in natural habitats throughout Western Australia.

According to Ron Kawalilak, CALM's Director of Corporate Relations and Managing Editor of LANDSCOPE, the expeditions will be open to people from all walks of life.

"The only qualifications needed are general good health, common sense, enthusiasm, an ability to adapt to other people, and a sense of humour," he said.

LANDSCOPE EXPEDITIONS



The program is offered in association with UWA Extension from the University of Western Australia. CALM has assisted in several successful extension courses over the past two years (see 'Desert Coast', LANDSCOPE Summer 1991-92 issue).

People interested in going on LANDSCOPE Expeditions will pay a fee or financial contribution, which will vary

with each expedition in the program. This will be used to cover costs in planning, mobilising and supporting the expedition, and will include the cost of scientific and research staff, a field camp, expedition vehicles, food, accommodation, equipment, instrumentation and fuel. Part of the fee will support further research. Personal expenses, such as travel costs to the

The Gibson Desert Nature Reserve, the site of an important study into endangered mammals and the destination of the first LANDSCOPE Expedition.
Photo - Ray Smith

assembly point, and medical treatment or emergency evacuation expenses (though we hope that would never be necessary), are the responsibility of the individual.

The first LANDSCOPE Expeditions are planned for later this year (see inside front cover).

Information collected could help halt further extinctions and ensure the future survival of endangered species.

Further information can be obtained from LANDSCOPE Expeditions, UWA Extension, Nedlands WA 6009. Telephone (09) 380 2433.

KIMBERLEY RAINFORESTS

Most people associate Australian rainforests with Queensland, but the Kimberley has its own rainforests.

Kimberley Rainforests of Australia, a major new book published by Surrey Beatty and Sons, details a three year study of these rare communities, which have a total area of only 8 000 hectares.

Tiny patches of rainforest occur mainly along the Kimberley coast, completely cut off from similar areas across northern Australia by the arid country that surrounds them.

Kimberley Rainforests of Australia is the result of the first comprehensive ecological study of the area, begun in 1987 with a grant from the Federal Government's National

Rainforest Conservation Program.

The study was carried out by CALM, combining the skills of 15 scientists - specialists in remote sensing, botany,

zoology, soils, conservation ecology and biogeography.

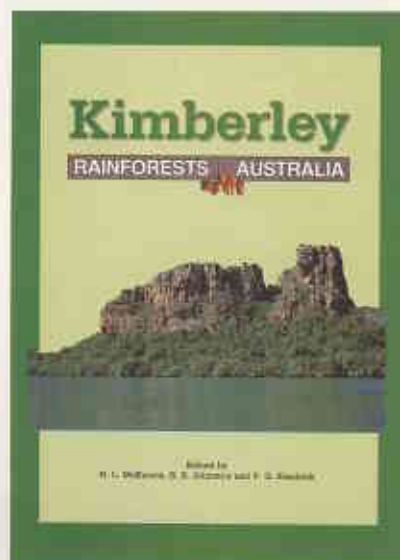
Landsat satellite information, was used to detect more than 1 500 stands of rainforest down to about the

size of a suburban house block in an area more than twice the size of Tasmania. The largest measured nearly 100 hectares, although the average area was less than four hectares.

The intensive ground surveys have given us a wealth of information about our rainforests.

More than 450 plants have now been collected, 80 per cent of which are found nowhere else. One hundred and forty bird species have been recorded and about 120 species of land snails.

Kimberley Rainforests of Australia contains 21 scientific papers covering all aspects of this work. It will be welcomed not only as an important reference, but as a source for future research, monitoring and management.



LANDSCOPE

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Each year more people seek wilderness experiences, but many are unprepared for the difficulties they might encounter. Learn about the basics of outback safety and bushcraft on page 35.



Botanists search for a eucalypt last seen by Giles in his expedition across WA deserts 115 years ago. See page 28.



Will the honey possum become a secondary victim of dieback disease? See page 22.



Australia is a land of lizards - tough competitors evolving amid spinifex and wildfires in the Great Victoria Desert. Turn to page 10.



Straight and vigorous pines don't grow by accident. Years of research and breeding have gone into producing the perfect pine. See page 49.

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COVER

The tiny honey possum (*Tarsipes rostratus*), seen in our cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky, feeds almost exclusively on nectar and pollen. However, most of its important food plants are threatened by dieback disease caused by the *Phytophthora* fungi. The endangered scarlet banksia (*Banksia coccinea*) is one plant species used by the possums that is highly susceptible to the dieback disease. See story on page 22.



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