

ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICER JOINS CALM

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has appointed one of its Aboriginal employees to liaise with south-west Aboriginal people.

Noel Nannup has spent two and a half years studying cultural heritage management in Canberra.

Before this he worked for nine years as a ranger-in-charge, including seven years at Geikie Gorge National Park and two years at Millstream National Park.

The position will be based at Narrogin in CALM's Wheatbelt region, but Noel will also have responsibility for Aboriginal issues on CALM managed land in the Central Forest, Southern Forest, and South Coast regions.

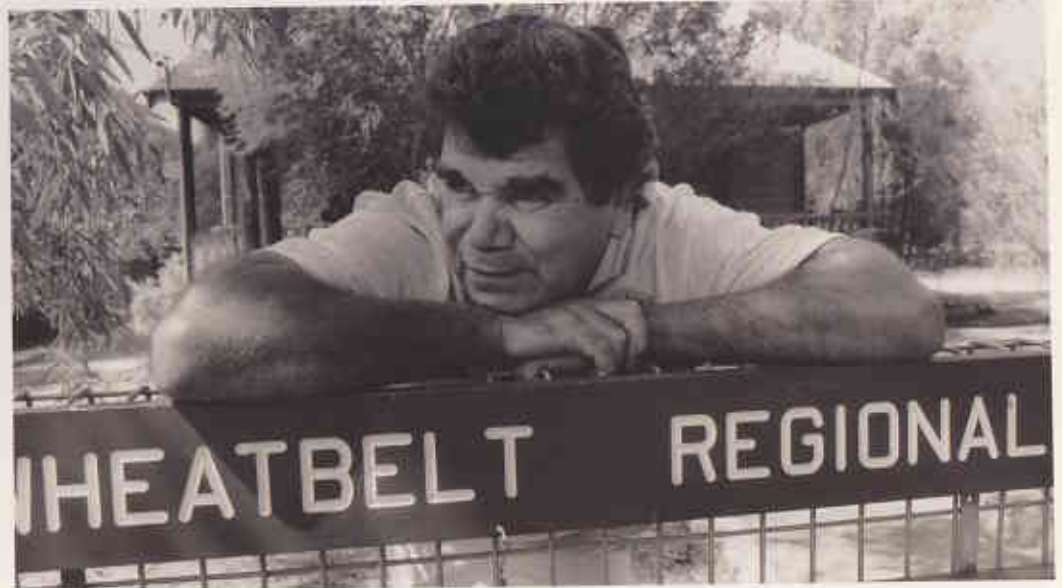
A newly released CALM report, *Aboriginal Activities and Nature Conservation in the South-West of Western Australia*, has found that "a lot of work is needed to resolve issues of mutual interest to CALM and Nyungars".

For instance, the report found that Nyungar culture is still very much alive and that Nyungars still have an enormous amount of bush knowledge.

"Hunting, camping, gathering plants and taking kids to the bush to learn about Nyungar culture are still common," Noel said. "Many of these activities take place on land managed by CALM and other Crown land."

Overall, the report recommended that CALM and south-west people should work closer together to improve nature conservation and give Aborigines greater access to some Crown land.

"We have to learn how CALM can meet Aboriginal needs in the bush and at the same time improve its



management of nature conservation reserves," he said.

One possibility is that CALM and Nyungar people could jointly conduct education courses on wildlife and ecology. Another is that Nyungar people could help cull kangaroos from areas where farmers need to reduce kangaroo numbers; kangaroo meat is still an important part of the Nyungar people's diet.

The study recommends

The new Aboriginal liaison officer for the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Noel Nannup. Photo - Tanyia Maxted

that CALM seeks to clarify laws relating to Aboriginal use, including hunting, of Crown and CALM-managed lands.

The Department will also investigate and try to develop employment opportunities for Nyungar people in

conservation reserves and State forest.

During his first year, Noel will concentrate on describing and protecting Aboriginal sites, and liaising with Aboriginal groups.

Noel will undertake work in community (particularly school) education and liaison and he will also participate in a project aimed at recording oral history of Aboriginal culture and Dryandra.

PINK-FLOWERING JARRAH

This magnificent pink-flowering jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) was first found in the Dale State forest 15 years ago by Mr Gordon Kealley, a commercial beekeeper from Maida Vale.

Photo - Lee Allan



Last summer the jarrah forest had the best general flowering throughout the State for about ten years and beekeepers produced substantial quantities of jarrah honey and pollen.

Mr Kealley found the tree flowering again this year while working his beehives in the Dale area. He was so impressed with the tree and its pink flowers that he contacted Mr Lee Allan, the Senior Apiculturalist with the Department of Agriculture, who took this photograph while the tree was in full bloom.

This pink-flowering form would make a beautiful

addition to home gardens and parks if propagated by tissue culture techniques. Associate Professor Jen McComb, of Murdoch University, and Dr Ian Bennett, of Edith Cowan University, are enthusiastic about this prospect and have initiated research on the tissue culture of the plant.

The pink-flowering jarrah, like pink-flowering marri, is extremely uncommon, but not unique. Other pink-flowering jarrah trees have been reported at Forrestfield, before the area was developed for housing, and WA foresters have noted many other specimens in the forest over the years.

LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SEVEN NO. 4 WINTER ISSUE 1992



You don't have to go far from Perth to enjoy the peace and quiet of the bush. The forest is right on our doorstep. See page 10.



The increase of births in captivity for cockatoos seemed promising, but was it related to the upsurge in 'birdnapping' in the wild? To Catch a Thief explains how forensic experts unravelled the mystery. See page 28.



Painted ladies, northern admirals, southern admirals and Western Australian skippers - not the stuff of a sailor's dream, but all members of the butterfly family. See page 23.



Our native animals are prey to introduced species. While baiting gives them a fighting chance, scientists are looking for more long-term, humane solutions. See page 16.



The bilby has many names, including ninu and dalgyte. Ninu Magic tells the story of this shy animal and its remarkable survival skills. See page 43.

FEATURES

THE HILLS FOREST
STEVE SLAVIN AND RAY BAILEY 10

VEXING THE VIXENS
JACK KINNEAR 16

AUSTRALIAN ADMIRAL
ROBERT POWELL 23

TO CATCH A THIEF
DAVID MELL AND JOHN WETHERALL 28

FUNGI - WINTER WILDFLOWERS
GERHARD SAUERACKER 33

MANAGING THE MIDGE
ADRIAN PINDER, JENNY DAVIS AND JIM LANE 37

NINU MAGIC
PER CHRISTENSEN AND GRAEME LIDDELOW 43

FRESHWATER HAVENS
IAN BAYLY 49

REGULARS

IN PERSPECTIVE 4

BUSH TELEGRAPH 5

ENDANGERED DWARF BEE ORCHID 48

URBAN ANTICS 54

COVER

The red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*) is one of several cockatoos native to Western Australia. These spectacular birds nest in tree hollows and can be found in the woodlands and grasslands of the south-west of Western Australia.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



Managing Editor: Ron Kawalilak

Editor: David Gough

Contributing Editors: Verna Costello, Helenka Johnson, Tanyia Maxted, Carolyn Thomson

Scientific and technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Roger Underwood

Design and production: Sue Marais, Stacey Strickland

Finished art: Gooitzen van der Meer

Advertising: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (09) 389 8644 Fax: 389 8296

Illustration: Ian Dickinson, Sandra Mitchell

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.