

ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day, on June 11, was celebrated right across the State. Observed in WA since late last century, it aims to focus attention on the part trees play in our lives.

The day began on 6WF, with the winners of LANDSCOPE's Arbor Day Poster competition for WA school children being announced on Ted Bull's program.

Another highlight was the establishment of a rare flora garden in The Hills Forest, east of Mundaring, with the help of school children, invited guests and the eastern hills branch of the Wildflower Society. Poster displays, a tree talk and an environmental education program for school children, *Discovering The Hills Forest*, were

also featured.

Wheatbelt primary school children went on bushwalks with CALM's David Mitchell and Anthony Sutton.

In the Mid-west, rare rose mallee (*Eucalyptus rhodantha*) seedlings were given to local schools in the Three Springs-Watheroo Shire for planting on Arbor Day, as part of a recovery plan for the species. In Denham, a tree-planting ceremony and barbecue was held at the homestead on François Péron National Park for Shark Bay Primary School children and their parents.

In Exmouth, school children planted trees and children from Karratha enjoyed CALM's *Coastal Capers*, looking at mangrove forest and dune

vegetation. In Millstream-Chichester National Park there were displays at the Homestead Visitor Centre, on park rehabilitation work and Tom Price hosted talks by CALM staff at local schools.

These and other activities made Arbor Day a day to remember.

The 1993 Arbor Day poster



FALCON TALES

A pleasant encounter greeted Science and Information Division officers from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) last October.

Research scientist Patrick Pigott and technical officer Warwick Roe were monitoring salmon gum woodland understorey in a 40-hectare water reserve east of Narrogin, when an adult peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) voiced its

disapproval of the pair.

The tell-tale, harsh, staccato 'kek kek kek' from the alarmed bird circling overhead, pierced the lazy spring air, obliterating all other sounds within the remnant of bush.

Nearby, in a large salmon gum tree-hollow about eight metres from the ground, the profile of a downy chick could be seen - an unexpected pleasure for the two officers.

Patrick and Narrogin forest ranger Darren Graham returned

two days later with a ladder to discover three healthy chicks about two weeks old.

The nest hollow was approximately 30 cm wide and 10 cm deep, very similar to a cliff-face nest. The bottom had a layer of decomposing woody material and a number of fallen leaves.

The reserve, while mainly featuring a majority of healthy, mature salmon gum, also comprised morrel, York gum, wandoo and rock casuarina.

Nest hollows in this type of woodland are very important for a variety of Wheatbelt birds as most similar habitat in the upper



Above right: Technical officer Warwick Roe searches for peregrine falcons to photograph for LANDSCOPE. Photo - Darren Graham

Left: Peregrine falcon chicks. Photo - Warwick Roe



Great Southern has been cleared for agriculture.

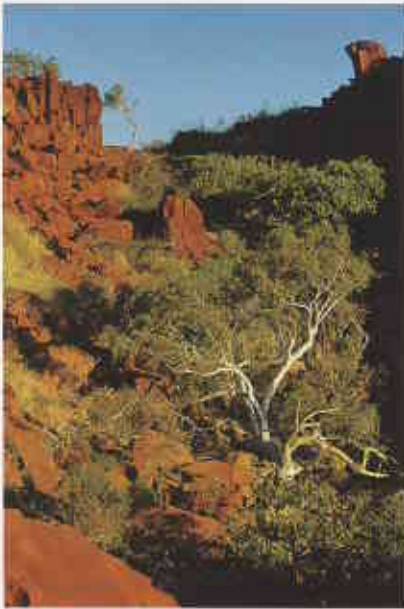
Patrick checked the area again in January and evidence at the nest site suggested that all the birds had survived.

Some 300 metres away, a lone adult peregrine quietly surveyed the scientist from atop an old morrel tree, while contemplating a nearby Port Lincoln parrot.

With a little luck and good management, the reserve will continue to produce more of these rare, 'magnificent beasts' next season.

LANDSCOPE

VOLUME EIGHT NO. 4 WINTER ISSUE 1993



Nature-based tourism is a rapidly-growing industry and WA is poised to take a slice of that growth. See 'Our Natural Advantage' on page 10.



Frogs can be an interesting addition to any suburban native garden. Grant Wardell-Johnson describes how to attract them to your garden on page 16.



'Seagrass, Surf and Sea Lions' (page 21) are just some of the features of a string of islands that dot the WA coastline north of Lancelin.



Forrestdale Lake is an 'Outer City Sanctuary' for thousands of visiting and resident waterbirds. See page 35.



When is a flower not a flower? Neville Marchant, from CALM's WA Herbarium unravels the intricacies of the State's many 'False Flowers' on page 39.

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COVER

The bull frog (*Litoria moorei*) is very large and has a voracious appetite. It is a frequent visitor to gardens and may be found particularly in greenhouses, ferneries and wet areas such as streams and ponds.

The illustration is by Philippa Nikulinsky, inspired by a Peter Marsack photograph, courtesy of Lochman Transparencies.



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Colour Separation by Prepress Services

Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print

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