

## GETTING THEIR GOATS

While the rugged gorges of the Kalbarri National Park are the main attraction for tourists they are also home to highly destructive feral goats.

The abundance of goats in the State's pastoral regions has resulted in widespread degradation of soil and habitat; destruction of crops, fences and native plants; competition for food and habitat with native animals; and the spread of weeds and disease.

In the past, goats in Kalbarri National Park have been shot whenever possible, and while this has accounted for an annual average of 500, the inaccessible terrain has limited the potential of this method. To significantly reduce goat damage, at least two-thirds of the population must be removed annually, which means extra effort is required.

The problem is now jointly being tackled by CALM, the Agriculture Protection Board (APB) and the Land Conservation District Committee comprising Kalbarri National Park and adjacent landholders. As a result, an experimental aerial shooting program took place in late April in the gorges of the park. The program was funded by CALM, and rifles, ammunition and shooters

supplied by the APB.

About 15 000 ha, extending from Hardabut Pool in the east to Hawks Head Lookout in the west, was selected as the site where the funds could be used most effectively used.

Public safety was of the utmost importance, and the area was cleared and secured the day before. Constant vigilance of all access ways by CALM staff not only ensured a safe operation, but also gave would-be visitors an opportunity to express their opinions. Additionally, the event was advertised both locally and throughout the Northampton Shire, with good public response confirming the community's awareness of the problem and the need for action.

The aerial shooting program allowed good coverage of the area and the total of 357 goats and one pig represented an excellent return for nearly six hours flying time.

Following the operation, it was clear that not only was the trial a resounding success, but that it was the best option currently available for goat control in the park.

*Feral goats*  
Photo - Jiri Lochman



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# LANDSCOPE

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The galah is just one of the many bird species that visit our urban and suburban gardens. 'Birds in the Garden' shows us how we can attract more.



In spring, the Wongan Hills are ablaze with wildflowers, but this 'island' sanctuary is also a home to a wide variety of animals. See page 21.



Yanchep National Park is having a facelift. Our story on page 28 examines the history and rebirth of one of Perth's closest and most visited national parks.



Banksia gardneri var. brevidentata is one of a number of plants named in honour of Charles Gardner. See 'Gardner's World' on page 41.



The Pinnacles is one of several destinations for licensed tours operating in WA's national parks. See 'Travel Companions'.

## FEATURES

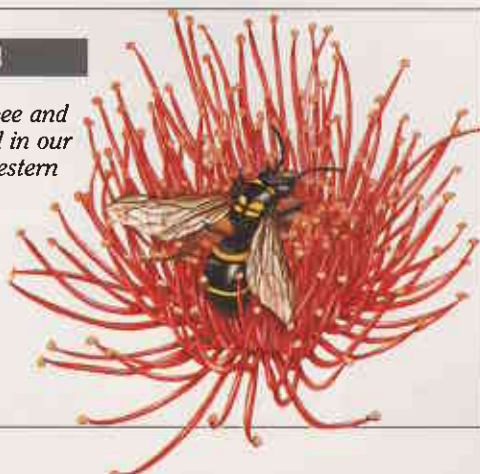
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## COVER

*Hyleoides zonalis* is a solitary bee and one of the native bees described in our story about the 'real' bees of Western Australia on page 17. The illustration is by Philippa Nikulinsky.



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