

AT THE FRONTIER OF DISCOVERY



Can you imagine yourself in the remote outback under a night sky full of shooting stars as you help a scientist remove a delicate and rare bat from a mist net? Sitting around a camp fire, mug in hand, sharing the excitement of the day's discovery of a plant new to science? Lying in a warm swag listening to the surrounding wildlife and wondering what will be in your traps at dawn?

It may sound like a dream, but, for a growing number of people, experiences like these have become a reality. They have become *LANDSCOPE* expeditioners.

LANDSCOPE expeditioners are average people who willingly give up their holidays to venture into the unknown. People who start to feel light-hearted at the thought of leaving the nearest corner store 600 kilometres behind them. People who feel positively cheerful about being the same distance from a telephone.

What do they have in common? A sense of value. A love of fresh air and wide open spaces. An interest in finding out more about the plants, birdlife and native animals of Western Australia. A craving for adventure combined with a well-developed sense of humour.

Top and above left: *Monitoring birds at Lake Gregory, on the top edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Photos - Tom Keating*

Above right: *Brush-tail possum, one of several animals surveyed in the Batalling Forest near Collie.*

Left: *CALM researcher Brent Johnson with a pygmy possum. The next LANDSCOPE Expedition to Batalling will take place in November. Photos - Jenny Daniels*

Their ages have ranged from 15 to 74. They might hail from Sweden in the northern hemisphere or Denmark in south-western Australia. If you join them you could be boiling the billy or exploring the bush with a builder, electrician, homemaker, veterinarian, community worker, lawyer, engineer, photographer, postal worker or anaesthetist.

For a number of years, CALM scientists have been involved in providing weekend educational experiences for the general public, through UWA Extension of The University of Western Australia. Many participants asked us to provide longer experiences where they could do 'real' work alongside scientists.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions answer the need for research to protect the environment while they respond to the demand for first-class interpretation by scientists and specialists. Each project supports conservation and promotes environmental awareness.

With the ever growing interest in nature-based tourism, more people are seeking a wilderness experience. Western Australia is well placed to become a major ecotourism destination.

Many research projects are already carried out by CALM each year in a vast State comprising one third of the continent. But obtaining sufficient funding for research is an ever-present challenge, given that CALM manages more than 19.8 million hectares of land and is responsible for the care and management of the State's native plants and animals. The *LANDSCOPE* Expedition program gives you an opportunity to assist CALM in meeting that challenge.





LANDSCOPE Expeditions are a cooperative effort between CALM, The University of Western Australia and private enterprise. CALM scientists identify the research projects and lead the expeditions, UWA administers the expeditions and logistical support is provided by private enterprise and local communities.

But the most important ingredient, the one that makes it all possible, is the *LANDSCOPE* volunteer. Without a team of paying volunteers, much research, particularly remote area field work, would simply not be done. The expense of transporting scientists to remote field locations within the State and financing

projects on an ongoing basis means that many deserving projects never get off the ground.

LANDSCOPE Expedition research programs hope to turn that situation around, with volunteers providing much-needed funding for projects as well as physical assistance in the field. Any proceeds from the non-profit expeditions are placed into trust funds for continued research. Scientists not only receive funding, but also stand to benefit from increased community understanding of their work.

In the first year, five *LANDSCOPE* Expedition teams contributed to research. Between September 1992 and September 1993 more than 70 temporary scientists, mainly Western Australians, ventured into remote areas of the State, from the Gibson Desert to the far north Kimberley, to work

on a variety of exciting CALM research projects.

As a paying volunteer, you can expect to enjoy an off-beat holiday while giving practical and financial aid to CALM researchers. And instead of coming home with a suitcase full of useless souvenirs, you can return armed with a list of expedition achievements and a circle of new, like-minded friends.

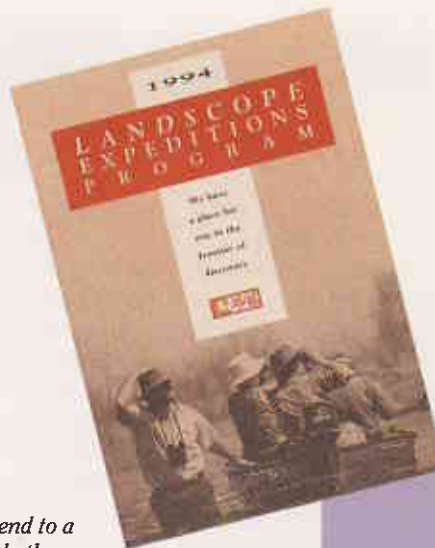
You can visit and gain an understanding of remote or inaccessible places. You can have the satisfaction of knowing you have contributed to our knowledge of threatened environments and endangered species. Unique photo opportunities and the chance to see and handle unusual animals are a bonus.

Participants are not the only beneficiaries. The community also profits from the enriched lives of its members, and from the benefits that flow on from research findings and outcomes. Future generations benefit from the natural and cultural resources volunteers help to identify and preserve. And on a global scale, the benefits include the perpetuation of cultural and biological diversity. Why don't you join us at the frontier of discovery?



Top: The perfect end to a fruitful day's work: the campsite near Lake Gregory. Photo - Tom Keating

Above left and left: Participants in a LANDSCOPE Expedition to the Mitchell Plateau help unload vehicles, and an encounter with a Burton's legless lizard. Photos - Kevin Kenneally



A new brochure on the *LANDSCOPE* Expeditions program for 1994 and early 1995 is now available from *LANDSCOPE* Expeditions, UWA Extension, The University of Western Australia, NEDLANDS WA 6009, or telephone (09) 380 2433.

LANDSCOPE

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The Pinnacles, in Nambung National Park, is one of the most photographed landscapes in the world. But there is another side to Nambung. See page 41.

The hidden caves and tunnels of Cape Range National Park harbour several animals found nowhere else. Turn to page 22 to find out about these bizarre cave dwellers.



The characteristics that made WA inhospitable to the first Europeans are now helping us create new industries that can also repair the environment. See page 47.



Perth has at least 70 species of skinks, geckoes and other reptiles. Find out how to attract these fascinating creatures to your garden on page 28.



Devastation caused by the recent NSW bushfires has fuelled debate on the practice of prescribed burning. How do managers fight fire with fire? See page 35.

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COVER

The bobtail (*Tiliqua rugosa*) is sometimes incorrectly called the 'bobtail goanna' but is actually a very large skink. They are common around Perth and often seen in gardens. During hot weather they can be seen basking on footpaths, verges or roadways. See our story 'Reptiles in the Garden' on Page 30. *The illustration is by Philippa Nikulinsky.*



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