

WALKING WITH THE GIANTS

A tree-top tour and a tingle forest discovery walk in the Valley of the Giants will form the core of a major tourism initiative in the southern forest near Walpole.

The two projects will become major international tourist drawcards for the Warren-Walpole region and establish the tingle forest as an icon for the State's burgeoning nature-based tourism industry.

The aim is to provide a high-quality visitor experience in the tingle forest while maintaining the forest's integrity and conservation values.

A team led by the Perth-based consultancy, Donaldson and Warn, Architects, has been awarded a contract to design

and build the tree-top walk, a low-level walk and a tingle shelter.

The contract follows a national competition through which the Department of Conservation and Land Management called for entrants to present design and construction ideas.

Four teams were selected to present their concepts which were judged by an independent panel under the guidance of CALM and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and the Institution of Engineers Australia also provided assistance.

The judges were impressed

with the elegance, simplicity and practical nature of the winning design, considering the emphasis was on minimal disturbance of the forest during construction.

The tree-top walk will consist of steel trusses with timber decking and steel support posts. The tingle shelter will be built from timber posts and beams and the tower will use timber members with steel bracing.

The double walking loop will give visitors an experience from the tree tops and the ground, from the exciting to the quiet and contemplative. The overall concept and design integrates all the grandeur of the tingle forest, especially its sounds,

textures, colours and shapes.

Work is already under way on the interpretive forest discovery walk, around and through the bases of 20 red tingle trees and logs. Signs and sculptures explain the forest's rich heritage.

A new information shelter and some of the boardwalks have been installed. Further boardwalks will protect the trees from root and soil compaction to help ensure the adventure is ecologically sustainable. CALM will also provide interpretive signs, a new access road, safe parking areas and services to the site.

The tree-top walk will be completed in two stages. The first stage, costing \$600 000 and due to be completed next November, will provide the first phase of the tree-top walk, the return ground walk, the tingle shelter and toilets and a swing bridge. A tower with cantilevered platforms will be built in the second stage.



Left: Tingle forest in the Valley of the Giants, the site of the planned tree-top walkway.
Photo - Cliff Winfield



Above: Premier Richard Court, second from right, is briefed on the tree tops walk project by artist David Jones (left), architect Geoff Warn and consulting engineer Adrian Roberts.
Photo - Gary Merrin courtesy Sunday Times

LANDSCOPE

VOLUME TEN NO.3 AUTUMN ISSUE 1995



Flower arrangements featuring eucalyptus foliage are becoming popular with florists. Find out why on page 35.



Unseen for more than 100 years and believed to have been extinct, Gilbert's potoroo turned up quite unexpectedly. See page 28.



Salinity is a problem in the State's south-west, but farmers, communities and government agencies are working to find solutions. See page 39.



A giant dragonfly lives in the south-west of Western Australia. You can find out more about this ancient relict of the jarrah forest in 'Western Petalura' on page 52.



The thick-billed grasswren is one of several animals that may be reintroduced to Shark Bay as part of an ambitious project. See 'Return to Eden' on page 22.

FEATURES

FABULOUS FANFLOWERS SUZANNE CURRY	10
THE AGE OF JARRAH MANDY CLEWS & TAMMIE REID	17
RETURN TO EDEN CAROLYN THOMSON & RON SHEPHERD	22
LOST & FOUND: GILBERT'S POTOROO TONY START, ANDREW BURBIDGE, ELIZABETH SINCLAIR & ADRIAN WAYNE	28
TURNING A NEW LEAF LIZ BARBOUR & ALISON FUSS	35
HEALTHY FARMLAND, HEALTHY BUSHLAND KATE HOOPER & RICHARD GEORGE	39
YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK: A PLACE OF LAKES DAVID GOUGH & CHRIS PORTLOCK	45
WESTERN PETALURA ANDREW WILLIAMS & MATTHEW WILLIAMS	52

REGULARS

IN PERSPECTIVE	4
BUSH TELEGRAPH	6
ENDANGERED WESTERN BRISTLEBIRD	34
URBAN ANTICS	54

COVER

The stunning royal robe (*Scaevola striata*) is one of a host of fabulous fanflowers found in Western Australia. Suzanne Curry discusses this and other species in the family Goodeniaceae on page 10.

The illustration is by Philippa Nikulinsky.



Managing Editor: Ron Kawalilik
 Editor: David Gough
 Contributing Editors: Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, Kate Hooper, Carolyn Thomson
 Scientific and technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Paul Jones
 Design and production: Maria Duthie, Sue Marais
 Finished art: Karen Addison
 Illustration: Ray Andress, Ian Dickinson, Gooitzen van der Meer
 Cartography: Promaco Geodraft
 Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (09) 334 0296 Fax: 334 0498
 Subscription enquiries: ☎ (09) 334 0481 Fax: 334 0498
 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.