

## PLEASE DON'T FEED THE DOLPHINS

Dolphins at Monkey Mia will soon have better protection, thanks to a new utility boat acquired recently by CALM's Gascoyne District office at Denham.

The *Sirenia*, which takes its name from the taxonomic group to which dugong

belong, has a top speed of 30 knots and is being used initially to patrol the waters around Monkey Mia, where staff are monitoring the feeding of dolphins from boats.

National and international research has shown that uncontrolled hand-feeding

has resulted in the disappearance or death of dolphins, primarily due to their loss of natural instincts and development of abnormal behaviour.

The dolphin experience at Monkey Mia has survived because of careful supervision of the interaction between humans and dolphins, and control of feeding at one location—namely, the beach area at Monkey Mia.

Not only is it important to protect the dolphins from a nature conservation aspect, it

is also important for the local tourist industry, as the dolphins' continued presence at the beach is still the prime attraction for most visitors.

Deaths of juvenile dolphins have been high over the past few years, and hand feeding may well have been a contributory factor.

CALM officers will patrol the area and hand out information brochures to people seen fishing.

The initial phase of this operation will be to educate people about the problems associated with hand feeding dolphins, but anyone caught persistently feeding the animals after having been informed about the problems could face prosecution and be fined under the Wildlife Conservation Act.



*CALM's Gascoyne District staff inspect the Sirenia before launching.  
Photo – David Gough*

## SPRING COMES EARLY AT YALGORUP

If winter is not your favourite season, Steve Dutton, the ranger-in-charge of Yalgorup National Park, would like you to know that spring arrives early there.

Yalgorup National Park, which featured in the Autumn 1995 issue of *LANDSCOPE*, is a scenic place to explore on invigorating winter days, and offers a pre-spring glimpse of wildflowers.

It is an area of diverse habitats, lakes, ocean, heath and forest, where the spring flowering pattern is basically the same as the inland forests

on the scarp (beginning with wattles then progressing to hoveas and peas), but the sequence seems to begin a month or two earlier.

The cockies' tongues (*Templetonia retusa*) provide a vivid red splash of winter colour to the under storey, and if you look carefully you might see the delicate and rare *Conostylis pauciflora*, with its bright yellow flowers, among

the fallen banksia leaves. This is one of a number of priority-listed species that are now secure within Yalgorup National Park.

The heath areas also provide an eye-arresting colour show, with many species such as the yellow buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*) flowering in winter.

It seems that winter weather at Yalgorup is milder,

with clear days and a little drizzle—wonderful for walking along bush trails admiring the first flowers of the season.

Luckily for walkers, much of the rain comes from south-westerly storms, and can be reliably predicted. But, walking along the beach, toggled up against the elements, and with a storm brewing, can add a crisp note to the winter charm of Yalgorup National Park.

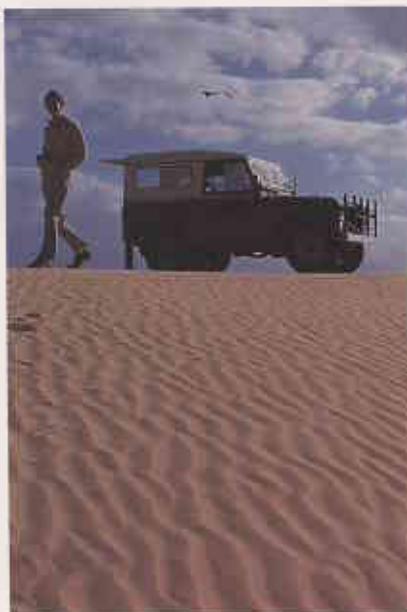
*Right: Yellow buttercups reflect the colour of winter sunshine at Yalgorup National Park.  
Photo – Babs & Bert Wells/CALM*

*Far right: The vivid red cockie's tongues provide a splash of winter colour.  
Photo – David Gough*



# LANDSCOPE

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Cooperation between 4WD clubs and CALM is helping to protect WA's special recreation spots through a program of education. See 'Go Lightly' on page 17.



The noisy scrub-bird is one species that is responding well to its recovery plan. 'Recovering from the Brink' (page 10) discusses how such plans are drawn up.



Mt Augustus is the biggest rock in the world; yet few people know it exists. Find out more about this natural wonder on page 28.



There is a great deal written and talked about our forests. But what are the facts? 'Looking Beyond the Obvious' (page 22) dispels some of the myths.



Specially developed computer software is helping speed the identification of plant species in 'The Smart Collection' (page 49).

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The rainbow bee-eater is a common bird found throughout most parts of the State, including Mt Augustus National Park.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky.



**Managing Editor:** Ron Kawalik  
**Editor:** David Gough  
**Contributing Editors:** Verna Costello, Penny Walsh, Mandy Clews, Amanda Curtin, Deborah Mayrhofer  
**Scientific/technical advice:** Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Paul Jones, Tony Start  
**Design and production:** Maria Duthie, Sue Marais  
**Finished art:** Maria Duthie, Sue Marais  
**Illustration:** Gooitzen van der Meer, Ian Dickinson  
**Cartography:** Promaco Geodraft  
**Marketing:** Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (09) 334 0296 Fax: 334 0489  
**Subscription enquiries:** ☎ (09) 334 0481  
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