

## DRYANDRA TAKES TO THE AIRWAVES

High technology and environmental sensitivity are hallmarks of Western Australia's first radio drive trail at Dryandra Woodland, 20 kilometres north-west of Narrogin.

By simply turning on their car radios at designated stops along the trail, visitors can listen to six unique commentaries on Dryandra's past and present, as seen through the eyes of people who have lived and worked in the area. At each stop, the stories reveal the relationship between people and that particular location. They also provide insight into how the woodland can be sustainably managed.

Dryandra's rich history of human interaction includes that of Aboriginal people, foresters, farmers, researchers and tourists. As visitors tune in, they'll eavesdrop on a fire spotter's conversations, listen to the boom of the mallee fowl and

hear about the lives and culture of the Nyoongar Aboriginal people. Narrators, including some CALM staff, bring the sounds of the past to life.

Solar and radio technology were chosen as an efficient and compelling way to share bush stories compiled from oral histories and other primary sources. Each story on the 25-kilometre drive trail is carried by an individual short-range solar-powered transmitter, which broadcasts on 100 FM (100 MHz in the VHF band). Digitally recorded sound is played in a continuous loop so visitors can hear the full story no matter when they tune in.

This remarkably simple system includes a solar panel, a length of cable, a short whip antenna and the transmitter itself, which is housed in a waterproof box about the size of a toaster. Each system is mounted several metres above the ground and

out of the visitor's line of sight to minimise environmental and visual impact.

To encourage visitors to take their time driving around the radio trail and enjoy the tranquillity of the woodland environment, picnic areas are located at the start and at the fourth stop. In addition, there are several other trails to enjoy on foot, on a bicycle, or on horseback.

Dryandra Woodland is a beautiful and peaceful place to spend a day or a week, and it's only two hours from Perth by

car, making it an ideal day-trip. If you want to stay longer, accommodation is available in the old forestry settlement (managed by The Lions Dryandra Forest Village) or you can camp at the Congelin Camp Ground.

*Below: Close-up of transmitter and solar panel installation.*

*Bottom left: Transmitters are located off the ground and out of sight of visitors.*

*Bottom right: Visitors stop at marker posts to hear the commentaries on their car radios. Photos - Daryl Moncrieff*





# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME ELEVEN NO. 1 SPRING ISSUE 1995



The threatened Wyalkatchem foxglove is being given a helping hand by scientists from CALM and Kings Park and Botanic Garden (see page 17).



This nesting pair of splendid fairy-wrens is one of the many 'Birds of the Stirling Range' (see page 36).



WA Goldfields timbers are fast becoming recognised as prime materials for producing world-class musical instruments. See 'Musical Timbers' on page 48.



A new CALM book, Dive & Snorkel Sites in Western Australia, will encourage novice divers and snorkellers to explore the rich and diverse coastline of WA. See 'Secrets of the Sea' on page 10.



The common rock-rat, photographed here in the Kimberley, has recently been recorded in the Kennedy Range National Park. See page 28 for a profile of this wonderful wilderness area.

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## COVER

The brilliant purple flowers of the twining fringed lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) entwined around the burnt stem of a slender banksia (*B. attenuata*). See 'After the Burn' on page 21.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



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 Colour Separation by Prepress Services  
 Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print

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Published by Dr s Shea, Executive Director  
Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia 6152.