

RECORD PLANTINGS AND VALUE ADDING

A record 24 million tree seedlings will be planted by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) over 16 500 hectares of private cleared farmland, native forests and State-owned plantations throughout the south-west of Western Australia this winter. Seven thousand hectares of this will be planted under partnership agreements with farmers.

CALM's 1995 planting program is the biggest to be carried out by a single organisation in Australia, and the Department continues to set new planting records for itself each year.

Farm forestry is one of Western Australia's fastest-growing primary industries, and the response from landowners to CALM's sharefarming scheme has been very strong, especially around Albany where bluegum is proving to be a popular commercial tree species. More than 2 500 hectares will be planted in the district this year.

Farmers on the sandplains north of Perth are planting pines to meet the growing demand for softwoods. This year's plantings result from a CALM initiative that will see 5 000 hectares of pines established under partnership agreements over the next three years.

In the Wheatbelt, where low rainfall makes short-rotation timber crops unsuitable, native oil-producing mallees are thriving, and CALM is evaluating their farm forestry potential in a series of commercial-scale plantings. The mallees not only provide landcare benefits, but with further development of harvesting and oil-extraction techniques, they may become a viable crop that could help offset the cost of landcare programs.

Another CALM initiative to explore potential new markets is in the processing of karri and marri wood for the production of fine quality furniture.

The department's Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey has dried marri and



karri timber and supplied it to two local manufacturers—BVR Furniture of O'Connor and Jensen Jarrah of Busselton—to craft into fine furniture. The resulting pieces were unveiled at a recent furniture trade fair and met with rave reviews. On show were dining room tables and chairs, coffee tables, Welsh dressers and outdoor settings.

Until recently, it was thought that the problems involved in seasoning, machining and gluing karri, and the gum vein

imperfections typical of marri, would make them unsuitable for furniture manufacture. However, the irregularities in the marri may become selling points; used as aesthetic features to create unique and highly valued products.

The research that has produced marri and karri timber suitable for furniture making represents a significant step towards increasing the value of WA's native hardwoods and opening up important new markets for value-added products. Use of the local native and plantation-grown wood could replace timbers such as cherry wood and oak; which are currently imported, and create more local jobs in timber-processing industries.

CALM is establishing a special karri and marri network, with timber and furniture industry input, to help develop further market opportunities.



Top: Just a few of the 24 million tree seedlings to be planted this year by CALM.

Photo - John Bartle

Left: This marri dining room furniture was manufactured by WA company BVR Furniture. The gum vein feature can be clearly seen in the doors of the dresser and the table top.

Photo - Ross Swanborough

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.

FEATURES

SECRETS OF THE SEA
CAROLYN THOMSON 10

WILL THE WYALKATCHEM FOXGLOVE SURVIVE?
MIKE O'DONOGHUE & KEN ATKINS 17

AFTER THE BURN
MANDY CLEWS & NEIL BURROWS 21

KENNEDY RANGE NATIONAL PARK
DAVID GOUGH & RON SHEPHERD 28

BIRDS OF THE STIRLING RANGE
ALLAN BURBIDGE & ALLAN ROSE 36

CUTTING OUT THE LEAFMINER
IAN ABBOTT, PAUL VAN HEURCK, TOM BURBIDGE & ALLAN WILLS 43

MUSICAL TIMBERS
FELIX SKOWRONEK & IAN KEALLEY 48

REGULARS

IN PERSPECTIVE 4

BUSH TELEGRAPH 5

ENDANGERED THEVENARD ISLAND MOUSE 20

URBAN ANTICS 54

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



Managing Editor: Ron Kawalilik
Editor: David Gough
Contributing Editors: Mandy Clews, Vera Costello, Kate Hooper, Carolyn Thomson, Penny Walsh
Scientific and technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Paul Jones, staff at CALM Science & Information Division (Woodvale)
Design and production: Maria Duthie, Sue Marais
Finished art: Gooitzen van der Meer
Illustrations: Gooitzen van der Meer, Philippa Nikulinsky
Cartography: Promaco Geodraft
Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (09) 334 0296 Fax: 334 0489
Subscription enquiries: ☎ (09) 334 0481
 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.