

DESIGN AWARD FOR CALM SOLAR KILN

A Western Australian-developed solar kiln to dry timber has won the nation's highest design accolade—an Australian Design Award.

The kiln, designed and developed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) at its Wood Utilisation Research Centre in Harvey, stemmed from a \$4.6 million, four-year research project, and is a breakthrough in low-cost, energy-efficient methods of processing and adding value to native hardwoods and plantation timbers.

The award judges said: "This innovative, patented design provides energy-efficient, environmentally-sensitive, wood-drying kilns at low capital cost."

They were particularly impressed by the innovative use of relatively low-cost technology, the kiln's modular form, its simplicity of construction and the significant cost savings in the use of solar energy.

Because the kilns use solar energy, power consumption is greatly reduced with power savings from 30 to 50 per cent less than that used by conventional timber driers. The use of solar kilns also means it is now economic to use short length and lower grade sawlogs, which formerly would have been used as firewood.

Already there are more than 20 of the solar kilns in operation throughout Australia.

An Australian Design Mark was also awarded to



CALM's Valwood process, which uses short lengths of timber to produce laminated, solid wood for high value products such as furniture and benchtops.

Marketing Manager of Forest Resources Terry Jones accepts the Australian Design Award from Dana Read, the WA design consultant for Australian Design Services, a division of Standards Australia. Photo - Bryan Smeath

OPERATION BEACH CLEAN-UP

John Galvin High School students Rebecca Slobe and Renae Bruning proudly display signs they designed for use after a recent cleaning up operation at Bornholm Beach in West Cape Howe National Park, west of Albany.

While Bornholm Beach is a popular fishing spot, it is definitely four-wheel drive country—difficult to reach. Unfortunately, many fishers tend to leave fish heads on the beach and after a good salmon season the beach is untidy and decidedly unfragrant.

The beach cleanup was a joint venture between South Coast Regional staff of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the school. The lead-up to the clean-up included a competition in which students were required to design signs, the best two of which were to

be manufactured by CALM and erected at the beach. Rebecca and Renae were the winners.

CALM recreation and tourism officer Terry Passmore said that each sign included the name and age of its designer, in the hope that those seeing this commitment to caring for the

environment by young people will be encouraged by the example and act responsibly when using the beach.

According to Mr Passmore, judging the entries proved to be a daunting task.

"The standard of designs was excellent, making the task

of selecting the best two signs so much more difficult," he said.

In the weeks leading up to the clean-up day, CALM ranger Richard Pemberton spoke to the students on the importance of protecting the beach environment, and on the day itself, ranger Tony Smith supervised the clean-up and erection of the signs.

"The operation turned out to be a great day for everyone—the students, the parents and the beach—and culminated in a barbecue. And, yes, Bornholm lived up to its reputation as a great fishing spot, with many salmon caught, cooked and consumed," Mr Passmore said.



Photo - Tony Smith



Visitors can walk in the treetops along a series of walkways, platforms and stairways at the new Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup. (See page 10.)



A major survey of the Carnarvon Basin has recently been completed by staff from CALM, the WA Museum and the University of WA. What did they find? (See page 15.)

LANDSCOPE

VOLUME ELEVEN No. 2 SUMMER ISSUE 1995-96



It was a very good year in the Wildflower State. Find out just how good in our story on page 38.



Australia has its own families of songbirds that are very different from their European namesakes. See 'True Blue Birds' on page 45.



Quokkas were once widespread on WA's mainland, but the most visible populations are now found on just two islands. 'Where Have All the Quokkas Gone?' (See page 49.)

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COVER

Western black-footed rock-wallabies are on the increase in Yardie Creek, thanks to a CALM fox-baiting program. Their numbers are being monitored by local tour operators Neil and Rhonda McGregor. See our story on page 36.

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