

PERTH OBSERVATORY NOW UNDER CALM MANTLE

When Perth Observatory became part of CALM's Science and Information Division earlier this year, staff were delighted, according to the Government Astronomer and Perth Observatory Director Dr James Biggs.

"We expect to give even better service to the community now that we can tap into the department's marketing expertise and its computer support services—something that a small operation like ours, with only 12 staff, was previously unable to afford," Dr Biggs said.

Dr Biggs said that Observatory staff were familiar with CALM's community education projects, having occasionally joined forces with The Hills Forest staff in its *Go Bush!* program.

"Armed with small, easily transportable, but powerful telescopes, Observatory staff have taken community groups on night-time excursions, all of which were enthusiastically received by those taking part," Dr Biggs said.

"We've also enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with CALM's local fire-fighting staff, who do their best to restrict their prescribed burning to times when observation conditions are likely to be at their worst.

"The Observatory has another reason to celebrate 1996—it's the Centenary year, when several events, such as public concerts under the stars and historical exhibitions at the old Observatory buildings are planned to mark its passage."

Director of Science and Information Dr Jim Armstrong said that he welcomed the Perth Observatory into the Division.

"The Observatory will broaden CALM's science

profile. The Observatory's science staff has an international reputation and an enviable publication record," Dr Armstrong said.

CALM's Science and Information Division has been very successful at involving the volunteer community in its research programs. This volunteer involvement can be readily extended to include the Observatory and will greatly assist the scientists there with their community education programs."

The Perth Observatory is in Walnut Road, Bickley, where guided public tours are conducted at 3.00 pm each Sunday. The popular night tours are conducted one week each month with the next six months fully booked. People wishing to enjoy a night tour should make their reservations well ahead. Groups are also most welcome to book weekday tours by phoning the Observatory on (09) 293 8255 between 8.30am and 4.30pm.



Above: Astrographic telescope.
Photo - Vic Levis

Right: Lowell telescope dome.
Photo - Perth Observatory



Below: Halley's comet, 1986, as seen through the astrographic telescope.
Photo - Perth Observatory



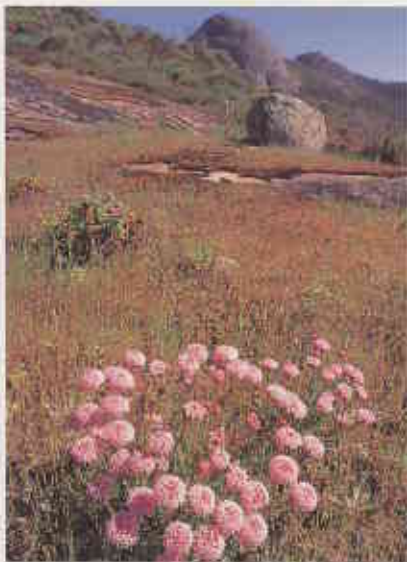
LANDSCOPE

VOLUME ELEVEN NO. 3 AUTUMN ISSUE 1996



This killer whale, photographed at Ningaloo, is one of 36 marine mammals living off the WA coastline. Read about them on page 16.

Thanks largely to CALM's fox-control programs, the recovery of the woylie has been so swift that the species has now been taken off the threatened fauna list (see page 10).



Spring flowers thrive on a moss carpet—one of the range of attractions on offer in the Porongurup National Park (see page 28).



LANDSCOPE Expeditioners made some interesting discoveries during last year's expedition to Queen Victoria Spring. Read all about them on page 23.



The rose mallee is just one species benefiting from action by recovery teams working together for conservation (see page 36).

FEATURES

IT'S BACK: THE RETURN OF THE WOYLIE
TONY START, JACKIE COURTENAY & KEITH MORRIS 10

WHALES AND DOLPHINS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CAROLYN THOMSON & DOUG COUGHRAN 16

DESERT SPRING
KATE HOOPER & DAVID PEARSON 23

PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK
IAN HERFORD & ANN BURCHELL 28

WORKING TOGETHER
JOHN BLYTH, ANDREW BURBIDGE, ANDREW BROWN & KATE HOOPER 36

A SEASONED PERFORMANCE
TERRY JONES 43

BROOME AND BEYOND
KEVIN KENNEALLY 48

REGULARS

IN PERSPECTIVE 4

BUSH TELEGRAPH 6

ENDANGERED TUMULUS SPRINGS 47

URBAN ANTICS 54


COVER

*A new book, Broome and Beyond, takes an in-depth look at the plants, such as this *Pittosporum molluccanum*, people and cultures of the Dampier Peninsula, in Western Australia's Kimberley Region. The story on page 48 takes a brief glimpse into this exciting new book.*

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



Managing Editor: Ron Kawallak
Editor: David Gough
Contributing Editors: Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, Debra Mayrhofer, Penny Walsh
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Paul Jones, Tony Start and staff of CALM's Science & Information Division
Design and production: Maria Duthie, Sue Marais
Finished art: Gooitzen van der Meer
Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer
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.