

UMBRELLA OF SAFETY

Divers and snorkellers only have to keep their eyes open to discover all kinds of interesting animals in the rich marine environment around Perth.

CALM's supervising wildlife officer Doug Coughran was diving at Three Mile Reef, in the Marmion Marine Park, when he was rewarded by taking a closer look at a large jellyfish swimming past and he snapped these amazing photos for *LANDSCOPE*.

Sheltering in the bell of the jellyfish were a number of tiny juvenile fish. The jellyfish provide shelter, transportation and food, in the form of plankton killed and trapped by their stinging tissue. The young fish are immuneto the stinging tentacles and can even eat them, despite the stings being toxic to other animals. While the association does not appear to benefit the jellyfish it does not seem to do them any great harm.

Barry Hutchins, a curator in the fish section at the WA Museum, has recorded a number of species taking advantage of this unusual home, including trevally, yellowtail and leatherjacket. Small crabs and minute lobsters have been seen hanging on the bells of jellyfish off the coast of Dongara, where they are probably eating their host.

Net-patterned jellyfish, with their tiny hangers-on and ballerina-like movements, begin to appear in Perth waters during late March and early April. Sand trevally tend to cluster up front near the bell, with mosaic leatherjackets sometimes bringing up the rear. Immature fish also associate with spotted jellyfish, mosaic jellyfish, saucer jellyfish and hairy stingers. When they are a few centimetres long, the juvenile fish leave their hosts to settle around jetty piles and other structures, moving to

deeper waters as they mature. So next time you see a jellyfish in the ocean, see if you can spot a tiny hitchhiker.

NOTE: CALM's Marine Conservation Branch is located at 47 Henry Street, Fremantle—telephone (09) 432 5110. Swan Region Marine Operations Group, formerly located at Hillarys Boat Harbour, has moved to the same address—telephone (09) 432 5111. Both can be contacted by fax on (09) 430 5408.



Above: A spotted jellyfish with a cloud of tiny hangers-on.



Left: Observant divers can discover all kinds of interesting marine animals in Perth waters.

Below: CALM wildlife officer Peter Lambert comes face to face with a large net-patterned jellyfish.

Photos – Doug Coughran



LANDSCOPE

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The Perth Observatory celebrates its centenary this year, and during its 100 years' life it has played some major roles in the world of astronomy. Find out more on page 10.



The Cape Range, in north-west WA, is known for its harsh environment. But if you look a little closer you'll discover the vast 'Range of Flowers' that live there. See page 28.



In 1961, the noisy scrub-bird was rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay. In 1994, the Gilbert's potoroo turned up unexpectedly. Find out more about this haven for the lost and found on page 35.



John Forrest National Park has long been a popular picnicking spot for Perth residents, but this place of beauty has much more to offer. See page 16.



If all goes to plan, the Ord River area, will soon be known as a prime farming area for rare tropical timbers. Find out why on page 23.

FEATURES

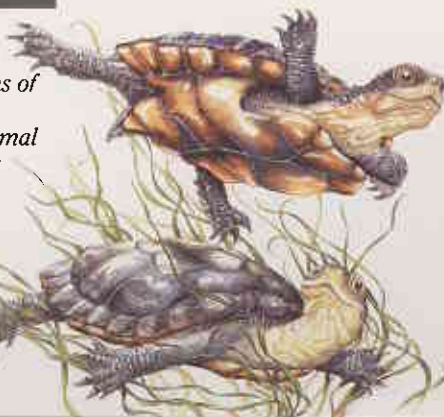
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COVER

Fox-baiting has been shown to be a major tool in rebuilding populations of native animals. Now, scientists are embarking on a Statewide feral animal control program to help bring back native species, such as the western swamp tortoise, from the brink of extinction. The project is called 'Western Shield'.

The story is on page 41.

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