

## ELECTRONIC POSTCARDS FROM WA

Visitors to *NatureBase*, the award-winning Internet site of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), can now send electronic postcards of the State's plants, animals and special places to family, friends and business colleagues around the world.

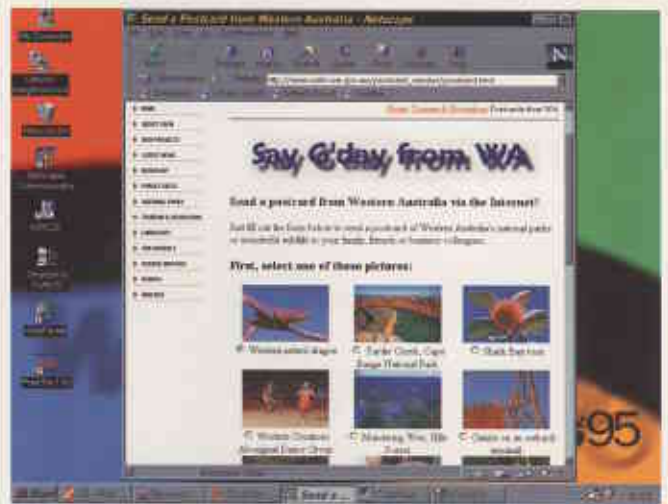
WA Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes recently launched the new service by sending postcards to State Premier Richard Court and both national and international computer media.

"The introduction of the electronic postcards not only provides a free service to 'Net users, but it is also a way of creating a greater awareness of the State's natural attractions," said Mrs Edwardes.

Each of the 12 postcards carries a caption describing the image, and a space is provided for senders to key in their personal messages.

Scenes include the Bungle Bungles in Purnululu National Park, Yardie Creek in Cape Range National Park, Euca and Lyptus—the koala twins at Yanchep National Park—karri forest, whale-watching, Aboriginal dancers at The Hills Forest in Mundaring and galahs on an outback windmill.

The images will be changed periodically, and people will be able to send as many as they like, as often as they like. Some of the State's top wildlife photographers, whose pictures regularly appear in *LANDSCOPE*, have already



agreed to provide images for future sets of 'postcards'.

People who do not have access to the Internet can call into CALM's *WA Naturally* information centre at 47 Henry Street, Fremantle, and use the computer

terminals there to 'post' their cards.

To send a postcard, visit *NatureBase* at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>, look for the link on the homepage and follow the simple instructions.

## WILL THE REAL WOOLLYBUSH PLEASE STAND UP?

Fitzgerald woollybush (*Adenanthos dobagii*) is one of the many rare plants endemic to the spectacular Fitzgerald River National Park on Western Australia's south coast. Fitzgerald River woollybush was first collected in 1972 by botanist Charles Nelson.

The plant has a very restricted distribution, being known from only a few localities in the eastern part of Fitzgerald River National Park, and has been declared "rare flora".

As with other rare species, Fitzgerald woollybush has been surveyed to assess its rarity and potential threats to its survival. It has also recently been targeted for seed collection by the Threatened Flora Seed Centre of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). However, during the



*Fitzgerald woollybush*  
Photo - David Brendan

course of this work, doubts were raised as to the status of Fitzgerald woollybush, with some botanists suggesting that it is not distinct from the more common Labillardiere's woollybush (*A. labillardierei*).

To answer this question, Brendan Lepschi, a CALM WA Herbarium botanist, undertook a review of the classification of the Fitzgerald woollybush, involving study of preserved specimens at the

Herbarium as well as examination of plants in the field. Results of this study indicated that Fitzgerald woollybush and Labillardiere's woollybush were both distinct and quite unrelated species, which, for a variety of reasons, had become confused. The main reason for this confusion appears to have arisen through misinterpretation of where Nelson first collected Fitzgerald woollybush, and the assumption that the woollybush that grows abundantly at that locality was Fitzgerald woollybush, when, in fact, the only species of *Adenanthos* growing at that site is Labillardiere's woollybush! As a result, plants of Labillardiere's woollybush from this area were mistakenly referred to as Fitzgerald woollybush, giving

the false impression that these species were not distinct from one another.

The next step was to locate populations of the Fitzgerald woollybush. Searches of areas where Nelson had collected it in the early 1970s proved fruitless, but eventually a population of plants was found to the west of where previous searches had been concentrated. This is almost certainly the same population of Fitzgerald woollybush originally discovered in 1974 by the late Ken Newbey, who had been the only other person apart from Nelson to have collected this elusive plant.

The resolution of the confusion surrounding the classification of these rare Fitzgerald River plants means that future management efforts for both species can now be appropriately directed.

# LANDSCOPE

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Noisy scrub-birds are rare in museum collections. This one, from a Dutch Museum, was probably collected by John Gilbert. See page 36.



Mount Bakewell looms over the old town of York, but it is more than just a prominent landmark. Find out why on page 42.



This year, The Hills Forest celebrates its fifth birthday. Find out what's been happening there in our story on page 10.



The Kimberley region of Western Australia has some weird and wonderful landforms. Read all about them on page 16.



The northern quoll is just one of WA's marsupials that have been part of a recent conservation status review. See page 22.

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## COVER

Get down on the ground, scramble through the leaf litter and compost in your garden, and discover the fascinating world of insects. 'Insects in the Garden', on page 28, shows how these seemingly insignificant creatures help keep the ecosystem running smoothly and how they are a vital part of nature's life-cycle.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



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