

FACELIFT FOR KALGOORLIE ARBORETUM

A jewel in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's crown is its arboretum. This popular spot has undergone a major facelift since 1996, when a three-year construction and capital works project began.

The aim of the project is to improve visitor facilities and the aesthetic appeal of this important conservation park.

Initiated by the Kalgoorlie Arboretum Community

Action Project (KACAP), it is jointly funded by CALM, North Ltd, Landcare Foundation and Kanowna Belle Gold Mines.

The arboretum was originally established in 1954 to create a living museum and to test the growth of semi-arid trees in the Goldfields region. Today, it attracts numerous tourists from Western Australia, the

eastern states and overseas countries.

To date, work has been completed on:

- a connection through the arboretum for the 14.2-kilometre multi-use path that follows the Gribble Creek course to link Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and
- provision of safer pedestrian paths and vehicle access via the new car park.

Access for people with disabilities has also been improved with upgraded facilities, cement-hardened path improvements, ramp constructions and purpose-built furniture.

All of these improvements, together with major

landscaping, have made the arboretum safer, more universally accessible and a thoroughly pleasurable experience.

Directional and information signs will soon be installed so visitors can learn and appreciate the full wonder and diversity of the arboretum.

Revegetation work is well under way, with North Kalgoorlie Primary School students planting 200 trees and shrubs to increase the diversity of species.

Two hectares were sown with seeds of understory species including acacias, saltbushes, *eremophylas* and everlastings. When grown, they will provide an opportunity for visitors to identify the Goldfields species commonly used for mine rehabilitation.

About 90,000 people have visited the arboretum this year, a considerable increase on previous years.



CALM Senior Landscape Architect Richard Hammond (left) and Goldfields Region Operations Officer Phil Spencer test the load-bearing capacity of a new bridge.

Photo courtesy of Kalgoorlie Miner

NEW BOOK AN EYE-BOGGLING FEAST

To whet your appetite for a trip to one of Western Australia's most fascinating marine parks, you probably couldn't do better than read *The Marine Life of Ningaloo Marine Park & Coral Bay*, recently published by CALM.

The 108-page book takes the reader down among some

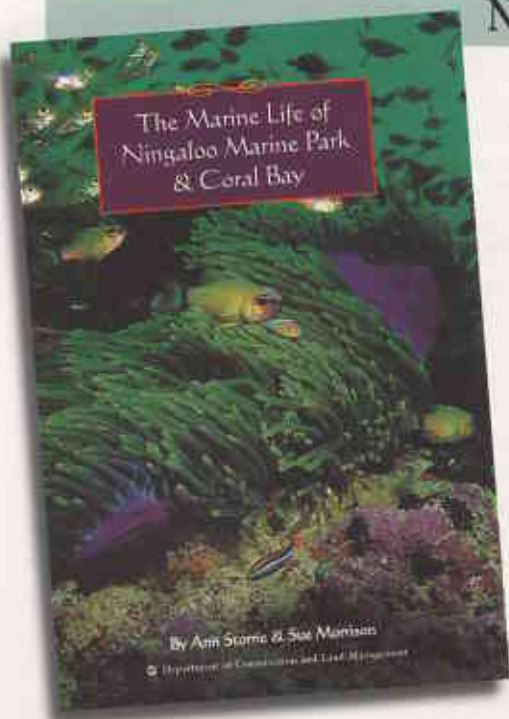
of Western Australia's most spectacular scenery; the full-colour photographs alone are reason enough for readers to want to have it on their bookshelves.

The book tells of Ningaloo Marine Park's 260-kilometre-long reef, which is home to an abundance of dolphins, manta rays and huge cod, while whale sharks (the world's largest fish) regularly visit its coast in autumn. Overall, the book offers a remarkable insight into the reef's prolific marine life, which includes more than 500 species of fish, 250 species of coral and about 600

species of shellfish. All this exists against the stark and rugged coastal beauty of Cape Range National Park.

Ningaloo Marine Park is about 1,200 kilometres north of the Perth metropolitan area. Two days' driving (with an overnight stop) will take you there comfortably.

The Marine Life of Ningaloo Marine Park & Coral Bay costs \$14.95. It is available from most WA bookshops and newsagents, as well as CALM offices, or it may be ordered direct from the department's *NatureBase* web site at: <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>



LANDSCOPE

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Can WA's sharefarming plantations also help fight greenhouse gases? See 'Farming Carbon' on page 17.



With increased numbers of travellers, the Canning Stock Route is in need of some TLC. See 'A Track Winding Back' on page 10.



The job of a CALM Wildlife Officer is as much about dealing with people as it is about protecting our native wildlife. See 'On the Wild Side' on page 23.



The Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves are a haven for water birds and a significant international wetland. See 'Picture the Lakes' on page 36.



There are billions of tiny white shells lining the 150-km Shell Beach in Shark Bay. But why are there so many concentrated here? Find out more on page 49.

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COVER

Two years into the Western Shield program and already three Western Australian native species have been brought back from the edge of extinction, and others are growing in abundance. 'Bouncing Back', on page 28, looks at the successes of the first two years and at where we hope to be at the turn of the century.

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