

STUDENTS ADOPT A WESTERN SWAMP TORTOISE

A western swamp tortoise named Yakkinn is helping scientists study the species' habits, thanks to students from North Tom Price and Kambalda primary schools, who raised a total of \$350 for a radio transmitter to track the animal's movements.

The North Tom Price students held an Out-of-Uniform Day, paying for the privilege with donations.

Interest in the western swamp tortoise came about as a result of primary school teacher Heather Stephens and the students coordinating an Internet book review of *Yakkinn the swamp tortoise—The Most Dangerous Year*, by Gerald and Guundie Kuchling.

Schools across Australia and one in Canada took part. One outcome of the

review was the decision to adopt Yakkinn and raise funds for the transmitter.

Yakkinn was one of about 30 western swamp tortoises bred at Perth Zoo and released at Twin Swamps Nature Reserve in Bullsbrook in August 1998.

The Director of CALM's WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit, Dr Andrew Burbidge, said that it was always difficult to raise all the funds needed for nature conservation work.

"To show our appreciation, we'll provide the students with regular updates on the Twin Swamps' tortoise colony, and on Yakkinn's progress in particular," Dr Burbidge said.

A small proportion of translocated tortoises may be taken by predators such

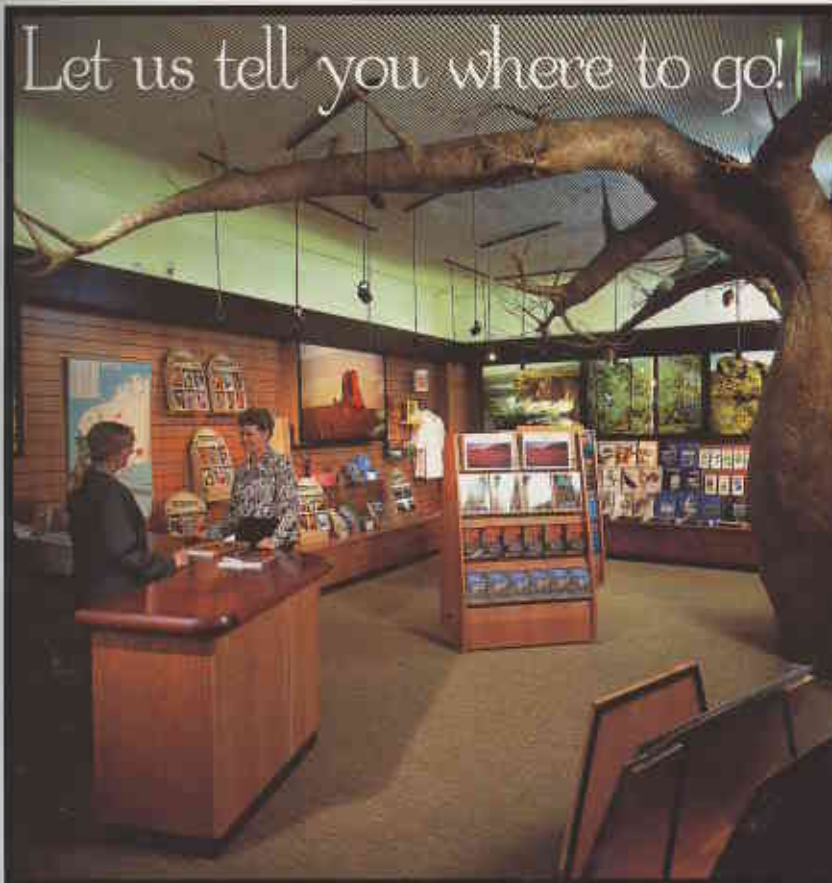


as ravens. Sometimes, too, the miniature transmitters fail.

"While such losses are upsetting, the students accept this, keeping their minds on the big picture—the survival of the threatened species as a whole," Dr Burbidge said.

The re-introduction of western swamp tortoises to Twin Swamps Nature Reserve is being carried out by Dr Gerald Kuchling, of the University of Western Australia's Zoology Department, on behalf of the Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team.

Let us tell you where to go!



At our information centre in Fremantle, WA Naturally, we can proudly show you WA's national parks—and our forests, flowers, wildlife, marine parks, conservation reserves, and more. You'll find brochures, books, and nature-based tourism information. And if you like computers, you can click away on our internet site, *NatureBase*. All yours to browse. Free. Naturally.

WA Naturally



CALM's outdoors and nature information centre.

47 Henry Street, Fremantle  
Phone (08) 9430 8600 Fax (08) 9430 8699  
Open 10–5.30 every day except Tuesdays  
<http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

required  
Australia

# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME FOURTEEN NUMBER 1, SPRING 1998



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.

## FEATURES

<b>A TRACK WINDING BACK</b> MANDY CLEWS.....	10
<b>FARMING CARBON</b> SYD SHEA.....	17
<b>ON THE WILD SIDE</b> DAVID MELL.....	23
<b>BOUNCING BACK</b> KEITH MORRIS, ROGER ARMSTRONG, PETER ORELL AND MITZI VANCE.....	28
<b>PICTURE THE LAKES</b> MARGARET KIERATH AND KLAUS TIEDEMANN.....	36
<b>PEOPLE PROTECTING PLANTS</b> ANDREW BROWN.....	43
<b>UNEARTHING THE SECRETS OF SHELL BEACH</b> PADDY BERRY & PHILLIP PLAYFORD.....	49

## REGULARS

<b>BUSH TELEGRAPH</b> .....	4
<b>ENDANGERED</b> ALBATROSSES.....	53
<b>URBAN ANTICS</b> CHESS KNIGHTS IN ARMOUR.....	54

## 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.

Illustration  
by Philippa Nikulitsku



**Executive Editor:** Ron Kawallak  
**Managing Editor:** Ray Bailey  
**Editor:** David Gough  
**Story Editors:** Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, David Gough, Nigel Higgs, Mitzi Vance, Penny Walsh  
**Scientific/technical advice:** Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Paul Jones and staff of CALM's Science and Information Division  
**Design and production:** Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Sue Marais  
**Illustration:** Ian Dickinson, Gooitzen van der Meer  
**Marketing:** Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498  
**Subscription enquiries:** ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437  
 Colour Separation by Colourbox Digital  
 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 consent of the publishers.  
 Visit LANDSCOPE online on our award-winning Internet site NatureBase at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/>



Published by Dr S Shea, Executive Director  
 Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
 50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia