

LIVING WINDOWS - LOOKING OUT FOR CONSERVATION

Eco-tourism has fast become a buzzword within the travel industry. Basically, the natural environment sells. But with tourism being a huge growth industry, it is only a matter of time before its impact begins to be felt—and without protection, whole ecosystems could become damaged or destroyed.

In 1993, The South West Development Commission (SWDC) realised that to effectively develop and promote responsible eco-tourism in the south-west of Western Australia, a large-scale cooperative marketing strategy was needed—and so the 'Living Windows into the South West' project was conceived.

Living Windows is a network of nature-based tourism sites that offer visitors an environmentally conscious experience of south-west attractions. Liam Kinsella, who is responsible for coordinating the network, says that the south-west was one of the most environmentally diverse regions in Australia, containing many unique and precious ecosystems.

"While we're eager to show them to visitors, we must bear in mind that parts of some ecosystems are also extremely vulnerable, so we've tried to create a network of sites that offer interest-packed experiences, while maintaining the highest possible environmental protection standards," Liam said.

Many small eco-consciously built sites, including some under the management of CALM, had already begun to appear before the Living Windows idea was conceived. CALM's Perup Forest Ecology

Centre, near Manjimup was one of these. It was no surprise, therefore, that CALM became a partner in the Living Windows Network from day one. Two other CALM sites are now part of the network: the Wellington Discovery Forest, near Collie, and the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, one of the network's major and most popular tourist sites.

"The Tree Top Walk is a perfect example of a high-profile attraction, that has always adhered to the strictest environmental protection standards, to become a benchmark for successful eco-tourism at a world class level," Liam said.

"The smallest details were carefully examined during the planning stages, and resulted in, for example, the building of boardwalks throughout the Ancient Empire walk to protect the delicate roots of the tingle tree from being trampled by visitors. It's this degree of attention to detail that can have a significantly positive effect on the natural environment. It's also what separates Living Windows sites from other so called eco-tourism operations, run by those wishing to cash in on the trend."

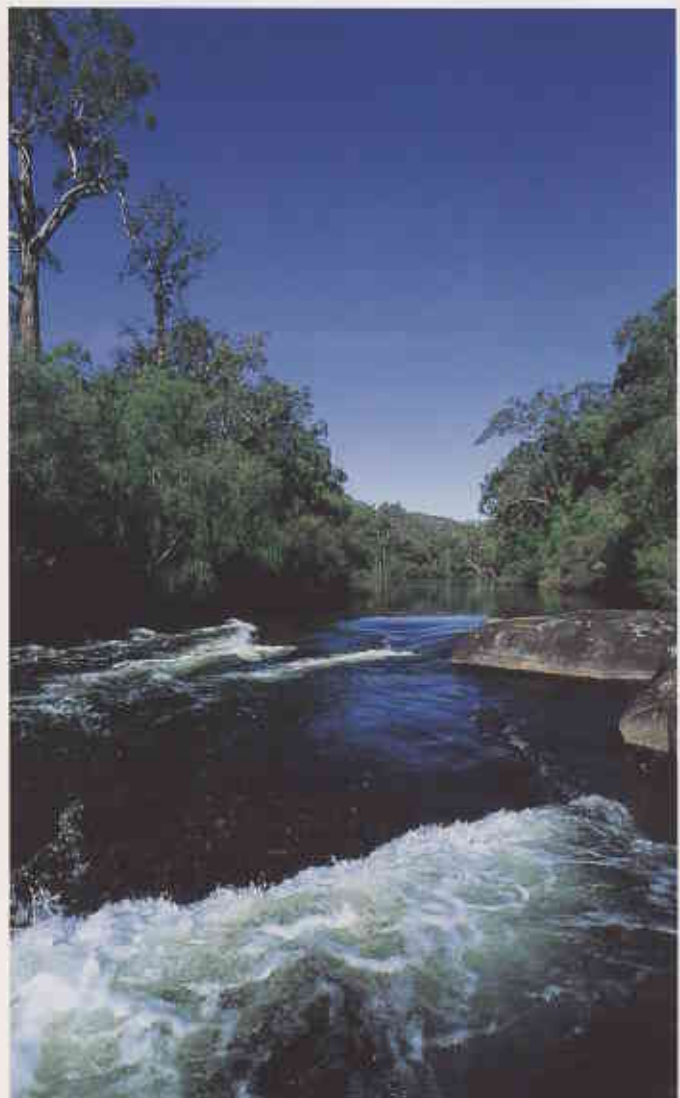
For more information on any of the 16 Living Windows sites, please phone the Network's Hotline on (08) 9721 7778, or the WA Tourist Centre on 1300 361 351.

Above right: *Entrance to the Tree Top Walk.*

Photo - Michael James/CALM

Right: *Wellington Forest near Collie.*

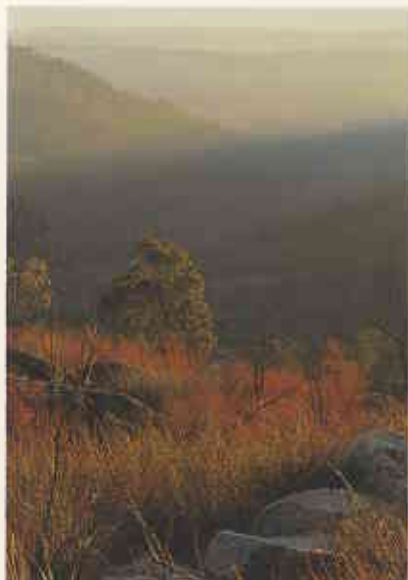
Photo - Gordon Roberts/CALM



LANDSCOPE

054919

VOLUME FOURTEEN NUMBER 2, SUMMER 1998-1999



This land, where the Avon River cuts through the Darling Range, was home to WA's most notorious bushranger. His story is on page 10.



Just when everyone thought it was extinct, this small mammal suddenly reappeared. See 'Dibblers' on page 28.



100,000 hectares of bluegums by the year 2000. Was it a realistic target? See 'From Blue sky to Blue Chip' on page 35.



'What about the Animals', on page 21, discusses early findings from the Kingston Study.



'Karla Wongi: Fire Talk', on page 48, is a Nyungar perspective on the use of fire in the south-west of WA.

FEATURES

BUSHRANGER COUNTRY JOHN HUNTER.....	10
SMALL STEPS TO SAVE SALMON GUMS PATRICK PIGOTT.....	17
WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS? BRENT JOHNSON & KEITH MORRIS.....	21
DIBBLERS TONY START.....	28
FROM BLUE SKY TO BLUE CHIP CARIS BAILEY & TYM DUNCANSON.....	35
A VIEW OF THE BAY MANDY CLEWS, CHRIS SIMPSON & DAVID ROSE.....	43
KARLA WONGI: FIRE TALK GLEN KELLY.....	49

REGULARS

BUSH TELEGRAPH	4
ENDANGERED PINNATE-LEAVED EREMOPHILA.....	16
URBAN ANTICS DUCK TALES.....	54

COVER

One of Western Australia's best-known woodlands may be under threat now, but research by CALMScience Division staff is playing a key role in safeguarding their future. See 'Small Steps to Save Salmon Gums', on page 17

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



Executive Editor: Ron Kawalilak
Managing Editor: Ray Bailey
Editor: David Gough
Story Editors: Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, David Gough, Nigel Higgs, Louise Johnson, Mitzi Vance, Penny Walsh
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Neil Burrows, Paul Jones and staff of CALMScience Division
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Sue Marais
Illustration: 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