

SHOWCASING SUCCESSFUL FARM FORESTRY VENTURES

A new course recently brought together three key groups of people in farm forestry—those who influence farmers' decision making, those who provide farm forestry services and forestry farmers themselves.

The three-day Introduction to Farm Forestry course showed participants how this business venture worked, and who the key contacts were for specialist support.

Agriculture WA's Bunbury Regional Economist Peter Eckersley and CALM Busselton Farm Forestry Unit Manager Richard Moore designed the course, in collaboration with Bridgetown Forestry Farmer David Jenkins of Jenkins Agroforestry Developments.

The course was based in Bridgetown and involved mainly field visits. On the first day, participants inspected several examples of farm forestry and heard from the farmers why they had become involved and what they were getting out of it.

The second day focused on the timber industry and markets for wood. Several processing plants were visited, including a pine



sawmill and a post-treatment plant.

Day three concentrated on the factors to be considered in developing long-term plans that incorporate commercial tree crops with other farming activities.

Participants met key players in farm forestry development, extension and operations, in both government agencies and in private enterprise.

CALM presenters were Senior Technical Officer Bob Hingston, Farm Plan Advisor John Winchcombe and Farm

Forestry Facilitator Glenn Batty, all from the Department's Busselton Farm Forestry Unit.

Presenters from Agriculture WA included Bunbury Catchment Hydrology Manager Richard George, Catchment Hydrology Technical Officer Don Bennett and Manjimup Project Officer Andrew McLaughlin.

Feedback from participants was very positive. Keith and Trudy Clothier, who run a plant nursery, were enthusiastic in their praise of the course.

"It was a steep learning curve for us, as we knew very little about what was involved after the actual tree-growing process, but it was well worth the time and effort," Trudy said.

"We came away with a much clearer understanding of all aspects of the operation, right through to marketing the product. We also have a lot of farmers coming to us for advice, so talking with farmers like David Jenkins and others, who'd made farm forestry a profitable

Above: Participants inspecting sawn pine, left to right, Dave Gardner and Gary Hartnett (CALM), Michelle Long (consultant), David Guille (CALM), Tom Mitchell and Peter Eckersley (AgWest), Cathy Lyons (Land Conservation District Committee member), Ryan Denham (AgWest), Richard Hartwell (Whittakers Pine Mill Supervisor), Richard Moore (CALM), Andrew McLaughlin (AgWest), David Jenkins (Farm Forester and Course Coordinator), Pat Hatfield (Rivercare), Mark Lush (CALM).

Photo – Ben Rose

Left: Looking at and listening to a farm forestry success story.

Photo – Richard Moore

venture for themselves, was probably the most useful part of the course for us."

Further courses are planned. Anyone interested in finding out when and where they will be held should telephone Richard Moore on (08) 9752 1677, fax him on (08) 9754 1675 or email him at: richardmo@calm.wa.gov.au



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LANDSCOPE

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What does the future hold for our karri forest? Research provides some interesting insights. See page 18.



The photographic excellence of WA team Babs and Bert Wells was driven by a love of the job. See page 10.



Many WA women have played important roles in the conservation of our natural resources. Some of them feature in our story on page 41.



'Growing Gnangara Park', on page 35, continues the story of WA's largest proposed outer suburban native parkland.



Partnerships are important. Many private sector businesses and individuals are active partners in protecting our natural heritage. See page 47.

FEATURES

FOR THE LOVE OF THE JOB
MANDY CLEWS.....10

THE KARRI FOREST: 2095AD
JACK BRADSHAW, MARTIN RAYNER & MARGARET KIERATH..18

RETURN TO LILLIPUT
NEVILLE MARCHANT.....28

GROWING GNANGARA PARK
CARIS BAILEY.....35

DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY
TAMMIE REID, SUZANNE CURRY & MANDY CLEWS41

TAKE YOUR PARTNERS
SUZANNE CURRY.....47

REGULARS

BUSH TELEGRAPH.....4

ENDANGERED
STIRLING RANGE TRAPDOOR SPIDER.....27

URBAN ANTICS
BIGFOOT TALES.....54

COVER

The Dampier collection returns briefly to Western Australia for an exhibition at the WA Museum. The specimens' scientific interest is limited, but their historical significance is immense. The illustration is of the *Sturt-pea*, and Dampier was the first person to collect this unusual but magnificent plant. (See page 28)

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



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