

## JEEMULUK—THE YOUNG NOISY SCRUB-BIRD

Parents and grandparents will snap up this book, both for its beautifully laid out, full-colour illustrations and for its appeal to early primary school-aged children. Slightly older children, too, will



be drawn first to the illustrations—then to read for themselves about Jeemuluk.

Jeemuluk is the Nyoongar Aboriginal name for the noisy scrub-bird, and the Jeemuluk of this story is a lively little bird with a big song. He is also looking for a home, but before he finds it, his travels take a surprising detour involving a pair of very big boots! His journey is set in the

moist gullies and thick scrub that surround the headlands of Two

Peoples Bay, near Albany on the south coast of Western Australia.

The story—written by Corinn Wallace Hine and illustrated by Carol Ann O'Connor—is highly entertaining, while it is teaching young readers about one of WA's threatened bird species. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to support the implementation of the noisy scrub-bird recovery plan.

The book is available from



most book stores in WA, and costs \$19.95 for the hard cover version, and \$12.95 for the soft cover.

## PEAC STUDENTS EXPLORE TOTADGIN

Seeing the effects of salinity first hand can be a far more effective lesson for students than reading or hearing about them in the classroom. When the students also visit a place that has escaped the ravages of salinity, they have a benchmark against which to measure the losses that have robbed the land of its once-lush vegetation.

This was certainly the case for a group of Years 5, 6 and 7 Primary Extension and Academic Challenge (PEAC) students at South Merredin, who see the devastating effects of salinity in the Wheatbelt almost daily.

A visit to Totadgin Water Reserve with CALM's Merredin District Wildlife Officer Matt Dowling and Land for Wildlife Officer Heather Adamson, showed the students how the land used to be across the rest of the Wheatbelt.

Using CALM's educational package *Exploring Wheatbelt Woodlands* as a guide, the students

performed a variety of tasks such as using grid-covered mirrors to determine the percentage of tree-canopy cover, and writing detailed descriptions of plants.

"They saw for themselves how land use had changed since large areas of woodlands were cleared for agriculture—the chief cause of the Wheatbelt's salinity problem," Mr Dowling said.

Totadgin Water Reserve is located about 12 kilometres south-west of Merredin on the Bruce Rock Road, and is a popular reserve with both locals and tourists alike. It stands like an island of remnant native vegetation in a wheat-field sea, not yet seriously affected by salinity.

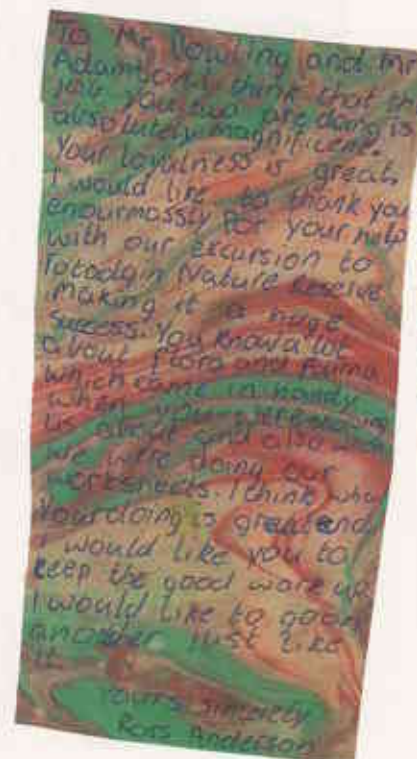
The Reserve hosts many different bird species and has a variety of woodlands that includes salmon gum and wandoo, as well as areas of mallee and acacia scrub. It also has a large granite outcrop with its own ecosystem. Students learnt that it was the granite outcrop that saved Totadgin

from being cleared for agriculture. They also learnt that it had been a stopping-off point for early explorers, a source of water for surrounding pioneers, and even became a site where old World War II bombs were detonated. Much of the shrapnel from these bombs can still be found there.

PEAC students are selected for their exceptional problem-solving and reasoning abilities, and are invited to take part in programs designed specifically to exercise these skills. They are generally drawn from schools in a particular region, and return to them when the program in which they are involved is over. Providing challenges for these students is important if they are to realise their full potential, and the salinity problem is certainly a major challenge that could keep them well occupied. Who knows? One or more of them

could eventually find solutions that would benefit nature conservation, agriculture and the community as a whole.

*Below: One of many letters of appreciation from PEAC students.*



Winner of the 1998 Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting.

# LANDSCOPE



VOLUME FIFTEEN NUMBER 1, SPRING 1999



In 'Photographing a Temperate Wonderland' (page 10), photographers Sue Morrison and Ann Storrie share their experiences .



In 'Those Spotted Things' (page 22), we see how fox-baiting and captive breeding continues to swell populations of this popular native mammal.



Snakes. You either love them or hate them, but how do we live with them? See story on page 45.



Many farmers and landowners are turning to plantation pine for a variety of good reasons. Five of them tell us why. See 'A Crop of Forests' on page 38.



As habitat changes, so do species populations. But just when does a species become threatened? See 'Healing the Land' on page 49.

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The magnificent gorges of Karijini National Park are a refreshing retreat from the arid plains above. They also have a fascinating geological history. See story on page 28.

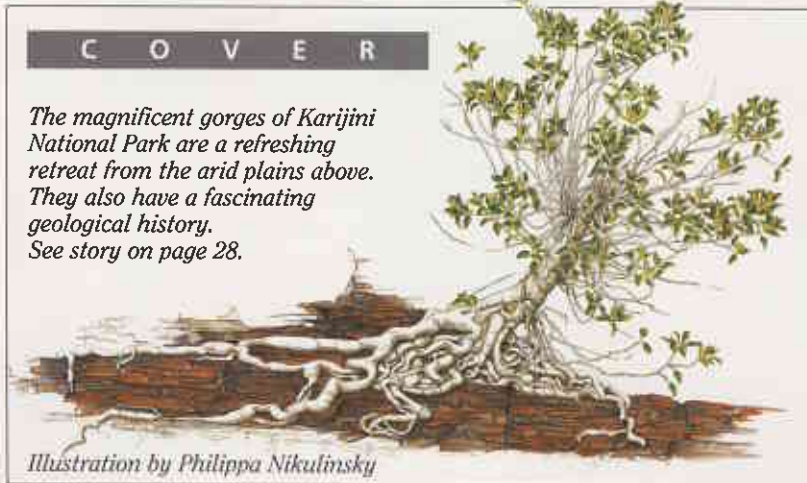


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