

predator control at Dryandra Woodland and on Peron Peninsula were of particular interest to the men.

Ngaanyatjarra Land Use Council's Planner and IPA Project coordinator Keith Noble said some of the men had been involved in a fox-control project at the Townsend Ridges, near Warburton. This is a joint initiative between CALM and the Ngaanyatjarra Council to arrest the decline of a population of black-footed rock wallabies.

"The group's spirits were high, and there was continual discussion about what they'd seen and its relevance to the

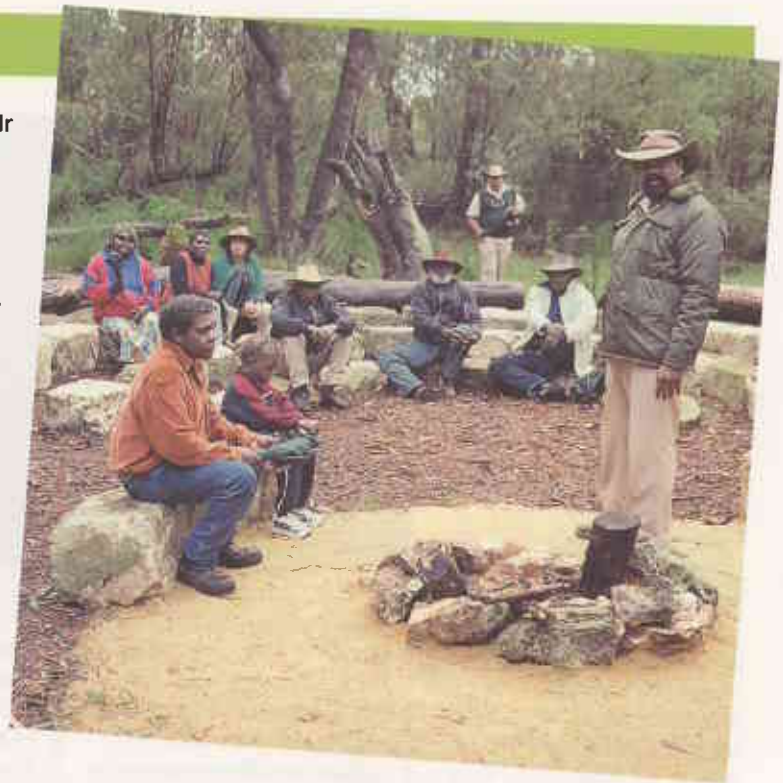
Ngaanyatjarra lands," Mr Noble said.

The elders will be discussing their experiences with other community members, as well as the potential for collaborative management throughout the lands.

Previous page: CALM Field Officer Caitlin Prowse and Ngaanyatjarra elder Arthur Robertson about to set off along the Ochre Walk Trail at Dryandra.

Right: Aboriginal Heritage officer Kevin Hill (right) describes the tourism benefits of Balga Mia Village at Yanchep National Park.

Photos - Rob Thomas



DIBBLERS RELEASED ON ESCAPE ISLAND

Forty-one dibblers, bred at Perth Zoo, have been released on Escape Island in Jurien Bay under CALM's wildlife recovery program Western Shield—and the recovery plan for the species. This follows the successful release of 26 of the animals on Escape Island a year ago.

Dibblers are listed as an endangered species. Currently, the population is estimated to be fewer than 1,000 animals.

The dibbler is a small, mostly carnivorous (flesh-eating) marsupial, weighing between 40 and 100 grams. It has a thick hairy tail, and a distinctive white eye ring. An agile climber, it eats mostly invertebrates, small reptiles and nectar. The female has a small pouch and eight nipples.

Seven dibblers were trapped on the island during recent field monitoring by CALM scientists, who found all seven in good condition.

Closer examination revealed positive evidence that these animals, released in October last year, had successfully bred in the wild.

Once that initial release on Escape Island had proved successful, the Dibbler Recovery Team, representing CALM, Perth Zoo, the Marsupial Co-operative Research Centre, The University of WA and the Jurien Bay and South Coast communities, planned the second stage. Seventeen of the animals in the latest release were fitted with radio collars for post-release monitoring. Dibblers do not appear to enter traps readily, so using radio collars allows their progress to be more closely and accurately monitored during their first few weeks of life in the wild.

Staff of Perth Zoo's Native Species Breeding Program prepared the 41 dibblers for survival in the wild by replicating their likely diet for

Dibblers are beginning to thrive once more

Photo - Jiri Lochman

some time before release.

Dibblers were presumed to be extinct from 1904 but were rediscovered in 1967 in the Cheyne Beach area of Fitzgerald River National Park, which is the only mainland site where dibblers can be regularly found. In 1985, dibblers were also discovered on Boullanger and Whitlock Islands, both off Jurien Bay.

Dieback—causing loss of shrub layer—foxes, cats and loss of suitable habitat (especially of the deep leaf litter layer) through fire, may be the main threats to dibblers on the mainland.



On the islands, the main threats to the species are fire and people trampling on seabird burrows where dibblers nest and forage.

Under its wildlife recovery program Western Shield, CALM aims to bring native animals, such as the dibbler, back from the brink of extinction by controlling the threat of introduced predators—the fox and feral cat.

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

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME FIFTEEN NUMBER 2, SUMMER 1999-2000



How many seals or sea lions are there around WA's coasts? See 'A Tale of Two Seals' on page 42.



"What I wasn't prepared for was the magic of the experience." See 'Desert Impressions' on page 35 for the story of a LANDSCOPE Expedition.



The malleefowl has declined to 46 per cent of its former range. Read about the combined effort to save it on page 17.



Enjoy the WA environment—and don't get hurt! See 'Balancing Act' on page 23.



Traditional owners are working with CALM and other agencies to manage the land. See page 10.

FEATURES

COMMON GROUND
ROB THOMAS, KEITH NOBLE & MANDY CLEWS.....10

SAVING THE MALLEEFOWL
SANDRA MCKENZIE & JOHN BLYTH.....17

BALANCING ACT
IAN HERFORD, JOHN IRELAND & MANDY CLEWS.....22

WONDERFUL KALBARRI
ALAN THORNE.....28

DESERT IMPRESSIONS
MARIANNE LEWIS.....35

A TALE OF TWO SEALS
NICK GALES.....42

THE DEFIANT SEED
ANNE COCHRANE.....49

REGULARS

BUSH TELEGRAPH.....4

ENDANGERED
CAMERONS CAVE ECOLOGICAL CENTRE.....53

URBAN ANTICS
TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR.....54

COVER

The white-breasted sea-eagle is one of the many natural attractions of the mid-west. See page 28 for a story on one of the region's most famous places—beautiful Kalbarri National Park.

Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



Executive Editor: Ron Kawalilak
Managing Editor: Ray Bailey
Editor: David Gough
Story Editors: Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, Sandra Toby, Carolyn Thomson-Dans
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Greg Keighery, Ian Abbott, Neil Burrows, Paul Jones and staff of CALM Science Division
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Sue Marais
Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer, Ian Dickinson
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 the consent of the publishers.
 Please do not send unsolicited material to LANDSCOPE, but feel free to telephone the Editor.
 Visit LANDSCOPE online on our award-winning Internet site NatureBase at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>
 Published by
 Department of Conservation and Land Management,
 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia