

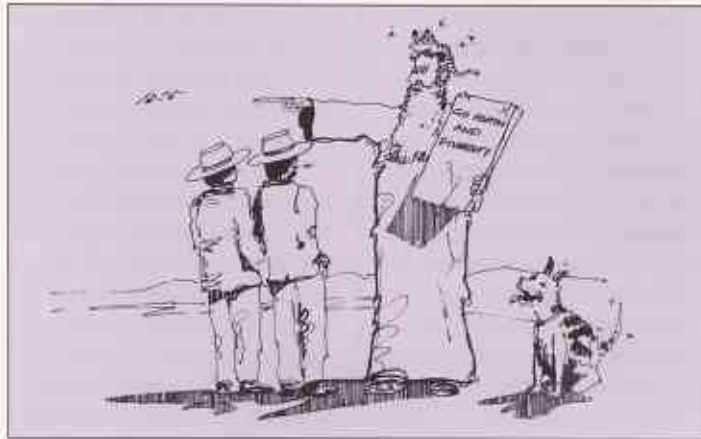
THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN THE WORLD

John Wamsley of the South Australian-based Earth Sanctuaries is one of the more outspoken people involved in conservation of native species. In a recent edition of *The Long Run*, published for farmers on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, Dr Wamsley set his sights on governments and national park authorities. In so doing, he acknowledged the lead Western Australia is taking in conserving native animals. Under the heading 'Conservation and West Coast Farmers', here's what he wrote:

Probably the oldest business in the world is farming.

Whether the invention of the monetary system allowed the business of farming to proceed or whether the business of farming forced the evolution of the monetary system could be argued forever. It is a bit like the question: "What came first, the chicken or the egg."

The concept, therefore, of 'free trade' has become well entrenched within the business of farming. Conservation, however, was



"If we don't, he says there may be some sort of 'cat'-astrophe!"

Illustration - David Burton

a late entry into the market place.

The only National Park organisation in Australia that can claim success is the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management. There are, in fact, 12 species of rare and endangered mammal species in WA, which are more in number today than they were 20 years ago.

There is not one species of rare or endangered anything in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria or Tasmania, which is not less in number today than five years ago, twenty years ago or 100 years ago.

There is not one

conservation success story in the whole of eastern Australia.

In fact, the WA government was the only government in Australia, which took notice of public opinion when it drafted its Forest Agreement. The governments of eastern Australia ran roughshod over public opinion as it has on all conservation matters.

Can you imagine the result if we gave the job of growing our food to a government department? We would all die of hunger. We would all expect to die of hunger. Yet we take one of the greatest assets we have, our environment, and we give it to a government department to care for. We

can only blame ourselves for the resulting tragedy.

What a tragedy it is. Over half the mammal species lost in the world over the last 200 years were Australian. Half of the endangered mammal species of the world today are Australian. No other country has lost a mammal species in the wild over the last five years. Australia has lost two. What absolute humbug!

Probably the only hope for change must come from the farming community. If we are going to have a world worth living in then the farmers must actively take up a position of opposing the National Park organisations. There is no other way it can happen. Farmers must develop their own conservation direction. They must do this independently of the National Parks and Wildlife Services. We desperately need a diversification of conservation techniques. Only the farmers can supply this.

Quoted by permission of the author

NEW MANUAL EXPANDS THE 'KIMBERLEY EXPERIENCE'

Tourists will soon begin to benefit from the release in Broome of a comprehensive guide to the great natural attractions of Western Australia's Kimberley region.

Written specifically for tourism operators, *The Kimberley Tourism Manual* became available in October and provides information on weather, geology, local Aboriginal culture, ecology and threats to the environment such as feral

animals and weeds.

The manual was jointly produced by the Kimberley Tourism Association (KTA), the WA Tourism Commission (WATC) and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

CALM had long recognised the inherent need to provide tourism operators with information on plants, animals and geology in order to balance recreation and tourism with conservation.

Armed with this new manual, tour operators will be able to give their clients an even deeper and broader experience of the wonders of this remote part of Australia, its heritage and its environmental values.

The Kimberley Tourism Manual is in a loose-leaf format so that it can be regularly updated, revised and expanded. Copies of several of CALM's popular Bush Books that have

particular relevance to the Kimberley are included, together with the Kimberley Tourism Association's Planner.

The manual has already generated a great deal of interest among tour operators. They can buy the guide for \$70, which also covers updated information as it becomes available. It is available from CALM offices at Broome and Kununurra, and the Kimberley Tourism Association in Broome.



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.



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



"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.



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

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



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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 CALMScience 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

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