

REGISTERING TREES OF SIGNIFICANCE



People who know of an uncommonly large or unusual tree will soon be able to nominate it for entry into a new *Register of Trees of Significance* throughout Western Australia's South-West native forests. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is compiling the register as part of a program to involve the community in identifying areas of special significance throughout these forests.



The guidelines for nominating trees will take into account a range of attributes of individual trees such as height, diameter or trunk volume. However, trees to be listed could have one or more characteristics. For example, a tree that is rare or of outstanding size for the area in which it is growing, such as a jarrah, marri or blackbutt, could be a candidate. Trees of particularly large diameters, for example, may be considered significant, even if they are not particularly tall. Other attributes that

would be considered include trees in distinctive locations such as granite outcrops, those that have unusual growth forms or physical features, and those that commemorate particular events or landmarks.

A fairly recent example was a blackbutt about 10 kilometres west of Collie, which was measured at 41.3 metres tall by 2.43 metres in diameter. The first branch was growing at a height of 18 metres. Not only is it a significant tree in itself, it is one of four large blackbutts within a 150-metre radius of each other in the new Wellington National Park.

CALM's intent for the register is to provide a mechanism to nominate and record very special trees, but will not aim to record all the trees in the south-west forests.

The register can be used for planning bushwalking ventures to see specimens that are accessible. It will include details such as the tree's location, surrounding vegetation, soil types and the management history of the location.

Once the register is established, copies will become available for viewing at the Department's Central Forest Regional headquarters in Bunbury, and its Southern Forest Region in Manjimup, as well as its operational headquarters in Kensington. People will also be able to view the new register on CALM's internet site www.naturebase.net.

Left and above left: *The famed Gloucester Tree, one of the most significant trees in the South-West.*

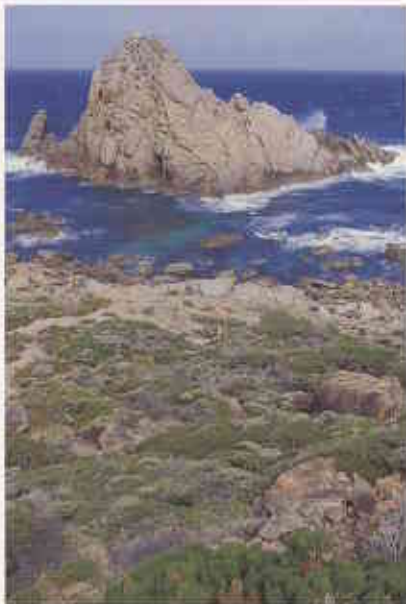
Photos - Jiri Lochman/CALM

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

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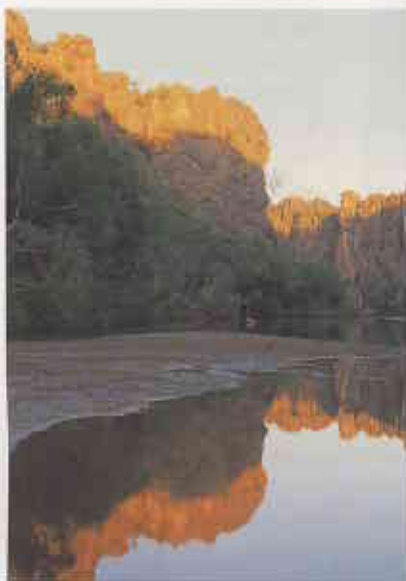
Sugarloaf Rock is just one of the many features that make Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park the most visited park in WA. (See page 10.)



Premier Park: John Forrest National Park is Western Australia's oldest park, celebrating its centenary year. (See page 22.)



Pinnacle of Parks: These unusual formations make Nambung National Park well known the world over. (See page 36.)



Windjana Gorge National Park holds important clues to the evolution of fish. See 'Old Fossils' on page 28.



William Bay National Park displays a miniature version of karri forest flora. (See page 42.)

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COVER

With 67 national parks spread across the State, park rangers are often the first contact that visitors have with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Apart from providing visitors with information and guidance, they perform a vital role in the day-to-day management of their local environment.



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