

GOOD NEWS ... BUT MORE TO BE DONE

Stories about the return of animals that haven't been seen locally for at least half a century, an ambitious global science project that is helping to ensure the survival of Western Australia's rare and threatened native plant species, new marine conservation reserves to protect the unique marine ecosystems of the Pilbara and wildlife-safe 'highways' along the South Coast. Has LANDSCOPE got a case of the 'positives'? You bet! There is good news in the marathon to conserve the State's biodiversity and its unique landscapes, but as you'll discover, we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

Dryandra Woodland, near Narrogin, is one of the most important remnant woodlands in the Wheatbelt. Home to a group of marsupials that had become extinct across most of the State's agricultural area, it was in Dryandra that the early experiments in fox control, that were the genesis of CALM's Western Shield predator control and native-animal reintroduction program, were conducted. In 'Return to Dryandra', Tony Friend, Clare Anthony and Neil Thomas document a field breeding and reintroduction program that will not only have Dryandra hopping with marsupials, but will raise public awareness of WA's fascinating marsupials through nature-based tourism.

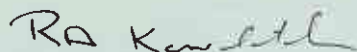
In 'Our Frozen Future', Anne Cochrane, manager of CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre and a research scientist at the Western Australian Herbarium, writes of how WA seed biologists will work with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew to conserve one of the world's unique and most diverse flora. The Millennium Seed Bank Project—based at a purpose-built centre south of London—will help to prevent natural and human-induced catastrophes driving plant species to extinction.

One tried and important strategy for protecting and conserving natural biodiversity is establishing and properly managing conservation reserves. In 'Pearls of the Pilbara', Dorian Moro and Fran Stanley describe the conservation values in two proposed marine conservation reserves along the Pilbara coast and the process that is being followed to establish the reserves. The proposed reserves will protect the marine environment and ensure the various important uses of these areas are managed in a sustainable, integrated and equitable manner.

'Linking the Landscape' takes us through a project in the South Coast region of WA that is making it easier for native animals to move between habitats, increasing their chance for survival in a land that's now mostly cleared. Peter Wilkins, Ranger-in-Charge at Fitzgerald River National Park, describes a long-term conservation project involving government agencies and the wider community working together to help animals that are in real danger of local extinction.

We hope you'll find some inspiration and encouragement in this issue of LANDSCOPE.

Enjoy the winter and we'll see you in spring.



Executive Editor

WILDLIFE RESCUE SERVICE



A new project—Wildcare—has volunteers supporting a State-wide telephone service for people wishing to report sick, injured and/or orphaned native wildlife. It is available around the clock, with the telephone switching through to a private number after hours.

Before Wildcare was established, telephone calls were received daily from people all over Western Australia, and while most of the calls (11,000 calls in 1999 alone) were made to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), they were also made to the police, local authorities, vets and the RSPCA.

"Animals such as parrots, kangaroos, bandicoots, seabirds, marine mammals, woylies, possums and others are found on the sides of roads, in parks, suburbs, paddocks, forests, river banks and ocean shores," said CALM Coordinator of Volunteers Margaret Buckland.

"Often the life of a sick or injured animal depends on how quickly it can receive attention from an

appropriate carer, and when they can't find help quickly, people can become extremely distressed. Fortunately, hundreds of dedicated volunteers care enough about our wildlife to offer their time to help these worried rescuers and the animals they find."

Wildcare has its own office at CALM's operational headquarters in Kensington, and the phone number—(08) 9474 9055—is a one-stop, emergency number for callers to be promptly referred to one of CALM's 560 registered wildlife carers, who collect and rehabilitate animals before releasing them back into their native habitat. Wildcare volunteers taking the initial emergency calls do not handle or care for the wildlife themselves.

Readers who would like more information about the Wildcare initiative, or who would like to become part of the Wildcare project, should phone CALM's Coordinator of Volunteers on (08) 9334 0251.

Western grey kangaroo (Macropus fuliginous).
Photo - Babs & Bert Wells/CALM

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

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME SIXTEEN, NUMBER 4, WINTER 2001



Western Australian botanists are taking part in a global plan to store seed from 10 per cent of the world's flora by 2010. See page 23.



Discover the rich bird life and tranquillity of the Canning River Regional Park on page 17.



Mushrooms the size of a dinner plate can appear within 48 hours of a fire in the karri forest. Read about forest fungi on page 48.



The Pilbara's numerous islands are rich in history, wildflowers and wildlife, with prolific marine life in the surrounding waters. See page 34.



Many of WA's threatened marsupials can be seen in the south-west for the first time in decades. Read about their return to Dryandra Forest on page 10.

FEATURES

RETURN TO DRYANDRA
TONY FRIEND, CLARE ANTHONY & NEIL THOMAS10

CAPTIVATING CANNING
CHRISTINE SILBERT.....17

OUR FROZEN FUTURE
ANNE COCHRANE.....23

SEA ANEMONES
ANN STORRIE.....28

PEARLS OF THE PILBARA
DORIAN MORO & FRAN STANLEY.....34

LINKING THE LANDSCAPE
PETER WILKINS.....41

FRUITS OF FIRE
RICHARD ROBINSON.....48

REGULARS

BUSH TELEGRAPH.....4

ENDANGERED
VINE THICKETS ON DAMPIER PENINSULA.....47

URBAN ANTICS
WHICH BANKSIA?.....54

COVER

Paradoxically, the stinging tentacles of sea anemones—a group of carnivorous invertebrates that sometimes resemble colourful flowers—can also provide a safe haven for many underwater creatures. Anemonefish gain immunity to the stinging cells and live primarily in sea anemone tentacles. Other animals, such as crabs, carry a protective anemone on their backs. Turn to page 28.

Cover illustration by Ellen Hickman



Executive editor: Ron Kawalilak
Editors: David Gough, Carolyn Thomson-Dans
Story editors: Verna Costello, Sue McKenna
Advertising copy and editorial assistance: Caris Bailey
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Chris Simpson, Keith Morris, Paul Jones and staff of CALM Science Division
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer
Illustration: Ellen Hickman, Ian Dickinson, Gooitzen van der Meer
Cartography: Promaco Geodraft
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 editors.
 Visit NatureBase at www.naturebase.net

Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF Conservation AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA