

OUR NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Summer's here and the kids have already taken you off to see Harry Potter, so now you need to find something else to amuse them with over the long school holidays. And what better time is there to get out and enjoy the natural attractions of Western Australia or to plan for that autumn or winter excursion.

In this issue of LANDSCOPE, Deborah Micallef, Jane Scott and Neil Taylor take you on a journey of discovery along the Cape to Cape Track through the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in WA's south-west. They tell you how the track came about and about the work done by local schoolchildren and other of volunteer groups from this popular wine-growing region. They also describe the natural attractions you'll find as you walk the track from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin.

Farther north, in the Pilbara region, is Karijini National Park. This area of mountains and deep gorges has attracted visitors for decades. In the photo essay 'Karijini in a Different Light', Cliff Winfield revisits the park after a break of 16 years. Much of what attracted him on his first visit remains, but travelling this time with a young family, he sees new features and new attractions.

One of those attractions is the newly opened Karijini Visitor Centre. In 'Karijini Calling', Pilbara region information officer Judy Mae Napier opens the doors of this remarkable and fascinating focal point for cultural and natural heritage. From the moment you pass the unusually curved exterior wall and enter the building, you will be whisked into a world of Aboriginal and pastoral history, your senses stimulated by the sights and sounds of the Pilbara.

Staying with the Pilbara, but moving far inland, we read about the first LANDSCOPE Expedition to the Carnarvon Range, on the edge of the Little Sandy Desert. Here, expedition members immersed themselves in the wilderness and vastness of this ancient world and found fulfilment, renewal and the unexpected.

Back to the far west coast and beyond the well known tourist destination of Shark Bay, we find ourselves at Dirk Hartog Island. WA's largest island has a fascinating history and valuable biodiversity. It was visited by early Dutch explorers in the 17th century and was, for a while, an important guano mining area. But the island is also an important breeding ground for turtles and seabirds and is now being considered for protection as a national park.

There is so much to see in this wonderful State of ours, and so little time in which to see it. But with each issue of LANDSCOPE, we try to bring you closer to some of the natural attractions that make Western Australia a great place to visit as well as a great place in which to live.

See you next time.

*Ron Kawalilak*

Ron Kawalilak  
Executive Editor

NATIVE ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

The steady decline of fox populations continues to open up more opportunities for the reintroduction of native animal species into their natural habitats. The decline has been achieved by highly effective predator-control measures carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management as part of its Western Shield program.

Among the more recent reintroductions of native animals are about 25 woylies, which were translocated to New South Wales, and about 40 dighters released into the proposed nature reserve at Peniup, east of Albany.

Woylies have been extinct in New South Wales for more than a century, and wildlife authorities in that State are keen to follow WA's lead in the recovery of its native wildlife. They have sought advice and technical expertise as well as help in procuring woylies from the department.

Western Shield zoologist Peter Orell, who is with the department's Wildlife Conservation Section, said the 25 WA woylies were from the Dryandra Woodland, near Narrogin.

Following an earlier release of 50 animals from South Australia, where woylies from

WA have also been successfully reintroduced, the 25 woylies were flown to NSW for reintroduction into Yathong Nature Reserve, where more than 100,000 hectares have been baited to control foxes.

"Another 50 from WA may be translocated to Yathong in autumn 2002 if all goes well with the first releases," Peter said.

The aim of the dightler release near Albany is to establish a second WA mainland population—the other mainland population being at Fitzgerald River National Park on the State's south coast.

Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend said 30 of the 40 dighters were fitted with radio collars before their release on to the Peniup Nature Reserve, which is regularly baited for foxes by the department's Albany District staff.

"We will be able to follow closely the progress of the collared dighters for the ten-week life of the transmitters. After that, we'll use trapping to monitor them," Tony said.

Trapping is carried out twice-yearly on Peniup, with the assistance of volunteers from the Malleefowl Preservation Group based at Ongerup.



Woylie. Photo – Babs & Bert Wells/Conservation and Land Management

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

# LANDSCOPE



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DEPARTMENT OF  
**Conservation**  
 AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
*Conserving the nature of WA*



Thirteen years in the making, the Cape to Cape Track offers a unique view of WA's most popular national park. See page 28.



Karijini's new visitor centre provides a cultural and environmental focus point for visitors. See 'Karijini Calling' on page 10.



Dirk Hartog Island is our largest island. It has a fascinating history and a valuable biodiversity. Find out why on page 17.



'Landscape at the Heart' is an account of the first LANDSCOPE Expedition to the Carnarvon Range at the edge of the Little Sandy Desert. See page 40.



Does the delicate work of Western Australia's botanical artists have a place in the high-tech world of science? See page 23.

## C O V E R

Aboriginal names have always been part of Australia's history, and many of the well known names for Australian animals are in common use today. 'Ancient animals, ancient names' (page 35) makes a case for adopting more Aboriginal names for our native mammals. The brush-tailed phascogale, for example, was known to Nyoongar people as the 'wambenga'.

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky

