

SANDALWOOD HISTORY RETURNS TO THE GOLDFIELDS

A slice of Goldfields heritage has been returned to Kalgoorlie. It is a 1927 Chevrolet truck used by sandalwood 'puller' and Goldfields identity, the late Bill Savage.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management bought the vehicle from Mr Savage's estate in 1995, and donated it earlier this year to the Western Australian Museum Kalgoorlie-Boulder (Museum of the Goldfields). The vehicle will be used as an educational tool displaying the valuable part it played in the State's historic sandalwood industry.

Bill Savage—who passed away aged 89 in June 1994—was typical of many of the



Bill Savage's 1927 Chevrolet sandalwood truck.

Photo – Darren Graham

rugged individuals who made up the sandalwood industry. He prospected and pulled sandalwood for most of his life around Laverton and east of Kalgoorlie near Karonie. Even in 1989, at the age of 84, he spent weeks at a time at his rustic bush-pole tent camp, 140 kilometres

east of Kalgoorlie, pulling his annual quota of 50 tonnes of dead sandalwood. Bill was regarded by many as a classic 'bush mechanic' and his almost magical work with a length of 'number 8' fencing wire was legendary.

The truck was operating as a working vehicle into

the early '90s, and was acquired by the department because of its unique status, its link to the history of the sandalwood industry and its important role in the development of WA and the outback.

The vehicle is in the same condition as it was when the department bought it, and, had it not been placed in the museum (and appropriately so in this Year of the Outback), a tank of petrol and a battery could have seen it back in the bush doing what it had done for 50 years.

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Lacepede Islands, Western Australia. Photo – Kevin Kenneally.



Gibson Desert, Western Australia. Photo – Graeme Liddelow.

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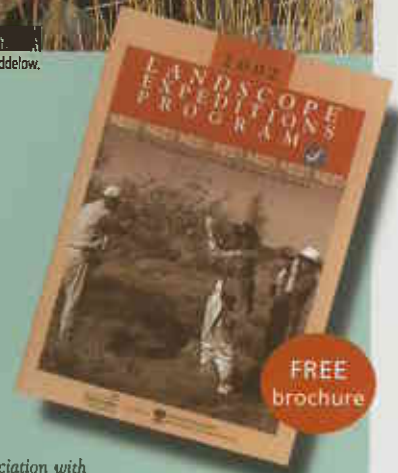
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LANDSCOPE



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Native animals need tree hollows and people need wood. How are these conflicting uses managed? See page 20.

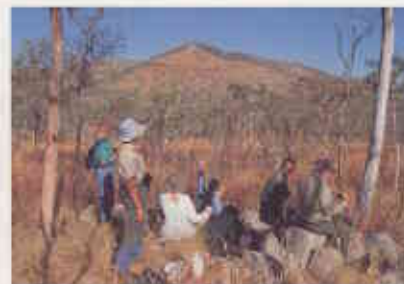
An exciting range of recreational opportunities are being offered in some national parks, creating employment for locals. See page 28.



Declining water levels threaten a remarkable community of cave-dwellers in Yanchep National Park. Turn to page 34.



The search to find out the cause of a new tree killer known as Mundulla Yellows. See page 41.



Re-discovering the long-forgotten memoirs of a Kimberley pioneer. See page 48.

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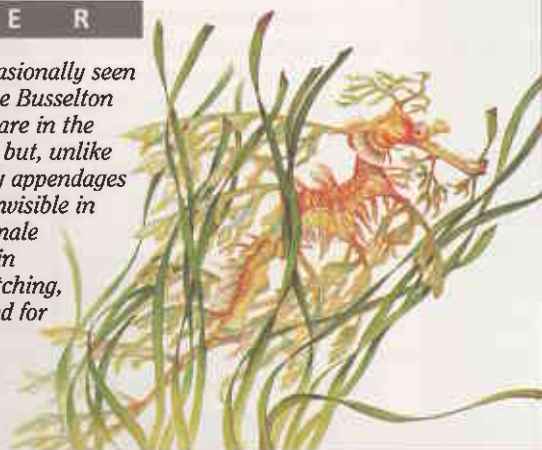
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COVER

Leafy seadragons are occasionally seen in the seagrass around the Busselton Jetty (see page 10). They are in the same family as seahorses but, unlike seahorses, they have leafy appendages that make them almost invisible in their surroundings. The male carries the eggs in the skin beneath his tail. After hatching, the young swim off to fend for themselves.

*Cover illustration
by Philippa Nikulinksy*



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