

## DRYANDRA ECOLOGY COURSE

Radio-tracking, trapping and spotlighting native animals such as possums, woylies and tiny red-tailed phascogales are just a few of the activities planned for the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Course to be held in May 2003. Participants can also expect to gain an insight into some of the challenges found when managing remnant bushland, and learn something of the natural and cultural history of Dryandra.

While not part of the Ecology Course, time will be set aside for participants to enjoy a brief viewing of the new Barna Mia native animal enclosure, which opened in December 2002. Barna Mia is already proving popular with visitors to Dryandra.

Winner of the 2001



Heartlands Tourism Association Award, the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Courses are held twice each year, usually in May and October or November. Activities are mostly field based and provide participants with a close-up



experience of the astonishing diversity of Wheatbelt plants and animals. Participants will also see some of the research techniques used in the urgent quest to conserve the region's important inhabitants.

*Far left: Field officer Clare Anthony with a juvenile mala.*

*Left: The hands-on courses involve mostly field-based activities.*

*Photos – Kate MacGregor*

These residential courses are organised by the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Narrogin District staff, and take place between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon in the tranquil setting of Dryandra Woodland—only a two-hour drive from Perth. For further information, including the dates, times and cost of the May 2003 course, please contact the department's Visitor Services Officer Kate MacGregor on (08) 9881 9207, or by email ([katemac@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:katemac@calm.wa.gov.au)).

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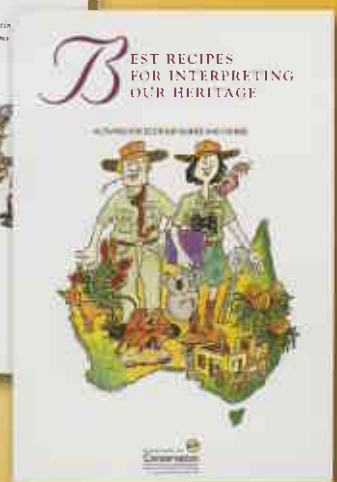
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# LANDSCOPE



VOLUME EIGHTEEN, NUMBER 3, AUTUMN 2003



*Cane toads are poisonous, prolific breeders and are getting closer to the WA border. Hop to page 10.*

*Once thought to be extinct, Gilbert's potoroo has overcome many obstacles. What is being done to improve its chances of survival? See page 28.*



*The tuart once typified the coastal strip north and south of Perth. Why should we cherish this majestic tree? See page 16.*



*Discover some of the prehistoric megafauna that once roamed the State in 'Walking with WA giants' on page 23.*



*Lichens decorate Lake Muir, near Manjimup, with varying colours and shapes. Turn to page 43 to learn more about these fascinating life forms.*

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**Executive editor:** Ron Kawalilak.  
**Editors:** David Gough, Carolyn Thomson-Dans.  
**Bush Telegraph editor:** Verna Costello.  
**Story editor:** Rhianna Mooney.  
**Scientific/technical advice:** Keith Morris, Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones, Alan Danks.  
**Design and production:** Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer.  
**Illustration:** 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.  
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 Visit NatureBase at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)  
 Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.

## COVER

*Royal hakea rises above the surrounding heath, straight and column-like. When sunlit from above or below, its unusual large variegated leaves appear to glow like lanterns, so the shrub is also known as the Chinese lantern bush. Among the birds that obtain nectar from its flowers (hidden at the base of the leaves) is the western spinebill.*

*Royal hakea grows almost exclusively in Fitzgerald River National Park, an area that was reserved on the recommendation of then Government Botanist Charles Gardner (see 'Botanic Guardian' on page 36).*

*Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky*



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