

# LANDSCOPE

## through the years

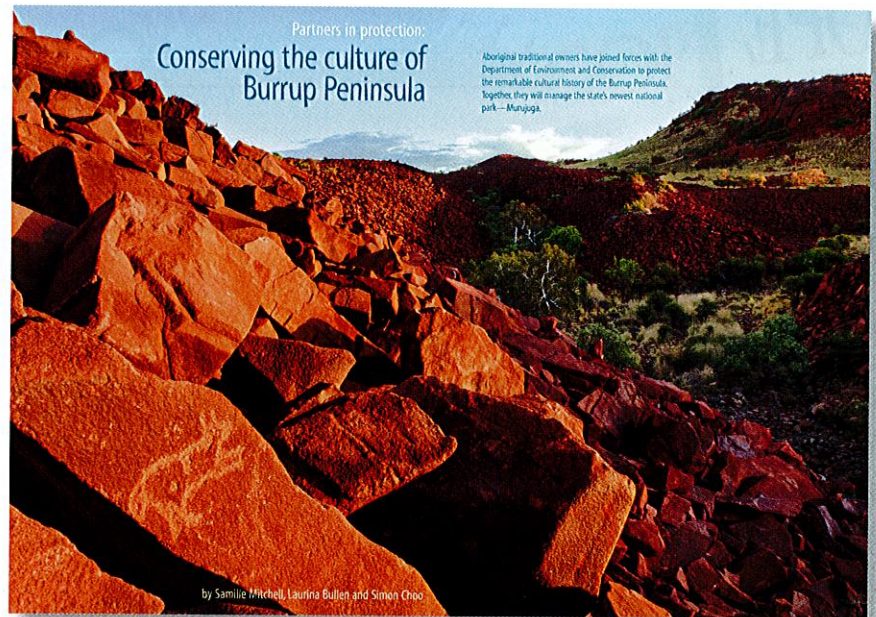
In anticipation of the exciting redesign planned for *LANDSCOPE*, we take a look back into the magazine's history.

by Joanna Adele

**L**ANDSCOPE magazine was launched in June 1985 as the journal of the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Over the past 28 years it has documented and celebrated the natural spaces of this amazing state, and the diverse and significant flora, fauna and landscapes found here. It has delighted and informed thousands of readers, many of whom have been subscribing for numerous years. Production of the magazine has been passed through several departments as they have changed through the years—from CALM to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in 2006 to the newly formed Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) established in July 2013.

Readers of *LANDSCOPE* have a deep interest in the natural environment but, while often well-informed and interested in science, do not necessarily have a scientific background. Therefore the magazine is more than a scientific journal—it aims to provide information about scientific research, conservation activities and recreation opportunities to a wider audience, and present this information in an engaging way, accompanied by stunning photography.

Most articles in *LANDSCOPE* are contributed by departmental staff—scientists, technical officers and a range of other employees, right up to the head of the agency—and there are also articles from members of associated



by Samille Mitchell, Laurina Bullen and Simon Choo

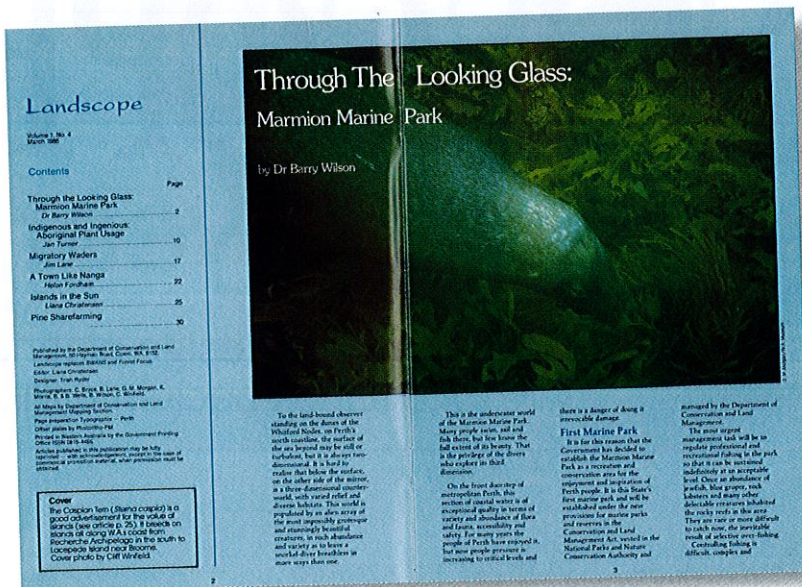
organisations and institutions including universities, volunteer and not-for-profit environmental groups, and freelance writers. The richness of the magazine's content is a reflection of the many talented contributing authors.

*LANDSCOPE* is renowned for its photography, and has drawn on the work of many exceptional WA photographers over the years. Contributing authors often have excellent photography skills as well, providing shots of rarely visited places or unusual or interesting species they study. Their photos, beautifully presented by the magazine's graphic design team, have become a hallmark of the magazine.

## Looking back

Flicking through the 1985 launch edition—which included an article about Lane Poole Jarrah Reserve (now Lane Poole Reserve) and a photographic essay on Hamersley Range National Park (now Karijini National Park)—it's amazing to see how much has changed, but also how things have remained the same. Throughout the past three decades *LANDSCOPE*'s aim has always been to educate and inspire our readers about the natural environment.

The creation of the state's first marine park, Marmion, was celebrated by the magazine in March 1986, in a feature article about the natural values and challenges in managing these popular waters just off Perth.



## Previous page

**Main** A collection of *LANDSCOPE* covers over time, illustrated by Philippa Nikulinsky, Ian Dickinson, Martin Thompson and Gooitzen van der Meer. **Inset illustration** Front cover illustration of cut-leaf banksia, *LANDSCOPE* Autumn 2009.

Illustration – Philippa Nikulinsky

**Above** The Winter 2013 issue describes the state's 100th national park, Murujuga.

**Left** This article from March 1986, in the fourth issue of *LANDSCOPE*, discusses the first Western Australian marine park, Marmion.

Fast forward 27 years to 2013, and the magazine featured Murujuga National Park, the state's 100th national park, which will be managed with the traditional owners.

The 1986 Winter issue also saw the first article authored by Keiran McNamara, at the time director of Nature Conservation and later CALM's executive director and DEC's director general. This article was entitled 'Managing kangaroos—striking a balance'. Keiran also wrote a feature about the highly successful rescue of killer whales at Augusta in July 1986, which ran in the issue released in Summer 1986–87.

The first 'Urban antics' graced *LANDSCOPE*'s pages in the same summer edition. While this piece was not written by John Hunter, he quickly took the reins—his first 'antics' ran in the Summer 1988–89 issue, entitled 'Reptilian escapades', and he's done every one since. His entertaining and engaging colloquial 'stories of an urban naturalist' quickly became popular. As a kid, my reading of *LANDSCOPE* was focused almost entirely on that back inside story. I loved the tree-climbing adventures, backyard discoveries and short, interesting facts.

The magazine has frequently explored the topic of land management planning. For example, in the Winter 1987 issue, then executive director Syd Shea and general manager Roger Underwood wrote about the management plans that would take the south-west environment into the 21st century in their article 'Blueprints for the future'. The article discussed the challenges facing the then new CALM, and its commitment to 'the progressive philosophy of public participation in land management'.

**Above right** *LANDSCOPE* cover illustration of a prickly honeysuckle from Spring 2010. Illustration – Philippa Nikulinsky



### Behind the scenes

Paradoxically, a magazine ages by not changing. What once may have been fresh, exhilarating and delightful 10 years ago can seem dated today.

During my association with *LANDSCOPE* we gave the magazine a major cover-to-cover examination and rethink in the early 1990s and again in 2003. Our aim was to try and keep it a 'must read' concerning conservation, parks and wildlife in Western Australia.

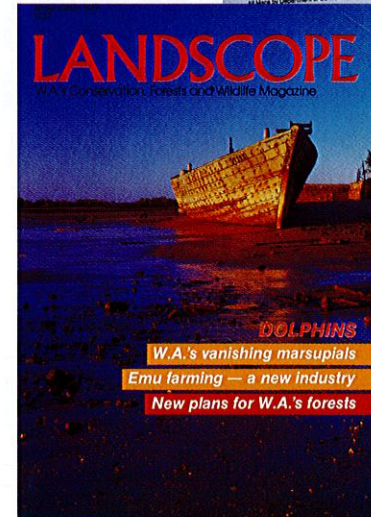
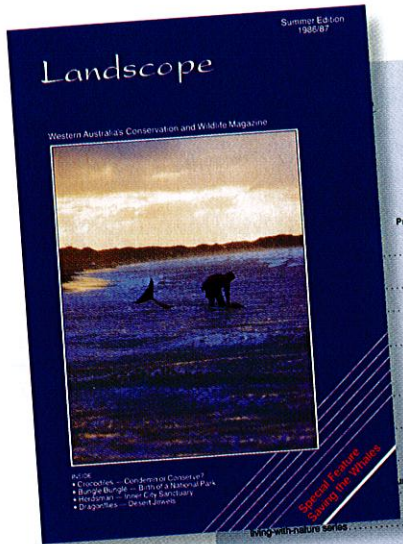
The magazine developed a reputation for excellence in nature and science journalism, photography and graphic design and it was great fun and hugely rewarding to be associated with that.

The broad goal of *LANDSCOPE* since its inception has been to increase community awareness, understanding and support for WA's nature conservation and land and marine management programs, and to promote wider community involvement in the prevention and solution of problems in our natural environment.

We tried to accomplish this by having each issue of the magazine bring readers fresh perspectives on WA and fascinating insights into our native plants, animals, and special places. With easy-to-read articles that are scientifically accurate, and accompanied by stunning pictures, *LANDSCOPE* has aimed to not only inform and educate, but also to delight.

A significant feature of *LANDSCOPE* over the years, and a highlight for me, was the botanical and wildlife art of Philippa Nikulinsky that appeared on many covers of the magazine. Philippa is one of the most celebrated botanical artists in Australia, and her particular specialty is recording the phenomenal natural resource of wildflowers found in WA.

*Contributed by the department's former director of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, and long-time LANDSCOPE executive editor, Ron Kawalilak.*



**Top left** Cover LANDSCOPE 1986-87 Summer issue.  
**Top right** Spread LANDSCOPE 1986-87, Summer issue.

**Above** Cover LANDSCOPE 1987 Winter issue.  
**Above right** Spread LANDSCOPE 1987 Winter issue.

**Right** The illustration of a bottle-nosed dolphin that appeared in 'Urban antics' in Autumn 2008.

**Far right** 'Urban antics', Summer 1994-95 Illustrations - Gooitzen van der Meer

**A Conflict of Interests**  
 Why are there so many conflicts when it comes to our natural environment? There is conflict among industrial groups exploiting natural resources, environmentalists advocating preservation of wildlife, government agencies, and recreation groups.

In an ideal world we would have a total understanding about ecosystems and natural resources, and of the long term needs of the community. But this is not an ideal world, and much of the conflict stems from a lack of agreement about environmental impact and human needs.

Talk a whale beach, tissue damage occurs due to a rise in body temperature and the sheer weight of the mammal. We don't know how long they have to be there and how hot they have to get before the chances of survival are next to nil. Strandings may be part of a natural culling process or accidents caused by human impact on the environment.

And, what about the people who turn out in large numbers so emotionally caught up in saving these creatures? What weight do we put on their needs? It is not an ideal world. We are a long way from knowing the answers to too many important questions.

There is a need for more investigation, better communication and a broader understanding of environmental processes and human needs. Its prime objective is to achieve an understanding about conservation of natural resources.

Landscape's aim is to provide expert information on the major conservation issues, latest developments, research in progress and general features of the State's wildlife, national and marine parks, nature reserves and forests.

It will give a balanced representation of viewpoints and will not shy from contentious issues.

Landscape will inform readers about the natural wonders of our environment, the management considerations involved and the lifestyle of its inhabitants. It will not provide all the answers, but it will present the facts and therefore a basis for sound argument.

Landscape is Western Australia's own conservation and wildlife magazine.

**Wetlands**  
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The new Department draws on the skills of its contributing agencies: the Forests Department, the National Parks Authority and the Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

Unfortunately, CALM also inherited many problems. In particular, most of W.A.'s national parks and nature reserves did not have plans to guide operations, and was a lack of confidence forest management plan from both ends of the spectrum: the timber and environmental groups.

CALM itself sought fire goals and a new identity make best use of newly-combined talents and experience in forging new strategies for land management and wildlife conservation.

In W.A., CALM is committed to the progressive philosophy public participation in land management.

All this has led to the recent preparation and publication a series of landmark documents:

In March 1983 the newly formed Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) became responsible for the management of huge areas of public land and waters as well as the conservation of all the State's wildlife - plants and animals.

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## SAVING THE WHALES

by Keiran McNamara

A small monument dedicated to the whaling industry overlooks Flinders Bay at Augusta, a tourist town, 360 km south of Perth. In one of life's ironic reversals, the site of a flourishing whaling industry last century became the site of W.A.'s most successful whale rescue.

Of 114 stranded False Killer Whales, 96 were returned to the sea. Only 18 are known to have died.

At 7.15 Wednesday morning 30 July 1986, Augusta librarian Sherryl Slippings, and her neighbour Shirley Langelaan, were walking along the town beach near Duke Head, at the mouth of the Blackwood River. They noticed a lot of tails and just beyond the surf - presumably dolphins, a common sight in Flinders Bay.

Thinking no more about it, they started for home. Just as they created a sandwich Sherryl turned around for a last look and saw what she now recognised as the beach away from the

through the surf and become stranded on the beach. A third whale followed. The two women witnessed one of the rarest sights in the world - the beginning of a mass stranding of whales.

Sherryl's husband's home telephone local fisherman Russell Cooley, The Fisheries Department and the W.A. Museum were contacted and, within an hour, Conservation and Land Management's Chief Wildlife Officer, David Mell, had been notified.

Russell confirmed that there were 114 whales, two to five metres long. All were alive.

They have been a remarkable rescue effort which involved hundreds of volunteers and Government employees over the next three days.

Responding at first to the bush telegraph, and later to media appeals for more volunteers, people arrived in a steady stream from Augusta, nearby areas and as far afield as Perth and the Eastern States.

**Initial Response**  
 Acting on David Mell's advice, Russell Cooley returned to the beach, where Augusta townpeople had begun to congregate, wanting to help the whales. He asked volunteers not

**Syd Shea and Roger Underwood from CALM look at management plans to take the south-west environment into the 21st century.**

The simple answer is that CALM land is owned by the public of W.A., but legal and administrative mechanisms have to be set up to enable community down-

The new plans are designed to minimise or eliminate the controversy over land use in the forests, which has raged in W.A. for at least ten years. The controversy has inhibited wide land use decisions on the management of one of our most precious resources.

**Who owns CALM land?**

The simple answer is that CALM land is owned by the public of W.A., but legal and administrative mechanisms have to be set up to enable community down-

**URBAN ANTICS!**

**MORE REPTILIAN ESCAPADES**

The warmth of late spring and the beating of myriads of little wings and the strapping of squillions of tiny feet. This is the time when most species of insects and small animals radiate to seek new domains, food sources, mates and nests.

With winter moisture still in the ground, and sporting large new shiny bobtail lizards scuttling dangerously on warm roadways. At night, moths on their way to egg laying, seem to swirl uncontrollably around street lights, and spiders spin voracious webs in just about any place.

One beast that moves out of its usual habitat during spring and summer, and occasionally pops the ultimate price on our urban roads, is the oblong or long-necked tortoise (Chelonia oblonga).

Two species of tortoise are found in our suburban areas: the very rare, short-necked western swamp tortoise, which is found only in two special reserves in the Swan valley north of Perth; and the oblong tortoise, which is common in most waterways.

The oblong tortoise has a long, thick neck about the same length as its somewhat flatish oblong shell or wide, leading to a small chamber at the front.

It is a potent weapon when used to lunge at moving prey, such as fish, tadpoles and even young ducks and coots are easily taken.

However, larger prey such as fish, tadpoles and even young ducks and coots are easily taken. Clasp tightly in its horny, beak-like mouth, the animal proceeds to breed the food

black, needle-like claws that protrude from small webbed feet.

During winter, some tortoises move from permanent water to temporary water-bearing depressions, and then move back into permanent lakes, swamps, nearby permanent lakes, swamps, ponds and even back to estuaries near the coast.

Towards the end of winter and during spring, when water level is high and food is abundant, tortoises mate. This is done without leaving the water and, no doubt, with the male's head and neck protruding from the water to rest on the female's carapace to accommodate the female's shell.

Up to three clutches of eggs are laid between September and January. Hatching is triggered by a rise in temperature above 17.5°C. The six centimetre long, oval-shaped embryos are laid in a protective mud and sand. Many female tortoises approach the water to nest on the same day.

A nesting site is chosen somewhere between a few metres and hundreds of metres from the water. It is dug in about 150 mm deep and 50 mm wide, leading to a small chamber at the bottom.

The head feet to dig and after cupping the soil to one side, a tortoise will then gently manoeuvre with one foot, 2-16 cylindrical-shaped eggs.

After egg laying, the tortoise will dig back into the hole and periodically firming using the hind feet. When the

area is level, the tortoise raises her body by extending her hind legs and repeatedly stamps her feet on down onto the sand. The virtually undetectable nest is then left and the animal heads back to the vicinity of water. After about 220 days, the young hatch and disperse.

Most of our urban waterways are now surrounded by roads. Unfortunately, tortoises have no alternative but to cross these busy thoroughfares to nest or seek new domains.

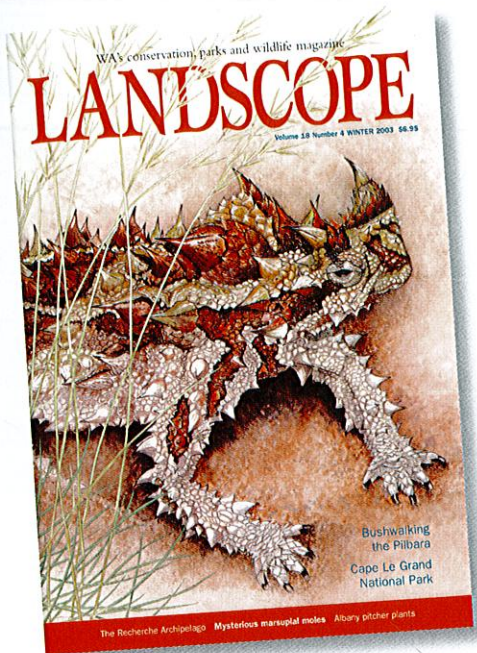
If you are driving past any waterway, especially in early summer, give a thought for the wildlife there. Slow down. Don't be a 'hare', give the poor old tortoise a chance!

**JOHN HUNTER**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Up to three clutches of eggs are laid from September to January. However, of clutches hatch at the same time, the following August on incubation period of up to 200 days!
- Hatchlings are about 30 mm in length and weigh 6 g. They keep growing throughout their lifespan of several decades, and reach a shell size of around 270 mm in length and a weight of 2 kg.
- Oblong tortoises cannot tolerate lengthy periods of drought. If it rains they dig up a tortoise either to permanent water or burrow itself in the muddy bottom.





**Above** LANDSCOPE cover Winter 2003.  
Illustration – Philippa Nikulinsky

In the Winter 1993 edition, Syd joined forces with the manager of CALM's Policy and Extension Branch Jim Sharp, now DPaW's acting director general, to author the article 'Our natural advantage'. This piece explored the significant nature-based tourism opportunities available in WA. Over the years, many departmental staff contributed to the magazine, both as authors and in scientific and technical review—a significant commitment of time and expertise.

### A new look in 2003

The magazine was redesigned in 2003, launching a number of new features with which you've become familiar, including 'Bookmarks', mini feature articles (which replaced 'Bush Telegraph'), a contributors' page and the double-page 'Feature park'. Then executive editor Ron Kawalilak—who took responsibility for the magazine in November 1989 and helped guide it for 22 years—admitted in his opening editor's letter to be delighted and nervous upon inviting readers to explore the new-look format.

### Filling a niche

As well as informing the public about the work the department does, *LANDSCOPE* has played an important role in showcasing the efforts of conservationists, naturalists, scientists, historians and volunteers. Many of these people really value the opportunity to get their message heard. The magazine fills a niche, and there's nothing else like it.

Many scientists credit the magazine with increasing the profile of their research programs and the causes they champion, possibly leading to increased support from community groups and other agencies. Principal research scientist Tony Friend—who co-authored an article about numbats for the second issue of the magazine, in September 1985, and has penned many since—says the magazine has certainly been a great way for him to acknowledge the support of community groups. He says it's been a good medium for communicating his research, particularly as the magazine's style enables a more anecdotal approach than traditional 'heavy' science publications, which are less accessible to most people. This is supported by the fact that *LANDSCOPE* is very visual, featuring high quality photography, broadening its appeal.

One of *LANDSCOPE*'s scientific checkers, senior principal research scientist Keith Morris, said articles in the magazine played an important role in promoting outcomes of research and raising awareness about conservation issues.

Senior research scientist Anne Cochrane contributed her first article to *LANDSCOPE* in 1995 and has

authored or co-authored many articles since—about high priority conservation areas, flora translocation programs, and the collection and storage of seeds as an insurance policy for rare and vulnerable species. Anne says she's enjoyed writing for the magazine, and getting conservation messages to readers and subscribers, and also to people within the department. Particularly pleasing, Anne says, have been responses from the public—she's received some delightful letters and emails, often from people who are keen to get involved and support a conservation cause, such as offering their property as the site for a translocation project.

For some contributors, an article published in *LANDSCOPE* was their first ever in print, or the first to appear in a 'real' magazine. The magazine has also provided the opportunity for a number of work experience or professional placement students from universities to have their work published. Many will testify to that particular buzz that comes from seeing one's name in print.

### LANDSCOPE into the future

The magazine's Autumn 2014 issue will see a new contemporary design, with some great additional content. The focus on scientifically accurate articles will remain, with continued focus on animals, plants, ecosystems, environmental science and nature conservation and the people who make it all happen. This will be coupled with new features exploring ways you can enjoy spending time in national parks and marine parks, encouraging you to get out and experience nature. We look forward to you joining us on the continuing journey.

Joanna Adele was a Department of Parks and Wildlife publishing officer and *LANDSCOPE* editor at the time of writing this article.

*The department would like to acknowledge the many people who have made LANDSCOPE magazine possible, from contributors, photographers, editors and graphic designers, to the scientific and technical advice panel, print houses, retail outlets and sales and distribution team. Most importantly, the department would like to thank the magazine's readers and subscribers, long-term and new, for their support. As a thank you, a special 20 per cent discount on all WA Naturally publications is available to existing subscribers. Visit the department's online shop at [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au) to view the entire range.*

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The name Barbara York Main has become almost synonymous with trapdoor spider research in Western Australia.
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Scientists investigate reports of cats chewing on a weed and lapsing into a drug-induced stupor, and look into how it could aid feral cat control efforts.

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### Publishing credits

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