

KATANNING WILDLIFE SHOW.

The Katanning Parents & Citizens Association successfully staged a wildlife show in the local Town Hall from October 14 to 16, inclusive. The function was organised by Messrs N.A. Beeck and E.C. D'arcy-Evans, assisted by a vigorous committee. Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler entered a small exhibit on behalf of this Department. This featured departmental posters and pictures and a trout exhibit to publicise the 'Fish for the Inland' scheme. The Director of the Western Australian Museum, Dr. W.D.L. Ride, declared the show open officially.

LICENSING OF PLEASURE CRAFT.

A further approach by the Western Australian League of Professional Fishermen's Associations to the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson, that pleasure craft be controlled, has been rejected. In his reply to the League the Minister pointed out that the incidence of mishaps on the water, in relation to the large number of people involved, was very small and their frequency appeared to be declining rather than increasing. Mere payment of a fee would not stop the odd irresponsible or foolhardy type from getting into trouble. The overwhelming majority of ordinary people, he said, would be irritated by the introduction of controls and the licensing of pleasure craft, for they regarded the boat they owned as one of the few surviving freedoms. The matter had been considered at Cabinet level, the Minister continued, and concluded with the advice that it was Cabinet's considered opinion that a better effect would be achieved by educating owners and users of pleasure craft on the need for safety rather than the introduction of licenses which, of themselves, would not improve the safety features of any vessel.

RARE WHALE FOUND.

As a result of the advice and co-operation of Inspector A. K. Melsom and Assistant Inspector C. J. Seabrook, the Director of the W.A. Museum, Dr. W.D.L. Ride, has been able to obtain the skeleton of a rare whale. It had been washed up on the beach at Point Peron and was reported to the Department on October 8. The skeleton proved to be an 18-foot male specimen of the genus of rare beaked whales Mesoplodon, but the species has not yet been determined.