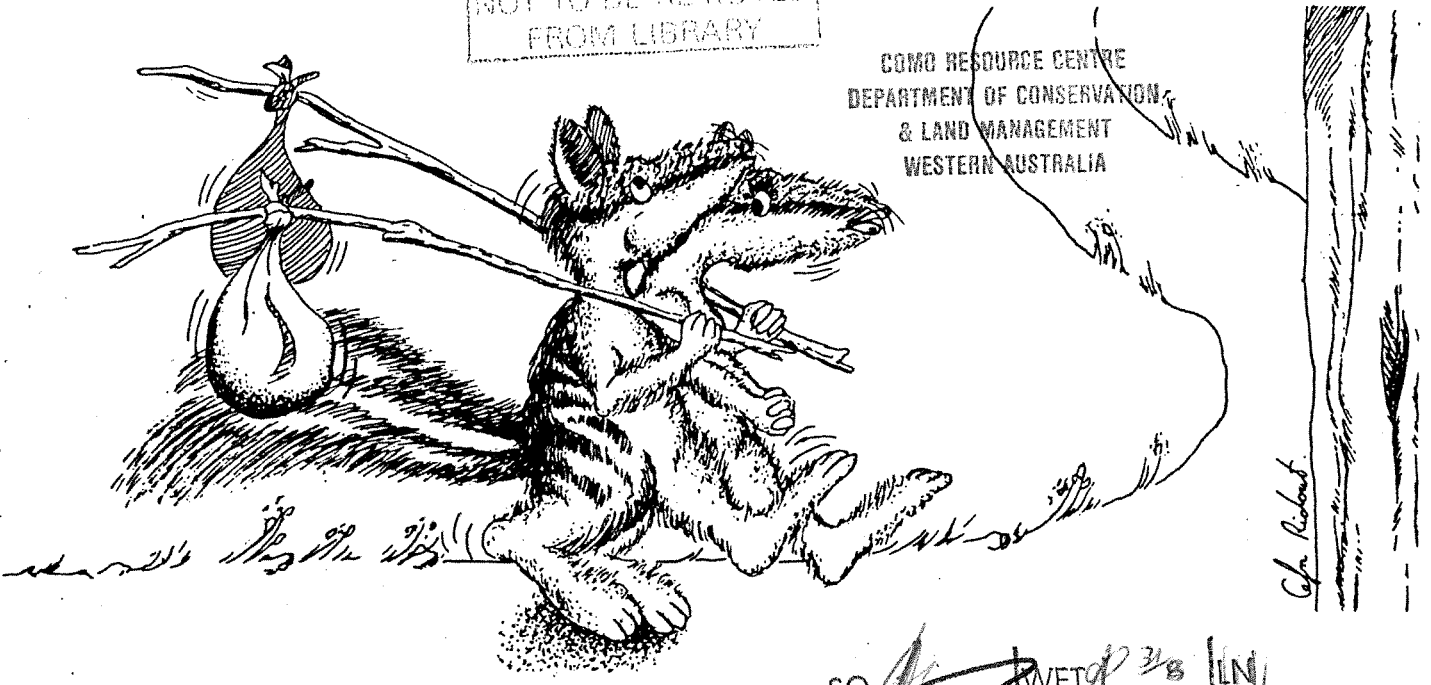


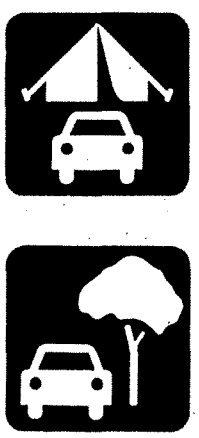
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RECREATION NOTES

FORESTS DEPARTMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EXTENSION BRANCH

Summer 1981-82

This is the inaugural issue of RECNOTES, a newsletter on recreation prepared by Extension Branch. In an effort to improve internal communications and keep you abreast of events in the field of forest recreation, the Branch intends to produce RecNotes on a quarterly basis.

Recreation Advisory Group

With the recent appointment of new staff, Extension Branch has acquired 3 new officers who are working in the area of recreation and landscape planning. Thus, the Department now has for the first time an Extension officer located in each region who is responsible for assisting the divisions and regional groups with their respective recreation planning and development programmes. As an initial step, we have organised ourselves into a 5-member advisory group. Allow us to introduce ourselves:

Denise Allen

Denise comes to us from the A.C.T. Her experience there as a recreation planner (i.e. organising trips to scenic spots like the local pub) have suitably prepared her for her new position. Denise is stationed at Como where she is working on recreation planning and development in the Northern Region.

Rae Burrows

Rae's main claims to fame are that she is a non-forester (geographer by training) and is the only one of the bunch who is a dinkum West Aussie. Apart from her many achievements in competitive swimming, she has also distinguished herself by touring around Australia on a motorcyle with husband Neil. Rae is based at Manjimup where she co-ordinates recreation planning and development work in the Southern Region.

Peter Henderson

Peter doesn't say much but can write anyone under the table. He is the personification of the saying 'the pen is mightier than the mouth'. A former Victorian resident, Peter is stationed at Bunbury and works throughout the Central Region on recreation planning and design.

Eugene Herbert

Eugene is the most recent addition to the recreation extension service. Formerly a hydrologist, he is now a highly qualified landscape architect. At present we are trying to break down the yankee accent, picked up while doing a landscape course in the U.S.A. Eugene is based at Como and is involved in providing departmental-wide assistance in recreation planning and landscape design and management.

Wayne Schmidt

Wayne is proof of the fact that we are not racially prejudiced. His experience with 2 small sons has suitably prepared him as a recreation officer. He is also a landscape architect par excellence. Wayne is based at Como and similarly has departmental-wide responsibilities.

One of our initial priorities has been to look at how the advisory group can provide the most effective assistance to the divisions and regions while at the same time attempting to co-ordinate planning and provision for forest recreation on a Departmental basis. To date, we have held discussions on this subject with divisional and regional representatives in the Northern and Southern Regions and are to hold a similar meeting with staff in the Central Region in the near future. These discussions have, from our point of view, proven quite useful. In the near future, you will be receiving a summary of what both you and ourselves see as the functions of the recreation extension group.

Site Inventories and Assessments

During the past 4 months the Regional Recreation Officers have been carrying out a series of site inventories and assessments of recreation facilities in State forest. Such assessments, apart from giving the new officers an opportunity to systematically orientate themselves with the region, have also yielded a ready record of the following factors:

1. geography of the area in which the facility is located;
2. type and size of the facility;
3. condition of the facility and an evaluation of its redevelopment and maintenance priorities.

This information will be computerised and an updated inventory similar to that done in 1977, compiled and distributed to all divisions. In addition, the site assessment information will be summarised for divisions as a basis for discussing and setting work priorities for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

Visitor Surveys

The forest-wide visitor survey programme conducted in 1978 enabled the Department to learn more about the people using the forest.

The information gained from this initial study will be supplemented in the near future by observational surveys. These surveys will take the form of a 12-hour period of observation of visitors using specific sites. The observer will be a member of staff who will observe and record visitor activity and movement. A pilot survey has been carried out recently at One Tree Bridge in Manjimup division and the results of this will be used to formulate a comprehensive survey form for field use.

In addition to these surveys, traffic counts (using both Stephens and Styx counters) will continue to be made of access roads into various sites. These figures help to determine the popularity of a site and the seasonal nature of use. With the counts, the 1978 visitor survey information and the observations of the users, a complete picture will be built up of the public, their needs and the use they make of a particular development. This knowledge will enable us to more effectively manage the forest for recreation.

For those interested, copies of the results of the 1978 Visitor Survey are available from Wayne at Como. Also available are copies of a project done on vandalism in State forest recreation areas in 1981. If you are interested in seeing this report, contact Rae (Manjimup) or Wayne (Como).

Bibbulmun Track

Over the past 12 months a husband and wife team, Jack and Audrey Slattery, have under contract been remarking the entire length of the Bibbulmun Track. To date the main track, from Kalamunda to Boorara Tree and the Murray River circuit route have been completed. It now appears that funds will not be available for the 'contract' remarking of the Collie and Pemberton circuit routes; therefore it is essential that such work be carried out by these two divisions, as soon as possible, to maintain a consistently high standard.

As part of their contract the Slatterys have provided periodic reports on their findings, as well as the necessary track maintenance work required in each division. Copies of these reports have been forwarded to the respective divisions for action. It is hoped that this work is already completed, or will be in the very near future. If you are having any problems in this regard could you please contact Rae, Peter or Denise who will be able to give you the necessary advice or assistance. An inspection of the track will be carried out by these three officers early in 1982.

Six registration stations for the Bibbulmun Track have been built for placement throughout State forest. Two have already been placed at points along the track in Manjimup and Pemberton divisions. Recreation officers in the following divisions

Mundaring, Dwellingup, Collie and Kirup

are asked to find suitable (i.e. heavily traversed and easily patrolled) areas along the track, for the location of the other stations. Relevant information will then be collated on a monthly basis and sent to the regional recreation officers by the 7th day of the following month.

Recreation Working Group Meeting

During the week of 28 September-2 October, the Forests Department hosted the 4th meeting of the Recreation Working Group. Comprised of members from the various State forest services and several tertiary institutions, the Recreation Group is one of a number of such bodies set up to facilitate greater communication and co-ordination amongst forest research workers throughout Australia.

The theme of this year's meeting was on recreation planning, which was dealt with in a series of invited papers, and field visitors to the jarrah and karri forests. A total of 35 people including 12 Forests Department officers, as well as representatives from the Departments of Youth, Sport & Recreation, Town Planning, Conservation & Environment, National Parks Authority, and Alcoa participated in the week long conference.

The recreation extension group, which was heavily involved in the organisation of this meeting, would like to take this opportunity to thank those Department staff from Mundaring, Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, Manjimup and Pemberton divisions who assisted us with the field visits.

Note: A list of the papers given at the workshop is attached for your reference. If you are interested in reading any of these, copies can be obtained from Wayne at Como.

Second Newsletter

The second newsletter will be produced before the 1982-83 estimates are due in March. To maximise the effectiveness of the newsletter, contributions from divisions and regions are encouraged. The description of new work or methods, problems encountered and how they were overcome - all these items would be of interest to other divisions and may help overcome some of their own problems. If you would like something included, please send it to Denise at Como before 12 March, 1982.

LIST OF PAPERS AVAILABLE (RECREATION WORKING GROUP MEETING)

Application of the Recreation Opportunity Planning Process to Forest Management and Planning.

John Wood, Canberra (C.A.E.)

What Recreation Needs can the Forest Serve? A Sideways Look at the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

Graham Yapp, CSIRO, Canberra.

Interpretation - Enrichment of the Recreation Experience. Michael Tooby, Landscape Architect, W.A.

Recreation Planning in Queensland with Particular Reference to Visitor Restrictions.

Richard Grimes, Queensland Department of Forestry.

Development and Use of Western Australia's Bibbulmun Track. Peter Hewett, W.A. Forests Department.

Forest and Camping - the Victorian Experience. Michael Leonard, Victorian Forests Commission.

Development of a Recreation Management plan for the Northern Jarrah Forest.

Roger Underwood, W.A. Forests Department.

Landscape Design and Management at a Site Level. John Van Pelt, Canberra C.A.E.

Detail in Design : The Key to Successful Recreation Facilities. Ross Gobby, Consulting Forester and Park Planner, W.A.

Preparation of a State Forest Recreation Plan for New South Wales. David

Hamilton, N.S.W. Forestry Commission.

A Viable Framework for Outdoor Recreation Planning and Management in South-western Australia. Jim Sharp, Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation.