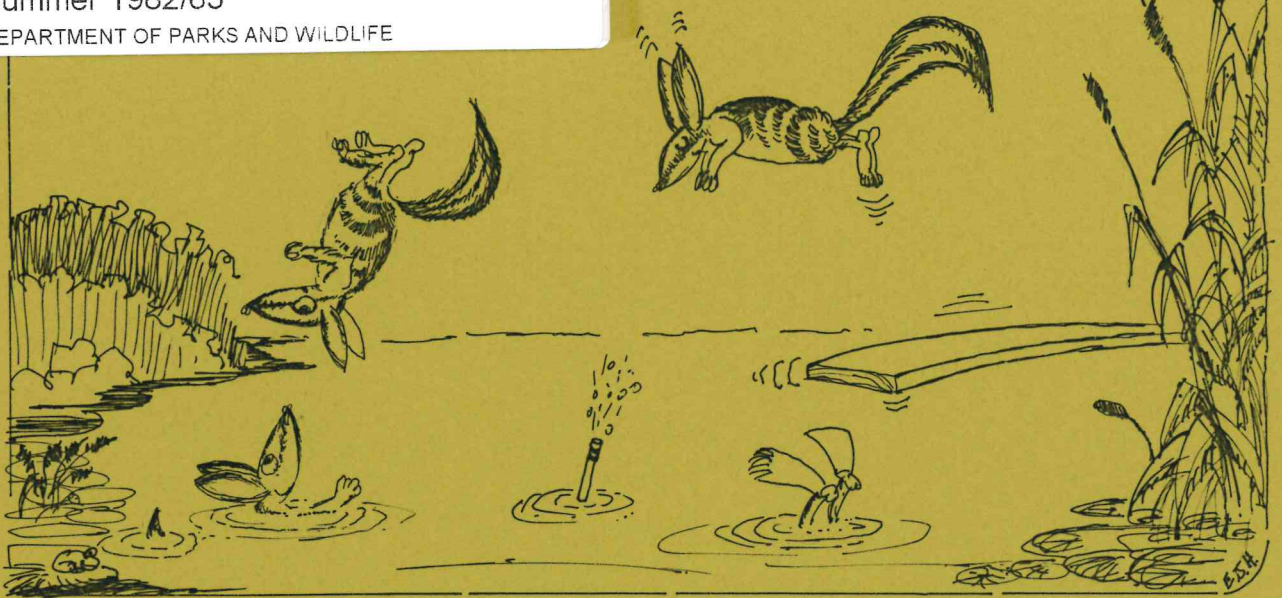




JOURNAL RECREATION NOTES

Summer 1982/83
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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RECREATION NOTES

FORESTS DEPARTMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EXTENSION BRANCH

Summer 1982 - 83

RECNOTES : SUMMER '83

EXTENSION ... the act of extending, to stretch out, to increase in length or scope. Also defined as that property of a body by virtue of which it occupies space.

Quite apart from "occupying space", Extension Branch performs a number of other roles, some of which are possibly not well known throughout the Department. In this issue of RecNotes, Superintendent Kimber briefly describes what the functions and staff responsibilities of Extension Branch are.

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EDITOR

EXTENSION BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Extension Branch and the services it provides are not widely known within the Department. The following resume of the branch's activities will correct this situation while putting its responsibilities in the field of forest recreation in perspective.

It is a specialist branch, consequently its officers have knowledge and expertise that extends beyond that normally expected of a forest officer. Two members of the branch are qualified landscape architects (in addition to normal forestry qualifications) and others have backgrounds in horticulture and journalism.

Forest Recreation

The branch conducts surveys of forest users, prepares recreation plans, and advises operations personnel on site design and other facets of recreation.

Officers involved are:

Wayne Schmidt (Como) and Eugene Herbert (Como) with Statewide responsibilities - they act as advisers to the Northern Region in particular.

Rae Burrows (Manjimup) - advises Southern Region.

Peter Henderson (Bunbury) - advises Central Region.

These officers are about to publish a recreation manual for use by operations staff.

Forest Landscaping

Staffed by Wayne Schmidt and Eugene Herbert, both Landscape Architects. They are working on a landscape guide manual for forest operations.

Duties are two-fold: landscaping on the grand scale, which includes adjustment of forest operations to blend in with topography and the natural landscape; and small scale projects such as office grounds. The demand for small projects (including work for other Departments) is high and hinders development of the more important forestscaping.

Publications and Publicity

Handled by Cliff Winfield (Como). Duties include the publishing of recreational, advisory and educational matter on forestry, and the design, building and exhibition of displays. Cliff also controls the Departmental photograph collection. He is an accomplished photographer.

He is assisted, part time, by Beverley Anza (Como).

Education

Drew Griffiths (Como) handles education (in addition to other duties such as preparation of an herbarium for the Kimberley region). He has concentrated on reaching school children and gives numerous talks to schools in the metro area. Drew is a qualified instructor in bushwalking and survival skills.

Work on education will expand in 1983 with the appointment of Tammie Reid (Como) to the Branch. Tammie will work on the production of educational material, and promotional material for use by divisional staff and for field study centres and recreational camps.

Advisory Services

Advice on tree establishment and maintenance and associated matters is made available throughout the State. Extension staff at Kununurra, Broome and Karratha handle the northwest and Kimberley, and Kalgoorlie staff the eastern and northeastern goldfields.

The metropolitan advisory service is staffed by Roger Edmiston (Como) and Drew Griffiths (Como) with Clerical Officer Margaret Elvis (Como) handling many enquiries.

The farming areas of the State are covered as follows:

North coastal and northwest wheatbelt - Roger Edmiston (Como)
 Central and northeast wheatbelt - Alex Hart (Como) & Cliff Winfield (Como)
 Great Southern - John Humphreys (Narrogin)
 Dundas and Esperance - Norm Caporn (Kalgoorlie)
 Southwest - Peter Kimber and Peter Henderson (Bunbury), and
 Rae Burrows and Alan Walker (Manjimup)
 (Alan Walker is Regional Leader, Industry Control
 for the Southern Region).

Peter Richmond (Como) is responsible for giving advice on commercial eucalypt and pine plantations throughout the State.

Nurseries

Roger Edmiston (Como) acts as technical adviser to all departmental nurseries.

Seed Store

The Branch is responsible for the collection, storage and distribution of seed for departmental use and for sale to the public. Alex Hart (Como) is in charge and John Lloyd, who has recently joined the Department as Penni Hewett's replacement, runs the seed store.

Sandalwood

The control of the sandalwood industry is in the hands of Peter Richmond (Como).

Kalgoorlie

The Kalgoorlie office controls the field operations of the sandalwood trade, the procurement of mining timber, manages the extensive area of eucalypt woodlands in the goldfields and provides recreation facilities. Officer in Charge is Bill Brennan, aided by Norm Caporn (who also does advisory work in Dundas and Esperance) and Mike Tagliaferri.

Karratha

The Department was established in Karratha to investigate the horticultural potential of the trees and shrubs of that area, and to encourage their use

as garden subjects in Pilbara towns. Wally Edgecombe, the Officer in Charge, and his assistant Pat Ryan have been highly successful in this, and in the encouragement of pastoralists to conserve trees on their leases.

Promoting the use of native trees and shrubs with a low water demand was prompted by the high domestic water use in the area - the per capita consumption is about 4 times that of Perth. The Department's effort in reducing water consumption in the Pilbara has been acknowledged by the Minister for Water Resources.

The Karratha forest station includes a nursery with an annual production of 60 000 plants. Pat Ryan runs the nursery.

Both Kalgoorlie and Karratha forest stations come under the administrative control of Peter Richmond (Como).

Kimberley

Chris Done is O I C, Kimberley, and is assisted by David Rose. Both are stationed at Kununurra. Their work includes surveys of the timber resource of the Kimberley, testing tree species under irrigation, advisory work - particularly on tree establishment at aboriginal settlements, and the provision of recreation facilities.

The Department has a nursery at Broome with an annual production of 60 000 plants. Bruce Hastings runs the nursery as well as doing botanical surveys and providing an advisory service. Production at the Broome nursery includes ornamental trees and shrubs for the humid tropics, and tropical fruit trees.

Both Broome and Karratha nurseries were originally established by the Department of the North West as part of the government's commitment to making the northwest a more attractive place to live by planting trees. Free issues of trees are made to householders (for new homes) and for community tree planting projects.

Administration

The Branch is run along the lines of a region with the stations (Kununurra, Broome, Karratha, Kalgoorlie) and the specialist groups (Recreation and Landscape, Advisory, Publicity and Education) being analagous to divisions.

Peter Kimber is responsible for running the Branch, which comes within the portfolios of Chief of Division Peter Hewett, and Assistant Conservator Frank Campbell.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In recent months, a number of staff changes have occurred within Extension Branch. Denise Allen (Como) and Ian Scott (Kununurra) have both migrated south to Nannup and have been replaced by Tammie Reid and David Rose respectively. Bruce Hastings, formerly with Hamersley Iron, joined the Department and is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Broome nursery. Similarly, John Lloyd has joined the Como staff as a replacement for Penni Hewett, who is about to embark upon a university course leading to a B.Sc. in forestry. Drew Griffiths (Como) is likewise about to depart our ranks for Canberra, where he will attempt to complete a Graduate Diploma in forestry.

We wish Penni and Drew every success in their studies.

A Praiseworthy Note

The following correspondence was recently received from F/R Towie of Margaret River.

Extension Branch
Bunbury

Attention: P. Henderson

Peter,

Attached is a small note that was left at one of our picnic areas along Boranup Drive, along with a can of beer - which you have probably already seen before so I never bothered sending it up as well. The note was left behind and picked up by Toni King on his "rubbish run" on the Wednesday following Xmas.

I thought it might be of some use to you for a future Recreation Notes.

N.B. I am wondering if you could do anything about the last sentence as my immediate O I C, Cam Schuster, said he couldn't.

7/1/83

Regards

Bill Towie

Attached note read as follows:

Tuesday night and
Wednesday morning

Dear Ranger

Please accept my compliments for this delightful picnic area - clean as a whistle, wood provided, well raked, wind in trees, birds whistling.

If I were your boss I'd give you a raise.

Oliver Deacon
City Beach

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We're wondering Bill whether you remembered to offer D F O Schuster that can of beer before you raised the matter of promotion?

Outdoor Education

"Outdoor Education" is a section of the Education Department which, amongst other things, trains teachers and student leaders in expedition skills in activities such as bush walking, canoeing and sailing so that these skills can be passed on to the children they teach.

Naturally, State forest provides the ideal environment in which these activities can take place. Realising this, the organiser of the programme, Lesley Pearse, approached the Forests Department to ask for our co-operation and help in providing for the needs of the participants.

The requirements for the programme in the Southern Region were -

- (a) a suitable area of forest in which to bushwalk, preferably with varied vegetation type and topography and with limited vehicular access.
- (b) a reasonably large river negotiable by canoe in most seasons and with some rapids in which to practice white water skills.
- (c) a place where gear could be stored and the necessary "briefing" and "debriefing" sessions conducted. This structure was to be located where the canoeing section of the programme finished and the walking began.
- (d) the storage hut was required to be located within a day's walk of Broke Inlet where the sailing section of the course occurs. It also had to be accessible to vehicles in case of emergencies.

It was agreed that the Deep River and the adjacent forest would meet these requirements quite well. However, it remained to find a site for the briefing/storage hut which would satisfy both departments.

Already developed sites on the Deep River - Fernhook Falls and Centre Road were not considered to be satisfactory sites for the hut from the Forests Department's point of view. This was because they were already popular day use areas and it was anticipated that there'd be some conflict between the normal users and the programme participants.

After much discussion and on-site examination Gladstone Falls, between the two developed areas, was chosen. There were several reasons for this -

- (a) the topography and vegetation of the site ensured that a briefing/storage hut could be built out of sight and out of the way of the normal site users & would not encroach on their enjoyment of the area.
- (b) the site is one of the few areas on the river which is accessible to vehicular traffic - albeit in summer only.
- (c) the river above the falls is wide and calm and ideal for disembarking and removing canoes from the water.
- (d) the site is within a day's walk of Broke Inlet.
- (e) the future plans for the Gladstone Falls area did not include large scale development so there should be little, if any, conflict between the day users and the programme participants.

The two departments are planning to work together further in the actual building of the hut at Gladstone Falls. Outdoor Education is going to pay for the timber and the building of the structure and the Forests Department at Walpole is going to provide the labour. This suits the Forests Department well because it will employ the gangs in the off season. We can also be sure that the hut will be built with minimal damage to the surrounding bush and in such a manner that the finished hut will be invisible to the normal day user of the picnic site.

Although this co-operative project is only a relatively small scale affair, it is hoped that it will be the first of many more co-operative recreation developments in forested areas. With combined finances, skill and knowledge, the various appropriate departments can produce well planned and equipped sites which satisfy the recreating public's every need.

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The Blackwood Classic

The Blackwood Classic is a powerboat race along the Blackwood River between Bridgetown and Augusta. It occurs annually during the October long weekend and has a devoted following of competitors, organisers, support crews and spectators totalling about 1 000 people.

As in previous years, the 1982 event has resulted in a number of management problems, namely ...

- minimal communication between the organisers and the Department. This year contact was made by coincidence 2 days before the race when an organiser was found digging holes in the bush. They were to serve as toilets for the hundreds of spectators and competitors.
- possibility of spreading dieback into virgin jarrah forest in the Blackwood M P A.
- over-use, littering, damage to vegetation, lack of toilet facilities and associated sanitary problems, as well as illegal camping in Forests Department recreation areas, namely Sue's Bridge Recreation Area.
- supposedly temporary signs remaining for months after the race is over.

In the aftermath of the '82 'Classic' a management strategy (yet to be agreed to by the organisers) "to overcome the above problems and ensure that the Blackwood Classic complies with the management requirements of State forest (protection of the resource balanced with use by people)" has been written.

Briefly the strategy is :

- (1) Organisers to notify the Department at least two weeks before the race.
- (2) People associated with the race will be encouraged to camp at a disused gravel pit near the river rather than Sue's Bridge Recreation Area.

(3) Within Sue's Bridge Recreation Area:

- vehicles are only to be driven on formed tracks and in car parks. In 1982 considerable site disturbance and vegetation damage occurred as a result of uncontrolled access.
- the Department will supply litter bags that are to be deposited at 3 designated sites when campers leave the area.
- portable toilets will be supplied by the organisers and as part of the redevelopment of Sue's Bridge Recreation Area pit toilets are being installed.
- firewood will be supplied by the Department.
- no living vegetation is to be damaged or removed.

(4) All signs erected by the organisers must be stapled to trees or posts and removed after the race.

It is interesting to note that at the time of the '82 'Classic', Sue's Bridge Recreation Area was undergoing major redevelopment, involving the construction of parking areas and camping bays. During the 'Classic' all the uncompleted facilities were used and contrary to popular belief many people camped well away from their cars - up to 100m.

In conclusion, the 1982 Blackwood Classic was a demolition derby, with numerous boats having their undersides gouged out by the debris remaining after the January, 1982 floods. Hopefully, the 1983 event will run more smoothly for all those concerned, including the Forests Department.

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Lee-Steere Essay Award

Those of you who know of the literary talents of A/F Len Talbot will not be surprised to learn he recently was awarded first place in the 33rd annual W.A. Historical Society's competition for historical essay writing. Known as the Lee-Steere Award, the essay competition is open to tertiary students, non-professional writers and members of the Historical Society and allied groups.

Len's composition on the sandalwood industry won him a cash prize of \$100. Congratulations on your success Len.

NOTE: Readers are encouraged to re-read Len's contributions on Forestry and Historic Preservation which appeared in the Spring '82 issue of RecNotes.