

Research News



The newsletter of the Research Division of the Department of Conservation and Land Management

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MARCH 1991

EDITORIAL

New Computer system for Plant Propagation Centre Manjimup

In October 1990 Simon Penfold approached Yvonne Woods, Computing Officer for Manjimup Research to discuss the development of a computer system that could handle Stock Control and Inventory for the Plant Propagation Centre. The size of the Centre's operations has increased significantly in the past two years and the Lotus 123/manual recording system originally established is now inadequate.

A system has now been developed which will control order processing, stock and inventory, despatch processing and invoice preparation. It will also contain databases providing details of individual customers and orders. A later development will enable the system to generate end-of-year reports and graphics.

Implementation of the system is planned for this year to run in parallel with the old system until testing and changes have been completed.

ERRATUM

Yes the Research News is three years old and commenced publication in January 1988 not 1987 as was reported in the last edition.

	ISSUE	DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE	APRIL 91	22 APRIL	LATE APRIL

Department of Conservation and Land Management - Grants and Recoups

The information below was circulated to Research staff in April 1990 by John Dorlandt to assist staff in the preparation of their grant applications. We hope the following will be of use to Research staff for 1991.

Financial Requirements

Where applicable submissions must include:-

(i) **Gross salary plus On costs**

Minimum		
Leave Loading	1.3%	Applicable to short term projects
Workers comp	.735%	
Superannuation	<u>6.965%</u>	
TOTAL On costs	<u>9.0%</u>	

Maximum		
Leave Loading	1.3%	Applicable to long term projects only
Workers comp	.735%	
Superannuation	<u>12.0%</u>	
TOTAL On costs	<u>14.0%</u>	

(ii) **Gross wages plus On costs**

ARL; LSL etc	18.5749%	Applicable to short term projects
Workers comp	8.4251%	
minimum super	<u>5.0%</u>	
TOTAL On costs	<u>32.0%</u>	

In the case of long term projects overheads will have to be reassessed. Applicable to long term projects only

(iii) **Material costs**

(iv) **Plant hire charges**

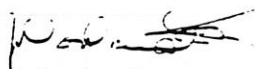
(v) **Salary increments**

(vi) **Inflation costs** running at 8%/annum at present.

(vii) **Administration overheads** to be charged at 20% unless approval to be waived has been obtained.

Control Requirements

- Name of Project
- Name of O.I.C.
- Name of Doner
- Copy of submission
- Date of Commencement
- Copy of approval
- Expenditure Account Numbers
- Revenue Numbers Created


J. Dorlandt
For./Admin.
4 April 1990



Scientific and Technical Publications

- Author: McDonald T J G
Title: Developing a solar, low cost, timber drying system
For submission to: WURC Technical Report No 23
- Author: McCaw L
Title: Fire spread prediction in mallee-heath shrublands in SW Australia
For submission to: Proceeding 11th Fire and Forest Meteorology Conference, Missoula USA
- Author: Curry Suzanne
Title: Wicked Deceptions
For submission to: Landscape
- Author: Mathews L R
Title: Drying of Valwood® boards in a veneer dryer
For submission to: WURC Technical Report No 25
- Author: Thomson A B
Title: Moisture loss from small Jarrah firewood billets
For submission to: WURC Technical Report No 30

Research Project Plans

- No: 1/91
Title: Spatial variation in rate of parasitization of Jarrah Leafminer larvae
Officer-in-charge: Ian Abbott



- No: 2/91
Title: Standardizations of taxon names and codes in CALM
Officer-in-charge: P Gioia
- No: 7/91
Title: Breeding Seabirds Data Base
Officer-in-charge: A A Burbidge
- No: 8/91
Title: Re-introduction of the greater stick-nest rat
Officer-in-charge: Keith Morris
- No: 9/91
Title: Biological survey of islands in the Dampier Archipelago
Officer-in-charge: Keith Morris
- No: 10/91
Title: Biological survey of the terrestrial and marine environments of the Montebello Islands
Officer-in-charge: Keith Morris
- No: 11/91
Title: Biological survey of islands in the Freycinet Harbour, Shark Bay
Officer-in-charge: Keith Morris
- No: 12/91
Title: Management guidelines for the Montebello Islands
Officer-in-charge: Keith Morris
- No: 19/91
Title: Infection of tolerant and susceptible *Pinus radiata* clones by *Phytophthora* spp.
Officer-in-charge: E Davison and M Stukely

REPORT ON TRAVEL TO ARMIDALE, NSW, TO ATTEND THE 37TH SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN MAMMAL SOCIETY

K.D.MORRIS

Between February 6-8, 1991, I attended the annual Australian Mammal Society meeting, held at the University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W.. I presented a paper, with Chris Dickman, entitled "The status and ecology of the Golden Bandicoot *Isodon auratus* on Barrow Island, W.A. These were the preliminary results of a long term project in collaboration with the Zoology Department, U.W.A., examining habitat requirements and resource partitioning in a range of vertebrate species on Barrow Island. I was also an

author of a paper presented by Peter Copley (SANPWS) on the reintroduction program for the Greater Stick-nest Rat in W.A. and S.A..

Of the 130 delegates, I was the only 'official' W.A. representative, although David Pearson attended at his own expense. The papers presented covered a wide range of mammal studies - behaviour, nutrition, comparative physiology, ecology, and conservation. Most related to ecology and conservation aspects. Papers on bats were

also presented, and for the first time, a session was devoted to marine mammals. This will probably become a feature of future Mammal Society meetings. The program and abstracts of papers are available from me for those interested. Another feature of this meeting was the official launch of the book 'Bandicoots and Bilbies', the production of which has suffered many setbacks over the last few years.

As is often the case with such meetings, much of their value is being able to hold discussions with colleagues between sessions. Many people were interested in the work underway on Barrow Island, and the potential for re-establishing mainland populations of rare mammals from such islands. The N.S.W.NPWS were interested in my Chuditch reporting program which has provided valuable distributional data over the last 2 years. They wish to initiate a similar project to determine the distribution of the Tiger Quoll and Eastern Quoll (thought to be extinct in NSW) in NSW. They also asked me to prepare an article on the

Chuditch for a publication on the rare and extinct mammals of NSW (the type specimen of the Chuditch was collected in western NSW in 1841). The ANPWS are supporting a project to produce recovery plans for Australia's rare rodents, similar to the one for marsupials and monotremes, and I have been asked to prepare input for W.A's rare rodent species. The coordinator of this project, Tony Lee, was at the mammal meeting and I was able to discuss the progress of this project with him.

As representatives from all states were present at this meeting, I took the opportunity to discuss the establishment and operation of animal ethics committees in the relevant state conservation organisations. This was particularly useful as CALM has recently established it's own AEEC.

My only disappointment for the trip was that no pre- or post-conference tours had been organised to further develop these discussions!

LIBRARY QUESTIONNAIRE "FEEDBACK"

42% of the questionnaires were returned; a big "thank you" to the respondents.

155 responses were received in time to be included in the summary, which has been updated to include all 168 replies to questions 14 and 15. Obviously, there are more books, journals, photocopies and videos in CALM outside the Library than there are in the Library.

There are a few specific points I'd like to make in response to comments made in the questionnaire:

1. CALM "Alert"

In spite of a notice included in the last issue of CALM Alert, it seems that many people don't know that "C.A." ceased with the February 1990 issue. It was costing about \$6 000 p.a. to produce and the funds weren't available. However, I'm determined to resurrect "C.A." as soon as possible - it has a very high priority and was well used. A weekly issue of the photocopies of journal contents pages is circulated to CALM offices which have indicated their interest, and this loose-leaved copy is known as "CALM Alert Weekly". If any CALM office would like to be added to the circulation list, please let me know.

2. Journal Circulation

With the demise of CALM Alert, journals have been circulated to CALM offices, under the supervision of a nominated "caretaker" at each office. This system has worked reasonably well, but it has caused delays in providing photocopies on request - and numerous complaints. Consequently, the journals on circulation are now required to be returned to Woodvale (NOT Como, as initially requested) before they are passed on to the next CALM location. This system should enable the Library to attend to all photocopying requests reasonably promptly, as well as giving CALM staff a "hands on" opportunity to read the journals they're particularly interested in.

3. Local Office Libraries

The CALM "ADMIN" software package has a Library sub-system which is very suitable for local usage. It has the additional advantage of having local data transferable by diskette onto the Library database and becoming potentially available to the Department as a whole - through:

4. "SearchMAGIC"

This is the network enquiry version of the Library's database, which will enable all CALM

staff to search the Department's library resources via the CALM network. The purchase of SearchMAGIC has the highest priority for future Library development.

5. Liaison with Local Offices

Several respondents commented on the lack of liaison between the CALM Library and non-metropolitan offices and on the absence of any promotion of Library services. I'm very keenly aware of these shortcomings and I'd like to point out that:

- i) It wasn't feasible to offer any service worth mentioning until the Library at Woodvale had become an efficient and effective Branch. This took over two years to achieve (1988-89) and no sooner was I about to do a "PR" job on local offices than the Library's budget was cut and my travel funds were wiped out.
- ii) A video on CALM Library services has been made (cost-free) but its technical quality is such that it needs a live commentator to back up the taped commentary. STALEMATE! If anyone has any suggestions to help resolve this problem, please let me know.

HUGH CLIFT, *March 1, 1991.*

The Questionnaire summary has been sent to every CALM office, should anyone care to read the details.

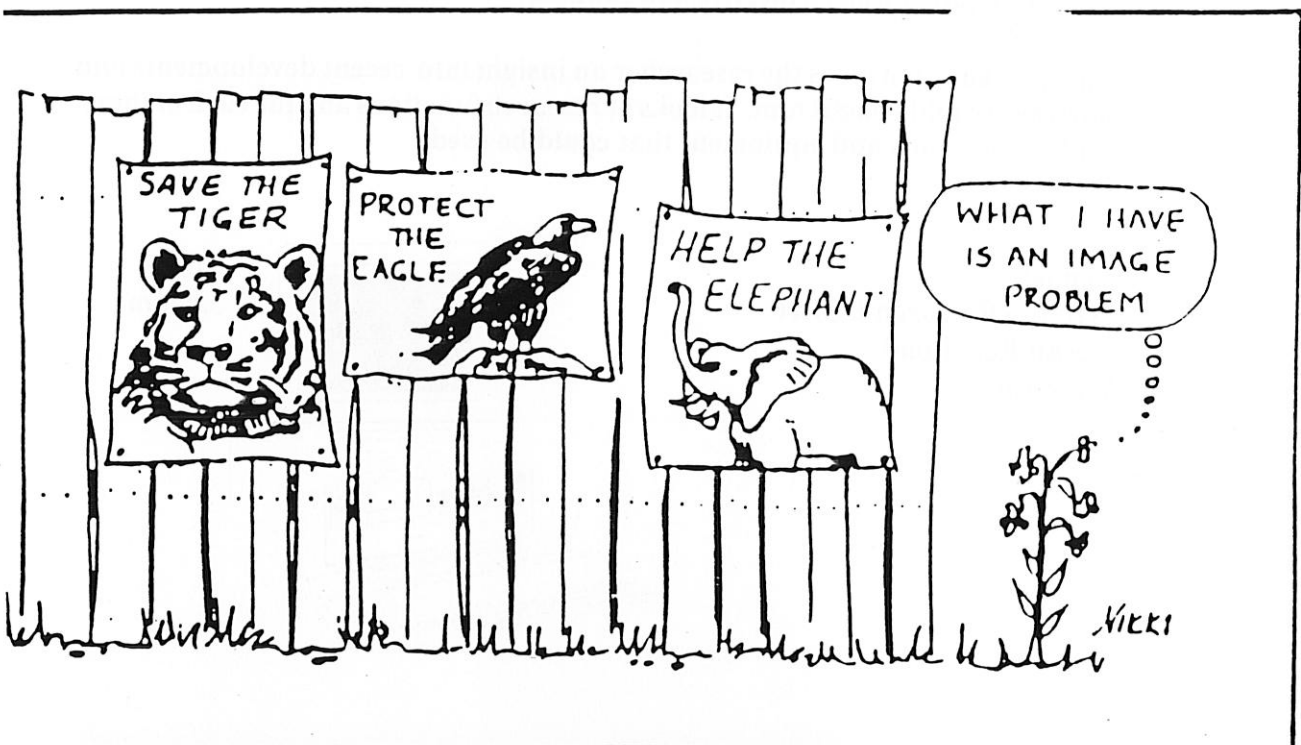
COPYRIGHT LAW FOR JOURNAL PHOTOCOPYING

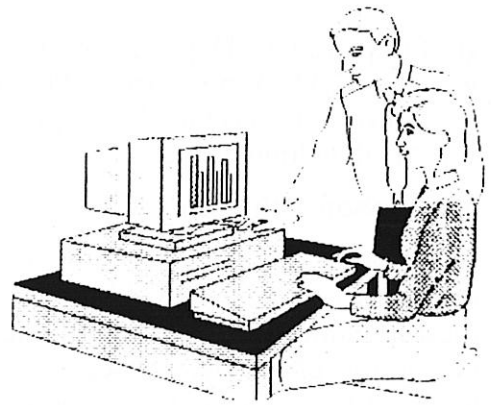
The Library has just become aware that only one article per issue per person may be copied legally, regardless of how long ago any particular person may have requested a copy of another article from the same journal issue.

Since the penalties for breaches of the Copyright Act are harsh, the Library will in future refuse requests for copies of more than one article from the same issue. Any such requests will be returned with a notice stamped on it, stating:

"Copyright law permits only one article - copy per person per issue".

The person concerned will then have to decide which article should be copied or s/he will have to request a loan of the whole issue.





SEMINAR

Friday 5th April 1991

APPLYING MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO RESEARCH

presented by Mike Choo

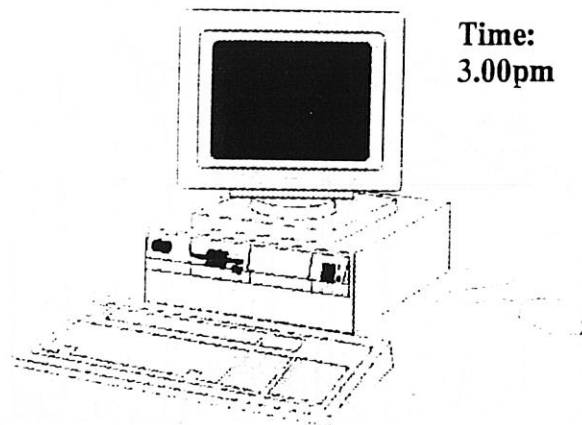
We are in an electronics age where recent developments in the electronic industry has led to the miniaturisation of computer chips and its incorporation into most of our research tools. This has the effect of broadening the scope and quality of research and is creating an information explosion.

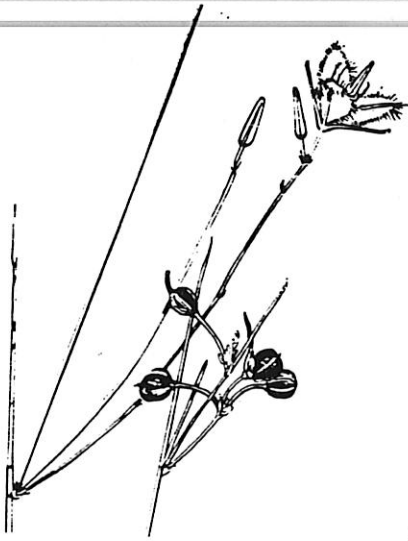
Research institutions and researchers vary in their level of understanding and use of this technology, and a fair proportion of them are still using old technology. Most have accepted the inevitability of change but instituting change requires time, expertise and funding.

This presentation gives the researcher an insight into recent developments and how these could benefit him. It looks at research functions and for each of these, it identifies tools and equipment that could be used.

Venue:
Wildlife Research Centre
Ocean Reef Road
Woodvale

Time:
3.00pm





SEMINAR

Thursday 18 April 1991

Western Australian Regional Floras - a new format

Presented by Judy Wheeler

In the past the majority of flora handbooks have been very technical in nature, following an established format with particular taxonomic standards. There is no doubt that these Floras are extremely valuable works containing a vast amount of information. However, in recent years, people have expressed dissatisfaction, in that while these Floras are extremely useful to those people with a botanical background, they are of limited value to those who lack this expertise.

In the W.A. Herbarium we are rethinking our ideas on the presentation of flora information. This talk will present one of the ways in which we aim to provide the public with a more "user-friendly" printed Flora. The changed format will enable easier plant identification for a large number of people and, at the same time, educate them so that they are able to use the more technical traditional Floras with increased confidence.

Venue:
Training Centre
CALM SOHQ
50 Hayman Road
Como

Time: 3.00pm

