

Wally Wecollects...

That great test of endurance, The Blackwood Marathon Relay, is over for another year and Manjimup Research again figured strongly in C.A.L.M.'S representation.

Gary "Crocodile Dundee" Inions was fighting fit (fighting the effects of a heavy evening) and raring to go. In fact, he was so raring that half-way along the course, he took leave of his fellow runners and sprinted off in the opposite direction in search of an unattended tree, under which he squatted with great relief to himself and dismay to a tortoise upon which he transferred his heavy load...

However, we still had Grant Wardell-Johnson, the doyen of all water sports to pull us through. Off he went at a cracking pace, cracked the canoe and spent the next one and a half hours paddling furiously from river to shore - to river to shore... skillfully evading all U-boats and bailing at the same time!

Hoorah for Capt. Rickie Storm (alias Lachie McCaw). He swam as a man possessed...rushed to the horse staging post yelling his number to the crowd before him, to be told quietly by Yvonne Woods that, er, due to an upturned horse float there, er, was no horse, er.

Yes, a team to remember... and a day most of them would rather forget!!!

P.S. The horse recovered... the tortoise was never seen again.



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DESIGNER: Yvonne Woods

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JAN. '87 VO

HEATHLAND FIRE RESEARCH

Bob Smith, John Neal and Lachie McCaw travelled to the Fitzgerald River National Park on 10-11 November to investigate the behaviour of a wildfire which had burnt out approximately 190 ha of the park several days previously. The fire was fanned by strong, dry North-Westerly winds and travelled 6 km in about 4 hours before being extinguished by a Southerly wind change. The purpose of the visit was to examine the fuel types in which the fire had burnt and to develop ideas about the influence of roads and topographic features on the fire's behaviour.

The team will be making further field trips this Autumn to be involved in burning in heathlands along the South Coast and on the sandplains North of Perth. During these trips they will be collecting information about the effects of fuel characteristics and weather conditions on fire behaviour. This information will be used to evaluate the performance of several different systems for predicting fire behaviour - a process that will continue over several years. Improved predictions of fire behaviour in these areas will allow CALM operations staff to more safely and effectively undertake fire management operations.

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Pine Wilding

Eradication - Nannup:
The study into the effects of prescribed fire for controlling pine wilding development is continuing.

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Fire Effects Study:

Plots have been constructed at Perup and Nannup as part of an extensive fire effects study covering most of the Southern Forest. Measurements of vegetation, insects, frogs and lizards are being made prior to burning this Summer.

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Project Aquarius:

A 30 minute video on the project is being shown around the Forest Districts. Data continues to be analysed from this project.

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BIOMETRICS AND COMPUTING
 Yvonne Woods, Pete Walsh
Data entry:

Susan Moore was contracted to input data and succeeded in reducing the backlog of survey and bird census data for Ecology section. As well she entering nearly all the Fire Reports for Manjimup District into the new Wildfire Register.

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Data analysis:

With Greg Strelieen soon to be leaving many Jarrah Silviculture Projects have been analysed for writting up.

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Training:

Nearly all research staff undertook training courses on using the microcomputer and using MS-DOS and found them very useful. Further training sessions on using Dbase are hoped to be carried out soon.

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Programming:

Pete has been busy developing several new computerized systems. He has developed a system on the Husky Hunter (hand held computer) for recording bird mistnetting data. The system has been tested in the field and has proved very efficient. Data is keyed directly into the Husky and can later be downloaded to the microcomputer.

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Pete is currently working on the Wildfire Information and Retrieval System on the microcomputer, using Dbase. This system stores all information from the Wildfire Reports and allows users to access the data and print out individual Fire Reports, Annual Summary's of Fires, Causal Agents, Fires Attended and other Adhoc requests.

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Insect Borers in Karri

Regrowth:
Data has been collected for this study and forwarded to Como for analysis.

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Fuel Drying Study in Karri Regrowth:

A first draft of this study is currently being written up.

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Pete has rewritten the data logger programs for the automatic weather station into a menu driven system. Now the logger can be programmed, downloaded and weather reports printed automatically.

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Pete has also developed a Memo/Bring Up System in Dbase on the microcomputer for Admin. This system will automatically printout memos and reminders for a particular date.

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**Site Typing Areas of Karri Regeneration:**

The field work has been completed and the soil samples are with the Chemist. Analysis will be completed by February. Floristic data for successional changes in an age series is also being examined.

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Muirillup Spacing Trial:

The data has been collected and will be analysed after February.

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Thinning and Fertiliser Trials - Quartz Road:

Data analysis is complete and in final draft form.

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**JARRAH SILVICULTURE**
 Greg Strelieen, Pete Skinner, Colin Ward,
Ian Wheeler
Mychorrhizal Fungi Trial on Different Site Types:

One trial is being performed in conjunction with C.S.I.R.O. on single parent selected seed, aseptically germinated and inoculated with various species of the fungi.

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Site Typing - Dieback Interpretation:

Interpreters have been instructed in site - vegetation type identification. A training session is also planned for Northern Region Interpreters.

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Jarrah Fertilizer Trial:

This trial is currently being written up.

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Ploughing for Scrub Control and Seedling Establishment in Heavy Jarrah Scrub Types:
A draft publication has been completed.

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Entomology:

Photography of monitor sites has been completed. For the first time Leaf Miner has extended into the Northern Jarrah belt (other than Coastal Plain) viz. Collie. The mapping of the infected area has been completed. Inventory growth plots have been assessed for impact of insect attack on growth rates.

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**Regrowth Karri Growth Model:**

Assistance is continuing in this project. A presentation on the model and the role of Research was presented in December 1986.

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Warren Thinning Trial:

Data collection is completed and analysis will take place after February. This is the first statistically sound data resulting from thinning in Karri

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ECOLOGY
 Grant Wardell-Johnson,
Graeme Liddelow,
Tom Leftwich
Karen Maisey,
Chris Vellios
Walpole-Nornalup National Park Coastal Dune Survey:

The aims of this survey on coastal landform units are to relate species and habitat parameters and to 'type' the park into 'like' units based on the various species assemblages. We further aim to develop predictive models for particular species occurrence. This will enable the examination of the role of fire and to a lesser extent the effects of grazing and dieback on particular landform units in the park. The survey is compatible with the previous year's in the forested area of the park. Field work for the Spring season is complete. Trapping and bird censusing will be carried out for each season.

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