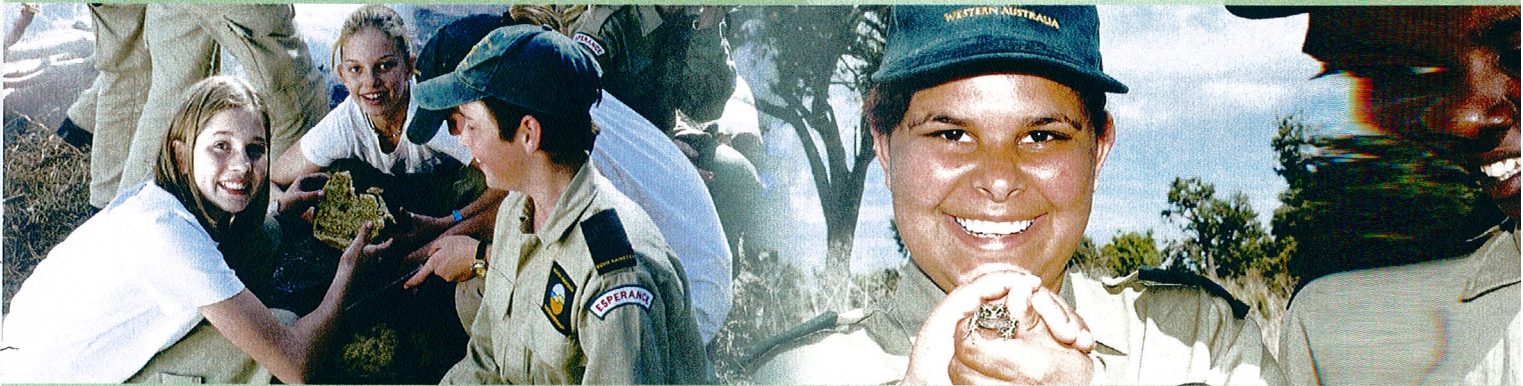


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CALM BUSH RANGERS



Annual Report 2000

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1 SUMMARY

In 2000, 800 students aged from 13 to 17 contributed more than 100,000 hours to nature conservation projects across Western Australia. The number of CALM Bush Ranger Units has increased by 50 per cent from 1999, and will increase a further 50 per cent in 2001.

Many of the nature conservation projects carried out by Bush Rangers targeted the major environmental issues facing Western Australia—biodiversity protection and salinity. The diverse projects, chosen by the Bush Rangers, included terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments, on CALM estate and private lands.

Community service covered a wide range of activities, from working with environment centres and conservation community groups, to fund raising for charity groups, hospitals and the Red Cross.

Leadership and teamwork have been explicit components of the program. This has included devolving both planning and tasks to the youth in the Units, such as organising weekly events and camps, and peer and primary school student mentoring.

This year the CALM Bush Rangers Program achieved national accreditation, and has received expressions of interest from other states and federal agencies interested in implementing similar programs. The program is currently being organised as vocational education training (VET) in Western Australian schools. This means the achievements under the program will be recognised as non-TEE on the Bush Rangers' Year 12 Leaving Certificate.

The Bush Rangers won other national recognition during the year, including the Prime Minister's Award on World Environment Day and being judged finalists in the pre-eminent National Eureka Science Awards. Significant State recognition included:

- the WA Department of Education Quest for Excellence Award;
- selection of a CALM Bush Ranger as a finalist in the WA Youth Awards;
- a significant Science Teachers Association award for one Unit's Internet site; and
- an Instructor and CALM Bush Ranger selected by the RSL to participate in the inaugural 'Spirit of ANZAC' Tour to the Gallipoli dawn service.

The program coordinator has been selected to be a member of the National Youth Reference Provider Group—part of the Federal Government implementation of the National Youth Strategy—and is also a member of the WA Youth Training Scheme Council.

A system of rewards and acknowledgments exists for both Instructors and Bush Rangers. CALM has provided excellent nature conservation experiences such as hands on Western Shield native animal monitoring and a CALMfire nationally accredited course. Professional development was provided, including a two-day in-service at Point Walter attended by 50 Instructors, as well as regular communication and visits as required by the State Coordinator.



This has been the inaugural year for four regional camps sponsored by EPIC Energy. These were successfully conducted at Kalbarri, Woody Island, Perth and Bridgetown.

A fundamental aspect of Bush Rangers has been communication of the Units' work by both CALM Bush Rangers and Instructors. This has been achieved in 2000 through:

- television coverage;
- newspaper articles;
- writing newsletters;
- constructing Internet and Intranet sites;
- producing artworks in the townscape;
- producing a CD ROM;
- making banners;
- producing power point presentations;
- participation in shopping centre displays;
- staffing the Landcare pavilion at the Royal Show; and
- articles in CALM News, LANDSCOPE and Cadetlines.



CALM staff and volunteers have embraced the CALM Bush Rangers program and include it in their operational planning. CALM**Science**, CALM**fire** and Marine Branch have allowed for a system of excellence nature conservation experiences. Districts with CALM Bush Ranger Units in their area are represented on the local Bush Rangers Management Committee, and are an important part of the local community team involved in the planning and coordination of nature conservation activities. CALM staff without Units in their area have been extremely supportive of Units visiting on annual conservation camps, for example helping to coordinate community conservation experiences, as well as bush and marine adventure sport.

2 HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

There has been a rapid expansion of CALM Bush Rangers in numbers and distribution across the education sectors since the program was launched in August 1998 as a pilot program involving two Perth schools.

CALM Bush Rangers is a voluntary nature conservation program for young Western Australians. It is part of the broader Cadets WA program, run by the Office of Youth Affairs, which aims to give all secondary-school-aged youth the opportunity to take part in personal development training that provides practical life skills, develops leadership, teamwork and initiative skills, and fosters qualities of community responsibility and service.

The Bush Ranger program has four main components:

- practical conservation projects;
- theoretical aspects;
- community service;
- vocational training.

The following table shows the rapid expansion of Bush Rangers since 1998. The 2001 figure does not include the expected increase in unit numbers in July, which is likely to bring the total number of units to 38 by the end of 2001.

Unit numbers and distribution of the three sectors in education

| Year | Govt SIDE | Govt SHS | Govt DHS | Catholic | Independent | Total |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1998 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| 1999 | - | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| 2000 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 21 |
| 2001 | 0 (became a DHS) | 10 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 30 (38 forecast) |

The new units due to start in 2001 are St Mary's, Broome; Goldfields Baptist College; Ellenbrook Christian College, Perth; Katanning DHS; Kellerberrin DHS; Northam DHS; McKillop College, Busselton; Chisholm College, Perth.



CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS 2000

| CALM Bush Rangers Unit | Conservation projects and community service |
|--|---|
| Coolgardie CAPS | Rehabilitating local catchment in conjunction with local pastoralists, mining companies and CALM. |
| Como SHS | Rehabilitating the Mt Elisa Escarpment at Kings Park; working with Wilson Wetland Action Group; constructing a native botanical walk at Como SHS; collecting for Legacy Badge Day Appeal. |
| Duncraig SHS | Regenerating bushland adjacent to Duncraig SHS; constructing nest boxes for native animals; marine community monitoring program at North Beach; participating in 'Clean up Australia Day'. |
| Emmanuel Catholic College | Harvesting termites for the numbat breeding program at the zoo; native butterfly habitat project; constructing nest boxes for native animals; designing unit banner; dieback project; Frogwatch; staffing the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show. |
| Esperance SHS | Salinity Strategy tree planting on local farms; monitoring biodiversity at Helms Arboretum and Woody Island; Sea Week activities with local primary schools. |
| Gosnells SHS | Propagating and planting endemic plant species with the Earth Care Centre, the local council and friends of groups; school recycling program; rehabilitating Mary Carrol Park; mapping biodiversity; nature conservation community arts project with Gosnells and Armadale City Council and the Upper Canning and Southern Wungong Catchment Groups. Community service included working with CALM at Forrest Lakes Shopping Centre; staffing the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show; helping Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. |
| John Forrest SHS | Harvesting termites for the numbat breeding program at the zoo; propagating trees for the Men of the Trees; propagating and planting dune vegetation; netting, planting and weeding at Nora Hughes Reserve; maintaining Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary; peer mentoring primary schools in propagation; propagating zoo food; designing banners for Sea Week; Waterwatch and other pollution monitoring; staffing the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show; door knock appeals. |
| Kalbarri School of Isolated and Distance Education | Revegetating dunes; native animal trapping with CALM; helping with the woylie release at Kalbarri National Park; marine biodiversity project at Blue Holes. The entire Unit was involved with the town ceremonies for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Townscape project—watering plants in the town. |

| CALM Bush Rangers Unit | Conservation projects and community service |
|---|--|
| John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School | Marine community monitoring program at Mettams pools; participating in Marine MESA Conference; participating in Community Marine workshop; solar car challenge. |
| Manjimup SHS | Faunadale Reserve management; constructing nesting boxes for native animals; door knock appeals. |
| Mullewa DHS | Planting 5,000 trees in one day on local farms for salinity prevention; sampling macro-invertebrates at Warrambo Lake and Wooderarung River; controlling erosion in the Ardingly catchment; creating a local seed bank; direct seeding project, including smoking seeds; maintaining the Kembla Wildlife Sanctuary; maintaining school garden; establishing the Tourist Bureau garden; Bowtellpark cleanup; hall display for the wildflower show in Mullewa. |
| Norseman DHS | Biological garden; bird aviary; constructing native animal nesting boxes; telephone book distribution fund raising; Jump Rope for Heart. |
| Mt Lawley SHS | Setting up bush tucker supermarket of edible WA plants; seed collecting for Rottnest Island Authority; clean up Rottnest beaches; Youth Ambassador for Centenary of Federation celebrations. |
| Newton Moore SHS | Marine fish breeding project; endemic butterfly breeding program; clean up the Estuary Cut at the Leschenault Peninsula; promoting their local unit program at the local shopping centre. |
| Roleystone DHS | Treating for dieback in Roleystone, weed eradication project for school bushland; links to Canning Bushlands Group; promoting CALM Bush Rangers at Roleystone Fair; community work at North Dandalup Dam; establishing home-base. |
| Rossmoyne SHS | Rehabilitating Bull Creek, rehabilitating Canning River with Canning River Residents Environmental Protection Association (CREEPER); providing for food and ponds at Native ARC at Bibra Lakes; Clean up Australia and Tidy WA; Arbor Day tree planting at Bull Creek; working with Melville City Council in planing local area; World Environment Day school focus; promoting the Rossmoyne CBR program at Riverton Forum shopping centre; highlighting threatened species issues with local primary schools; Skyshow recycling; school recycling program; propagating endemic plants; staffing the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show; establishing an Environment Centre at the school including shade house, worm farm, and recycling bins, and conservation art work; environment notice board; Weatherwatch; constructing bird boxes placed in local bushland; ANZAC Day service. |

| CALM Bush Rangers Unit | Conservation projects and community service |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Ursula Frayne Catholic College | Planting and maintenance work with Wilson Wetlands Action Group; ANZAC Day service; Tidy Towns in May; staffing the Landcare Pavilion at the Royal Show, Remembrance Day ceremony. |
| CBC Tardun Catholic School | Planting endemic trees on farms in the Tardun area for salinity control; macro-invertebrate sampling; Frogwatch. |
| Waroona DHS | Working on endemic species garden at the school; macro-invertebrate sampling at South Dandalup River; biodiversity identification in local area. |
| Warnbro DHS | Penguin Island revegetation; Baldivis Nature Reserve rehabilitation; Port Kennedy Scientific Park sand dune brushing; Naragebup Regional Environment Centre—working at the festival and clean up work at Lake Richmond; tree guard recovery in Rockingham. |
| Wongatha CAPS | Salinity action on the school farm; propagating endemic plants and local bush tucker plants; leaf hopper weed eradication program; wetland rehabilitation; remnant bushland rehabilitation on farm. |

4 NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AND VET IN SCHOOLS

The CALM Bush Rangers level one, two and three courses received national accreditation in 2000 and the program has been registered by the Training Accreditation Council of Western Australia (National code 50251, State code 21825TPWA).

The Bush Rangers are the first cadet group in Western Australia to be accredited. As well as recognising that CALM has met quality assurance standards, accreditation offers students the following advantages:

- their training will lead to nationally-recognised qualifications;
- the knowledge and skills they gain will be recognised by, and be of practical benefit, to a particular industry or vocation;
- qualifications obtained will meet occupational licensing requirements where they apply;
- they improve their chances of gaining employment and extending their career paths.



5 INAUGURAL REGIONAL CAMPS

EPIC Energy became the Bush Rangers first private sponsor, providing \$10,000 in sponsorship for the inaugural regional camps at Kalbarri, Perth, Woody Island and Bridgetown.

The theme for the four camps was sustainability and biodiversity. Bush Rangers were involved in a range of conservation work, including dune revegetation with the Surfboard Riders Association at Kalbarri, and making and using traditional Aboriginal tools at Yanchep. The regional camps provided opportunities for both Bush Rangers and Instructors to receive experiences in nature conservation not normally accessible to them because of their location, size, limited expertise, or logistical problems.

Units also gained experience with role model Units. An especially important outcome was that people with similar conservation beliefs and values shared experiences together, from forming inter-unit teams for conservation work, to enjoying discos.



6 A SYSTEM OF REWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A system of acknowledgment exists in the program including Participation Certificates for each activity and Promotion Certificates when Bush Rangers complete a 120-hour level. Rewards for exceptional Rangers include participation on special projects provided by CALM**Science** (at Perup and Kingston); CALM**fire** (nationally accredited bushfire course) and Yanchep National Park (caving experience).

CALMScience** - Perup and Kingston projects**

This has been the inaugural year for the CALM**Science** reward, 'Perup: The effect of fox baiting on the native animal populations.' Bush Rangers from Como SHS, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Newton Moore SHS, Rossmoyne SHS, Emmanuel Catholic College and Roleystone DHS participated in four days of hands-on science in the bush. During this time they used trapping and non-trapping methods to monitor chuditch, woylies, brush tail and ringtail possums, bandicoots, foxes and owls. They also conducted vegetation surveys.

Bush Rangers from Gosnells SHS, John Forrest SHS and Warnbro Community High School participated as volunteers for the Kingston project. This included a similar program to the Perup experience. CALM**Science** sponsored the meals and accommodation for the Bush Rangers for both projects.

CALMfire - Dwellingup and Manjimup

CALM Bush Rangers and Instructors from Manjimup SHS, Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Newton Moore SHS, Rossmoyne SHS, Roleystone DHS and John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School completed the Nationally Accredited Basic Fire Awareness Course. This involved a theory exam and practical burn at the Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre and at the Faunadale reserve, Manjimup. CALMfire sponsored the meals and accommodation for the CALM Bush Rangers.

This reward program expanded from last year to include Manjimup. Esperance District has planned a similar event for early next year.

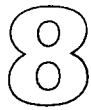
Yanchep National Park

Yanchep National Park offered a five-day reward for excellence that included biodiversity studies of the cave systems, bridal creeper research, night fauna surveys, as well as adventure caving and boating. Units from Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Warnbro Community High School, Rossmoyne SHS and Roleystone DHS took part in 2000.

7 ASPECTS OF TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP

Teamwork and leadership are explicit components of the program, and are achieved on a continuum as Units develop. Some Units, such as Esperance and John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, have specific leadership camps while other Units introduce each Bush Ranger to aspects of leadership on an on-going basis. Esperance SHS Unit has a program of leadership involvement with local primary schools in Sea Week; Rossmoyne Senior High School has similar involvement on Threatened Species Day. Kalbarri School of Isolated and Distance Education has on-going leadership activities with Kalbarri Primary School, including school assemblies and field trips to Junga Dam.





COMMUNICATING CALM BUSH RANGERS

| Unit | Communication | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-------|----|------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Newspapers | Internet/Intranet | Radio | TV | Powerpoint | Unit newsletters | School newsletters | CD Rom | Art works | CALM News, LANDSCOPE, Cadetlines | Shopping centre and other displays | Professional communication |
| Coolgardie CAPS | | | | | | | • | • | • | | | • |
| Como SHS | • | | • | • | | • | • | | | • | | • |
| Duncraig SHS | | | | | • | | • | | | • | | |
| Emmanuel CC | | | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| Esperance SHS | • | | • | | | | • | | | • | | • |
| Gosnells SHS | • | | | | | | • | | • | | • | • |
| John Forrest SHS | • | | • | | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Kalbarri School of Isolated and Distance Education | • | | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School | | | | | • | | • | | | • | • | • |
| Manjimup SHS | • | | | | | | • | | | | | • |
| Mullewa DHS | | | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| Norseman DHS | • | | | | | | • | | • | | | • |
| Mt Lawley SHS | | • | | | • | | • | | | • | | • |
| Newton Moore SHS | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Roleystone DHS | | | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| Rossmoyne SHS | | • | | | | • | • | | • | • | | • |
| Ursula Frayne CC | • | • | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| CBC Tardun | • | • | | | | | | | | | • | • |
| Waroona DHS | • | | | | | | • | | | | | • |
| Warnbro DHS | • | | | | | | • | | | | • | • |
| Wongatha CAPS | | | | | | | | | | | | • |

The CALM Bush Rangers program also appeared in an in-flight magazine article on EPIC Energy and the environment.

9 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

CALM Bush Rangers won significant recognition during the year on both the national and State level, including:

- winning the Prime Minister's Award on World Environment Day;
- being judged finalists in the pre-eminent National Eureka Science Awards;
- winning the WA Department of Education Quest for Excellence Award;
- a CALM Bush Ranger being selected as a finalist in the WA Youth Awards;
- a Unit receiving a significant Science Teachers Association award for their Internet site; and
- an Instructor and CALM Bush Ranger being selected by the RSL to take part in the inaugural 'Spirit of ANZAC' Tour to the Gallipoli dawn service.



10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Instructor in-service

The annual Instructor in-service training was held at Point Walter. Each Unit was asked to present their conservation and community service projects, as well as aspects of their camps. Representatives from CALM*Science*, CALM*fire* and Marine Branch also attended and spoke about their roles, as well as ways Units could be involved in their activities. Landcare and Keep Australia Beautiful were the organisations chosen for this year's community involvement.

Planning and review days

Planning days are conducted with Instructors as required.

Annual cadet conference

The cadet conference for Cadet Unit Leaders from all nine cadet types in Western Australia was held at Observation City. Issues common to all cadet types were discussed. The Office of Youth Affairs Minister presented Cadet Unit Leaders awards, with this year's CALM Bush Rangers awards going to Mike Casley, Rossmoyne SHS, and Carleen Edwards, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School.

11 NATIONAL YOUTH PROVIDER REFERENCE GROUP

Part of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy has been the formation of the National Youth Provider Reference Group to advise the Federal Government. It brings together major youth programs from around Australia to identify common issues and develop strategies to enhance youth programs nationwide. The CALM Bush Rangers program is the only state-based youth program represented on the Reference Group.

Bronwyn Humphreys
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CALM Bush Rangers

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