



# Vis-à-vis V.I.S.

• CALM's Visitor Interpretation Section (VIS) Quarterly Update •

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
NEW AUSTRALIA

Issue 1 - Spring/Summer '96

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **Vis-à-vis V.I.S.** The Visitor Interpretation Section (V.I.S.) is part of CALM's Division of Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism. The Section provides advice and consultation on a variety of interpretation including:

- ❖ Interpretation planning
- ❖ Standards development
- ❖ Sign design
- ❖ Consultancy projects
- ❖ Evaluation

**Vis-à-vis V.I.S.** is a vehicle to keep staff up-to-date with what's happening with Visitor Interpretation in CALM. It will come to you four times a year (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter).

It will feature examples of recently completed interpretive work, product updates and issues that may effect you. We would like it to become interactive, with you adding anything of interest. It would be great if you could let us in on your success/failures in the area of Interpretation.

## Interpretation Briefly

A current initiative within the V.I.S. is to develop interpretive briefs and to assist in managing consultants who will be engaged to carry out various interpretive projects. While this sort of thing has been done on and off before, it is now being trialled as the primary method for V.I.S. to handle interpretive work proposed by field staff.

What this entails is initial liaison by a VIS officer with field staff, and shared development of an appropriate consultant brief. The VIS would then obtain quotes and, in some cases, manage the consultant until completion of the job.

The implications for Districts and Regions would be charges for research, writing and editing of texts and developing artist's briefs. There would be no charge for the CALM interpretive officer's time in liaising with field staff, briefing and/or managing the consultant, nor for the time of the Sign Design Studio Coordinator (assuming the job is for CALM estate).

If you have any questions about this procedure feel free to contact Lotte Lent on 334 0581.

## World Class Interpretive Training Opportunity

A well respected and widely experienced (and published) American interpreter named John Veverka is planning to visit Australia in 1997. John will conduct interpretive training courses ranging from one day to several days for those interested in interpretive master planning, evaluation, running interpretive activities, visitor centres, sign design, etc. He may visit your particular area to do the training if there are enough interested staff. *John uses a very "interpretive approach" and will deliver a stimulating and practical presentation which will give you hands-on skills with immediate benefit.*

As usual, your willingness to pay must match your interest! If you're considering taking advantage of this opportunity you'll need to organise a group of trainees (say, at least 10 to make it worthwhile), payment and possibly lodging for John. Provide the information listed below and fax to V.I.S. on (09) 334 0583 by 14th November 1996.

### Interpretive Training Proposal

*Today's Date*

*Your Name*

*District or Region*

*Address*

*Your Phone & Fax numbers*

*Names of potential participants*

*Phone numbers of potential participants*

*Type of training required*

*Length of training required*

*Preferred month for training to take place*



## New Technology

Daryl Moncrieff from the Wheatbelt Region is currently in the process of having hand drawn and coloured artwork printed from the original drawings onto an adhesive backed vinyl which will then be placed in inclined walk trail frames.

The process is guaranteed colourfast for 12 months, but according to the sign company they should last at least 5 years, we'll keep you up to date on their appearance and durability in the future. (see black and white examples of originals following)

## Hello

My name is Alison Nannup. You just heard my Dad on the Sounds of Dryandra Woodland Drive Trail. He brings me and my brother Greg to Dryandra to learn about Nyoongar way. It is important for us to know about how our ancestors lived and how they loved the bush.

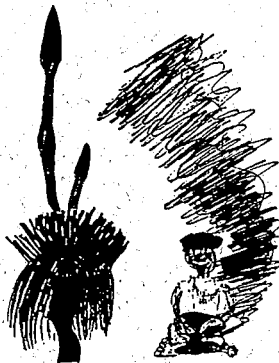


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## Miriliny

Nyoongars used the miriliny (which means fire drill) to light fires. Because they didn't have matches back then they used the balga stick for a miriliny. If you spin it really quickly in a little hole in a piece of wood, you can start a fire..



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## What's New?

Staff involved with interpretation should have a copy of both Running Activities Programs (RAP) - RRP \$10.00, and the Visitor Interpretation Manual (VIM) - RRP - \$60.00. If you missed out please phone Denise on (09) 334 0564. We hope you find these useful and we welcome feedback on both of these publications. *Please note that the Armsign phone number on Page B.9 of VIM is incorrect. The correct number is 066 251 122.*

## Snapshots, We Need 'em

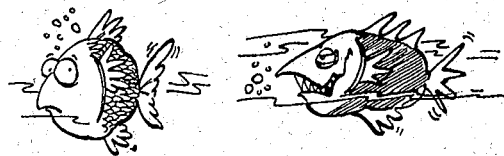
Although V.I.S. staff produce many of the displays and signs on the CALM lands and waters, we often don't have an opportunity to see them in the field. We've purchased some disposable cameras which we will send to you with jobs we would like photographed. When you receive one of our cameras, please take a few "good" pictures of the interpretive work and setting and then return the camera to us. We will make up a reference library of photos - plus we'll get the "buzz" of seeing the finished product!

## Who's Where and Why

Gil Field, Section Leader of VIS, is on leave and Lotte Lent is acting Section Leader in his absence.

Judymae Napier is now on Maternity Leave (congratulations on the birth of Harrison) and has been replaced by Kate Hay (Orr). Kate is working Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Lynda Giles works on Monday and Friday and is primarily involved with the management of Karijini Visitor Centre.

Congratulations to Karen Shaddock, now a grandmother to Caitlyn after returning from 7 weeks LSL,



## Interpretive Activities What's New ....

### Wheatbelt

Operations Officer Anthony Desmond was inspired to put together "Wonders of the Woodland," an interpretive program for the October 1996 school holidays after he participated in the Interpretation Activities Design Workshop in July.

The program included activities such as Starry, Starry Night, Night-time Escapades and Walk, Talk and Gawk. One activity directed at children was entitled Poor Old Poss where kids pretend they are possums trying to survive the rigours of a night's feeding.



A total of 130 people attended the four activities. The District will channel funds raised from activity fees into future, similar activities.

Local radio and print media were very supportive. An on-air quiz helped spark interest. The first caller to answer the question "Which Galaxy do we live in?" received a free pass to the "Starry Starry Night" activity. (The answer is the Milky Way).

### South Coast Region

After successfully trialling "Family Bush Walks in Albany" during 1995 in partnership with the Albany Residency Museum, CALM Regional and District staff were back at it again this year during the school holidays. Two activities planned for October were A Walk on the Wild Side (in the Porongurup Range) and the Two People's Bay Discovery Walk. More than 200 people have participated so far. More interpretive walks are planned for January 1997.



In Esperance, CALM staff and volunteers conduct spring wildflower walks in Helm's Arboretum. Other interpretive activities are being prepared for the local TAFE.

This year the SCR has planned training in interpretive activities and cross-cultural awareness to enhance staff capabilities.

### Midwest

Following the success of an initial 7 km guided bush walk held in Lesueur National Park a second walk was held in September. The walk was conducted by Bill Evans along a track recently completed by the



Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation. It provides an ideal opportunity for Park visitors to see areas of the Lesueur faultline which are not accessible by vehicle. Various topics covered include local flora and fauna as well as the new management plan. The walk was advertised locally, had a maximum of 30 people with booking being essential and is covered in the \$5 park entrance fee.

### Kimberley

Mirima National Park adjacent to Kununurra was the setting for a successful Activities Program during the '96 tourist season. Activities included early morning Bird Walks, Bush Tucker Talks, Sunset Walks and Slide Nights.

The Slide Nights held at Purnululu National Park continue to be a drawcard for large crowds.



Samples of Bush Tucker such as Boab nuts, Emuberries and Bush Cockroach eggs attracted lots of interest as part of the CALM Wildlife Display at the recent Kununurra Agricultural Show.

"Bite" was added to the display with a competition to estimate the size of a "SALTIE" using only a large crocodile skull as a guide. A set of CALM Bush Books was the prize in the competition.

### Pilbara

As part of the development of Aboriginal cultural tours at Karijini National Park, Mr Sandwich Hopcraft, Pundulmurra College's Conservation and Tourism Coordinator, developed a short course specifically for Aboriginal Park and Visitor Centre staff. The accredited course, which recognises prior learning such as knowledge of country, was held at Karijini N.P. with a major component being communication. One major outcome from the course was the development of a one hour interpretive tour at Kalamina Gorge. Before this tour can commence however it needs to be approved by the local Aboriginal elders. If all goes well the tour will be trialled by Sandwich just before the next visitor season, with staff having time to practice and gain confidence. It is hoped that other interpretive tours will be developed along these lines in the future.



### Aboriginal Tourism Training and Education Unit

Aboriginal Heritage Officer Noel Nannup and consultant Graham Ellis-Smith conducted a Cultural Interpretation Activities Design Workshop which was held at Yorkrakine Rock in September.

## Upcoming Conferences



### '96 Interpretation Australia Association Conference

The fifth Annual IAA Conference is to be held in Bendigo, Victoria from Saturday 30th November - Tuesday 3rd December 1996. The conference offers a combination of key note addresses from leaders in the field and onsite workshops where participants can put their expertise in action to interpret several sites in the Bendigo area.

Key themes at this year's conference will be:

- Interpreting cultural heritage
- Partnerships with the tourism industry
- Management solutions through interpretation
- Maximising learning and enjoyment

For further information about attending the conference contact Kathryn Mackenzie, Bendigo Tourism, Phone 054 47 7788 or Fax 054 47 1551.

### '96 Ecotourism Association of Australia National Conference



The theme for the EAA's National Conference is "Strategic Alliances" - partnerships that allow both partners to reap the benefits. The conference will be held at Kangaroo Island, South Australia from Thursday 14th - Sunday 17th November 1996. The conference and linked forums will consist of keynote addresses, plenary sessions, field trips and workshops to stimulate discussion on key issues and present case studies to demonstrate practical developments.

The partnership and cooperation between the EAA and the Australian Tourism Operators Association (ATO) in formulating an ecotourism accreditation scheme will culminate with the launch of the National Ecotourism Accreditation Scheme at the Conference.

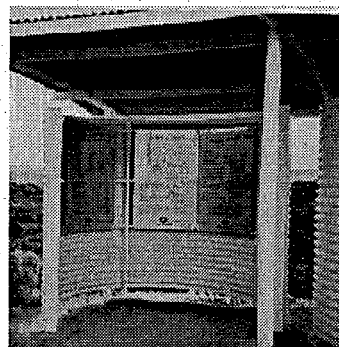
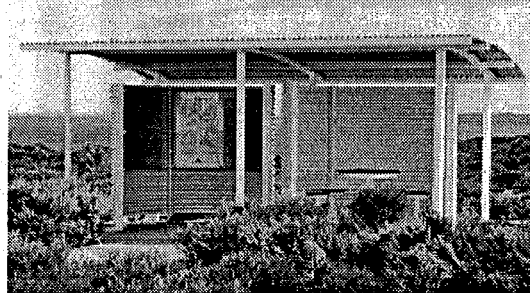
For further information contact Phone 07 3856 5016 or Fax 07 3856 5015.



## Innovative Design

### Ten Mile Lagoon Wind Farm, Esperance

These are the results of a joint project with Western Power. The "futuristic" corrugated iron interpretive/picnic shelter was designed by Draftsman Steve Csaba and the anodised aluminium interpretive panels written and produced by the V.I.S. There's even one panel attached to the base of one of the 31 metre high wind turbines!



## Newsletter Contributions

Your contributions to **Vis-à-vis V.I.S.** are welcomed. We'd be interested in short blurbs (up to 200 words) on what's happening with interpretation in your area, tips for staff, notices of training, new ideas etc. Send copy by e-mail (to **Vis-à-vis V.I.S.** Designer, Karen Shaddock), snail-mail (VIS, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, 6983) or fax 09/334-0583.

**NEXT COPY DEADLINE IS MONDAY  
15th MARCH 1997**

Lotte Lent  
Editor **Vis-à-vis V.I.S.**

# Signs, Signs Everywhere There Are Signs

Following are 4 new panels recently installed at Lake Clifton.

## Welcome to Yalgorup National Park

Set amongst 12 000 hectares of wetlands, woodlands and coastal dunes are undisturbed places where the wildlife of the swan coastal plain exists as it has for thousands of years.

Yalgorup is an Aboriginal word - 'yalgor' meaning swamp or lake and 'up' meaning place of.

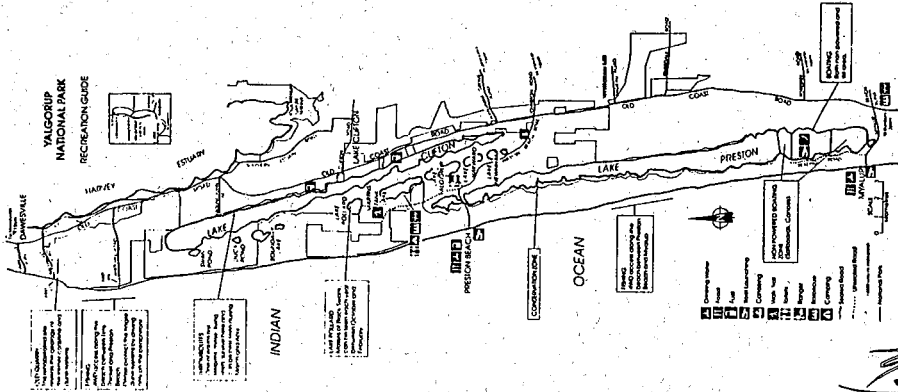
Three long, low sand and limestone ridges running parallel to the ocean dominate the landscape. Between the dunes a chain of 10 lakes and wetlands can be found.

Lake Clifton and Lake Preston are the two largest lakes.

Lake Clifton was originally formed as a lagoon around 225 000 years ago during the ice age. At this time much of the ocean was locked up as ice, causing the shorelines to recede. A new dune system was formed by wind and waves. This dune trapped water to create a lagoon.

The Park's vegetation changes from heath, such as Fremantle mallee, cockles tongue, prostrate hakea and parrot bush on the shallow soils of the limestone outcrops, to woodlands of tuart and jarrah with an understorey of peppermint or bankias.

Salt water paperbarks form a dense green fringe around the lake edges. They help to filter water running off into the lakes and provide important waterbird habitat.



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## Look Out for Wildlife

Look carefully as you wander through Yalgorup National Park. The most obvious inhabitants are the birds, with over 130 species recorded. These feathered inhabitants range from the large flightless emu, to the tiny insectivorous splendid wren and grey fantail.

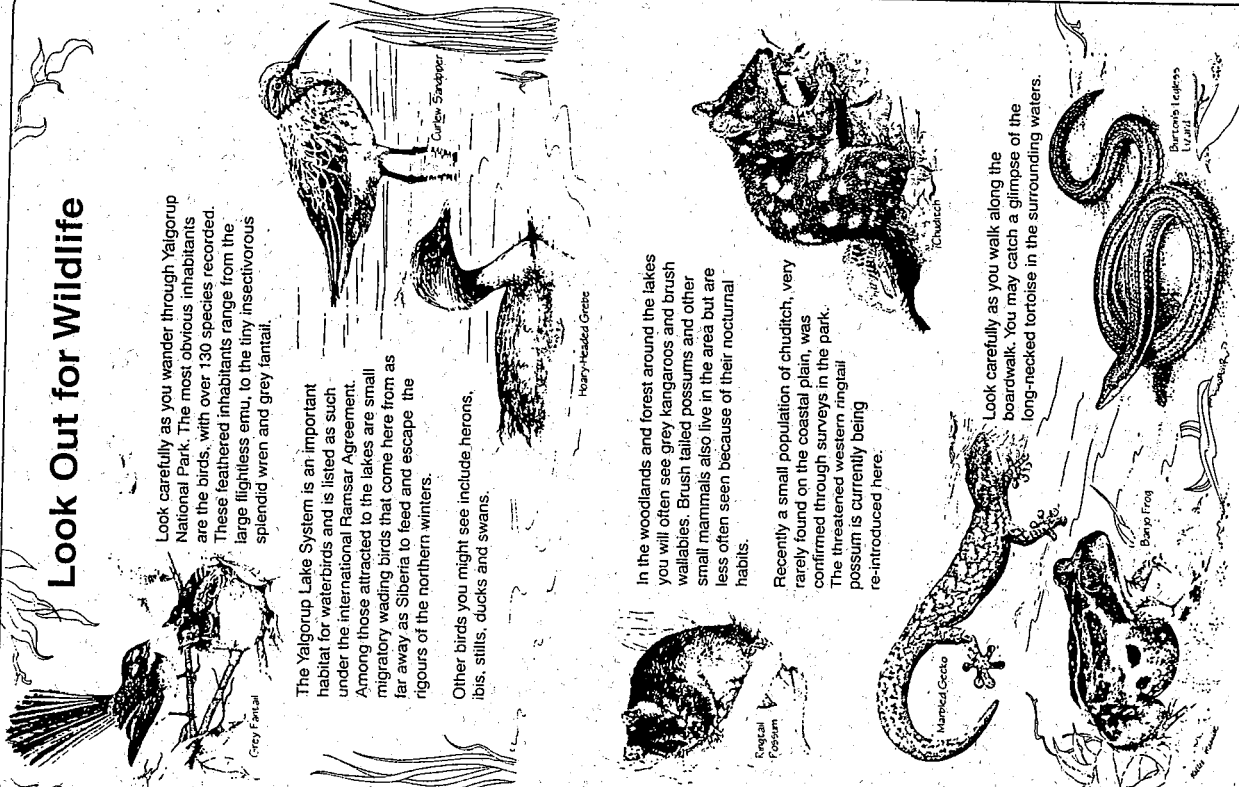
The Yalgorup Lake System is an important habitat for waterbirds and is listed as such under the international Ramsar Agreement. Among those attracted to the lakes are small migratory wading birds that come here from as far away as Siberia to feed and escape the rigours of the northern winters.

Other birds you might see include herons, ibis, stilts, ducks and swans.

In the woodlands and forest around the lakes you will often see grey tailed kangaroos and brush wallabies. Brush tailed possums and other small mammals also live in the area but are less often seen because of their nocturnal habits.

Recently a small population of chuditch, very rarely found on the coastal plain, was confirmed through surveys in the park. The threatened western ringtail possum is currently being re-introduced here.

Look carefully as you walk along the boardwalk. You may catch a glimpse of the long-necked tortoise in the surrounding waters.



## Living Rocks

Lake Clifton is one of the few places in the world where 'living rocks' (microbials) grow. It is the largest 'lake-bound' microbial reef in the southern hemisphere.

Thrombolites are the most common form of microbialite in Lake Clifton. They are formed by a variety of microorganisms. As the microorganisms photosynthesise, calcium carbonate is drawn out of the lime-enriched lake water to form rocklike material.

Stromatolites form in a different way. Mats of gelatinous slime trap sediment particles, similar to the way in which the sticky surface of fly paper catches flies.

Microbials 'grow' at about 1 mm a year.

Thrombolites are characterised by an internally clefted texture whereas stromatolites have a laminated or layered internal structure.

photo

photo

Comparative cross-section showing internal structures of thrombolites and stromatolites.

photo

photo

photo

Flat thrombolite found along shoreline

Dome thrombolite

Conical thrombolite found in deeper water

Photos courtesy of Linda Moore

The Lake Clifton thrombolites represent modern-day examples of thrombolites that were common some 600 million years ago. Fossil counterparts are found today in the Amadeus Basin in the Northern Territory where ancient shorelines once existed.

Microbes involved in thrombolite and stromatolite formation may have been responsible for oxygen production which enabled life to colonise the planet.

photo

## Things You Need to Know

### Things to do



**WALK TRAILS:** Short sign posted trails will lead you from the information bay on Preston Beach Road to Lake Preston and from Martins Tank to Lake Poland. The many firebreaks are also suitable for exploring the Park on foot. Ask the ranger for advice.



**FISHING:** The beach is accessible at Tims Thicket, Whitehill, Preston and Myalup. Writter brings salmon, herring and trevally close to the beach, while tailor, feathertail and shippy are common at other times. Observe bag and size limits.



**CAMPING:** Tent camping is available at Martin's Tank. More formal facilities are available at Preston Beach Caravan Park and Lake Clifton.



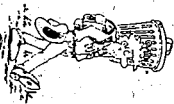
**FOOD:** Light meals and take aways are available at Lake Clifton and Preston Beach.

National Parks like Yalgoup are special places for all to enjoy. Please:

**Be Careful:** Your enjoyment and safety is our concern but your responsibility.



**Be Clean:** Please take your litter with you when you leave.



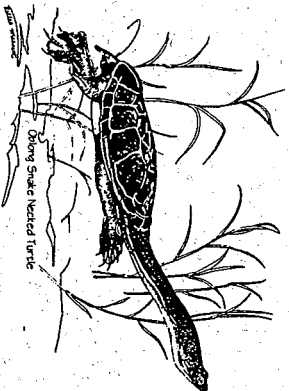
**Protect Animals and Plants:** No firearms or pets, please. Stay on formed roads to protect the vegetation. Normal road rules apply.



**Stay Cool:** Light fires with the firewood supplied only in the barbecues provided. Let us know if you see a wildfire - contact the ranger on (097) 391067, or CALM Dwellingup, on (09) 538 1078.



**Fragile Thrombolites:** Please stay on the boardwalk or paths to protect the fragile thrombolite structures.



Olong Shrike Nodded Turtle

**Further Information:** National Park Rangers are always glad to make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Don't hesitate to contact them if you want information or assistance on (097) 391067 - Ranger or (09) 538 1078 - CALM Dwellingup.



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