



Vis-à-vis V.I.S.

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

FOREST GOVERNMENT LIBRARY

Vol 2 - Issue 1 '98

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Interpretive Planning Themes

Last edition looked at interpretive themes and concluded its a little different in broadscale interpretive planning. CALM recently completed a contract to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in South Australia for Flinders Chase National Park on Kangaroo Island. I was able to develop interpretive themes for the Park with local staff and other stakeholders. The primary theme "Everchanging Flinders Chase National Park ... experience the changing places, faces and wildlife" identifies the concept of change and focuses interest on the people, places and wildlife. It is the organiser for a hierarchy of single sentence themes. Here is an extract from the Plan.

The Interpretive Prescription: The Themes and Stories

A primary theme and four thematic stories have been identified for the Park along with the key sites from which to experience and interpret the details.

Primary Theme:

Everchanging Flinders Chase National Park ... experience the changing places, faces and wildlife.

Sub themes:

1. Wind, water and waves continue to shape the places within Flinders Chase National Park.
2. Flinders Chase is a place for discovering the changing faces of people over time.
3. The wildlife of Flinders Chase has changed with the climate and the seasons.
4. Discover the diversity within Flinders Chase National Park.
5. Caring for Flinders Chase National Park means taking responsibility for our actions.

Sub Theme 1

Wind, water and waves continue to shape the places within Flinders Chase National Park.

Kangaroo Island was once a part of the Australian mainland. Ten thousand years ago the earth's climate was warming. The melting of ice raised the sea level and separated Kangaroo Island from the mainland. Flinders Chase National Park is an excellent place to observe the results of the creative

forces of the Southern Ocean and the passage of time in the weathering of the land and seascape. Here are to be discovered the bones of the megafauna and the tools of the Aborigines who occupied this area until the rising of the sea.

Plants and animals have come and gone, many have adapted to this changing world. Looking at the landscape, the rocks, the plants and the animals can be a fascinating experience that provides an insight into the ways of nature and our place in the natural environment.

Some subsidiary themes:

- The Murray River once carved out the east coast of Kangaroo Island.
- Rising sea level with global warming separated Kangaroo Island from the mainland over 10,000 years ago.
- Wind and waves of the Southern Ocean continue to shape the coastline of Flinders Chase and Kangaroo Island.
- The ancient Rocky River floodplain is evident today. Early settlers cleared the Rocky River area for pasture and crops.
- Today Cape Barren geese graze the grassland of the Rocky River floodplain.

Sub Theme 2

Flinders Chase is a place for discovering the changing faces of people over time.

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of people in Flinders Chase National Park from 10,000 years ago. It is most likely people have been here for much longer, but the changing land and seascape and weathering have obliterated or hide the evidence. Aboriginal groups on the mainland are descendents of the traditional inhabitants of what is now Kangaroo Island. They continue the oral tradition of passing on the Dreaming stories of this area.

When marine explorers, whalers and sealers visited Kangaroo Island it was not occupied by Aborigines. Presumably they left with the rising sea levels that ultimately separated the island from the mainland.

The early settlers farmed the land as evidenced at Rocky River.

In the late 1800's there was grave concern among a few for the survival of many native animals. They

were threatened by habitat clearing for pasture, predation from introduced animals (foxes, cats, wild dogs), competition from rabbits and grazing stock and hunting by people. Kangaroo Island was chosen as a sanctuary for threatened native animals. This was the origins of the National Park declaration and the construction of the base for Park management. Wildlife conservation and tourism have continued as cornerstones of the Park identity. Now the Park and Kangaroo Island is considering its ecological sustainability, economic viability and socially equitable opportunities for tourism developments.

Some subsidiary themes:

- Aboriginal ancestors in the Dreaming shaped the landscape of Flinders Chase.
- Their human descendents lived within Flinders Chase area at the time of its connection with the mainland.
- Tribal descendents on the mainland today continue the cultural connection with Flinders Chase and Kangaroo Island.
- Flinders Chase is significant to the archaeological understanding of Australian Aborigines.
- English and French maritime exploration of Kangaroo Island is remembered in the names within Flinders Chase National Park.
- Rocky River's early pastoral property origins are evident here today.
- Flinders Chase has been managed by National Park Rangers since 1919.
- Flinders Chase's rich heritage attracts visitors from around the world.
- Park management evolves to meet the needs of conservation, recreation and tourism at Flinders Chase.

The primary theme is the concept that brings together the single sentence subsidiary themes that are the focus of the interpretive media.

Closer to home at Nambung National Park on the Turquoise Coast some preliminary themes have been identified for the proposed "Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre".

Each theme is identified as a concept that is then presented as a single statement and followed by a list of potential interpretive techniques to convey the theme/message.

Pinnacle Desert Discovery Centre Interpretive Themes:

1. Coastal sandscape processes

Wind, water and time have sculptured the sandscape of the Turquoise Coast and crafted the phenomena of the Pinnacles Desert.

Techniques:

- large format video projection of an animation of the formation of the Turquoise Coast and the Pinnacles. Then a fast-frame 24 hour cycle of sky, cloud, sun and moon movement behind a Pinnacles scene. Aim is to show the changing face and context of the Pinnacles to visitors who only see one mood - one moment in time and place.
- earth wall at entrance with inlay of earth art and real Pinnacles to show formation cycle. Once Pinnacles exposed in final section of wall have them spill out of the wall and into the surrounding landscaping. This revelation of the creation of the Pinnacles may evoke the sense of this being the origin of all landscape designers token rocks or even the garden gnomes! We could merchandise mini-Pinnacles simulating the garden gnome identity. See earth wall at Perth Zoo.
- large, window size, back-lit oil and sand display panel - like those sold at markets where the sand flows when inverted. A Pinnacles Desert scene would have the sand flow away to reveal the Pinnacles that would be painted or moulded within the sand/oil/acrylic sandwich. The flow should take most of the day so experiencing the sense of time in creating the Pinnacles. Each evening it would be inverted to have in readiness for active display by inverting again in the morning.
- wind sock in colour of a Pinnacle to link wind as agent crafting the Pinnacles.
- Turquoise Coast aerial photo or Landsat image as a perspective that reveals sand blowouts, the Desert and the coastal sand and dune movement.

The other proposed themes are:

2. Pinnacles people: past, present and future

The Pinnacles Desert has special qualities that continue to attract and intrigue people from before the European maritime explorers and into the future.

3. Personal perspectives of the Pinnacles

The Pinnacles continue to inspire creative responses from visitors that demonstrate the diversity of perspectives people have of natural phenomena.

4. Turquoise Coast Creature Features

The Turquoise Coast provides protected environments for some intriguing plants and animals.

5. Regional Recreation Perspective

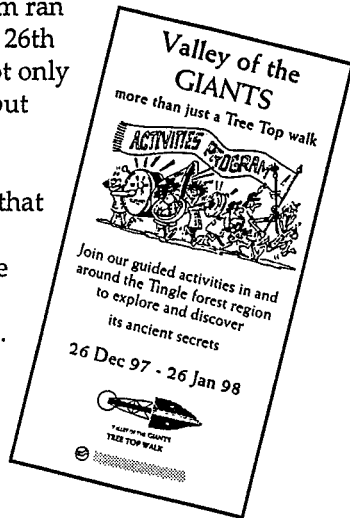
The Turquoise Coast provides for a diverse range of nature appreciative recreational opportunities.

Let us know what you are doing with interpretive themes for areas, sites and media on your patch.

Gil Field

Valley of the GIANTS Summer Activities Program

A successful Designing Interpretive Activities Workshop was held in early December for Valley of the GIANTS staff resulting in a Summer Activities Program. The Program ran from 26th December - 26th January promoting not only their own programs, but those of local tourist operators listed in the brochure. It is hoped that the program will help reduce visitor pressure on the Tree Top Walk away from peak times. We look forward to Rod Hillman's report after the program's completion.



A new component for this course was including Liz Moore (The Hills Forest Schools Program Coordinator) with the usual presenters (Gil and Karen). Liz expanded on our demonstrations of children's interpretive activities with enthusiastic response from participants.

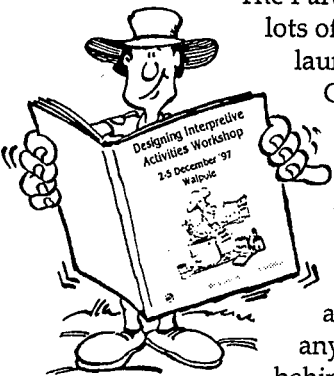
Designing Interpretive Activities Workshop Participant's Workbook

Gone is the old comb-bound booklet and in its place is a u-beaut workbook in a three ring binder, with each section clearly marked by dividers ... it is now a workbook with substance to put on your bookshelf. One of the innovative new features is that the outcomes booklet produced after each workshop is now incorporated into a section at the back of the workbook. The outcomes will be printed, punched and sent to all participants, requiring them only to place it in the file. Great for future reference.

The Participants Workbook received lots of positive comment after its launch at the Valley of the GIANTS Workshop in December.

The accompanying Leaders Manual for sale for \$1000 so other endorsed leaders can conduct the nationally accredited workshop

anywhere in Australia, is not far behind!!



Interpretation ... everyone wants to have a go !!

On a recent visit to Karri Valley Resort, Gil came upon this wonderful example of a person's passion, and their interpretation of ours.

The original sign reads:

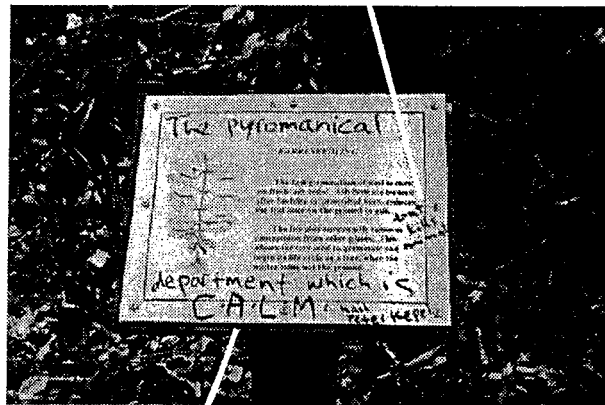
Karri Seedling

The best germination of seed occurs on fresh 'ash beds'. Ash beds are formed after bushfire or prescribed burns, reduces the leaf litter on the ground to ash.

The fire also temporarily removes competition from other plants. This allows the tiny seed to germinate and begin its life cycle as a tree, when the winter rains wet the ground.

The adjusted sign reads:

after the first para ... but kills animals



The pyromanical department which is CALM. hail (sic) Peter Keppel. (*I've always found Peter to be charming! Ed*)

Tingle

(Poem from the 'Angles Activity')

The sombre sentinel
stands tall and strong
An ancient, majestic grandfather
Gnarled and very old
Protective of its mysterious,
ghostly and eerie secrets,
it stands with its tentative
limbs somehow inviting.
Contrasting and intriguing
it is consumed
by its rough red burnt bark

Authors: VOG Designing Interpretive Activities
Workshop Participants

Regional Roundup ...

What's happening around our State



Wheatbelt

Summer is a quiet time in the Wheatbelt Region. Visitors to Dryandra drop right away, and it's a good time to take stock and plan for the oncoming year. Unfortunately our key interpretation person of the past two years, Anthony Desmond, won't be around - he's off to Geraldton to take up a new position. However, all is not lost. We've been allocated funding to employ a person until the end of the financial year to run our education and interpretive activities programs, as well as help out with the Return to Dryandra project. Clare Anthony is one of the latest crop of CALM trainees, and will have started by the time this goes to print. Hopefully she'll also be able to take on some of those jobs that have been on the backburner for the last couple of years. More on that in the next edition.

Plans for the Return to Dryandra animal viewing enclosure are continuing. Tracy Churchill has completed a set of concept plans that will enable us to get some realistic costings prepared, and Steve Csaba is working on a building design. An initial meeting with Tracy, Gil Field, Tim Bowra and myself regarding the interp side of things was one of the most stimulating I've sat in on. Watch this space!

Pilbara

Mike Bodsworth is looking at the Burrup Peninsula and we're looking to he and Jude to let indigenous art's best kept secret out of the bag with some perceptive rockscaping to bend the perspective of visitors to the petroglyphs.

Goldfields

Phil's 'dogs day out'

This would have to take the bone in silly requests of the Sign Design Studio over the years.

Mid West

World Heritage funding has seen to the appointment of Melinda Bolt as Community Education Officer who starts work in February. Melinda has worked in public relations for special events and major fund-raising activities. Melinda's appointment to the Geraldton office should be a great help to the staff here.

Interpretive trail and lookout signs are now up at Grigson Lookout on the new highway between Jurien and Greenhead. Funding for facility development and interpretive design was from Main Roads WA to CALM design specifications.

François Peron National Park

Kellee has returned from a couple of weeks at Shark Bay painting a 'Changing Perspectives on Peron Peninsula' mural over 4 walls within the Peron Visitor Centre. The paint dried faster than her frustration with working in the wilds. Shark Bay staff are now doing finishing touches such as fishing net trimmings, pearl shell bags and other flotsam and jetsam.

Shark Bay

John Cleary and Paul Koch are doing the 'vrn' assessment for Shark Bay. Visual resource data is a great stimulus to interpretive perception so looking forward to reading his report.

Kimberley

West Kimberley

"Grosse's World" is coming on at Broome with snake pits, bilby burrows and Kimberley gardens. Now looking to some innovative interpretive techniques to compliment the landscaped setting.

Al Grosse reckons terms like Activity Centre and Activity Program sound more like a sheltered workshop than an interpretive initiative. From now on I'll always say "Interpretive Activity Program", even if I have to say it ever so slowly!

Dog Agility Course

User guidelines

- ◆ Gain the dogs confidence on one obstacle at a time before negotiating the entire course.
- ◆ Allow the dog to gauge its own pace and distance by giving the dog sufficient slack on the lead. A two metre lead is recommended for training, the dog can go off the lead after the training phase.
- ◆ If the dog balks do not force the dog but encourage and prompt it to build confidence.
- ◆ Once the dog is confident on each obstacle increase the pace and vary the course sequence to stimulate the dogs interest.
- ◆ At all times consider the dogs safety and reward the dogs effort.
- ◆ Recommended minimum age of the dogs is eighteen months to allow for bone development.

artwork of dog course layout to go here

- ◆ This is a dog obstacle course, not a children's playground.
- ◆ Please pick up dog droppings and put in bins provided.
- ◆ Clubs conduct obedience training on Sundays. See the community diary for current contacts.

Enjoy the course.

A community project erected by volunteer members of the

Eastern Goldfields Kennel Club
and the

Kalgoorlie and Districts German Shepherd Dog Obedience Club

supported by the Kalgoorlie Arboretum Community Action Project.



Central Forest

Wellington Discovery Forest

The Total Forest Trail interpretive signs in the demonstration forest are now in place. This trail compliments the Jarrah Ecology Trail. An Interpretation Plan has been drafted and soon the new shelter (with prospective jarrah wildlife posters from 2 of the display panels) will be opened. Wellington Discovery Forest will have arrived to compliment and challenge the interpretive initiatives at THF, FHC, VOG etc. And Don Spriggins' dream will be a reality.

Kellee is working on the eight panels for the rammed earth shelter within Wellington Discovery Forest. These panels will be produced on adhesive backed vinyl and then laminated onto pvc, in a process similar to that used for the Dryandra Ochre Trail.

South Coast

Corinn is well into Two People's Bay Visitor Centre design and now editing the text.

Swan

The Hills Forest

Information panels on a specially designed six-sided rotunda at The Hills Forest Activity Centre are now completed. With a welcome statement, and sections covering what's on, forest and catchment, forest uses, sponsor's acknowledgement and activity programs the display makes for an eye-catching introduction to all that The Hills Forest has to offer. Kellee's contribution of fantastic artwork blends perfectly with Liz Moore's skilfully written editorial.

The Hills Forest Camp Ground opened with a flurry in October and was the catalyst for new interpretive signage and acknowledgement of sponsor's contributions around all the buildings. Each of the individual camp sites have been named after Australian native animals and birds, reflecting the ongoing emphasis on little known and/or threatened species and their conservation.

Charlie Chuditch's rascally head popped up frequently before Christmas, not only at the Camp Ground opening but also at the Fremantle Festival and various other functions.

Perth District

Themes incorporating management objectives are being considered for Gnarara Park signage. The challenge is to develop images that are not only unique and functional but robust in physical form as well.

Jarrahdale

A new information shelter at Langford Park will feature panels that promote the use and enjoyment of newly constructed trails by mountain bikers, and bridle trail users.

Updates on bits & pieces:

New Publications (Issue 2):

Best Recipes for Interpreting Our Heritage:

Activities for Ecotour Guides and Others

This third saleable publication from the VIS Section (the others are RAP and VIM) is now with Louise Burch for desktop publishing before going to Corporate Rellies and the printers. Hopefully we will see it published in March 98.

The Leaders Manual for "Designing Interpretive Activities Workshop" Still on the drawing board, should be fitted into Karen's workload in the next few weeks. The Participants Workbook is already up and running (see article on page 2)

The VIS Home Page (Issue 2)

You can find us at <http://calmweb@calm.wa.gov.au/drb/rptd/vis/index.html>.

Ranger journal articles

Have a look at the Spring/Summer 1997 edition of 'Ranger: A journal for conservation managers' for articles by Gil and Karen. Gil's "Origins of the Interpretive Urge: A personal perspective" is the paper he recently delivered to the Interpretation Australia Association Conference in Gatton, Queensland. Talk about growing up in public! And they got to see it with pictures and music!



A new arrival for V.I.S.



Congratulations to Lotte and Brian on their latest experience for interpretation - a baby daughter, Jessica Tanami. Jessica arrived on the 19th November. Lotte is now back to her fighting weight and health!

Visit our homepage for a clearer, larger picture.

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 to **Vis-à-vis V.I.S.**

Editor/Designer, Karen Shaddock

[e-mail: karens@calm.wa.gov.au, snail-mail: VIS, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, 6983 or fax (08) 9334-0583].



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Peron Perspectives ... the mural

Throw a graphic artist into a pot with a building, heat, flies, stunning scenery, paint, milk crates, brushes, a flat tyre and lots of Pepper and what do you end up with? Well in this case a stunning four wall mural in the soon to be completed Peron Visitor Centre in François Peron National Park. The mural follows a time-line of the area from the original Aboriginal people through to Project Eden.

Soon to be added are 400 x 300 reverse screened acrylic signs, interpreting the history along the time-line.

This room will compliment the adjoining Project Eden room and shearer's kitchen.

Oh and what do we mean by lots of Pepper? Ranger Arthur Pepper, once a stockman on Peron station, kept Kellee's enthusiasm up with his inspirational yarns of the old days of Peron. 'Pep' has been immortalised in the mural on his horse Barracuda.

