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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

NEWS

Newsletter of the Science & Information Division, Department of Conservation and Land Management

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Wed, 22 Feb 95

EDITORS' NOTES

One of the common issues recognised recently in the Division has been the need for better communication. For this reason, the Director has asked that a newsletter be set up to act as a forum for all staff. The newsletter will be published every 2 months and present brief items with source information to act as a pointer for people to find further details should they desire them. It will provide one means for SIMC to communicate with staff, consolidate recent administrative updates, and provide a diary of important events. The formal headings in this document are purely notional, and brief notes on any topic are sought.

Contributions for each issue should be submitted by the last Wednesday of the 2 month period of the issue. Next Deadline: Wed, 22 Feb 95. Any suggestions to improve content or style are welcome.

Note that an hypertext copy of *SID NEWS* is available as a file readable by Mosaic software on N drive. If you don't know what this means, or how to use Mosaic, contact an ISS member at your centre!!

Look for further details about hypertext documents, Mosaic, and Internet in the next issue of *SID NEWS*.

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DIVISIONAL NOTES

Jim Armstrong will be visiting all Research Centres Dec 12 - 23 and talking with all scientists.

Contact: Section Manager

WASPP

Until the end of this week (i.e. Fri 16 Dec) WASPP will be available at the Herbarium and Como Research for validation of existing SPPs and input of new SPPs.

From Mon 19 until 2 Jan WASPP will be located at Woodvale for updating.

During this time it will be available for viewing only at the Herbarium and Como Research.

After this time the 'live' system will move a week at a time as required for data editing and entry. Please notify relevant ISS members of your needs in advance to ensure adequate scheduling

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SIMC notes

A few notes from SIMC:

- HOG positions advertised.
- Biennial report nearly finalised. Check memo of 15 Dec from JAA for further details.

Administration Notes

Revised staff guidelines

Guidelines are available from the Admin Assistant for your centre.

Accommodation allowance

In case you haven't caught up, current accommodation rates are - SW hotel \$94.50, other than hotel \$45.15.

Contact: Admin Assistant.

Centre notes

Como

Congratulations to Alan Wills and Sue Holt on the birth of their twins, son Joshua David and daughter Alison Joy who arrived on the planet on Dec 3!

Herbarium

The Herbarium has reached a milestone - in Dec 94 the initial phase of databasing the collection of 350000 plant specimens into WAHERB was completed. Data verification and validation still must be carried out and of course new specimens are being added all the time. Congratulations and thanks are due to the WAHERB database team.

To show appreciation to the contribution of the Herbarium volunteers, there will be a wind-up BBQ for the volunteers at 12.30 pm on Friday 16 Dec, staff are welcome to attend - BYO tucker.

The Herbarium's Christmas Tree (with Santa!) will also be on 16 Dec, from 4.30 on...

- Bob Chinnock (Adelaide Herb) visited the Herbarium last week to check and annotate our *Eremophila* specimens. This is being funded by Species Resources Section via the "external expertise" SPP.
- John Skillen will talk on the current situation of Enterprise Bargaining at 2.30 Thurs 15 Dec.

The Herbarium will be closed for fumigation from Dec 28 to Jan 2, open for business on 3 Jan 95.

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Harvey

On Nov 30, WURC turned 10 years old. During this time, extensive research has been carried out into timber drying and processing. The CALM Solar Assisted Dryers have been developed, patented, and built in over 16 locations throughout Australia. VALWOOD products are distributed Australia wide and the

VALWOOD process continues to receive interest locally and overseas.

Congratulations to all at WURC especially 10 year stalwarts Graeme Siemon, Des Donnelly and Gary Brennan!

- Current research projects include:
- Developing drying schedules for blue-gum and karri;
- Assessing borer damage in karri;
- Monitoring stability of timber panels.

Manjimup

Manjimup SID Christmas Wind-up on 16 Dec, BBQ at Bob Smiths Farm.

- Ms Karen Wilson, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, 21 Nov 94. Subject: Species Resources (Cyperaceae taxonomy), hosts Terry Macfarlane and Roger Hearn.
- Dr Paul Blackwell from WA Dept Agriculture on 8/12/94. Subject: Soil compaction, host Lachlan McCaw.
- John Skillen to give a presentation at Manjimup on 22 Dec 94 on current situation of Enterprise Bargaining.

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Karratha

Steve van Leeuwin has been helping fight fires in Karijini and Millstream NPs over the past three weeks. He hopes to do some research soon, especially with two new biological surveys funded by ANCA (in the Little Sandy Desert) and MRD (Mt Bruce/Mt Windell Rd in Karijini) waiting to start.

Woodvale

On Nov 30, a fire burnt nearly all of the Woodvale Nature Reserve. The fire was deliberately lit in the WAWA depot and hopped over the freeway into the reserve. Officers from the centre attended the fire as well as the WAFB and Perth District fire units. A perimeter and building sprinkler system saved the buildings and many animals. We were fortunate that nobody was injured and that there was no damage to the buildings and our irreplaceable records.

- Ray Nias, WWF Australia, Sally Stephens & Stephanie Maxwell, ANCA; 5 Dec 94, Recovery Team meeting at Dryandra, Andrew Burbidge.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Best Wishes

Angas Hopkins is convalescing after recent surgery. He's reported to be doing well and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

BioConservation Group

The Group will hold 3 workshops over one and a half days in March, probably at Busselton. The themes will be Long-term Monitoring and Research, Protocols for

Data Transfer, and a session on BioConservation Group agenda items.

Contact: Ray Wills

Miscellany

Gilbert's potoroo, last collected in 1869, has been rediscovered in the Two Peoples' Bay area. UWA Zoology students Elizabeth Sinclair and Adrian Wayne have recently trapped a small number of males and females, including juveniles.

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PUBLICATIONS

Next issues:

CALM Science Supplement #1 is scheduled to be published 16 Dec 94.

CALM Science 1(3) is scheduled to be published end of Jan 95.

Nuytsia 10(1) is scheduled to be published end of Jan 95.

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS

15 Dec (Thurs), 3 pm. Woodvale. Tony Friend 'Perth's urban Bandicoots and conservation of the species.'

As far as we are aware, there are no seminars anywhere in Jan/Feb! Please let us know of any seminars coming up for in March and April for the next issue.

CLOSING DATES FOR GRANT

State Government Community Conservation Grants
End January 1995 - See Centre Notice Board.

National Landcare Program

Commonwealth/State Component - 24 February, 1995

Contact: Co-ordinator (09) 368 3475

Community Grants 1995-96 - 10 March 1995.

Contact: Countrylink 008 026 222

1996 Churchill Fellowships

End February, 1995

For information, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Application Forms - The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust 28 Northbourne Avenue ACT 2601.

ABRS

March 95

Contact: brucem@herb.sid

National Estates Grants

March 95

Contact: Colin Ingram

WINE CLUB

Wine Club meetings are held on the last Friday of the month. The next meeting is Fri, 24 Feb 95 at Woodvale - hosts are yet to be appointed.

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THE DIRECTOR WISHES EVERYONE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
