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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE



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

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Next deadline

Wed, 26 Apr 95

EDITORS' NOTES

The Second edition of *SID NEWS* almost wasn't with a lack of contributions demanding a last minute extension of deadline. The only commentary we have heard on the first issue of the newsletter was supportive, but the newsletter will only be produced with input from all of you out there. 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. Remember, 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, 26 Apr 95. Any suggestions to improve content or style are welcome.

Note that hypertext copies of *SID NEWS* are available as files readable by Mosaic or NetScape software on N drive. If you don't know what this means, see the article below by Alex Chapman!!

rayw & patrickp@herb.sid

DIVISIONAL NOTES

Administration notes

UPDATED GUIDELINES

SID Staff Guideline 5 (Criteria Progression) and 10 (Interstate & Overseas Travel) have been revised.

Please note Guideline 10 has an additional Appendix (2) which must be approved by Section Manager, HOG and Director.

christinef@wood.sid
Contact: Admin Assistant

Section notes

Species Resources

Bruce Maslin has relinquished the SR Section Manager duties until July 1995 in order to help finish the *Flora of Australia* treatment of *Acacia*; Judy Wheeler is acting SRS Manager

Information Science

INTERNET AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

In January, while on leave in Canberra, Alex Chapman visited the Environmental Resources Information

Network to discuss herbarium data validation procedures, the presentation of conservation information on the Internet, and the conceptual and infrastructural design of institutional World Wide Web applications.

Although CALM's connection to the Internet remains problematic, the Information Science Section is developing prototype Web pages for the Division and CALM. The World Wide Web is a corner of the Internet which enables the viewing of text, sound and images in the metaphor of hypertext documents, with links leading to other documents on the same computer or one on the other side of the world, at very functional speeds. To view the CALM pages you must upgrade to 32-bit enabled Windows and install Mosaic or Netscape, which are World Wide Web browsers. All these tools are available on the N:MOSAIC and members of ISS will be installing this software on SID computers over the coming weeks. For more information contact your local ISS member or alexc@herb.sid@calm.

And of course, if you have Mosaic running already then you can view the *SID NEWS* on your desktop. Just look under Whats New! on the CALM Home Page.

alexc@herb.sid

WASPP

Development and installation of the final WASPP version is drawing to a close.

To date, WASPP has been circulated to all Centres and SID scientists have been given the opportunity to update their SPPs.

ISS is in the process of implementing this final version at all the Centres. For more details, consult your local ISS representative.

The new version now includes an Administration module. This module automatically traps changes performed at any centre and has the facility to post these changes to the corporate host centre. It also handles communications between the various centres thereby allowing the system to run concurrently at any number of centres.

The administration module is still in beta testing stage so please report any problem/s to your ISS representative.

mikec@wood.sid

DATABASE NOTES

(1) Mammal Refuge Database System

It is developed in Paradox for Windows with Forms and is now in the beta-test stage.

This system records sufficient details of the individually identified mammals of interest and tracks their usage of a set of physical refuges in the studies.

It aims at taking advantages of the querying facilities of the software. It is to be used by more than one research group over a few projects.

(2) Monitoring River Health Initiative Database System

Developed in Paradox for Windows with Forms, it is now in the beta-test stage.

This system stores the details of 200 river monitoring sites, their water chemistry and invertebrates data down to the family level; to the species level later on.

It is to be used by CALM and three other research institutes, who are collaborating in this project.

(3) Waterbird database System

This contains the RAOU 1981-88 data of the "Waterbird Usage of Wetlands Survey"

It has been converted from the VAX Oracle system 1991 into Paradox for Windows and Version 3.5 tables to enable its use on PC's.

mikey@wood.sid

Centre notes

COMO

Francis Tay is acting Centre Manager, taking over from Geoff Stoneman. Geoff has been seconded to Crawley as Projects Officer in the Directorate of Project Management, replacing Paul Jones who has gone on to other duties.

Carla Wilkinson has left the Vegetation Health Service to work in Dr Giles Hardy's plant pathology laboratory at the School of Biological Sciences, Murdoch University.

HERBARIUM

In mid-Feb. Brendan Lepschi commenced a contract in Species Resources Section at the Western Australian Herbarium. Brendan hails from Canberra where he was a research assistant to Lyn Craven working on the genus *Melaleuca*. Apart from *Melaleuca* Brendan has a particular taxonomic interest in the family Solanaceae. His contract with SRS is to work on the taxonomy of DRF Priority List taxa. He is currently looking at the genus *Macarthuria* and has segregated 3 or 4 new W.A. species; these will be described in a forthcoming issue of *Nuytsia*.

The next phase of the WAHERB specimen database has now been implemented, with funds provided from bio-prospecting funds. The primary aims of the project are firstly, to ensure that all records in WAHERB have a reasonably accurate latitude and longitude, and secondly, that the names fields in WAHERB are standardized (this will facilitate label generation,

querying and interfacing with other institutional databases).

Bruce Maslin is working to finish the *Flora of Australia* treatment of *Acacia*. The major outstanding task is the construction of the key to the more than 900 species comprising this enormous genus (the largest in Australia). Bruce and his colleagues (Margaret Lewington and Maurice McDonald) are currently working on the key to the section *Juliflorae* (species with flowers arranged in cylindrical spikes), which is scheduled for completion by the end of March. The key to all species will hopefully be completed by July 1995. Apart from the usual taxonomic, descriptive and geographic information each species will be illustrated by Margaret Pieroni to show a flowering branch, pod and seed. Over 100 new Western Australian taxa of *Acacia* are currently being prepared for publication as part of this Flora project. These will be published in forthcoming issues of *Nuytsia*.

MANJIMUP

LAN

Richard Siemon, who acted as LAN administrator during 1994, left Manjimup in mid-January to travel and work overseas. Many thanks to Richard for his technical input and good company over the last year.

The LAN administrator position is to be advertised as a contract appointment, and the necessary selection criteria and statement of duties are currently being prepared. In the interim, Dave Burbidge, late of Woodvale S.I.D. has been appointed to manage the network until mid-April.

Not everyone may be aware that the LAN at Manjimup connects 3 different groups of users: Science and Information Division; Southern Forest Region; and Forest Management Branch. A local Information Technology Users Group has been established to co-ordinate the activities of these different user groups.

Buildings

Progress is being made on renovations for a forest pathology laboratory - several redundant items have been removed from the lab, and new cupboards and plumbing fittings and an ex-hospital autoclave have been installed.

Renovation of outbuildings at the Centre is being undertaken using funds obtained from CALM's Corporate Executive as a special appropriation to improve safety and security. Renovations are on-schedule and on-budget, largely due to the careful supervision of John Neal.

Items For Disposal

There are a number of items no longer needed at Manjimup that are available for disposal. Can we interest you in a sound-proof hood for a printer or a plan cabinet? Many other valuable items are on offer to whomever will take them. Call Joanne Elliot or Lachie McCaw today.

New Numbers

As of 1 Mar 95 Manjimup will have a new switchboard installed and all phones will be on an indial system. The new phone number will be (097) 717988 which will reach the main switchboard at the Manjimup District Office. The number for the Manjimup Research Centre reception will be (097) 717985.

lachie@manj.sid

WOODVALE

Co-incidentally with Jim Lane's relocation to Busselton for three years in March his field vehicle the trusty F350 is to be replaced. The butt of many jokes regarding its reliability and appearance more along the lines of an icecream vendor's van it has been with Woodvale for some time. The van body has been stuck on the back of a new cab chassis every 4 or 5 years since 1978. Has had a variety of uses throughout the state including wader catching at Broome, duck catching everywhere, ibis and egret catching in the southwest, wetland monitoring and banded stilt tracking. It has been bogged on a very high proportion of those trips usually laden with volumes of trapping gear.

A wake will be held for it on Friday 3 March at Woodvale.

WATSCU are seeking a consultant to write a program to assist compilation of a database for a project identifying and listing threatened ecological communities in the South West of Western Australia. The consultancy will commence 1 Mar 95; for further information contact John Blyth on 405 5161 or Val English on 405 5168.

Allan Burbidge and Julie Raines are proud to announce the arrival of their baby boy (7lb 12oz) born on Saturday 25/2/95 at King Edward Hospital. Mother and baby are doing well.

kylied, grantp@wood.sid

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMRAD

AMRAD, the pharmaceutical company working to develop a potential AIDS treatment from a native smokebush plant, has withdrawn from the project because it has been unable to obtain a satisfactory development licence from the US National Cancer Institute. However the CALM consortium of scientists working on the conocurvone project will continue to liaise with NCI to research the compounds mode of action.

AMRAD has paid CALM \$1.65 million for research, as well as the lodging of seven provisional patents in CALM's name to protect the consortium's intellectual property. A total of \$300,000 has been spent on a range of conservation projects including surveys of rare flora in the south-west, improving Herbarium databases and wildlife studies in areas of jarrah forest and arid and semi-arid regions.

BioConservation Group

The Group will hold 3 workshops over one and a half days on Tue 16 and 17 May, at Wellington Mills. The themes will be Long-term Monitoring and Research, Protocols for Data Transfer, and a session on BioConservation Group agenda items. Keith Morris & his crew will be hosting the meetings. RSVP's by Monday 13 March.

Contact: raeleneh@wood.sid

UWA POSTCODE

The postcode for The University of Western Australia has changed. The University now has its own postcode - the number is 6907 - quoting the correct postcode on your mail will speed your delivery and keep the folks at Australia Post happy.

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS

Kings Park Research Seminars

9 Mar 95 (Thurs), 12:10 pm Mr Bradley Hutton (KPBG) *Diversity of ericoid endophytes of WA native heaths.*

UWA Botany Seminars

13 Mar 95 (Mon), 4 pm Honours presentations.

20 Mar 95 (Mon), 4 pm Prof. U. Zimmerman (Uni Wurzburg, Germany) *Xylem water transport...*

Dryland Research Institute, Merredin

11 Apr 95 - All day workshop

Remnant vegetation and its value to rural communities.

Submission of posters by 20 Mar 95

Contact: patrickp@herb.sid or Darryl Abbott (DRI)

CALM SID Seminars have not been finalized for 1995 - details in the next issue...

Please let us know of any seminars in May and June for the next issue of SID NEWS

CLOSING DATES FOR GRANTS

National Landcare Program

Community Grants 1995-96 - 10 Mar 95.

Contact: Countrylink 008 026 222

National Estates Grants

1995-96 Call for proposals - 30 Mar 95

Contact: patrickp@herb.sid or Colin Ingram

Australian Flora Foundation

Research Grants -1995-96 - 31 Mar 95

Contact: rayw@herb.sid

ABRS

Participatory Program 1996 - 10 Apr 95

Contact: brucem@herb.sid

ANCA

1996 Feral Pests and most other biodiversity conservation programs - 28 Apr 95.

Contact: tonys@wood.sid

WINE CLUB

This year SID Wine Club will be held on the last Friday of each month. Non-members are welcome (at \$5 per head), but please notify me no later than the Thursday before the Wine Club is on. Hosts, dates and venues for the next two Wine Clubs are:

- Andrew Burbidge, Tony Friend, Dave Pearson on 31 Mar at the Herbarium
- Jill Pryde, Grant Pearson, Peter Orell on 28 Apr at Woodvale

Put the dates in your diaries now! Happy argling for 1995

DaveC@herb.sid

WET BLANKETS THROUGH HISTORY

To help develop an open-minded and defiant attitude to others' rejection of your ideas, remember that many creative contributions are initially met with skepticism, if not outright hostility. Keep a list of creative contributions that we now know to be significant but that were once thought to be crazy, stupid, useless, offensive and doomed to failure. The next time you or someone you know has a new idea, creation or innovation, remember this list. Remind yourself that it is far better to give an idea a chance - or at least to not immediately shoot it down - than to be one of those who always say "Won't work" or "Bad idea" or "Too risky" and, hence, never do anything great.

Here are some examples:

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."

Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, 1895. The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a "C," the idea must be feasible." Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."

Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"This may work in America but has no practical application here. In Britain we have plenty of messenger boys"

Leading English Businessman commenting on news of the proposed telephone system.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."

Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."

Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.



From Nicholson in *The Australian* 28 November 1994.