

LFW NEWS

WALLABY RELEASE AVON VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Jim Maher

IT is now six months since the release of the black flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) and the tammar wallabies (*Macropus eugenii derbianus*) into the Avon Valley National Park and all is looking very good for both species. The most important aspect of the translocations is that there has been only one reported fatality, a tammar which was hit by a car on Plunkett Rd approximately one and a half kilometres from the release site, however the pouched young was saved and is being cared for by a local wildlife carer in the Chittering area.

The black flanked rock wallabies have been very hard to view due to their secretive nature, and this has been very frustrating for the support groups that have been attempting to monitor them. Craig Pentland, a student at Edith Cowan University, has been observing them as his project under the direction of Adrienne Kinnear, and he has been able to view them at various times of the day. As the ranger in charge of the park I have also been very fortunate to view them at both locations but it is very hard to pick up which ear the yellow tags are in because they move so quickly, and I have not been able to view their activities for long periods.

In all areas that the translocations took place, the animals have moved away from the original release sites, but it appears they revisit these sites as I have located scats there. Two students from Murdoch

University, Lisa Ang and Gabriella Martinez, have also contributed to the project by working on the vegetation grazing aspect at the black flanked rock wallaby sites and also a control site south west of the original release site on the southern side of the park, and they are preparing a report of their findings. By the time this article goes to press I will have also completed some spotlight transects of the tammar wallaby release sites and I will be able to report on these in a future issue.

Finally, to all those who took part in the translocations don't lose heart because you have not been able to view these wonderful creatures as yet, as I will keep you all informed of the animals' locations and possible viewing sites.

Jim Maher is Ranger in Charge, Avon Valley National Park.

A VISIT TO HQ

THE Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr. Judy Edwards, recently visited the Operations Headquarters of the Department of Conservation and Land Management at Kensington. Apart from chatting at morning tea, she also toured some offices, and *Land for Wildlife* was one of those. Claire Hall explained what happens from receipt of an application form to the production of a property report - three days' work in one minute flat! Dr Edwards said that if she had a suitable property, she would definitely register!

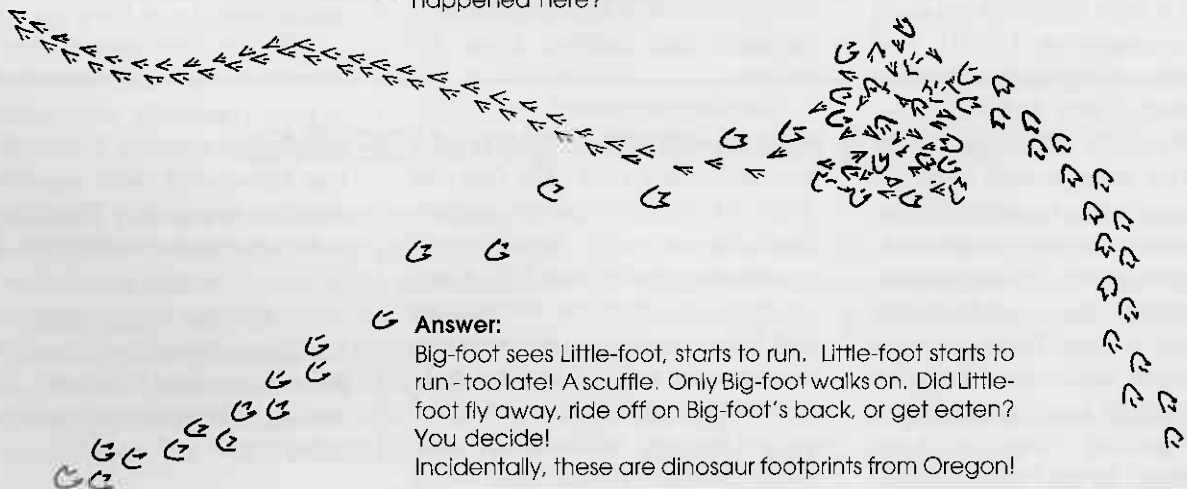
Penny Hussey

BUSH DETECTIVE



Question:

Looking for tracks in sandy ground can tell you a lot about the animals in an area. What do you think happened here?



Answer:

Big-foot sees Little-foot, starts to run. Little-foot starts to run - too late! A scuffle. Only Big-foot walks on. Did Little-foot fly away, ride off on Big-foot's back, or get eaten? You decide!
Incidentally, these are dinosaur footprints from Oregon!