



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2006

## More plants in Kew collection

**SEEDS** from 30 threatened native plants from WA's south west are the latest to reach the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens in England.

The seeds of a total of 1077 threatened, endemic or common keystone WA plant species are now held at the seed bank, which initiated a 10-year \$3.06 million collection and storage partnership with DEC and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in 2000.

DEC's thirteenth seed bank consignment was presented to the Millennium Seed Bank by WA Environment Minister Mark McGowan and the Department's Director General Keiran McNamara.

On hand to see them arrive was WA-DEC scientist abroad Juliet Wege who was working as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew.

"I was delighted to see that a packet of seed presented to the seed bank by the Minister included a species of triggerplant that I recently discovered," she said.

"Named *Stylidium diplotrichum*, it is an uncommon species from the Mt Lesueur region."

Juliet - now back at DEC - said she loved working abroad.

"It was a fabulous experience to work at the Royal Botanic Gardens among the botanical treasures - both plant and human!" she said.



The Millennium Seed Bank accepts WA's gift of 30 new threatened seed species. WA Environment Minister Mark McGowan (third from right) handed the seeds to the Millennium Seed Bank Project's Seed Conservation Department's International Coordinator Tim Pearce (second from left). They were pictured with (from left) the head of the Seed Bank Project's Technology and Training area Robin Probert, Australia's Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew (from DEC's Science Division) Juliet Wege, DEC Director General Keiran McNamara and Mr McGowan's Chief of Staff Darren Foster. Photo - DEC

## Seeds in world vault for future

**THE Millennium Seed Bank's aim is simple: to store 10 per cent of the world's threatened plant seeds - 24,000 species - by 2010 as insurance against extinction.**

Its vaults contain one of the largest native plant seed collections in the world.

Its WA partners are DEC and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

DEC Senior Principal Research Scientist David Coates said the first stage of the project, from 2000 to 2003, saw seeds of 708 WA plant species sent to Kew. The second stage, now in full force, would see the DEC Threatened Flora Seed Centre and the BGPA collect a further 1650 rare, threatened, poorly known and key common species from Threatened Ecological Communities and biodiversity hotspots.

Almost half of the WA seeds have been collected by DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre Manager and Senior Research Scientist Anne Cochrane, and DEC Senior Technical



DEC taxonomist Juliet Wege, WA Millennium Seed Bank coordinator and DEC Senior Principal Research Scientist Dave Coates and Threatened Flora Seed Centre Manager Anne Cochrane at the WA Herbarium. Photo - DEC

Officer Andrew Crawford.

Anne and Andrew have spent more than five years collecting threatened seeds from WA's south-west corner for the international project.

Travelling for weeks at a time, they have collected seeds throughout the south west from Kalbarri to the Great Australian Bight.

Seeds from trees, climbers, shrubs and herbs from the Stirling Ranges, the Wheatbelt and the kwongan heathlands have been added, and are from a large range of plant families that represent the unique and diverse WA flora.

Anne said about 70 per cent of plant species found in the south west were found nowhere else in the world.

"We have concentrated on the south west because that is where threats such as salinity, dieback, land clearing, weed invasion and human development are immediate," she said.

Anne said the collections were more than half completed and by next year it was hoped that seeds from the Goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley would have been added to the Millennium Seed Bank vault.

## New training for officers

**EIGHTEEN DEC staff have completed the first Regulatory Officers' Training Course at the WA Policy Academy in Joondalup.**

The two-week course followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November last year between the former Department of Environment (DoE) and the Western Australian Police.

The training will enable staff to carry out their regulatory and enforcement roles more effectively. Staff also took part in a 'verbal judo' session to learn techniques to handle conflict situations.

DEC Director General Keiran McNamara presented participants with their certificates of attendance and authorisation cards.

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## New happy family for Exmouth emu chick

**A WEAK and orphaned Exmouth emu chick has been adopted by a new emu family.**

The newly-hatched chick was found by residents just north of Exmouth and given to wildlife carers and local business owners, Mark Carpenter and Tracy Anderson. They housed and fed the bird, night and day, for nearly two weeks while it gathered strength and grew five cm taller.

Mark and Tracy contacted DEC's wildlife officer, Brad Daw, to suggest that the chick be released to another family of emus of similar age.

Brad knew from his past experience in emu farming and comments from Indigenous people that emu chicks would be accepted by other adult males raising youngsters.

DEC staff began looking for a sur-

rogate emu dad with chicks of similar age so that the orphaned chick could be released back to the wild, giving it the best chance to live a free life. The search uncovered a new emu family with two youngsters of a similar age near the town oval.

"We had the family and the terrain," Brad said, adding that young animals that had lost their parents needed visual and audio contact with the new family.

"It's critical to getting a successful release and acceptance," he said.

His first approach to the hopeful surrogate family spooked the suspicious adult male bird. DEC officers Claire O'Callaghan and Huw Dillely distracted his attention while Brad crept surreptitiously from tree to tree, orphaned emu chick at heel, to get closer to the prospective siblings.



The orphaned chick runs towards the new family, watched by Brad Daw. Photo - DEC

"Across the mown grass, the chick could see the other chicks and with the wind behind him, his chirps carried over to them.

"It took three gentle pushes before the reluctant chick spotted the new emu family. The big moment came when the chick trot-

ted quickly over and mingled with the other two chicks who were both about four cm taller," Brad said.

"The adult seemed a bit confused at first, bobbing down and looking at the group under his legs a couple of times because his family had just increased in size! It was a great

relief to all of us there when he plucked some grass and popped it in the young chick's beak."

All three DEC staff followed the happy group for 30 minutes until the emus wandered off into the bush. Wildlife carers Mark and Tracy were thrilled at the news even though they had become quite attached to the young bird.

Four days later Mark spotted the distinctive group again down near the town oval with all going strong.

"Exmouth has a committed group of wildlife carers who do a great job helping the many orphaned joeys and other native animals that are sick and injured," Brad said.

"It's a big job and it's not always a happy ending but every once in a while you get an outcome that makes it all worthwhile."

# Working Together

I'll begin with an apology for the late distribution of this edition of Environment and Conservation News, which is due to some extra pressure on my time and hence late contribution of this column.

There continues to be a strong focus in the Department on both continuity of service delivery and agency integration initiatives at the same time. In the economic boom that the State is experiencing, there has been a lot of pressure on staff across the Department who deal with a variety of approvals processes, and the Corporate Executive has been very conscious of maintaining the stability necessary to meet timelines and provide quality advice to the Government and to bodies such as the Environmental Protection Authority.

Simultaneously we have continued to drive the integration agenda across our two former agencies. There has been strong progress in areas including regional services (including commencement of co-location of regional staff) and corporate relations, and a great deal of behind-the-scenes work is readying the human resources and financial services areas for full integration in the near future. Work across a number of other areas is also happening, and more is planned.

One of the highlights in October was the opportunity to visit Bunbury with the Minister for the Environment for the opening of extensions to the regional office. Providing staff with the accommodation and related facilities they need to do their work is an important priority but not always easy to achieve. It will continue to be an important focus for the Department in the months and years ahead.

**Keiran McNamara, Director General**



# Bunbury office opens



**ENVIRONMENT Minister Mark McGowan has officially opened upgraded DEC office and operations facilities at Bunbury.**

The \$1.54 million project was for the Sustainable Forest Management and Fire Management Services groups. Pictured at the official opening (from left) were Director General Keiran McNamara, Senior Fire Operations Manager Terry Maher, Mr McGowan, Sustainable Resources Manager Greg Strelein and South West Regional Manager Bob Chandler.

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# Doug Coughran honoured



Doug Coughran with his fishing industry environmental commendation.  
 Photo - Sue McKenna

DEC's WHALE expert Doug Coughran has been honoured with an award from the WA Fishing Industry Council recognising his work to reduce whale entanglements.

"I was caught by surprise when the council's environmental commendation was announced at a black tie dinner," he said, adding that he had had to return from lecturing at a New Zealand whale entanglement conference a day early to make it.

"The organisers had a visual display acknowledging DEC's whale work, showing photographs of myself and staff on the job and pointing out that our work with the industry had reduced the number of whale entanglements," he said.

"I was thrilled to receive the commendation. What was so important to me was that the industry acknowledged our effort, which showed that our work with them had been to everyone's success.

"We work with industry to implement the world's best practice model to reduce fishing line entanglements. We also share our knowledge with other states, and industry is endeavouring to do its best on this issue. It's very special to have been honoured."

Doug will continue his liaison with the fishing industry.

"My next assignment is to accept an invitation from rock lobster industry fishers to give an update on entanglement issues," he said.

# War on weeds

A \$1.7 MILLION DEC blitz on invasive weeds has begun in a bid to save WA's native flora.

Waterways, roadsides, parks and reserves around the State – including Kings Park and national parks – have infestations of weeds that choke native plants and destroy habitat for animals.

The latest weed eradication program targets 40 weed species in 18 projects throughout the State over spring and summer. It will hit environmental weeds such as South African grass in high value conservation areas, including the Brixton Street wetlands in Kenwick and the Darling Range Regional Park in the Perth Hills.

Key targets are cactus on pastoral land at Quobba, north of Carnarvon, asparagus fern in Denmark, Albany and Margaret River, and cape tulip and watsonia in parts of the Perth metropolitan area.

Many common garden plants, such as arum lily, watsonia, Sydney golden wattle and freesias now compete with native plants for water and space.

Householders are being encouraged to take care with their gardening to ensure ornamental plants do not escape into bushland.

Environment Minister Mark McGowan launched the weed eradication program and said action while the problems were manageable was far more cost-effective than remedial action after the weeds were widespread.

# DEC staff at helm of US fires

DEC FIRE staff are known to be among the best in the world – and proved it as they led the battle against wildfires in the United States.

Eleven of our fire staff became 'overhead' managers, each in charge of up to 100 US staff fighting fires in California, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon during a run of 78 wildfires.

Roger Armstrong, Rob Round-Turner, Peter Bidwell, Ed Hatherley, Rod Simmonds, Bob Hagan, Gavin Wornes, Tom Kenneally, Vince Hilder, Peter Gibson and Alex Moylett were part of a team of 116 Australian and New Zealand fire officers who took their expertise to the US firefighting scene.

DEC's Fire Management Services Manager Rick Sneeuwagt said DEC was regarded as one of the world leaders in wildfire control.

"The US authorities were critically short of middle management," he said.

"The role was to implement the strategies from the Incident Action Plan and coordinate resources on the fire line."

Rick said the exchange was part of an agreement between the US Government, Australia and New Zealand to provide mutual aid in the event of large wildfires when a country's resources were exhausted.

Broome's Regional Fire Operations Officer Ed Hatherley led up to 100 firefighters, many of them from Hispanic crews which provided him with a "cultural revolution".

"The Australian deployment was well-regarded. We worked 12 to 16 hours a day and lived in tents," he said.

"It was an amazing opportunity to experience the extremes of

fire behaviour."

The main differences were in topography and fuel type.

Ed was stationed in Oregon which is famous for its timber and mountains – and starkly different from the flat plains of his home in the Kimberley district, where he is the regional Fire Operations Officer.

"We found that we could easily adapt our fire management techniques to the different terrain which was up to 2500 m above sea level in steep terrain," he said.

"We all brought back some excellent fire management knowledge."

Other WA fire staff who went to the United States were Grant Olsen, Allan Daw and Russell Gould (Fire and Emergency Services Authority) and Mark Read, Mike Wright and David McMillan (Forest Products Commission).



Pictured on arrival in the US were DEC's Rod Simmonds, Peter Gibson, Peter Bidwell, Rob Round-Turner, Ed Hatherley, Mike Wright (Forest Products Commission) and Allan Daw (FESA). Photo - DEC



Keith Hockey and Nifty the sniffer dog at their new place of work at Kununurra. Photo - DEC

## Officeworks

DEC's Kununurra regional office has been a hub of activity lately with some new faces – one with a wet nose.

The first, and arguably the cutest, new face was that of Nifty – a Belgian Malinois that has been 'employed' as part of a world first to use a specially trained sniffer dog to hunt cane toads. So far Nifty has been settling in and getting familiar with new duties, such as checking for 'hitch hiker' cane toads at the NT/WA boarder quarantine check point.

Keith Hockey – former Moora District Manager and now acting Kimberley Regional Manager – was next on the scene.

Keith's move to Kununurra coincided with three other new office faces – Susie Williams, Sarah Greenwood and Joanne Nicol. They are the first former-DoE staff to co-locate with former CALM staff at a regional office.

Susie said although they only

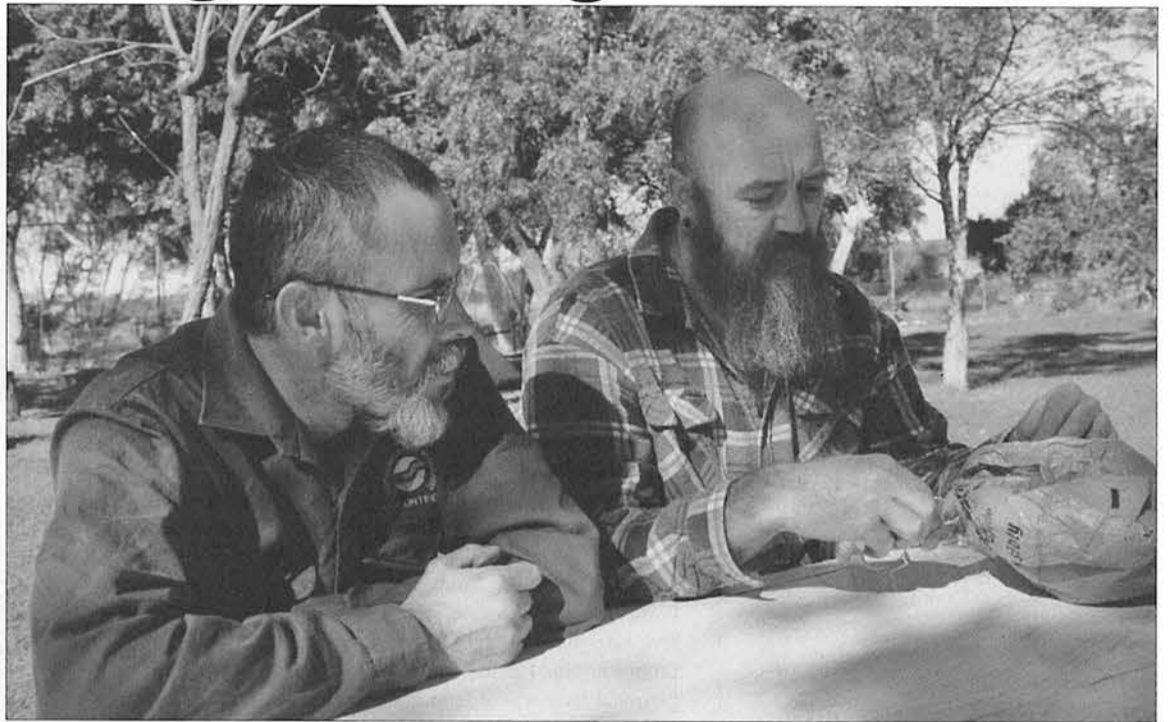
moved 2.5 km around the corner, issues such as aligning IT systems and complex record-keeping requirements had to be solved. Despite a few minor glitches, they were able to do this and still meet deadlines for several ministerial processes.

"We're really the guinea pigs for all the regional offices that will eventually co-locate and have had to work our way through the systems and processes involved in moving as well as working through the complexities of integrating our work functions within a new culture," she said.

"But it's a really positive move to be in the same location as the Regional Manager we're reporting to, sooner rather than later.

"Fortunately we had a good working relationship with the ex-CALM officers in Kununurra already so this is building on good, existing relationships."

# Lorna Glen farewells its long-serving caretakers



Peter Brown (left) and Dean Rivett at Lorna Glen. Photo - DEC

LORNA Glen Station has farewelled volunteer caretakers and campground hosts, Peter Brown and Dean Rivett.

Recruited through the Department's volunteer campground host program, they spent 16 months at Lorna Glen, 150 km north-east of Wiluna, after a short time at Goongarie Station, 100 km north of Kalgoorlie.

They were the longest-serving Lorna Glen caretakers since the station was purchased in 2000 under the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy.

Peter and Dean will be relieving at the DEC-managed Doolgunna proposed reserve for a month before heading off for more travel and maybe other campground host and volunteer roles.

The new Lorna Glen caretakers are John and Jean Mack, previously of Kununurra.

Peter and Dean were involved in caretaking the homestead and reserve, feral cat baiting and research, biological surveys, managing visitors, boundary fencing projects with South West crews, catering, managing roadwork contracts, prescribed burning, liaison with neighbours, Aboriginal joint management and hosting

By Ian Kealley

national and international visitors.

Peter said it had been a very diverse and interesting role. "Our time at Lorna Glen was made even more enjoyable because we were accepted as part of the DEC Goldfields Region team," he said.

Dean said: "It has been a very informative time with involvement in aspects of nature conservation that we wouldn't normally experience."

During their time at Lorna Glen, Peter and Dean experienced the full spectrum of outback conditions from drought and heat to floods and frost.

The DEC Goldfields staff are extremely grateful for Dean and Peter's volunteer work.

"Peter and Dean were great hosts and worked hard to greatly improve the Lorna Glen site and surrounds, willingly engaging in all the reserve management activities," said Regional Manager Ian Kealley.

"They were a great asset to the region and are congratulated for their efforts over the 16 months."

## Curtain closes on a great show

THE hard work of DEC staff and dedicated volunteer contingent paid off at this year's Perth Royal Show 'Land Experience', which attracted more than 100,000 visitors.

The 1400-square metre exhibit, of which DEC was the major sponsor, brought together a range of interactive displays and stands to demonstrate the relationship between a healthy environment, modern farming, sustainable living and biosecurity and effective environmental management practices.

DEC Public Affairs Officer John Hunter said the Land Experience's success was made possible by the 44 sponsors who provided in-kind services and equipment, as well as the volunteers and staff.

"Volunteers from different groups such as the parks and visitor services community involvement unit, wildlife rehabilitators, Bush Ranger cadets as well as DEC staff from Ribbons of Blue, Yanchep National Park and the Indigenous Heritage Unit attended the display and enriched the experiences of those who visited," he said.

"They were there in night and day shifts during the eight days... in rain and shine."

By Alison Blake and Rhianna King



Bush Ranger cadets working at the Royal Show were (from left) Callum Edwards, Nicole Lazarkis and Cassandra Edwards. Photo - Rhianna King



Royal Show face painting by Thomas Dimer from DEC's Yanchep National Park. Photo - Alison Blake

## Something for everyone

SMALL children delighted in the hands-on approach, teenagers had plenty to do and see and adults were able to get one-on-one advice and information.

A walk-through aviary complete with waterfall provided an opportunity for visitors to interact with live native fauna while learning messages such as if you love our wildlife, don't feed them.

An animal house featured rescued native animals and their carers, while nearby specialist raptor presenters had their birds on hand to provide a close up look at these magnificent native birds. Yvonne and Fred Varris, who are specialised rehabilitators, also brought along the

black cockatoos they care for.

A bush trail took show-goers on a journey of discovery into how to enjoy our bushland while still protecting it and ended the walk at a small replica hut like those along the Bibbulmun track. Visitors could also get a bird's eye view of the 'Land Experience' show grounds on a replica Tree Top Walk, like the one in Walpole.

Bush Ranger cadets were on hand with advice about the corps and how to join it and information about the State Cane Toad Initiative.

Our urban environment was also in the spotlight as Great Gardens demonstrated the benefits of native plants for water-wise gardens and attracting native fauna, and how keeping chooks and growing vegetables can create a diverse, healthy and fun garden. Composting, worm farms, organic farming and recycling were also covered.

One of the big attractions for children was a joint display between DEC and the Department of Indigenous Affairs. There was an indigenous treasure hunt, building demonstrations on making a mia mia, didgeridoo playing and dancing.

The Department of Agriculture and Food took part in the Land Experience through a modern farming display. The Precision Farming Group demonstrated biosecurity and environment management practice. The Heartlands Farming Group hosted some food tasting and local experts gave advice on what to grow, where to grow it and how to process a range of Australian foods. The Coast Care Group exhibited on dune plant restoration and a beach environment.

## Good sports at DEC

DEC staff recently demonstrated their commitment to their health and wellbeing by taking part in two big events.

The annual City to Surf saw 51 staff and friends join the crowd of more than 26,000, while 38 DEC walkers registered to take part in WA's Giant Walk.

DEC Risk Management Section's Corporate Health Officer Mikayla Orzanski said the Department was well-represented in both the running and walking sections of the City to Surf.

"A lot of our registered participants took part in either the 12 km run or the 12 km walk and they enjoyed the beautiful conditions on the day," she said.

DEC staff in the City to Surf race were provided with specially-designed green tee shirts promoting the fight against cane toads.

Mikayla said those participating in the Giant Walk were part of an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most number of people walking one kilometre simultaneously (multi-venue).

### From page 1

Successful completion of the course provides officers with legislative authorisations and credit towards the nationally recognised qualification, Certificate IV in Government (Investigation).

To register your interest in the next course email DEC's Training Coordinator Kym Squires on [kym.squires@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kym.squires@dec.wa.gov.au)

## Breakfast on the Bay

**CELEBRATE** an early Christmas by having Breakfast on the Bay at Matilda Bay on Friday 8 December.

DEC's Relay for Life fundraising team will host the breakfast to promote cancer research from 7 am at the barbecues near the gazebo on Hackett Drive, Matilda Bay in Crawley.

For just \$10 staff can enjoy the city view, catch up with colleagues and dine on a full (barbecue cooked) breakfast and refreshments.

"Proceeds will go towards the Cancer Council of WA as part of the lead up to the Relay for Life, a 24-hour walk around Perry Lakes Stadium," one of the organisers, Sue McKenna, said.

Other activities planned by the team for February include:

- a bowls evening at a bowling club with a view,
- a tri-nations whiskey tasting night and
- a sundowner at the Corporate Affairs boatshed at Matilda Bay.

For more information about the event, go to

[www.cancerwa.asn.au/getinvolved/fundraising/relayforlife](http://www.cancerwa.asn.au/getinvolved/fundraising/relayforlife) and contact Judy Kenward on 9442 0300 or Sue McKenna on 9389 8644 (or by email if you'd like to come along).

Just follow the smell of freshly cooked sausages, bacon and eggs as you feast by the river. Some excellent raffles are also planned so come down and have some fun.

We'll keep you informed and remember it's all for a great cause.

# Tiwest joins DEC for animal trapping in Perth hills

By DEC and Tiwest staff

DEC's Perth Hills District hosted Tiwest's environmental management staff for a morning of mammal trapping in bushland behind the Perth Hills National Park Discovery Centre.

Ten cage traps had been placed out the previous afternoon by the district's Nature Conservation Officer Bob Huston. To entice fauna into the cages a food mix of rolled oats, peanut butter and tinned cat food was mixed together to make a moulded bait and left in each cage.

The night, although cold, was the first clear one after a few days of good rain so Bob was confident the animals would be out to forage and feed. To Tiwest's pleasure the trapping was fruitful with eight of the traps attracting animals.

Six possums and two chuditch were processed and released. Two of the possums were carrying young which added to the experience for Tiwest staff.

Tiwest is a strong supporter of the Department's nature conservation work. Last year it committed \$300,000 over a five-year period to DEC's Western Shield wildlife recovery program. This funding supports fox baiting in Nambung National Park where feral animal numbers are now low enough to release native fauna back into the area.

Tiwest also has a partnership with the Perth Zoo Nightstark marsupial spotlighting program and has been a keen supporter of DEC's trapping and animal releases in the Perth Hills District and Swan Coastal District in the last two years. The environmental management staff at Tiwest greatly appreciate these experiences and are pleased to be part of such successful conservation initiatives.



DEC's Hills District Nature Conservation Officer Bob Huston (sitting) with Tiwest's environmental team on its fauna trapping trip. They were (from left) Nick Sibbel, Rochelle Brown, Parveen Naidoo, Jim Tyler, Daniel Jordan and Jo Blunn. Inset: Bob Huston measures the dimensions of a chuditch. Photos - DEC

## Team spirit rises above the competition



DEC's Anaconda team members at the finish line (from left) were Bob Huston, Nathan Greenhill, Sue McKenna and Mark Agar. Photo - Anaconda competitor

DEC's Programs and Publications Manager Sue McKenna gives a personal insight into team spirit.

**I'M pleased to be able to tell you that DEC's team spirit is alive and well.**

Four of us competed in the recent Anaconda adventure race in Dunsborough - running and cycling through Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, and canoeing and swimming in the proposed Capes Marine Park.

The three others - runner Bob Huston, a Perth Hills District nature conservation officer, cyclist Nathan Greenhill, a landscape architect from the Recreation and Landscape Unit, and canoeist Mark Agar, an environmental scientist, made great times.

Bob's 12 km run across beaches, rocks and water took an hour and

35 minutes; Nathan's 32 km cycle through hills and valleys in the national park and farmland took two hours and 18 minutes while Mark's 15 km of canoeing took an hour and 28 minutes.

I was the person entrusted to the first leg, the 2km swim from Quindalup to Dunsborough beach, starting time 7am.

My team mates and family were there to see me off and wish me well. I'd trained for months swimming 50 laps a day at UWA's pool. I had no worries with fitness and I seemed to be over my brain tumour operation last year and subsequent radiation.

I stepped into the water (which at 16 degrees was cold!) and swam. I wore two bathing caps for warmth but was unaware that I had little tissue between my skin and

the left side of the brain, and therefore no natural 'insulation' from the cold. Unknown to me, my brain became colder and colder and I blacked out for a few seconds about a third of the way around.

What a disappointment to the team... I had to pull out. But the others continued and, at the end, we ran two km along the beach as a team to complete the last leg of the event. Being honest again (I really hate this) running is not my strong point and I had to walk part of the way.

We finished the event together and even though we had to compete as an un-timed team we kept to our motto of 'have fun and finish as a team'.

Bob, Nathan and Mark rose above the competition to show that they have talent, determination and are gallant to the end.

## Briefly

### Live cane toad at Kununurra

A live cane toad has been captured in Kununurra.

Tony Davies and his partner Teresa Rush found the 10 cm male cane toad while out walking their dog.

The toad was located on a grass verge opposite the town's caravan park.

The cane toad was euthanased.

It's most likely the toad had hitched a ride over the WA/NT border in a vehicle or caravan, given its proximity to the caravan park.

Surveillance and control are continuing in the Victoria River District of the Northern Territory to prevent the westward expansion of cane toads.

## Bird enthusiasts swooped on Albany

**This year's Birds Australia Conference has been held in Albany.**

It featured presentations by a number of DEC staff.

The three-day conference was held on the South Coast which is an important habitat for three WA birds - the western ground parrot, western bristle bird and the noisy scrub bird.

DEC's South Coast Regional Nature Conservation Leader Alan Danks said the conference was an opportunity for the department to showcase what it does in bird conservation.

"The conference attracted people from around Australia and even some from overseas from government, community groups and private conservation groups," he said.

"It was a great opportunity for us to present our work and learn from other WA and national organisations."