

Busy time ahead for visitors



IT WILL be an exciting five months for a group of Americans who recently arrived in Western Australia to work with DEC.

Four DEC staff are also headed for a new experience in the US as part of an inter-agency exchange program.

Lauren Fety, Ryan Boylan, Shana Gallant, Sean Garretson and Paul Leonard were officially welcomed to the Department at an event attended by the US Consul General Robin McClellan and National and International Program Co-directors from the Chicago Botanic Garden Marcello Pennacchio and Lara Jefferson and DEC staff.

The exchange program between DEC and the US Department of Interior gives participants the opportunity to develop their careers by working in environments that are sometimes vastly different from what they are used to.

Mrs McClellan spoke about the opportunities the exchange provided for personal learning and networking and also for the exchange of information between the agencies and respective countries.

Manager Organisational Learning and Development Richard McAlinden thanked Learning Programs Project Officer Pauline Goodreid for her role in organising the exchange.

After an induction program at the Dwellingup Training Centre and some sightseeing in the south-west, the Americans headed to their postings across the State.

Lauren's placement at DEC's Kalgoorlie Regional Office will see her involved in natural resource management programs while Ryan will undertake wildlife management and ranger duties at the Collie work centre.

Shana will be based at the WA Herbarium and Sean at the Swan Region Headquarters while the Manjimup and Pemberton work centres will provide Paul with experience in nature conservation tasks.

Meanwhile, Collie Ranger Beverly Gardner will work with the West Eugene Wetland Project in Oregon and Katanning Reserves Officer Daniel Cock will work at the Carson City Field Office in Nevada.

Dwellingup Operations Officer Kym Pearce will be based at Utah in the Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Strip Field Office and Kalgoorlie Natural Resource Management Officer Adam Rayner will work for the Bureau of Land Management's Phoenix State Office and the University of Arizona.