



Pictures of a Changing Climate exhibition

By Joanna Moore

Bringing evidence of our changing climate to Western Australian audiences was the aim of an exhibition put together by DEC and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Pictures of a Changing Climate featured the work of internationally and nationally acclaimed photographers, along with winning photographs from the Western Australian Climate Change Photographic Competition. The photographs explored the impacts of climate change on our country and our planet.

Other sections of the exhibition, which was hosted by the WA Museum, highlighted State Government initiatives already under way to reduce emissions.

DEC Director General Keiran McNamara opened the exhibition and, with East Metropolitan MLC

Louise Pratt who represented Environment Minister David Templeman, presented awards to the winners of the State photographic competition.

Ten prizes totalling \$2000 were awarded to winners including 11-year-old student Jeremy Forbes for his photo 'Devastation of a Bushfire'. The image showed a heat-twisted railway track stripped of its timber sleepers after a wildfire near Dwellingup.

Research Officer at DEC's Greenhouse Policy Unit Dan Ellis-Jones and Policy Officer in DPC Melissa Lamb were delighted with the extent of the climate change knowledge shown by all the entrants.

"The standard of photographs was very high. There were many entries that missed out that were fantastic," Dan said.

"This local perspective really shows how climate change is impacting on individuals already,

and how important it is to communicate the solutions to climate change, which is a fundamental part of this exhibition."

An international organisation, The Climate Group, coordinated the photographic 'climate change world tour' *NorthSouthEastWest* which featured as part of Pictures of a Changing Climate. Australian Director Rupert Posner spoke at the launch about the important work of advancing business and Government leadership on climate change.

CEO of the WA Museum Dawn Casey commended the role played by the exhibition in supporting a greater and more urgent focus on climate change and providing a forum for debate and communication on climate change issues.

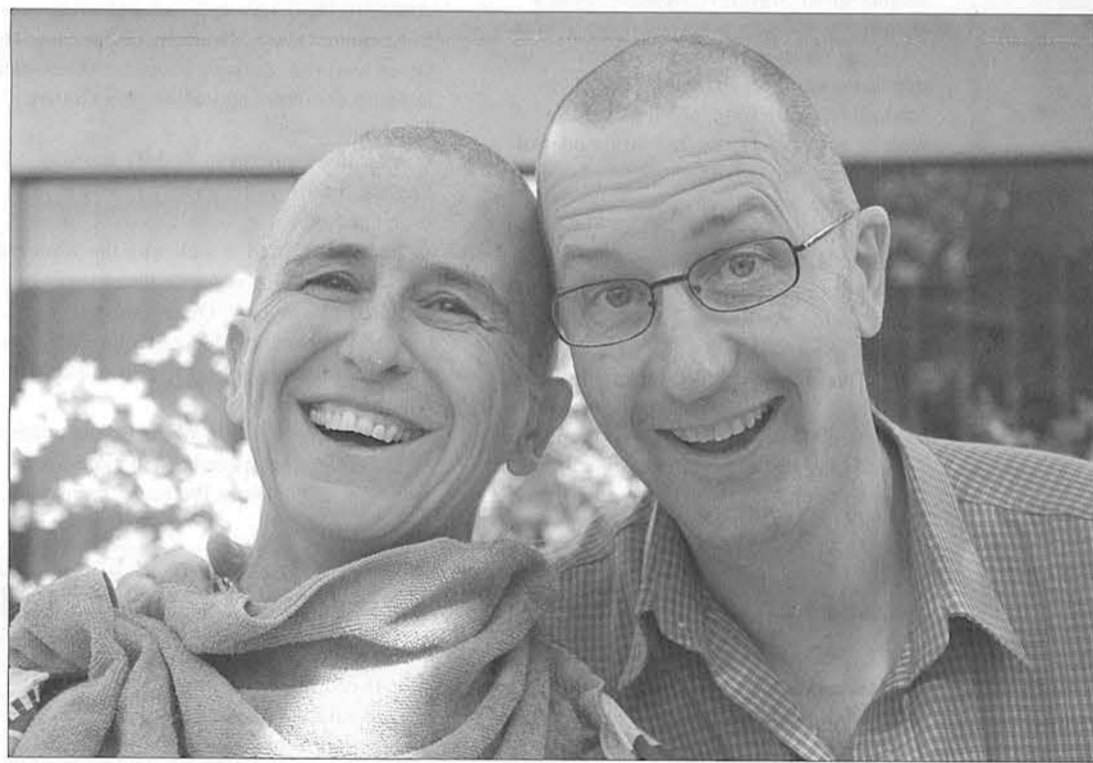
The exhibition ran from 30 March to 29 April at the WA Museum and will be at The University of Western Australia throughout June, before it travels to regional areas.



DEC's Dan Ellis-Jones with entries in the exhibition. Photo - Joanna Moore

DEC has also developed education materials to support the exhibition's messages and engage primary and secondary students and their

teachers in exploring aspects of global climate change. They are available on the environment pages of the DEC website.



Tracks and Trails Unit Coordinator Annie Keating and Perth Hills District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator Rod Annear shaved their heads to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation and show solidarity and empathy for friends and colleagues battling cancer. The duo took it in turns shaving each other's heads as part of the World's Greatest Shave. DEC staff donations helped Annie raise \$1400 and Rod raise \$600. Photo - Joanna Moore

DEC tackles dieback

DEC is advancing in the fight against the devastating *Phytophthora dieback* disease.

Department scientists have developed a new high-intensity phosphite application to tackle dieback that they will trial in Fitzgerald River National Park.

DEC Research Scientist Chris Dunne said high-intensity phosphite had the potential to protect hundreds of native plants and animal species from the threat of dieback.

"If successful, this new treatment could also be used to fight a range of other devastating plant diseases," Chris said.

"This would be significant to conservation efforts world-wide."

High intensity phosphite differs from current phosphite applications in that it involves spraying very high rates of phosphite along with a bark penetrant on the trunks of plants.

"High intensity phosphite allows for greater amounts of

phosphite to be taken up by treated plants," Chris said.

"This ensures the effects of phosphite last longer than under current application methods.

"This could reduce the required frequency of applications from the usual 18 months between aerial applications to 10 years."

Dieback causes root rot in plants by limiting or stopping the uptake of water and nutrients and has a devastating effect on biodiversity.

It has infected about 365 hectares of the otherwise pristine 300,000-hectare Fitzgerald River National Park at a site known as Bell Track.

"Although it is currently contained within a microcatchment, one of the disease fronts is very close to entering Copper Mine creek drainage line," Chris said.

"Unless it is stopped, dieback will spread into this and at least one other adjoining drainage line and ultimately into tens of thousands of hectares of the park."

DEC staff and Gilbert's potoroos to star on Italian TV

DEC staff will star on Italian TV for their efforts in working to save the critically endangered Gilbert's potaroo.

The Italian nature documentary series 'Missione Natura' is watched by about six million people on one of Italy's main broadcast networks.

It will focus on DEC's 'hands-on' efforts to bring the Gilbert's potaroo back from the brink of extinction.

DEC Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend said the film-makers wanted to concentrate on the

translocation of the mammal - Australia's most critically endangered - to Bald Island, near Albany.

He said the translocation was a bid to increase the conservation status and population of the species, of which fewer than 40 exist in the wild.

The Missione Natura crew made an overnight visit by helicopter in March to Bald Island, where Tony and DEC technical officers Stephanie Hill, Tim Button and Louisa Bell have been carrying out

routine monitoring of the fledgling Gilbert's potaroo population.

"The production crew focussed on the scientific, practical 'hands-on' aspects of the job, such as trapping, tagging, releasing and tracking," Tony said.

"It's great to think we will reach an audience on the other side of the world, making people aware of the problems in nature conservation and highlighting projects that have been established to solve them."

Tony has also been heading a DEC program to cross-foster the

potaroo, funded by the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team and private donors.

"The species has proved difficult to breed in captivity, so we are trialling cross fostering," Tony said.

"The Gilbert's potaroo pouch young is transferred from its wild mother's pouch to the pouch of a captive long-nosed potaroo.

Removing the suckling Gilbert's potaroo can trigger the development of a second dormant fertilised egg or stimulate mating. This increases the reproductive rate of the female

Gilbert's potaroo and her first joey is suckled by the surrogate mother.

Two male Gilbert's potaroo young from wild mothers were cross-fostered to female long-nosed potaroos in November 2006.

"It was really exciting to see the long-nosed potaroo accepting and nurturing the Gilbert's potaroo," Tony said.

The Missione Natura crew has also shot footage with DEC staff at Exmouth and Monkey Mia. DEC's Brent Johnson's work on chuditch near Perth also featured.

Working Together

In the August 2001 edition of *CALM News*, I acknowledged the contribution made to the public sector over many years by Wally Cox as he had just retired from the position of Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. This month has seen Wally retire again, this time from his position as Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority. I am sure all staff join with me in thanking Wally for his leadership and public service, and in wishing him well for the future.

One of the most challenging issues we are facing in DEC (and one that was highlighted by Wally upon his retirement) is the attraction and retention of staff in a period of very strong economic growth and accompanying demand from industry for skilled environmental staff. This is placing unprecedented pressure on staff in a range of areas, including those responsible for approvals and regulatory processes.

The Corporate Executive is very conscious of these pressures and is working on a number of initiatives to address them. These include improved cost recovery via industry fees to increase resourcing of regulatory functions, a review of needs in approvals and associated advisory areas, and looking at overseas advertising of vacancies.

One of the keys to staff attraction and retention is to be an "employer of choice". DEC offers a fantastic variety of careers and opportunities throughout the State. Initiatives such as our exchange program with the USA, featured in this edition, and our graduate recruit and scholarships programs that we will celebrate at the annual awards ceremony early in June, are key elements of a culture of valuing and supporting staff, which will be the key to attracting and retaining good staff in a competitive environment.

Keiran McNamara,
Director General



Team effort in goat control



(Back row, left to right) Scott Godley (DEC), Ross Mach (DEC), Michael Elliott (DAF), Andrew Longbottom (DAF), Kyle Wilson (DEC), Butch Maher (Fitzroy Helicopters) and John Kerr (DAF) with (front row, left to right) Jodie Caunt (DAF), Kyla Ford (DEC), Brad Roulston (Norwest Airworks) and Heidi Berensden (DAF). Photo – Craig Tuesley

A MAJOR feral goat control operation across four national parks proved to be a large, but successful, undertaking.

During February, helicopter shooters backed by ground-based shooters carried out goat control operations in Kalbarri, Francois Peron, Cape Range and Kennedy Range national parks.

This involved a contract helicopter and spotter aircraft, Department of Agriculture and Food aerial shooters and DEC staff, who organised the logistical requirements of each aerial shooting trip.

The work of the two shooters in the helicopter and the teams of on-ground

shooters relied on DEC staff working in spotter planes to control public access, and ensured that fuel for the helicopter and supplies for all the people involved were handy, despite the remote locations.

DEC Principal Research Scientist David Pearson said a successful goat control operation was a significant undertaking but was vital to reduce goat populations to enable the recovery of native vegetation in the parks and to ensure the conservation of the regions' biodiversity.

"Feral goats cause major environmental damage in the rangelands of WA," David said.

"Not only do they compete for food and shelter with native species, their grazing activities result in soil erosion, weed dispersal and changes to vegetation.

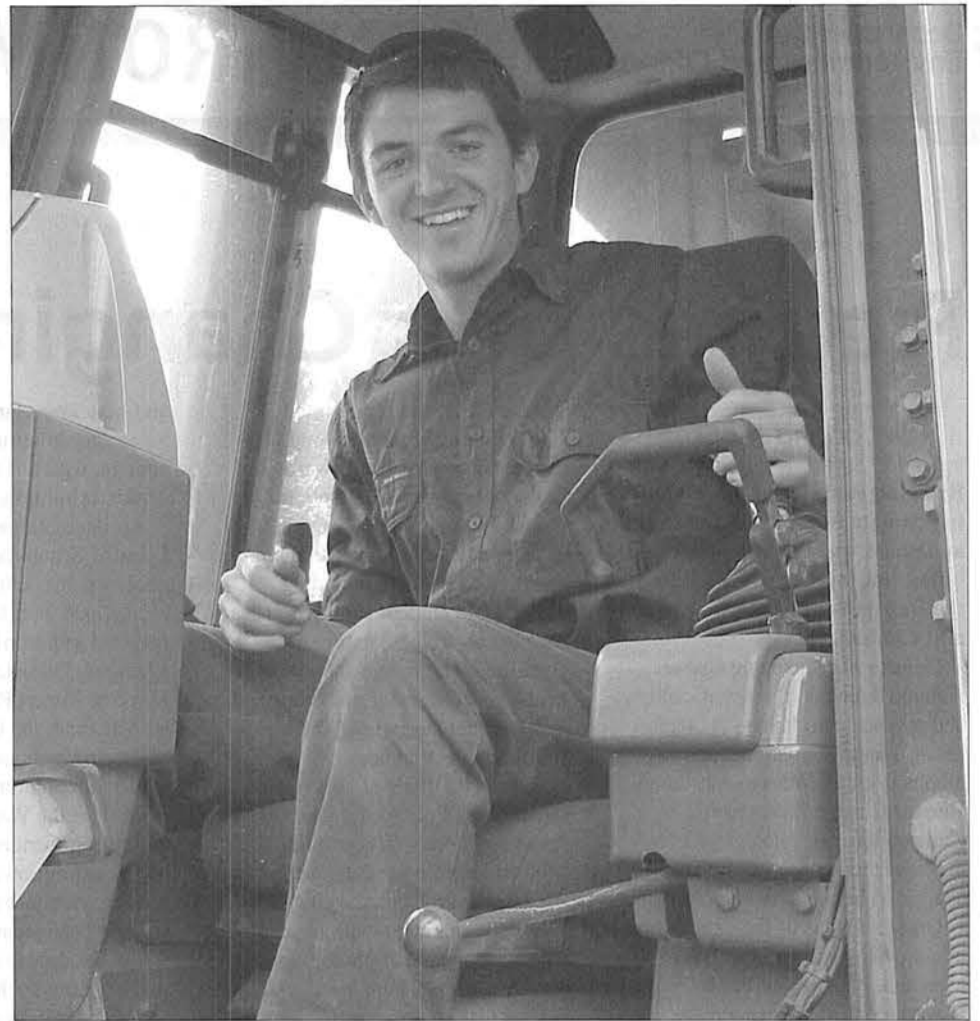
"The recent goat control operation will have a positive impact on various threatened species such as the black-flanked rock-wallaby, bilby and malleefowl."

More than 2000 goats were removed from Kennedy Range National Park, about 1400 from Kalbarri National Park and about 1200 from Cape Range National Park.

In Francois Peron National Park, where there have been ongoing goat control operations since 1991, 71 goats were removed.

The feral goat control project is one of 70 strategic projects funded through the two-year, \$15 million *Saving our Species* initiative.

Fiery Spanish visitor on deck at Wanneroo



Javier in a DEC bulldozer. Photo – Owen Donovan

By Joanna Moore

SPANISH forester Javier Martin Moreno Mejias spent March working at DEC's Wanneroo office as a seasonal firefighter.

Having recently finished six years' training as a forest engineer in Spain, Javier is in Australia to learn more about forest fire control, gain experience in wildfire control in maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*) plantations and improve his English.

"I wanted to learn English and Australians were the friendliest English-speaking people I met in Europe. Plus Australia has the best weather and most different landscapes to Spain," Javier said.

DEC staff have also had the opportunity to learn from Javier's visit. Since he arrived he has shared his experience of working for the Spanish National Research Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, INIA, and his role

as a specialist in silviculture and fire management at the Polytechnical University of Madrid.

The path to Javier arriving began when he contacted DEC's Swan Coastal District Sustainable Forest Management Coordinator Owen Donovan through a forester Owen met in Spain five years ago while on a Gottstein Trust fellowship.

After three months in Sydney learning English, Javier made his way to WA to join Owen and others at Swan Coastal District.

"Javier has fitted in well with the Wanneroo workforce, helping out with forest inventory and dieback surveys," Owen said.

"He has also compiled a graphical display of data on fire history for the Swan Coastal District."

Javier hopes to stay in WA until July to attend more English courses and obtain more work with DEC or the Forest Products Commission.

Central wheatbelt bait research

DEC staff are working in the central wheatbelt as part of a study into the effectiveness of fox baiting and native fauna recovery.

Their work is part of a \$9 million four-year State and Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre fauna recovery project to study the effect of introduced animal control on fauna populations at four Western Australian locations. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy is also a partner in the work.

WA areas being studied are Mt Gibson, Lochada and Karara in the rangelands, Lake Magenta Nature Reserve, Dryandra woodland and the northern jarrah forest. An additional study into reasons for woylie decline in the south-west has also been included in this mesopredator release research project.

Since March 2006 DEC Science Division staff have been comparing fox and feral cat activity and bait uptake at two wheatbelt areas: Lake Magenta Nature Reserve, which has been fox baited since 1996, and Dunn Rock Nature Reserve, an unbaited nature reserve 40km away. The extent of uptake of baits by other animals such as goannas is also being assessed.

Fauna Conservation program leader Keith Morris coordinates the Lake Magenta project and said the overall aim of the work was to determine why populations of chuditch, brushtail possums, quenda and woylies declined in 2000-2001 at Lake Magenta despite an ongoing fox control program.

Aspects such as effectiveness of current fox control regimes, and changes to feral cat abundance following fox control are being examined. The project is also an opportunity to survey two of the wheatbelt's largest nature reserves for flora and fauna.

Keith said the \$9 million project funded by DEC and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre followed the successful review of DEC's wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*, where 3.5 million ha of conservation estate across WA is baited for foxes and feral cats. The review identified that more research was required into the interactions of foxes and feral cats, and native predators.

"We need to find out why, despite ongoing fox baiting, some native medium-sized mammals haven't recovered as much as they should have," Keith said.

Environment and Conservation News May 2007

Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation's Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division, Cygnet Hall, (cnr) Mounts Bay Road and Hackett Drive, CRAWLEY, Western Australia 6009

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Minister visits banded ironstone formations

ENVIRONMENT Minister David Templeman travelled to the Midwest to visit some of the State's banded ironstone formation (BIF) ranges.

The ranges are emerging as distinctive and particularly important areas in the region for biodiversity conservation.

DEC staff are currently involved in a three-year regional flora survey of the BIF ranges.

The survey, together with previous surveys by DEC staff, information from other sources and current impact assessments for mining proposals will be important in a strategic review that is examining the conservation and mineral values of these areas of the Midwest.

The strategic review was announced by former Environment Minister Mark McGowan and former Resources Minister John Bowler in late 2006. A preliminary report on the review will be considered by the Conservation Commission of WA and the Environmental Protection Authority before it is

submitted to the Environment and Resources ministers mid year.

Mr Templeman's visit included a tour of the proposed Mount Gibson Iron Ore and Infrastructure Project and a low-level flight over some of the locations where DEC staff have undertaken flora surveys, such as Blue Hills Range and Koolanooka Hills.

The trip enabled Mr Templeman to see the area and get an idea of the issues to be considered as part of the strategic review, such as how proposals for future resource development may place pressure on conservation values.

He also saw some former pastoral leases acquired by DEC for conservation purposes, including the former Karara, Lochada and Warriadar stations. These areas are important for conservation in the region and also include some of the BIF areas subject to mining proposals.



Director General Keiran McNamara and Environment Minister David Templeman viewing the area associated with the Mt Gibson Iron Ore project.
Photo - Michelle Andrews

Perth hills weed busters on target



Bob Huston with an arum lily, the targeted weed at Chandala Nature Reserve. Photo - Richard Reid

DEC's Perth Hills District staff have been tackling the invasive weed species watsonia and arum lily.

The staff are stamping out watsonia from Chittering Lakes Nature Reserve and arum lily from Chandala Nature Reserve.

Both nature reserves are recognised as important conservation wetlands for the south-west of Western Australia. They provide important feeding and breeding sites for a range of waterbirds including the straw necked ibis, the great crested grebe, darter, great egret and yellow billed spoonbill.

The weed-busting projects are two of the 18 weed eradication projects being funded through the *Saving our Species* initiative.

Perth Hills District Nature Conservation Officer Bob Huston said DEC staff had completed the first phase of the herbicide weed control spraying program across both nature reserves.

He said monitoring sites had been established to check the success of the spraying program, with a good result anticipated.

In 2007, follow up action will target any re-emergence of the target weed species and any secondary weed species.

"The *Saving our Species* conservation program has shown that, given increased resources, the district has the capability to significantly increase its nature conservation work," Bob said.

"This allows us to address one of the foremost environmental destroyers threatening two of WA's important wetland nature reserves."

The weed eradication program involves the production of 'weed maps' showing the spread and severity of the target weed species at both nature reserves.

The weed mapping information will be used to produce weed management plans for each of the reserves.

The project also involves seed collection within the nature reserves and their environs to allow for any required revegetation work.

Under the *Saving our Species* program, DEC Perth Hills District staff are also eradicating the cape tulip from St Ronans Nature Reserve and Wambyn Nature Reserve in the York area.

The three *Saving our Species*-funded projects will see nearly \$180,000 spent on weed-busting in the Perth Hills District.

Spotlight on marine snail at Ningaloo Marine Park

By Samille Mitchell

A CORAL-EATING marine snail blamed for devastating sections of Ningaloo Marine Park in the 1980s is again in the spotlight.

DEC Marine Science Program Research Scientist Shannon Armstrong recently conducted the only research at Ningaloo Marine Park in the past decade on the marine snail, drupella.

Shannon said drupella received intense scientific attention in the late 1980s during an unexplained population explosion which resulted in the snails' feeding activity killing up to 90 per cent of coral at Ningaloo Reef in some areas.

But while local scientific interest in the snail dropped along with its drop in numbers, the recently revised Ningaloo Marine Park management plan highlighted the need to keep a 'watching brief' on the coral predator.

Shannon developed a new cost-effective drupella monitoring protocol during her Honours thesis in 2005 which was initiated and funded by what was then CALM. She also surveyed drupella numbers and coral communities in the Ningaloo Marine Park in 2005.

After joining DEC's newly formed Marine Science Program last year, Shannon and DEC Exmouth District staff increased the survey range of drupella and coral monitoring sites to cover the area resulting from the 2004 southern extension to the Ningaloo Marine Park.

The management plan states that drupella and the coral communities should be surveyed at least every three years and these surveys will form part of the DEC's on-going monitoring program of Ningaloo Marine Park.

"While drupella is currently in low numbers at Ningaloo, it's important we monitor their population so we can be on the lookout for any increases like the ones seen more than a decade ago," Shannon said.

"We're unsure of the causes of the outbreak so it's of utmost importance we keep an eye on this marine snail species - any future outbreak could pose a real threat to the marine park."

Shannon's work is part of the Marine Science Program that was developed in May 2006.

The program represents a significant increase in DEC's capacity to provide a strong scientific foundation for the management of WA's world-class system of marine protected areas and for the conservation of the State's unique marine biodiversity.

National recognition for Bibbulmun Track

By Joanna Moore

WA's own Bibbulmun Track was honoured at the QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards - the pinnacle of achievement in Australia's tourism industry.

The track received a Highly Commended in a field of finalists drawn from State and Territory Tourism Award winners. This followed its win in the Significant Tourist Attraction category of the 2006 WA Tourism Awards.

The national recognition for the DEC-managed, world-class walk trail, which stretches nearly 1000km from Kalamunda to Albany, reinforces the Bibbulmun Track's status as one of the State's major tourism and recreation drawcards.

Each attraction is judged on the quality and uniqueness of the experience offered to visitors as well as on all aspects of the attraction's management. This includes maintenance and upgrades undertaken by track volunteers and DEC staff, strategic planning, risk management,

environmental sustainability, services provided to walkers, publications and special events.

DEC's Tracks and Trails Unit coordinates the maintenance of the track across six districts in partnership with local DEC Bibbulmun Track coordinators and a team of 300 volunteers from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. The partnership is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding between DEC and the foundation that recognises DEC's overall responsibility for track management but allows for flexibility and cooperation in providing a wide range of activities and services to walkers and visitors.

DEC Tracks and Trails Unit Coordinator Annie Keating said the strong partnership between DEC and the foundation had become a model for other trails across Australia and was fundamental to the ongoing success of the Bibbulmun Track.

"DEC district staff work hard to ensure that walkers get a really unique experience on the track and share a sense of pride with

the Tracks and Trails Unit staff that so many people from WA and around the world get so much enjoyment from the track," she said.

"It's a real team effort."

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation thanked all their members, sponsors and volunteers including those involved with the 'Eyes on the Ground' maintenance program sponsored by Boddington Gold Mine, the members of their board and volunteers.

Bibbulmun Track Foundation Board Chairman Mike Wood said the judges of the WA Tourism Awards were particularly impressed with the high level of involvement from volunteers.

"The WA Tourism Award and the Highly Commended at the national awards recognise the long and arduous hours that our wonderful foundation maintenance, office and events staff and volunteers devote to making the track a world-class tourist icon," he said.

DEC and the Water Corporation working together

By Richard Boykett

DEC and the Water Corporation are working together to increase Western Australia's water supply through a major adaptive management trial in State forest within the Wungong catchment.

DEC is involved in the implementation of the Wungong Catchment Environment and Water Management Project because it is responsible for the majority of the catchment.

The large-scale project was developed as a result of the State Government's State Water Strategy in 2003, which outlined how WA's

water requirements could be met for the long-term.

A key component of the strategy is increasing the diversity of sources to encourage long-term reliability of supply. Water for households, industrial and agricultural purposes is traditionally supplied from storage dams, groundwater and desalination.

As part of the initiative, the Wungong project is trialling the managed thinning of the over-storey, removal of woody weed species and subsequent replacement with local species to improve runoff to the Wungong Dam.

DEC Perth Hills District staff will be undertaking non-commercial thinning of the

forest (using notching), demarcation of zones such as fauna habitat areas, dieback interpretation, fire management activities and woody weed control. Support activities will also be undertaken, including feral animal control, access management, rubbish removal and general weed control. Commercial logging will also be undertaken by the Forest Products Commission under the Forest Management Plan.

With several research projects also being funded by the Water Corporation, it is hoped the findings from the trial will provide the basis for long-term adaptive forest management within other water supply catchments.

The Wungong catchment is an hour's drive from Perth, within DEC's Perth Hills District, and has supplied drinking water to the city since 1925. The catchment covers an area of 12,845 ha and includes bauxite mining rehabilitation, plantations, dieback restoration plots, cleared land and high quality northern jarrah forest.

DEC's involvement will be managed by Wungong Catchment Coordinator Richard Boykett based at the Swan Region office in Bentley. Perth Hills District staff Steve Gunn (Dwellingup) and Troy Fullerton (Jarrahdale) will oversee the on-ground implementation of the works.

Explore alternatives at Yanchep National Park



Explore Alternatives participant Michael Harrison (left) and Yanchep National Park volunteer Ron Ward plant seeds in the park's nursery. Photo - Christie Mahony

PEOPLE with intellectual disabilities have made a significant contribution to Yanchep National Park thanks to a partnership between DEC and Explore Alternatives.

Explore Alternatives organises community activities for groups of people with intellectual disabilities and the partnership has been embraced by park staff and volunteers.

Yanchep National Park Volunteer Coordinator Christie Mahony said the Explore Alternatives participants had been involved in the park's plant nursery and sowing native seeds since the end of January.

"The focus is not just on how many seeds we can sow but also on fostering an interest in native plants and encouraging social interaction between the participants and park volunteers," she said.

"Initially, we had to develop a whole different way of involving the participants, but we have found that the one-to-one interaction between participants and volunteers enables each person to work within their capabilities while having direct support and encouragement.

"And some fantastic results are being achieved. Not only are the seeds germinating, but close friendships have been formed among the volunteers and members of Explore Alternatives, who look

forward to their time in the nursery each week."

Explore Alternatives manager Paul Hogan said working at Yanchep National Park had provided a great opportunity for the participants to contribute to the community and learn new skills.

"Our goals are to give people the chance to do interesting and purposeful activities, to learn and develop and, most importantly, to be a part of their community," Paul said.

He said interaction with park staff and the other volunteers had been very worthwhile and congratulated the other volunteers on their contribution to the environment and to the lives of people with disabilities.

"The support given to our participants by the other volunteers is much greater than envisaged at the start of the collaboration," he said.

"I understand that the chance to work alongside our participants has added to the job satisfaction of all concerned."

The seed sowing season will end as the weather starts cooling down but the group may be involved in other planting projects around the park.

"It will be great to continue the relationship we've formed with Explore Alternatives and we will find new ways to make sure it continues," Christie said.

Air toxicity tests

DEC has published results of air quality monitoring at Port Hedland's industrial area, Wedgefield.

The small industrial area also has a residential population, posing worries over a class of pollutants known as air toxics.

These are a range of gaseous, aerosol or particle pollutants present in the air in low concentrations. Air toxics can be hazardous to human, plant or animal life.

Many air toxics are present in the form of 'volatile organic compounds' (VOC).

DEC staff monitored the region for four months last year at three different sites to check for 32 VOCs.

DEC Environmental Officer Adrian Blockley, of the Air Quality Management

Branch, said the monitoring revealed that VOCs in the area adhered to guidelines.

"Wedgefield has a unique mix of industrial and residential land uses and there were concerns about possible health impacts on the residents," Adrian said.

Volatile organic compounds come from burning fuels containing carbon (for example petrol, oil, wood, coal and natural gas), solvents, paints, glues and many everyday products used at work or home.

Adrian said monitoring was part of a broader departmental initiative to examine air quality levels in key air sheds within the State including Kwinana, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Collie, Midland and Perth.

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.