

September 2007

Climate change and trust

By Joanna Moore

DR Karl Kruszelnicki thinks the only people qualified to give scientific evaluation on climate change are climatologists.

"Find out the facts, find out the science," he said. "And, if your personal opinions don't fit with the facts, change your personal opinions."

Dr Kruszelnicki is a well-known science personality and communicator. He presented the last in a series of public lectures on climate change held recently at The University of Western Australia (UWA) with the support of DEC and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

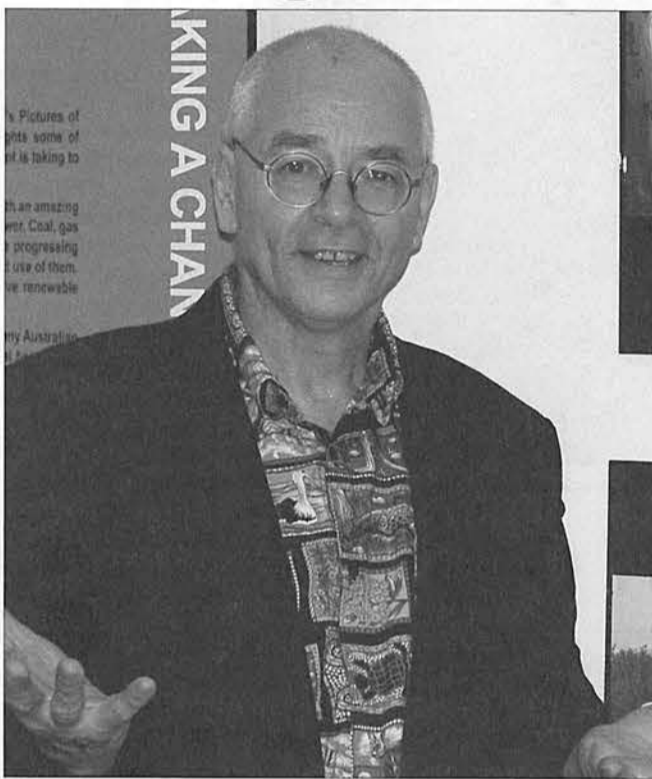
In this period of both climate change sensationalism and climate change scepticism, his approach was a welcome and refreshing one.

Dr Ray Wills, an expert in ecology, sustainability, climate change science and the effect of expected future climates on Australian environmental and socio-economic issues, also presented in the series. He provided a local focus on the implications of global warming for Western Australia.

Rupert Posner, an advocate for the environment with more than 15 years' experience in industry, government and the environment movement, gave a lecture on international corporations and governments showing leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working together to combat climate change.

The series coincided with the exhibition at The University Club at UWA of 'Pictures of a Changing Climate' – a collection of State, national and international award-winning photographs.

The lecture series and the exhibition were organised by DEC Greenhouse Policy Unit Research Officer Dan Ellis-Jones, DPC Policy Officer Melissa Lamb and UWA's Ian Lilburne.



Dr Karl Kruszelnicki at the presentation. Photo – Joanna Moore

Drought damages critical island habitats

MONITORING on Bernier and Dorre islands in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area by DEC staff has indicated that the islands are under severe stress from the effects of drought, with animal numbers the lowest they have been in years.

Both islands are internationally significant nature reserves and hold the only remaining naturally occurring populations of four of WA's threatened mammal species – the western barred bandicoot, banded hare-wallaby, Shark Bay mouse and the rufous hare-wallaby. Shark Bay mice and the threatened burrowing bettong or boodie are found on Bernier and Faure islands.

Raw data collected from transect spotlight monitoring on the islands in April indicate a significant decline in numbers for all five species over the past eight months.

More than half of the islands' vegetation was also found to be dead or dying.

Although it is not unusual for population sizes to fluctuate, these results highlight the need for continued protection and monitoring to ensure the islands remain free of threats such as feral animals, disease and wildfires. They also indicate the potential risk posed by long-term rainfall declines and climate change.

DEC Project Eden Manager Colleen Sims said the latest monitoring trip was part of a larger *Saving our Species* project to determine the population size, health and disease status of the islands' threatened mammals. It was also designed to monitor the overall ecosystem health on the islands.

"This trip was extremely valuable in helping us get a better understanding of the current status of the threatened mammals and of the condition of the islands' habitat," she said.

Information collected on the trip will also be used to educate the community and underline the importance of the restrictions on camping and visitation to the islands.

Climate change recruitment drive

DEC's Office of Climate Change is embarking on a major recruitment drive that will double its workforce.

The office has advertised for extra staff members to work in policy development and program implementation.

Assistant Director Steve Waller, who heads the Office, said the extra staff would help to effectively implement the Premier's Climate Change Action Statement 'Making Decisions for the Future', announced in May, and the State Government's climate change package which was announced by the Premier in March this year.

Steve said the commitments included a significant number of initiatives aimed at meeting the State's ambitious greenhouse target of a 60 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 levels by 2050.

"The Premier's Climate Change Action Statement contains a range of initiatives like new renewable energy, clean energy targets and the new Household Sustainability Audit and Education Scheme," Steve said.

"It also includes about \$4.5 million in funding for vulnerability

and risk assessments for climate change impacts in WA – assessments that could provide important information for future Western Australian climate change policies.

"It also includes \$4 million for the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI) to be matched by our partners in IOCI, the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology."

While Steve agreed such aims and programs were massive tasks for the Office of Climate Change workforce, he said staff were busy forging strong partnerships with both government and non-government agencies to efficiently conduct their work.

"We see a large part of our task as being one of coordination and working with agencies across the whole of government," Steve said.

"So while we've got a big task before us, we can make a real difference through enlisting other government agencies and external groups to work with us. Everyone we have worked with so far has had similar objectives – to reduce greenhouse emissions, help the WA community to adapt to the impacts of climate change and protect our environment well into the future."

Tombstones and lichen under the spotlight

DEC's Manjimup Principal Technical Officer Ray Cranfield has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study lichens in England and Sweden next year.

In his first international trip, Ray will spend seven weeks in Europe in June and July examining historical lichen records and roaming cemeteries looking for lichen on tombstones.

Ray said tombstones were often the only remaining sites for lichen growth in southern England.

Knowledge gleaned from the trip will help him improve Western Australian records on lichens.

"We've got all these names for lichens but often we don't know what they look like so we're not sure if the species is here," Ray said.

"I'll be looking at collections to try to find specimens that we do not have in Perth and obtain photos so we can add to our databases for WA."

Ray said he would also examine community participation methods used in England which

By Samille Mitchell

encourage volunteers to survey lichens, often by examining old tombstones.

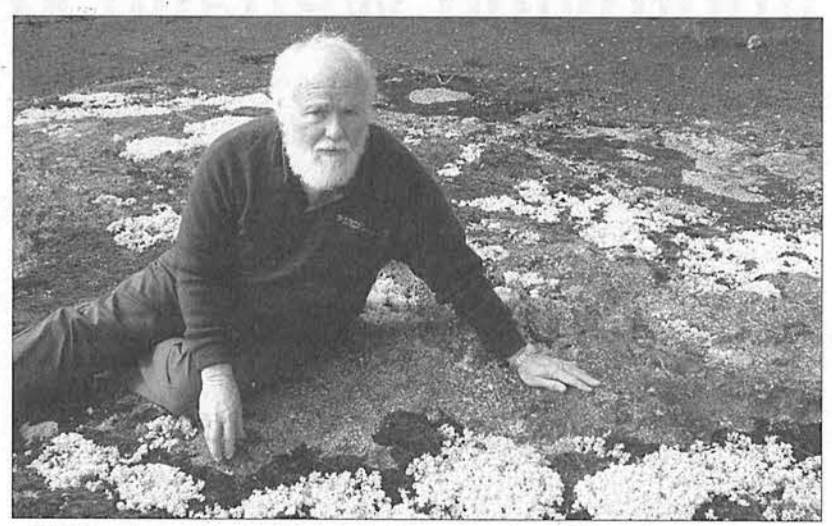
"I'd like to see how they maintain the volunteers' enthusiasm and then use the techniques to encourage volunteers in WA to examine granite outcrops for lichens," he said.

Ray said lichen was a good indicator of environmental health and also stabilised soils and provided nutrients.

He said 720 species of lichen had so far been recorded in WA. However, many more species were thought to remain unidentified.

"There is so little known about lichens in WA," he said.

"I'd like to gather as much information as possible to create a lichen encyclopedia and add to DEC's FloraBase online database."



DEC Manjimup Principal Technical Officer Ray Cranfield is off to England and Sweden to study lichens. Photo – Wendy Cranfield

Working Together

Together with the Conservation Commission, the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and other sponsors, the Department recently hosted a conference on parks and protected areas attended by 300 delegates from overseas, interstate and Western Australia. In particular, the conference provided an opportunity for many DEC regional and other staff to hear a wide variety of speakers on the latest trends in this field.

The conference was an outstanding success and served to invigorate a strong sense of commitment and passion about the fundamental importance and future direction of national parks, marine parks and other protected areas for present and future generations. My congratulations go to the DEC staff and others who helped make the conference such a success.

One of the issues I touched on in my address at the conference was the challenge we face in reconciling our conservation and environmental protection responsibilities with the enormous demand for mineral and petroleum resources.

Two examples that are occupying a lot of time for myself and other staff at present are the strategic review of the Midwest banded ironstone ranges, and the development of Browse Basin oil and gas, and its implications for the Kimberley's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, wilderness and tourism values. In both these projects the aim is to develop a government strategic policy framework to set the right balance between development, environmental and other interests.

These outcomes will be very significant for the work of the department, the Environmental Protection Authority, Conservation Commission and MPRA for many years ahead.

Keiran McNamara, Director General



A wasp or an orchid?

THE first modern-day study of the hammer orchid (*Drakaea*), a genus known for its adaptations to attract pollinating wasps, has been completed in the State's south-west.

DEC Threatened Flora Coordinator Andrew Brown, in partnership with Kew Royal Botanic Gardens Director Stephen Hopper, carried out the study over 25 years.

"The orchid flowers have evolved to resemble female wasps to encourage males to pollinate them," Andrew said.

"They have a lip – a modified petal called a labellum – that resembles a flightless female wasp and emits a scent that matches that of the female wasp.

"We were aware that some species emit pheromones, but to find species that actually take on certain physical similarities to wasps is remarkable.

"It is both biologically bizarre and complex." The study focused on all 10 hammer orchids in the genus, which is endemic to the south-west floristic region, six of which were previously unnamed.

The six new species are *Drakaea andrewsiae*, *Drakaea concolor*, *Drakaea confluens*, *Drakaea gracilis*, *Drakaea isolata* and *Drakaea micrantha*. Several of the orchids are threatened with extinction.

"We also discovered that the wasp that pollinated one species of hammer orchid did not go to any of the other species of hammer

by Joanna Moore

orchid – in other words the attraction was species specific," Andrew said.

He said the discovery involved careful monitoring of the male wasps' behaviour.

"Flower baits were set up for the wasps and their actions provided the clue to the previously unobserved differences between the different orchids," he said.

"This is an exciting discovery because it highlights that so much of our natural environment is yet to be discovered and documented."

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Waste Wise Schools Program a success at Kalgoorlie

By Joanna Moore

TO coincide with the introduction of kerbside recycling in Kalgoorlie, DEC Waste Wise staff recently ran a professional development workshop for teachers.

The workshop showed how teachers could implement waste reduction strategies at their schools and encourage their students to have positive environmental values.

Following the workshop, Waste Wise staff carried out waste audits at local schools to help students and staff analyse the waste they produce and brainstorm ways they could minimise the waste they send to landfill.

DEC Community Education Coordinator Meg Greenhill said the workshop and audits showed how waste and litter education could be incorporated into the curriculum at different levels and in different learning areas.

"Many fantastic waste minimisation strategies can be set up easily and inexpensively and the students really love them because they are so hands-on," she said.

"Students who get actively involved in activities such as recycling, worm farming

and organic gardening tend to learn a great deal about environmental responsibility and environmentally sound behaviour."

Participating schools received a copy of the Waste Wise Schools kit, supplementary course notes, a certificate of participation and ongoing support following the workshops.

"When we discussed the audit results with the students they enjoyed giving us ideas about how they could reduce, reuse or recycle their waste – such as reusing 'waste' items in art classes or feeding chooks with food scraps," Meg said.

"Their teachers are now writing up waste plans based on these discussions and we have heard that all the schools will soon be receiving recycling bins through the local council."

The Waste Wise Schools Program is managed by DEC and funded through the Waste Management Board. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group helped coordinate the workshop and continues to support the teachers and students as they put their waste plans into practice.

For more information on the program, contact Meg on 6467 5367 or by email (margaret.greenhill@dec.wa.gov.au).



Teachers at the Waste Wise Schools Program professional development workshop with their worm farms. Photo – Emma Pointon

Albany folk have their say

DEC's Albany District and the Conservation Commission of Western Australia have reinvigorated community input into the planning for management of national parks and nature reserves.

A community advisory committee has been created to provide advice on management plans for several national parks and nature reserves around Albany. Two new community working groups have also been established following the recent vesting of Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanic Park/Voyager Park in the Conservation Commission.

DEC South Coast Regional Manager John Watson said the groups would play an important role in ensuring community input into the management planning process.

He said protected areas were a community asset treasured for their scenic, recreational and biodiversity values.

"Protected areas can really mean a lot to the local community so we welcome the community's involvement in planning for the future of our national parks," he said.

"Residents are not only passionate about such areas, but also often possess a wealth of information about their history and other values."

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Improving wetland knowledge

As part of a joint initiative between the State and Federal governments, DEC is undertaking the project 'Mapping, Classification and Evaluation of Wetlands, South West Western Australia'.

The project aims to provide mapping, classification and evaluation of wetlands within high priority areas that currently have little or no digitised data.

DEC Wetlands Program Environmental Officer Mia Morley said study areas were chosen after consultation with regional DEC staff and included the Leeuwin-Naturaliste ridge.

"This area was chosen due to increasing pressure from development and visitation, the presence of wetland-associated

threatened ecological communities and the presence of a critically endangered snail species," she said.

"An area south of Boyanup and east of Nannup was also chosen, as wetlands at the northern end of this area have the potential to be affected by water extraction and also because the monitoring will complete wetland mapping of the Blackwood Plateau."

The project will also monitor 30 wetland sites on the Swan Coastal Plain and in an area east of Margaret River.

"Sites have been selected according to the wetlands' social and ecological values and representativeness, or how well the sample sites represent the wetlands in the area," Mia said.

"They will be monitored in early and late spring this year and autumn next year."

Monitoring will measure a range of water quality parameters, phytoplankton, macroinvertebrates, wetland birds, vegetation and catchment and hydrological disturbance.

By providing better data resources, the project will assist regional and local decision making affecting wetlands, leading to better wetland management and protection.

The project is administered by the South West Catchments Council and is funded under the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.



DEC's Mia Morley (left) and Department of Water's Kelli O'Neill undertaking water quality analysis training. Photo – Dominic Heald

Insight into WA prescribed burning

A PORTUGUESE Forestry Department representative has had the chance to get a good idea of Western Australian fire management practices – despite weeks of heavy rains!

Joao Tome spent 20 days with DEC to study prescribed burning practices. Swan Coastal District Sustainable Forest Management Coordinator Owen Donovan said while rain had made the work placement more difficult, Joao gained a good insight into WA prescribed burning techniques.

“We’ve got quite a different culture towards forestry and land management and prescribed burning,” Owen said.

“We have a real focus on hazard reduction burning whereas Portugal has a massive fire control problem so they are looking to us for an example.”

Owen said WA was regarded as a world leader in prescribed burning in the type of pine known as *Pinus pinaster*.

“In Portugal they’ve got one million hectares of pinaster and only a few areas in pinaster plantations where they carry out prescribed burning whereas we have 20,000 hectares and do 3000 to 5000 hectares of prescribed burning,” he said.

Joao started his placement in late July and finished mid August.

He said Australia and Portugal differed greatly in politics, soils, topography, vegetation and land management.

“In Portugal 97 per cent of the land is privately owned, and only 3 per cent belongs to the government,” Joao said.

“Almost all the properties are small, making it difficult to manage them properly.”

“It’s very interesting to see how another country manages the same species and carries out prescribed fire burning. It’s why I am here – to learn, and gain more experience in the subject.”



Joao Tome during prescribed burning. Photo – Owen Donovan

Impressive safety record

A TOTAL of 65 years of accumulated dedicated service to protecting Western Australians from the devastation of bushfires was recognised in July with presentations of national medals for fire services to DEC staff.

Environment Minister David Templeman presented national medals and clasps to three staff from the department’s Great Southern District, part of DEC’s Wheatbelt Region, at an awards day in Narrogin.

The national medal is awarded for 15 years of service while clasps are presented for each subsequent 10 years of service.

The three recipients were Great Southern District Overseer Mervyn Beacham and District Manager Greg Durell (clasps for 25 years consecutive service) and to Reserves Officer Des Plumb (15 years service).

The staff are not only involved in fire management but also work in other areas such as nature conservation, wildlife management, tourism and recreation and sustainable forest management.

During the awards ceremony, the Wheatbelt Region was also recognised for having one year lost time injury free.

Campground host program success

By Samille Mitchell

THE allure of camping in some of Western Australia’s most spectacular natural environments is helping to make DEC’s campground host program a huge success.

Since the program’s inception in 1991, the number of people volunteering as campground hosts has grown to about 160 people every year.

Campground hosts volunteer their time to live in a national park or ex-pastoral lease at one of 54 sites across the State.

They camp by some of the State’s most stunning coastline, amid soaring ranges and in areas renowned for their floral growth.

In return for these exclusive addresses, campground hosts conduct a variety of tasks for DEC.

DEC Community Involvement Unit Coordinator Marg Buckland said the tasks included advising visitors on camping sites, allocating sites when necessary, monitoring site usage, providing information to visitors, updating rangers, helping to collect visitor statistics, cleaning facilities and transporting water and firewood.

Marg said before taking on the job, campground hosts were encouraged to take part in a two-day training workshop and short training courses covering first aid training, basic fire training and cross-cultural training.

“In return for their efforts they have the

unique opportunity to enjoy free camping in a beautiful national park setting,” Marg said.

Campground hosts come from diverse backgrounds and can experience a range of environments.

Jurien Bay resident Norma Crommelin has volunteered as a campground host since 1997 and spent anywhere between two weeks and five months in national parks including Cape Range, Cape Le Grand and Shannon and Two People’s Bay Nature Reserve.

She said one of the job’s biggest rewards was meeting great people.

“I really enjoy the interaction with people and just seeing people enjoying the place,” Norma said.

“I’ve made some great friends through being a campground host.”

If you know anyone who may be interested in being a campground host please contact Marg Buckland on (08) 9334 0251 or email marg.buckland@dec.wa.gov.au.



Norma Crommelin (second from right) with friends (left) Brian and Joy Ebert, Margaret Curry and (right) John Curry at Stokes National Park on WA’s South Coast. Photo courtesy of Norma Crommelin

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The community advisory committee will advise on the development of a management plan for the conservation reserves of the City of Albany coastline and adjacent hinterland.

The committee’s tasks include revising existing management plans for West Cape Howe National Park and Two People’s Bay Nature Reserve, and advising on new plans for other conservation reserves including Torndirrup and Waychinicup national parks and nearby conservation reserves.

The community working groups will advise on management planning for Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanic Park and Voyager Park.

John said the community groups comprised people with a wide range of interests including recreation, fire management, flora and fauna conservation and Indigenous culture.

A map showing the plan area and a ‘Have Your Say’ brochure are available from DEC’s www.naturebase.net website or from Jude Allan at DEC’s Albany District Office on 9842 4500.

Gilbert’s potoroo doing well at Bald Island

By Katie Schoch

A RECENT monitoring trip by DEC staff to Bald Island, near Albany, has provided increased hope for the survival of Gilbert’s potoroo, the world’s most endangered marsupial.

The Gilbert’s potoroo is reduced to about 30 animals at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve on the mainland near Albany.

Bald Island was selected as a translocation site in 2005 to establish a second population of the species.

Since August that year, seven Gilbert’s potoroos have been relocated from Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to Bald Island. Regular checks of the mainland population have been made to ensure that the translocations were not further threatening the species.

DEC Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend said the entire known island population of nine potoroos was caught on the recent seven-day trip.

“It seems that the potoroos have

resoundingly endorsed our choice of Bald Island as a translocation site,” Tony said.

“This trip in particular has established that Bald Island can support potoroos in the long term and that good survival of individuals can be expected, once they reach independence.

“This is an exciting development in the preservation of this species, which we now estimate has about 40 animals existing in the wild.”

The nine animals included two potoroos that had not been located since September last year, soon after their translocation to the island.

Three of the five females on the island were found to be carrying pouch young, including the first independent island-born potoroo, a female discovered in September last year.

All of the animals were in good health and condition.

The translocations were undertaken with funding from the *Saving our Species* biodiversity conservation initiative and from South Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) Inc.



DEC Principal Research Scientist Tony Friend at work on the potoroo relocation project on Bald Island. Photo – Bev Davis

Briefly...

IHU becomes AHU

DEC's Indigenous Heritage Unit has changed its name. The unit, which operates as part of the Parks and Visitor Services Division, is now referred to as the Aboriginal Heritage Unit.

The Aboriginal Heritage Unit is located at DEC's State Operations Headquarters at Kensington and can be contacted on 9334 0564.

New EPA Chairman

Dr Paul Vogel has been appointed as the Environmental Protection Authority's new Chairman from 5 November.

In 2002, Dr Vogel became the inaugural Chief Executive and Chairman of the South Australian Environment Protection Authority.

From 2001 to 2002, he worked as the Director of Environmental Policy for the Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet and from 1995 to 2001 he was the Director of Environmental Systems for the then WA Department of Environmental Protection.

EPA Deputy Chair Dr Andrea Hinwood acted as Chairman after the departure of Dr Wally Cox in May. Barry Carbon is interim Chair for three months until Dr Vogel takes on the post.

The EPA board comprises the Chair, Deputy Chair and members Denis Glennon, Joan Payne and Dr Chris Whitaker.

Protected areas forum

DEC has helped organise a major conference aimed at highlighting the importance of parks and protected areas.

The 'Parks and Protected Areas Forum: a sense of place, for all people, for all time' took place from September 23 to 26 at the Esplanade in Fremantle.

Day one provided an opportunity for keynote speakers to present key challenges for protected areas, day two focused on the experiences of a variety of park users and day three established an agenda for action, with a choice of six optional field trips offered to delegates.

Invited speakers included former NSW Premier Bob Carr, outback adventurer Malcolm Douglas and Canadian biologist Paul Eagles.

The conference was hosted by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, DEC, FACET, Conservation Council, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Parks Forum and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

DEC team inspires educators at Shark Bay World Heritage Area

TWENTY-TWO science educators from universities, government agencies and schools across Australia and overseas recently visited the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

The educational tour was organised by DEC Senior EcoEducation Officer Liz Moore, staff from DEC's Denham office and Curriculum Council Science Project Officer Nolene Harris. It followed the World Conference on Science and Technology Education held in Perth in July.

Liz said the trip provided visitors with the opportunity to learn from department scientists about their work in nature conservation and educating for sustainability.

"The teachers explored one of the most spectacular natural areas in Australia, home to many rare and threatened species, the famous Monkey Mia dolphins, ancient stromatolites and vast seagrass beds harbouring populations of dugongs," she said.

Guided by Project Eden Manager Colleen Sims, the group was introduced to DEC's *Western Shield* program and encountered unique mammal species.

"They visited Project Eden's local threatened fauna breeding pens, took part in the monitoring of threatened fauna and explored some of the botanical wonders of the area under the guidance of DEC Research Scientist and botanist Alex Chapman," Liz said.

"They also were provided with educational resources, enjoyed an informative presentation from Marine Park Coordinator Tim Grubba and learnt from National Park Rangers Cathy Zwick and Wayne Moroney during a visit to Shell Beach and Eagle Bluff.

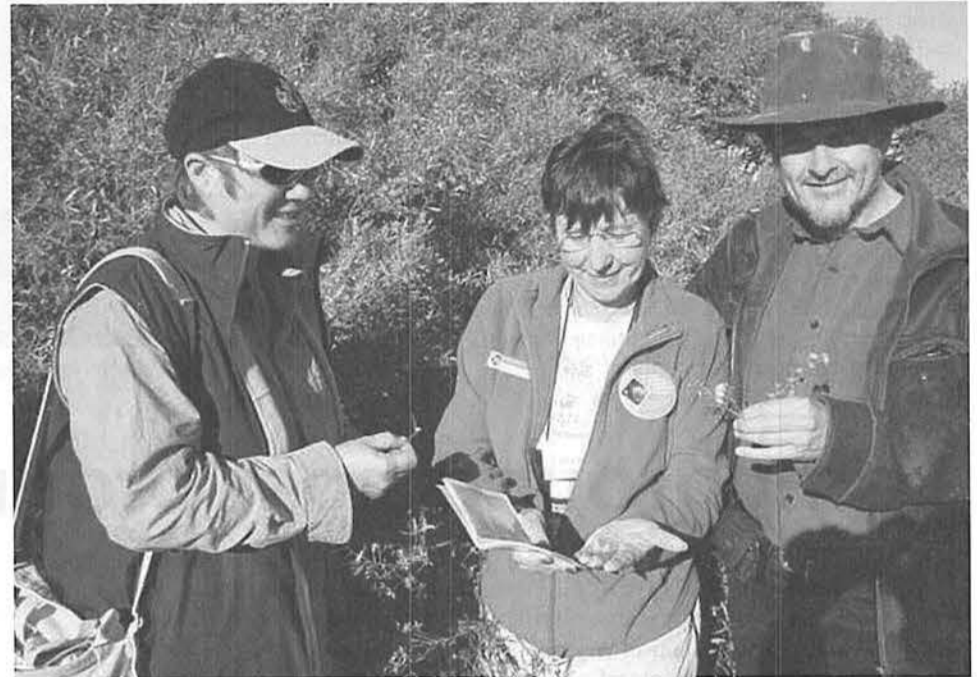
Networking and good conversation continued during relaxation at the Peron Homestead.

The educators commented that the trip provided a rich learning experience and the knowledge and resources to inform their teaching.

President Elect of the National Australian Science Teachers Association Peter Turnbull was impressed with the trip.

"Thanks so much to all those who put in so much time and effort to make sure we enjoyed a rich experience. It has been amazing for us all!" he said.

"Without exception the feedback indicated overwhelming gratitude for the way DEC staff and other presenters went beyond the call of duty to ensure that each science teacher got maximum benefit from the tour," Liz said.



Research Scientist Alex Chapman (right) points out the features of the declared rare species *Eucalyptus beardiana* to Project Eden Manager Colleen Sims (left) and Nolene Harris (centre) from the Curriculum Council. The plant was 'discovered' while checking traps on the Peron Peninsula. Photo - Liz Moore

Grants for litter prevention

KEEP Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) WA is offering grants of up to \$10,000 for initiatives related to litter prevention or specifically related to roadside litter prevention.

Roadsides and highways are among the top three sites for all litter in Western Australia.

"Both KABC WA and the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council (PSF) acknowledge the need for action to prevent and reduce litter on roadsides and highways," KABC WA Community Education Coordinator Shantell McClenaughan said.

"This has led to the development of the second of the grant categories - the new PSF and KABC WA Roadside Litter Prevention Grants.

"In this grant category, priority will be given to projects which make lasting changes to reduce litter and change litter behaviour on roadsides and highways and to trial projects that will develop a model for future litter projects."

The general litter prevention category will also give priority to projects that make lasting changes to reduce litter and change litter behaviour and to trial projects that will develop a model for future litter projects. In addition, particular attention will be on projects which focus on car parks, sporting and recreation venues, shopping and commercial precincts and waterways and those that address specific issues such as illegal dumping, cigarette butts or beverage containers.

KABC WA will provide grants of up to \$10,000 for regional projects and major initiatives, and up to \$5000 for single municipal projects or local area projects.

Local governments, small to medium enterprises, local associations and community groups were encouraged to apply.

Applications closed on 28 September and successful grant projects will be announced in November.

For more information contact KABC WA on 6467 5143.

Makeover at Honeymoon Pool

DEC has given the popular camping and recreational area at Honeymoon Pool a makeover.

The \$530,000 revamp to the Wellington National Park site includes car parks, decking, safe river access, retaining walls, steps and landscaping.

DEC's South West Region Parks and Visitor Services Program Leader Peter Henderson said the work was a balancing act aimed at providing for visitors while also protecting the area from heavy visitation.

He said the end result was the culmination of nearly seven years of planning and construction work.

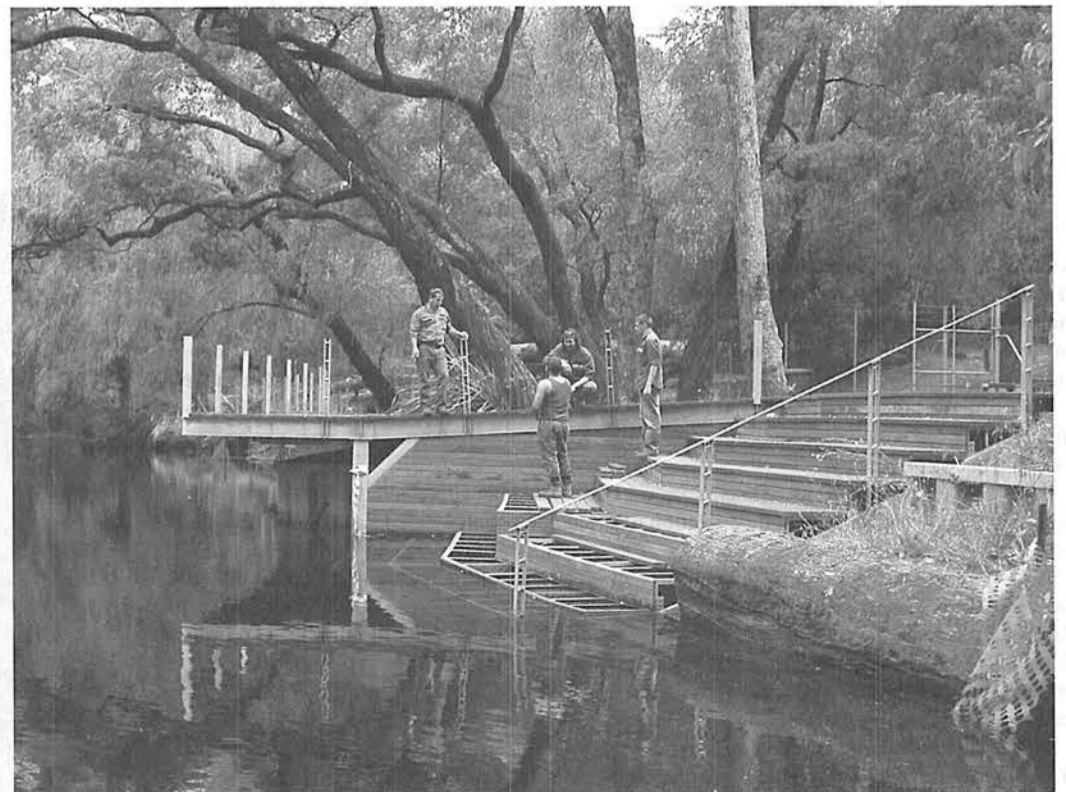
"We started planning for redevelopment of the site's day-use area in 2001 when it became apparent that the existing retaining wall and access steps were starting to collapse into the river and pose a risk to visitor safety," Peter said.

Wellington District Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator Leon Price said the most difficult part of the project was designing a deck that would protect the existing large trees while also maintaining the wonderful ambience the trees provided.

"The deck also had to prevent further erosion of the riverbank and allow visitors safe access to the water," Leon said.

The Collie River and surrounds are a registered Aboriginal heritage site and the Ngalang Boodja Council provided advice on the project during planning and construction.

DEC staff were joined by crews from the Department of Housing and Works, GHD Consultants, Kelemem Pty Ltd, the Water Corporation, the Shire of Collie and the local Aboriginal community in completing the project.



DEC staff Dave Hansberry, Ross Sturges, Peter Laurent and Rowan Slapp at work on the Honeymoon Pool upgrade. Photo - Leon Price/DEC