



RESEARCH INFORMATION NEWS

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE
NOT FOR LOAN

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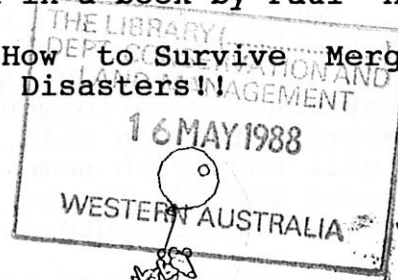
February '88

Editorial

Having survived the traumas associated with issue number one - mainly fights with a newly installed laser printer that didn't want to do as it was told and an irate secretary who couldn't understand why the printer had decided to be an individual - it's now time to attempt issue number two of this little gem. Thanks to the expertise of the Woodvale computing staff the printer is now firmly under the thumb and we can look forward to a hassle free edition.

The last month has seen us madly involved in yet another Functional Review with many staff facing the gruelling task of allocating F.T.E.'s to various functions and services and then devising the costs of performing those functions and services!? What does it all mean, and where will it lead us? Maybe the answer can be found in a book by Paul Hirsh entitled

"Pack Your Own Parachute" - How to Survive Mergers, Takeovers, and Other Corporate Disasters!!



With this and the budget estimates hopefully behind us the forthcoming month may enable a little Research to be done - after all they say that's why we are here!

Ed.

| | Issue | Deadline | Distribution |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Deadline for next Issue | MARCH 1988 | 20 MARCH | Early APRIL |

INFORMATION FROM RESEARCH DIVISION POLICY GROUP MEETING
HELD 1 MARCH 1988 AT DWELLINGUP RESEARCH CENTRE.

* HERBARIUM

Last issue it was reported that the Herbarium would be joining CALM mid February. Unfortunately the transfer cannot be finalized until the various Acts of Parliament that the Herbarium works under are altered. The Herbarium Transfer Group continues to meet and is addressing such issues as structure, funding etc. A workshop was also held with CALM and Herbarium staff late last month.

* CALM ACT TECHNICAL STAFF

CALM Act Technical Staff have reached a consensus on conditions for transfer into the Public Service. These conditions will be compared with Public Service Act awards, discussed and presented to the Human Resources Branch.

* INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL POLICY

The current draft Departmental policy does not make allowances for technical staff to travel interstate nor does it make provision for more than one officer to attend the same conference. The RDPG will review these policies and submit a revised procedure to Policy Directorate for approval.

* PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

John Bartle has finalized a performance appraisal form for the Research Division. This will be used on a trial basis and also until such times as the review on Departmental Performance Appraisal forms is completed. Research Division will not have a unique appraisal system as we will comply to some degree with the Departmental system. However there will be room to adopt the forms to fit our special requirements.

* FLORA CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM LEADER

With the appointment of Steve Hopper to the SPRS position and a permanent member of RDPG the issue of Flora Conservation Program Leader was addressed. At this stage the selection of a new Program Leader will be deferred until after the Program Reviews and also until such time as the Herbarium is incorporated into the Division.

* MEETING WITH DWELLINGUP RESEARCH CENTRE STAFF

Whilst in Dwellingup RDPG members met with the Dwellingup Research Centre staff. Concerns with building conditions and the transfer of CALM Act technical staff were discussed. These informal discussions were followed by an update on Research Projects

Richard Mazanec and Ashley Kennett-Smith spoke on their work in relation to Jarrah Forest Rehabilitation. Progress with the Plant Diseases and Pests Program was addressed by Bryan Shearer. This was followed by Geoff Stoneman speaking on silviculture and hydrology and Kim Whitford on ways of measuring leaf area index. The transfer of information proved rewarding to both the visitors and the residents.

AROUND THE RESEARCH CENTRES

* DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY FOR DECLARED RARE FAUNA

A working group has recently been formed to prepare a draft Departmental Policy on Declared Rare Fauna. The group aims to :

- (1) Develop a draft policy on declared rare fauna
- (2) Revise the current list of species
- (3) Consider licensing in relation to declared rare fauna.

The working group is chaired by Andrew Burbidge. Other members of the group are Bob Prince (Woodvale) Allan Burbidge (Woodvale), John Blyth (Scientific Advisor, Crawley) and Dr Paddy Berry (Museum).

* CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Angas Hopkins has recently been invited to present a paper at the CSIRO International Geosphere - Biosphere Program Workshop in Canberra on the effects of climatic change on terrestrial ecosystems. The personal invitation was a follow on from an earlier proposal of Angas's to begin a study on the effects of global climate change on the distribution of selected plant species in the species rich kwongan of Western Australia and the rainforests of Northern Queensland. The workshop continues the impetus started by the Green House 87 Conference. Prior to the CSIRO - IGBP workshop Angas will be attending the Australian Academy of Science Conference on the same theme.

* COMPUTING NEWS

~ A new version of CLIPPER has recently been released on the market. This will enable DBase programs to run at six times the normal speed. Anyone with data bases of more than 1000 records may find this worth investigating. Paul Gioia will be happy to answer any queries on CLIPPER (phone 4055100).

~ Mike Choo (Woodvale) has recently been spending one day per week at the Como Research Centre assisting staff with computing queries and development of programs.



COMING EVENTS

* SEMINAR SERIES 1988

The following seminars have been arranged for this year:

| DATE | SPEAKER | TOPIC |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 24 March | Drew Haswell | Salinity Resistance in four species of Eucalyptus. |
| 21 April | Melody Serena & Todd Soderquist | Ecology of the Chuditch (<u>Dasyurus geoffroii</u>) |
| 19 May | Neville Marchant | Taxonomic research - <u>Drosera</u> ; a case history. |

The above seminars commence at 3.00pm in the Training Centre at CALM Head Office, Como. All staff and other interested persons are welcome to attend.

The above seminars and previous ones have been organized by Dr Stuart Crombie. The time and effort put in by Dr Crombie in organizing this series has been appreciated by all Research Division staff.

At the conclusion of the above series Dr Steve Hopper will be taking over the organizing of a new series. The Research Division Manager looks forward to the continuing support and cooperation from all Research Scientist with the new series of seminars.

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* SUNDOWNER

Who said the Woodvale staff weren't a friendly bunch - we'd like to invite all Research Division staff to a Sundowner (for a small fee yet to be disclosed) on Friday 25 March 1988 at 4.00pm. A tour of the Research Centre will be organized by Steve Hopper prior to refreshments being served at 4.30pm.

Rumour has it that a number of Como Research Centre staff have never been to Woodvale - here's your chance, so make a note of the date and come on out.

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* RESEARCH DIVISION STAFF MEETING

A general Research Division staff meeting is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of 13 April 1988. Further details will be advised in due course.

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MEMBERSHIP ON SPEC

The Scientific Publications Editorial Committee meets four times a year to:

establish and maintain standards and criteria for Departmental scientific and technical publications;

establish mechanisms and procedures for submitting, refereeing and reviewing scientific and technical manuscripts;

review policy in relation to publishing scientific and technical papers;

adjudicate between authors, editors and referees when necessary;

establish priorities for publishing scientific and technical manuscripts;

recommend management of funds for scientific and technical publishing.

Current membership includes the SPRS (Science - Chairperson), Scientific Editor (Secretary), PRS (Science), PRS (management interface), Editor of Nuytsia, and a member from the Division of Technical Services.

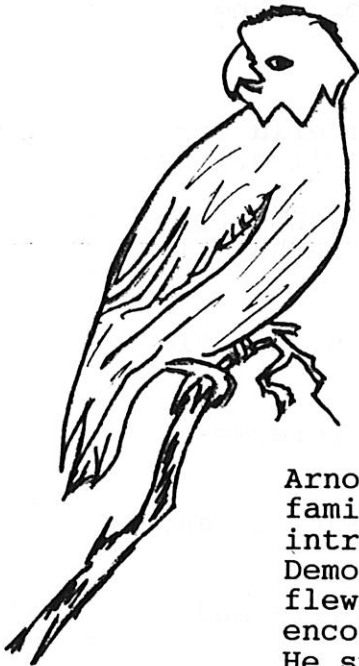
SPEC is seeking a volunteer for an additional member for a three year term from among Research Division's scientists. The new member will represent views on publication from the majority of authors who submit manuscripts for publications under SPEC's control.

Please contact Steve Hopper (405 5100) if interested.

YOU CAN ALWAYS PICK THEM BY THE LOOK IN THEIR EYE.



*** NEW APPOINTMENT - ASSISTANT RANGER - WOODVALE ***



ARNOLD RINGNECK was born in late November in a Tuart Tree, Research Centre Drive Woodvale. He left home at a very early age in a downward direction, wearing only grey down pyjamas. He was named after a prominent Woodvale Scientist (guess who?), admitted to the Rolfe family nursery until Jamie the dog offered to show her not so motherly instincts towards the young chick, transferred to the Brown-Harvey Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Leederville, where he soon gained strength and feathers. He was spoon fed a mash of rolled oats, farex baby cereal, peanut paste and pentavite, supplemented with fruit, vegetables and marmalade on toast.

Arnold made a guest appearance at the Woodvale family Christmas party where the children introduced his taste buds to cheezels and chips. Demonstrating his developing flying ability he flew up into the Callitris tree from which he was encouraged to leave with a strong jet of water. He spent the New Year holiday at the Alford-Lynam Recreation Centre returning to Leederville to improve his flying ability (between shoulders, curtain rails and picture frames) leaving his business card everywhere.

At the age of about 8 weeks and moved to a larger enclosure back at Woodvale where he really stretched his wings and developed a taste for gum nuts and blossom. A release date was decided about 2 weeks later but he wasn't very impressed with his gift of a steel bracelet. His duties, once released, included greeting early arrivals to work and sending off late departers from work, umpiring table tennis, sampling lunches and assisting with a general range of activities. A sudden lapse into weakness and poor health (possibly caused by a close encounter with a window) saw Arnold back onto a mash diet under the watchful eye of Mike Churches (the Ranger) and his family. Arnold's health improved and he was back on the job assisting plumbers and checking on late arrivals. He is not very friendly with the local crows and could be loosing interest in humans as he was recently seen chatting to another Port Lincoln Ringneck.

We hope he continues to keep a watchful eye over Woodvale.

Judith Brown.

CONGRATULATIONS

* To STEVE HOPPER on his recent promotion to Senior Principal Research Scientist - Science. We would like to wish him every success in his new position. Next issue our roving reporter will be interviewing Steve to see how he's enjoying life at the top.

* To DAVE ALGAR on completing his PhD - another Dr. in our midst.

* To JUDITH BROWN on her forthcoming marriage - hope it all goes well on the day Judith.

* To JOANNA TIPPETT on the news that she is to be a Mum later in the year.

STAFF ON THE MOVE

* Woodvale welcomes NEIL BURROWS from the Manjimup Research Centre. Neil has transferred to Perth to continue his work on the Fire Program.

* JASON GOFF: Jason has resigned from the Department after working as a technical officer at Narrogin Research for two years. He has enrolled for a three year, full time Degree in Management at Churchlands.

* DENNIS McDONALD: Dennis replaces Jason at Narrogin Research. He is a carpenter by trade and joins Research after just completing two years Departmental Cadetship at Bunbury and Dwellingup. Research Division wishes Dennis all the best in his new position.

* A REMINDER

To any Research Scientists who have not yet submitted their Curriculum Vitae, Publication and Committee lists - please do so.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor would like to thank Judith Brown for contributing the article on "Arnold Ringneck"; Paul Brown for providing the news on staff changes at Narrogin Research and to the anonymous contributor of the cartoon on page 3. Contributions for the next issue are required now - a phone call will do if you don't have time to put pen to paper.

