



Attractions and facilities

CALM - A TOURISM WINNER

CALM has won a prestigious Western Australian Tourism Award for the first time. The Department's successful book, *Dive and Snorkel Sites in Western Australia*, won the Media category of the awards, while the Penguin Experience Island Discovery Centre was a finalist in the Environmental Tourism category.

Dive and Snorkel Sites in Western Australia is helping CALM to better manage marine parks by educating divers about the importance of conservation. It has been received enthusiastically by both divers and the tourism industry.

In accepting the award, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said that "the success of the dive book is particularly significant in the light of the Department's drive to establish a system of representative marine parks and reserves."

CALM's other finalist also had a marine flavour. The Penguin Experience Island Discovery Centre opened on Penguin Island late in 1995 and is proving a winner with visitors to the island. It allows the public to watch fairy penguins frolicking in the water and learn about how these little diving birds behave in the wild. To book the ferry or cruises around the marine park, which include entry to the centre, contact Rockingham Sea Tours on (08) 9528 2004.

DRYANDRA WOODLAND FAMILIARISATION

CALM's Narrogin District held a familiarisation for tour operators at Dryandra Woodland near Narrogin on May 23-24. Fifteen operators from 12 companies experienced a number of CALM's guided activities and met local tourism operators.

Operators experienced the Sounds of Dryandra Woodland radio drive trail and inspected the new campground under construction. An evening barbeque with Dryandra's famous woylies was followed by a slide show and spotlight walk. The group was able to observe woylies, possums

and kangaroos. Dryandra's appeal as a nature-based tourism site was reinforced early next morning by a walk through the wandoo woodland to check pit traps.

Noel Nannup from CALM's Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit and two local Nyoongars, Francis and Murrel Bolton, introduced the group to Dryandra's Aboriginal history and led a craft session on how to make bush string.

A lunch time discussion with farmstay operators and other local tourist attractions focused on packaging options and how CALM might add value to their products. The weekend provided the opportunity for an exchange between inbound and tour operators, local providers and CALM. For more information about guided activities at Dryandra and packaging options, contact Tim Brown at CALM's Narrogin District Office on (08) 9881 1113.

ALIVE IN THE JARRAH FOREST AT DWELLINGUP

Since opening 18 months ago, the Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup has strived to develop new visitor experiences for people who want to discover the beauty and value of the jarrah forest.

A wood turner and three other craftspeople are currently demonstrating every day. Visitors can "meet the makers" and learn about the designing/making process first hand. A new trail allows people to learn about the amazing forest knowledge and technology of the Aboriginal Nyoongar people. This easy 800 metre walk includes a traditional Aboriginal mia mia (hut).

A shorter timber getters trail recounts life in the period 1910-1920. A recreated timber getters hut is an ideal spot for billy tea and damper and traditional pioneering games. Forest Heritage Guides are available to guide groups and can arrange a variety of activities.

The Forest Heritage Centre, with its unique leaf-shaped building, interpretive displays and fine wood gallery makes for a great day out. For further information please contact Tony Lynn on (08) 9538 1395.

FINE DINING AT JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

The refurbished tavern at John Forrest National Park in the hills overlooking Perth is under the new management of Bob Johnston, who has introduced a winter menu of hearty counter meals ideal for group tours. The 'Wildflower Restaurant' is open for Devonshire teas, lunches and evening meals, served in a comfortable atmosphere warmed by pot belly stoves or a patio area overlooking the park. Barbecue facilities are also available in the garden. For further details, contact Bob Johnston on (08) 9298 8297.

GRANTS FOR MONKEY MIA, PINNACLES & PROJECT EDEN

Grants of \$460,000 have been awarded to two Mid-West tourism projects. The WA Tourism Commission and CALM will receive \$400,000 to redevelop the visitor centre at Monkey Mia. Works will include innovative interpretive displays, activity areas, a shaded amphitheatre, and timber boardwalks along the foreshore. The project will also improve the existing theatrette, toilets, parking areas, rangers' office, research facilities and landscaping, and should be completed by mid-1998.

A \$60,000 grant will be used to develop a boardwalk and viewing platform in the Pinnacles Desert at Nambung National Park, to minimise environmental degradation to this amazing natural landscape. The boardwalk will incorporate interpretive information and wheelchair access and will also be completed by mid-1998.

Commonwealth World Heritage funds have also been allocated to establish captive breeding programs for endangered animals on the Peron Peninsula which will result in the release of animals into the wild, and to develop a visitor centre at the Peron Homestead, which will feature information on Francois Peron National Park and *Project Eden*. It is anticipated that the centre will be completed by Easter 1998.

IT'S SNUBA, NOT SCUBA, AT CORAL BAY

A new tourism venture licensed by CALM at Coral Bay allows people to "get a taste" of scuba diving in the remarkable Ningaloo Marine Park without investing a lot of time and money. The new experience, known as SNUBA, has been operating at Coral Bay since April 1997 and is the only place in Australia where it is available.

Participants do not need prior diving certification and all equipment, including masks, fins and wetsuits, is supplied. A specially designed raft, just over two metres long, provides divers with a platform for resting between dives and takes them to and from the dive site. An air cylinder on the raft supplies airlines which allow SNUBA divers to dive to a maximum depth of six metres.

Divers can see everything from turtles, stingrays and butterflyfish to scorpionfish and the delicate coral gardens of Coral Bay. The SNUBA adventure costs

\$40 per person or \$120 for a family of four. It includes a 20 minute orientation talk, a 10 minute water orientation and a 35-40 minute underwater tour. For further information contact Graham or Penny Murphy on (08) 9942 5889.

THE INN REOPENS AT YANCHEP

Following a substantial refurbishment, the Inn at Yanchep National Park reopens on July 18. While significant improvements, including landscaping, have been made to the new-look Inn it still retains its historic charm. The restaurant is open seven days a week for morning and afternoon teas and lunches, and on Friday and Saturday nights for dinner. The restaurant can also open for early morning visits by tour groups and functions. For further information contact David Strom on (08) 9221 3878.

In Short

MT AUGUSTUS

CALM Ranger Trevor Anderson is conducting guided walks and evening slide shows during the 1997 visitor season at Mt Augustus National Park. For further information contact the Mount Augustus Tourist Village on (08) 9943 0527 or the CALM office in Denham on (08) 9948 1208. Recent heavy rains have damaged sections of the Park's walk trails and repairs are being made over the next few months.

PENGUIN ISLAND

Penguin Island is closed for the winter breeding period, and will re-open in mid-September. For information about tours to the island and other islands in the Shoalwater Marine Park contact Rockingham Sea Tours on (08) 9528 2004.

CD-ROM LAUNCH IN AUGUST

Wild About Western Australia, CALM's CD-ROM which provides information on national parks, plants and animals, and activities available in CALM managed areas will be launched in August.

The CD-ROM was previewed to the tourism industry at the recent Australian Outback Adventure Workshop organised by the WA Tourism Commission, and the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) held recently in Melbourne. It was enthusiastically received by international tour wholesalers as an excellent information tool.

Discounted rates apply to tour operators. The CD-ROM retails for \$39.95. Bulk orders (more than five) can be made with Marcus Benbow on (08) 9334 0385. For single purchases please contact one of CALM's Information Officers on (08) 934 0333 and mention *Touring Western Australia* to receive your discount.

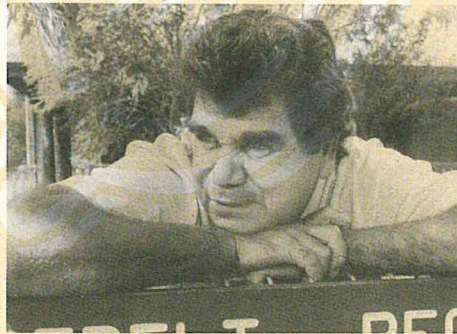
CALM Staff Profile

MEET NOEL NANNUP

Noel Nannup has been employed by CALM for 19 years. He began his ranger training at Yanchep National Park, before moving on to positions at Cervantes and Kalbarri, followed by stints at Geikie Gorge and Millstream National Parks as Ranger-in-Charge. After studying Cultural Heritage Management in Canberra, Noel worked at Narrogin for four years as CALM's Aboriginal Liaison Officer, where his efforts were rewarded with a Reconciliation Certificate from the National Reconciliation Council.

Noel is now a Senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer, and leads the Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit based at Fremantle. Noel presents Aboriginal heritage programs to school groups, tertiary students, and tour groups.

"It is my dream to increase the understanding of Aboriginal culture by both Aboriginal people and



the broader community, and that this understanding will lead to greater opportunities for our children," says Noel.

CALM's Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit staff conduct tours and give presentations for all types of groups. For further information contact Denise Griffith on (08) 9334 0564.

Inside CALM

Rod Hillman has joined CALM as the new *Valley of the Giants* Manager in Walpole. Rod replaces Christine Wrench who has returned to the eastern states. He has an extensive tourism background, having worked with nature-based and adventure tour companies. Rod is leaving a position as Manager of Heritage Programs at King Fisher Bay Resort and Village in Queensland, and has operated his own safari business in Zimbabwe. Rod holds a Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Education and a Diploma in Teaching, and is currently studying for a Diploma in Business.

Jacki Baxter joins CALM's team at Manjimup in mid-August as Senior Interpretation Officer. Jacki has been working at Katherine as a Senior Interpretation Officer for the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. Originally from WA, Jacki is looking forward to the move back home. Jacki will be developing programs and activities to provide value-added touring opportunities to the South-West.

THANK-YOU...

...to readers who responded to the questionnaire distributed in the last newsletter. The feedback was very positive, and as a result, CALM will continue to produce *Touring Western Australia*, incorporating your suggestions.

Hot off the Press

Three new books in CALM's "Discovery" series have been released. These full-colour pocket-size books are great for people who want to know more about the area they are visiting, or want to take a souvenir home. The books retail for \$5.95 at bookshops, tourism outlets and CALM offices.

Discovering Shark Bay Marine Park and Monkey Mia has information about common marine animals and plants in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, such as dugongs, dolphins, whales, turtles and various fish. Three popular dive and snorkel sites and the Monkey Mia walk trail are described and mud maps are provided to help people find the sites.

You can find out about how the famous pinnacles were formed in *Discovering Nambung National Park*. A self-guided nature drive will help people recognise and learn about various wildflowers, animals and other natural phenomena.

Discovering Yanchep National Park features six walk trails and is packed with information about the park's European and Aboriginal history and its caves, koalas and wildflowers, trees and common birds and animals.

The first book in the series, *Discovering Penguin Island and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park* has proved to be very popular.

Around the Regions

SOUTH-WEST

New camping facilities at Margaret River

The recent development of a group campsite in Margaret River will be welcomed by tour operators to the South West Capes District. Wharncliffe Mill Forest Camp (an old pine sawmill) is a few minutes walk from the town but offers isolation and true bush experience of old growth karri and jarrah forest.

Renovations to existing mill buildings include the addition of a bush kitchen, ablution facilities with hot and cold showers, and a large undercover activity area. A new 80 bed bunkhouse offering 'camping without tents' will be available in December. The camp can cater for three groups at one time and a maximum of 100 people. Costs are \$8 per adult per night and \$5 for students and children. To book, contact CALM's Margaret River office on (08) 9757 2322.

KIMBERLEY

Guided activities for 1997 season

Visitors to Mirima National Park at Kununurra can join CALM staff for guided walks, talks and slide nights to learn more about the fascinating Kimberley landscape and wildlife. Birdwatching at Kununurra Arboretum and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve is also available. There is a small charge for the activities, which will run until the end of August. For information and bookings call CALM's Kununurra office on (08) 9168 0200.

Kimberley Region Management Plan

A draft Kimberley Region Management Plan which will include management strategies for land and water managed or proposed to be managed by CALM is being prepared. The plan will address a wide range of issues relevant to nature conservation, tourism and recreation, and cultural values of the region. Comments on the plan are now invited from tour operators and special interest groups such as tourism associations. The draft plan will also be released for broader public comment later in the year. Contact CALM's Kimberley Regional Manager, Chris Done in Kununurra on (08) 9168 0200, or plan coordinator, Chris Portlock at CALM's Como office on (08) 9334 0406 for further information.

MID-WEST

Kalbarri National Park

The access road to The Loop and Z-Bend on the Murchison River Gorge is impassable to large coaches due to heavy rain over the past few weeks. Further rain may result in the road being closed to all traffic. Operators should contact the Ranger-in-Charge on (08) 9937 1140 for further details about road conditions before visiting the sites.

Visitors can now enjoy safer access to the coastal cliffs at the Natural Bridge recreation area, as the coastal walk trails are currently being upgraded prior to installing safe lookout platforms.

Nambung National Park (Pinnacles)

The reforming and primer sealing of 5.5 km of Pinnacles Drive has been completed, providing a seven metre wide sealed road surface from the Cervantes Road south to Hangover Bay, a distance of about 11 km. The road surface from Hangover Bay to the Pinnacles (6 km) has undergone a face lift with re-sheeting of the gravel surface. The access roads into coastal recreation sites of Hangover Bay and Kangaroo Point have also been resheeted, and the car park at the Pinnacles has been resurfaced to provide a more stable surface for vehicles.

A licence has been granted to Pinnacle Heli Tours to operate helicopter tours within Nambung National Park. The new tours will increase the experiences available to self-drive visitors and passengers on commercial tours. Careful route planning will ensure that the flights will not affect the experience of visitors to the park. Contact the operator, Greg McGuinness on 018 099 301 for further details.

Coalseam Conservation Park

Coalseam Conservation Park, 30 km north of Mingenew, is set to provide spectacular displays of wildflowers in the forthcoming season. The Park's information shelters give an insight into the area's fossils and the relics of WA's first commercial coal mining activities. Picnic, barbecue and toilet facilities are available at the River Bend recreation area.

Touring Western Australia is a quarterly tourism industry publication of the Park, Policy and Tourism Branch of the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management. We welcome feedback from our readers and topic suggestions for future editions.

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