

Passport photo will follow

PERSONAL PROFILE

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SPECIES CONSERVATION SECTION MANAGER

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Fortunately my parents decided to have and raise me in Perth (1953 was a good year). Nedlands was my home for most of my younger days except for 1960-62 when I lived in India while my father was involved in a United Nations aid program to establish a poultry production facility in the city of Patna.

I completed my secondary schooling at Christ Church Grammar and enrolled in Science at the University of Western Australia in 1971. By this time I had decided that Zoology was ^{what} I wanted to do and I was fortunate to work over summer vacations with Norm McKenzie in what was then the Department of Fisheries and Fauna. Andrew Burbidge had recently been appointed Chief Research Officer of the fledgling Research Branch (Bob Prince, Jim Lane and Tom Riggall completed the professional staff) and the office was in an old house in Hay Street. ^{cur} Their advice to me at this stage was to do Geology instead of Zoology if I wanted to get a job. This was one bit of advice that I didn't take and I went on to complete a BSc (Zoology) in 1974.

During 1975, I was employed under the Federal Government's employment scheme at the WA Museum under the supervision of Darrell Kitchener. I was part of a team undertaking biological surveys of wheatbelt reserves. During this year it became apparent to me that I would have to obtain a higher degree to achieve the employment I was after in wildlife research. I enrolled for a Masters degree at UWA in 1976 on the ethophysiology of native rodents, particularly the Ash Grey Mouse, *Pseudomys albocinctus*. I did not have a scholarship so enrolled part time and picked up a variety of jobs to live on. These included being a research assistant for Zoology staff, demonstrating to Zoology students, working in the animal yards, and managing the Harry Waring Marsupial Reserve at Jandakot. My thesis was completed and passed in 1981 and I was offered my first full time employment in September of that year. This was with the Federal Department of Aviation in Canberra as a Biologist and the job was to determine ways of managing the environs of airports so that birds were not attracted to them. Bird strikes to aircraft in those days were QANTAS's greatest operational and safety hazard. The technical officer working with me, and I were the only science trained staff in a department of 2 500 so at times we had up hill battles getting the work done.

A year was long enough in Canberra and in September 1982 I was appointed to the position of Reserve Management Officer - Islands with the WA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in Karratha. This primarily involved preparing a management plan for the Dampier Archipelago nature reserves. In the six years I was in Karratha the oil and gas industry developed and I was also involved in establishing environmental guidelines for oil bases on Lowendal, Airlie and Thevenard Islands. Developing and implementing Black Rat and goat control programs on island nature reserves was also on the agenda. CALM evolved during this time and I believe Karratha was the only regional office that had all components of the new department.

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already present and working together from day 1. Tony Start was the inaugural regional manager and I haven't exceeded from him since!

In 1988 I shifted back to Woodvale to work at the Wildlife Research Centre as a Research Scientist. I wanted to develop my expertise and interest in mammal conservation and one of my first tasks at Woodvale was to develop and implement the management program for the Chuditch. This is ongoing, and I have since taken on projects relating to the conservation of Greater Stick Nests, Shark Bay Mouse, and forest mammals in general. At Woodvale I have also been involved in the departments Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee, represent the department on committees advising the Minister for Local Government on proposed legislation for the Animal Welfare Act.

