

# CALM NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MAY—JUNE 1998



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## Cadets to help natural environment

THE State Government's 'Cadets WA' initiative has been extended to conserving the State's natural environment.

Bush Rangers is a new program developed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Office of Youth Affairs to help create a much greater awareness of the natural environment and how it can be conserved for future generations.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Youth Minister Mike Board launched the scheme, which is for school students between the ages of 13 and 17, at Matilda Bay Reserve in June.

The overall mission of Bush Rangers is to empower young people to play an active role in conservation and to understand the need for its management.

"Young people are not only becoming more aware of our environment, they are wanting to be actively involved in conserving it," Mrs Edwardes said.

"Bush Rangers will teach our future generations the basic skills needed to make them good environmental citizens."

Mr Board said the program was heavily accented towards practical, hands-on experience in the natural environment rather than lectures in the classroom.

"These practical projects will provide opportunities for teamwork, leadership and personal involvement, and help students gain self-confidence with their fellow Bush Rangers and their peers," he said.

This is in line with other initiatives under the Cadets program which aim to give young people the opportunity to participate in personal development training, particularly training that provides practical life skills, develops leadership, teamwork and initiative, and fosters qualities of community responsibility and service.

In this way, the program will also deliver positive benefits for the local community, as schools will be able to adopt specific projects in consultation with local shires, conservation groups and CALM.

The objectives of Bush Rangers are to:

- Foster a conservation ethic among young Western Australians;
- Develop leadership and teamwork skills as well as the values of duty, loyalty and service to the community, their school and to the Bush Rangers;
- Provide young Western Australians with skills and knowledge;

continued page 2



Bush Ranger cadets from John Septimus Roe Anglican School joined Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Youth Minister Mike Board for the launch of the cadet scheme at Matilda Bay Reserve. Photo by Norm Bailey

## National and State Awards for CALM

CALM has won two awards—a national and a State—for its innovative approach to conservation and tourism.

Western Shield, the biggest animal recovery project in the world, won the Banksia Environmental Award for flora and fauna conservation.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes accepted the prestigious national award on behalf of CALM at the presentation ceremony in Melbourne. Run by the community-based Banksia Environmental Foundation, the Banksia Awards were launched 10 years ago and have become Australia's most comprehensive environmental awards.

Back in Perth on the same night, the world-renowned Valley of the Giants in Walpole-Nornalup National

by Mitzi Vance

Park won the Significant Regional Attractions Category of the annual Western Australian Tourism Awards.

Mrs Edwardes said the awards recognised the very valuable contribution these two ambitious projects were making to conservation and tourism in Western Australia.

CALM's CD-ROM *Wild About Western Australia* was a finalist in the media category of the Western Australian Tourism Awards.

The success of the Valley of the Giants, which includes the award-winning Tree Top Walk, has been unprecedented with more than 360,000 people visiting the facility since it opened in 1996.

More than \$2 million has

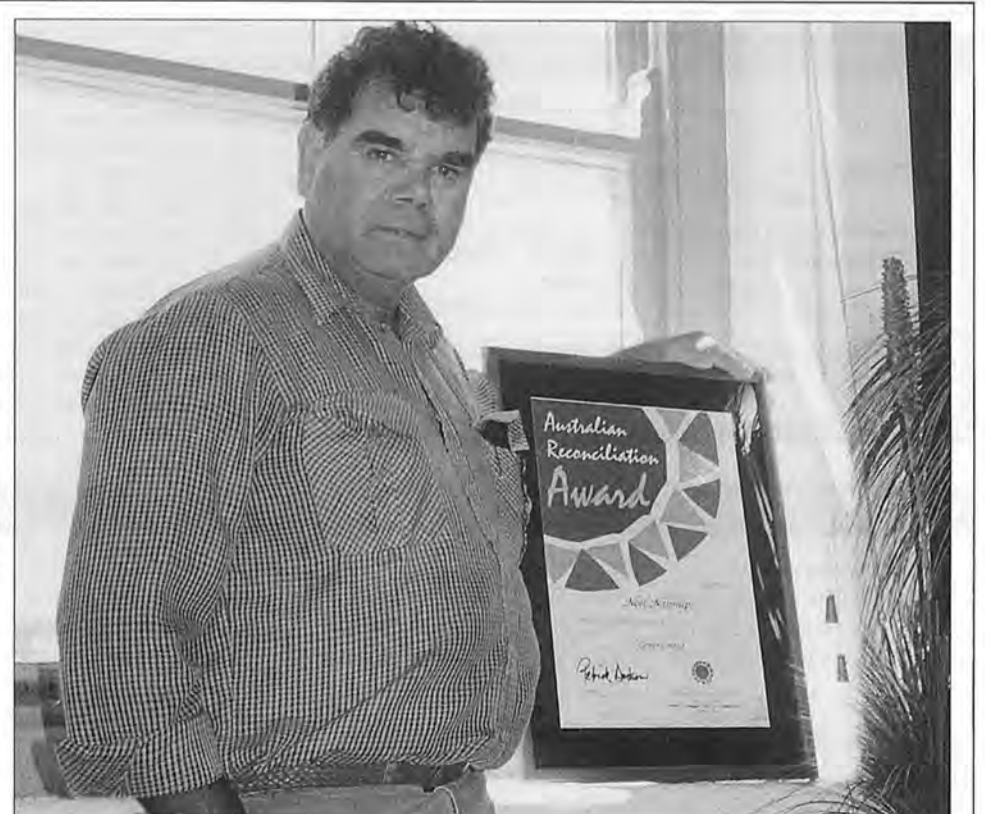
been earned in revenue from the Tree Top Walk which CALM has used to maintain the facility and for other conservation and recreation work.

The Minister said the award stemmed from the decision to have an integrated land-management agency, which has been permitted to keep all revenue raised and use it for conservation and recreation projects.

"The attraction has also had a major impact on local business, demonstrated by the growth of local tour operators, accommodation houses and businesses in Walpole," she said.

"It is a tourism facility of unparalleled value.

"Its success has now become the role model for a similar attempt in the USA with Curry County in Oregon seeking CALM expertise."



## Noel brings honour to CALM

see page 2



During the past several weeks, CALM has copped a fair share of often quite virulent criticism in the media. Most of the flak we have received was as a consequence of the fact that we are in the final stages of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process and it would be surprising if we did not continue to be a target until the RFA is completed.

I don't expect the completion of the RFA will mean the controversy over forests will end, but (and even though some of the criticism we have received has been a bit tiresome) I believe the process has been very worthwhile. Apart from the fact that it does provide an opportunity for anybody in the community who wants to participate and to put their views forward, we now have a forest data base and management information system that is second to none in the world.

It is unfortunate that in the debate over forest use that CALM's role is often misrepresented. Our job is to provide, with the assistance of hundreds of other independent scientific experts, the management options available and advise on the consequences of different management strategies. It is the responsibility of the Minister, and ultimately the Cabinet, to make the final decision. Some sections of the community portray CALM as the decision-making body, and imply that we should be making decisions in favour of one particular community group. I suspect that this reflects a philosophy that supports the idea that the elected government should be subverted by government agencies that are the captive of unelected minority groups.

CALM's current forest management policies flow from the 1987 and 1994 management plans which were reviewed by the Lands and Forest Commission, the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, and the Environmental Protection Authority (now Department of Environmental Protection) and were endorsed by successive governments, representing all major political parties. In the event that the RFA process results in the government changing policies, CALM will implement those changes.

While we in CALM cannot (and should not) determine the policies that govern how public lands are managed in Western Australia, we do have a major role in determining how efficiently and effectively government policies can be implemented.

I would be less than honest if I did not acknowledge that I occasionally get weary and disappointed about the public criticism of CALM by some sections of the community, particularly when the criticism is unfair and based on ideology rather than fact. But I am constantly reassured by the quality of the people who work in CALM and the quality of our management. That is why I will continue to publicly defend the Department when we are unfairly criticised.

The fact that we have recently received major awards for conservation, tourism and our mapping expertise confirms that it is not just me who believes we are doing an excellent job. But I get even more pleasure from attending events like the Arbor Day celebrations—where long-serving members of the Department are recognised—and the graduation ceremony for our new recruits, who are of outstanding quality.

Public debate about CALM's activities and functions is inevitable because we are frequently placed in a situation where we are asked to balance the needs of different sections of the community. It is important that we don't let unfounded, unfair criticism distract us from our task, which is to do the best we can for the whole of the community.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea

## CALMNEWS—MAY-JUNE 1998

Managing Editor: Ron Kawaliak

Editor: Verna Costello

Contributing Editors: Nigel Higgs, Mitzi Vance and Penny Walsh  
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## Noel wins honour

CONGRATULATIONS to Aboriginal Tourism Unit's senior Aboriginal heritage officer Noel Nannup, who was recently presented with a plaque honouring him in the 1997 Australian Reconciliation Awards.

The Australian Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation makes the awards each year, in recognition of outstanding effort towards achieving the Council's objectives.

The council's overall task is to promote a process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community.

This process is based on fostering an appreciation of indigenous cultures and achievements and of the unique position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the indigenous peoples of Australia.

The Council was established by the Commonwealth Parliament, with unanimous cross-party support, as a statutory body under the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991.

It comprises 25 members drawn from the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and wider Australian communities.

The Government, the Opposition and the Australian Democrats in the Commonwealth Parliament are represented among the wider community participants.

Noel began his career with CALM in 1985, when the department took over responsibility from the National Park Authority of WA (NPAWA) for Geikie Gorge National Park,

where he was a ranger-in-charge.

He had previously also gained extensive experience with the NPAWA as a ranger at Yanchep, Nambung and Kalbarri National Parks.

In 1992, after completing a two-and-a-half-year course in Cultural Heritage Management in Canberra, Noel was appointed Aboriginal liaison officer in the Wheatbelt Region.

While his position was based in Narrogin, Noel was also responsible for Aboriginal issues on CALM-managed land in the Central Forest, Southern Forest and South Coast regions.

His first year in this position saw him concentrate on describing and protecting Aboriginal sites and liaising with Aboriginal groups.

From there, he undertook work in community education and liaison and participated in projects aimed at recording the oral history of Aboriginal culture in the Dryandra area.

From January 1996, Noel has been senior Aboriginal heritage officer with the Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Division, and is based at Fremantle.

Noel is a Nyoongar, and a very private person who is modest about his achievements, but there is one thing to which he is passionately committed, and that is encouraging all Australians to work hard and with urgency towards reconciliation.

In Noel's own words, "There's still a great deal of work to be done—and we must do it together."

Story and photo by Verna Costello.

## Cadets help environment

(from page 1)

- Support and strengthen the links between schools, the community and CALM activities throughout the State; and -

- Provide the basis for an active commitment to conservation of the natural environment into adult life.

Bush Rangers will undertake a series of training modules covering a wide range of topics such as drill, first aid, risk management, bushcraft and survival, the meaning and the practice of nature conservation, landscape and environmental management, park and reserve management, interpretation of the natural environment and desirable Bush Ranger qualities, and personal growth.

They will also take part in a range of practical conservation projects in conjunction with local councils, CALM district officers and local conservation groups. These projects include monitoring local plants and animals, assisting CALM officers with the *Western Shield*

wildlife recovery initiative, caring for remnant bushland, building walk trails and preparing interpretive material, or even monitoring coastal islands for bird nest sites.

CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the scheme was already attracting a high degree of interest with three schools beginning Bush Ranger units.

These were John Septimus Roe Anglican School, Dun-craig Senior High and John Forrest Senior High.

Dr Shea said CALM community education officers Liz Moore and Bronwyn Goble were preparing the manuals for the units and these would be available in July.

**Note:** Staff members who would like to know more about the the who, what, where, when, why and how the Bush Ranger Program, should contact community education officer Liz Moore (the program's project leader), by phoning (08) 9334 0387 or faxing (08) 9334 0498.

## Staff Movements

### Contract staff

Anna Gerner to Forest Management Branch, Manjimup, as Forest Ranger (Dieback Interpretation); Jamie Allnutt to Albany as Regional Coastal Facilitator; Melinda Bolt to Geraldton as Community Education Officer; Clare Anthony to Narrogin District as Reserves Officer; Andrew Waters to Katanning as Operations Officer; Janet Grey to Geraldton as Clerical Officer; Tania Butler to Albany as Technical Officer; Beryl Crane to Mundaring as Clerical Officer; Stephen Whitesmith to Merredin as Clerical Officer; Jackie Courtenay to Albany as Research Scientist; Kimberley Kohan to Kununurra as Office Manager; Annabel Vowels to Perth District as Landscape Architect; Jon Kaub to Perth District as Planning Officer; Michael Lobb to Lower West Sharefarms as Field Officer; Kate Jefferies to Dwellingup as Assistant Training Officer; Ian Moore to Forest Management Branch, Manjimup, as Dieback Interpreter; Shu Ying Sun to CALMScience as Technical Officer; Robert Huston to Mundaring as Off-Reserve Conservation Officer; Cherie Kemp to Busselton as Off-Reserve Conservation Officer; Sylvia Leighton to Albany as Off-Reserve Conservation Officer; Gary McMahon to Bunbury as Regional Bushcare Facilitator; Michael Smith to Woodvale as Research Scientist; Adrian Pinder to Woodvale as Research Scientist; Winston Kay to Woodvale, Research Scientist; Bronwyn Goble to Corporate Relations Division, Como, as Community Education Officer; Emma Fiorentino to Financial Services Branch as Clerical Officer; Sonia Brain to Park Policy & Tourism as Project Officer; Linda Arnold to The Hills Forest as Programs Officer; Robyn Stephens to Wildlife Conservation Branch as Off-Reserve Conservation Officer; Terrence Cornwall to Fremantle as Aboriginal Tourism, Education & Training as Aboriginal Heritage Officer.

### Permanent Staff

Steve Braack as Radio Technician in Communications Branch, Como; Peter Masters as Ranger at Esperance; Kezia Smith as Clerical Officer at Kununurra; Tully Marwick as Clerical Officer at Albany District; Brendan Dooley as Senior Planning Officer at Wanneroo; Kate Hassall, as Policy/Project Officer at Park, Policy And Tourism Branch, Como.

### Promotions

Ian Hughes to Ranger Grade 2 at Esperance from Broome; Carol Harben to Data Processing Supervisor Level 2 in Financial Services Branch; Craig Simpson to Fleet Administrative Officer Level 2 in Financial Services Branch; Stephen White to Manager Level 5 at Narrogin, from Karratha; Aminya Ennis to Executive Officer Level 4 at Crawley; Stuart Harrison, to Operations Officer Level 3 at Wanneroo District, from Dwellingup District; Greg Kitson to Operations Officer Level 3 at Geraldton District, from Kalbarri National Park; Gerry Deegan to Operations Co-ordinator Level 3 at Ministry For Planning, from Geikie Gorge National Park; Greg Napier, Regional Parks Project Officer Level 5 at Perth District, from Dwellingup District; Alan Walker to Director Regional Services CII at Crawley; Owen Donovan to Area Co-ordinator Level 3 Plantations Business Group, Kelmscott.

### Reclassifications

Stephanie Crawford to Executive Assistant Level 3 at Crawley; Roger Armstrong to Senior Environmental Protection Officer Level 7 in Environmental Protection Branch, from Bunbury District; Stella King to Administrative Assistant Level 3 Marine Conservation Branch; Dave Bottrill to Administration & Finance Manager Level 5 at Bunbury District.

### Transfers

Trevor Walley to Wildlife Branch, Como, as District Wildlife Officer, from Aboriginal Heritage Branch, Fremantle; Jeremy Chick to Forest Management Branch, Bunbury, as Forest Ranger (Dieback Interpretation), from Forest Management Branch, Manjimup; Arthur Pettifor to Clerical Officer Wanneroo from Storeman, Wanneroo; Paul Udinga to Windjana Gorge National Park as Ranger Grade 2, from Dwellingup District; Jodie Dover to Forest Management Branch, Manjimup, as Dieback Interpreter, from Walpole District.

### Secondments

Melissa Ford to Communications Branch, Como, as Administrative Assistant, from Park, Policy & Tourism Branch, Como; Mike Lyons, to Research Scientist (Botanist), Woodvale; Mil Gill to Human Resources Branch, Como, as Payroll Officer, from Westrail; Carissa Bathgate to Planning & Visitor Services Branch, Como, as Conservation Estate Officer, from Forest Management Branch, Bunbury.

### Retirements

Jim Smith as Senior Ranger at Yanchep National Park; Tony Annels as Senior Technical Officer at CALMScience Manjimup.

### Resignations

Dallas Lynch as Technical Officer at Albany; Scott Purdye as Support Co-ordinator in Information Management Branch, Como; Catherine Italiano as Clerical Officer at Timber Technology Branch, Harvey; Joanne Currión as Customer Service Officer in Information Management Branch, Como; Gavin Ellis as Manager at Manjimup Nursery.

### \*New qualifications

Plantation Group project manager Alan Briggs, Master of Business Administration, Edith Cowan University.

\*See article at foot of page 3.

## LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS . . . LETTERS

### Praise indeed

I am writing to tell you about a most pleasant experience which I had on the Bibbulmun track.

On Sunday April 26, my parents took me to Nanga. We left late so we had little time to do anything except set up our tent then go to bed.

The following morning, our plans were to drive to the Harvey-Quindanning Road and walk to the Dookanelly

### Campsite.

My father and I were to spend the night there and be picked up the next morning at Driver Road. However, whilst collecting camp fees, a CALM officer advised us to be dropped off at Driver Road and walk to the Murray Campsite.

We could then walk on the following morning to be picked up at Yarragil Formation. He made this suggestion because the Murray

campsite was an enjoyable place with a view of the river.

We took the officer's advice and headed off to Driver Road. It was a lovely walk to the Murray Campsite with stunning views of surrounding hills.

When we arrived at the Murray Campsite, we were impressed. The facilities were excellent; running water, a wood heap and a practical hut. That night, we had a pleasant fire then went to bed early.

The next morning we took to the track again to walk to Yarragil Formation where we had arranged to be picked up.

The walk was through a rougher terrain but I enjoyed the short walk thoroughly.

On a final note I wish to thank you for the concept of the Bibbulmun track and the way it has been implemented.

Yours faithfully,  
Xavier Harvey  
DOUBLEVIEW.

# Bluegums see exports, employment up, salinity down

THE south coast's thriving bluegum industry—pioneered by CALM just 10 years ago—is gearing up for the next major phase.

With broadscale harvesting expected by the year 2000, the president of Japan's biggest pulp and paper company visited Western Australia recently to inspect his company's investment in bluegum plantations around Albany.

Mr Masahiko Ohkuni, president of Oji Paper Company, visited the region with colleagues from Oji and senior executives from Itochu Corporation.

Oji, Itochu and Senshukai Company set up a joint venture in 1993 to establish more than 20,000 hectares of bluegum plantations in the Albany region, contracting CALM as project manager.

Oji employs 14,500 people, operates 17 paper mills and 23 manufacturing plants and has annual sales of more than \$12 billion.

## Among the biggest

Itochu is one of Japan's largest general trading companies with about 900 subsidiaries and associated companies around the world and an annual turnover of \$170 billion.

Senshukai is one of Japan's leading direct marketing companies, with more than six million customers and an annual turnover of \$2 billion.

Their joint venture company, Albany Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd (APFL), works with CALM's South Coast Sharefarms.

About 11,000 hectares of

by Caris Bailey

bluegums have been planted in partnership with local land-owners and another 3000 hectares are expected to be planted this winter, taking the total number of trees planted to more than 17 million.

Other tree growers have established a further 35,000 hectares of bluegums on the south coast.

All of this has been achieved since CALM pioneered bluegum crops on the south coast with a three-hectare plantation in 1988. By 1992 the Department had planted 1800 hectares.

The bluegum plantations growing on the south coast were expected to generate about one million tonnes of wood fibre a year when harvesting began, worth about \$80 million a year to the region.

A massive investment will be required to harvest, transport and process this resource, including \$35 million to establish a chip mill and upgrade facilities at Albany Port and \$55 million for equipment to harvest and transport logs.

Consultants to Albany Port have estimated that the amount of cargo through the port will triple in the next 10 years, largely due to bluegum and mineral sands exports.

A total of 2.3 million tonnes of cargo was handled through Albany in 1997 and this figure is expected to rise to 6.5 million tonnes by 2007.

The consultants found that 216 people were already



The President of Oji Paper Company, Mr Masahiko Ohkuni, and children from Albany Primary School unveiled a commemorative plaque and planted a bluegum at Albany Port to mark the APFL plantation project managed by CALM's South Coast Sharefarms.

Photo by Andrew Halsall

employed directly and indirectly by the plantations industry on the south coast and that they earned \$46 million in 1997.

These figures are expected to rise dramatically once harvesting begins.

The region is also earning a wealth of landcare benefits from tree planting on this scale, from lowering water tables to improving the productivity of other crops and stock.

APFL has won the 1995

Landcare Australia award for Western Australian business and this year's inaugural Asia-Pacific Marketing Federation's Gold Environmental Marketing Award.

To recognise the importance

of the tree crop industry to the local economy and the local environment, Mr Ohkuni and children from Albany Primary School planted a bluegum at Albany Port during his visit.



## IMB 'steals' the silver

CALM has won a silver award for cartography in the prestigious Excellence in Mapping Sciences Awards—1998, an award presented for the best cartographic entry from throughout Australia.

The awards are presented every two years by The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia. Significantly, the Institute does not present awards if entries do not meet its objectives to a sufficiently high standard.

CALM's entry, prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement process and entitled 'Regional Forest Agreement—Vegetation Complexes Map Series', was submitted by the department's Geographic Information Systems Manager Roy Fieldgate.

It depicts data compiled by Mattiske Consulting and Havel Land Consultants, and is based on CALM operations graphics, aerial photographs, previous climatic publications, previous

soil and landform publications, and vegetation and floristic studies by a range of authors.

The maps therefore represent a summary of a large range of studies.

The mapping units employed results from a combination of vegetation, climatic and soils data. More than 18,000 points of data were used in demarcating these mapping units.

The areas covered in the six map sheets submitted were: Perth, Pinjarra, Collie, Busselton-Augusta, Pemberton and Mount Barker.

The source information was assembled by Libby Mattiske, of Mattiske Consulting. The input and processing was undertaken by a team led by Robyn Wilson, and the cartographic presentation work was led by Mark Laming, both of the Information Management Branch's GIS Section.

The maps contain a number of innovative features. A source data reliability diagram

is provided, and 315 colours are used in depicting vegetation complexes.

Extensive use is also made of colour to indicate interrelationships of vegetation, climate trends and groupings.

Branch Manager Colin Pearce said that it was the first such summary ever presented on this scale.

"With the present coverage, it sets a new standard in local vegetation mapping, and sophisticated colour representation," he said.

Showing off their silver award are Information Management Branch cartographic officers Holly Smith and Sacha Pop-Markov, assistant project leader (Map Publishing) Mark Laming, cartographic officer Graham Minchinton and project leader—Geographic Information Systems Applications Robyn Wilson.

Photo by Verna Costello

## Don't hide your qualifications, tell Human Resources

A RECENT conversation with Plantation Group project manager Alan Briggs led to the discovery that many CALM staff quietly beaver away studying for higher qualifications, and when they graduate, their success goes largely unrecognised.

This vital information languishes instead in the form of a note in the relevant staff file held by the Human Resources Branch. But even this is dependent upon the folks in

that Branch being informed of the fact.

It seems that many staff neglect to let them know. (Among them are some who collect highly impressive qualifications the way others collect stamps or bottle tops.)

Apart from the important business of qualifications being noted on the individual's staff file, there appears to be no avenue within CALM, other than word of mouth, for colleagues and friends to learn of their

successes, slap them on the back and/or buy them a celebratory drink of orange juice.

This is now to be rectified, and under the sub-heading 'Qualifications', in Staff Movements on page 2 of CALM NEWS, staff members who have notified the Human Resources Branch of their latest qualification will be listed.

And the first to be listed is Alan himself, who recently toddled off in cap and gown to accept a Master of

Business Administration degree from Edith Cowan University.

Alan majored in tourism and wrote his thesis on 'A Strategic Business Plan for Yanchep National Park'.

A member of the CALMpeople Reference Group, Alan is convinced of the benefits of continuous learning and is an advocate that CALM managers should subscribe to the abundant array of management training that is available today.

NOTE: Principal personnel officer

Michelle Bolitho urges staff to send a certified photocopy of each of their qualifications to the Human Resources Branch (HRB) for placement on its database and placement on the relevant staff member's file.

In the case of wages staff, in addition to sending certified copies to HRB for placement on its database, they should also see that a copy reaches their Branch or District administrative officer for placement on the files that are kept locally.



Curumbine Primary students Thomas Tierny and Ellsa Waterman with Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes and Charlie Chuditch at the Arbor Day planting ceremony at Gngangara Park. Photo by Norm Bailey

## CALM celebrates Arbor Day

**THIS year's Arbor Day—Day of Trees was celebrated with great aplomb by CALM, with a number of festivities and tree-planting ceremonies held throughout the State by local District offices.**

In the Perth metropolitan area, two Arbor Day tree-planting ceremonies were held—one in Gngangara Park and one in Matilda Bay Reserve.

The Gngangara bush breakfast function saw 90 Grade I students from Curumbine Primary School help plant 400 banksia seedlings as part of revegetation plans for Gngangara Park.

With help from Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, CALM staff and The Hills Forest's Charlie Chuditch, the students showed great enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they planted all 400 seedlings.

The morning began cold, windy and grey but by the 8.00

by Mitzi Vance

a.m. start time, the clouds parted and the sun shone just as the bush band began to play Executive Director Dr Syd Shea's favourite Arbor day song 'Home among the Gum Trees'.

The good weather and the success of the early morning for the afternoon function at Matilda Bay Reserve. This, plus some positive thinking, proved to be fruitful as the sun shone on the students from Sir David Brand School, Kim Beazley School and Applecross Primary School.

More than 50 students from the three schools combined to enjoy the festivities, which included guest appearances by Dockers' players Clem Michael and Quentin Leach, along with Charlie Chuditch.

Students and - CALM Crawley staff enjoyed singing

and dancing to a bush-band with a repertoire that included—yes that song again—'Home among the Gum Trees' and a number of Spice Girls' songs. As part of the festivities, the students helped CALM plant more than 20 native tree seedlings in Matilda Bay Reserve.

Both events were a great success and were a tribute to Perth District staff, Leon Griffiths, Therese Jones, Annie Grieg and Bill Cuthbert and all the rest, whose organisation and great humour made it such an enjoyable day for all.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said Arbor Day provided an opportunity for all Western Australians to remember the importance of trees.

"Trees are an integral part of our environment, economy and lifestyle, whether for recreation, homes, picnics, furniture or arts and crafts," she said.



Perth District Recreation Officer Wayne Taylor helped celebrate the Day of Trees at Matilda Bay Reserve with (from left to right) Rachel Stevenson from Applecross Primary School, Chris Ryder from Sir David Brand School, Clem Michaels from the Fremantle Dockers and Brooke Canham

## Students mark WE Day

by Liz Moore

**HANDS-ON activities at The Hills Forest took on a new meaning for Applecross Primary School students on World Environment Day. They discovered that mixing peanut butter, rolled oats and sardines for bait can be a smelly experience.**

They also learnt it is part of serious research on threatened species of native fauna.

This activity was one of many on an excursion offered as a thank-you to the students.

They had raised funds to help establish homes for animals, especially threatened species in the forest near Mundaring.

Other activities included setting cage and Elliott traps, visiting an animal-viewing hide

deep in the forest and having a close encounter with animals rarely seen; the woylie, pygmy possum and black-gloved wallaby.

All these experiences helped to expand the students' understanding of CALM's Western Shield program, aimed at eradicating foxes and feral cats in Western Australia. Back in the classroom the students had been working on CALM's Action Pack to help them understand the importance of the conservation of threatened species.

The funds raised by the students have paid for materials used in building nesting boxes,

bat roosts, cockatoo tubes and ground level dens that are being installed in The Hills Forest.

The project is an excellent example of co-operation between the community, a school and CALM.

The building and installation of the homes is being carried out by Green Corps volunteers under the supervision of the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

The result is a win for all parties—students, CALM in its mission for nature conservation, and young people who gain valuable experience in a worthwhile project.

World Environment Day at The Hills Forest was a celebration of this co-operation.

## Emma wins D of E Gold



Emma Bramwell receives her Gold Award from the Duke of Edinburgh. Photo courtesy Identity Studio

**CONGRATULATIONS to Emma Bramwell on winning a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.**

Emma, who is Wildlife Branch's administration officer of its Land for Wildlife Section, received her award from the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to Sydney recently.

Emma was barely 14 years old when she set out to meet the challenges taken on by all who aspire to gaining these awards, and by age 17 years, she had won the Bronze and Silver Awards.

"I decided to postpone my pursuit of the Gold Award as work and study commitments became the main focus in my life," Emma said.

"However I continued with a variety of activities that were

accepted as meeting Gold Award requirements.

"In April last year, I completed the necessary residential project, which saw me spend a week in Queensland as a volunteer nursing aid in a nursing home.

"During the second half of 1997, I completed a number of treks along the Bibbulmun Track, and in September I completed a 100-kilometre trek with six friends along the Track between Brockman Highway and Collie.

"This was the culmination of 10 very satisfying years as a member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme."

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award can be started after the participant's 14th birthday and completed before his or her 25th birthday.

A variety of skills, services, recreational activities and expeditions make up the bulk of each level of the scheme, encouraging young people to expand and explore their skills and talents, and discover new interests.

Each level of the scheme is more challenging than the previous level, and is designed to allow participants to 'test' themselves to varying degrees.

"For me, my choice of career was, to some extent, influenced by my having taken part in the scheme," Emma said.

"It's taught me to enjoy and make the most of life; I've learnt a variety of life skills such as taking the initiative, goal setting and maintaining motivation—all essential in today's work place."

## New course leads to way up

**CALM, in conjunction with C Y O'Connor College of TAFE, Northam, has introduced a new course that will be recognised as the minimum entry qualification for a CALM field officer recruit.**

The Certificate IV Conservation and Land Management will be of particular interest to Australian Workers Union (AWU) staff, but it is open to all CALM staff who do not have a post-secondary education qualification.

After successful completion of their studies, graduates will be eligible for appointment to

field officer positions throughout the State, providing a blend of technically experienced field operators with post secondary education qualifications.

A number of the units are offered in external study mode, while the remainder are conducted at the Training Centre Dwellingup or in regional centres.

Should there be any accommodation and meal costs these will be subsidised from the Central Training Budget.

For further information and enrolments, prospective students should phone C. Y.

O'Connor course co-ordinator Linda Leonard on (08) 9622 3905.

Students currently enrolled in other TAFE certificate awards may also wish to contact Linda to discuss having their credit points count towards the new award.

Staff wishing to discuss the field officer recruitment process should contact Alan Byrne on phone number (08) 9538 1200, or (08) 9538 1403, or fax him on (08) 9538 1244. They can also contact him by email on alanby@calm.wa.gov.au.

# Field officers graduate, two winning special honours



Graduates - seated from left - Natasha Oke, Ian Osborne MLA, Member for Bunbury, Trish Nan, CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea, Amanda Smith, and Megan Hughes. Rear from left - Paul Connolly, Richie Boykett, Kellie Agar, Ben Drouyn, Steve Gunn, Alan Wright, George Watson, David Whitelaw, Jacki Nicol, Jeremy Chick, Andrew Webb and senior training officer Alan Byrne. Photo by Paul Webster

**FIFTEEN CALM officers were presented with graduation certificates at a ceremony in June.**

The certificates mark the successful completion of a 14-week CALM training course the officers have undertaken in stages over the past two years.

The officers had been chosen following a rigorous selection process. The initial advertisement in October 1995 attracted

more than 150 applicants of whom 61 were interviewed. The top 20 were invited to attend a five-day residential selection school at Dwellingup.

The final selection narrowed the field to 16, of whom one has subsequently taken a year's study leave.

Environment, Employment and Training Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the program focused on competency-

based training and was accredited with the State Training Board of Western Australia.

It also reflected the Government's recognition of the need to invest in its workforce.

The Keynes Memorial Award for the most outstanding field officer recruit was presented to George Watson who is based at Fremantle in CALM's Marine and Coastal District.

George has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management from Edith Cowan University. His current duties at Fremantle focus on the district's nature conservation program and recreation and tourism. As well, he helps with the day to day field operations in the Marmion and Shoalwater Islands Marine Parks.

The CALM Executive Director's Merit Award for the

trainee who displays the best all-round performance in both theoretical and practical areas was presented to Natasha Oke.

Natasha has a Bachelor of Science (Resource and Environmental Management) from Australian National University. She has been appointed as a dieback interpreter in the Southern Forest Region, where her main duties are to assess the forest for the presence and

absence of Phytophthora which causes dieback disease.

The Executive Director's Scholarship, made available to all CALM's Australian Workers Union staff to assist them financially in their post-secondary education studies to enter into field officer positions throughout the state, was awarded to Taryn Linning of CALM's Dwellingup district and Peter Masters of the Esperance District.

## Volunteers find another *Pimelea* population



**A RARE Western Australian wildflower, the summer pimelea (*Pimelea rara*) may no longer be quite so rare, thanks to the efforts of CALM volunteers Fred and Jean Hort.**

This elusive, small, white-flowering shrub was first collected by James Drummond in 1873. However, no further collections were made after 1919 and the plant was presumed to be extinct.

Early specimens were collected from Parkerville. However, this general area gave few clues to its precise location, and made surveys difficult.

In addition, the summer flowering time of *Pimelea rara*, which is unusual for Pimeleas, may have contributed to the scarcity of collections. Most Pimeleas flower during July-November.

CALM initiated some publicity about the plight of *Pimelea rara* in 1986. As a result, the WA Wildflower Society carried out surveys during the summer of 1986-87.

In January 1987, Wildflower Society member Mrs Lorraine Graham found a white-flowering pimelea near Bickley, and CALM's WA Herbarium botanists confirmed that she

by Mike O'Donoghue

had rediscovered *Pimelea rara*, after an absence of 67 years!

This year Mr and Mrs Hort have undertaken further surveys for *Pimelea rara*. Quite remarkably, they discovered 45 new populations between Mundaring and Nanga.

The summer, pimelea is now known from more than 60 populations, with an estimated 4000-plus plants.

CALM may now be in a position to reassess the plant's conservation status and make a recommendation to the Minister for the Environment regarding its listing on the Schedule of Declared Rare Flora.

The interest and enthusiasm of Mr and Mrs Hort and other CALM rare flora volunteers is gratefully acknowledged by CALM.

Their discoveries serve to motivate and encourage the ongoing work and commitment of many individuals dedicated to documenting the distribution of the State's rare flora.

Left: Jean and Fred Hort preparing to hunt for *Pimelea rara*. Photo by Jim Tonkin



From left to right: Ricky Hughes, Terry Coffey, Keith Womball, Don Keene, Eugene Winmar, John Butts, Merrilyn Kearney, Richard Lorkiewicz, Marilyn Ramsay, Hon Cheryl Edwardes MLA, Tony Annells, Pat Collins, Brad Commins, Dr Syd Shea, Bryan Taylor, Alex Robinson and Ron Newman. Photo by Norm Bailey

## Nearly 470 years of diligence, commitment honoured

ARBOR Day celebrations held at Gnarara Park recently saw Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes present certificates of appreciation to some of CALM's longest-serving forest workers.

The recipients came from all over the south-west, from Mundaring

by Angie Bahr

to Pemberton. Each of the 17 awardees was recognised for his or her outstanding work and commitment to the management of WA's forests.

Mrs Edwardes paid them tribute for

their diligence, and a commitment that sometimes went above and beyond the call of duty.

The 17 recipients have worked for CALM in a diverse range of areas from silviculture and forestry operations to administration and mechanics. Combined, the 17 CALM officers have attained an amazing total

of 469 years' stewardship.

Among those recognised was Brian Selkirk, the longest-serving member of the awardees at 42 years. Other awardees were Tony Annells (33 years' service), John Butts (29 years), Terry Coffey (34 years), Pat Collins (32 years), Brad Commins (24 years), Judy Flanagan (26 years),

Ricky Hughes (18 years), Merrilyn Kearney (26 years), Richard Lorkiewicz (18 years), Ron Newman (34 years), Marilyn Ramsey (23 years), Alex Robinson (27 years), Geoff Styles (26 years), Brian Taylor (20 years), Eugene Winmar (27 years), and Keith Womball (31 years).



## Joint effort well rewarded

by Kim Kershaw

INDEPENDENT organisations dedicated to the conservation of Western Australia's plants and animals are frequently found working closely with CALM staff to achieve their mutual objectives.

Among these are the Central South Naturalists Club at Narrogin and Bruce Rock Land Care District Committee (LCDC).

Both organisations were recently assisted by CALM Narrogin staff in securing funding from the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF).

The funding will see the Narrogin Naturalists' Club carrying out surveys for the presumed extinct Mount Holland thomasia (*Thomasia gardneri*), a small, many-stemmed, woody perennial with pink flowers.

"The plant has not been collected for more than 50 years, so the grant is a great shot in the arm for the Club," said CALM Narrogin District wildlife officer and Naturalists' Club life member Leon Silvester.

The WWF grant to Bruce

Rock LCDC will enable the group to carry out surveys in search of the critically endangered Bailey's Symonanthus (*Symonanthus bancroftii*), a small, erect, herbaceous under-shrub with white flowers, of which there is presently only one known specimen.

Jeanette Buegge of the Bruce Rock LCDC said that previous joint surveys had helped in the discovery of the only known specimen.

"It is hoped this funding will enable us to find more populations during the August flowering season", she said.

CALM's Narrogin District operations officer Greg Durell said that it was important for species management and conservation issues that the effort and time put in by such community volunteer groups be given every encouragement.

"They are an important link and we were pleased to have been instrumental in their securing funding," he said.

WA Program Manager for

the WWF Denise True said that WA had 321 threatened plants including 25 presumed extinct, and 107 threatened animal species of which 13 were presumed extinct—more than in any other State of Australia.

"We will help community groups to look after this rich store of flora and fauna with conservation grants of up to \$5,000 per project," she said.

"Our long involvement in work to conserve threatened species in WA has convinced us that the work of community groups is essential for conservation to be successful."

Left: Bruce Rock LCDC member Jeanette Buegge and CALM Narrogin District wildlife officer and Naturalists' Club life member Leon Silvester with the WWF mascot at the presentation ceremony. The ceremony was held at the official launch by WA Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes of the new WWF office—Panda Cottage—at Herdsman Lake. Photo by Kim Kershaw

## Volunteer farmers help ensure future of two species

THE hard work and dedication of two Cranbrook farmers and a grant from World Wide Fund for Nature Australia (WWF) have provided the means for recovery of two rare species—*Adenanthos velutinos* and *A. pungens subsp. pungens*.

Just over a year ago, staff from CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre (TFSC) and the Australian Trust for

by Anne Cochrane

Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), secured the grant for community involvement in the conservation of threatened species.

The farmers—David Preston of Geekabee Hill and Lucy Skipsey of Chinocup—agreed to help collect the seed from the traps on a fortnightly basis.

The first site, west of Cranbrook, straddled private property and CALM-managed land, and is the only known location for *A. velutinos*.

The second location was on an A Class Nature Reserve at Lake Chinocup, where one of the two known populations of *A. pungens subsp. pungens* occurs. This site is under pressure from gypsum mining.

The project included the

design and erection of traps for collecting seed from the two rare *Adenanthos* species for long-term storage for future recovery programs.

Over four days, 20 traps were erected at each site by TFSC technical officer Kate Brown, CALM volunteer Carolyn Harding, with ATCV team leader Greg Starke and four ATCV volunteers.

At Geekabee Hill, rocky

ground required the use of heavy, six-foot-long, iron star pickets to support the traps.

At Lake Chinocup, plants were old and large, and a number of new innovations in trap design and construction were required. The traps were spread over a 2 to 3-km radius around the lake.

Because the highly time-consuming task of seed collection coincided with crop harvesting,

David and Lucy called on their families to ensure that the traps were cleared on a regular basis.

Thanks to Lucy, David and their families, large numbers of seed of both species were collected for long-term storage.

Their part in conserving our rare and threatened native flora, and the immense amount of time they devoted to a rather onerous task, is gratefully acknowledged.

# Western Shield update

**TWO of WA's most threatened mammals were reintroduced into the Shark Bay region in May, more than 80 years after they became extinct on mainland WA.**

by Mitzi Vance

The translocation of banded hare-wallabies (*Lagostrophus fasciatus*) from Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay, and rufous hare-wallabies (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*) from the Tanami Desert back into mainland WA was the first stage in the recovery program for these species.

For the last 80 years or so the banded hare-wallaby has been restricted to only Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay, while the rufous hare-wallaby was restricted to these two islands and the Tanami Desert in Central Australia.

Predator control through comprehensive 1080 baiting has paved the way for threatened native animals to be reintroduced into former ranges.

For two weeks in May, CALM officers from CALMScience captured western barred bandi-

coots, banded hare wallabies and boodies from Bernier and Dorre Islands, and moved them to feral predator-proof enclosures on the mainland.

The CALMScience officers involved were Neil Thomas, Peter Speldewinde, Brent Johnson, along with Peter Orell from Wildlife Branch, Anthony Desmond from Narrogin District and Project Eden officer Ray Smith.

In addition, rufous hare-wallabies were flown in from the Tanami Desert in co-operation with the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Twenty of each of the three species captured from the islands were flown to Dryandra in the Wheatbelt region, with another 20 banded hare-wallabies and western barred bandicoots taken to Peron Peninsula in the Shark Bay region.

The animals have been placed in the care of Project Eden veterinarian

Colleen Simms, and housed in purpose-built breeding enclosures at Peron Homestead.

The aim is to increase animal numbers for release at sites in the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions and in Peron Peninsula.

The captive breeding and reintroduction of animals to Peron is part of fauna recovery plans for Project Eden—a component of the Western Shield program.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwards announced at the launch of the Esperance Lakes Management Plan in early May that chuditch had been reintroduced into Cape Arid National Park—the first time the species had been reintroduced into its former home range in more than 50 years.

She said the reintroduction followed the successful baiting for foxes under the Western Shield program.

"The release at Cape Arid is part of a detailed recovery plan jointly funded by CALM, Environment Australia,

Perth Zoo and Alcoa to improve the endangered conservation status of the chuditch by translocating it to parts of the State where fox control had been achieved.

"The chuditch reintroduced into Cape Arid were translocated from the captive breeding program at Perth Zoo—a joint project between the Zoo and CALM."

Extensive post-release monitoring by CALMScience officers, led by project co-ordinator Brent Johnson, has begun, with long-term monitoring being undertaken by the relevant CALM Districts staffs.

The Minister said the reintroduction of chuditch at Cape Arid NP augured well for the future of the species and WA's conservation efforts in saving native animals from extinction.

"Recovery plans for the chuditch are right on track and it is hoped that in the future the chuditch may also follow the recent removal of the tamar and quenda from the State's threatened species list."



CALMScience's Peter Speldewinde showing a recently captured animal to Today Tonight's camera crew on Dorre Island

## WA defence in good hands

**WHEN CALM staffers Ed Turner and Steve Ward aren't caring for our forests, they can often be found carrying out their duties as corporal and private, respectively, in the Army Reserve in Bunbury.**

Ed and Steve recently had every reason to be pleased with themselves and a team of their fellow Bunbury soldiers from the 11/28th Battalion of The Royal Western Australia Regiment.

They had taken out Australia's most prestigious Army Reserve trophy in the National 2nd Division Military Skills Competition.

Competing against the best

teams from the Division's brigades, they won the event for the second year in succession, doing particularly well in weapons testing and handling, elementary training and first aid.

The competition involved an exhaustive two days of skills, including Battle Fitness Assessment (BFA), military theory and general knowledge, navigation, weapons handling, radio work, first aid, marksmanship, bayonet and obstacle course, and a daunting nine-kilometre challenge.

The challenge is a timed circuit-type course, in which each carries all his own combat equipment, and with the added difficulty of the team having to

carry one of their own members by stretcher in a simulated casualty evacuation.

At the same time they have to encode and send a radio message. To finish the event, the team has to do a log carry.

In addition to the overall trophy, the section won the overall shooting, and Ed won individual best.

The team trained through an intense seven weeks lead-up to the event, and had to sit the general knowledge component in Perth, because they couldn't make it to New South Wales in time to take the exam there.

Rushing to Kapooka, NSW, on a specially-booked Hercules aircraft, they could snatch only three hours' sleep before facing the BFA.

The Bunbury Section comprised soldiers from the south-west towns of Pemberton, Manjimup, Collie, Busselton and Bunbury, who out-competed all reservists in Perth for this crack at the national prize.

The Battalion's Bunbury Training Officer, Warrant Officer Rob Bennett said the team's employers deserved a share of the credit for their victory, as they had allowed team members time off to train, prepare and attend the competition.

The commander of the 2nd Division, Major General Hoben made a special trip to Bunbury recently to catch up with the winners.

*Corporal Ed Turner displays the trophy (presented by Major General Hoben), with four team mates (from left) Private Danny Orway, Lance Corporal Jason Haddon, Private Tim Britten, and Private Scott Richardson (Private Steve Ward was not available for this photo.)* Photo by courtesy of Defence Public Relations



Two of the CALM faces who worked behind the scenes during the RFA Roadshow were Kelmscott District weekend office assistant Dale Harvey and Dwellingup District spotter-plane pilot Dennis Woodward. Photo by Penny Walsh

## RFA attracts lively interest

by Penny Walsh

**PUBLIC interest in the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) reached new heights with the May release of the public consultation paper Towards a Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of WA.**

The RFA is a 20-year plan for the use and management of the south-west region's forests. It is an agreement between the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments, and an opportunity for everyone interested in the future of WA's forests to have their say.

As part of the public consultation process, a series of RFA Open Days were held in Perth and the south-west early in June. In a busy two-week period, displays and State and Commonwealth Government officials travelled between Denmark, Manjimup, Pemberton, Nannup, Perth, Margaret River, Bunbury, Waroona and Mundaring.

Community response varied

from town to town. In Denmark, the Open Day triggered a colourful protest by 100 green activists who chanted for an end to logging in old-growth forests. In Manjimup, a large number of timber industry workers came to talk to officials about job security and their concerns for the future of the timber industry. In Pemberton, a mix of pro-conservation and pro-timber industry sentiment was expressed.

The Open Day at the Alexander Library Building in Perth was different again, with several hundred people keen to express their views and have their questions answered.

RFA State Manager, Alan Walker, said he was pleased with the attendance at each of the Open Days.

"The aim was to outline the objectives of the RFA, highlight the main findings of the

Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA), and to show how that information could be used to develop approaches towards a final Regional Forest Agreement.

"Predictably, many of the attendees represented conservation or timber industry groups, but there were others who came independently to find out more about the issues."

As well as Open Days, the RFA officials held briefings with Shire Councils and Community Groups throughout the south-west, and also spoke to CALM staff in Manjimup and Bunbury.

The public consultation period for the Regional Forest Agreement closes on July 10. Submissions will then be analysed, summarised, and taken into consideration during the drafting of the final Agreement which will be signed by the Premier and the Prime Minister later this year.

# New initiative with teachers takes off at Lake Magenta

A NEW initiative at CALM's Katanning District recently saw its staff leading nine lively and enthusiastic school teachers on a three-day fauna-trapping and monitoring exercise at Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

The exercise was part of the quarterly fauna-monitoring program for Operation Western Shield.

The aim was to involve the teachers in a hands-on exercise so that they could better communicate the wonders of WA's wildlife, and the need for its conservation to their colleagues and students.

While the exercise is designed to accommodate 12 people, it was gratifying to see those who did take part willing

by Tony Zidarich

to juggle their tight schedules, in order to equip themselves with a more intimate knowledge of local animals and their habitat.

CALM's environmental education commitment is a long-term one, but if the enthusiasm of the teachers, and the interest shown by the local media are any indication, a similar exercise in August should be well and truly booked out.

In addition to the Magenta initiative, the district will also be identifying crown reserves in close proximity to schools and evaluating them as environmental education sites.

It is hoped that those teach-

ers visiting Lake Magenta will become effective and enthusiastic ambassadors, working closely with CALM's Katanning District to integrate what they learn into their curricula.

The exercise was not without incident according to District operations officer Mal Graham, who says that, apart from being savaged by rogue bush tailed possums and bitten by Gould's snakes, he claims he was also mercilessly attacked by bush ticks, hell-bent on feasting on his rich blood.

"But this is all in a day's work, including having a vehicle full of energetic teachers in eager pursuit of knowledge," said Mal.



Katanning Senior High School science teacher Norbert Samuels looks on while CALM Katanning reserves officer Des Plumb takes measurements of a southern brown bandicoot.

Photo by Tony Zidarich



From left, CALM carpenters Toni King, Ray Bridges and Ken Howes during construction of bunkhouse. Photo by Glenn Willmott

## Wharncliffe bunkhouse finished

WHARNCLIFFE Mill Forest Camp in Margaret River has added a 38-bed bunkhouse to its fine list of facilities.

Built into the bush pole structure that once housed the large twin saws of Wharncliffe's forestry sawmill, the new bunkhouse is expected to entice more visitors from schools, scouts guides, and other special-interest groups throughout the State.

The bunkhouse is also expected to attract groups that do not have tents, or who simply do not wish to camp in them.

The site is an ideal base from which to take advantage of a

by Glenn Willmott

range of experiences in the South West Capes District, from bushwalking along the Cape-to-Cape trail to abseiling and caving in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

The rustic option was taken when building the bunkhouse, by using the former corrugated iron roof for internal wall linings. This was also done when building the bush kitchen last year.

The site is a visual example of the changes of focus from primary industry to nature-based tourism in the Margaret River Region, and is something

with which local carpenter Toni King can identify.

Toni claims he can relate to the Bob Dylan song 'The Times, They are a Changin'', as he was part of the team that originally built the sawmill in the 1960s, and has been an integral part of the recent bunkhouse conversion.

In conjunction with local commercial operators, CALM will be working on the following projects at the site:

1. The building of an abseiling wall under the main mill shed.
2. The hosting of interpretive activities in the surrounding forest during holiday periods.

## National Park guide out now

THE long-awaited revised *Guide to Western Australia's National Parks and Forests* is now available.

The information brochure includes a map of WA with highlighted locations of national parks and an enlarged inset map showing national and marine parks from the Perth metropolitan area down through the south-west, the south coast and south-east to West Cape Howe, Stirling Range and Torndirrup National Parks.

A comprehensive table shows where facilities, such as drinking water, refreshment kiosks, picnic and barbecue areas, universally accessible toilets, camping areas and caravan parks, are available at the 96 recreation sites in parks and forests throughout the State.

The table also indicates in which parks canoeing, fishing, swimming, water skiing, walk trails, horse trails, caves, guided tours and information centres can be found.



Numerous staff from regions and districts contributed information for the brochure, which was researched, written and compiled by Jennifer Brice and Jennifer Nicholls.

The brochure's arresting appearance (the lime green colour certainly ensures it is noticed) was the work of graphic designer Maria Duthie, while cartographer Holly Smith provided the maps and John Hunter researched and provided the original grids.

Supplies of the brochure have been sent to all Regional and District offices and metropolitan branches, as well as WA Tourism Commission outlets.

Feedback from Regional and District offices and tourist information centres has already been extremely positive, with Como inquiries staff very happy to have a handout that readily answers the questions most commonly asked of them.

Regional and District offices needing bulk supplies, should contact publications distribution officer Neil Moore by email, or phone (08) 9334 0343, or fax (08) 9334 0498.

## George paints divers' picture

IT is a cool Pemberton morning. Wisps of mist rise from the still waters of the dam, as CALM divers edge their way into the water.

They try in vain not to disturb the thick layer of silty ooze that covers the bottom of the dam, while a trail of filthy brown scum fills the water column, marking their passage.

The visibility is good until the team stops to drive a stake into the dam's clay bed. The rising silt soon makes the weak morning sun barely visible through the tannin-stained waters—and darkness prevails.

Our team, consisting of Peter Lambert, Steven Ward and yours truly are in Pemberton to carry out a dark and murky deed.

Aware of the department's duty of care, CALM forest ranger David Meehan had asked for a team of divers to survey a small dam on the new Pemberton to Northcliffe leg of the Bibbulmun track.

by George Watson

CALM dive crews ensure there are no hidden dangers to swimmers, by regularly surveying popular swimming sites on CALM-managed lands throughout the State.

Obstructions and hazards are removed, and a map of the bottom is created as a guide when planning the site and facilities such as rope swings and diving platforms.

Departmental dive officer and instructor Alan Byrne is responsible for skills acquisition and revision for all CALM divers, as well as authorising dive plans prepared by the 12 CALM dive supervisors.

CALM divers perform a wide variety of tasks, from hazard identification and risk assessment to research and monitoring.

All active members of the Department's dive crew must

pass annual medical examinations, and are required to be 'competency assessed' by Alan for continued registration as an active diver. Dives are conducted to Australian Standards for Scientific Diving, and all CALM divers must follow a rigid scientific diving code.

CALM's dive crew is composed of 30 active divers, with approximately 70 other divers making up the 100 registered in CALM.

These divers are located between the Kimberley and Walpole, including inland locations such as Merredin and Katanning.

Registered divers can be found in many areas of the department from Operations to Corporate Relations Division. This group of dedicated divers provides a backup resource outside traditional areas such as Marine Parks and Reserves, and they are being called on more and more often.