

# InterSector

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SECTOR

INCORPORATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICES

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 18 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2001



The Western Australian Museum Rediscovered  
the Voyages of French Explorer Nicolas Baudin  
28 September to 21 October

# Move over Kangaroo and Emu



*The new common badging for all State Government departments and agencies was unveiled recently by the Premier, the Hon. Geoff Gallop. The colourful, contemporary design depicts a Western Australia clearly poised to make its mark on the world.*

A comprehensive style guide and downloadable versions of the new logo are available at [www.commonbadge.dpc.wa.gov.au](http://www.commonbadge.dpc.wa.gov.au)



The logo was designed within the Public Sector by Gary Bird, graphic designer at the Department of Training. "It's always a challenge to design an image the size

of a five-cent piece that encapsulates all the characteristics of something so complex," said Gary. "For the new State Government logo, I started with colour. To me, turquoise and ochre are the two colours that best represent Western Australia - with our sea and sky and red earth. Then I thought of our coastline,

which dominates our landscape and shapes our lifestyle.

"I was really striving to create something modern that would take us into a new era. I wanted to get away from the heraldic State crest which symbolises the past. My pre-eminent thought was to produce a logo that achieved a Western Australian look and feel."

By producing the logo in house, the Government has saved thousands of dollars on design costs. The new logo will be used on all departmental stationery, publications and Internet pages, phased in by July 2002. This will prevent waste by exhausting existing stocks of stationery. New departments - formed as a result of MOG reforms - will begin using the new logo immediately. The State Coat of Arms will continue to be used on Royal

Commission reports, Government Gazettes, legislation and annual reports.

The new logo was one of 55 recommendations made by the Machinery of Government Taskforce. The Taskforce found that use of individual departmental logos was confusing to the public. The use of the common logo will clearly identify State Government departments. It is also hoped that the modern look of the logo will signal a more accessible, user-friendly Public Sector.

"The MOG changes were designed to put people first in the delivery of Government services," said the Premier. "The public want to know with whom they are dealing and I believe this common badge helps. It gives the Government a recognisable identity and brings together the public service as one.

"It makes it easier for the public, visitors, and investors to recognise State Government products, services and entities, and to distinguish them from other levels of Government and the private sector."

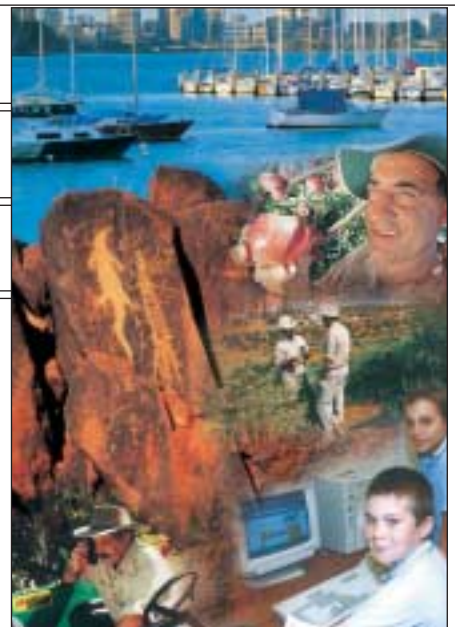
2001 PREMIERS AWARDS

## Sponsor in the Category of Services to Regional and Remote Communities

The new Department of Local Government and Regional Development will combine the roles of the former Department of Local Government and the regional functions previously undertaken by the Department of Commerce and Trade. This merger will facilitate closer co-ordination between regional development initiatives and the local government network across

Western Australia.

The purpose of the Department is "enhancing the development and capacity of communities through good government, economic growth and social wellbeing." The Department of Local Government and Regional Development is proud to sponsor the Award for Services to Regional and Remote Communities.





# This Fortnight

## ACTION ON ACCESS AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSE 10 OCTOBER

The Disability Services Commission is calling for nominations from State Government departments and agencies, local governments, community organisations and individuals for the 2001 Action on Access Awards.

Dr Ruth Shean, Chief Executive Officer, Disability Services Commission, encourages nominations from programs, services or people who have made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities throughout WA.

Nomination packages are available from the website at [www.dsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsc.wa.gov.au) or from Irma Schneckler on 9426 9365.

## MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER POLICE SPECTACULAR

Royal Show visitors will be treated to an exciting showcase of the Western Australia Police Service at its best. Police from the Police Pipe Band, Police Mounted Section, Canine Section, Tactical Response Group, Police Air Support, and Water Police will participate in the Show's evening event. Don't miss what promises to be a dramatic and exciting display!

## RURAL WOMEN'S AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSE 15 OCTOBER

Applications for the \$20,000 award close on Rural Women's Day. Application forms are available from the Department of Agriculture. Contact Lynnley McGrath on 9368 3217 or visit the website at [www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au](http://www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au)

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## COVER IMAGE:

When the artists on Baudin's expedition jumped ship in Mauritius en route to WA, the gunners stepped in to record the flora and fauna of WA with stunning results.

Images supplied courtesy of the West Australian Museum.

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*InterSector is published fortnightly by the Department of The Premier and Cabinet for the information of Western Australian Public Sector employees throughout the State and is partially funded by advertising revenue. Any opinions expressed or implied in InterSector are those of the contributors. Such views are not necessarily endorsed by the Department of The Premier and Cabinet and are not intended to reflect the views of Government or of any Minister. Though all reasonable care has been taken in compiling InterSector, no responsibility can be accepted by the editors, publishers or printers for the accuracy of information contained in the text or advertisements, and they and the Government do not endorse any of the products or services advertised herein.*

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We welcome your comments and contributions. Please forward to InterSector, Department of The Premier and Cabinet, 23rd Floor, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000; fax (08) 9222 9708; e-mail [lhutting@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lhutting@dpc.wa.gov.au). The next edition will be published on October 3, 2001. The deadline to lodge Job Vacancy Advertisements electronically in the Public Service Notices is September 28, 2001, noon, at [www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/system.html](http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/system.html)

To lodge an item in THIS FORTNIGHT,  
email details to Lynette Hutting  
at [lhutting@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lhutting@dpc.wa.gov.au)  
The deadline for submitting items  
for the October 3rd, 2001 edition of InterSector  
is Monday, September 24th.

Internet Address: [www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd](http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd)

# Rediscovering Baudin

*"The whole of the western coast of New Holland is described as a low, barren, dreary and sandy shore, affording little interesting either in the animal, mineral or vegetable."*

So said the French explorer and naval captain, Nicolas Baudin, before sighting the Western Australian coast in May 1801. Little was he to know that his discoveries would double the number of species then known in the world and were critical in the birth of ecology, oceanography and anthropology.



**French Explorer and Naval Captain  
Nicolas Baudin**

Why only now is Baudin's name and journey of discovery hitting the lights in the same way Captain James Cook's did when he landed on the east coast of Australia some 25 years before? The answers lie in the volatility of Napoleonic France when the Baudin expedition returned. Personal bickering and changing political attitudes saw the expedition discredited and forgotten.

Now this extraordinary story - one of the great events in the history of science and one of high adventure involving mutinies, deaths and appalling conditions - is being told by the Western Australian Museum. How the WA Museum became involved is equally fascinating.

It begins in 1984 when the museum's curator of crustaceans, Diana Jones, was asked by the French to identify the specimens collected by Baudin. She travelled to France where she worked with Jacqueline Bonnemains from Le Havre documenting the explorer's findings using photocopies of sketches and paintings done by two gunners - Lesueur and Petit - and the notes and logbooks of Baudin and ship's naturalist, Francois Péron.

"The logs were hand written in old French and were often illegible which made translation a daunting prospect," Dr. Jones said. "However, armed with our equally inadequate second languages, Mme Bonnemains and I met with dictionaries in hand and ultimately accomplished our task.

"The sketches and paintings were remarkable. The official expedition artists aboard the *Geographe* and the *Naturaliste* absconded when the ships pulled in to Mauritius, so Baudin appointed the two gunners as the official illustrators. It turned out to be the best thing because the style of the artists of the time was neo Grecian and Romantic. Instead of a romantic depiction of a crab, the gunners painted the real thing. The artwork is beautiful and accurate - biologically correct."



So successful were Mme Bonnemains and Dr. Jones that their work was published in three international scientific journals. Diana's work at Le Havre and the story of Baudin's expedition turned the crustacean expert into a Baudin aficionado. Through the Museum's travelling exhibition "Baudin - Voyage of Discovery to the Southern Land," Diana has revived this early exploration of the Australian coast.

This fascination with the French explorer was the catalyst for Diana proposing an exhibition in 2001 to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of this remarkable voyage of discovery in Australian waters. The exhibition opened on June 2 in Busselton and has been to Albany and Esperance and opens at the WA Museum on Friday, September 28 for a month. It will also be shown in Bunbury, Geraldton, Dampier, Shark Bay and Broome.

"Baudin's voyage was one of the most extraordinary in the annals of exploration with 60 of the party mutinying in Mauritius, 30 buried at sea, and on arrival in Sydney, only four crewmen fit to work the *Geographe*," Diana said.

"The expedition brought back 200,000



**Diana Jones and Fran Sweetman**

dried and preserved specimens all labelled by Péron with the date, place and circumstances of their collection - 2,500 species were new to science which was 10 times more than Cook brought back on his famous second voyage.

"More than 70 live animals survived the trip back to France. Emus, wombats, parakeets, kangaroos and black swans made up the first major collection of exotic animals to come to France. Many ended up in the gardens of Empress Josephine Bonaparte's Paris retreat, Malmaison, and by 1804, it was stocked with kangaroos, emus, black swans and a variety of Australian native plants.

"The expedition also brought back 1,500 species of live plants and more than 600 species of seeds. Numerous observations were recorded of unknown lands and members of the expedition made contact with Aboriginal people.

"Under Baudin's command, the voyage surveyed and charted islands and thousands of kilometres of coast, confirming Australia as a continent."

France's ambition to be leaders in scientific exploration was renewed when Napoleon came to power in 1799 after the French Revolution and execution of King Louis XIV.

Researchers needed new and important collections of exotic specimens to compete with their fellow scientists in Europe, particularly Britain.

Baudin's expedition left Le Havre on October 19, 1800 with great enthusiasm. A national medal was struck to mark its departure. On board were 22 scientists, two astronomers, two geographers, three botanists, five zoologists, two mineralogists, five gardeners and three artists. Death and desertion claimed most of the scientific staff, with only three returning to France.

The long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope did nothing for the tensions building between Baudin, crew and scientists. Baudin was a hard taskmaster. More than 50 left the ship at Mauritius.

Baudin died of tuberculosis on the way back to France and Diana believes he received little or no acclaim because of his temperament, jealousies and politics of the time. Today, she says, modern historians are finding out more about him and presenting a more balanced view of the man and his remarkable discoveries.

"Embarking on such a voyage would be like going to the moon today," Diana said.

Baudin met Matthew Flinders off the

south coast of Australia in 1802. As one of Baudin's officers, in a toast to Flinders, said: "Captain, if we had not delayed so long picking up shells and catching butterflies in Van Dieman's Land, you would not have discovered the south coast before us."

The exhibition highlights the role of the French in the maritime exploration of Australia's coastline and their resulting scientific discoveries. It features many of the gunners' illustrations and also provides an understanding of European explorers' notions of indigenous people. It also interprets the expedition in the light of contemporary understanding of politics and science.

The Baudin exhibition is the first specifically designed Western Australian touring exhibition emanating from the WA Museum. Project designer Fran Sweetman says it is the first travelling exhibition she has worked on and it posed interesting challenges. She designed and developed the idea for the purpose-built, custom-made display units forming the components of the exhibition. Other elements contributing to the exhibition experience are music by French composer Berlioz and sound effects of crashing waves.

In 2004, an enlarged, more comprehensive Baudin exhibition will travel to France to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the return of the expedition in 1804. It will tell the story of the Baudin expedition, its legacy in Australia and subsequent consequences for natural history.

As part of Diana's collaboration with her French colleagues, other projects are also underway. Diana says there are plans for a joint deepwater expedition with French and Australian scientists exploring deep water off the Western Australian coast. It is water that has never before been explored. The expedition is planned for 2003 and will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the departure of the Baudin expedition from Australian waters.





# Seniors surf the net

*Digital divide, dot.com, net, e-mail, hit, IT, PC, hackers and spam - just a sample of the language from the new technology, but language nevertheless which leaves many seniors confused and isolated.*

It is the language of their grandchildren. At family gatherings many of them feel left out because they can't keep up with the younger ones. They don't know what an e-mail is or what surfing the net means.

The desire to be in touch with grandchildren is one of the reasons for more than 5,000 Western Australian seniors in the past five years to "get with it". At classes run by the Council on the Ageing, morning and afternoon, you'll see seniors sitting behind the latest computers doing one of 11 courses.

Courses meet the standards in competency-based training and assessment and the qualifications the seniors attain are recognised nationally. Earlier this month the Council on the Ageing won the Outstanding Registered Training Organisation category in the WA 2001 Adult Learners Week Awards and was nominated for the Outstanding Community Provider category.

The digital divide is the gap between those people who have access and can make use of information technology and those who cannot. According to Lorraine Tholet, who heads up the program, the digital divide will get wider and seniors need to bridge the gap before it becomes harder.

"Being cut off from basic telecommunications services is a hardship," says Lorraine. "We now need technology literacy to search for a job, socialise, bank - computer literacy is nearly as important today as the ability to read and write was earlier in the last century."

Courses are held in the Wesley Centre in Perth in a special room which was recently refurbished with a grant from the Lotteries Commission. There are 15 students to a class and the first course is called Computing for the Mortally Terrified. It is the only computing centre especially set up for seniors and run by trained teachers.

"Doing these courses gives many of our students a new lease on life," Lorraine said. "Most of them haven't been in a classroom for more than 50 years and most remember it as a pretty harsh atmosphere. We make sure they are physically comfortable and relaxed and then get on with the lesson."

"We start by getting our students used to the mouse and controlling it. This can be tricky to master. It's then on to solitaire before word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail and the Internet."

"Many of our students have remarked that mastering the computer has kept them alive and mentally active. A lot have made new friends in the classes and will come back with that new friend to do another course. The courses have opened up so much to them."

"Our oldest student was 95 and when she first inquired about the course she asked for two information packs. She phoned when she received the packs to ask if we would accept her because she was 95, turning 96, and that she would be bringing her young friend with her. It turned out her young friend was 86."

"One gentleman in his mid 80s drove from Mandurah for the course. His main aim was to establish a link with his grandchildren who were scattered throughout the world. Within a few weeks of finishing the course he was flat out e-mailing them and receiving e-mails from them. He also had made cyber friends in South Africa and California."

"Another student had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, by her daughter to the course. Half way through the Mortally Terrified course she announced to the teacher that it had saved her life."



**Lorraine Tholet and students**

One student was reduced to tears when he was able, through the Internet, to read the newspaper from his home town in Europe.

"The Internet opens up so much for people, particularly seniors. People who've done our courses e-mail their grandchildren, friends, relatives they've lost touch with, look up phone numbers, book trips, read overseas and interstate newspapers, pay bills and do their shopping and banking on the Internet."

"If you can use computers you are more useful for volunteer or part time paid work. They also enhance your quality of life and are great for recreation."

Lorraine says the Office of Seniors had instigated the computer courses which consist of four three-hour lessons and apart from the trained teachers, all staff are volunteers. Lorraine would like to see similar courses run in all major regional centres.

Despite Lorraine's love affair with information technology and enthusiasm for using the Internet, she warns people must have physical contact with each other.

"People have to get out of the house," she says. "You can't sit in front of a computer all the time. You must get out and be with people."

# Year of the Outback 2002

*Bush horse race meetings are a peculiarity of the Australian outback. They are unique with people travelling thousands of kilometres - many bringing horses - over rough terrain just to savour the experience.*



**Landor Races**

Perhaps one of the oldest and more famous bush race meetings in Western Australia is the Landor Race Meeting which has been held annually for more than 75 years.

Inland - east of Carnarvon and beyond Gascoyne Junction - Landor offers almost a week of non-stop partying, racing, Calcuttas and gambling. Red dust is a main feature of the event, billowing in clouds as horses fight it out to the winning post.

Characters abound at such race meetings and Landor is no exception with its colourful racegoers, bookmakers and those who run the nightly two-up and crown and anchor games. Up to 1,000 people attend the meeting annually, pitching tents in case they find time to sleep. The scrub out there takes on a carnival atmosphere with two race meetings, including the Landor Cup, two Calcuttas, two polocrosse mornings and day-long gymkhana.

On the final night, racegoers prepare for the Landor Ball before trudging through the red dirt to the big corrugated iron shed ballroom.

Next year communities across Australia will celebrate 2002, the Year of the Outback by promoting the country's unique geographical and cultural elements. The idea for such a celebration came from Queensland pastoralist Bruce Campbell who is the national chair of the celebrations.

The WA Tourism Commission's intrastate marketing manager Barry O'Sullivan will co-ordinate the Year of the Outback in Western Australia. He has been busy developing a calendar of events he hopes will encourage people to visit the regions and sample their specialities.

"We are hoping to attract as many international tourists as well as encourage metropolitan people to visit outback Australia," Barry said.

"Already people from overseas see Australia as the last safe frontier. They particularly love the outback where they can swim with whale sharks at Exmouth, go to rodeos in remote parts of the Kimberley, do nature-based tours of the Pilbara and learn about Aboriginal culture, bush medicine and bush tucker.

"Of course the bush race meetings which are held all over the outback are extremely popular as are the regular festivals such as the Shinju Matsuri Festival in Broome which celebrates the pearling industry and Broome's cultural diversity. King Tide Day in April in Derby is a big thing featuring Australia's highest tide and the Boab and Moonrise Rock festivals in Derby are always fun."

Barry says singer Johnny Farnham will be touring Australia as part of the Year of the Outback giving concerts in a tent seating about 4,000 people. He says specific outback tours are being developed, some to more out of the way places.

Even places as close to Perth as Toodyay

are getting into the swing of the Year of the Outback even though Toodyay can not strictly be described as off the beaten track. Nevertheless, Sue Sims is excited about the Moondyne Festival which commemorate Western Australia's bushrangers and convicts.

"It's tongue in cheek fun with activities centred around our most notorious bushranger," said Sue. "Our local theatre group gets involved and many dress in period costumes. Old bush camps are recreated and we reenact Moondyne Joe's trial and involve the visitors."

The Moondyne Festival is in April and Sue says it usually attracts about 1,500 people.



**Moondyne Joe**

Up in Derby in July there is the staging of the Bush Poet's Breakfast. Run by the Derby Country Music Club and organised by Kevin Jamieson, it attracts bush poets from all over the north and some eastern states.

In September there's the Ord Valley Muster in Kununurra which features a diamond hunt where you actually find real diamonds, car rally, drinks on Lake Argyle at sunset, Aboriginal art exhibitions and much more.

Fishing festivals, stockman's games, Batavia celebrations in Geraldton, agricultural shows, quilt displays and other events will ensure the Year of the Outback is one to remember.

# Wildflowers bursting out all over

*Australian backyard and outback icons will grace Kings Park when the world's biggest native flower show gets underway on Friday, September 21st.*

The 38th Annual Kings Park Wildflower Festival will pay homage to such symbols as the outdoor dunny, copper, Hills Hoist and chook shed as part of the Centenary of Federation celebration reflecting 100 years of Australiana. The Festival attracts more than 50,000 local, interstate and international visitors.



Apart from mass displays of wildflowers covering seven hectares and 4,500 square metres of everlasting beds - this is the equivalent to five quarter acre house blocks - there are also displays of the Kings Park Federation Flame, an orange-red kangaroo paw. This brilliantly coloured flower was developed at Kings Park as Western Australia's emblem for the Centenary.

The rabbit proof fence is also fronting up for the Festival. Now known as the



State Vermin Fence and Emu Fence, it was built in 1901 after explorer and surveyor Alfred Wernam Canning investigated the threat of rabbits to agriculture. Three decades later, emus, escaping drought in the interior, became the new potential invaders, but the fence stopped them in their tracks.

Even camels will put in an appearance - a first for the park - to commemorate explorer Ernest Giles who rested his camels at a spot called Camel Lake in Bold Park after his fourth, and successful, attempt to reach Perth from the Overland Telegraph Line. A miniature Camel Lake has been created and there will be camel rides in Kings Park.

Another theme of the Festival is the International Year of the Volunteer in recognition of the vital role played by Kings Park Guides, Friends of Kings Park, Friends of Bold Park and the Master Gardeners.

The first International Orchid Conservation Congress, hosted by Kings Park, is also being held in conjunction with the Wildflower Festival. A display of native orchids has been organised for the Festival and Congress.

As usual, the Friends of Kings Park will be selling native plants for home gardeners and there are arts and crafts and cutting-edge scientific exhibits. The

Master Gardeners will give advice on growing native plants.

Guest speakers are scheduled for the entire festival which runs till October 21. Kingsley Dixon from Kings Park will discuss "Sexy Orchids of WA"; Patrick Courtney, also from Kings Park will talk about "New Native Plants for Your Garden" and Dr Seigy Kraus's topic will be "Let's Talk about Sex... and Wildflowers." Visitors to the Festival can learn how to press wildflowers, handpaint fabrics and come to grips with woodturning. There will also be demonstrations of flower arranging.

Free guided bushwalks through the park are being held again this year and there is live music and children's activities.





# Big Boost for the Bulletin Board

*For more than two years, a small team at the former Contract and Management Services (now part of the Department of Industry and Technology) has urged suppliers to 'find out about it faster' at [www.contracting.wa.gov.au](http://www.contracting.wa.gov.au)*

*For more information about Gem Online Tendering, telephone Kim Carter on 9222 5180 or email [kcarter@indtech.wa.gov.au](mailto:kcarter@indtech.wa.gov.au)*

This site, home of the Government Contracting Information Bulletin Board, has been the central source of information for Government tenders, recent contract awards and other services to help suppliers win Government work. And considering that the Government purchases around \$5 billion in services, goods and infrastructure per annum, it's no wonder that around 25,000 businesses visit the Bulletin Board each week to find out about tendering opportunities.

The Bulletin Board is now entering a new era. It's migrating into the Government Electronic Market (Gem) environment and will shortly emerge as Gem Online Tendering.

Industry and Technology's Richard Adolphe, Naomi Facey and Junie Yeoh have been working with an IT firm to develop the new site and a phased testing program involving a group of suppliers is taking place now.

Meanwhile Project Director, Diane Jamieson, and Business Project

Manager, Kim Carter, for Gem Online Tendering are spreading the good news about this enhanced new site to suppliers and Government buyers.

"Gem Online Tendering is the marketplace for high value, low volume purchases - complementing Gem Online Purchasing where low value, high volume purchases will be transacted," said Diane.

"Like the Bulletin Board, Gem Online Tendering will be the central source of information about Western Australian Government tenders and contracts - but it will also offer any enhancements and new, user-friendly features."

The project team has written to all Chief Executives and key procurement staff in all departments and agencies, explaining the benefits for Government buyers.

"Amongst other enhancements, there will be a new facility by which your agency can publish a Draft Tender for Comment before issuing the final tender document," said Kim.

"In that way, you can seek industry/supplier feedback online, obtain any feedback and amend the tender before it is officially advertised.

"The new site will also allow visitors to indicate whether they plan to lodge a tender response, before they download the tender document.

"If your agency subsequently has any addenda to send to tenderers, you need only send them to those who have indicated an intention to tender."



**Kim Carter, John Bong, Junie Yeoh, Dianne Jamieson, John Tondut, Naomi Facey and Richard Adolphe.**

# 2001 Golden Gecko Awards

*Forget the guernsey. It was the gecko they were all vying for at the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources' tenth annual Golden Gecko Awards held Thursday, 13 September at the Kings Park Function Centre.*



***New species of sea slug discovered***

More than 200 guests representing the mining and petroleum industry, the private and public sectors, and the media gathered to recognise excellence and leadership in environmental management, protection and rehabilitation.

According to Awards Chairperson, Lee Ranford, "The Department instigated the Golden Gecko Awards to acknowledge the outstanding contribution recipients have made to balance environmental responsibility with the successful development of Western Australia's resources.

"By recognising the advances and innovations in environmental practice by the minerals and petroleum industries, the Department is encouraging

improvement throughout the industry and is helping to develop and maintain community confidence in the compatibility of mining and environmental management."

The Golden Geckos are the only environmental awards for the mining and petroleum industry in WA, making them a prestigious and highly sought after accolade. According to Bill Biggs, General Manager of Environment, at the Department, "The Golden Gecko Awards have built a reputation over the past decade, and industry competes for the bronze gecko sculpture which takes pride of place in the offices of the winners."

Lee Ranford explained, "Receiving a Golden Gecko helps build an

organisation's reputation as a good corporate citizen with a responsible attitude towards environmental heritage."

## GOING FOR THE GOLD

This year, large corporations, Government departments, small businesses and individuals competed for the coveted Gecko. Nominees were evaluated through a two-tiered judging process. The first phase was conducted by a technical screening panel and included site visits to some very remote locations around the State.

According to Angela Bishop, an Environmental Officer at the Department and a member of the technical panel, environmental awareness has become a part of corporate culture. "It's very rewarding to see how employees at all levels have taken up the principles of good environmental practice. We met drillers who could tell us all about the environmental management initiatives at their particular mine sites."

The technical panel is also responsible for producing feedback reports to applicants. "This is a very important part of the Awards process," said Angela. "In many cases, we have seen applicants miss out on an Award one year, only to come back in subsequent years and win by achieving the recommendations made by the panel. In this way, the Awards go way beyond regulatory compliance."

It is also proof that the Awards go beyond recognising excellence -





**Diver on Dampier Archipelago Survey**

*Photo courtesy of WA Museum*



**Visiting scientists collaborate during specimen identification**

to actually stimulating it throughout the industry. The final phase of judging is conducted by a selection committee comprised of eminent members of the community and environmental field.

### WINNING COMBINATION

Sharing a Golden Gecko this year are joint winners: The Western Australian Museum in partnership with Woodside Energy Ltd for their exploration of the marine biodiversity of the

Dampier Archipelago.

This ambitious project commenced in 1998 with the Museum's desire to research and document the number of marine species in the region and the area's major marine habitats. Woodside supported the exploration with a generous donation of \$635,000 towards the cost of field work, scientific reports and educational programs.

"This is an exceptional example of what can be achieved by public and private sector partnerships," observed Bill Biggs. "Woodside has enabled the Museum to continue important work by providing the necessary funding and resources. The Archipelago is described as a biodiversity hot spot teeming with different marine species. The Survey will ensure that decisions made about the future of this area are based on scientific research-and that's critical for its preservation."

The Dampier Archipelago is the location of Australia's largest natural gas facilities. Iron ore and salt mining industries are also located in this region. Dampier port has more

shipping tonnage through it each year than any other port in Australia.

"The environment can co-exist with industry," claimed Bill. "That is one thing these Awards acknowledge and reward. The Dampier Archipelago Survey will assist Woodside in the development of a sound management plan for the area. Forward thinking mining companies are investing in the environment. Environmental performance and management are now seen as a vital part of core business for these companies."

### LEAPIN' LIZARDS

So how did a humble reptile become the symbol for excellence in a 25 billion-dollar, high stakes industry like mining and petroleum? "The gecko is associated with the bush and is a symbol of successful site regeneration," explained Bill. "Geckos are secondary and tertiary colonisers that live in leaf litter. Their habitat takes time to regenerate after plants are established on a rehabilitated site. The geckos will only return to a healthy, functioning ecosystem."

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