

NEW
BIGGER!

BRUSH TALE



EDITORIAL

Just to prove it wasn't a one hit wonder - here's No. 2 of the Southern Region Newsletter.

Feedback on No. 1 has been invariably favourable from field based staff. The copy for this issue from Park field staff though, is predominantly only suitable for the 'Ratbag' section. Does one surmise that there's a lot of wags out there, but not so many heads!! Still if you can laugh then I believe it's indicative of a healthy attitude to one's self, work and the Service - that is one of the objectives of this newsletter.

Research staff have been most accommodating in providing material. This is greatly appreciated as 'marketing' their role and achievements within the Service was a significant reason behind producing this newsletter - so all of us can get to know who's who in the Region and to call upon those individual's skills and knowledge when they can assist in doing our job better.

District Rangers have required a bit of hounding to produce a lousy '5-10 lines' on what's happening in their district!

Head Office is a little intimidated by the newsletter - this is not our intention - comparison with Newspaws makes it evident we are into 'education' (in the broad sense of the word) and require a suitably flexible format to adequately communicate all that's happening in the Southern Region. Additionally it's important that Service staff can communicate in their own manner without editing to fit protocol or medium.

I am still waiting on copy that addresses contentious issues so we can generate some worthwhile debate. Without your overt opinions, decisions can be made that effect your work without your consideration. Such issues that come to mind are -

- * Ranger intra-branch transfers
- * Overtime - versus - time in lieu
- * Volunteers/honorary protectors appointments and utilization
- * When is a barracks a residence and vice versa

- * Service policy/guidelines on recreational activities on parks such as absailing, through runs, hang gliding, push bikes
- * Applied and pure research by Service staff.

I'm sure you can think of many more. Unless decision makers have appropriate data from the grass roots then there will be nothing green in the ivory tower.

At present communication in the Southern Region is in accordance with the following system -

- * Regional Management Meetings. Attended by all Regional Branch supervisors and project co-ordinators. Normally in attendance are -
Regional Director-Noel Dawson
Research Branch Supervisor-Greg Gordon
Technical Services Branch Supervisor-Gil Field
Mainland Estate Regional Superintendents-
Des Jones
Kevin Bade
Don Seton
Regional Strategic Planner-Gordon Wilkinson
Management Planner-Mark Gough
Wildlife Management Supervisor-Mike Connolly
Rural Nature Conservation Supervisor-Stuart James
Administration Supervisor - Chris Lahey
Regional Overseer - Dot Finch

- * Sub Regional Management Meetings. Attended by Regional Superintendent, Wildlife Rangers, District Ranger, Interpretive Ranger, Sub-Regional Overseer.

- * Branch Meetings.
Mainland Estate Overseer's meetings
Wildlife/RNC Branch meetings
Interpretive staff meetings

It is the Southern Regional Newsletter that can provide a link that informs all of you of significant outcomes into and out of these communication systems. If we are to effectively represent the Service as a whole then we need to be informed of all matters pertaining to effective parks and wildlife management.

Next issue of Southern Regional
Newsletter to be compiled in February.
Please contribute to avoid extended
editorial drive!

Remember articles for Ringtail/Newspaws/
Volunteer are now taken from copy compiled
for this Newsletter. If they won't print
we probably will.

Communicate!

Membership Certificate

Queensland National Parks
and Wildlife Service

a member of the Institute for Earth Education
from August 1985 to August 1986
entitled to the following:

- invitation to attend the Members' Conference and Members' Sharing Days
- discounts on publications and Earth Education Workshops
- a regional newsletter 'EARTH EDUCATION, AUSTRALIA'
- the quarterly report 'TALKING LEAVES'



Welcome Aboard!

The Institute for Earth Education
Southern Cross Chapter



SMOKE SIGNALS

Future for and around Brisbane Forest Park National Parks

by N.M. Dawson, Regional Director,
Southern Region.

Role of QNPWS

The main roles of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is:

- * To preserve habitats and wildlife to the greatest possible extent.
- * Manage lands under our control in as close to their natural condition as possible.
- * Promote a caring attitude to nature.

These three role statements cover such varied activities as acquisition of key habitat types and historical sites, strategic planning, management planning, education, research, estate development and maintenance and wildlife and rural nature conservation. I will be covering the future direction we are planning under these topics. These comments will be in regard to the Moreton Sub Region in general and National Parks in Brisbane Forest Park specifically.

Acquisition

The Service currently has 52 100ha of land reserved as either National or Environmental Park in the Moreton Region. This represents 2.3% of the region. Compare this with 2% for the State and 3.9% for Australia as a whole. Whilst the figure looks good on a State basis we should remember that over 57% of the population of Queensland lives in this region yet it only has access to 1.5% of the total area of parks in the State. Many of the parks are also only small areas which are difficult to manage when visitation pressure is high. In the near future large parks are expected to be gazetted on Moreton and Bribie Islands. Of greater concern to me is the fact that most of the large parks in the region are either "basalt" or "sand" parks and diversity is not high. Whilst I believe it will be difficult to increase diversity in this area by acquisition we will try to influence others to maintain public (Forestry) and private lands in a natural state where they can provide this diversity.

Not all parks in the region have been declared for habitat preservation and we have seen areas such as St Helena reserved for historic purposes and Fleay's Environmental Park for wildlife education and nature conservation.

The 1758ha of National Park or Environmental Park in Brisbane Forest Park contains 5 of the 7 vegetation formations recognized within the Brisbane Forest Park by Peter Young. The types which are absent or poorly represented within the National Parks, are the hoop pine closed forest and the drier Eucalyptus communities. There is a need to recognize the findings of both Young and the Moreton Regional Growth Strategy and conserve these types. In acquisition the Service Strategy is to prepare a priority listing and concentrate on these areas rather than chase small areas. A conservation review is presently documenting habitats within parks and assessing in terms of the RAKES and other regional studies.

Regional Planning

The Service is co-operating with the Queensland Agricultural College to evaluate the recreational opportunities provided by natural areas in the region, the way in which they are being used and the management problems of these natural areas.

This study will provide details which will allow us to look at our broad management needs for parks in the region.

Management Planning

Managing the park resource and the people using the resources is the biggest challenge facing park managers.

A Preliminary Action Plan and Development Strategy was prepared for the Brisbane Forest Park in 1978/9 and elements of this have been re-evaluated in the past year. The Service since regionalizing has put greater emphasis on management planning and is at present concentrating on the major parks (Cooloola, Bunyas, Moreton Island, Lamington, Fraser Island and Girraween/Sundown). These plans not only involve resource bases, identification of conservation values, recreational

opportunity classification and management zonings but also propose use patterns and management which meet both the conservation needs and the needs of users. (Fire plans, vehicle access, facility location, pollution control; management of special users (i.e. hang gliding etc.), weeds control, management of historic sites etc.) Emphasis is being placed on developing joint plans with Forestry Department and other public landholders as often the whole management of the park depends on neighbours. This is the concept of Brisbane Forest Park but it is also working outside the area.

The management planning goals are:-

- * To preserve the natural integrity of national parks.
- * To manage the natural habitats in such a way as to preserve their natural diversity and to ensure their continued existence.
- * To control human usage in such a way as to ensure that irreparable damage does not occur to the natural environment.
- * To provide a nature-based recreational experience for national park visitors.
- * To control recreational use in such a way as to ensure that the various uses on the national parks do not clash with each other.
- * To use the resource to educate people in nature conservation principles.

Education

The Service is the State Government organization charged with publicizing the value of nature conservation and wildlife throughout the State.

Within Brisbane Forest Park and outside, the Service sees one of its major roles as promoting education of the community in wildlife and nature conservation values. The Service is developing a major activity program which will be objective and based on -

- * public meetings with staff participation
- * wildlife nights
- * interpretive events on parks (spotlighting, bird walks etc.), (168 events within BFP alone! Other major parks are also involved)
- * improved brochures and self guiding systems for parks

- * increase ranger contact
- * school programs (30 in the Brisbane area alone this year)

Specifically in Brisbane Forest Park we are looking at a joint interpretive facility in the vicinity of Maiala, increasing our wildlife walk program and increasing our presence in the parks as well as greatly increasing our school program.

We will be increasing the responsibility of volunteer groups in this area. They contribute significantly in other parks in natural history resource information gathering and interpretation. I recognize the significant role that BFP has made in getting this program going.

Research

The Service is the State Government agency charged with the responsibility for researching nature conservation and wildlife throughout the State.

The Service's research resource is small and is mainly concentrated on a few specific projects. These include fire management, water quality monitoring, visitor surveys and wildlife investigations (presently into fruit pigeons, bat nomenclature, regional wildlife inventories, cattle egret, koala, ground parrots). The visitor surveys are very important to obtain the level of public use and their perception of future uses. All the projects are vitally important for management planning. The Service has had to use external groups and funds to undertake research activities on parks and I see this as continuing. A major role change I see for research staff in this region is in the establishment of monitoring techniques on parks to check the condition and trend of our plants, animals, water, soil etc. across a range of habitats. Once established these will become the responsibility of park managers.

Estate development and Maintenance

The aim of management planning in Brisbane Forest Park and the Moreton Island Region generally has been to try to balance recreational use and nature conservation by planning. The emphasis in Brisbane Forest Park has

been to move the strong recreational emphasis away from the small national parks and concentrate these elsewhere where the environment is better able to cope. At the same time we are planning to "harden" existing areas to be able to cope with current and projected visitation. These policies are being adopted across the region.

The Service has been caught in a problem of maintaining recreational areas due to funding but funding has been improving and the use of Community Employment Program funds to upgrade facilities has been a major initiative. In the Southern Region \$844,000 were spent on CEP projects last year and another \$1,827,220 will be spent in 1985/6.

Major developments in this program for the Brisbane Forest Park include:-

- * proposed joint visitor information centre - Maiala.
- * proposed joint interpretive area - Maiala/Forestry Workshop area.
- * track upgrading in Maiala.
- * improved visitor facilities at Maiala (carpark, picnic area). Covers disabled use as well.
- * emphasis on contractor for maintenance.

Wildlife and Rural Nature Conservation

This program is a major new initiative of the Service aimed at conserving habitats on private lands and public lands such as roads. I pointed out earlier the problems of acquisition of land (costs and availability). There are large areas with very high nature conservation values still remaining on private lands and many landholders are willing to conserve these values. The problem is one of maintaining this attitude when the land is transferred. A number of proposals are being made to cover this situation where the landholder is agreeable.

We are also encouraging local authorities and other government agencies to maintain key areas to enhance nature conservation and to preserve the natural beauty of the landscape (road edges, steep hillsides, creek and floodplains, significant areas for koalas etc.). I believe local authorities can play a very important role in this program by zoning where the Service has identified significant areas.

Zoos and animal displays can be major disincentive to nature conservation if standards are not kept. The Service is trying to raise standards in zoos by insisting on certain conditions and providing advice on displays in natural habitats. This also applies to proposals in the Brisbane Forest Park.

Policy

The Minister has expressed the wish that the Service look at encouraging concessionaires near or on National Parks. A number of sites are being investigated and the Service is providing guidelines to ensure that the standard of facility is in keeping with the natural values of the park.

The establishment of the Fraser Island Recreational Authority will see the commencement of charging to provide facilities and management of recreation areas (in this case both National Parks and Forestry areas) and I believe this will be an excellent scheme. The problems of managing National Parks with limited funds have been large and I believe this will be a breakthrough at little cost to the user.

Conclusions

The Service has been faced with annual growth rates in visitation of over 20% per annum with inadequate funding to meet peoples expectations. We faced the doubled edged sword of meeting peoples present needs for recreation and involvement in nature conservation but also managing the resource for future generations. I believe we are addressing this problem by putting greater emphasis on management planning both in the region and on parks and by better funding through the users pays principle.

You will see much greater emphasis being placed on education and public involvement. We intend to create a greater awareness of wildlife by both on park and off park programs.

I am sure you will see a new approach developing in the Service which will be more reactive to needs but always our goals will be to maintain and expand our natural resources in as close to their natural condition as is possible.

RESEARCH

Where the Pavement turns to sand.....

Diamantina Fauna Survey

Members of the Research and Planning Branch based at Moggill, have recently completed the final of eleven field trips to the Diamantina Shire. The study area which contains large tracts of Dunefield, Channel and Mitchell Grass Plains, shares common borders with NSW and South Australia in far South West Queensland.

Most of this area occupies the 5 to 10 inch rainfall zone, so it might be surprising to know that 199 bird, 36 mammal, 86 reptile and 14 frog species were identified from here. In addition to general biological data, and an assessment of each species recorded, information relative to the conservation and future management of the survey area will also be available. One species of concern is the Bilby. It has reduced in numbers and distribution since European settlement, therefore special attention paid to this species during the study, is hoped to form the basis of further conservation work.

The final trip included Mr Leong Lim, a Ranger on staff interchange from NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. His 12 month stint, operating from Moggill, is aimed at a comprehensive publication on the status of the Kowari (*Dasyuroides byrnei*). Numerous individuals were captured by the team during this trip. Leong has recently returned to the Diamantina, and now samples more Kowari sites, along with the warm beginnings of another desert summer.

They were hiding behind hay bales
They were planting in the Full moon
They had given all they had for something new

But the light of day was on them
They could see the thrashers coming
And the water shown like diamonds in the dew.

I was just getting up
Hit the road before its light
Try and catch an hour on the sun
When I saw those thrashers rolling by
Looking more than two lanes wide
I was feeling like my day had just begun
Where the eagle glides descending
There's an ancient river bending
Through the timeless garage of changes
Where sleeplessness waits

I searched out my companions
Who were lost in crystal canyons
When the aimless blade of science slashed
the party gates

It was then that I knew that I'd had
enough

Burned my credit card for fuel
Waded off to where the pavement turns to
sand

With a one way ticket to the land of
truth

And my suitcase in my hand
How I lost my friends I still don't
understand.

They had the best selection
They were poisoned with protection
There was nothing that they needed
Nothing left to find

They were lost in rock formations or
became park bench mutations
On the sidewalks and in the stations
they were waiting, waiting
So I got bored and left them there

They were just dead weight to me

Better down the road without that load
Brings back the time when I was 8 or 9
I was watching my Mamma's TV
It was that Great Grand Canyon episode

Where the vulture glides descending on
an asphalt highway bending
Through libraries and museums and
galaxies and stars

Down the windy halls of friendship
Through the roads clipped by the bull
whip

The motel of lost companions waits with
heated pool and bar

But me I'm not stopping there
Got my own road left to hoe
Just another mine in the field of time
When the thrasher comes I'll be s...ck

in the sun

Like the dinosaurs in shrine
But I'll know the time has come to give
what's mine.

The Thrasher
Neil Young
from 'Rust never sleeps' album

Treeplanting for Koalas

an article in local newspaper submitted by Dr. Greg Gordon

Koala habitat is being threatened almost daily in South-east Queensland due to gradual clearing of land for housing estates and other development, and koalas are slowly being pushed back into smaller areas of remaining timber. Many people have a strong desire to help conserve these koalas. Unfortunately there is little that can be done about the clearing. Urbanization requires continuing amounts of land for expansion and koalas are incompatible with urban land use. However revegetation of suitable areas can potentially be very important to koalas as it helps to replace their lost habitat.

Successful revegetation schemes require three ingredients, Forest (or Woodland), a good Sire, and koalas. Only the first factor is normally under our control.

Forest or Woodland

When I say that koalas require forest or woodland I mean that they require groups of trees relatively close rather than isolated single trees. The planting of isolated scattered trees is not sufficient to sustain a koala colony, whereas scattered groups of trees, perhaps a dozen or so to a group, or continuous strips of timber, as may occur along fencelines and roadways, will do so. This happens because koalas instinctively avoid single isolated trees and seek the shelter of patches of forest.

A normal density of koalas might be of the order of 1 animal to a hectare or 1 animal to 2 hectares of timber. To hold a viable population of perhaps 200 animals, the site overall should have at least 200 to 400 ha of timbercover in good koala habitat, although this can be broken up into smaller patches of a few hectares in area, with small patches of timber on each property.

When planting trees, tree spacing should be of the order of perhaps 6m or more apart to produce good sized trees. Close spacing will result in small crowded stands. Plantations should have a mix of two or three species for best effect, chosen from those given below. This will provide koalas with alternative food sources throughout the year as

some animals like to change their diet during different seasons.

Sites

In the native Australian bush, koalas did not occur everywhere - they were restricted to specific sites that formed good habitat. It is not clear what determines good habitat. Particular tree species in combination with particular soil types appear to be important. They may be seeking trees and soils that can produce a high yield of good quality foliage, rich in nutrients. Good sites include alluvial flats, sometimes wet gullies on hills and possibly areas with basaltic soils. But many other areas may also be suitable.

Koalas

Koalas are surprisingly wide spread in Queensland. They still occur throughout much of their former range, although they probably are more scattered and localized than they were prior to European settlement. Because they are so widespread, koalas have not reached a state where re-establishment of colonies in new localities is necessary for their conservation. Therefore the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service does not encourage the relocation of koalas to new areas. This procedure is also very traumatic for the individuals concerned, to the extent that some deteriorate in condition and some may even die. Similarly, some animals when taken into captivity in zoos are stressed by the disturbance involved in capture and handling as recent events have shown.

Furthermore, removal of koalas from wild colonies for these relocations can cause disruption to the colony from which they were removed.

Koala conservation schemes are therefore best carried out in districts which have at least some natural colonies of koalas nearby. If the site chosen for replanting is suitable and there are koalas somewhere in the region, there is a high probability that animals will eventually find it and settle down there.

In addition to the above considerations,

because of the uncertainties about the suitability of the site, it is not possible to predict whether these tree planting schemes will eventually be successful in benefiting koalas. They will however be of great benefit to other native animals which require similar habitat and are worthwhile for this reason alone. The koala is but one of many of our animals that are being harmed by the continual clearing of our native bushland and because of this tree planting efforts will not be wasted.

Eucalyptus tereticornis (Forest red gum,
Queensland blue gum)
Eucalyptus microcorys (Tallowood)
Eucalyptus populnea (Poplar box)
Eucalyptus crebra (Narrow-leaved red
ironbark)
Eucalyptus drepanophylla (Narrow-leaved
red ironbark)
Eucalyptus punctata (A grey gum)
Eucalyptus robusta (Swamp mahogany)
Eucalyptus resinifera (Red stringybark)
Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River red
gum)
Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow bow)
Eucalyptus seeana (Narrow-leaved red
gum)
Eucalyptus haemastoma (Scribbly gum)
Eucalyptus dealbata (Tumbledown gum)
Tristania conferta (Brush bow)

Garry Innis has been looking at the feeding ecology of fruit pigeons in the Conondale Range since May 1979. Upon request for information as regards the usefulness of a planting program for trees which fruit during lean times for the pigeons, he wrote:

"At various times during the Conondale study, the following plants were of particular importance to fruit pigeons during depauperate winter and spring months. Note that some have annually recurrent (or nearly so) fruiting cycles (*), others fruited irregularly - 1 or 2 seasons in 5 or 6 observation years (**) and some fruited asynchronously (***) i.e. individuals might fruit at any time during a year.

* Melia azederach var.
australasica
Acmena brachyandra
Galbulimima belgraveana
Strychnos axillaris

** Cryptocarya erythroxylon
Syzygium corynanthum
Pennantia cunninghamii
Diospyros pentamera
Olea paniculata

*** Ficus macrophylla
F. superba var. henneana
F. platypoda
F. watkinsiana

A planting program in the long term might be useful, but as you can see, it's pretty thin ice. Except for the wompoo pigeon (sedentary thereby "tied" to rainforest) and the red-crowned pigeon (northerly migration winter and spring), movement of pigeons away from declining native forests to forage in such exotics as camphor-laurel, appears irreversible. On an encouraging note, planting a tree - any tree - makes good sense".

GREEN DREAM

The following memo was 'discovered' recently in the archives of the Southern Region and was part of a submission during the needs assessment review late last year. We thought it might be a thought provoking and warranted greater exposure to Service Staff within the Southern Region. Your comments through correspondence is welcome.

The various Acts which the National Parks and Wildlife Act is composed outline the mandate upon which the Service operates. Therefore detailed activities are based upon unstated philosophy and policy. Policies relating to fire, exotics, grazing etc need to be established so that setting and implementing priorities may take place on some rational basis. Blue-prints for many of these policies have been supplied on request of the Director and previous Minister but these have been conveniently blocked in their passage through the hierarchy (copies are however available).

To determine priorities of the 'Needs Assessment' it is useful to follow a theoretical procedure of systematically conserving nature. This has been explained in more detail in a previous submission 'Regional Nature Conservation'. In summary the procedure should be based upon the following.

1. A basic knowledge of the components of nature chosen to be conserved. Fundamental to the whole process is a determination of the past (pre European) and present distribution and status and habitat requirements of wildlife (fauna and flora). This forms the major part of what is termed Regional Assessment.
2. Identification of those activities which significantly change those components e.g. LAC policy, Local Authority planning, cleaning, pollution etc.
3. A plan of action to mitigate those activities. Conveniently this may be grouped into (i) Reservation (ii) RNC (iii) Extension.

Determining priorities should not be confused with implementing priorities. The latter is related more to staff

availability and suitability, costs, policy etc.

Comments re Plan of Action

Reservation

The reservation component requires that a firm policy be formed and adopted whereby:-

- (a) At least each land system (DPI, CSIRO definition) be represented within a reserve and ideally ensuring that each land unit be adequately represented.
- (b) Essential habitat of each specific fauna be included in a reserve.
- (c) Management is directed towards maintaining natural processes (natural - meaning, without undue influence of man).

Rural Nature Conservation

Ensuring that viable representations of wildlife are conserved throughout natural distributions via -

- (a) Mapping past and present natural distributions
- (b) Identifying habitat requirements
- (c) Selecting area (locations) essential and desirable for the species or communities conservation.
- (d) Identifying the type and degree of threat of change to this selected areas/species or communities.
- (e) Devising strategies to mitigate those changes.

Extension

Most effort and time is spent on interpretation of reserved land. It should be seriously questioned as to whether this traditional activity actually helps to conserve nature on that reserve or elsewhere. It would seem prudent to direct extension to those activities which result in conserving nature i.e., work on the principle of changing actions not attitudes.

If this argument is not accepted then the matter should be researched and receive considerable priority. If the argument is accepted a policy decision and directive should be made accordingly. In any case the following is recommended that:-

(a) the Service supply technical and philosophical information to educators rather than the Service attempting to do this to the general public.

(b) more emphasis be placed with the rural communities according to needs determined for the region through assessment and as part of the Rural Nature Conservation program.

(c) more information be obtained and disseminated on the conservation status, natural history, habitat and conservation requirements etc, of certain selected species. The selection criteria being based upon the Regional conservation plan.

(d) conservation be promoted on nature conservation grounds as opposed to recreational or economic grounds.

Single Species Issues

Much conservation effort and finance has been directed towards single species. There is however scope for a review of such priorities within a conservation strategy e.g., where a single species can be used as the lever for conserving additional areas or attracting additional staff, funds, publicity etc.

Recreation

Rightly or wrongly the Service has become involved in recreation to a considerable extent.

As part of a nature conservation strategy peoples present and future nature based recreational needs in each zone should be -

(a) determined - with Town planners, forestry etc.

(b) provided for in a spectrum of reserves under the variety of existing legislation

(c) only placed in nature conservation reserves if

(i) the activity has no real harmful effect

(ii) the "area" is expendable as far as nature conservation is concerned.

This approach will obviate many existing management problems, lessen the need for much of the research currently suggested (e.g. 4N5) and place the various recreation demands with the appropriate authority.

Fire

A Service policy and an individual park policy need to be formulated before Research and Management proceed i.e. what fire regime is necessary to attain park objectives. Does human life and property take precedence etc.

In general we know most plant communities and some animals are the result of a particular fire regime. Alteration of that regime alters the communities. Most communities are the result of periodic mosaic burns. Cannot this be applied generally in a holding brief until research reveals more on fire. The point is can we afford general fire research i.e., is it our responsibility however desirable. On what basis do we set priorities for individual area research.

1. Fire sensitivity
2. Frequency of man caused fire
3. Evidence of community alteration i.e., why Cooloola not Mt Moffat.

Grazing

Enough research and circumstantial evidence exists to indicate that grazing by exotic animals is detrimental to nature conservation in Australia. The Service should not need convincing of this - as a policy needs to be adopted whereby grazing is excluded from critical areas and to the greatest possible extent elsewhere.

Two questions need to be posed -

1. Who else needs convincing and why and what evidence will convince.
2. What intensity of grazing is desirable in any particular situation

TOURIST INFORMATION

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER IN AFRICA

By Denis Dray

My African holiday commenced with a few days sight seeing around Johannesburg in South Africa before an eight week Safari north to Kenya departing 3/7/85. Whilst in Jo-burg I went on a small bus tour of Sweto, the largest black town in Africa, housing 1½ million blacks. A few weeks later, the same bus was stoned by blacks during a tour through Sweto.

The transport for the Safari was a 4WD Bedford truck with a leader/driver employed by the company "Encounter Overland". The truck was fitted with a canopy (roll up sides) with comfortable cushion seating along each side and a trailer in tow for our luggage and tents.

My companion passengers (10 female and 5 male) were from England, United States, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand and Australia. Our journey took us from Johannesburg in South Africa, north through Botswana where I saw my first African game in Chobi National Park. We crossed the Zambesi River by ferry into Zambia, spending a couple of days at Victoria Falls where we crossed the border into Zimbabwe for a day. I went on a plane flight over Victoria Falls, the greatest curtain of falling water in the world, 1.6km wide and 70 to 110 metres deep. I have now lost interest in Queen Mary Falls.

We travelled on to Malawi, camping on the shores of Lake Malawi as we journeyed north. More game viewing when we camped in Nyiha Plateau National Park in the north west of Malawi and then on to Tanzania. The border crossing into Tanzania was where we had the most difficulty. The immigration officer suspected we had come from South Africa and refused us entry, but after 2½ hours of begging by our driver we were granted entry.

Our second night in Tanzania was one I will remember forever. We were camped in an abandoned loam quarry about 100 metres from the highway. Everyone had retired for the night when at 11.00pm we heard the roar of a truck travelling towards us. It stopped about 30cm from one of our tents and the camp was quickly surrounded by military soldiers

with machine guns. Our driver appeared and was questioned at length as to our identity. They did not speak good English and for a while I was undecided as to what was going to happen to us. I could only think of the six tourists from another Encounter Overland tour who were kidnapped and murdered a couple of years ago in Zimbabwe. We were ordered out of our tents and told to break camp, which was completed in record time. The military officers told us we were in a restricted area and we were given a two hour escort out of the area. We travelled through the night arriving at Dar Es Salamm at 4.30am. The few nights we spent in Dar Es Salamm were our worst encounter with mosquitoes on the entire trip.

We went on a boat trip to Zanzibar Island which was a centre for a slave trading market until it was closed down in 1873.

From Dar Es Salamm we travelled west across Tanzania towards Rwanda. The roads were rough and corrugated resulting in 200 km of travel a day. A few days from Dar Es Salamm, we heard that the government had changed the currency notes to try and stamp out the black market. The bank exchange rate is 17 shillings to the U.S. dollar when the black market rate is 130 shillings to the U.S. dollar. Our group had 30 000 shillings to change and with a couple of thousand natives queuing outside the bank we had to rely on one of our passengers, a Tanyanian born girl who is now a citizen of Canada. She could still speak the Swahili language and within a couple of hours she had bribed the guards and bank staff and changed all of our money.

At times we would travel for a week without seeing another white person. During a visit in one of the villages we had quite an audience of natives gathered around our truck. One of the natives wanted one of our white girls for a wife but after he found out she was an office worker, he changed his mind saying, "She is no good to me unless she can work in the fields". A very common sight throughout Africa is the women doing all the hard manual work while the men just sit about. (Maybe this practice could be adopted here).

We travelled on, passing through a swarm of Tsetse flies before crossing the border into French speaking Rwanda. This country is a heavily populated mountainous country, though perhaps not as beautiful because of the deforestation that has taken place for agriculture, resulting in extensive soil erosion.

The road across Rwanda to Zaire is under major construction with huge carvings in the rainforest mountain sides. The roadworks must be solving their unemployment because we saw hundreds of natives using shovels and wheelbarrows working alongside huge bulldozers. Where we use water tankers to water the road here during road construction, they use natives with buckets of water. At another section where machinery had cut into a mountain side, I saw scaffolding erected with natives chipping away at the steep cutting with picks and hoes.

At the Zaire border we were thoroughly searched, with seven guards in the back of our truck at the same time.

While in Zaire we visited Kahuzi Biega National Park where I hiked for two days in the jungle searching for Mountain Gorillas. When we had located a family of gorillas, the male gorilla would charge towards us, stopping about five metres from us, retreat and charge again. We were instructed by our guides to stand still and bluff him. If we were to run away the gorilla would chase us and knock us over.

We picked up many elephant tracks while tracking the gorillas. Whenever we heard elephants up ahead, we would have to circle around them trying not to disturb them as they are more dangerous than gorillas.

Our travels took us north in Zaire along Lake Kivu. The roads were rough and slow travelling, but we took advantage of the slow pace by riding up on top of the truck cab with a birds eye view of the scenery. Throughout Zaire and Rwanda we took advantage of soccer fields for campsites as they were the only clear level areas without huts on them. At every campsite we had an audience of native children watching us set up our tents. They would fight over any empty cans and bottles we gave them.

The border into Uganda was closed due to recent clashes within the country so we travelled back into Tanzania along the shores of Lake Victoria and up into the Serengeti National Park for more game viewing.

We camped a night on the floor of Ngarongoro Crater, a collapsed volcano over 600 metres deep and 18km wide. This crater contains the greatest permanent concentration of wildlife in Africa. It has a large lake which is frequented by millions of flamingoes. During the night we could hear animals grazing around our camp and we were surprised in the morning to see lion tracks around our camp fire. Our next campsite at Lake Manyara National Park was just as exciting with a herd of elephants passing within metres of our camp. The game was plentiful. We saw eighteen giraffe in one herd on the shores of Lake Manyara.

The final highlight of the trip was a five day hike to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, 5 895 metres high. It is important to walk slowly to acclimatize and avoid altitude sickness. We hired guides and porters to carry our gear and food. They cooked our meals for us in the huts provided along the route. The fourth day we began our steep ascent at 1.00am arriving on Gilman's Point at 6.00am to view the sunrise. A further two hours slow walking and we reached Uhuru Peak, the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The last section between Gilman's Point and Uhuru Peak is along a rim of a crater and is covered in glaciers and snow.

After the Kili climb, we travelled onto Nairobi in Kenya, the destination of my eight week safari. A total of 10 500 kilometres.

I returned to South Africa before flying home to my wonderful job at Main Range National Park.

On-Farm Nature Conservation

J. James, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service Rural Nature Conservation Program article in Queensland Agricultural Journal

Recently a working committee of producer organisations published the document An Agricultural Policy for Queensland which gives the following as one of its recommendations: "Conservation in rural areas should aim at a balance of achieving a managed ecosystem in which native flora and fauna species are maintained along with the long-term productivity of the land". It is in this context that the value of on-farm nature conservation can be fully realised. While our national parks and other similar reserves set aside examples of the various fauna and flora communities of Queensland, they alone do not achieve a satisfactory level of conservation of native plants and animals. The real value of these reserves is only realised when they function in conjunction with the surrounding landscape with its remnants and corridors of natural vegetation, its partially cleared grazing lands and its greatly modified agricultural lands. The contribution to nature conservation by non-reserved lands is in fact highly significant, and includes their values as habitat for native plants and animals, and as passageways and corridors which allow the dispersal from one area to another of plant and animal populations.

The converse is also true in that natural vegetation can play a major role in the maintenance of the long term productivity of the land, a fact that has become more appreciated in recent years. Some of the original vegetation may be retained and used as shelterbelts for stock and crops, in the prevention of salting problems by the regulation of water balances, and in the maintenance of soil fertility.

These two aspects - the conservation of our heritage of fauna and flora, and the maintenance of the long term productivity of rural lands - are generally compatible and provide good reason for the consideration of nature conservation in property management.

While the legitimacy of nature conservation in the management of rural

properties is now increasing in acceptance, there have always been those in the farming community who recognised it, and who have developed a range of techniques which help fit nature conservation harmoniously into their property management. However, before going on to discuss some of these techniques, it will be helpful to review some of the biological principles involved.

Ecological succession

The concept that plant and animal communities on any area of land develop through a series of stages is a basic principle of ecology termed 'ecological succession'. This may be illustrated by reference to a ploughed paddock which is fenced off and left unworked. This paddock will pass through several stages, called 'seral communities', to reach a final or mature community called the 'climax community'. The seral stages might include 'pioneer' annuals, followed by perennial grasses which form a grassland community followed by a shrubland community consisting perhaps largely of wattles, then a forest community of eucalypts and finally in wetter areas a rainforest community. Each stage provides the conditions needed to allow the next to develop. As the plant species and the structure of the habitat change so does the associated fauna, and generally each new stage is more diverse in both fauna and flora than its predecessor.

Obviously the above is simplified. Many factors influence succession and an understanding of these factors is most important. Fire, perhaps the best known example, can greatly modify both the seral stages and the climax community. For example, a sequence of regular, low intensity fires through woodland and forest communities generally maintains a grassland understorey while intermittent, high intensity fires encourage a shrubby understorey.

Fire, to which much of Australia's fauna and flora has become adapted, may also be necessary to trigger the change from one seral stage to the next. Many native shrub species such as the hakeas require fire to allow the germination of their seeds, while the seeds of wattles and the lignotubers (bulbous swellings at the junction of the stem and roots with

dormant buds) of many eucalypts are stimulated into growth by fire. Thus, a grassland area fenced off to allow trees to regenerate may need fire to stimulate tree growth if the exclusion of grazing has not been sufficient.

Exotic plants and animals, if present, also influence the cycle of succession. These may be managed species such as introduced pasture grasses and grazing stock, or unwanted species such as introduced weeds and animal pests. Where regeneration of plant communities is attempted, management of these influences is most likely to be necessary.

Size, shape and proximity to other wildlife habitat

For an area to be of greatest possible benefit for nature conservation, the size, shape and proximity to other wildlife habitat should be considered when possible. A larger area of vegetation not only supports more of the same types of species of fauna which require significant areas for feeding and shelter to allow them to survive, and which are often less affected by outside disturbances.

The importance of shape lies in the fact that for any given area, that with the least length of perimeter suffers the least disturbance from influences outside it. Thus, the closer the shape of a reserve is to a square (or even a circle) the better the preservation of that particular plant community.

The nearness of a plant community to other areas of natural vegetation is important in the maintenance or development of diversity in both flora and fauna. Many plant and animal species require continuous or near continuous habitat to allow dispersion or repopulation to occur readily. Many of the smaller species of fauna, such as some frogs and lizards, are not capable of crossing large distances of unsuitable habitat and, if they try to do so, are highly vulnerable to predation. Local populations of plants and animals in small remnants of habitat on private lands are susceptible to severe depletion or even total loss as a result of fires, drought or similar influences on the habitat. Thus, populations of those vulnerable species, and those affected by adverse factors, both spread and regenerate most quickly when the area is

contiguous to other areas of similar habitat, but less quickly though still effectively if corridors of vegetation such as shelter-belts, roadside verges and watercourse vegetation are available to provide passageways between areas of similar habitat. Corridors are particularly valuable in that they have the dual role of providing useful habitat in themselves as well as allowing quicker and more effective dispersal of wildlife.

Special features and patchiness in the environment

Certain features in some habitats give rise to greater species diversity than otherwise similar areas lacking those features. These include the presence of water, both temporary and permanent, rocky outcrops, caves and mature trees with hollow limbs. These, with other like features, allow a greater range of species both plant and animal to utilise the total environment. An example would be the utilisation of an area by rock wallabies because, among other features this species needs, rocky outcrops were present.

Patchiness within the environment also increases the diversity of species for similar reasons. This can result from fundamental differences in the soils (for example Melaleuca clumps in areas of poor drainage), or even from the presence of several 'seral stages' in any one community such as occurs when only part of a community is burnt, or the intensity of the burn varies within the area.

Thus, the presence or absence of 'special features' may often be used in deciding which of several available areas would be most suitable for nature conservation purposes. Management practices which maintain or create patchiness may well be beneficial in increasing wildlife diversity and should be used except where the conservation of a particular species is the primary concern, in which case management must be directed towards its particular needs.

Dispersal of animal populations

Apart from the regular seasonal changes of species that occur from migratory animals (for example such native birds as the rufous fantail, the dollarbird and painted snipe) the species composition of an area also changes in response to irregular, often barely perceptible

factors. What is suitable habitat for a species in one year may not be in the next. Thus, an area of vegetation may support an owl in seasons when there is an abundance of rodents but it will not in years when there are too few rodents available for its food requirements. In such 'poor' years the resident owl would either be forced to hunt over a larger area or, if this was not available, it would starve and disappear from the area. When conditions 'improved' other owls would take up residence from refuge areas if they are nearby.

Understanding this concept of habitat fluctuating in its suitability for some species is important for landholders with small areas of wildlife habitat who may otherwise think that something is wrong with their management of a reserve. It is one explanation of why a particular species may be resident for a few seasons only to disappear again for several seasons. This is often particularly noticeable with out native birdlife.

Irregular changes in the presence of species on a shorter time scale often involve species that are classed as 'nomadic' animals. Such animals move from one area to the next seeking favourable conditions. Among our native birds many of the honeyeaters fit this category, moving in response to the flowering of their various food plants. Much of Australia's fauna is nomadic, largely in response to an environment whose rainfall is unpredictable. Remnants and corridors of natural vegetation in rural areas are obviously highly beneficial for such species, which need to be able to move over large areas.

Occasionally, an unexpected animal is found in an area away from its usual habitat. This, usually short term, occurrence is most likely the result of an animal traversing inappropriate habitat in search of suitable, unoccupied, habitat near its birth place. The presence of the occasional water rat in a fowl run well away from any water or of a koala up a gum tree in a suburban backyard are not unfamiliar examples of this.

Having dealt with some of the biological principles it is now appropriate to discuss some practical examples. Clearly, on a property, trees may be required or retained for various reasons and probably

in most instances for multiple reasons. Thus, nature conservation may not have a high priority but, where it can be considered in management decisions involving farm trees, much can be done for the wildlife conservation of the area.

In considering what can be done on the property, the opportunities are examined under the following categories:

- * retention and regeneration of native vegetation;
- * maintenance of natural values on productive lands;
- and
- * artificial habitats.

Retention and regeneration of native vegetation

Some property owners have set aside areas of their properties as 'farm reserves' for nature conservation. These areas are valuable for fauna and flora as they are managed specifically for that purpose. While these may be utilised from time to time for secondary purposes such as the harvesting of timber for fence posts, their value to nature conservation is high because they conserve the whole habitat in a relatively unaltered state. This in turn means the greatest diversity of species living in that community is conserved. In those farm reserves located on soils of high productive potential, vegetation types that are poorly represented in our national parks or similar reserves are frequently conserved. In addition, these vegetation types are usually diminishing on private lands by being cleared for primary production. It follows that even small reserves of this kind are particularly important. Good examples of this are remnants of brigalow and softwood scrubs.

Farm reserves do not necessarily mean the loss of income. There are parts of many rural properties that have low productivity potential: they may be steep, have stony soils, be wet and poorly drained, or be prone to soil erosion. Such areas, if natural vegetation is retained or allowed to revegetate, are often admirably suited to farm reserves for wildlife. The same factors which make them unsuitable for production are often the 'special features' which give rise to increased species diversity and hence increased value for wildlife habitat.

Such areas are often regarded as useless, problem segments of a property which could only be developed at great cost with doubtful return. However, the farm reserve option gives them purpose in the overall farm management and in the future may well be seen as an asset to the property.

Shelterbelts and windbreaks of retained vegetation have as their primary purpose the improvement of production. If nature conservation values are considered in their planning and management they can also be beneficial for wildlife, particularly if they link up other areas of vegetation and serve as wildlife corridors.

If revegetation is desired, whether for the development of shelterbelts, for wildlife areas or for the restoration of degraded areas, the use of native plants, especially local ones rather than exotics greatly enhances its wildlife value. Several factors can influence the success of such operations. Perhaps the most important is the length of time since the area has been cleared. If it is less than 5 years there is a reasonable likelihood that the natural revegetation will reappear if the area is simply fenced off. If replanting is necessary, then use of locally collected seed is advisable where possible. Also, rather than just planting the species that previously occupied the mature or 'climax' community, a look around the district to observe those native species which are first to colonise disturbed areas in similar situations may well identify the 'pioneer' species. These can be planted to simulate one of the earlier stages of the revegetation programme. These can be planted to simulate one of the earlier 'seral' stages of the ecological succession, and may well improve the success of the revegetation effort.

Maintenance of natural values on productive lands

Landscapes must be altered to achieve agricultural and pastoral production, but this does not have to be done with a disregard for the landscape and its natural values. Indeed, research continues to show that there are economic advantages for those who work within the capability of the land and attempt to fit these activities harmoniously in with the landscape.

If the production benefits of retained vegetation are considered in conjunction with their potential for nature conservation, much can be done towards achieving 'a managed ecosystem in which native flora and fauna species are maintained along with the longterm productivity of the land'.

In many pastoral situations where trees have been retained, grazing pressure or incorrect fire management has not allowed any natural regrowth of trees, resulting in an even-aged population of older trees. While this may not present any immediate problems, the long term result is the loss of all trees from old age. Thus, it is important to ensure that a suitable age structure of trees is retained in pastoral areas, which involves correct fire management and reducing grazing pressure to allow some regeneration. In the case of smaller more intensively grazed paddocks, fences can be used to exclude stock from some parts of the paddock until young trees have grown sufficiently to withstand grazing pressure. Such fences may then be rotated to other parts of the paddock, so that there are always young trees being allowed to regenerate.

Other valuable contributions to nature conservation are shelterbelts around cropping and pasture paddocks and retained vegetation along creeks and riverbanks. Again there are good economic reasons for these management options and again they can be made even more useful if wildlife values are considered in their implementation. Such actions as the inclusion or retention of some older trees with hollows suitable for tree dwelling mammals and nesting birds, the linking up with other areas of natural vegetation and the inclusion or retention of shrub layer species in these areas improve their value for wildlife.

Artificial habitat

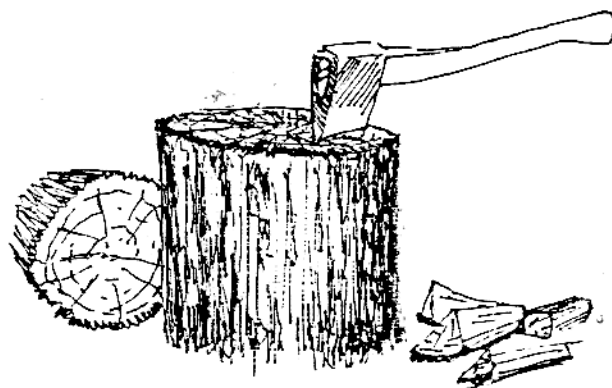
A significant part of any rural property, especially agricultural enterprises, would come under the classification of a totally altered habitat. Some native fauna are able to use these areas. For example, in a cropping paddock native species such as quail are able to find suitable habitat. Indeed, where it is practicable, the retention of the stubble phase of the crop during summer months

often allows quail to nest and rear young successfully. The presence of vegetation near open paddocks or provision of suitable roosting sites permits other, often beneficial, species such as kestrels and owls to utilise these paddocks as foraging grounds. Obviously, some of these options would not be applicable in situations where it would be likely to increase crop losses from species such as cockatoos and galahs.

The improvement of farm dams for wildlife has been well documented elsewhere (for example Wildlife in the Home Paddock, R. Breckwoldt 1983) and is not dealt with here. However, it is an excellent example of an altered environment which when constructed with consideration for nature conservation can provide useful wildlife habitat without any loss of function.

Another artificial situation is amenity planting. This involves the use of trees and shrubs to improve the immediate surrounds and microclimate of a homestead by protection from winds and the provision of shade. If native species are included, especially those providing nectar or fruits, the amenity value is increased by the presence of greater numbers of native animals.

Thus, in summary, what is needed in order to achieve the aims of the fauna and flora recommendations of An Agricultural Policy for Queensland is not an upheaval of present day farm management but simply the inclusion of an additional consideration, nature conservation. If this can be seen as part of sensible overall farm management for the maintenance of long term productivity then the future of our native native flora and fauna is greatly enhanced. Those farmers who already accept this reasoning are serving as both example and incentive to allow greater integration of nature conservation with rural enterprises for the mutual benefit of the countryside and the community.



TOOWOOMBA RNC

On 23 November 1985 at the new Toowoomba Showgrounds, a report 'Nature Conservation and the Royal Agricultural Society, Toowoomba' will be presented by the Hon. Peter McKechnie, Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and the Arts, to Mr. Rob Stirling, President of the RASQ.

The report was prepared by the Q.NPWS as consultants to the RASQ. The Show Society requested the Service's assistance as a result of their interest in preserving wildlife habitat on the new Toowoomba Showgrounds as well as providing public recreational and educational opportunities.

Major recommendations of the report centred on methods of successfully combining the educational and recreational developments so that they complemented the remaining natural vegetation and areas to be replanted, which is to be the main wildlife habitat. The recommendations are also designed to assist the public during the Annual Toowoomba Show.

Particular recommendations are:

- . the use of primarily native species when planting and where possible to allow natural regeneration to occur.
- . the use of wildlife corridors to link the two vegetated hills on the site and provision of specific wildlife habitat around the present and proposed dams.
- . provision of walking tracks, signs and lookouts on both hills.
- . the use of shelterbelts, windbreaks and amenity planting in such a way that the site could be used for demonstrations of how these techniques can be successfully used.

The Service's involvement in this project is a part of the broadly based rural nature conservation program, this program is a co-operative project of the rural community and the Q.NPWS which has input from interested landowners and managers, other Government Departments and producer organisations. It draws on the knowledge and practical experience of the managers in conjunction with the resources and expertise of the Service.



WILDLIFE CIRCUS

Long-suffering husbands and wives of other Service staff have little to complain about when compared to Gerri Kluver's husband Barry. Gerri is, at the moment "mother" to three orphan possums; a feather-tail glider (which she carried in a baby mitten down her shirt for over a week), a sugar glider and a brushtail.

For his protection and their sanity the feather-tail lives in a large covered fishtank but the sugar glider and brushtail have the run of the living areas (only) when the Kluvers are home. Consequently, when the back door has to be opened, a check has to be made that a "baby" isn't within escaping distance. Barry was doing this check before opening the door recently one night as he knew the sugar glider was in the laundry, looked low and then high, when "splat!" off the peachface's cage hanging up on the wall came a spread-eagled glider on to his face - two paws either side of his forehead and the other two either side of his chin and the tail hanging down below his beard!

He, of course yelled for help as the claws were dug in but Gerri wasn't much help, being doubled up with laughter. (Remember that science fiction movie where the "thing" got the fellow in the face?).

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Early in October, St. Helena Island received nine new inhabitants. They travelled over land and sea from Currumbin without knowing it. After a few long hours of deep sleep, one by one the red-necked wallabies awoke, to find they lacked their usual sure-footed hopping skills. The St. Helena workers along with Merv Parker, offered the necessary guidance until the sleeping potion wore off. Once able, most took refuge amongst the shady undergrowth.

Since that day no more than 4 have been seen. The whereabouts of the others remains a mystery. Wallabies grazing the open grassy fields was the plan. This one did not eventuate.

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The following is a letter sent by an irate grazier in 1972 to Mr. K.B. Tomkins, M.P., Member for Roma at that time.

Dear Sir,

Re: Tax levied on the sale of kangaroo skins.

We ask your opinion on this and what can be done about it. We consider it unfair. Why is it imposed, as far as we know it was imposed as some sort of protection measure, but what does it protect, and they don't need protection round here yet anyway. When you stop to consider some Families round here, who have lost all their Summer Crop after years of drought, and now have Kangaroos raiding the bit of hard pressed Wheat they have managed to get up, and when they decide to shoot and skin them and try to recover a little bit of their loss as well as the cost of the ammunition and petrol used on the job, and freeze their Fingers off, and wallow in Blood and Guts in the process. To find some Pants-Polishing Beaucrat in a nice soft Swevil chair surrounded by Hot and Cold running Secretaires rakeing off £ 20 or more off each skin. Then there is the mob of Long-Haired Morans who get in a car loaded with Telescope equipped Bazookas, and come down the road like the Afrika-Corps, and wantenly blast these animals all the way down the road as well as in your paddock if you arnt there to stop them, blow your Mail-box to hell-and-gone as well as a few of your phone insulators and road signes and some stock unless your bloody lucky. And what do they contribute, but the chances are We're all paying tax to keep the useless Buggers on the Dole and are buying their petrol and ammo. for them.

Please see what you can do about it.

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EARTH EDUCATION

In September whilst on leave in Melbourne I attended "The Institute of Earth Education" Australian Members Conference at the Grampians in western Victoria.

The Southern Region paid for me to attend the Conference and subsequently the Service is now a member organization. We now receive at the Southern Regional Centre the newsletter of the Southern Cross Branch of the Institute for Earth Education and "Talking Leaves" - a seasonal report of the Institute for international distribution. Recently we acquired a full selection of the Institute's publications that are now held at Moggill. Copies are also available in the Head Office library

"The Institute for Earth Education is a non-profit volunteer organization made up of an international network of individuals and member organizations. We believe that a special kind of education - EARTH EDUCATION - can make a significant difference in the health of our planet. Earth Education is the process of helping people build an understanding of, appreciation for, and harmony with the earth and its life. All of our activities and programs are designed to help achieve this goal.

Originally known as the Acclimatization Institute, our work builds on the efforts of Steve Van Matre and his associates in the sixties, efforts documented in the Acclimatization and Acclimatizing books.

Since their publication, we have learned that a few environmental activities are not enough. There remains an urgent need for complete educational programs - programs that focus primarily on understanding basic ecological systems (such as, energy flow, cycling and interrelationships), what these systems mean for people in their own lives, and what people must do to begin living more in harmony with these systems which support all life on earth. Today, The Institute for Earth Education has representatives in several countries dedicated to piloting and disseminating new Earth Education programs.

Earth Education is the process of helping people of all ages live more harmoniously and joyously with the natural world.

The Whys -

- * We believe the earth as we know it is endangered by its human passengers.
- * We believe people who have broader understandings and deeper feelings for the planet as a vessel of life are wiser and healthier and happier.
- * We believe earth advocates are needed to serve as environmental teachers and models, and to champion the existence of the earth's nonhuman passengers.

The Whats -

- * We believe in developing in people a basic comprehension of the major ecological systems and communities of the planet.
- * We believe in instilling in people deep and abiding emotional attachments to the earth and its life.
- * We believe in preparing people to live more harmoniously and joyously with the earth and all its passengers.

The Ways -

- * We believe in building complete programs with adventuresome, magical learning experiences that focus on specific outcomes.
- * We believe in including lots of rich first-hand contact with the natural world.
- * We believe in providing individuals with time to be alone in natural settings where they can reflect upon all life."

On August 8 staff from the Southern Region attended an "Earth Education" workshop conducted by founder Steve Van Matre at Binna Burra. The workshop involved direct participation in exemplary environmental awareness raising activities. It is this approach that was and is the foundation upon which the Service established its Junior Ranger Program for 6 to 10 year olds at specific park localities.

It is hoped that Service staff that attended the Earth Education workshop will apply the methods to all Service interpretive activities where appropriate.

The Member Conference in September was similarly in a workshop format conducted principally by Steve Van Matre.

Activities were based on doing and sharing involving natural world objects, ecological concepts and our senses.

For details on these activities, I urge you to read the Earth Education books (Acclimatization, Acclimatizing, Sunship Earth, The Earth Speaks), request copy of the newsletter, consult with those attending the workshops, read the Junior Ranger Manual and attend the next Junior Ranger/Children's Activities Workshop to be conducted early in 1986.

One of the simpler activities that I found most rewarding was "The Bush Ramble" - a bushwalk in silence (!) with the group. The group being able to share discoveries of natural objects or events non-verbally. Participants involved all their senses - smelling a leaf then passing it to another; lying in the tall grass looking up through the pattern of grass stems from a bandicoot-sized viewpoint. A highlight of the ramble was arriving at the top of the last rise and looking down on a feast of fruits, breads, cheese, chicken and wine. After this lunch time picnic, an allegorical story was read and then the group made the return walk in contemplation of the story.

It is proposed to establish an "Earth Education" approach to be applicable to a walking track to be constructed at the Southern Regional Centre at Moggill. Interpretive signage will focus on ecological concepts and participatory learning for all ages. But more of that later.....

Gil Field.



CHARLEVILLE?

Brushtale editor requested information on what's happening at Charleville of Keith Smith at the time of his transfer from Mt Isa.

The following article is what was received.

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY APPEAR IN THE SLEEPY SOUTH-WEST

What of these strange happenings and unexplained events?

It is said that 'the bearded one' can be seen disappearing into a silent dark cavern, known to emit a dull 'infra-red' glow. Disturbing indeed are the stories of mother and child being ceremoniously led to his strange abode (is it truly a noctarium or could it serve a more bizzarre sacrificial role?).

The 'boy' speaks of strange lights and peculiar sounds in the night (are they really emitted from low flying aircraft and passing trains or is something more sinister afoot). And what of the 3 horses found within the 3 metre high compound fence early one winters morning (are they perhaps able to defy gravity at will or did the 'boys' dubious state of sobriety have some bearing)?

And the 'Wizard' (alias Hypo); His desire to battle with the monsters of bureaucracy is unmatched in modern times. He exhibits an almost Godly relationship with our native animals. New species are conjured up at the stroke of a pen. Ask the 'bush-tailed and spotted rats', and of the 'caniferous Kowai' (some strange pine or evergreen marsupial perhaps). He is often seen to stand tall upon a mountain (50 tonnes) of rock (newly placed in his domain), uttering worship for a rare and shy 'ring-tail wallaby' with large yellow feet.

Who is this 'Red Roo' (alias Woppy), A jovial well known local entity? Strange sporting habits indeed! Often seen heading toward a small square-shaped 'green' carrying his 4 large brown balls in hand. End for end he bowls along, gaining confidence at every change. Locals refer to this character as 'Al Presidente'. Daily he tends the herds and flocks, weighed down by the ramblings of his peers.

Investigations are underway to establish the facts behind these strange reports. A contingent of 3 'exorcists' (one who deals in spirits) are being dispatched from the Regional Centre. It is rumoured that the three are known as 'The Godfather', 'Smokey' and 'The Don'. Should serious problems become evident, 50 fully armed soldiers are on standby, operating under the guise of 'Exercise Wallaby Watch'.

Editor: - Bit obtuse Keef! Thank God for the press clippings! Staff at Charleville are:-

Greg Wellard, Zoologist Div II Ranger
Peter McRae, Research Ranger
Keith Smith, Wildlife Ranger
Frank L. Manthey, W/life O/seer Div III

based at South-west District Office,
Alfrey Street, Charleville Phone
(074) 541279



Patting the tame kangaroo at the National Parks and Wildlife Centre in Charleville is the officer-in-charge, Mr Greg Wellard. Greg and other officers have arranged an exhibition of animals found in the western districts. (See story Page 3)

FRASER ISLAND RECREATION AREA

Are you being bombarded with complex questions about Fraser Island's Recreation Authority? Do you know anything about the new recreation area or are you feeling like a mushroom in the dark? Here is the latest information regarding the Fraser Island Recreation Area. Hopefully it will assist you in dealing with those tricky questions people ask.

The Fraser Island Recreation Area Program will start to operate as an on-site management authority in February 1986.

The on-site management of the island will be a co-operative effort by the Queensland Department of Forestry and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The work program associated with the commencement of the authority has been designed to ensure that the delicate Fraser Island environment is managed to maintain its natural beauty and long-term viability while enabling visitors to enjoy safe and healthy nature-based recreation. The initial work program will focus on beach clean-up, facility improvement and education. The Service is keen to provide a strong emphasis on education. This will begin with the first contact, the issue of a permit and follow through to organized interpretive programs.

The booking system for Fraser Island will be different from the Service's usual method - bookings will be accepted at a number of locations. They will include Rainbow Beach, Maryborough, Gympie, Moggill and Head Office. A series of island access charges have been announced. They are as follows:

Vehicle charges: \$10/vehicle visit OR
\$80/vehicle/year

Camping charges: \$5/site/night with a
maximum of \$25/week

Tour operators: \$1/passenger/day

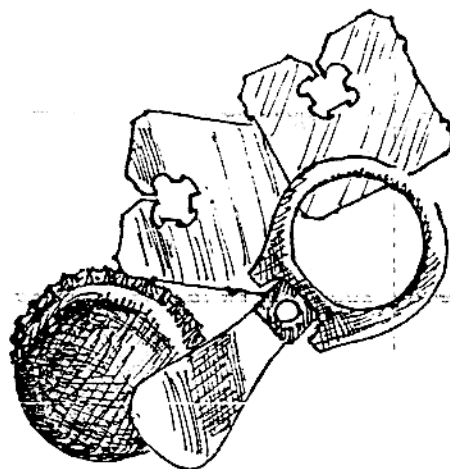
Fraser Island residents and tradesmen with legitimate business on the island will be exempt from the fees.

In September details of funding and the works program were released and in November details of the regulations will be known. The aim of the regulations

and the act is not to restrict enjoyment but to manage the resource. Activities such as fishing, beach camping and scenic driving will continue.

A staff training school will then be held to train relevant staff to carry out their duties under the new management system.

It is anticipated that a publication in the format of a park guide for the entire island will be available in December. This publication will provide information about facilities, permits, the island generally and the management.



FILE ARCHIVES

John Ravenscroft (Brisbane Forest Park National Parks) has searched out the old Forestry Files held at Moggill and produced the following summary. This summary has been submitted to the Brisbane Forest Park 'historic themes' project and was used by Regional Management Planner Mark Gough in a talk delivered to the Brisbane Forest Park Resource and Recreation Management work shop. All park overseers are encouraged to similarly find time to search the file archives and produce a summary that can be of invaluable use.

Some Historical Developments in the D'Aguilar Range National Parks

The D'Aguilar Range National Parks, Maiala, Manorina, Boombana and Jolly's Lookout comprise less than 5.5% of the Landholders land of 25 000 Ha of Brisbane Forest Park. These small national parks were traditionally set aside from State Forests for their scenic values and to provide for the recreational needs of the visiting public. Today far greater emphasis is placed on the nature conservation values of an area when considered for national park declaration although scenic and recreational values are important aspects. For effective nature conservation, reserves need to be large enough to viably maintain natural processes.

The earlier visitors such as the Jarumga people who lived in the surrounding countryside during the last century and before would have had an intimate appreciation of the natural qualities of the area as a means to their survival.

In the late 1920's and 30's local residents, visitors, forestry officers and parliamentarians brought their ideas together and created the first national park in the area. This was in May 1930 and the beautiful head waters of Love's Creek down to the waterfall of the same name within the present Maiala National Park became a protected area.

Two months later that year, a private individuals enquires culminated in some of the land of Mt Nebo being declared a Scenic Reserve. The words of Mr Swain were, "to preserve one of the prettiest spots I know and that everybody else thinks so too round Brisbane, with trees which for height and size would be hard to find anywhere." These few words in 1928 helped give us Manorina National Park in perpetuity.

Prior to the 30's there was timber gathering at the site of the present Maiala Natural Park at Mt Glorious. Hardwood and rainforest trees including the prized Cedars were cut and for a short time a stream driven saw mill operated close to where the lower shelter shed is today.

The current picnic area once being cleared of timber was at one stage a bean farm and later used for grazing.

Timber 'getting' took place at both Boombana and Manorina (with romantic names such as 'Bullicky Bill of Bullickys Hill' being in close association with Boombana. There is literary evidence of long forgotten gold mine shafts at and around Manorina thought to have been sunk at the turn of the century.

Proposals for a 10 acre tourist lease and for a National Park were put up in 1938. A National Park was chosen and as a result 59 acres was declared covering the now popular Rainforest circuit area of Maiala National Park at Mr Glorious.

The same year the Main Roads Department proposed the area of Jolly's Lookout become a National Park, chosen for its beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. It was proclaimed in March 1938.

At Mt Glorious local residents Hilda Greene and her sister requested that notices be posted declaring the birds and animals protected. This was done. Also in 1939 the Mt Glorious Progress Association also requested that the P.E.I. road which was being constructed in 1940 be joined to the Mt Glorious road as to quote, "Mt Glorious is becoming so popular for day and weekend trips." This road is now the direct route from Samford.

During the war years National Parks activities in the area came to a stand-still as people's concerns were elsewhere. Names for the park were proposed in 1941 by the Mt Glorious Progress Association. These being 'Pioneer' and 'Maiala'. On the advice of the Director of the Queensland Museum, Maiala was chosen meaning 'a quiet place' in the Kamilroi Dialect, being from the tribe frequenting the greater area.

Since the war years further portions have been added to Maiala National Park at Mt Glorious. Some portions being donated by A. Greene and T. Brown, while others were purchased by the Government between 1940 and 1975 to make up the present Park.

From 1946 to 1948 regular patrols of Maiala began and cattle grazing was conducted during week days to keep the picnic grass down. The Rainforest, Cypress Grove and Greene's falls walking tracks were constructed. Name plates identifying the trees were put up and some five hundred Hoop Pine trees were planted to combat lantana infestation in areas of previous clearings.

Through the approaches of the Mt. Nebo Progress Association Boombana was declared a National Park along with 170 acres being declared Forestry Beauty spot to link Jolly's Lookout and Boombana. The name of 'Boombana' being given in the following year of 1950.

The statement by the Conservator of Forests Mr A.R. Trist in 1965 in an opening address is significant, "National Parks have been defined as areas of scenic, scientific and historic interest. The act stipulates that the cardinal principle to be observed shall be their permanent preservation, to the greatest possible extent, in their natural condition."

This and a definition in 1974 by the then National Parks Interpretative Officer R.W. Carter, "A National Park is an area set aside where man can enjoy, as a privileged visitor, plant and animals that are indigeneous to the environment, under conditions that are as little affected by his presence as possible."

The appreciation of National Parks in the area have come a long way since 1928 in the desire to protect beautiful trees

for their, "height and size" to a greater scientific understanding of the complexity of these habitats.

An excellent job was done by the Department of Forestry during all these years in protecting the National Parks under its Act as well as its principle task of husbanding the timber production of the State. A need was felt to concentrate the Scientific and Management skill to cater for the needs of National Parks and its wildlife under the same Act and consequently the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service was created as a separate Department in 1975.

Often smaller National Parks (such as those within Brisbane Forest Park) have become "islands" amidst areas of significantly altered forests or agricultural and pastoral lands. They are often the only recreational reserves in an area subsequently prone to over-visitation to the detriment of the natural values for which the park was declared to protect.

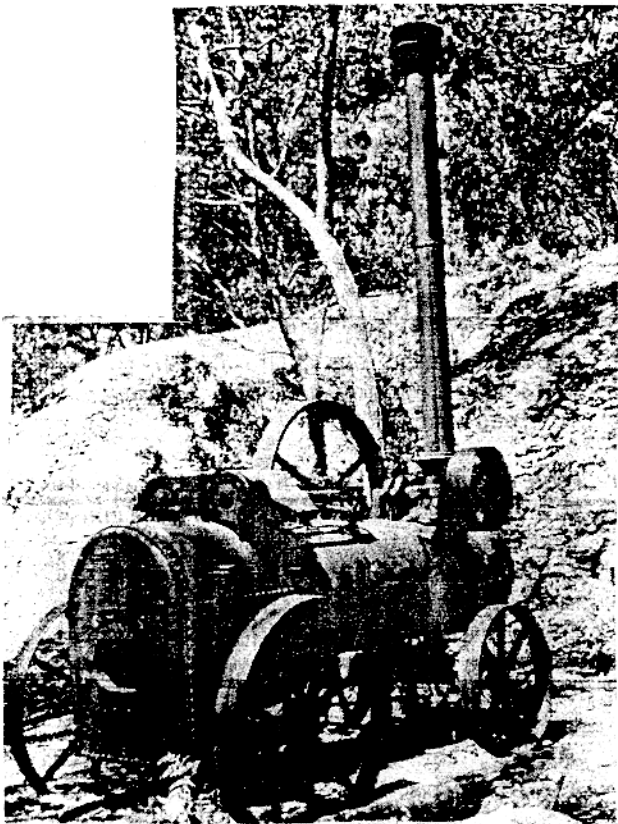
In 1977 the Brisbane Forest Park Authority was set up to co-ordinate recreational activities in the Forestry, Brisbane City Council and National Parks lands in conjunction with the land holders.

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife service is assisted by the Brisbane Forest Park through planning for and provision of alternative recreational venues and opportunities for the visiting public. The ever increasing demand for outdoor recreational experiences in the Australian bush can now be provided for, managed and marketed in a co-ordinated manner that still protects the significant role of national parks in nature conservation areas.

Three of the smaller parks have been allocated to Brisbane Forest Park in the fields of passive recreation in those areas. In recent years along with the National Park's own capital works programs the Brisbane Forest Park has co-ordinated and funded capital works at Jolly's Lookout, Boombana and Manorina. This involvement by Brisbane Forest Park in the D'Aguilar range area has allowed National Park staff to concentrate its energies on the larger park of Maiala and expand its educational role

in the fields of wildlife and conservation while actively supporting the Brisbane Forest Parks 'Go Bush' recreational program with nocturnal wildlife spotlighting activities and childrens environmental awareness programs.

The National Parks have also established a public contact service at Maiala at the lower shelter shed to assist anyone's enquiries on National Parks. This is available at 2.30 PM on Sundays.



This steam driven boiler rotated a drive wheel that operated the saw mill at places like Maiala. Such a boiler today can still be seen half buried near the track entrance.

Informational Resource Files.

A 13 week CEP project employing 3 woman to cover the 3 sub-regions in compiling information resource files from personal, professional and public library searches has been completed!

Each interpretive officer in the Southern Region now is holding numerous volumes of folders containing bibliographies and selected photocopies of published papers, articles and books for the sub-region and natural areas withing each sub-region, and the special parks within these natural areas.

This is your comprehensive reading list. It is proposed that park overseers consult with their interpretive officer to make arrangements to copy the volumes relevant to their park, natural area and sub-region. Folders and dividers are provided as part of the project. We just need you to do the photocopying to obtain your instant mini-library.

Please pursue the bibliographies to check if there are any texts you know of that aren't listed for your area of interests. If so please inform your interpretive officer so that file can be continually updated.



Denise (Moreton) and Eungenie (Wide Bay Burnett). CEP employees who researched and compiled the information resource files for interpretive officers Gil Field and Liz Naumann.

SUNDOWN

Sundown - about 14,000 hectares of rough gorge country along the N.S.W. border south-west of Stanthorpe. Steep stony hillsides flank the Severn River as it winds its way towards Mingoola. Steep side gorges cut back into the hills either side of the river. At first glance the hillsides are covered with sombre olive vegetation and there seems to be a uniform drabness to the whole place. Working your way along the river can be slow and frustrating - the original loamy flats have been replaced by river gravel and rocks with thick tea-tree, bottlebrush and wattle scrub. Walking with or without a pack can be slow going. With altitudes of 400-1200 metres temperatures vary a lot - the high 30s in summer, with generally a few days around 40°C, frosts in winter, snow on the high country the last two years.

However, gradual familiarity, getting to know the birds, plants and animals, a fair bit of walking and you begin to recognise landmarks and personalities and the place becomes more like an old friend. There are few distinct seasons here, each has its own character - the clear evenings of autumn, with cirrus marking the sky; winter with its frosts and clear warm days, the delicate scent of Black Wattle drifting down the river; spring, when the rest of the wattles and other wildflowers bloom; summer, fairly oppressive, but the river runs until the new year and everything has new growth. In January and February it gets very hot, and the small crops farmers get stuck into irrigation upstream - you can almost see the river drop. Last year it stopped flowing in early February, by the end of the month I was digging for water in the river bed and the situation didn't change until mid-May, when the river started flowing again.

The area was settled in the 1830s by squatters who followed Cunningham's footsteps. The rough country of Sundown was not cleared early and retained its character. Sydney Shertchley, a government geologist noted in his journal in 1898 "....it is romantically beautiful, with fine glimpses of mountain scenery through the open forest, from the hill just mentioned one looks down upon the lower spurs which appear as flats...." Ringbarking got into full swing in the

early 1900s and now only the occasional native tree makes you wonder at what the country must have once been like. Even now, in drought several of the water holes still hold 14ft of water.

Only about half the area is reserved, the rest is vacant crown land and presents something of a problem in visitor management. Vehicular access to the VCL is off-road only and many of the visitors are only too aware of the limits of Service authority - its definitely not the place to march into in uniform and start chucking your weight around. Added to this the rumours around Stanthorpe - it's to be sold to Cherribah, turned into a shooting reserve, or there's a lodge to be built at Red Rock Gorge and occasionally one wonders what you're doing running around picking up beer cans and arguing with trail bikers.

In addition feral animals - brumbies, deer and goats are present in the area - with the type of country and free movement back and forth to adjacent country making it impossible to eradicate them.

However, we've had a bit of rain in the last month - the river's running, there's new growth all over the bottlebrushes and a lot of birds, should be a good display this year, the pardalotes are building in the martin's nests (again), the immature Rufous Whistler still hasn't realized it's his reflection in the front window, the Ooline should flower this year and I might get some viable seed - I sometimes wonder why I'm the only bloke who realizes this is obviously the best park in Queensland.



TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation

58th National Conference 29 September - 4 October, 1985.

Leisure, Lifestyles, Australian Communities

Yes, the plenary sessions of the recent R.A.I.P.R. conference at Toowoomba were exciting - I only fell asleep once. The last thing I remember hearing was something about 0.1% of 2 million dollars being spent on arts in Footscray and at that stage I wasn't sure whether that was good or bad having already been totally confused by statistics and percentages etc. Thanks go to Gil for a quick nudge in the ribs before I fell off the chair or started snoring.

Don't get me wrong, it wasn't all that bad, and some quite informative and interesting papers were presented at the conference. However, lunch that morning came as a very welcome relief and provided one of the highlights of the day with some very interesting conversations around the table.

Our jovial little group of possums was joined by an attractive middle-aged couple who just happened to be undertakers.

It took no more than 30 seconds for the conversation to start to slip as Gil discussed with our companions the trend away from rows of rose bushes in favour of planting natives and the possibilities of using the real estate involved for multiple purposes.

Does one plant one tree for each person, or do you have "tree for two" and "two for tree". Group plantings were discussed and already it was unclear whether persons or plants were being referred to.

The idea of using paving stones to mark the final resting places also conjured up some very interesting possibilities, especially if they were colour coded according to race (red, yellow, black, white), occupation (blue collar, white collar), politics (red), or other criteria, e.g. greenies. Some very interesting murals could be created by selective planting. Perhaps even a chess board with public servants as pawns, CROOKS, new years honours recipients, clergy, no shortage of

Queens these days, the only possible difficulty being in acquiring sufficient royalty or extremely large gorillas to provide the kings.

Alas the lunch time seemed to pass too fast.

Vic Bushing.

--- 0 ---

Talking Turkey

The following notes were a hand out from a most informative talk for Service staff at Moggill recently. This talk was one of a series organized by Researcher Peter Ogilvie for staff development.

Australian Brush-Turkey

Alectura lathami.

Family. Megapodidae or mound builders. Three Australian species; the others are the mallee fowl and the orange-footed scrubfowl.

Distribution. Coastal eastern Australia from Cape York to mid New South Wales. Also introduced into Kangaroo Island. Occurs in a variety of closed forest types especially rainforest but also some dry inland areas.

Breeding Season. In south-eastern Queensland the first mounds are built about early June and can remain active until February. Breeding starts later in dry years and at higher altitudes (eg. Lamington NP).

Sexes. Males are slightly larger (about 1.5 kg) than females (about 2.2 kg). Males develop wattles at the beginning of the breeding season and become increasingly aggressive.

Breeding System. Unlike the other megapodes which are strictly monogamous, brush-turkeys have no pair bond. Males build mounds and patrol these, chasing out intruders and expelling and sometimes taking over the mound of another turkey. Females visit these males at their mounds each morning (and sometimes during the afternoon) to mate and lay their eggs.

Individuals of the different sexes have no clear associations except at the mound. Males insist on mating before the females is allowed to lay. Many females may visit one male and some may visit more than one male, even on the same day. Most of the breeding by males is dominated by a small number of the males, and most who build mounds do not get to breed at all.

Eggs, up to about 36, average 18-24 per female are laid throughout the season. Eggs hatch after 40-80 days, at average temperatures in the mound of 33 c (31 c to 36 c).

Chicks are well developed at hatching and leave the mound immediately. There is no parental care at all.

Darryl Jones.
Australian Environmental Studies,
Griffith University.

Comment from park ranger

"How can I soar like an eagle
when I've got to work with a
bunch of turkeys?"

Wildlife Rangers Lament

Never mind the fauna -
none of it can vote.

Do as you like with fauna -
the Act is just a joke.

Never mind the fauna -
just do not rock the boat.

Do as you like with fauna -
admin wears another coat.

Never mind the fauna -
the only thing of importance is
ever demanding folk.

Do as you like with fauna -
the Ranger's in a yolk.

Never mind the fauna -
he's now a powerless bloke.



Fearless Ranger, microphone clutched
in hand, tracks gentleman Yowie down
to local haunt. 1980 Natural Bridge/
Arch National Park.

RATBAG.....DEAR DOT

Who were the 2 Moggill staff who walk 5km carrying a generator to jumpstart their vehicle near Bauhinia Downs. That's what happens when you leave the beer fridge running off the battery.

--- 0 ---

Tim Moore is still reeling over sleep lost during the "Earth Education" workshop held at Binna Burra recently. Parks staff bedded down at the barracks for the two nights and Tim chose to sleep near the woodstove as did Ric "Who Says I Snore" Natrass. It seems Ric is not only blessed with the gift of the gab, but like our lyrebirds can mimmick chainsaws, even in his sleep!

Indeed Ric's fondness for conversation found him still talking to Tim, who due to the hour of the morning was very much fast asleep!

A very enjoyable weekend had by all.

--- 0 ---

Noel Dawson has been a bit loose tongued of late. At Volunteer's Meeting - "Jerry van Delft is a Senior Overseer but is equivalent to a District Ranger managing 2 districts - Canning and Central Scenic Rim. It may sound like double dutch to you but that describes Jerry van Delft.

Noel is an obvert agitator against smokers (in spite of his infamous name sake of stage and screen). For instance Mark Cough - "I thought it was his real name."

"At Regional Management Meeting - "After all interpretation is really only a lot of white lies."

At Brisbane Forest Park "Resource and Recreation Management Workshop" - an aside to Gil Field - "you must admit I've increased the amount of white lying in this Region."

--- 0 ---

Vic Bushing was asked at the same BFP workshop how the previous days had been. His reply was "Friday night was O.K. but Saturday was a bit of a "hands on" affair.....?

--- 0 ---

Jerry van Delft's response to his District Overseer/District Ranger dichotomy "the whole ranking system is rank." (By the way Jerry is not Dutch.)

--- 0 ---

Peter Chapman at Tallebudgera Greenspace (Burleigh Head National Park) has come up with a worker's T-shirt design as his most recent step in marketing since inaugurating the Tallebudgera Greenspace Newsletter "Paperbark" for the 40 C.E.P. staff he now manages.

--- 0 ---

Mike Hall at Springbrook has always been an embarrassing wit. Some years ago he produced for an earlier copy of "Ringtail" the following gem on park visitor analysis.

Tourist Identification Kit

Large - 5'6" and over

1. Tourist usually seen trying to build primitive fires and offering sacrificial snags to the barbi god - the eastern snag dribbler (Burntus Charcoaleii).
2. Red tourist with white nose, towling hat, bulbus stomach and rattling esky - giant yobo (Drunkus Skunkus).
3. These tourists are black, greasy with a hard protective coating on head. Looks like he just learnt to walk erect - Giant Bokie (Bikus Meanyata).
4. This creature is well over 7', orange hair, walks in crab-like fashion, gives off offensive smell - Yowie (Regionalis Superintendenteii).

Medium - 4' to 5'6"

1. These tourists usually arrive in a convoy of vans. They like to bring their own traffic jam. Basic diet is broken glass, toilet seats, C.B. radios, saplings and bikinis (preferably full ones) - hoons (Loutas Punkaphylla).
2. These tourists have blue hair, skin that needs ironing and handbags that need searching. Usually seen in flocks - clutching ferns - feral

Granny (Edna Everegeii).

3. These rare and fascinating creatures are unfortunately (for us) extinct. Rarely seen after the odd Harry Butler Show. However, these are usually immature and non-breeders. Any recent close encounters should be sent to Playboy, Forum or Natural Bridge as any knowledge on this species would be of great help in finding more. Please send all encounters in a plain brown wrapper - Ranger Groupie - (Spunkus Nymphophylla).

Small - under 4'

1. These are seen carving their names on trees, toilet walls and tables. Many have been spotted chasing scrub turkeys and goannas. Some are arboreal, swinging on vines and climbing trees. Tiger kids - (Rattus Brattus).
2. These are seen clinging to or being pushed by the eastern snag dribbler. This must therefore be a symbiotic relationship. Their numerous droppings are uniquely prepackaged and found in every nook and cranny. Their call is a series of long, earpiercing screams - northern pigmy tourist (Infantus Kimbiata).

--- o ---

Now Mike's come up with this year's "Park Management Manual".

Handy Hints for Rangers

How to conserve firewood -

- (a) Hose the woodpile down every morning, it saves man hours chopping wood and you can make a fortune selling kero.
- (b) Place total fire ban signs at picnic area entrances. This looks a bit suspect when it's raining but then again you don't have to hose your woodpile.

How to reduce your visitation -

- (a) Warn tourists about man eating and aids infected magpies and goannas in picnic areas.
- (b) Place rubber taipans under picnic tables, this also gives you a chance to play hero catching the

venomous creature.

- (c) Drop a tree over the access road on Easter Friday morning.
- (d) Plant stinging trees and bindi-eyes in all picnic areas.
- (e) Start mopping the picnic tables at lunch time.
- (f) Do a rain dance every morning before patrol.

One last hint to reduce your dog numbers. Erect a fake graveyard in the picnic area with Rover, Prince, Fido and Lassie written on the tombstones.

Definitions -

- (a) Executive Direction- something the head office executives wake up with every morning.
- (b) Administrative Support - two pairs of underpants.
- (c) Strategic Planning - what to do in Accounts if you loose your pack of cards and can't play 500.
- (d) Ministerial Services - stud fees - Gil - a bit suss? I don't want to loose my job.
Mike - You've already lost it-Ed.
- (e) Internal Management Consultancy - telling your superiors to stick it.
- (f) Data Base and Resource Assessment - how to make field staff slaves of the computer.
- (g) Problem Species Management - tourist control.
- (h) Visitor Infrastructure Maintenance- a fancy term for cleaning the dunnies.

Is it true that if you pulled all the pages out of a timesheet booklet and stuck them together they would reach from here to Venus.

--- o ---

Hive of Information

Wildlife calls normally concern simple matters such as snakes or maggies. But not last month.

Caller: "I'm ringing to report a swarm of Bees."

Office type: "Are they native or Italian Bees?"

A fair question but the answer was much better:-

"Bugged if I know, I wasn't game enough to go near them and hear them talking."

--- o ---

We trained hard - but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams we would be re-organized.

I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet every new situation by reorganising: and a wonderful method it can be for creating an illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation.

Petronius Arbiter
210 BC

--- o ---

Found in "index to authors" in Environmental Planning and Law Journal.

Ball, Michael "Planning for erotic activities". The librarian had asterisked it with the comment "he means town rather than personal planning". Who said those periodical contents pages were boring?

Quote from Sunday Mail is pertinent to this article.

"Ex-nuptial births among Queensland women aged 15 to 19 are running at 23.3 per 1000, the highest of the Australian states, the latest Statistics Bureau figures show.

That means one in 40 of that age group had a baby out of wedlock.

The figures revealed the ex-nuptial birth rate for 15-to-19 year-olds was more than twice Victoria's level and 50 percent higher than the Australian average.

Editor - all park staff should request this article as a stimulus to park planning. Tallebudgera Greenspace - next door to the Gold Coast Tallebudgera Playroom is considering contraceptive

vending machines as an IST requiring urgent funding.

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To quote in full a letter from Qld. Police Department.

Dear Mr. Dawson,

Your letter of 18 September, 1985 concerning the walk entitled 'Youth on the Run '85' has been forwarded to appropriate Police for information and attention if required.

Yours faithfully,
T.M. Lewis,
Commissioner of Police.

--- o ---

Correspondence which took place after Dorothy Finch had LOADED into the car (everything in sight - including Hague Best's clothes for the week) all the camping gear of the staff from Brisbane who had just taken part in 2½ days of the Youth of the Rim Walk.

From Hague Best
To Kinky Finch - Jock Snatcher

Thanks for the return of my clothes! I also lost a green water bottle on that day - if anyone knows its whereabouts please return.

Thank you,
H. Best.

P.S. Nothing to be ashamed of - knicking mens clothing - a lot of women have this problem!

To Vague Beast
From Jock Kinky Snatcher Finch

How remiss of you to loose a water bottle. Just so happens a spare one has turned up on the mantle piece in my private collection of water bottles. You can have it if you like.

P.S. It was full of wine, but that Des Jones used it all as 'cooking stuff' on the camping trip.

J.K.S. Finch

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TALLEBUDGERA GREENSPACE BRAINSACE

There has been considerable progress with the Tallebudgera Greenspace project on the Gold Coast.

Tallebudgera Greenspace includes Burleigh Head National Park. Tallebudgera Creek Environmental Parks Fleay's Fauna Centre and local government park lands.

There are being developed and managed by the Q.NPWS in collaboration with the Gold Coast City Council for their nature conservation and environmental recreation values.

The project is being financed by commitments from the Q.NPWS, Gold Coast City Council and the Federal Government Community Employment Program. This financial year \$1 million is to be spent providing employment for over 40 staff.

Progress of the project at present includes the near completion of the boardwalk and track system from which to view the wildlife within the enclosure of Fleay's Fauna Centre.

Revegetation of previously denuded or weed infested areas is also well underway. A wildlife welfare complex is additionally proposed for this financial year so that Fleay's Fauna Centre should once again be open to the public by the end of 1986.

The initial phase of the Tallebudgera Greenspace walking track system is designed to link Fleay's Fauna Centre with Burleigh Head National Park and is already over half completed.

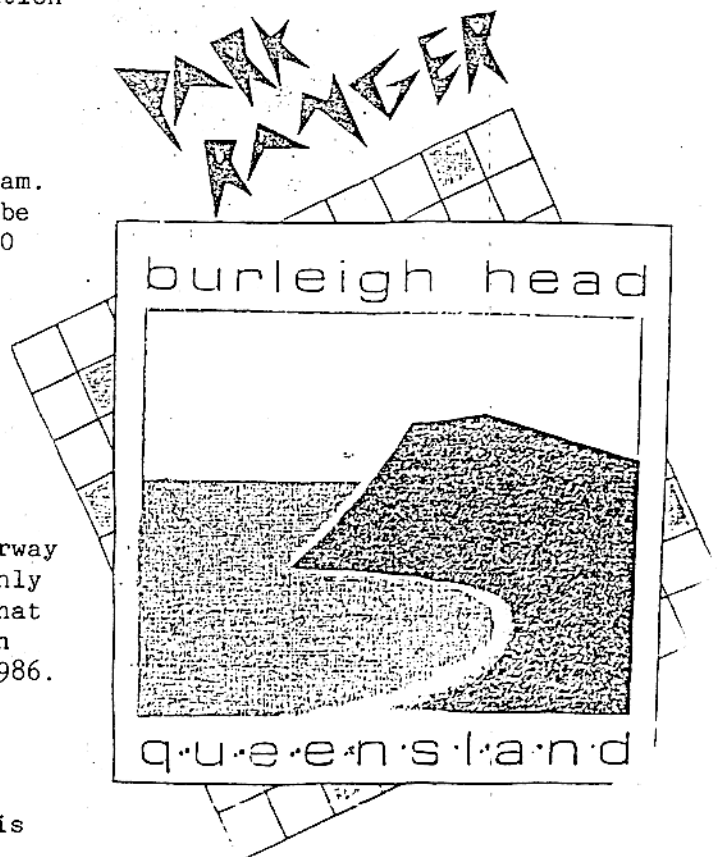
A feature of this walk will be the Tallebudgera Estuary Boardwalk that includes the crossing of a scenic side channel that will remain accessible to local residents boats.

A continuation of this track past Fleay's Fauna Centres will link with West Burleigh along a 600m boardwalk.

By the Bi-centenary and Expo '88 we should see the track system crossing Tallebudgera Creek via a footbridge and traversing the adjoining Environmental Park on the south bank and onto a visitor

centre on the highway at Burleigh Head National Park

The entire Tallebudgera Greenspace project is an innovative development of a Natural area in keeping with its conservation while enhancing the nature sensitive recreational opportunities for Gold Coast residents and visitors.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer's regionalized!!

The Q.NPWS 'Volunteer' program's activities have been regionalized. This means statewide co-ordination, policy and guidelines are still the responsibility of Head Office through Technical Services Branch Manager Trevor Vollbon and Volunteer Project Officer Lenore Wedgewood. The day to day contact with volunteers as regards volunteer projects and activities is now the responsibility of the Service Regions and their Regional Directors.

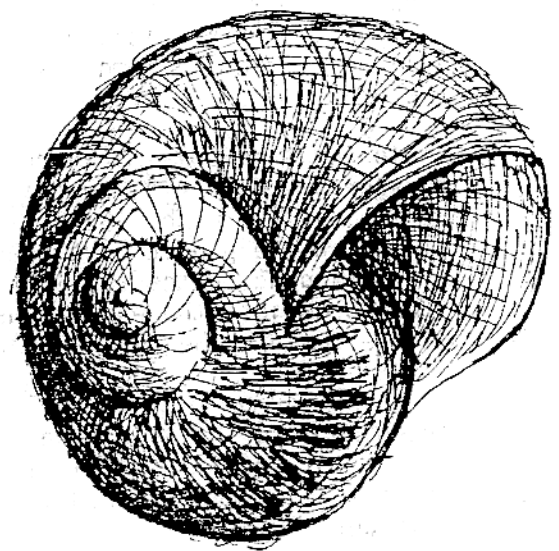
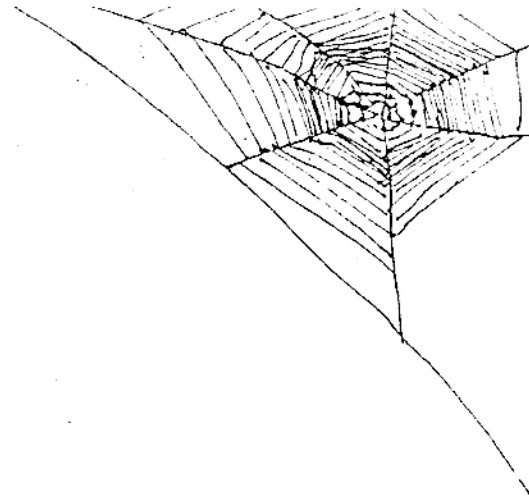
It is proposed to establish the Volunteer program on a project basis. Liaison and co-ordination of activities to be through the Regional Overseer. The District Rangers (parks, interpretive, wildlife and research) to be responsible for the implementation of specific projects.

These projects are to be established after meeting with Volunteer groups at Regional Centres. All registered Volunteers should receive in the near future from their respective Regional Directors correspondence regarding this new system of operations and proposed meetings to ascertain specific projects.

The first meeting is taking place in the Southern Region at Moggill on December 7. Volunteer-assisted projects presented by Service staff will be discussed and selected for implementation.

Volunteers should now expect to see improved liaison with the Service, a greater range of volunteer projects and activities to be involved in and subsequently more regular contact with Service staff and other volunteers.

'Volunteer' mailing lists are now being prepared by Regional Centres and include Honorary Protectors (appointed under the Q.NPWS Act), Natural History Association members and other citizens who volunteer their time free of charge to Q.NPWS activities.



DISTRICT DIALOGUE

Moreton Sub-Region

Eastern Scenic Rim District

Mike Hall and his Springbrook staff will soon have their work cut out for them when the \$300,000 C.E.P. redevelopment project gets underway early in December. Mike decided to go on leave at a crucial time and left his staff to do all the equipment and material ordering for the project. Still that's what delegation is all about. We hear that Springbrook is thinking of having fog lights and fog horns installed at its barracks. It's either that or Natural Arch staff having radar fitted to their cars. It appears that a staff member from Natural Arch had trouble finding the Springbrook barracks in the fog the other day.

Springbrook 'old school house' visitor centre now sports the past Service R.N.A. Show display 'rainforest ceiling'. Other exhibits are home made. Staff have now conducted a number of displays at the new Springbrook school house using the Service caravan, outdoor static displays and live exhibits from Fleay's Fauna Centre in support of local community special events.

Bill Flenady has already put his botanical prowess to good use at Binna Burra. Much to the disgust of the Qld. Herbarium D.P.I., who have just put out a recently revised Lamington plant list, Bill has turned up some new plants for the area.

Would you like some more Brush Turkeys on your park? Green Mountains (Lamington) in conjunction with O'Reilly's Guest House and the public have been breeding and fattening up these birds and would like to go into the export business before the area becomes one huge mound.

To bring you up to date on Turkey breeding Peter Ogilvie organised a lecture at Moggill for all interested staff to attend on Thursday 21st November, 1985.

Construction has commenced at Fleay's on a new cage for the Powerful Owls as part of the C.E.P. project. The cage was designed by local staff with no help from Works. That's why it's going ahead so soon. A considerable setback in

progress has been experienced on the Tallebudgera Greenspace project due to one-eyed local residents unanimously voting against the provision of a foot bridge across a small inlet to link up a walking track from Burleigh Head N.P. with a track from Fleay's Reserve and E.P. Locals used the excuse that the bridge would increase rape and vandalism in the area and that it would obscure their views and obstruct boat access.

Fleay's Fauna Centre staff are an interpretive force to be reckoned with now that they are free ranging. Service caravan is in regular use exhibiting live fauna. Recent events have been shows at Southport, Mudgeeraba and Tamborine Mountain, a Southport school fete and a small farms field day display at Beaudesert organized by Queensland Country Life.

After doggied persistence from R/S Des Jones the doggies and other pets have finally vacated the Animal Refuge at Pine Ridge. District staff are now itching to move in to the building which will become their new district centre. However it may be a case of them itching to move out again unless the Flick man is allowed to do his handywork first.

Central Scenic Rim District

Bushfires, bushfires and more bushfires. Boonah/Rathdowney parks have all burnt away. Well almost, thanks to the Tamborine staff, the bush staff and Palen Creek Prison Farm tenants some parts of the parks did survive, as well as some of our neighbours (that is whose who didn't light the fires).

The district was also short staffed during the last three months, what with certain members (highly paid overseers) in Great Britain, New Zealand, Cairns (for work related reasons, so he said), and Adelaide (for the Grand Prix), the district survived well.

Plans are well underway for the lookout at Witches Falls which will be officially opened on National Parks Day next year. As you may know Witches Falls was the first National Park in Queensland.

Keith Sullivan after past successes with Service caravan display at Boonah Show, followed up with school fete static display and school visits accompanied by Wildlife Overseer Ric Nattrass. Peter Lehman with Keith also have helped staff small farms field day caravan display at Beaudesert. A 4WD extravaganza at Ipswich was attended by District Ranger (unrecognized Jerry Van Delft with Service caravan (yet again) and a specific 'cheapo' display.

The public will soon be able to enjoy a pleasant walk up Mt. Greville along a new track currently being constructed. A heavy emphasis has been placed on track construction/maintenance in the Central Scenic Rim, which now boasts tracks ranging from the highest standard tracks at Tamborine to wilderness trails in the rim area. Mt. Edwards track is in the reconstruction phase and Mt. French will have a disabled access track to the main lookout.

Canning

The pride and joy of the Glasshouse Mountains staff, the redeveloped Beerwah picnic area, looks more like it was hit by the Adelaide/Victorian bushfire. Thanks to certain members of the public, who, bored with logs delineating the carpark, scrub in the reveg. area and the picnic tables set in concrete decided to have one big bon fire with all of the above. To top it all off a recently reprinted and modified information sheet for the area advertises camping at all the picnic areas including Forestry areas. Nice one H.O.

At the other end of the district the Maiala shelter shed has been renovated. Cyclone Tracey couldn't blow it down now. B.F.P. have come to the party and will be assisting in a big way in the redevelopment of the picnic area (a small step for man but a huge one for mankind).

John Ravenscroft and Tim Moore continue to be Service interpretive stalwarts in the B.F.P. 'Go-Bush' program. They conduct regular spotlights and children's activities. Tim has developed a 2-hour 'animal antics and forest frolics' program complete with

take home show bag of Service handouts. Ask Tim about his rainforest slug interpretive aid.

Anyhow, as this is the last 'Brushtale' for the year, I'd like to thank all my staff for their magnificent efforts in the past 12 months and to wish them and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Jerry.

Moreton Bay

Moreton Island has had cabinet approval of an additional 41.7% of the island as national park. Moreton Island is now 17,300ha - 91.2% of the entire island. Presently under negotiation is for army assistance in a rubbish clean up on the island. Island staff's management and recreational movements have been severely curtailed with the death of their 4WD and all island trikes removed from service.

St. Helena Island is looking like a well managed farm with assistance from prisoners from Boggo Road. A visitor information sheet has replaced the out of print/out of date park guide for the interim until development plans are enacted and we can go glossy in a brochure again.

Stacey Thomson has written a tour leader guide and a draft of a self-guiding trail brochure as a pilot to ultimately producing self-guiding trail signs for those visitors not taking a guided tour with Island staff.

At Venman's Bushland Reserve (always almost an Environmental Park) prison labour is working on the roads. Moreton Bay staff activities are best summed up as boats in and out of water either due to breaking down or trying to sink themselves.



Downs South West Sub-Region

Toowoomba Centre

A small farms field day at Beaudesert organised by Gordon Stone proved most successful with a cross section of Service Staff working in the true spirit of program management for the RNC program. Live exhibits were displayed, caravan refurbishments discussed and great interest from the hobby farmers.

Southern Downs District

District Ranger Brett Porter involved staff from Girraween, Sundown and Main Range National Parks in Queensland Recreation Week. Guided walks including catering for handicapped persons, spotlighting at Main Range with participants bused in from Warwick, a Service caravan display at Warwick and public talks on careers by Service staff was combined with an army display of equipment and survival talks with various school groups and general public.

Congratulations to Peter Hazelgrove on re-erecting a shed originally located at the northern end of Sundown National Park and previously owned by Shell/BHP - he was not able to move the concrete slab but now has one of his own. Is it true the shed went from northern to southern Sundown via the Bunya Mountains!!!

Sundown is claiming the best 'isolated area' disabled people's facilities with bush showers and pit toilets, over 500m of flat riverine habitat suitable for intrepid wheelies.

Bob Laws and Peter Hazelgrove have created a 5 ply routed map board sign that is cheap, successful after initial problems - more of that in another Brushtale.

Main Range CEP project nearing completion at Spicer's Gap involving 3 picnic areas. With over 1000 (!) bollards bowled over from the State Forest and cut, barked, transported and erected. And there's still 600 to go.

Main Roads have constructed a new road into the existing camp area under redevelopment (but ultimate establishment solely as a picnic area when alter native camping areas are decided upon.)

Northern Downs District

Bunya Mountains has been totally cleared for potatoes. The Dandabah camp area under redevelopment as 'Spud Murphy's car park'. Two temporary staff are employed for this project.

Ravensbourne National Park has 3 CEP workers redeveloping the picnic area and Lake Broadwater cottage of Vic Wood's has been re- vamped with a coat of paint.

Rod Hancock asks who picked Richard Gunter routing steel (!) in the special show issue of Ringtail.

Southern Regional Centre.

Public access to the Southern Regional Centre at Moggill for environmental education purposes is gaining momentum. The frequent requests for public talks to school and community groups are now receiving a standard reply that reads as such -

Dear

Staff shortages and work commitments make it often difficult to fulfil requests for public tal and activities.

If it is at all possible we would much prefer your group (parents and children) to visit our Southern Regional Centre at 55 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill.

The Service has a number of animal species suitable for educational display purposes, various habitat gardens, natural bushland fringing the Brisbane River, a large wildlife enclosure and an administrative centre. Service staff can address your group on a variety of topics relevant to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's responsibilities.

If it is not possible to visit our centre please contact Dorothy Finch on 2020200 or at the above address to discuss alternatives.

Yours faithfully

N.M. Dawson
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

It is proposed to develop a significant program that may include pre and post visit information and activities suggestions as well as props and facilitie such as a river bank walking track, live fauna exhibits and interpretive signage.

New Use for the Extracted Digit

At last we have our new PABX phone system (Private Automatic-Branch Exchange) installed in the new office section at Moggill.

Subject to further time, and in some cases, Frustration, I'm sure we'll all be able to use all the various phone facilities provided, without error.

One of the facilities of our new phones is that we now hit the buttons rather than put the digit in the dial and screw it around (as often as is required) for connection to another phone.

Another of the features of our phones is that most STD/TRUNK calls have to go through the switch, so I guess there'll be no more Koala Deals with Japan at the taxpayers expense.

When confused, some may find it easy to remember our new main switch number as 2-02-02-0-0H HELL, why worry about ringing them anyway.

Those of us that are involved are still waiting EXPECTANTLY for our computer terminal to be accepted by the State Government Computer. Apparently our unit has the equivalent of TECHNICAL B.O., as every time our unit tries to say "good day" to the Government Computer we are rejected - still, hopefully, someday, - PERHAPS - we'll have our terminal in an acceptable state, even if we have to use Palmolive Gold.

A plea from the photocopying machine when you are completing any library/financial/general communications that may have to be photocopied, would you please use a black pen as it helps for a clear result to a well thought out document.

Now that the change over for all of use (at Moggill) is nearly complete, some to the new section building and others playing musical chairs with offices in the old building, we feel confident that the extra space provided is appreciated by all those concerned.

For those of our customers and staff who find it necessary to contact anyone at the Southern Regional Office a list of direct numbers is as follows -

Telephone Service for Moggill

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Main switchboard number | 202 0200 | |
| Wildlife enquiries. | 202 0232 | |
| Park enquiries | 202 0212 | |
| Extention numbers | | STD access phor 2020246 |
| N. Dawson | 2020234 | |
| C. Lahey | 2020235 | |
| D. Finch | 2020239 | |
| G. Field | 2020236 | |
| G. Gordon | 2020240 | |
| M. Gough | 2020237 | |
| M. Connolly | 2020238 | 2020247 |
| A. Kowalski | 2020242 | |
| R. Alford | 2020243 | |
| Interview Room | 2020244 | |
| Library | 2020245 | |
| L. Beech | 2020243 | |
| E. Skinner | 2020243 | |
| New Tea Room | 2020241 | |
| D. Hotchkis | 2020201 | |
| D. Jeffress | 2020212 | |
| M. Parker | 2020204 | |
| R. Natrass | 2020202 | |
| D. Jones | 2020203 | 2020249 |
| J. McDonnell | 2020204 | |
| J. van Delft | 2020206 | |
| V. Bushing | 2020210 | |
| P. Grimshaw | 2020211 | |
| L. Naumann | 2020208 | |
| W. Oxnam | 2020217 | |
| J. Scott | 2020214 | 2020248 |
| K. McDonald | 2020215 | |
| G. Innis | 2020222 | |
| R. Atherton | 2020216 | |
| R. Allison | 2020218 | |
| W. Drake | 2020219 | |
| Herbarium | 2020221 | |
| Laboratory | 2020224 | |
| G. Wilkinson | 2020225 | |
| D. Reimer | 2020223 | |
| Tea Room | 2020226 | |
| P. Ogilvie | 2020227 | |
| C. Sandercoe | 2020228 | |
| F. Prant (Store) | 2020230 | |
| Display Shed | 2020231 | |
| Computer Room | 2020220 | |
| | 2020233 | |

Wide Bay Burnett Sub-Region

Great Sandy District

How low can you go? Staff at Freshwater having trouble contacting outside world by telephone approached Telecom to have fault rectified. Technicians discovered battery charging solar panel removed from its remote location by person or persons unknown. Takes all types.

District Ranger M.J. says

'All staff are performing well. Both Cooloola and Great Sandy have been busy with campers. The Fraser Island Plan is moving slowly in fact it may have rusted away by the time the money comes. We're always good for a fish story like picking up crabs on the Bruce Highway and cooking them in the smoko urn at Gympie much to the disgust of the rest of the office. But last week Bill French caught a jew, you say so what but he caught it on a lure at night in a strong wind and high seas.

If they start to sand mine Fraser we now or will have the right equipment a 6 x 6 truck 1 4 x 4 truck and a bloody big TOY TRACTOR.'

Bundaberg District

Mon Repos - CEP ongoing.

Nursery completed - propagation area and hardening off area included in structure. Revegetation work still in progress, particularly area around H.Q. and pondage area.

Walking track commenced (along headland area to eventually be a circuit track.) An unusual flowering fungi was discovered during this exercise. Staff became closely acquainted with two curious carpet snakes.

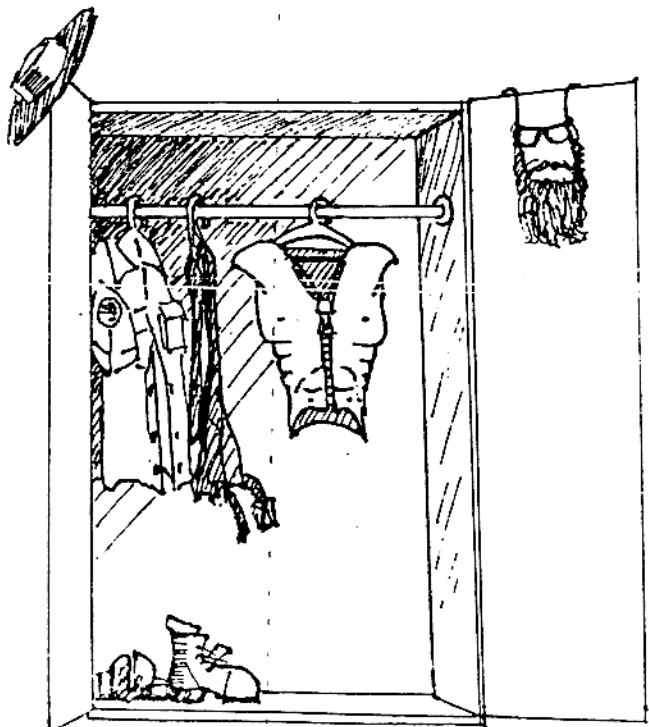
Turtle season has begun.

Woodgate

General maintenance of campground and upgrading of firebreaks.

Gympie District

Next issue Liz and Ron!!!





Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
Southern Region Staff