



News in the Southern Region

**MARCH, 1986**  
**No 3**

## EDITORIAL

Round three and the newsletter is now a magazine in size. It is indicative of the productivity of the Southern Region staff since regionalization and Noel Dawson stoking the fire. If we keep this pace up lets hope the public and the polities see the light and deliver with funds, staff and recognition - otherwise one for a rapid burn out rate amongst Service trail blazers.

The Service needs to address anomalies in pay scales, work load and responsibilities. It has long been recognized with no demonstrative actions the inadequacy of the wages employees Forestry Award to park manager responsibilities. The technician/scientist scales are obviously inadequate with many technicians (rangers) in highly productive research or management positions. These responsibilities and initiatives transcend an antiquated Public Service system based on a prejudicial academic class structure devoid of comprehension of the new age of entrepreneurship. It is time for Service staff - renowned for being recruited for their love not money conviction to nature conservation - to consider working conditions and their just reward. This is now recognized at the Regional level. It is time that the Administrative Services Branch took on the task of staff management, development and training and an equitable financial reward system.

Service staff must continue to maintain the quality of work commitment and productivity but draw the line at overload without adequate consideration and compensation.

Gil Field.

P.P.S.

Thanks to the people who contributed to this issue of Brushtail and to the typists - Elaine Skinner, Lois Beech and Lucy Evans. I am ready to receive contributions to the next issue - deadline 10th June.

Dot Finch.

P.S.

We are losing our honourable Editor, Gil Field to a better position in W.A. He has introduced many initiatives (including this publication) and many are going to miss his leadership and friendship. Lets hope the above comments and suggestions are taken seriously so that we can adequately reward staff for performance. Then perhaps, we will be able to keep valuable staff members in the Service.

# Smoke Signal

## BRUSHTALE

I must submit I would rather have more time talking to you in the field than sit here writing to you. However, Brushtale has been an excellent medium for me to contact you regarding our future direction in the Southern Region.

### Aboriginal Site Management

You will all no doubt have read or heard about the problems we had with the midden sites in the Tallebudgerra Greenspace development. I would like you all to be aware of the history and the likely implications. First we have tried very hard over the last two years to increase our resource information regarding the aboriginal culture in N.P.'s. This was particularly so in the Greenspace network. However due to poor communications between the various groups we did disturb a significant midden.

Out of all this did come some good. We now have closer contacts with the aboriginal people and the university to help us identify sites and plan our programs around them. Hopefully they will also be involved in the preparation of interpretive material.

The real lesson is that we must strive even harder to identify resources in our management plan as even our supporters are quick to criticize even our smallest errors. We should also strive to improve contacts with local groups without losing control of the situation. After all it is our responsibility to manage those parks under our control. If you have doubts about resources in a park you are about to undertake development seek help.

### Staffing

You will be aware that we have been making major staffing changes in the last few months. The aim of the exercise has been to recognize responsibility levels in each management area and match the classification to that (both wages

and Public Service staff). The final structure will take some time but I think you are now seeing some of the benefits of this. We are also trying to improve the skills available in each management area i.e. interpretive, planning, field skills etc. so that our management of the parks and the people visiting them is improved.

You will be continually involved in this process as I have asked the R.S.'s and program managers to seek advice from you all on staffing for all areas. Make your contribution through your District Ranger. To improve this communication I hope to visit each district and talk to all district staff over the next 3 months. This will be done with your Rangers and supervisors.

### Boundaries

In line with the above we have been reviewing district and management area boundaries. I hope that by the next Brushtale we will have a map which will outline the new boundaries and the proposed long term plan for management area boundaries. If you have ideas again terrorize your supervisor with these.

### Pays

Parks and wildlife staff are not naturally complainers but I must admit that those of you who have written regarding your pays have some thing to complain about. However we have tried hard in the Region to improve the system. Hopefully in the next two months you will see a new system introduced. This will rely on the D.R.' checking the wages sheets and sending them straight on for processing. This will hopefully avoid the bottleneck we have run into in Head Office. You should all appreciate however the workload in the pay section and not blame them. It is a matter of too few trying to do too much.

Keep up the great work. See you in the field hopefully!!

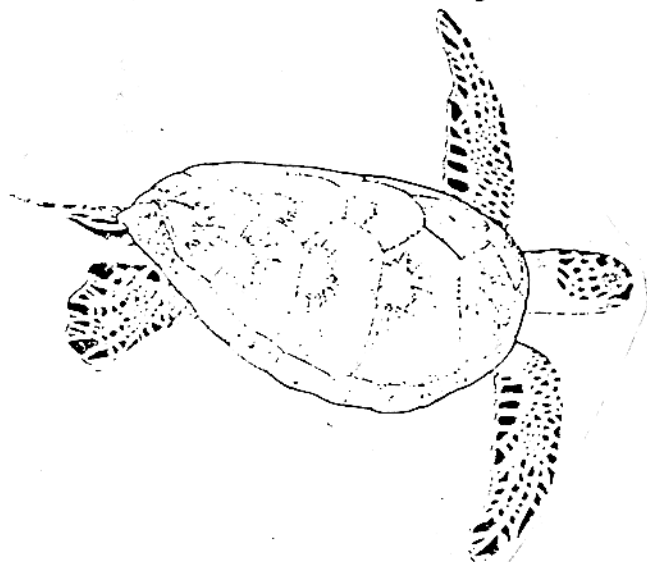
Noel Dawson.

## Staff

### Musical Chairs

During the past 3 months we have seen the loss of quite a few valuable staff from Southern Region:-

- Steve Barry (R&P), Botanist from Moggill has headed up to Rockhampton to become the Central Region Botanist.
- Darryl Reimer (R&P) from Moggill has been concentrating on cattle egret research and Diamantina survey work. Darryl has migrated north to join Col Limpus in the Northern Region.



- Stuart James has been primarily involved in Rural Nature Conservation. Stuart is one of the original Q.NPWS employees and although he has retired from Q.NPWS he will no doubt continue his R.N.C. work. Part of our R.N.C. Special at the back of this issued outlines Stuart's ideas.
- Gil Field has been based at Moggill as Regional Interpretive Co-ordinator and Moreton Region Interpreter. Gil has taken a more senior position with the W.A. Conservation Commission.
- Bill Goebel from Girraween National Park, has retired. He was farewelled by friends from the local community and the Service, on Sunday 16 March. Colleen Gravatt and Paul Grimshaw have a few stories to tell us about Bill in this issued of Brushtail.
- Rowland Dowland (Hermitage) has left Q.NPWS to see the world. Best of luck Rowland.
- Noel Jonsen who has been assisting researchers at Hermitage has resigned. We believe Noel has gone into private enterprise in North Queensland.

- Darryl Jeffress is on temporary (6 months loan to Interpretive Section, Head Office

### Transfers

- Joe Adair from Main Range to Moreton Island at Ganger.
- Marion Bangay from Fleays to Pine Ridge E.P. as O/s Div I.
- Dave Batt from Cootharaba/Kinaba to Moggill as Interpretive Officer.
- Bob Christie from Noosa to Cootharaba as O/s Div III.
- Bryan Cifuentes from Cairns to Fraser Island as O/S-in-Charge.
- Steve Crane from Moreton Island to Main Range as Ganger.
- Dennis Dray from Main Range to Cootharaba Kinaba as O/S-in-Charge.
- Steve Johnstone from Moreton Island to Moggill as Ganger.
- Lyndal Kaye from Maryborough to Rainbow Beach as O/S III.
- Tony Monro from Mt. Isa to Noosa as a Ganger.
- David Orgill from Rosslyn Bay to Moggill as Moreton Regional Overseer.
- Lyn Pullen from Emerald to Rainbow Beach as Interpretive Ranger.
- Felicity Stroppiana from Mackay to Bunya Mts. as an Overseer Div II.
- Greg Walker from Gympie to Noosa as O/S-in-Charge.

### New Appointees

- Grant Aisthorpe - Administration Officer (Maryborough Office) for Wide Bay/Burnett
- Peter Bargaquast - Clerk/permits at Rainbow Beach.
- Bronwyn Gibson - Work person - Gympie.
- Karen Hunter - Overseer Div II.
- Yana Kahabka - Ganger - Moreton Island.
- Gordon Maag - Ganger - Hermitage.
- Michelle Munyard - Work person - Maryborough.
- Ros Robb - Overseer Div II - Freshwater.
- Ken Whitlock - Senior Overseer - Moreton Island.

We all welcome Grant, Peter, Bryan, Lyn, David, Tony, Karen, Ros, Ken, Gordon and Broi (again), to Southern Region.

## RESEARCH

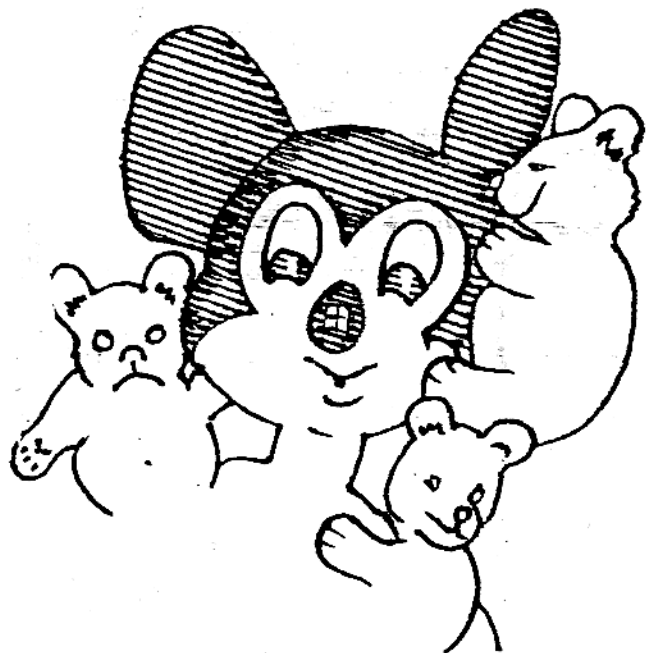
Some time ago, American Express announced that it was prepared to fund research and surveys on koalas in Australia. One phase of this project is now in the initial stages, a koala survey of eastern Australia. The broad aim of this project is a distribution survey of koalas. As part of the Q.NPWS contribution to that work, a survey is to be carried out in Queensland over a six month period commencing about April 1986.

The work is to be carried out by a C.E.P. employee supported by a grant from the American Express funds administered by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The survey will fall into two main areas, a questionnaire survey of the presence of koalas to be sent to conservationists, naturalists and other interested bodies, and field surveys carried out by interested groups.

The Queensland work will consist of the following steps:-

- . Selection of sample survey areas throughout the Queensland koala Range.
- . These areas to be subject to thorough survey by local naturalist and conservation groups, co-ordinated by the C.E.P. employee.
- . These areas to be surveyed for koala presence and possibly habitat use. Sample sites within them to be surveyed for density and habitat preference.
- . Baseline sites for future monitoring to be selected during these surveys. These may be subjected to repeat surveys over the years to show change in status of koalas.
- . Less specific surveys to be carried out elsewhere in Queensland by questionnaire, recording presence of koalas, possibly located on a Statewide grid.



# MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

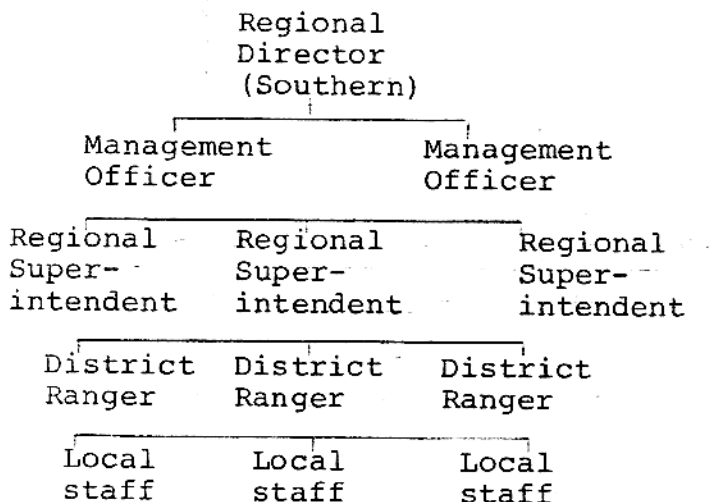
## What Do They Bloody Well Do?

With the transfer of Warren Oxman from Head Office to join Mark Gough at the Southern Regional Office, there are now two Management Officers in the Southern Region.

Field staff have often been heard asking about the role of Management Officers. More particular questions ask: How they are supposed to interact with regional district and local staff? Are local staff to accept their instructions?

To clear away the confusion, it helps to understand that Management Officers fill "staff positions" occupied by Regional Superintendents, District Rangers and local park officers. This means that Management Officers are not directly in the line of persons responsible for issuing instructions to field staff. They are resources staff.

The following diagram shows "lines-of-responsibility" and reporting for the management of parks and reserves.



The Management Officers role in his staff position is focussed as follows:

As advisors with direct responsibility to the Regional Director, the Management Officers are expected to:-

- Ensure that management planning of parks and reserves meets the procedures, standards, guidelines and policies accepted by the Q.NPWS.

- Ensure that action planning for various management themes or issues (fire, weeds, feral animals, visitor management, infrastructure development etc.) meets the procedures, standards, guidelines and policies accepted by the Q.NPWS.
- Prepare or review the content and format of management plans and action plans.
- Develop procedures, standards, guidelines and policies affecting management planning, action planning, management themes or management issues.
- Provide interpretation of procedures, standards, guidelines and policies affecting management planning, action planning, management themes or management issues.
- Monitor the implementation of management plans, action plans and the resolution of management issues.
- Review or recommend staffing requirements and arrangement for park management at regional, district and local levels when required.
- Review or recommend funding requirements and arrangements for park management within regional, district and local areas when required.
- Review, recommend or monitor priorities for planning and management.
- Co-ordinate specific projects as directed.
- Review acquisition reports and proposals when necessary.

The 'lines of responsibility' and reporting chart showed that the reporting relationship for a Management Officer was to the Regional Director.

So how does he interact with field staff to carry out the tasks described above.

Essentially, he consults with the Regional Superintendent and with the Regional Superintendents knowledge, he can consult with District Rangers and local park staff.

If the Management Officer believes that the appropriate procedures, standards, guidelines or policies are not being adhered to or if he feels a proposed course of action is unwise or better alternatives might be used, he can discuss these with the Regional Superintendent, District Ranger or local park staff with a view to negotiate a mutually acceptable solution. He cannot issue direct instructions to any of these staff except in special circumstances.

Instructions can be issued with the consent of the District Ranger or, if he disagrees, then with the consent of the Regional Superintendent. If the Regional Superintendent disagrees, then the Management Officer can raise the matter with the Regional Director for decision.

All reports and correspondence from Management Officers are either addressed to the Regional Director or to field staff through the appropriate Regional Superintendent.

Arrangements for field inspections are made through the Regional Superintendent or District Ranger. In general, the District Ranger is to be present during field work. When this is not possible the Management Officers are authorised to direct field staff to assist them with field work, trying wherever possible to minimise disruptions to day-to-day operations.

In certain on-going matters or special projects, the Management Officers may work and correspond directly with field staff providing the District Ranger or Regional Superintendent are kept informed of progress.

At present, I, Warren, am co-ordinating the St. Helena Project in consultation with Regional Superintendent Des Jones, District Ranger Vic Bushing, Regional Interpreter Gil Field and local St. Helena staff - Rob Squires, Tracy Thompson and Ian Lewis. That project takes most of my time.

I am also squeezing in time to complete the Lakefield, Toun Common and St. Helena Management Plans as well as drafting the Q.NPWS Management Planning Manual. With no spare time I have also been working on a management manual series in conjunction with the Queensland Agricultural College.

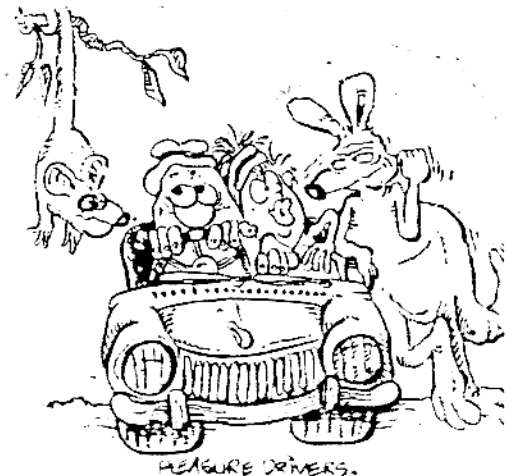
Mark Gough's time is also spread far and wide tending to concentrate on management planning for the sand-mass parks of Moreton, Cooloola and Fraser.

He acts as Secretary to the Moreton Island Planning Advisory Committee and was heavily involved in the early stages of the Fraser Island Recreation Area Scheme. He also provides advice on resource management (grazing, fire, weeds, etc) whether asked to or not and is the person to talk to about camp site booking arrangements.

The Southern Region is still critically short of Management Officers in that neither Mark nor I have any hope of fully carrying out the tasks previously listed (we share that problem with many other sections of the Q.NPWS).

We have been assisted by the efforts of Greg Oliver in the Down South-west Sub-region, but for the foreseeable future, the shortage of Management Officers will continue. Whether, that is a help or a hindrance to field staff, I am unsure.

WARREN OXNAM



• A recent survey revealed that 40 percent of park visitors are pleasure drivers. 259



# HONORARY PROTECTORS & VOLUNTEERS

Honorary Protectors or Volunteers who would like to be involved in any activity have been asked to contact the relevant District Ranger. Further details will be forwarded to Volunteers/Honorary Protectors who register prior to the event.

Southern Region Overseer, Dot Finch, has written an article to advise Honorary Protectors and Volunteers of these activities and will keep them informed of activities through the Volunteer.

Honorary Protectors and Volunteers should contact Dot if the District Rangers are unavailable.

## Volunteer or Honorary Protector?

Most activities undertaken by the Honorary Protectors simply don't require the powers given to Honorary Protectors under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975-1984. A year served as a Volunteer will establish which people are suitable to implement the powers granted to Honorary Protectors.

People assisting with construction work, gathering and writing up resource data, interpretative activities, research, or weed eradication have little need for the Honorary Protector powers.

Example by your own behaviour and education of the public are the techniques the Service wants Honorary Protectors and Volunteers to develop. These techniques can positively improve the behaviour of park visitors.

Volunteers working under the supervision of Service staff in areas where application of the Act is required may need Honorary Protector status.

Law enforcement techniques used by non-experienced people often have a negative effect on the attitude of the offender. Where a serious offence has taken place Honorary Protectors should look after their own safety, observe, record observations and contact the Service staff or the Police as soon as possible.

The easiest and most vital activity an Honorary Protector or Volunteer can offer to conservation is to plant trees in their own area to establish habitats for native fauna.

The interest of Honorary Protectors and Volunteers in their own community is encouraged. Local Government and Community Groups need pressure to consider nature conservation in the management of their activities.

## Results of Honorary Protector Questionnaire

An all out effort has been made to contact Honorary Protectors in the Southern Region.

Service staff together with Honorary Protector, Tom Cowlshaw sent out a letter and questionnaire. The data collected from the questionnaire will be used when planning any future activities for Honorary Protectors and Volunteers.

## Results of Questionnaire

1000 were sent out; 161 were completed and returned; 286 were returned with incorrect address; 11 resigned due to age, ill health or other commitments.

## Age Distribution

Age	Number
30-39	20
40-49	39
50-59	38
60-69	37
70-79	12
80-89	3
90 +	1
Not given	11

There is an obvious need for us to recruit some people in their twenties and teens.

## Donations for Postage

118 said they would be happy to contribute; 21 objected; 22 made no comment.

## Do Honorary Protectors and Volunteers Fullfill Different Roles?

54 people thought Honorary Protectors and Volunteers played two entirely different roles; 59 thought the roles were similar; 48 expressed no point of view.

All of the people who answered the questionnaire have been included on a computer list. A copy of this list is presently being compiled and will be forwarded to each District Ranger. the list will be continually updated as people volunteer their services. We will be maintaining contact with these Honorary Protectors and Volunteers through "Volunteer".



# Volunteer/Honorary Protectors Program - March - June

An opportunity to become involved in a wide and challenging range of activities during 1986 was offered to Honorary Protectors and Volunteers at an Honorary Protectors meeting held on 7 December 1986 at Moggiil. Rangers are to co-ordinate these activities and will be looking for an Honorary Protector or Volunteer to assist with local organizations.

WHEN	CONTACT	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	NUMBER
May	P. Kummerow	Auburn River (Munduberra) Construction and Redevelopment	1km of track work. Redevelop campground	20-40
May-June	P. Kummerow	Baldwin Swamp rehabilitation	Tree planting, weed eradication	20+
May	M. Johnston	Freshwater & Double Island Point	Erosion control, tree planting	5-10
June	C. Murphy	Boardwalk/track at Bunya Mtns (Primarily N.H.A. project)	Construction, Maintenance	2-10
June	C. Murphy	Relocating old Information Centre (Battery) as Observatory. (NHA project)	Carpentry, Development, Display	6
March-June	J. Van Delft	Staffing Visitor Centre at Binna Burra & Green Mtns.	Public contact, Answering enquiries, Random Discussion	any number to be placed on roster.
April	G. Field	Walking track and interpretative gathering site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Construction of tracks</li> <li>* Design of suspension bridge - cost &amp; order material.</li> <li>* Design of tree tops viewpoint. Cost &amp; order materials.</li> <li>* Plan, prepare interpretative material for walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6</li> <li>3</li> <li>3</li> <li>3+</li> </ul>

## BILL GOEBEL

On 28 March 1986, Bill Goebel retires from the Service and departs officially from Girraween.

Born at Lyra in 1922, Bill is one of the Granite Belt's indigenous sons. His early years were spent at Lyra and Bald Mountain; his schooling took place at Wallangarra. In 1930 the Goebel family moved to Wyberba to begin cropping vegetables and establish orchards and young Bill grew to know the district.

Bill's service with the Department of Forestry and National Parks did not begin until 1966. During the war years he left Wyberba to do some time with peanuts at Kingaroy, wheat at Yandilla and later, oil rigs at Roma. These years were followed by a further fourteen years camped on the headwaters of Paling Yard Creek between South Bald Rock and Bald Rock and cutting cordwood (anything that was dry except Apple and Peppermint) to feed the boilers at Wallangarra Meatworks. His brother-in-law Bill Wright shared the work and camp with him and at times they were joined by his brother Hock. Hock was with him when he broke his leg while carting wood. This interrupted the wood-cutting for a time, initially while he lay in running water while Hock made haste to the telephone exchange at Wyberba Railway Station to summon help and then for 10 months while his leg mended. These camp days in the 1950's are most vividly remembered for the rain - "Six weeks rain." "Everything mouldy. Mouldy tent, mouldy blankets, mouldy eggs - we could taste the mould." "Water spiders in the bed." "I ate weetbix for a week because the Corduroy was flooded and I couldn't get out."

In 1966, Tom Ryan (resident overseer) and Bill were employed as field staff to the recently gazetted Girraween, Bill having to relinquish his position of Honorary Ranger to become a Workman for the Department of Forestry. Tom and Bill opened up the picnic/camping area with water and toilet facilities on the site of Boy Gunn's old apple orchard. Today this site is the existing picnic ground and Bill's first toilet block - that down by the waterhole. In 1968 he progressed to his second toilet block.

In 1969 Bill was requested nicely to look after Carnarvon (actually, it was Carnarvon or else!) for seven weeks while Charlie Brockhurst was on holiday. He arrived during a drought with cattle from "Early Storms" and "Bandana" running in the Gorge. His introduction to the cattle came when approached early one morning by a camper

who asked him to shift a dying cow from the steps of his caravan. The cow was causing great distress to his wife as she was unable to leave the caravan to visit the toilet. Fortunately the situation was found to be somewhat relieved by the camper's own action of stepping on the cow to exit the van. This indignity had caused the cow to move of its own accord.

In his seven weeks at Carnarvon, cattle died at the rate of 5 per day and looking after Carnarvon became a matter of rolling dead cows out of the creek, out of the Art Gallery and off the road, digging burial holes (he had no tractor) and persuading "Early Storms" and "Bandana" to come and remove dead and dying cattle from the camping ground. Bill swears that the cows stopped dying the day Charlie returned to work.

Bill was not long back in Girraween before his travels started again - off to Bunya Mountains to construct toilets, recalled to Girraween because Tom Ryan had hurt himself, off to Cunningham's Gap - toilets again, to Queen Mary Falls to construct a log swing and in 1970, to Carnarvon for more toilets, but this time taking with him an 'assurance' of a permanent job in the Service. In May, 1971 he returned to Girraween to work on the development of the Bald Rock Creek Camp Ground - and was given one month's notice.

Bill did not return to Girraween until 1975. The link Circuit and Castle Rock Tracks had been constructed during his earlier service. Now he and Peter Haselgrove continued the track to Mt. Norman.

Bill's skill with the camera is well known and given pleasure to countless visitors to Girraween. His beginnings in this field were rather inauspicious. In 1950, he borrowed a small box camera, equipped himself with some black and white film and set out for Carnarvon where he set up camp in a Melon Hole. You've guessed it. That rain again! Films floating lazily by and all the rest of it! Undaunted, in 1954 he bought his own camera, went in for colour and Girraween has since benefited from his talent and enthusiasm. He spent many hours with his old friend Merv Fletcher, himself a keen photographer, traversing Girraween in pursuit of a picture.

1950 was the year, Bill also joined the Brisbane Bush Walkers' Club, remaining with them for 15 years until he joined the N.P.A. Bill's bush skills and local knowledge have contributed many times to many people's enjoyment of Girraween. He always seems to be able to produce the lyrebird when required, knows where that certain wildflower grows and can always find a cave to lead an unsuspecting tourist through.

Bill is going to retire to his property on Parish Lane adjacent to Girraween and we wish him well.

We would have liked to reminisce some more, but Hock's anecdotes were unprintable especially the ones about Shirley.....

by C. Gravatt.

### BILL GOEBEL

One of the outstanding attributes I can recall about Bill is that if you ask him to go on a bush walk in Girraween or other natural areas on the Granite Belt he will invariably say 'yes'. Even at short notice Bill will jump at the chance to explore every nook and cranny of the bushland that he loves so well. Such is his desire to make new discoveries and to increase his intimate knowledge of the Girraween area. I have known him to tramp miles to catch a fleeting glimpse of and photograph a rare orchid which may only opened once for an instant.

As others can testify Bill is a man of few words. However, this is not a criticism because when he does speak they are usually pearls of wisdom spoken from many years of quite personal observation.

If you are lucky enough Bill will delight in showing you some of his precious discoveries in the bush either by taking you there or by showing you his slides. I was one of the lucky ones and I am greatly indebted to him for letting me into his confidence and showing his discoveries to me.

Bill is a great bushman with many bush craft skills to his credit. It is a great pity that when he retires his skills will go with him leaving the Service much poorer for the lack of his knowledge.

Hopefully National Parks will still be able to consult with Bill from time to time to gain the benefit from his wealth of knowledge.

by Paul Grimshaw



# DISTRICT DIALOGUE

MORETON SUB-REGION

## Canning

Well, this is my last district dialogue for Canning District. I would like to welcome Dave Batt - District O/s and Vic Bushing, District Ranger to the district during my term as District Ranger.

Christmas was a relatively quite time in the District but this didn't last long for in early January work commenced on the Currumundi Environmental Park fence and fire break. The work is proceeding against threats of legislations, rubbish dumping and the discovery of a pine and pine-apple plantation and 20 or so bee hives, concrete lily ponds and some really nice exotics in the park. (And thats only for 2 neighbours).

B.F.P. have nearly completed the Shelter Shed at Maiala and will start on the paths soon.

Anyway to Peter, John, Tony and Tim I wish all the best.

## Central Scenic Rim

Now encompasses the gem of the south, Lamington, which now puts a greater portion of the Scenic Rim within the one District. This should facilitate the effective management of this section of the Rim with the increased co-ordination of activities between Boonah/Rathdowny and Lamington.

Tamborine remains a major part of this district. Planning for the development of the parks in Tamborine has commenced and it is expected that work will commence in June with a C.E.P. grant of \$140,000 and the overall project being for \$200,000. Other projects well into the planning stage include the workshop for Green Mountains and Information Centre for Binna Burra. Bob Shultz will be responsible for these projects.

by Jerry Van Dalft

## Moreton

On 16 & 17 March, a very successful staff training seminar, organized by National Parks was held at Tangalooma Resort on Moreton Island.

The seminar speakers covered a variety of topics relevant to Moreton Island including Park Management, Flora, Fauna, Geology, Archaeology, Whales and a general overview of the island.

The resort activities staff and the National Park staff who attended all gained a greater appreciation of the island and will hopefully share information with the thousands who visit the island each year.

by Vic Bushing.

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Gympie

Death of L. Pringle

It is with deep regret I announce the death of former Senior Overseer of the Nambour Management Area, Lindsay Pringle. Ill health caused Lindsay to resign some 12 months ago and has been in indifferent health since. Lindsay was a respected workmate and friend to those who were privileged to know him and work with him. His forced retirement from Q.NPWS was a sad event for this Service as Lindsay had the patience and skills which are sorely in need in an increasingly complex world. To his wife Peg and family go the sympathies of former workmates, Honorary Protectors and Volunteers and from those of us who considered him as a valued friend.

The Nambour Management Area is presently being cared for by Steve Johns and Peter Shirley.

Peregian Environmental Park

The present C.E.P. scheme at this park has four weeks left to go. Four unemployed persons have been hard at opening access across this coastal park with a modest car park (beside the David Low Way) and some 100 metres of elevated boardwalk across a wet swamp area of rush and stunted melaleuca. This is followed by a track across the Leath plain and corridor fencing and other dune protection works on the primary dune. A second track southerly to Stumers Creek is being made at which area further dune protection works are scheduled. I see this project as one of great significance in that it will enable staff locally to rebuke the oft-quoted comments about not letting the public into the parks. Incidentally a local disabled person has expressed great interest in having access over the swamp to the wildflower plain.

Noosa National Parks

Our present O.I.C. Ron Sternberg is to undergo open heart surgery this month. Our best wishes for his speedy recovery.

This park is subject to great pressures both politically and from human feet. Our estimate of usage is 1,000,000 visitors per year, which is slightly less than other tourist sources give us.

A local tourism consultant was most helpful in having a visitor use survey conducted in the park recently. We are looking forward to the results of public attitudes towards such things as greater visitor/public contact, sealing walking tracks, clearing rainforest to increase car parking etc.

A C.E.P. scheme centred on the picnic area is under way with four unemployed involved in various schemes such as - underground water supply, replacement of (and extra) picnic tables and fireplaces, top dressing the grassed area, vehicle control, repainting etc. A little work is also being done on walking tracks adjacent and southerly of the picnic area. We are placing a lot of hope on a further C.E.P. scheme for improvement of the main coastal walking track this calendar year.

Bob Christie is currently supervising C.E.P. schemes at Noosa and Southern Cooloola whilst Ned Pinwell keeps toiling on. Incidentally Ned with his many years experience at Noosa is well worth listening to with his knowledge of the park and its development.

Kinaba Visitor Centre

There is a rumour that the southern part of Cooloola (and adjacent residents) are returning to the quiet ways after a farewell party for Dave Batt. Dave is involved in a part-time college course and will look after the Canning District in his spare time. Currently the centre and adjacent areas are being looked after by Stan Powell.

Another C.E.P. scheme operates in the Southern Cooloola area with six unemployed people. Aims of the scheme are to establish a focal point for especially day visitor usage of Fig Tree Point where, among other things, we are to install a Clivus Multrum composting toilet, canoe access only camp sites, walking tracks etc. Our second priority area upstream will start to remedy problems of localized over-use of the Harry Springs Hut area.

The old Cooloola Fauna Reserve has been de-gazetted and awaits inclusion into the Cooloola National Park whilst the Elanda Plains area with its commercial campground also awaits incorporation into the park. This particular area

has a fascinating history revolving especially around the timber industry and Kin Kin Scrubs (on which much of Francis Rainforest Trees of Queensland is centred) of historical interest also is the story of Eliza Fraser the shipwreck and her subsequent capture and escape from the aborigines. The latter part of this story took place in the Cooloola National Park and local residents are becoming enthusiastic about a 150th anniversary. A lot of voluntary work by volunteers and staff in locating a wilderness trail through the Western Catchment of the Noosa River is of immense help answer pressure for an Eliza Fraser Trail. Volunteers for 40 kilometres of trail in six months will be welcomed.

Gympie office staff welcome the assistance of Bronwyn Gibson to assist with Fraser Island permits especially. Currently Bronwyn shares her time between Rainbow Beach and Gympie.

We are compiling a dossier on pest fauna management with all sorts of ideas ranging from electric wires to repel snakes (and snails), bitter aloes and cowdung to repel wallabies (not to be used at park entrances) overhead electric fencing for flying foxes, noise generators for repelling birds etc. etc. An aim of this exercise is that copies will eventually be given to our District staff, and courtesy of our quiet red headed achiever, to staff in other areas. Don't rush us it is not yet 'presentable'

Wildlife management and therefore RNC has been a important component of our district work for a long-time. I have recently been talking to various farmers and farmer group and what we need help on is preparation of another chapter in our manual on 'how to be in 10 places at once' or 'how to stretch a ranger even further'.

by Ron Turner

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## Bundaberg

- Two CEP projects are underway at the moment:-

Baldwin Swamp and Cania Gorge.

- We are starting on a bird hide at Mon Repos. Mrs. Rowe, a local resident passed away and in her will she requested \$1000 be used for conservation in the Bundaberg area. The W.P.S., as executors for the \$1000 decided the money should be spent for this purpose. Q.NPWS have also contributed \$1000.

The hide will overlook the large tidal lagoon on Cable Creek Station Creek. Construction work will be carried out by volunteers.

- We are about to start work on the Cania Gorge dunnies. This is a joint job with Monto Shire Council.
- We now have a Service base at Monford, only 6km from Cania Gorge National Park. Caretakers will look after the centre until staff are allocated.
- New Environmental Park - Eidsvold E.P. It is situated 6 km from Eidsvold off Eidsvold and Theodore Roads.

by Paul Kummerow.

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## Great Sandy District

The Fraser Island Public Access Scheme is in full swing and has been accepted quite well. When the system and benefits are explained to the people they are only too pleased to give you money.

The initial beach clean up is completed with many tonnes of rubbish being removed.

The rubbish trailers are working very well and are easily recognized by their bright colour.

The Waddy Point Project which consists of a Ranger House, Workshop, Office, Toilet Block and campground is well advanced, and will surely be a great place to work.

The staff have been under considerable pressure but have performed well. They truly do some remarkable things at times.

To ensure the project runs smoothly, Overseer Bill French has organized that everything that goes over goes in order, and everything is designed to suit the truck and goes together like a Leggo set.

I can't ask for better staff for this project.

Cooloola is as normal, heaps of people, heaps of hassels and not enough staff. At Christmas there was only 2 staff, my thanks to them for their effort.

by Mark Johnston





## Downs S/W SUB-REGION

### Main Range

The Main Range C.E.P. program which commenced 12 months ago ended on 20 December last. Four C.E.P. staff worked with Park staff for 10 months on redevelopment and development projects at Cunningham's Gap and Spicer's Gap. Four picnic areas and a campground were constructed at Spicer's Gap as well as two kilometres of walking track which it is planned will be part of a track to link Cunningham's Gap with Spicer's Gap.

Work at Cunningham's Gap included the maintenance and reconstruction of tracks, construction of earth mound barriers, B.B.Q.'s and tables and the laying of a new waterline in the campground.

Main Roads Department has assisted with the redevelopment at Cunningham's Gap by forming and gravelling car-parks and the new loop road in the campground.

### Girraween

Information on Bill Goebel's retirement has already been sent through. Staff are about to undertake the complete replacement of the Bald Rock Creek campground absorption trench. YUKKY.

### Sundown

The Severn River has almost stopped flowing and Peter is facing another dry spell. He is also occupied with site surveys at the Northern end of Sundown in preparation for the development planning of the Sundown Homestead, Burrow's Waterhole and the improvement of access to Red Rock Gorge.

by Brett Porter

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### Downs North

Silence...

by Chris Murphny

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### Gossip from the West

#### All in a days work.

The Charleville office showed their form in a recent Mercantile Bowls Day. The National Parks team, captained by Frank Manthey, bowled their way to an impressive lead to take out the '4VL Golden Microphone Award'. The perpetual trophy is now proudly on display at the front counter.

#### Help at last.

The Charleville boys are doing back-flips over the arrival of Sharon Galway, the new 'office girl'. With over 30,000 kangaroo tags being sold each month, and a continual influx of shooters Sharon will take much of the workload off the existing staff. Welcome aboard and good luck Sharon.

#### Back on deck.

Greg Wellard was conspicuous by his absence during January. Charleville's population coincidentally rose by one over that period. Congratulations to Greg and Janice on the arrival of their new son, Joshua.

#### "Q Zoo ??"

Charleville's South-west district office fauna display is alive and doing well. The menagerie currently consists of 6 species of native rat, 8 species of parrot, and 7 species of macropod. The public are showing great interest in the display.

#### Situations Vacant

Animal attendant: Charleville

Skills: None required.

Wage: Negotiable (but don't expect any).

Hours: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. Christmas Day off.

by Keith Smith



The Charleville boys with out much of their workload.

# RATBAG.....DEAR DOT

Newsflash --- after 10 years with Q.NPWS we are loosing Gil Field for 2 years to Western Australia Department of Conservation on 15 March 1986. Congratulations Gil - but we're more than sorry that you're leaving.

A quote from Mike Connolly - "Only Des Boyland and I can do it."  
(Walk around with their trousers half masked.)

Quote for 1985 - "I wouldn't want you to think we're a bunch of 'Greenies' in Head Office. Most of the serious conservationists in there are also keen shooters." Head Office staff to park neighbour. Another great step forward for Rural Nature Conservation.

## "Rangers Prayer"

Our Minister  
who are in Parliament  
Hallowed be they mat  
Thy department grow  
Thy directives be undertaken  
in H.O. as they are in the field.  
Give us this year  
the budget we need  
and forgive us our overexpenditure  
as we forgive those who underspend  
for thine is the portfolio, the  
power and most of the glory  
from election to election  
Hey -- men.

by O/s Herb Possum.

Appendix to Q.NPWS publication  
"Q.NPWS reports : Guide to authors."

A dictionary of useful research  
and technical phrases.

'It has long been known...'  
I didn't look up the original  
reference.

'A definite trend is evident ...'  
These data are practically  
meaningless.

'Of great theoretical and practical  
importance...'

Interesting to me.

'While it has not been possible to  
provide definite answers to these  
questions...'

This was an unsuccessful experiment  
but I still hope to get it  
published.

'Three of the samples were chosen  
for detailed study..'

The others made no sense.

'Typical results are shown.'

The best results are shown.

'The most reliable results are those  
obtained by Jones.'

He was my grad assistant

'It is believed that....'

I think.

'It is generally believed that ...'

A couple of other guys think so  
too.

'It is clear that much additional  
work will be required before a  
complete understanding of the  
phenomenon is possible.'

I don't understand it.

'Correct within an order of magnitude  
Wrong.'

'It is hoped that this study will  
stimulate more work in this field.'

This is a lousy paper, but so  
are the others in this crummy  
field.

'Thanks are due to Joe Blotz for  
assistance with the experimental work  
and George Frink for valuable  
discussions.'

Blotz did the work and Frink  
explained to me what it meant.

'A careful analysis of obtainable  
data...'

Three pages of notes were obliterated  
when I knocked over a glass  
of beer.

'A statistically oriented projection of the findings...'  
Wild guess.

'A highly significant area for exploratory study...'

A totally useless topic suggested  
by my committee.

Author Unknown.

At Moggill Christmas Party we all enjoyed entertainment by Jerry Connolly, um or was it Joh, the Queen...? Anyhow, for those of you unlucky enough to have missed the show here are some extracts.

Thank you all very very much for your very sane welcome here this morning, ah evening. Whether you are city people from the bush right out here or bush people from the city going in for the very first time or whether you are conversationalists that's the way we would like to see you people not being afraid an attitude of sophistication, well I hope you are not all Greenies, that's the one.

I want to say right here, right now, that the Capital Gains Tax that Mr Hawk is aiming to bring in, we know which capital is going to gain certainly, yes don't we, yes Canberra with a capital "K". We probably all know what capital Canberra is the capital of, Canberra is the capital of the A.C.T....U.

If you have any questions now I will be happy to try not to answer them. Feel free we are not in Parliament.

Mr. Premier now can we go ahead in leaps and bounds if you shoot all the kangaroos?

No... out here in Kangaroo Gully ... no problem you see it is only a matter of culling. I know who you are sir, don't worry you got your job to do and I have mine. If you have that sort of attitude you won't have your job after Christmas.

Q Why didn't you step in and help the Daintree?

Well the Daintree now, before the Daintree comes the day one. Now you just have a look at the Cairns District, the Television advertisement, it has been opened up and declared this park and that park and don't they call them Shailer Park, Holland Park and there are all these big parks up there in the Daintree since we have opened it up and put the Japanese in it. These are all the things that make Queensland great.

It is my belief that a woman's role is in the home, that's for sure, barefoot. I know a woman that believes a woman's place is in the home, she has been going around lecturing now for many many years publicly lecturing saying that the woman's place is in the home. She has made quite a good living out of it.

The amount of funds and staffing to National Parks and Wildlife Service received, do you think that is indigent of Cabinet and therefore your own decision and your attitude towards the Service and the role it plays?

Any questions.

Q What is going to happen to National Parks Mr. Premier?

Well now what is going to happen to them? Well they dwindle here and there and all over the place but they will be soon disappearing and then they won't be a problem. Have you got another job in mind.

There is an election next year Mr. Premier what is your policy going to be? Do you have a party platform this year?

No, no we are just going to go ahead as usual.

Q Your party will stand on its record?

Yes thirty-three and a third.

Q Are you going to allow oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef?

Yes, ah ah what about the Great Barrier Reef?

Q They tell me there is loads of oil under the Reef?

Well once we have cleared the Daintree we might be able to go in, ah go under and get out.

Q When are you going to retire?

About 10.30 tonight as usual. Yes they say the early bird gets the worm. As we say in Danish do do dim dun do dum dah das, or as we say in Australia that's for me to know and you to find out.

Q Your policy on mining on National Parks Mr. Premier?

Why don't you take a leaf out of Mr. Homes-Acourt's book you see he got his masters in mining as you know, and now he is trying, if he plays his cards right to get his own PH, BH, BHP, PhD.

Q Would you like to comment on Mr. Hinze's career?

Well, Russ of course is as I indicated he wants to get his knees done after Christmas. Russ, I say has been thrown to the lions in regards to the TAB tab. Horses for courses, Russ is in a stable condition.

If I can ask you people a question that I have thought about and contemplated in the past and continually done in the future, right up and down the length and breath of our great State. This is the question that I want you to think about - Where would Queensland be without this great State.

---

Look what happens as soon as you turn you back.

They burn your park, sink your boat, sink your other boat and generally the whole operation collapses. This is what can be expected when there isn't a person with an aura of dignity, a mature balance perspective of life and who is quite handsomehandsome, around to manage the operation.

Excuse me, the air conditioner's broken and it's too hot to work.....

"The Captain"

---

AD 102 Drawing Date: 30 01 86 430

Where did the accident occur? 134 Km West Charleville (Scientific purposes Reserve)

How did the accident occur? (Please advise complete details)

The motorcycle was parked (unattended) on the edge of seismic survey line which was being pushed through the Reserve by a Caterpillar D8 bulldozer. I had parked the bike approx. 10m behind the dozer & was speaking to the operator. I then climbed aboard the dozer to observe procedures. The operator then reversed approx. 10m before recommencing in a forward direction & failed to notice the unattended bike. He was stopped by the frantic waving of his officer in DIRECTION FOR PLAN who was parked in a Toyota 4WD approx 15m back along the line.

1. Draw Intersection or Street on plan

EXAMPLE

ACCIDENT DIAGRAM

2. Show speeds of vehicles involved

3. Show your vehicle and direction of travel as [A]

4. Show other vehicle and direction of travel as [B]

5. Show Street names

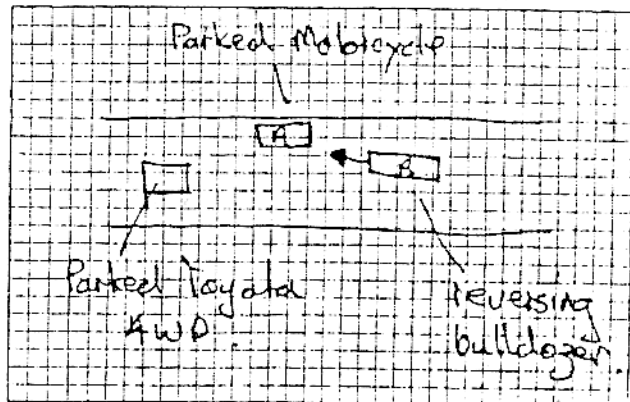
6. Show Stop and Give Way Signs (if any) as

7. Show directional lane arrows or arrows painted on road (if any) as

Condition of road (e.g. Wet, Dry etc)

Was your vehicle on correct side of road?

If after sundown, were lamps alight in accordance with the relevant laws?



PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE OF FORM

MV 113 (10/84)

"Believe it or not"

### Bush Lullaby

One cackling kookaburra swept  
from the trees  
Two uneasy emus brought to their  
knees

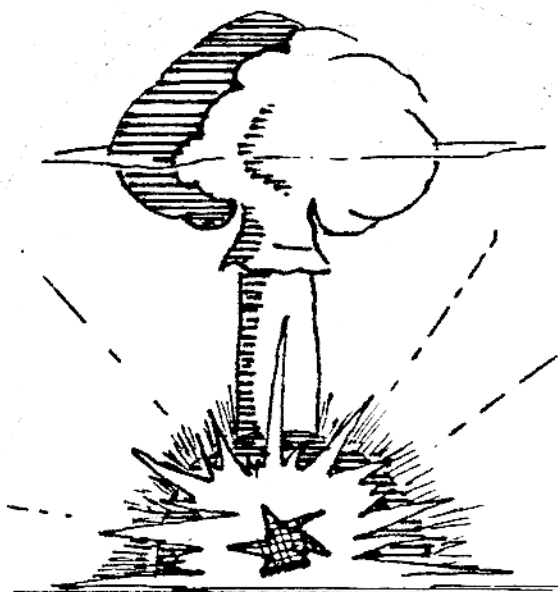
Three bustling bandicoots deafened  
by the sound  
Four waddling wombats burnt  
underground

Five writhing ringtails sliced  
into meat  
Six crisp koalas toasted by the  
heat

Seven tangled taipans dissected on  
the grass  
Eight playful platypuses melted  
smooth as glass

Nine crippled kangaroos, matant  
crow and currawong  
Ten million jolly swagmen floating  
in the billabong.

by Philip Neilsen.



# Budget Time

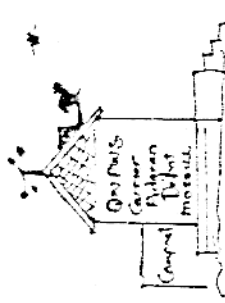
## 86/87 Financial Initiatives



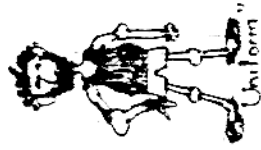
"Transport"



"New Offices"



"Communications"

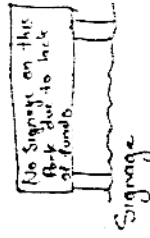


Announcing: The New  
National Parks Bonds  
"Sale as persons make."

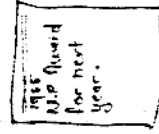
"Development Funds"



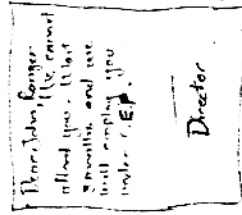
"The Final Solution"



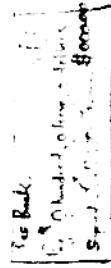
Signage



New Award



Director



Salary

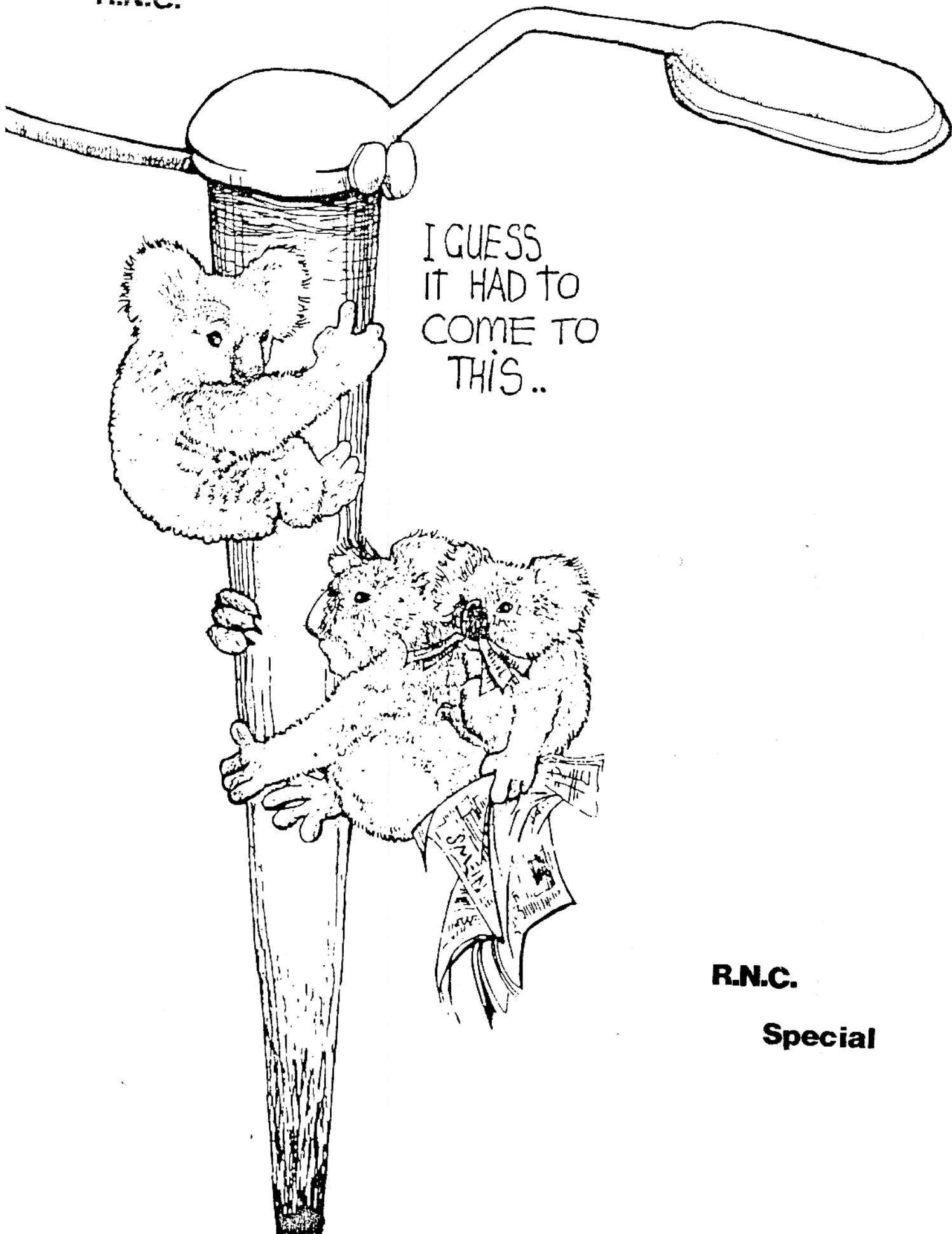


"Toilet Paper" "Renewable Resource"

OK.



R.N.C.



R.N.C.

Special

Extract from Queensland Agricultural Journal, April 1974. 'Beef Cattle Pastures and the Wet Regions - 2'.

### Removing Vegetation

Bulldozers operating abreast are especially efficient in open forest country. A highball is necessary to keep the chain near the ground so that the smaller trees do not escape crashing. However, in rain-forest, a chain alone is more efficient than a ball and chain. A highball only slows down the operation by reducing the leverage and it is not necessary to keep the chain near the ground where the vegetation is so tall.

On land being cleared for pastures, it is not necessary to remove every tree and is even undesirable as cattle require shade. So, the large trees, which bring about a sharp increase in costs if an attempt is made to remove them, are best left standing. These can be ploughed around or even ringbarked at a later date.

It is not necessary, either, to remove all the small vegetation in the initial crashing operation. A percentage of small trees can be easily dealt with during the subsequent burning and windrowing operations.

Clearing rain-forest should begin early enough (late August to early October) to allow the trunks and branches to dry sufficiently to be burnt in early summer. However, if begun too early, sucker regrowth is a danger and the leaves falling from the crashed timber may result in a poor burn. This danger exists especially where windrowing is not practised.

Because eucalypt hardwood burns poorly, windrowing timber for later burning is absolutely necessary. However, there are still some producers who doubt the importance of windrowing crashed rain-forest. Some good pastures have been established on rain-forest country by just crashing the timber, allowing it to dry, burning and then sowing the pasture seeds into the ash. Nevertheless, most people now realize that better results are being obtained by sweeping the crashed timber into windrows.

The moral is "Attitudes do change and also can be changed over relatively short times.

by G. Wilkinson



in the South Burnett of soil erosion on their farms. They too took the initiative and sought advice and help. So contour banks, a first line of defence against the ravages of erosion on cultivation, were installed in 1940. There was considerable criticism of these early conservation farmers.

This was 8 years before the government appointed a soil conservation advisory officer to Kingaroy, 11 years before the Soil Conservation Act was gazetted and 21 years before the Soil Conservation Branch was formed.

## Rural Nature Conservation

So too, rural nature conservation is emerging from the "grass roots" of the rural community. This is one which integrates nature conservation with primary production. As the responsibility for nature conservation becomes accepted by the entire community, so will the advantages, the pleasure and satisfaction of living and working in harmony with the environment, become apparent.

There is already a growing awareness throughout rural inland Queensland. This can be seen on many properties such as the Cameron's of "Rockwood" at Chinchilla, Michael Hirt's "Carn Brea" at Bowenville, Jack and Francis Coe's "Coo-ee" at Durong, Adam Clark's "Bimbadeen" at Taroom, John O'Donnell's "Mountain Park" near Dalveen, Hando's "Riverside" at Chinchilla, Gordon's "Myall Park" at Glenmorgan and the Caryle's "Wonga Hills" near Monogorilby, to name just a few. Also, of course, there is the Dalby Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland who have initiated this seminar. Also of importance are some of the modified landscapes. As examples are landscapes modified by the Stirling's, Eggleston's and Thomas' near Brookstead. These include water harvesting schemes, now important wetland habitats, and also the successful Eucalypt tree lots on what was originally treeless, Queensland blue grass ecosystems.

Such action and enthusiasm has caused the National Parks and Wildlife Service to give this serious thought, which is expressed in part by the following statement.

## RURAL NATURE CONSERVATION

### Introduction

Queensland has a greater diversity of natural values (climate, landscape, flora, fauna, etc) than any other Australian state. It also has the greatest potential to conserve these values and to become a leader in this field.

Provision is made under the Queensland Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1979 for "the care and protection of fauna and its habitat in the presence of man and his activities". Retention of natural areas ranging from the protection of individual species to complete protection of whole ecosystems is provided for. Reservation of areas is also provided for as National Park and under Forestry Act 1959-1979 and Environmental Parks under the Lands Act 1963-1978.

Whilst reserved areas become the jewels in the conservation crown, rural lands are the essential gold that hold the crown together.

A logical extension to setting aside land is therefore the encouragement of voluntary retention of areas in their natural state.

Collectively, such areas are essential to nature conservation and the future wellbeing of Queensland.

Some advantages of retaining natural areas are that they:

- (a) Help to retain natural diversity on rural land.
- (b) Provide tangible benefits in erosion and salinity control, stock shelter, wood production, water retention and water quality.
- (c) Provide recreational values both from a private or commercial viewpoint.
- (d) Add to landscape values and enable fauna and flora to remain throughout their natural distribution.

The goal of nature conservation is - "The management of human use of the biosphere, and of the ecosystems and species that compose it, so that they may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations whilst maintaining their potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations."

The term, as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, applies at the individual landholder level and equally at the regional, state and global levels.

### Objectives

#### In General -

- \* To foster harmony between man and his environment thereby facilitating the wellbeing of man, and safeguarding the integrity of nature.

#### In Particular

- \* To integrate nature conservation with rural enterprises for the benefit of the rural community and nature.
- \* To encourage the retention of natural

## RURAL NATURE CONSERVATION

RevStuart James

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife  
Service, Kingaroy

### A "Grass Roots" awareness of the need for Nature Conservation and the importance of communication

There is a growing awareness of the need for a balance between agriculture and nature in inland Queensland. Today a comprehensive type of conservation is emerging from the "grass roots" of the rural community - one which integrates nature conservation with primary production.

Recently a working committee of producers organisations published the document - "An Agricultural Policy for Queensland" (1982) 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". The awareness of the need for a balance between nature and agriculture is not new or confined to inland Queensland. There has been an awareness of this need since the beginning of time.

With modern mechanisation and technology and more emphasis on personal gain there is now a greater urgency that this balance be more widely recognised. Recognition is not sufficient. Appropriate action or lack of action where unwise development is proposed is also necessary. For example, it is now generally recognised that there has been overdevelopment of the Brigalow lands in parts of Central Queensland.

"The basis of stewardship is that the earth can be seen as the garden of the Lord, entrusted to humanity's care, as described in Genesis, when God charged the first inhabitants of this world to cultivate and care for the garden. This injunction symbolises God's charge to continuing generations one at a time. Land is to be an everlasting possession, and we as working visitors here on earth are its caretakers. We must use land in a way that furthers and unfolds God's Kingdom and will."

Eric Gould

### "GRASS ROOTS" BEGINNINGS

#### National Parks

Over 100 years ago, around a camp fire in

the States of Wyoming in the United States of America, in the wilderness of what is now known as Yellowstone National Park, expression was voiced of a philosophy which in subsequent years was to spread to most of the civilised countries of the world and become one of the most interesting developments of our times.

The party had undertaken an exploration of the Yellowstone country and, as the expedition drew to its close and the grandeur and beauty of the region was confirmed by their own observations the members around the camp fire discussed the opportunities for wealth and personal gain within the wilderness area.

It was during these discussions that Corneleus Hedges, a Montana Lawyer and Judge, expressed a directly opposing opinion to the one of personal gain when he gave voice to the following thoughts:

"It seems to me that God made this region for all people and all the world to use and enjoy forever. This great wilderness does not belong to us - but to America. Let us make a public park of it and set it aside for America - never to be changed but left sacred always, just as it is now, so that Americans always may know how splendid this early America was, how wonderful."

This noble concept was readily accepted by other members of the expedition and the outcome was the creation in 1872 of the now famed Yellowstone National Park covering an area of 800,000 hectares.

The first National Park in Queensland was proclaimed on 28th March 1908. It is Witches Falls, a relatively small area on Tamborine Mountain. On 30th July in the same year, the first section of the Bunya Mountains National Park was gazetted. It was the Bunya Mountains that led to the proclamation of this park. Many of the parks throughout Queensland have resulted from the grass roots initiatives of concerned individuals. A recent example is the gift of what is now known as Hartmann's land adjacent to the Scenic Rim in Toowoomba.

It was not until 1937 that money became available for work on the Parks. With the amalgamation in 1975 of the National Parks from the Forestry Department and the Fauna branch from the Department of Primary Industries, the National Parks and Wildlife Service as we know it today was formed.

#### Soil Conservation

Soil conservation in Queensland similarly had a "grass roots" beginning. There was an early awareness by Coolabunia farmers

areas on rural lands as a means of protecting landscape, flora and fauna. To encourage the management and restoration of the natural values of rural lands.

#### Communications

A fact of life is that trust and goodwill can normally be achieved when there is good, and open, lines of communication. Common objectives can be more readily achieved when there is adequate and continuing lines of communication. As well, problem areas can normally be satisfactorily resolved. Good lines of communication reduces behind the scenes criticism and distrust.

To fulfil its obligations and to improve its public image the National Parks and Wildlife Service needs satisfactory and adequate communications not only with our National Parks neighbours but also with the rural and general community.

An excellent forum for dealing with matters of common interest and concern already exists in inland Queensland. This is the very successful Central Highlands Sandstone Management Consultative Committee. The Chairman of this Committee is the Service Director, Dr G.W. Saunders. The Committee comprises representatives of Shire Councils, such as Taroom, Booringa and Bauhinia, a representative of the Cattleman's Union, Queensland Conservation Council and officers of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Many of the members who represent producer organisations or the Shire Councils are also farmers and graziers. These meetings are generally open to observers and other interested parties. This committee could well be the model for a similar consultative committee for the Eastern Darling Downs.

The Service would do well to have strategically located suitable staff in whom the rural community have full confidence, and to whom the general community can relate. Such staff would be in a position to assess nature conservation needs, trends as seen by the public and also gauge their expectations. In other words, a two-way communication at the "grass roots" level. We must foster trust and goodwill.

There is also a place for what can be termed a simple "self help system", whereby the people of inland Queensland can help and advise each other. This can be done quite simply by sharing our experiences with one another. This would include our successes, failures, mistakes and aspirations. Too often we hear the cry, "This is the

responsibility of Government." While the government has a responsibility, so too do individual people.

#### N.P.W.S. Rural Nature Conservation Activities

At the action level the Service has already prepared a brochure "Rural Nature Conservation".

With the object of achieving a wider acceptance of the concept of a balance between nature and agriculture the following has been commenced.

\* A pilot study is being made of the Eastern Darling Downs, which very briefly includes:

- a resource inventory to document the natural values and to determine the nature conservation needs of the region.
- documenting what is being done by landholders in this matter.
- researching further techniques that are considered necessary.
- surveying opinions of the rural community with regard to rural nature conservation.

In addition, an examination is being made of appropriate legislation so that future legislation may be drafted for this programme.

The attached Tables provide a broad indication for discussion purposes of soils and forestry type land use. There is a Table for the whole region and another on a Shire basis.

The importance of the stock routes is an issue the pilot study is revealing. With modern road transport these have now outlived their importance. These seldom used stock routes provide valuable corridors for wildlife. In many instances they are important remnant areas of larger ecosystems. There is an urgent need for a co-ordinated approach to deal with stock routes. If this is soon not done then the opportunity to preserve some important ecosystems may be lost.

#### The Role of our National Parks

The role of National Parks in the future of Queensland is broadly twofold. Firstly, they are for the people of Queensland, of Australia and the World, to provide them with a unique form of recreation, enjoyment and education. Secondly, they give some hope for the survival of at least part of our diverse and fascinating wildlife, and for the opportunity for adequate scientific study of it for the benefit of mankind.

It seems inevitable that our National Parks will be inadequate both, in size and number for our expected future population, and this places a responsibility on us all; on the legislators and administrators to consider fully and act wisely on questions of land use; on those who control the National Parks to be diligent in their protection, careful in their development and energetic in their promotion and interpretation; on administrators of other forms of parks to cater adequately for other types of recreation; and on every person to remember their responsibility to the future.

### The Role of Rural Nature Conservation

It has been expressed that the National Parks are the conservation crown and thus

the conservation of nature on rural lands is the essential gold that holds the crown together.

The growing awareness of the need for a balance between nature and agriculture need to be fostered and encouraged with fervour. In reality it is up to the individual landholders to recognise their responsibility. As regardless of tenure, be it crown land, leasehold or freehold, we are only trustees of the land heritage.

In the words of John Ruskin:

"God has given us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who come after us, as to us, and we have no right by anything we do, to involve them in unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of benefits which are theirs by right".

TABLE 1  
Composition of Darling Downs Region by Area of Soil  
and Associated National Parks, etc

	Area of National Parks, State Forests, Timber Reserves		Total Area (ha)
1. Clay soils	24,000	0.8	3,084,800
2. Fertile Loams Friable Earths	59,200	9.3	638,400
3. Duplex Soils with red, brown or dark clayey subsoil	56,000	4.0	1,412,800
4. Massive or non friable earths	28,800	7.2	398,499
5. Sands, infertile loams and duplex soils with clayey and light mottled clayey subsoils	910,400	26.1	3,484,800
	1,078,400	11.95	9,019,200

## Editorial Comment

Stuart James practice what he preaches both at home and in extension. He is an excellent example of a grass roots conservationist who like nothing better than to convey his message to a landholder in the time honoured method, over a cup of tea.

He also has the experience and capacity to relate wider conservation needs to the individual property - thereby maintaining perspective - a good example to follow when the grass roots approach is needed. An extra effort is now required from all of us to fill the void caused by Starts departure.

## Research and Planning for Nature Conservation

G.G. Wilkinson

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service

Many people regard the primary role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as that of acquiring and managing man's use of wildlife.

Whilst this may be part of the accepted activities, a major function is to try and ensure the conservation of the diversity and inherent components of nature such as fauna, flora, ecosystems and ecological processes.

To fulfil this role it is necessary to carry out research and planning on a broad spectrum of subjects and present information so gained into a form that is readily understood and usable by the general public

### Special Studies

Much of the more glamorous work is related to special studies on various animals and plants that pose specific problems. Studies may be categorised as follows.

#### Category I - Rare, Endangered or Threatened Species

Much of the work of any conservation organization is concerned with species that have become rare, endangered or threatened. Many of these species have reached one of these particular states because of the activities of man and perhaps as a matter of conscience society requires action to alter the trend. There are several species within this category that require specific conservation measures but only a few have been allotted limited research and financial resources. These are: the Queensland hairy-nosed wombat Lasiorninus barnardi (Longman) with perhaps no more than 30 individuals left; the bridled nailtail wallaby Onychogalea fraenata (Gould); ghost bat Macroderma gigas (Dobson); golden-shouldered parrot Psephotus chrysoterygius (Gould); ground parrot Pezoporus wallicus (Kerr); and cooktown orchid Dendrobium bigibbum (Lindl).

Each of these species qualifies for this category because of one common factor and an associated individual different factor. They illustrate the complexity of the problem of trying to manage and allocate land use in an equitable way.

The prime cause for species decline throughout the world is habitat destruction or alteration. All the species listed above are vulnerable because of this factor.

Ghost bats require specific conditions during breeding, rearing and roosting phases of their life cycle. Such conditions are only provided in limestone caves that are limited in distribution and are a coveted source of commercial limestone and recreation. Similarly, the ground parrot is restricted to coastal lowlands subject to development for real estate as cattle grazing, forestry and recreation and is critically dependant upon remaining habitats derived from correct fire regimes.

Collecting is threatening the survival in natural habitats of the cooktown orchid and the golden-shouldered parrot. Fire regimes also appear to be critical in the latter species.

The case of the bridled nailtail wallaby is of particular interest. There is no obvious reason why an animal once described as common in the brigalow belt from northern New South Wales to north west of Rockhampton has disappeared throughout that range except for a small area in central Queensland.

A small area where it occurs has been acquired to support a basal population but, for the future of this animal to be secure much wider distribution is required. Preferred habitat is brigalow woodland near watercourses with an understory for shelter and open grassy patches for feeding. Leaving such areas uncleared near watercourses on private properties would be good management in many cases and for many reasons would assist the survival of this wallaby. Further research may prove this animal to be an important environmental indicator particularly of balanced or sustainable developments.

#### Category II - Species of Particular Biological or Public Interest

The cattle egret, Ardeola ibis (L) has spread from introduced (1933) and later natural sources from northern Australia to all southern states and even New Zealand. The spread in distribution and increase in numbers has been rapid in recent years.

Populations have doubled since 1978 in south east Queensland. The cause of this spread and effect on other herons and egrets and other wildlife is of considerable interest.

Studies on possums within north Queensland



rainforests indicate a partitioning of the species through altitude and diet and confirms the variation in rainforest types and the need to conserve these variations. Studies on the effect of disturbing rainforests for forestry purposes confirm other studies that there is ineffectual survival or relocation of most animals.

Long term studies on koalas indicate that individuals can survive in remnants of former vegetation but overall populations may decline through reduced breeding associated with female sterility and ovarian or uterine cysts. Whilst it is not proven or even suggested in this case, there is a common trend in nature of increased susceptibility to disease and mortality when environmental conditions of an organism are stressed.

### Category III-

#### Species That Are Useful to Man

Sound biological data is required before policies and management programmes of use can be safely proposed. Research has therefore been directed towards those species that the public desires to use, such as the larger kangaroos and wallabies, sea turtles, crocodiles, quail, deer and orchids. Overall policies have been in favour of use of a species provided sound biological data is available on which to base sustainable use and the take can be controlled.

#### Systematic Surveys

Much of the special studies work relates to immediate problems and requirements. However, in order to conserve the various components of nature it is necessary to conduct less glamorous longer term and routine studies.

A logical first step in any conservation programme is to make an inventory of the fauna and flora of the State. Because of the high numbers of species in the animal and plant kingdom, inventories are generally focused on the so called higher animals and plants. It is possible to group such fauna according to favoured habitats, such as water birds or rainforest mammals, taxonomy or particular behaviour. Because of relatively low numbers and the mobility of animals, inventories are generally of individual species. In order to determine the conservation needs of an animal it is necessary to determine at least its presence, abundance, habitat requirements and natural distribution.

Early explorers and museum collectors provided much of the early baseline data

from which some present day comparisons can be made.

It was not until 1964 that a programme was commenced to systematically survey the mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs of this State.

Major habitats are first identified in each region of survey. Representative samples are regularly surveyed for their fauna over a period of two years. Results are published - generally in the Queensland Journal of Agricultural Science. A summary of surveys conducted to date is shown in Table I.

Results of systematic fauna surveys confirm the presence of most species of fauna expected to be found in each region. Some species not recorded in a survey are known or are still expected to occur but methods, seasons or opportunities were unsuitable for recording. Other species are presumed to no longer occur within the State such as the paradise parrot, Psephotus pulcherrimus (Gould). In contrast the known distribution of several species has been extended within the State and the presence of some species has been officially recorded for the first time in this State such as the blue-winged parrot, Neophema chrysostoma (Kuhl).

However, the important aspect of these systematic surveys is the confirmation that many species now have a reduced distribution since settlement.

To provide a more useful data base for management purposes the recording of fauna is being related to more specific habitats. Land systems and units such as those identified by the Department of Primary Industries and based on soils, vegetation and land form are proving suitable.

In keeping with modern trends all of this information can now be stored in a computer. With suitable programming and geocoding the data can be sorted and retrieved in a variety of forms and become useful to a wider range of people - particularly land use planner. A wide variety of information on an Australia wide scale such as exact location of all areas of collection and weather data can be stored and used to indicate present status and distribution of a particular species. Such a system is being developed by CSIRO to predict presence and distribution and for use in land use planning particularly when quick answers are required where actual surveys have not been carried out.

Because numbers of plant species are generally much higher than animal species in any particular area and because most plants are static the general method of

assessing plants is to group them into alliances, communities, associations, themes or assemblages. Stanton and Morgan (1977) recognised 12 broad biogeographical regions in Queensland that contained at least 236 vegetation communities. As a minimum conservation measure it is generally accepted that representative samples of each vegetation community should be set aside within a viable conservation reserve. So far only 70 out of the minimum 236 vegetation communities are represented in the reserve system. These figures are a cause for concern for those interested in conserving nature and tend to refute the claim that we have sufficient reserves in Queensland.

A more detailed programme to assess the significance of remaining areas of undisturbed vegetation on a regional basis was commenced in 1977 by P. Stanton. The Wide Bay-Burnett area of 53,000km<sup>2</sup> has been completed. Ninety-seven flora themes were identified and 16 areas of prime nature conservation significance were selected. The wet tropical lowlands are currently being assessed in a similar manner.

A look at the reservation status of the vegetation communities and the reduction and alteration of habitat of many species of fauna makes it quite apparent that in order to adequately conserve even the flora and fauna of this State, much more than mere reservation has to take place.

Methods are therefore being developed to assess other requirements. As a start the present status and condition of various vegetation communities are being assessed. The use of LANDSAT remote sensing imagery and the latest associated computers enables rapid assessment of location and change of vegetation communities. Such information can be used by land use planners and managers to use land in a sustainable way and within inherent capabilities. It can also assist in forming policies and priorities in broad scale nature conservation programmes.

As the research data base accumulates, emphasis is being placed upon the presentation and wider use of such information. In particular, it is intended that such information be made available for land use, strategic and town planners and incorporation into environmental impact assessment of proposed developments.

## Conclusions

Research and accumulated knowledge indicate the following:

1. We know very little about the components and functioning of the natural world ie one not dominated by man.
2. What we do know indicates that if we continue along the same path as over the last two hundred years, many more species will become extinct in the near future and the numbers of rare and threatened species will increase rapidly and be beyond individual help.
3. The major cause of species decline is habitat destruction or alteration.
4. Setting aside some two percent of the State as conservation reserves and some four percent in multi-use areas such as forests and water reserves will not conserve the State's diversity of fauna and flora. Neither will doubling of that figure. The prospect remains of more and more staff, time and taxpayer's money having to be allocated to nature reserves to manage, manipulate, cull, replace in a futile attempt to maintain the natural values for which they were set aside.
5. A spectrum of natural areas is required not only for traditional recreation and conservation for particular species, but also for research and understanding of the functioning of nature. How are we going to understand the processes of tree decline, salinity, soil dynamics, biological pest controls and balances and sustainable land use if we have no natural models to work with.
6. In order to properly conserve fauna and flora and their associated natural ecosystems and processes it is necessary to allow them to remain throughout distributions.

## Discussion

What are the solutions of these conclusions and how do we plan for the future.

Society must decide to what degree man should influence the rest of nature. Complete domination of some facets of nature is possible but what are the social and environmental costs.

Do we wish to follow the plight of South Australia where over 75% of native vegetation has been destroyed within the agricultural zone (over 90% in some areas) and introduced plants comprise much of the species number and biomass. The situation is of such concern that Governments of all political persuasions have had to resort to prohibitive legislation to protect native vegetation.

Is use of a particular piece of land for say 250 years before it becomes desertified or filled with toxic salt a

wise land use and is it generally acceptable to society.

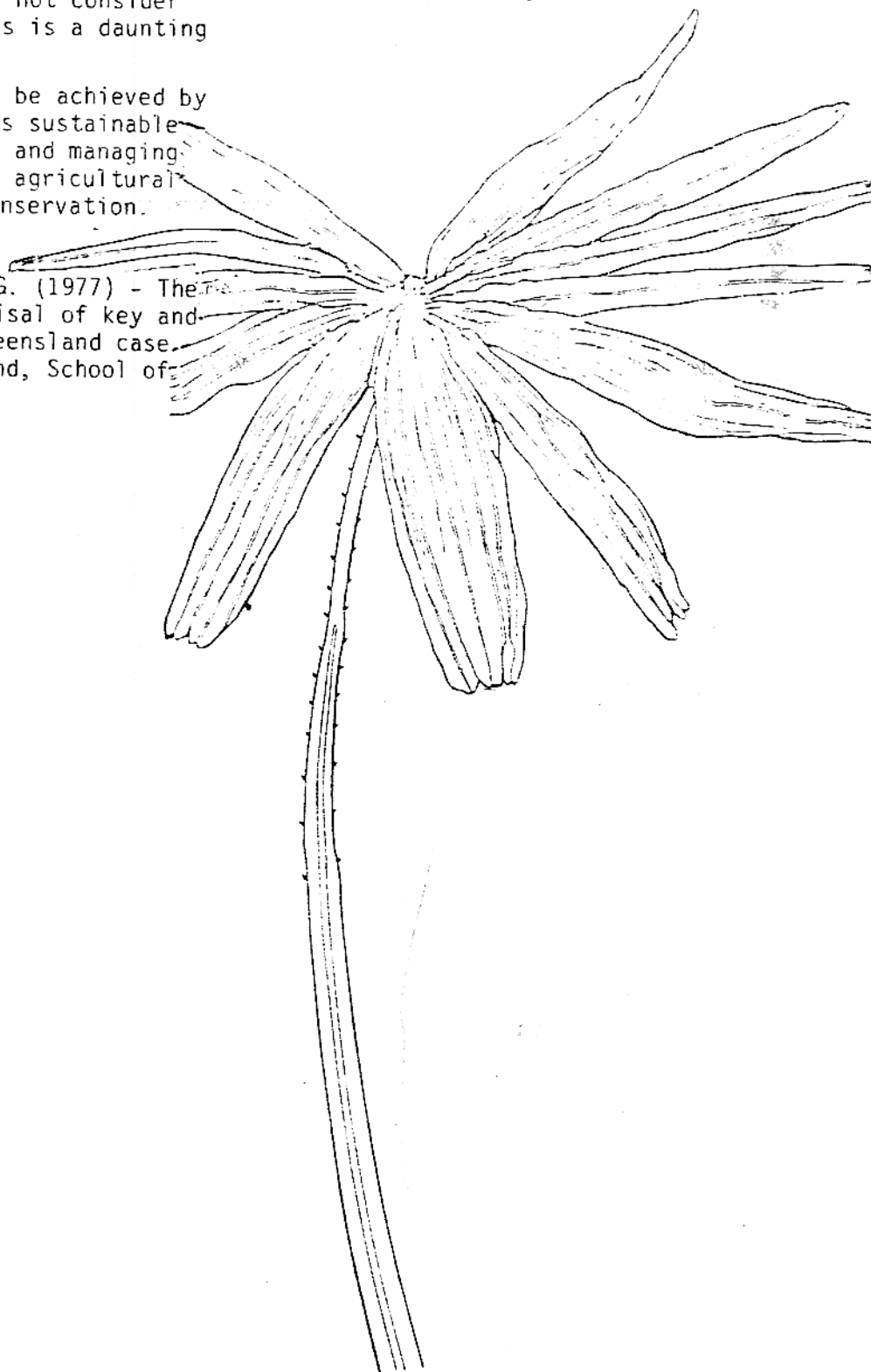
Answers to these questions have to be decided upon in the the near future if we are serious about conserving nature. A cultural shift will be required with revised land use ethics. This begs the questions as to where responsibility lies, who should bear the costs and how should this come about.

Attempting to superimpose a viable nature conservation programme over a landscape that has almost entirely been allocated to other priorities that did not consider nature conservation values is a daunting task.

In the meantime, much can be achieved by using land only within its sustainable capability and allocating and managing those areas with inherent agricultural limitations for nature conservation.

#### References

Stanton J.P. & Morgan, M.G. (1977) - The rapid selection and appraisal of key and endangered sites. The Queensland case study. Uni. of New England, School of Nat Res Report No PR4.



we can still prevent further expansion of the problems by sound planning. Planned development can be much cheaper than repair and in many cases repair may not be economically practical.

Articles elsewhere in this journal detail how trees can be used in farm plans to control land degradation. I will concentrate on how the retention of trees in specific locations can prevent community problems arising.

The first point is that before landholders clear areas of land they should wherever possible consult officers of the Division of Land Utilisation. These officers can advise the suitability of the land for clearing and identify specific management practices that may be needed to prevent land degradation. They are experienced in farm planning principles.

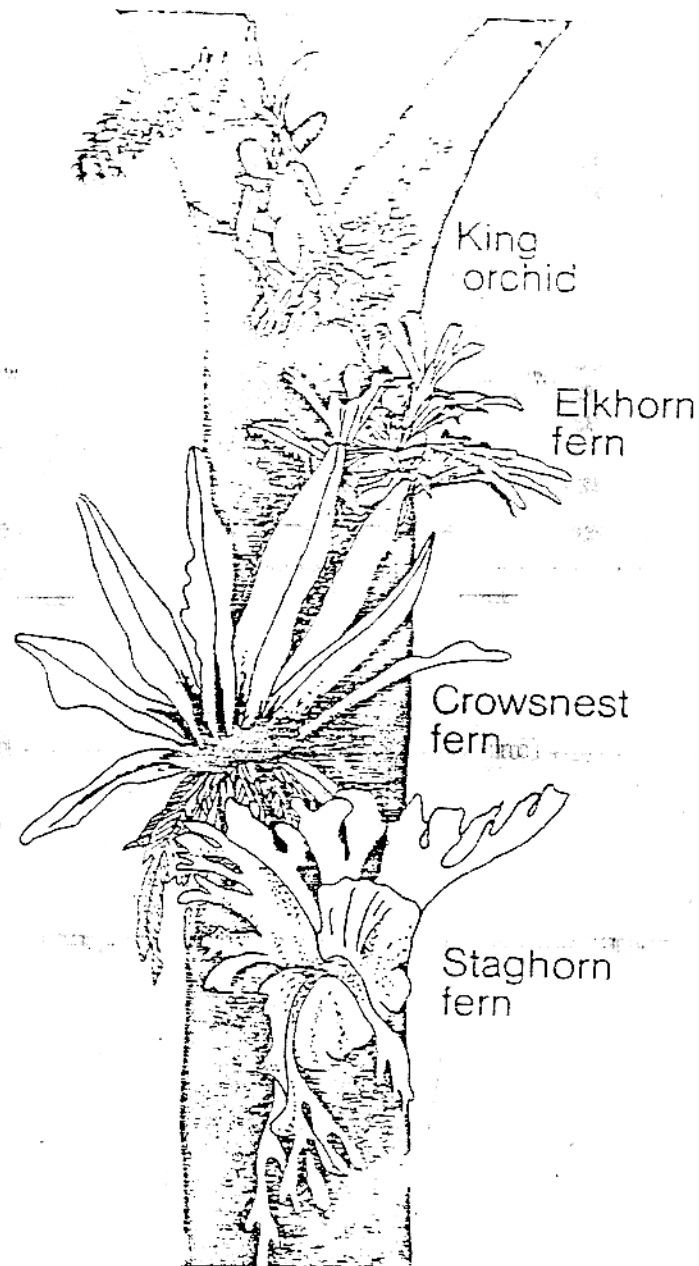
As well, the Development Planning Branch and other Departments prepare maps which identify hazardous areas where clearing of vegetation could cause problems of landslip, salinity and serious erosion. In these areas, it is essential that advice is sought before clearing to prevent irreversible damage to land productivity, water quality or infrastructure. Ideally, this information should be included in Local Authorities' Town Planning Schemes.

General principles which would be followed in any tree clearing programme are:

- \* Keep trees along the banks of all defined drainage lines (at least 10m),
- \* do not clearfell whole paddocks, but keep shade and shelter for future needs,
- \* on the lighter soils maintain windbreaks perpendicular to the prevailing strong winds,
- \* definitely do not clearfell on slopes exceeding 20% inclination, without first seeking advice,
- \* seek advice where hazardous areas have been defined or district problems are known, and
- \* think of your neighbour before clearing.

Queenslanders are extremely lucky that many of the areas susceptible to severe land degradation have not had their protective cover of tree and shrub vegetation removed. In other parts of the world, countries are busily replanting these degraded areas **at great expense**. In New Zealand, it is common to spend \$5 on each tree planted. When you think of this in terms of thousands of trees on a farm it is very expensive.

Finally, trees take many years to grow and stabilise these areas. To grow properly they need to be fenced and protected from fire and other dangers. This adds to cost. We can avoid this sort of cost by good planning in any tree clearing programme.



## TREE CLEARING AND THE COMMUNITY

N.M. Dawson

Trees are one of our greatest resources, providing a cheap and effective means of stabilising land that is susceptible to serious land degradation. They can also positively contribute to farm income as other articles in this issue show.

Land degradation in Queensland is causing loss of productivity, erosion, sedimentation, flooding and pollution. It is recognised that 690 000km<sup>2</sup> of this State are susceptible to either wind and water erosion, river bank erosion, salinity or landslip.

Worse still, these problems not only affect individual landholders but they can affect the whole community and the future productivity of our country. On well over 70% of this area, simple land use practices such as the retention of trees prevents these problems from occurring.

Overseas experience, and experience here, prove that the costs of replanting degraded areas with trees is not only terribly high but essential.

Queenslanders have the opportunity to prevent these problems occurring by consulting land use specialists in the Department and planning before they clear any forested area. The advice is cheap; the costs in not planning can be high.

### Potential problems

Every Queenslanders sees or is being exposed to problems which have resulted from the overclearing of trees on hazardous or critical areas. These include:

- \* water and soil salinity,
- \* landslip causing damage to infrastructure,
- \* river bank collapse causing productivity loss and siltation,
- \* flooding,
- \* wind erosion,
- \* soil erosion, and
- \* water pollution.

These problems, unfortunately, have not been restricted to property boundaries but are now having a substantial effect on the general community or adjoining farmers.

For example, landslip along the coastal hills has caused losses in some years approximating \$2.0 million worth of damage to roads and infrastructure as well as polluting creeks. There are estimated to be over 250 000ha of land in Queensland

that are very susceptible to landslip. The broad distribution of these areas can be identified on maps.

Dryland salting mainly caused by overclearing has led to extreme loss of productivity on over 8 000ha of land at a cost in land value terms alone of \$2.0 million. It is estimated that annual losses in production are \$1.0 million. How would you feel if you suffered losses from salting and you had not even cleared the country causing the problem? In some cases, the more valuable lands may be reclaimable by drainage but generally there is a permanent loss of production.

River bank collapse and erosive flooding associated with the clearing of vegetation on river banks is no respecter of fencelines. Stream breakthroughs occur in these areas and cause serious erosion on adjacent properties. Deposition and bank breakdown also cause local flooding.

Overclearing and poor management in catchments can lead to increased runoff in periods of high rainfall, aggravating flooding and erosion of river banks. They can also reduce flows in dry periods. A well forested catchment usually spreads runoff over a longer period and provides cleaner water. It is particularly important to keep trees on the steep or more erodible lands.

Queensland has only experienced a small number of severe dust storms in the last decade but when they occur they cause serious inconvenience to farming and urban communities. There are, however, large areas of Queensland (about 30%) where indiscriminate or unplanned clearing of trees and removal of cover could lead to dust storms similar to those experienced in the southern states and the USA.

Clearing of small watercourses and other unstable land types combined with poor management is also causing serious gully erosion throughout the State. Silt from this erosion covers roads and fills dams. The costs of removal are high and are usually paid for by local authorities. Perhaps the biggest effect of clearing of these unstable lands is that on water quality and creeks. We have all noticed the general decline of these in recent years, particularly in those overdeveloped or poorly managed areas of the State.

### Planning to prevent community problems

The significant point in regard to these issues affecting the general public is that they could have been prevented. Better,

## Back to the Nursery

Mankind has accelerated into an era of unsurpassed egomania. So sure of himself and his ability to survive anything and to do everything.

How often we forget the importance of our co-habitants, the plants. Without their living presence our survival is non event.

To many people, an interest in botany conjures up tongue twisting latin syllables strung together to form an almost instantaneous forgettable name.

A formal education in this field may be only really suitable for the enthusiastic academic, but there is a simpler approach for the average person.

A small nursery provides a classroom and an education in plant behaviour and identification. Its a casual and relaxing way to learn and achieve a great deal of self satisfaction.

The resulting prodgeny of this process can be used to improve and beautify the landscape and provide for its inhabitants.

Every stuffed park should have one.

Lets not get so caught up in grandiose progeessional schemes and ideas. Spend at least a little time at the grass roots level of nature conservation.

Remember, a nursery need only be as small as a few pots.

By Herb Bushranger alias P.K.



## FORESTS OF THE GOLD COAST AND HINTERLAND

By Mike and Pam Hall

### Present Status

Natural vegetation on the Gold Coast is now a rare sight with canal estates and high-rise foreshore development dominating the landscape of the narrow coastal plain. Remnants include the windswept rainforest and eucalypt clad headland that is Burleigh Heads National Park, the colourful wallum habitat, once extensive but now rare, at Pine Ridge Environmental Park and a small example of sheltered vine forest near the Bird Sanctuary at Currumbin.

Sadly, the highly suitable and attractive native vegetation was replaced by exotics such as Hawaiian hibiscus, frangipanni, bouganvillea and norfolk pines. However, in a small and piecemeal fashion the native species are making a comeback. High-rise complexes and office blocks are being landscaped with the tried and true melaleucas, casuarinas, banksias and native hibiscus that formerly graced the area.

To appreciate the diversity of forest types, where with ease the visitor can enjoy such wonders as Antarctic beech trees, 200m waterfalls and trusting wildlife, turn inland towards the fertile mountain valleys and plateaus of the Gold Coast Hinterland. The valleys were logged early this century for their valuable stands of cedar and hoop pine, and later cleared for dairying. In 1915 the inaccessible ridges and cliff-walled ravines of the Lamington Plateau were preserved as national park. This was due largely to the sensitivity and foresight of the pioneering Lahey, Groom and O'Reilly families who recognized the grandeur of the region.

The volcanic origins and erosion pattern of the McPherson Ranges have contributed to its dramatic landforms and striking flora and fauna. Over a dozen national parks protect a sampling of this area as nature created it. They provide an unequalled opportunity for bushwalking on graded tracks close to both the cities of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The open eucalyptus forests seen as you wind your way into the rainforest clothed mountains are largely conserved within State Forests. The management of these forests presents problems, particularly in the frequency of 'control burns'. Weed species, such as groundsel, crofton weed, lantana, wild tobacco, and mist weed grow prolifically on the overcleared slopes of old dairy farms.

This creates a particularly difficult problem, especially where these properties share a boundary with a national park as happens in Numinbah Valley, Springbrook and Tamborine Mountain.

### Revegetation Schemes

**NERANG** To mark World Environmental Day in 1981, 140 native trees and shrubs were planted at Bischoff Pioneer Park, on the northern bank of the Nerang River. Members of the Gold Coast and Hinterland branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and the newly formed Hinterland Residents Group provided manpower. The Albert Shire Council willingly provided the sought after species and help in the form of four workmen, truck, water carrier, stakes and shovels. Thanks to their continued maintenance, after six months, a 90 percent success rate has been achieved. This park was chosen as it had recently been extended by 0.5 ha to include a weed infested gully and the banks of a small inlet. The council prepared the site, removing rubbish, clearing and burning lantana and laying down topsoil in preparation for revegetation.

**SPRINGBROOK NATIONAL PARK** Over 200 trees and shrubs have been planted in the three picnic areas. The camping area, for example, is being both beautified and screened from day-trippers. A nursery has been established to propagate the many seeds collected during regular maintenance of the tracks, and to house any species collected from an area about to be cleared for building or roadworks.

**NATURAL BRIDGE NATIONAL PARK** Park's staff and volunteers have planted in excess of 200 trees, shrubs and ferns in the problem areas of roadsides and embankments where weeds take advantage of a break in the canopy. A "shade-it-out" method is used to eradicate lantana in the park. Rather than wholesale clearing of the lantana, which would leave the topsoil exposed, tracks are slashed throughout in a grid pattern. Fast growing eucalypts and pioneer species are then planted in an attempt to shade out the light-loving weed species. At present the native species are growing rapidly and gaining on the unwanted ones. Propagating has also been successful for many species.

**ROSSER ENVIRONMENT PARK (BENOWA)** This 30 acre park is situated on part of the flood plain of the Nerang River rising up to adjoin Ashmore Road. A small nucleus of natural vegetation is being buffered by the planting of over 150 native species. Most of these are several years advanced

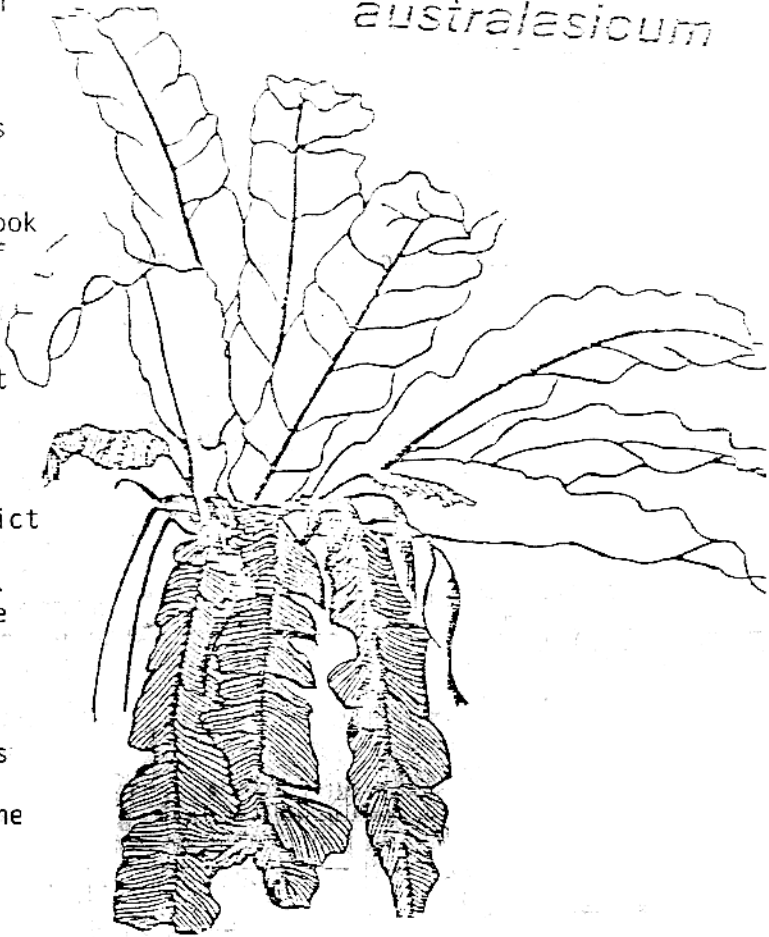


and are self-supporting. Some maintenance is carried out by a local group of enthusiasts.

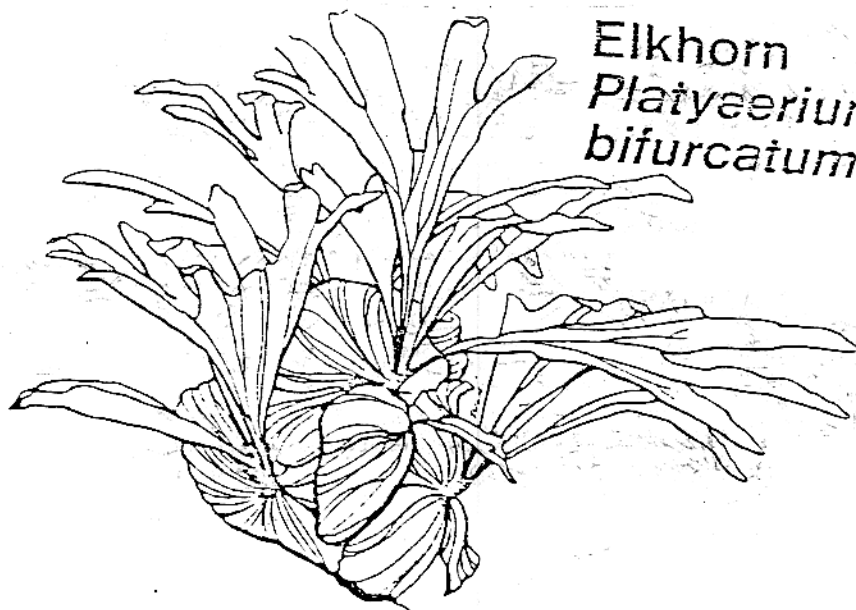
#### Proposals

- \* Tree Register: This forthcoming project for the Gold Coast and Hinterland branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is to compile a register of forest types including historically significant, rare and endangered species that require immediate recognition and protection. For example, blue mountain ash occurs only above 1500m at Springbrook National Park, the northernmost limit of this species. Stringbark cypress pine is another rare mountain species. All information collated would be forwarded to the Planning Department of the Albert Shire Council.
- \* Planting List: A comprehensive list covering trees, shrubs and vines could be prepared for each geographical district of the Albert Shire and hopefully distributed through the council offices. A copy with each building permit or rate notice may be an effective way of spreading the word.
- \* Buffer Zone: Where several landowners share boundaries with the national parks as in the Hinterland, a belt of natural vegetation should be maintained where the land uses meet. Rate rebates could provide an incentive for this practice. Also those landowners with weed infestations and erosion problems could be encouraged to revegetate with similar incentives and advice from national park officers.

Bird's nest fern  
*Asplenium  
australesicum*



Elkhorn  
*Platyserium  
bifurcatum*



# Plant a tree for Queensland

