



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

# Ringtail

April 1979

## EDITORIAL

"Communication is the key to positive progress". Who wrote that? I did - just now! The fact that "Ringtail" has doubled in size in the first two issues indicates how hungry you Service people are for communication.

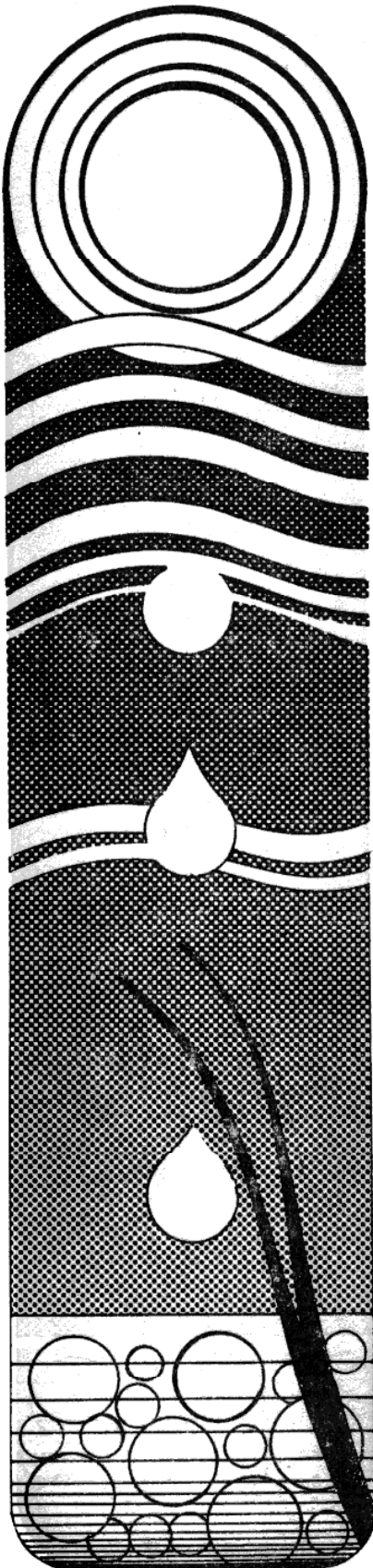
In an organisation that is by its nature fragmented, the written word has to be the best and most practical way of communication. Besides - you don't have to fill in a green form before you write a memo!

So I was very happy to be asked to follow the Director's greetings in the first issue by writing the Editorial for this. But 200 words? It isn't a lot; but it is enough for me to advise all of you to make use of the bulletin.

At a seminar-type meeting the other day which I organised to allow Hugh Lavery to explain to other branches his "Nature Reference Sites" concept, I talked of bridge building between officers from different sections and branches. It was clear that the two hours or so we spent dispelled all the speculation and rumour about the idea and now it will have far more support all round.

My two hundredth word must be coming up so I'll conclude with another fairly unoriginal statement, "What you put in is what you get out". If you want this magazine to continue to fulfil its intended role, only you can make it happen.

C.W. Price  
ACTING DIRECTOR



## THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER .....?

Port in one hand, briefcase in the other I stood in front of the familiar grey and black ADC House on Kent Street in the middle of Sydney.

My main thoughts as I entered the Building were not what my contributions would be to the Concom Working Group on the Youth for Conservation Program but to which floor I was to proceed. First, second, third and thirteenth were all National Parks and Wildlife Service offices now. Eight years ago we were crammed onto the single second floor. So instinctively I pushed 2 on the lift panel. Familiar faces greeted me, immediately and I was escorted to the again familiar, modestly appointed conference room and introduced to the other officers from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

The meeting, like most meetings, was crowded with ideas and each segment went overtime.

There unfolded, however, one outstanding feature which overshadowed any aspect of the subject we had come to discuss,

## THE VIRTUAL DISBANDING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The South Australian Acting Field Operations Superintendent explained that they had lost their Minister, Department Director (equivalent to out Co-ordinator), their Director, Projects Assessment Division Chief, Administration and Finance Officer, Superintendent of Field Operations (equivalent of Branch Director of Management & Operations), Senior Field Inspector and one of their two Regional Superintendents.

They have been reduced to a headless skeleton.

A once proud leader in the field of National Parks, Wildlife and Conservation their Service is struggling for survival with some officers working 14 hours a day 6 days a week - just to keep their jobs. Any compensation financially is out of the question in positions remaining or where officers are temporarily relieving.

What made matters more striking was the tour through the massive National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales Headquarters later on - each section was humming with activity. Officers by the dozen, in spacious rooms and using the latest equipment were giving nature conservation a healthy nudge.

So there it was, the stark comparison between extremes.

Of course the question was how did this thing eventuate in South Australia? Here is a sketchy prognosis.

In an atmosphere of troubled waters the Minister was given another portfolio and soon thereafter the Department of Environment Director exited.

In the ensuing period and with some considerable internal fragmentation the Superintendent of Field Operations and one of the two Regional Superintendents simply resigned (reasons unknown).

Soon thereafter the Senior Field Inspector was removed and the domino effect was well underway culminating in the removal of the Director of the Service.

The eventual removal of the Project Assessment Division Chief and the demotion of the Administration and Finance Officer reflected the deterioration of the Service in general.

The feelings among the rest of us from relatively healthy Departmental situations was one of disbelief. In fact I recall my query to the Director in New South Wales some 7 years ago when we had gone through 4 Ministers in a span of 6 months, if such a thing was possible. His reply "I know things are a little shakey, but that's irrational thinking, the public would never allow it to happen anyway".

The moral in this story, I feel, is that even though things might appear strenuous and unfruitful at times within our Service we are still very fortunate by comparison outside.

The other point is that our aims and objectives, as a team, must be clearly defined and followed up by a unified effort so that we can, as aware individuals, be the contributors to our own future.

Conclusion! Individual thought may be healthy, but unified contribution is essential to survive.

CHUCK WILDER

Press Statemant - 9th April, 1979

The State Government has gazetted two further areas of land in south-east Queensland as Environmental Park.

The Minister in Charge of Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr. Tom Newbery, said today the first area was located 10 kilometres south of Rathdowney on the Queensland - New South Wales border. The new Park covered an area of 147 hectates on the northern escarpment of Lever's Plateau and featured a mixture of rainforest and eucalypt forest.

Mr. Newbery said the new gazettal was a further step in the State Government's policy of creating a chain of nature reserves along the "Scenic Rim" running from the McPherson Ranges behind the Gold Coast to Cunningham's Gap.

He said the new Park would be administered by the Beaudesert Shire Council as Trustee.

Mr. Newbery said the Moreton Shire Council would act as trustee for a second new Environmental Park covering 51 hectares, about 10 kilometres south of Goodna.

The area was formerly a forest reserve and prized for its educational and recreational values.

Its scenery ranged from a series of undulating hills to eucalypt forest and the flats of Woogaroo Creek.

Mr. Newbery said the Park would provide an important nature reserve in what was becoming a rapidly developing residential area.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1979

Four Service staff members have recently completed stage 2 of the Management Improvement Seminar at the Forestry Training Centre, Gympie.

The Deputy Director, Secretary, Neil Mee and Geoff Cole will complete the final stage in the near future. These officers after completing stage 2 of this three part course have increased their knowledge of management principles which are readily applicable to the Service operation.

The operations of the Service Management team have been interrupted by these courses in which Ruth Drew has been involved as an instructor. We believe the short term loss of time will effect long term gains.

Unfortunately Miss Ruth Drew's involvement with the courses and other commitments within her own work area will in future severely limit her involvement with this Service.

Elizabeth Hetherington is also no longer available. Accordingly the decision has been taken to continue operation of the Management Services Section within the Service under the Deputy Director and involving Geoff Cole and other officers who have undertaken these improvements training courses.

It is intended that the current review will continue and involve the remaining branches of the Service to try to ensure that Service operations are placed on an efficient operating basis. The Deputy Director will be involved in an assessment of regional operations throughout the State and development of policies for future operations. The assessment of branch and Head Office situations will continue to involve Geoff Cole with the Deputy Director.

It is stressed that implementation of improved methods of operation is the responsibility of all staff.

The Management Services staff and its programs are involved in assisting the process of change to more efficient operation of the Service.

#### STAFF MOVEMENTS

- (1) Jane Meehan from Accounts to Acquisitions and Gazettals Section from 23rd April, 1979
- (2) Carrie Harris from Acquisitions to Management and Operations Branch from 23rd April, 1979
- (3) Allison Oldfield from Management and Operations to Administration Branch (Accounts Sub-Section) from 23rd April, 1979.
- (4) Shamus Conway to Records Sub-Section from 4th April, 1979
- (5) Maureen McDevitt from Management and Operations to Clerical and General Section from 4th April, 1979, as offset printer

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The Public Service Board, has approved the promotion of Graham McConochie, to the position of Draftsman, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane, Congratulations Graham

#### Heard in the Corridors

Congratulations to Ray Troyahn who now is the first Public Servant to be granted partial dispensation from signing his flexi-time sheets each Friday. Instead, he now simply signs the Visitors Book!

SOUTH PACIFIC CONVERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS  
AND RESERVES

The Service has just hosted the Queensland pre conference tour for overseas visitors to this conference.

Guests from sixteen overseas countries together with state representatives have been given a tour of South Queensland Parks to show what is being done in the cause of Nature Conservation in Queensland.

The tour has been a tribute to the ability of this Service to co-operate and organise what has been a major undertaking. It is fair to say that the manner in which Queensland staff have assisted in such an efficient manner is the envy of our southern counterparts. Tour visitors have been to Noosa via Kondalilla then on to Boreen Point and Kinaba and to the upper Noosa River.

The second part of the tour was to Binna Burra. Guests in Brisbane stayed at the Crest Hotel.

I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts of Neal Mee and Bob McTaggart, Management and Operations, Technical Services Section and Despatch staff in particular, who, through their efficient involvement have made this tour the unqualified success which it has undoubtedly been.

Geoff Cole



## RESEARCH AND PLANNING BRANCH - AN

### INTRODUCTION (Part II)

Damian McGreevy

In the first issue of 'Ringtail' the structure and functions of the Research and Planning Branch of the Service were outlined, together with a list of officers currently employed and notes on the designation, location and particular research interests of each.

To build on this introduction, I have once again broken the Branch into sections and explained more fully the functions of these. In addition, I have listed the research projects being undertaken at the present time in each section together with brief explanatory notes. These notes relate particularly to that aspect of the project receiving greatest emphasis. The format is that now prescribed for the Service's annual submission to CONCOM, based on the C.S.I.R.O. style of research project reporting.

#### A. FIELD STUDIES OF FAUNA, FLORA & LANDFORMS

Aim To gather a comprehensive understanding of the 'pristine' nature of the native fauna and flora and the natural landforms of Queensland

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#### Comments

Investigations are principally autecological studies of species warranting more detailed understanding and selected because of their particular interest to man. These are used as indicator species. Most studies presently are zoological.

The large kangaroo species have formed the basis of a rural industry in Queensland for more than 60 years; as

many as 1,000,000 animals per year have been harvested. Several projects are concerned with developing an appreciation of the dynamics of the populations involved. Another project sets out to describe the biology of the other 20 macropod species.

Studies proceed from a compilation of natural history information to increasing knowledge by research in the field and in enclosures of reproduction, behaviour and related areas, and how these affect population sizes.

#### Sub-programs

- AA Water rat - population ecology
- AB Kangaroos - biology and population ecology
- AC Wallabies - reproduction and age estimation, husbandry, behaviour
- AD Koala - population ecology
- AE Possums - ecology of endemic species
- AF Waterbirds - habitat evaluation; population dynamics and movements of cranes and waterfowl
- AG Crocodiles - movement of freshwater crocodiles
- AH Sea turtles - biology and ecology
- AJ Caves - geology, and ecology using bats as index species

#### Collaboration

Applied Ecology Pty. Ltd.  
Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education  
Queensland Fisheries Service  
Universities - James Cook, Macquarie, Queensland.

## B. DATA BANK OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Aim

To co-ordinate and maintain field data-collecting exercises throughout Queensland.

To develop techniques for the appropriate storage and the ready retrieval of zoological, botanical and geological information on the State.

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### Comments

This program has evolved from the increasing responsibility and need to use existing knowledge and to house and effectively retrieve the growing amounts of biological records.

Current emphasis is on an initial series of exhaustive surveys that encompass more than 90% of the State's fauna. Repetition of these surveys is designed to indicate trends and thus the more important areas of prospective field study. Several projects are concerned to compile literature, specimen and observational records and to test results for reliability when handled in computer systems.

Detailed vegetation mapping of particular areas is proceeding in relation to flora conservation responsibilities.

Proper handling of material requires constant attention to the taxonomy of more than 1 000 animal species and 12 000 plant species. Advanced studies are proceeding on the systematics and nomenclature of some diverse animals and plant groups.

### Sub-programs

- BA Fauna surveys - district inventories
- BB Native rodents - taxonomy, biology
- BC Bats - taxonomy, ecology
- BD Frogs - taxonomy, ecology
- BE Orchids - taxonomy, ecology
- BF Vegetation mapping - Fraser Island,  
Hinchinbrook Island etc.

### Collaboration

Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Australian Orchid Foundation  
C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research  
Museums - British Museum (Natural History)  
Queensland  
Queensland Departments of Forestry,  
Primary Industries  
Universities - Adelaide, Sydney.

## C. LAND-USE PLANNING FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

### Aim

To consider all gathered information on the natural resources of Queensland in relation to land, land tenure and land-use practices.

### Comments

The objective is to develop the results of the data bank program.

The land-use planning program presently centres on the long-term preparation of sets of maps of each of 15 regions (total 27 sub-regions) of the State; these sets depict the major areas of remaining native flora, fauna habitat, and natural

landforms. Priorities at regional and, ultimately, State level are prescribed on sieve maps of these. Techniques have been established and some regional maps compiled for the flora; techniques are still being tested for fauna habitat evaluation; and a "land systems" map of Queensland is being compiled as an introduction to the landforms.

Concurrently, the need to proceed with planning is covered by assessment of local situations; these are in the form of ad hoc reservation proposals and Environmental Impact Statements.

#### Sub-programs

CA Regional Resources Map of Queensland -  
Flora

CB Regional Resources Map of Queensland -  
Fauna habitat

Regional Resources Map of Queensland -  
Landforms

#### Collaboration

C.S.I.R.O. Division of Land Use Research  
Queensland Department of Forestry and  
Primary Industries  
University of New England.

#### D. MANAGEMENT RESEARCH OF RESERVES AND WILDLIFE

##### Aim

To define the tolerable levels of disturbance that the resources identified in other programs can withstand before being changed, in order that appropriate management plans can be determined.

To study manipulated situations, either

in the field or in the laboratory, for the conservation of particular species.

### Comments

The recognition and reservation of natural ecosystems is technically less difficult than maintaining these indefinitely. A series of representative areas - Nature Reference Sites - is being selected to provide for concentrated scientific endeavour by the Service and other organisations towards the provision of relevant land management techniques.

The disturbance factors affecting the 8 groups of natural ecosystems of the State are receiving long-term attention.

Some specific attention is given to the topic of zoos; this is an extension of technical concern for the conservation of individual species or forms (such as the bridled nail-tailed wallaby).

### Sub-programs

- DA Nature Reference Sites - Established and development
- DB Vine forests - forestry practices
- DC Grasslands - agricultural practices
- DD Shrublands - fire
- DE Eucalypt woodlands and forests - exotic fauna (deer)
- DF Eucalypt woodlands and forests - stock grazing
- DG Eucalypt woodlands and forests - weeds
- DH Zoo technology - macropodids

### Collaboration

C.S.I.R.O. Division of Land Use Research

National Trust of Queensland

Queensland Departments of Forestry, Lands,  
Primary Industries

Universities - Griffith, Queensland

### RESEARCH AND PLANNING BRANCH PUBLICATIONS

A routine procedure for listing and abstracting publications and for listing reports has been instituted. This provides for the opportunity to circulate relevant libraries with appropriate, inexpensive material (Information Notes) at six-monthly intervals. It is proposed to bind this material at intervals for record and statistic purposes. Copies of the actual reprints are held in the library and within the Branch - chronologically and under authors - for Service reference purposes and for eventual binding also.

Concerning accredited publications, 52 have appeared since the Branch inception (April 1976) and a further 19 have been accepted for printing. This covers 25 journals and 12 other publishing houses in 4 countries. Of 94 manuscripts submitted to the Branch by authors to date, 7 have been rejected, 4 before proceeding to a journal; one not accepted was on the basis that the material was foreshadowed in a concurrent Queensland Museum paper that gave the data pers. comm. The other two manuscripts have since been referred to journals where they might best have been placed in the first instance. Sixteen manuscripts are currently being edited.

Reports that have been distributed necessarily outside the Service (External Special Reports) comprise 58 Reports to 23 organizations. Another 8 of these Reports are currently being

printed.

Detailed reports for Service purposes (Internal Special Reports) that are other than on reservation proposals number 56 to date. Copies of both External and Internal Special Reports are held on file and within the Branch for reference purposes.

Reports on 325 Reservation Proposals have been submitted by Branch officers; these are presently being listed from the Branch register. The reports are held on the appropriate PR files. Quarterly Reports also are not listed; some 113 of these have been replaced by Annual Reports (3) and Visual Reports.

To date 7 Visual Reports have been prepared material is to hand to compile more than 40 of these about current Branch activities.

As an extension of technical material gathered, 7 documentary films have been prepared. More importantly, the films represent some 150 000 feet of archival pictorial records of the natural environment of Queensland stored appropriately in the catalogued film library of the A.B.C.

#### Research and Planning Branch - Staff changes

Elizabeth Gleeson, Zoologist Div. I - resigned  
1st April, 1979

Barry Lyon, Overseer III - transferred to M & O  
Branch 30th April, 1979

Sally Crafter, Overseer III - resigned 16th  
March, 1979

Darryl Raimer, Cadet - appointed to Hermitage  
26th February, 1979  
(replacing Simon Tickler)

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Father to teenage daughter:

'The only lie I'm putting in my income-tax  
return is listing myself as head of the  
household'



## MANAGEMENT PLANNING SECTION

### Central Highlands Management Project -

For some time the section has been undertaking a study of the Central Highlands.

The study area incorporates all or parts of ten mountain ranges that collectively have been called the 'Home of the Rivers'. This name refers to the fact that many of Queensland's major rivers including the Fitzroy, Dawson, Nogoa, Warrego and Maroon rise in the area.

The backbone of the ranges is the Mesozoic sandstone which in places has been overlain by Tertiary basalt to form massive high tablelands.

Millions of years of erosion have produced spectacular scenic landscapes, the most renowned being Carnarvon Gorge.

The Aborigines lived in the area from about 20,000 years ago and have left considerable evidence of their presence in the form of rock art and material culture items e.g. stone tools. A number of well known white men have had associations with the Highlands including Leichhardt, Gilbert, Mitchell, Kennedy, Tyson and the infamous Kenniff brothers.

Seven national parks, Carnarvon, Robinson Gorge, Isla Gorge, Lonesome, Salvator Rosa Kaka Murdi and N.P. 5 Marengo, and one fauna reserve, Palmgrove are found within the area.

Mt. Moffat Pastoral Holding has recently been purchased and will be gazetted as a national park in the near future.

The aim of the study is to identify areas of natural, cultural, recreational and historical interest for further investigation by Service staff and to propose guidelines for the acquisition, gazettal and management of these

areas. The study arose from earlier investigative work done by Service staff in the area and from the Robinson Gorge Management Plan which highlighted the need for regional park planning in the Central Highlands. The Robinson Gorge plan has been incorporated in the overall study and the first report on this work is expected next month.

#### Green Island Management Plan -

In mid-1978, State Cabinet set up a Committee to prepare a comprehensive management plan for Green Island and its reef and to advise those authorities involved in the island's day-to-day administration. The Green Island Management Committee consists of representatives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Fisheries Service, Lands Department, Department of Harbours and Marine, Department of Tourism, Works Department, Cairns City Council and the private sector of tourist industry in Cairns. Dr. Saunders is the Chairman of the Management Committee and the Committee's activities are co-ordinated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Green Island, a coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef, is located 27km north east of Cairns. Two-thirds of the 12 ha. island is national park and the remainder has been leased and developed for tourism. A resort complex, the Coral Cay Hotel, underwater observatory, theatre and zoological gardens, Marineland Melonesia, are located on Green Island. The national park, 7 ha. of tropical vine forest, contains walking tracks and picnic facilities.

Green Island is one of Australia's tourist attractions. Recreational use of Green Island dates back to the turn of the century

when Cairns residents had weekend fishing and hunting parties on the island. The island was declared a national park in 1937 and the surrounding reef became a marine park in 1974.

The number of visitors to Green Island have increased steadily over the years to the present estimated annual visitation of 150,000 persons. On peak days there are 1000 visitors on the island. This high visitation rate coupled with lack of initiative and expective of the tourist operators on the island and the complexities of the present administration system has resulted in many serious management problems. Earlier attempts to rationalise administration of Green Island and its reef and to reduce the management difficulties proved unsuccessful and it is hoped that the present Management Committee can achieve more positive and long-term results.

The overall aim of the Management plan is to protect the natural resources of Green Island and its reef ensuring continued public use and enjoyment of the area. The Management Committee first assembled all available data on the resources, use and development of Green Island and its reef, then invited public submissions on the management plan and discussed the plan with the Surveys of the island's visitors were conducted by the Service this month and last August. It has also been necessary to undertake investigations into the water supply/sewerage situation, the public transportation system, erosion control methods and the economics of tourism on the island. When these investigations are complete, the Committee will finalise the management plan for Green Island and its reef.

Officers in the Management Planning, Parks and Reserves and Wildlife Sections, Management and Operations Branch, Field Studies Section, Research and Planning Branch;

Technical Services Section and Acquisitions and Gazettals Section have contributed towards the work of the Green Island Management Committee.

Green Island National Park would be one of the smallest national parks in Queensland. The park itself does not appear to have outstanding value for conservation. However, it is rare for vine forest to occur on sand islands in the Great Barrier Reef and the island supports an interesting variety of native fauna and flora. The park's greatest value lies in its potential importance for interpreting the Great Barrier Reef for visitors. The "Great Barrier Reef Visitor Plan" prepared in 1971 for the Australian Tourist Commission, recommended that Green Island be developed as a major interpretive centre for the Reef. The Service supports the recommendation. Green Island would be a logical location for such a centre because of its high annual visitation, proximity to the mainland, ease of accessibility by means of public transportation and the inherent advantages of diverting present activity away from more ecologically sensitive and significant parts of The Great Barrier Reef, for example, nearby Michaelmas Cay.

It is envisaged that the Green Island Management Plan will yield a wealth of basic information and management guidelines which could assist the Service's management of other parks in the Great Barrier Reef.

### Aboriginal Relics

The Service has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies to assist with its aboriginal site recording programme in the Central Highlands of Queensland. This study is aimed at providing a broad understanding of the extent, values and conservational status of aboriginal sites in the Carnarvon region. It will assist the Service in formulating management strategies for the areas under its control and as an adjunct to its land acquisition programme.

The value of the grant is \$20,200 and is for a period of twelve months. Graham Walsh who is based at Injune will be the principle site recorder and he will be provided with an assistant. Graham has had a long standing interest in the aboriginal and european history of the Carnarvons. He has been appointed a Research Associate with the Institute of Applied Social Research at the Griffith University.

With the assistance of the Griffith University Staff and other archaeological advice from the Museum, the University of Queensland and the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, it has been possible to establish a data recording procedure which will be unique in Australia. It will be possible to computerise the information available from the various sites with the intention of identifying the key relationships between various factors.

The project will continue to be administered by the Management Planning Section.



A DAY IN  
THE LIFE  
OF A  
Requisition

## DEER FARMING IN QUEENSLAND

All four species of deer, namely Rusa, Chital (axis), red and fallow, presently found in a wild state in Queensland are protected fauna under the provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1976. They are the only species of feral animals in Queensland to carry a protected status and have recently been gazetted as "stock" under the Stock Act 1915-1976.

The history, distribution and farming interest of these four species are briefly discussed.

### Rusa Deer (Cervus timorensis) -

Rusa deer were transported from the Celebes and the Moluccas to Friday Island in the Torres Strait in 1912. Some years later the animals were found on Prince of Wales Island and were seen to be thriving. In about 1914 some were liberated on Possession Island (Endeavour Strait). Recent reports are that rusa deer have been sighted on the mainland.

Some interest has been shown on the farming of rusa deer in both Queensland and Torres Strait, but to date none of these proposals have got off the ground.

### Chital Deer (Axis axis) -

Chital (Axis) deer were imported from Baravia by the Acclimatisation Society of Queensland in 1867 and released on to the Darling Downs. In 1886 a chital hind (female) was taken to Maryvale Station near Charters Towers. A few years later a stag (male) was put with the hind and eventually these two and their progeny were liberated on Maryvale Station.

At present distribution of this species covers about 160 sq. km. of country on two properties namely, Maryvale and Niall Stations, Charters Towers.



No farming of this species is presently taking place in Queensland, however a considerable number have been sold across the border into Victoria and New South Wales. Southern buyers are using this species for both ornamental and farming purposes.

Prior to the deer leaving the property at Charters Towers a permit to remove is obtained and royalty of \$50.00 per animal is paid to the Crown.

The current population size of this species has not been accurately determined.

#### Red Deer (Cervus elaphus)

Red deer were originally given as a gift from Queen Victoria to the Queensland Acclimatisation Society and comprised of 2 stags and four hinds. These animals were released near Scrub Creek near "Cressbrook" in the Brisbane Valley.



Red deer are currently found in the Brisbane and Mary Valleys.

The population size of this species has not been accurately determined but from field observations and discussions with Graziers and other Service personnel, it would appear that the number to be found in the wild would be several thousand.

Much interest is at present being shown about the farming of this species. This has been demonstrated in a practical way as twenty graziers in the Brisbane and Mary Valleys have been licenced to farm red deer. There are approximately 124 red deer behind wire and the majority of captured pregnant hinds have successfully dropped fawns in their enclosures. Information is that under farm conditions about 90% of the captured pregnant hinds have reared fawns to the age of five months.

Although red deer are excellent producers of venison (the deer meat) all farming projects at present are looking towards velvet (antler) production for export to Asian countries. The velvet is used for medicinal purposes which is purported to give the user a state of well being. The velvet on a stag may weigh as much as 4 kilos and is currently sold in New Zealand for about \$200.00 per kilo.

The red deer are captured by means of:-

- (1) The use of a tranquilizer gun ("fentaz" being probably the most popular drug).
- (2) Trapping in wire trap, usually, equipped with some type of automatic gate locking device.

This method (2) is most used by the deer farmers and is usually more successful towards the end of winter when the red deer come down from the hills in search of improved pastures or crops. The deer traps are invariably sown with a winter crop (lucerne, oats).

The permit issued under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1976 allows each individual occupier or owner so licensed, and subject to the following conditions, to take a limited number of breeding stock (20 red deer per Association member, per licence).

Conditions -

- (1) Royalty at \$50.00 each is payable on deer when taken (captured), but royalty is not payable on progeny of wild deer legally kept.
- (2) Permittees are required to provide details of location and size of property, plans of enclosures and handling yards and details of fencing. Specifications for a retaining fence are suggested.





- (3) Farming is being approved only in the present known range of the species.
- (4) All fencing is subject to inspections, and must be approved by the Service.
- (5) All deer are to be identified and the licensee is required to keep records.
- (6) The requirements of other Government Departments such as the State Department of Primary Industries must be met.

All indications point towards red deer farming developing into a financially sound venture.

A governmental 2 year embargo has recently been placed on the interstate movement of deer found in Queensland. This embargo does not apply to Chital deer.

#### Fallow Deer (Dama dama)



Fallow deer were introduced into Tasmania from Great Britain in 1850 and some 15 years later 10 individuals (3 Stags and 7 Hinds) were transported to Brisbane where they were held in captivity at Bowen Park. After several years some of the captive breeding stock were liberated on to properties on the Darling Downs, namely Westbrook and Maryvale Station.

In 1873 the liberated stock was reported to be doing well. Fallow deer are presently found free roaming in the Warwick, Stanthorpe and Killarney districts with areas of local high abundance on Pikedale Station.

Fallow venison is reputed to be the most palatable of all deer found in Queensland and some interest regarding farming this species is being shown by graziers.

To date no permits have been issued by this Service to farm fallow deer. It is anticipated that graziers within the distribution area will start farming ventures in the near future.

The individual owner or occupier involved will be subjected to similar license conditions and restrictions as outlined in "Red Deer" (above).

Due to the fact that deer are protected and some people enjoy hunting these animals (for monetary gain or sport) poaching has become evident. This comes in three forms:-

- (i) Taking for venison (meat);
- (ii) Taking for trophy (head and antler);
- (iii) Live capture for movement interstate.

Investigations by the Police Fauna Squad, headed by Lawrie Witham indicated that many more deer are illegally shot for venison and trophy each year than live capture for interstate movement.

The wildlife management section and the Police Fauna Squad have put in many man hours on weekends and public holidays with regard to the management programme and enforcement patrols in the Red deer area, especially during the 'roaring' season (April, May).

It would appear that this effort has had a marked effect on the illegal deer activity. However the problem of the professional poacher will remain as long as deer are to be found in the wild.

The comparatively easy access to Deer in the wild coupled with the present high prices for domestic beef will probably lead to a further increase in the illegal taking of deer for venison (domestic consumption).



An extensive and ongoing research programme is being conducted into deer in Queensland by Mr. Tony Searle (Warwick) with particular import to the Red and Fallow species.

Research and Planning Branch have produced excellent maps of the distribution of the Red and Fallow deer areas. Work on the distribution of Chital deer is presently being undertaken.

The management programme concerning deer has been undertaken by members of the Ranger (Wildlife) Section. These members are involved with the taking (trapping), keeping, housing and movement of deer in Queensland.

They include:

Ranger Weaver - Rusa Deer  
Ranger Connolly - Chital Deer  
Ranger Rees - Red and Fallow Deer  
Ranger Parker - Red and Fallow Deer

(Ranger Parker has recently visited New Zealand to look at Deer Farming in that country).

Mr. Roff (Chief Management Officer, Wildlife) has acted as co-ordinator.

Deer are subject to pests and diseases. This raises considerations of quarantine and control on movement, which are also a responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries. Mr. Ross McKenzie, (pathologist, D.P.I., Yeerongpilly) is presently engaged in disease research.

The concept of deer farming in Queensland is in its infancy. Indications are that this concept for future development has a potential.



The New Zealand overseas trade in deer products is most successful. However we must bear in mind the significant difference that deer in New Zealand are noxious animals, as distinct from Queensland deer carrying protected status.

GARY REES

\* \* \*

In order to assist graduate officers of the Public Service, interested in furthering their knowledge and qualifications in the area of management, a synopsis of details regarding various post-graduate courses is available.

The Secondary Correspondence School, Department of Education have courses enabling adult students to further their secondary school studies.

Should either of these statements interest you I can supply further information.

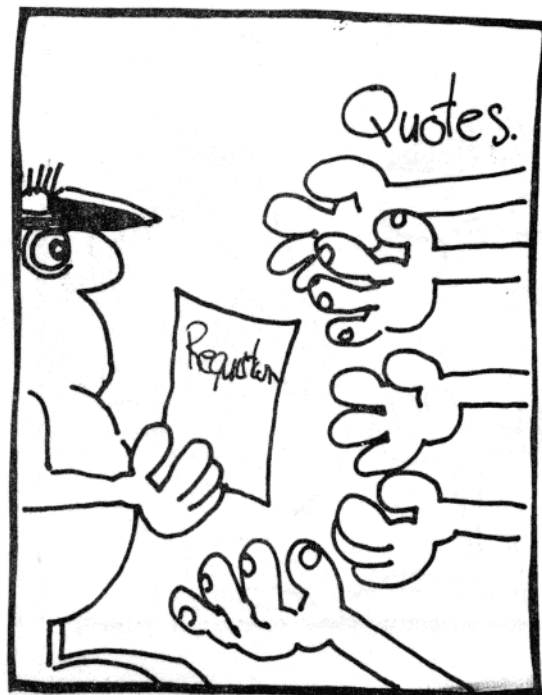
"Ringtail"

\* \* \*

When a horse breaks a leg - they usually shoot him.

What should we do when a staff member breaks a leg?

Let's ask Johnny Martin.



## IMPRESSIONS - 2

Awake. Dark, not yet dawn. The first night over, how many more will we be on the road? Where are we going? Don't ask that question, no answer. Still grey, what's the time? Five past four. The smell is still here, frangipani and drains, not at all unpleasant. We're not hearing things, what is that? It came very faintly, the only sound, a male voice rhythmically rising and falling in cadence. The first thing we thought of, a muezzin calling from his mosque for dawn prayers, we dismissed because the Balinese are Hindu, and we looked for other explanations during the ten minutes it was with us. As it turned out, we were correct, for there is indeed a mosque in Den Pasar for the faithful.

At five o'clock, daylight, we were out of the front gate of our lodgings and onto the street. Two more apprehensive people never existed (we felt), we had no idea at all of how it was going to be - last night's arrival was our introduction, toned down by darkness and soft rain, but this was to be our first look, our first walk - let's get on with it.



The scene was an expanse of short grass with goats grazing. Around its edge was an empty gravel road, and on the far side a busy bitumen road. Across the grass walked a woman dressed in sarong and kebaya, her long black hair caught up at the back, bearing a large basket on her head. She walked so gracefully, body upright and straight, arms by her side, all her balance coming from her hips. We stared; she didn't mind, smiled and passed on.

Afterwards we noticed that all the traffic (and the woman) was heading in the same direction. Deciding that that was where the action must be, we set off. The whole scene was overwhelming. The road led on the town centre and morning market and it seemed as if the whole island was going there, and the sun hadn't yet risen. The traffic - people,

horse-drawn carts covered with bells, bicycles, motorcycles, the occasional large old American car, bemos, (the local equivalent of taxis), still more people, and everywhere children. Closer to town, the traffic became denser, and the air was blue with exhaust fumes. There seemed to be no definite road rules, everything and everyone used any available opening to head in their intended direction.

The small shops which lined the roadway spilled their contents on to its edges. We dodged in and out of the chaos of the street, and around piles of goods, fruit, mechanics and panel-beaters tinkering away, men lovingly polishing articles of newly-built furniture outside their shops, clothing, food stalls, everything. We kept walking slowly, taking it all in, through the open-air clothing and fruit market, and into the main street of the town. This was more conventionally laid out with footpaths and shopfronts (though not really like home) and kerbing to separate that unbelievable traffic from most of the pedestrians.

We walked on, down towards the morning market. Across the bridge; below us were people bathing, and some washing clothes, fruit and other articles; others were collecting gravel from the stream bed by squatting submerged in midstream, feeling the suitable stones and after standing again, placing them in a flat basket balanced on their heads. Around us walked women, some beautifully dressed as before, with their day's shopping or wares borne, unaided on their heads. Not only were they pleasing to look upon, but the size of some of the loads was staggering - for example, a hundredweight of chokoes in one basket, while another consisted of two bags of cement. (Admittedly, the bearers of such loads lost some of the graceful light trend of their contemporaries, but carry them on their heads they did).

The morning market was a colourful affair, the colour being definitely local. Narrow lanes around between tiny covered stalls selling every imaginable foodstuff, fresh or dried, alive or dead. A multitude of smalls of all descriptions. People crowding everywhere, walking, buying, selling, bargaining over purchases. Lots of smiles for us. We couldn't bring ourselves to buy anything, we didn't know what much of it was, nor could we prepare it, anyway. The fruit - I'll describe some of it later on, when it is time to talk about food, a favoured subject. The meat - pork, chicken, fish, - any way you want it, whole and alive, or dismembered. Every part of the beast is on sale, and flies are plentiful and free of charge. Perhaps a bunch of fowls? They are conveniently transported by simply tying one leg from each bird all together, with a loop of cord for a carrying handle. Our favourite was the pig transporter. This was crammed and the lid lashed on after him. The result can only be described as canned pig, we never believed that pigs could assume a cylindrical shape, but they did. A pair of beady eyes would wink at us from near one end, and in front of them would be a somewhat compressed wet pink snout. The parcel could be easily loaded into the rear of one of the means of local transport, and later we occasionally shared space with one in our movements about the island.

We left the market with reluctance, and found our way back along the route we had followed earlier, drinking in the whole bustling scene around us. It was certainly different.

..... Brian King

Keith McDonald's latest joke \*!+!!!

What is Green and Yellow and travels at 200 kilometres per hour???

Answer -

A Frog in a Vitamiser!

The Hon. Tom Newbery, M.L.A.,  
Minister for Culture, National Parks and  
Recreation,  
Comalco House,  
George Street,  
BRISBANE. Q. 4000.

Dear Mr. Newbery,

At the meeting of the Branch held  
at Tewantin on February 12th, 1979, the  
following motion was passed and I was  
directed to send this motion to you.

The motion reads "That this Branch  
compliments the Minister for National Parks  
and Wildlife Service on the excellent way  
in which the Service carries on its functions  
in controlling and maintaining National Parks.  
Further we ask that our commendation be made  
known, if this is possible, to the Staff of  
the Service, particularly the Staff in the  
field."

In discussing the motion members  
favourably contrasted the state of the  
"National Parks in Queensland with those  
in other States. This, it was felt,  
reflected great credit on your administration  
of the portfolio.

Yours faithfully,

R.J. MC Donough  
Secretary  
Tewantin/Noosa Branch  
National Party of  
Australia.




5th March, 1979

Dear Mr McDonough,

I refer to your recent letter on behalf of the Tewantin/Noosa Branch of the National Party advising the motion passed by your Members.

The comments of your Branch are certainly appreciated and I have passed on your kind words to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife so that he will be aware of your appreciation of the Parks and the excellent jobs his officers are doing.

Yours sincerely,



T.G. NEWBERY  
MINISTER FOR CULTURE,  
NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr R.J. McDonough,  
Secretary,  
Tewantin/Noosa Branch,  
National Party of Aust.- Qld,  
14 Jacana Street,  
PEREGIAN BEACH Q. 4573.

b.c.

Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service:

Forwarded for your information and passing onto the officers of the Services for their noting.

  
Acting Private Secretary

5th March, 1979

\* \* \*

### Acquisitions

We have recently acquired a block of land for \$1.00. It's an extension to the Green Mountains Camping Ground. Who said Acquisitions weren't earning their keep?

John Churchward

## THE LIBRARY HAS CHANGED

After three years of waiting, State Library has appointed a Librarian for the Service. She is Mrs. Denise Scorey formerly of the Co-Ordinator General's library. Some changes in procedures and policies may be expected but until further notice continue in the way Frances required. Some things of course won't change at all. When she returns from her overseas trip in July-August Denise hopes to be able to travel around and visit all Branch libraries, and to be able to catalogue and organize them. (Toowoomba out, Rockhampton and points north, also Warwick, Girraween and Carnarvon).

Frances Hrdina has been assisting Denise in the settling-in period and is in charge of the library in her absence. She however, is working towards going into full time interpretation. Brochure writing, doing park interpretive programmes over busy periods, Junior Rangers and all the other services you get from Peter, Bill, Brian, Fiona, Gordon and Ross. She promises that she will try to do better about saying she'll produce a brochure on a park and actually producing "a bird in hand" - but like many things it is only a promise. She is looking forward to seeing more of the parks and park staff - many of whom she has spoken to and corresponded with for several years.

If you come to Head Office Frances is still on the 6th floor and at the same desk, she'll be happy to see you.

\* \* \*

A father called his teenage daughter over to him, pointed to the \$142 telephone bill and said "Tell me again how you have difficulty in communication?"



### ENVIRONMENTAL PARKS:

A major development of the Mt. Zamia Environmental Park near Springsure has recently been started with the signing of an agreement between National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Bauhinia Shire Council, trustees of the park for the upgrading of the access road "Dendill Drive". This road was originally put in by voluntary labour and the local Council to give access to the geological formations which provide a spectacular backdrop to the town of Springsure. The character of the mountain-top is completely different from the surrounding country, and presents a dual opportunity to the Shire to create a tourist asset and to the Service to provide an area where locals and visitors can enjoy a direct experience of the natural environment close to a centre of population. The road winds across the undulating plateau behind "Virgin Rock", between barren dome-shaped hills and through the stunted heath vegetation. Provision of walking trails, picnic facilities and water will follow the roadworks, and it is hoped that the completion of the first stages will coincide with the centenary celebrations of the Shire.

### SOCIAL CLUB

On the 16th March, 1979 Barry Davies and Helen Sheekey arranged a Bushwackers Ball. It was held at Upper Brookfield Hall and has already been tagged the "Social Event of the Year".

Gossip also reveals that a good time was had by all - over 80 people - a record number. Even the 12 strong band got with it. Good for you "Bail-em-up Bush Band."

The admission of \$1.00 for members and \$1.50 for non-members included tea and damper.

Having wetted your appetite I have pleasure in advising that there will be another Bushwackers Ball on Friday 27th April, 1979 at Upper Brookfield Hall. Bring your friends.



# A recent Public Service Board decision -

An increase in the insurance cover for employees travelling by air on official duty has been approved, the revised scale is as follows:-

THE EVENTS	THE COMPENSATION
SECTION 1 - ACCIDENT	
A. BODILY INJURY, AS DEFINED, RESULTING IN -	
1. Death. . . . .	100,000
2. Total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in both eyes. . . . .	50,000
3. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of both hands or the whole of both feet or of the whole of one hand and the whole of one foot. . . . .	50,000
4. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of one hand or the whole of one foot together with the total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in one eye. . . . .	50,000
5. Total and irrecoverable loss of all sight in one eye. . . . .	25,000
6. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of one hand or the whole of the four fingers and thumb of one hand. . . . .	25,000
7. Total loss by physical severance of the whole of one foot. . . . .	25,000
8. Total disablement from engaging in or attending to usual profession, business or occupation. Payment to continue whilst the Insured is totally disabled and unable to engage in or attend to any profession, business or occupation. . . . .	\$250 per week not to exceed an aggregate period of 156 weeks in all in respect of single disablement.
9. Total and permanent disablement (other than disablement from loss of sight and/or physical severance of hands or feet) from engaging in or attending to any profession, business or occupation whatsoever. . . . .	
10. Total loss of the lens of one eye. . . . .	50,000
11. Total loss of four fingers. . . . .	12,500
12. Total loss of a thumb. . . . .	12,500
13. Total loss of index finger. . . . .	5,000
14. Total loss of middle finger. . . . .	3,750
15. Total loss of ring finger. . . . .	2,500
16. Total loss of little finger. . . . .	2,500
17. Total loss of all toes. . . . .	1,500
18. Total loss of great toe. . . . .	5,000
19. Other than great toe and if more than one lost, each toe. . . . .	1,500
20. Loss of hearing -	
• Both ears. . . . .	500
• One ear. . . . .	20,000
21. Medical, Hospital, Nursing, Dental and Ambulance expenses incurred as a result of an accident as defined herein and being only the excess of any such expenses recoverable under the Government Medibank Scheme or any Hospital, Medical or Ambulance or such like benefit or Contribution Scheme. . . . .	3,750
	1,000

Please be careful - remember the Service, we can't really afford this insurance.

\* \* \*

Behind every successful man is somebody who says he went to school with him.

A new voucher for travelling expenses, mileage claims etc. has been printed and distributed throughout the Service.

The changes in the form are as follows:-

- (1) A vote code column has been incorporated in all claim sections of the form;
- (2) The claimant's supervising officer's signature must appear on all claims. When the supervisor has the authority to approve the expenditure he may sign for the head of the branch. This will enable quick processing of the claim.

Voucher for Travelling Allowance, etc.  
including Motor Car Allowances;

National Parks and Wildlife Service

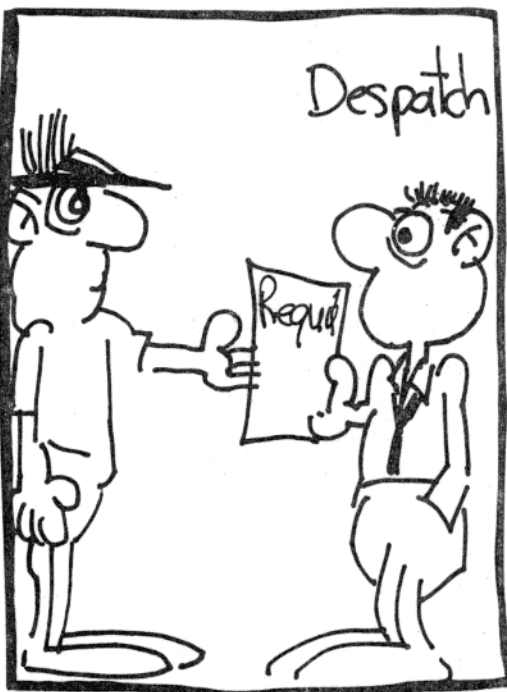
Dr. to J SMITH  
(BLOCK LETTERS)  
Postal Address PO BOX 84 M/BRO. 8  
(IN BANK) 4650  
Officers Headquarters GYMPIE

Voucher No.	
Pay Roll No.	Vote (in £, shillings)

Year	Mode of Travel	Left Headquarters	Returned to Headquarters	Centres Visited	Duty (commence to on which mileage)	Vote Code	Date	Time Allowed	No. of Miles	Total
1979	3	am	pm	am	pm					
4 CON 9-				NOOSA	INSPECT	0202002	28/1/79	1		28 44
5 CON				3-	PARK WORK	237	23/1/79	6		14 22
10 CON 9-				4- WOODGATE	INSPECT	0202002			1	2 35
					PARK WORK					

Officers claiming meal allowances and overnight travelling expenses under Public Service Regulations must complete certificates overleaf.	Sub Total	45 01
	Less Advance	
	Sub Total	45 01
Vehicle Allowance 200 km @ Rate 19.50 / KM	Vote Code	02/02/002 39 -
Postage & Phone (as per details attached)		
Office Rent		
Car Fares (show details on back)		
Incidentals (show details on back)		02/02/002 - 89
All certificates must be completed prior to claim being processed	Total	84 90

I certify that the duties and expenditure listed in this claim were necessary	I certify that this claim is correct	I approve the expenditure detailed in this claim from the votes listed
<u>X Brown</u> Supervising Officer	<u>J Smith</u> Signature of Claimant	<u>X Brown</u> Head of Branch
Verifications	Approved By a Competent Authority	Rate of Charge or Price Correct
Initials or Signature		Authentically Correct
I certify that such verifications as are necessary have been carried out to ensure that the claim is properly payable.		I certify that this expenditure has been incurred in compliance in all respects with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 or any other Act or law relating to that expenditure and that the sum of money set forth in the claim above is a lawful charge as indicated hereon and accordingly, I hereby authorize payment thereof.
Signature: _____		Accountant: _____
Date: / /		Date: / /



Please ensure that the form is fully completed with details of daily rates, period of absence, total claim for each trip, supervising officers signature and correct vote otherwise the claim may not be processed and may be returned to the claimant.

[illegible]

Incidentals			
Date	Particulars	Voucher Code	Amount
5/4/79	NOTE BOOK	0702002	- \$
Total:		\$	- \$

Approved Yearly Vehicle Allotment (from June - May) 6000 km

Total Official Kilometres incurred for year up to and including last claim 2000

Add present Monthly Official Kilometres 200

Total Official Kilometres to Date 2200 km

Centre NOOSA Date 4/3/79

Signature J. Smith.

(To be completed by officers who claim under Public Service Regulations)

I certify that this claim for Meal Allowances is in accordance with Regulation 79 (4) of "The Public Service Acts, and that I actually incurred the expense of -

- \* (1) ~~Unusually~~ Breakfast.
- \* (2) Having lunch at a place where Lunch was obtained
- \* (3) ~~Unusually~~ Dinner.

\* Strike out whichever does not apply.

Signature J. Smith

Signature ..... J. Smith

Letters to the Editor .....

Congratulations on pages 4 to 25 of your magazine.

Loved the cartoons and the gossip section on Head Office. Didn't realise you all had so much fun down there.

Just one comment - the first three pages I've read before.

Could your circular, memo etc. that has to be printed be within a sealed centre section clearly labelled. "To be opened only by Masochists".

Keep up the good work.

KEV BADE



The staff, here in the deep north, all appreciated the first issue and we trust the contents of this newsletter will continue to be both informative and amusing.

MARK WEAVER

Ed Power is wondering whether he is the 'Bisected Man', or should it be 'Trisected'.

Could it be elucidated whether it is to be Townsville, Davies Creek or Cairns.

It would seem that Julian Nott and Paul Minton are indeed persona non grata as they do not appear in the latest 'Ringtail' mug list .....

Sentiments of the Cairns Regional Office with apologies to the 'unknowing', whoever they may be .....

We, the Willing,  
Led by the Unknowing,  
Are doing the Impossible,  
For the Ungrateful.

We have done so much  
For so Long  
With so Little  
That we are now Qualified  
To do Anything with Nothing!

PURCHASE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT				REF. No. P/24
				DATE 13/3/79
REGION	PARK NAME	H.O. FILE REF	ACCOUNTS CODE	
Northern	Cairns		400-031	
SUPPLY TO Regional Office				
ADDRESS Moffatt Street - Cairns				
PER Ansett or T.A.A.				
IS PLANT ? (a) ADDITIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) REPLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/>				
PLANT BEING REPLACED NUMBER - Currently unavailable				
DESCRIPTION -				
PLANT DESCRIPTION Operator for current model Olympia 20" Typewriter and Adler Universal 200 Typewriter. Minimum specifications, 37" - 31" - 36", with amenable disposition and agreeable appearance, height - 5' 7" willing to learn particularly about wildlife.				
FUNCTION To operate a number of keys to produce typed correspondence and other duties as may be directed.				
NEED & PRIORITY Desperate.				
COST - About \$5200:00		STORES CLERK ONLY		
SUPPLIER - Prefer local supplier to overcome accommodation problems.				
DATE		DATE		
OTHER ITEMS OF SIMILAR PLANT ON HAND - Definitely none on hand				
REQUEST PREPARED BY Regional Office - Cairns		RMO SIGNATURE		
DATE 13/3/79				
H.O. USE ONLY				

\* \* \*

Agreement in principle is the politest form of disagreement.



### ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL RAVINGS

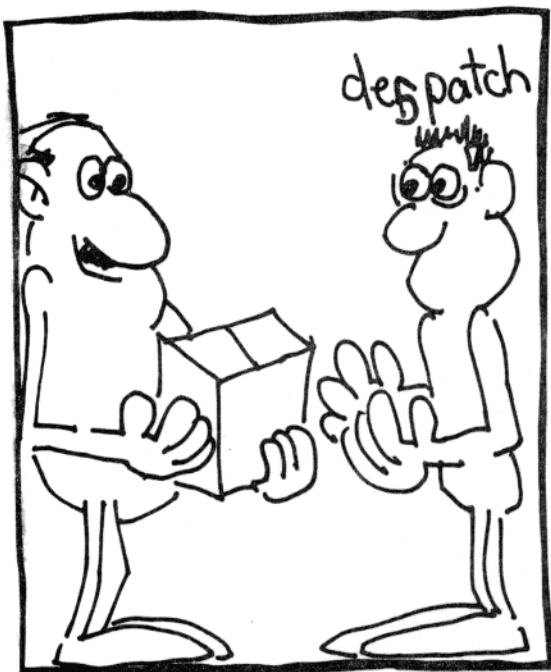
The event that has effected us most management wise recently was the big wet in the northern part of the region (Mackay/Eungella area).

I tried to phone Vernon Hansen at Eungella the other day but all I could get was a 'quacking' on the line (as distinct from a crackling). Checked with the exchange but they assured me that I had the park number and mumbled something about the weather getting to the blokes up there. This year they have already had 2231 ml of rain up to the 19th March. Just think that's higher than your office roof. Note: There is no truth in the rumour that the large quantities of building materials being ordered by Eungella are being used to build an ark. That would be taking conservation to the extreme.

The rain and wind has reshaped some of our rain forest areas. Many large trees are down across the tracks and a section of one of the tracks covered by a road subsidence.

Cape Hillsborough also got a bit of a battering with quite a few trees down.

Conway and the Islands didn't fare too badly.



I am pleased to say the locally designed and constructed pit toilets (Patents applied for) on Island camping areas stood the big blow. I guess they've become accustomed to big blows.

Incredible as it may seem Rockhampton and surrounding Parks only got about 100 ml of rain in the same period and Carnarvon has hardly had enough to make of cup of tea. (She's been a dry wet down here).

We brought our dearly loved management boat 'Fearwater' (sorry 'Shearwater') up the river last week and have it up on the slops undergoing a few repairs trying to keep it afloat for

another few months I trust there will not, one day, be an obituary in this magazine because of it.

Carnarvon, Miriam Vale area and Yeppoon/Keppel Island Parks are all running smoothly missing all the excitement of the northern sector.

The Capricorn/Bunker Parks I'm not sure of. Probably taken over by some foreign power or the like, it's been so long since we've been out there. Hope to get there shortly when our boat's back in the water. (Maybe a bit about the area in the next edition)

#### Staff Movements - Rockhampton

Michael Pyke - new man Eungella (replaces Col Gordon who transferred to Miriam Vale).

Wayne Osborne - new man Carnarvon (replaces Mal Stewart who left us to join the army).

Kevin Bade  
Regional Superintendent.

\* \* \*

Here are some thoughts on content for future issues.

- Listing of new park gazettals and proposals
- Reports on the operations and activities of sections - M & O: developments at parks. etc.

Technical Services Section: publications etc.

Research and Planning: observations, survey areas, park proposals.

Administration: procedures etc.

Fauna and Flora Notes: on species, discoveries, explanations, survey reports, Fauna lists for habitat regions and national parks.

Job vacancies within the Service.

Observations by N.P.W.S. staff in all sections. Field staff could give details of events within the Parks e.g. animal - plant sightings, events with visitors of interest.

Very pleased to see publication of "Ringtail" Hoping it will keep all of us "out in the field" in the known about National Parks and Wildlife Service operations.

Gil Field  
Overseer Natural Bridge

First let me congratulate you on your edition of "Ringtail". We thought for the first edition it was good. When more information is received from other centres etc. it should be very popular.



We have always been interested in what has been happening in the Service and progress made. But unfortunately of date information has been nil. We thought you were all dead. Never the less thank God you are all well and alive.

In your section of get to know your neighbour, it seems I have a problem of two workman called Ted Baxter and Ted Hansford. There christain names all Thomas Gavin Baxter whom I will call Gavin, Eward I. Hansford who I will call Ned to save confusion they seem to like it, so I will leave it at that.

Also in your section do you know. Do you know

that Joalah National Park has been pregnant for some time and she has increased in size to 36 ha. Baby due very shortly. Let you know when it arrives.

I notice in your column you have formed a social club and that you have outings from time to time, should you decide on a Golfing day let me know I could book you into our Country Club for the day. They provide excellent catering and reasonable eater. The course itself is very good for beginners. We would like to see you anytime.

Through your column I would like to say hello to Nev Abbey of Mt. Elliot who I met at our Seminar at Binna Burra a few years ago, seems there are a few photographs around of the event maybe they could be published in the next edition. "Anyhow Nev, hope things are going well with you. Look forward to seeing you at the next one, have a few stories to swap".

Have nothing to add to your next addition. Maybe something exciting will happen. Then I will be happy to report to you.

Best wishes,

J. Johnston

\* \* \*

Reliably reported from the country .....  
On Good Friday, Ray Troyahn was entertaining visitors at Girraween National Park when someone mentioned the time - 12 noon. Ray immediately jumped up and said "well, that's it! I'm off!" He disappeared down the road for about 5 kilometres before he remembered he wasn't at work! Very embarrassed over the whole incident.



Here at Natural Bridge National Park the old superseded outdoor toilet has been converted into a cage by knocking out one wall and parts of others and covering them with wire. Hence we have quite a formidable cage in which to care for and observe injured fauna.

In the two and one half years that we have been here we have tended a crow, a pademelon, a kestrell, a wedge-tailed eagle, a scrub turkey, a kookaburra, a brown tree snake and a crested pigeon. At present we have a Little Eastern Mastiff Bat - a magnificent creature that we feed moths and cockroaches.

The bat lives in a bucket with a towel and water bottle in our bedroom. Linda calls him "snuggles" because of his affection for warm places and body contact. We're sure this is what has kept him alive as apparently this species lives in colonies where they huddle together during the day. We don't know whether "snuggles" will return to the wild as he's quite content with us at present and rarely flies, and then not far. He is an excellent scurrier though. We would prefer that the bat would fend for himself but would like his home to be with us so we can continue to observe him, particularly if his taste for cockroaches increases and he captures his own!



Our observations of the wedge-tailed eagle are worth noting. She was given to us after being shot by some fool and initially tended by David Fleay. Unlikely that "Jim the Eagle" (after Spike Milligan's "Bad Jelly the Witch") would ever fly again, we placed her in the ol' loo cage on a solid perch and fed her meat and road kills - wallabies, birds and bandicoots - which she adeptly ripped the stomach from, later to selectively strip the meat.

Later we moved "Him" out of the cage into a surrounding compound of wire. Jim's desire to be free outweighed the comforts of home and she escaped a number of times, ultimately evading capture by hiding in lantana rather than give herself away as in the past by thrashing around. Under cover of darkness she moved on never to be seen again. She used to be so indignant when captured, by means of a strap that was on one leg. Eagles have an incredible sense of pride, needless to say. On one occasion she grabbed my arm with her talon and it took Linda and I to prize each toe off individually so I could wriggle my forearm free.

We doubt if Jim could have lived for long not being able to fly and with dingoes in the area. We reconcile ourselves in the lesson that FREEDOM is an essential element in a wild animal of the calibre of an eagle. We respect Jim for her decision even if we lament it.

May I end on the note that most of our efforts have ended in Failure, but the few successes are a real joy and the close contact we have had with our unique wildlife have been most rewarding and enlightening experiences about the animals and ourselves.

GIL FIELD

OVERSEER NATURAL BRIDGE

\* \*

The Service record "Nature Songs" lyrics by Brian Mackness, was launched on Tuesday 27th March by the Honourable T.G. Newbery, M.L.A., Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation

THE CARNARVONS AT EASTER - by an eye witness

Did you ever dream of idyllic walks among groves of macrazamias and cabbage tree palms, skipping across stoney creeks bubbling with cold mountain water, staring at ancient aboriginal art on timeless rocks and spending your nights peacefully camped between the tall trees of a spacious campground? Got a couple of spare days at Easter?

Do what 1,400 other people did! Go to the Carnarvons. Enjoy the peace and solitude of a tent squeezed between the confusion of guy ropes of other peoples tents and the thrill of standing in a half hour queue to use the conveniences. Walk the paths leading through the prehistoric palms but take care to avoid the coke cans and the remnants of somebody else's lunch.

Stand back and marvel at the mysteries of the sacred aboriginal art. Stand back to let somebody's child test if the ochre will rub off while the caring parent drops another cigarette butt into the leaf litter beside the kleenex.

The quiet restfulness of an overcrowded campground awaits your tired body after a hard day's hiking. Up in the trees the possums get out their earplugs with the setting sun as the soft blare of transistors and the calm din of a drunken party next door force you to do the same. Roundabout eleven o'clock Rangeris exhausticus will be seen wandering around the happy campfires.

If you are 'lucky' to be awake at 2 am you'll probably observe Rollestonious policeus escorting Drunkus obnoxious from the campground after its repeated warning calls.

Where else could one be so fortunate to find such a fauna spotter's paradise. I have got a couple of suggestions.



Anyway, in honour of the experience of Carnatvon  
at Easter, I've written you a little poem called -

'The Ranger's Dream'

Oh! to be a ranger on a national park  
To walk amongst the litter  
And hear the doggies bark  
The joys of well used toilets  
When campers toe the mark  
Who wants to be a ranger on a national park.

Oh! to be a ranger on a national park  
To hear the midnight twitter  
Of a drunken campfire lark  
Whose fire is so carefully built  
There's bushfires from its spark  
Who wants to be a ranger on a national park.

Oh! to be a ranger on a national park  
To see the children rubbing  
Off the aborigines art  
To witness the grand spectacle  
Of palm trees torn stark  
Who wants to be a ranger on a national park.

Oh! to be a ranger on a national park  
To poison camper's water  
And denude them of their bark  
To grab their grubby children  
And scare them in the dark  
That's when I'd be a ranger on a national park.

Dedicated to the dedication of Bill Morely and  
his hard working staff at Carnarvon National  
Park who spent long days and sleepless nights  
in efficiently organizing the chaos.

(Honest! We really didn't mean the last stanza).

Warren Oxnam



### CRICKET MATCH

(and the term is used loosely!)

DAY: Sunday  
DATE: 1st April, 1979 (when else!)  
TIME: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
PLACE: Gregory Tce., Playing Fields,  
Tennyson.  
TEAMS: Lavarack's XI (Yeerongpilly) Vs.  
Ogilvie's XI (Head Office).  
WEATHER: Fine, hot approx. 28.52°C.  
REPORTER: Slasher McTaggart

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All week preceeding the match, the tensions were obviously high, (no one said a word), this was to be a grudge match of the highest order.

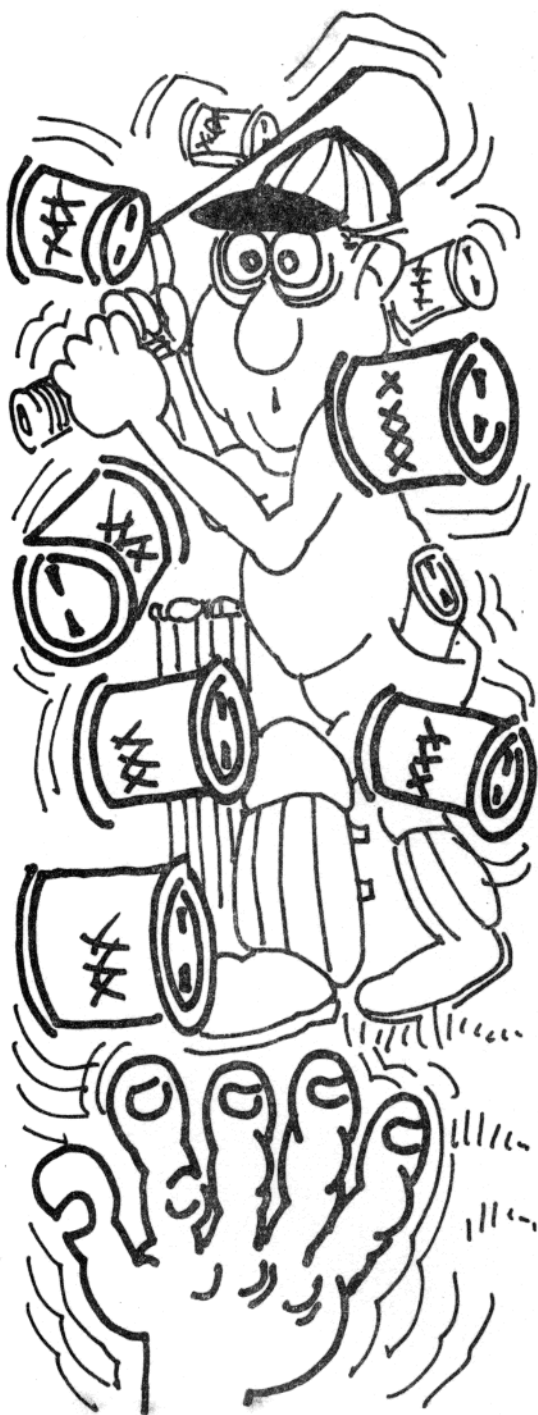
The day arrived, fine and hot. The competitors and families arrived also! After much discussion about teams and the occasional popping of cans, the toss was made. A call of heads from Ogilvie, and heads it was. Head Office had won the toss and decided to bat. (Oh boy, what a decision !!!)

After another can or two, the game commenced. Bob McTaggart and Rob Seymour made their way to the wicket, a rather hard dry strip, very bouncy. (The wicket that is!)

With some brilliant new ball, swing bowling by Bill Lavarack, in which the openers were masterful with parry, counter, deflect, stall and block. However Head Office had tumbled to 2 for 4 runs, a poor start and looking in desperate trouble.

Then to the wicket strode Ogilvie (Peter not David) and with partner Bob Spiers moved the score along before Bob was also back in the pavilion. (Well, under the beach umbrellas.)

With help from John Tozer, Joe Minehan, Barry Davies, Brian King and Neil Mee the Head Office team made a very impressionable



102, Peter Ogilvie top scoring on 53 retired, a sound, hard hitting innings.

The main wicket takers for Yeerongpilly were Bill Lavarack, Gary Rees and Peter Hensler. All bowlers had a go with probably Jim McEvoy having most trouble putting the ball on the wicket. (not wickets)!

Lunch was then taken and after much feasting and drinking, Yeerongpilly opened their innings, chasing this formidible total of 102.

Opening pair of Adrian Borsboom and Bill Whiteman had a sound partnership compiling about 20 before Bill decided it was time to return to the pavilion. Bill Lavarack then came to the wicket.

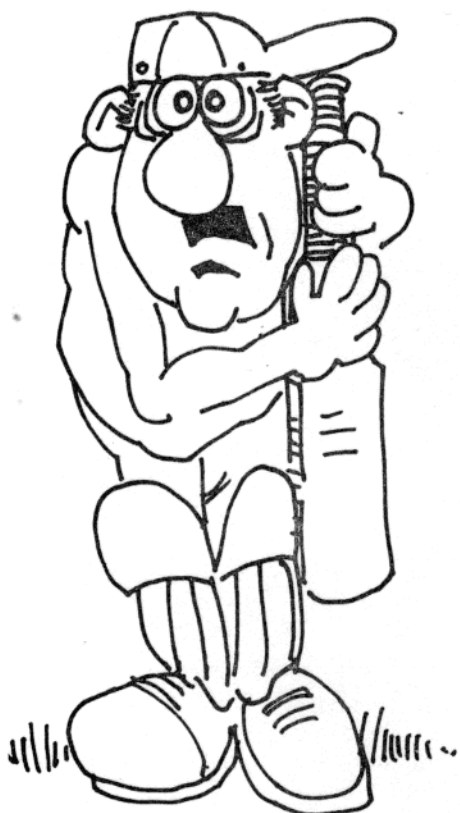
Wickets seem to fall constantly around Bill but this did not deny him from hitting a powerful and exciting 52 not out.

Yeerongpilly finally passed the Head Office total with 1 batsmen left to go. Without the help of Jim McEvoy (a much better batsman than bowler), Peter Hensler, Gary Rees, Peter Amos and the rest of the team, Bill's score, and the total, would not have been so gigantic.

Head Office bowling honours were evenly shared with Peter Ogilvie, Bob McTaggart, Rob Seymour, John Tozer and Joe Minehan the most successful. Neil Mee bowled a good line and length for 3 overs but failed to capture a wicket. Better luck next time Neil.

The two batsmen and captains, Bill Lavarack and Peter Ogilvie, led the excitement for the day but no doubt the fielding highlight of the day was a one handed diving catch at mid-off by Joe Minehan. This catch will be remembered for a long time to come, Rob Seymour bowled a good ball outside off-stump,

It's my bat, and  
I'm not playing  
unless I win.



Adrian Borsboom smashed a drive back past the bowler for what seemed a certain four. Then at the last moment in almost a Russian gymnastic fashion, Joe dived to his right and snapped up a one handed scorcher.

RESULT: HEAD OFFICE 102  
YEERONGPILLY 103  
(with one batsman to go)

The day was a total success with all players and families enjoying themselves to the full.

NEXT DAY: Monday at work was not as enjoyable as Sunday. Very stiff bodied figures were seen walking corridors at Head Office and Yeerongpilly.

At the next match more crowd participation would be welcomed by both batsmen and bowlers. A great day can be assured.

Congratulations must go to all who were involved in the day in particular to Bill Lavarack for his organisation and supply of 'equipment'.

STOP PRESS: Head Office have challenged Yeerongpilly to a rematch. Date to be arranged.

SOCIAL CRICKETER

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Deadline for next edition 31st May, 1979. Thanks for your articles, your brickbats, your bouquets. The response has been simply great, I have a big appetite - hungry for news, you wouldn't like to see me starve and I for one don't mind putting on weight. I hope you like this edition - thanks for having me around.

'RINGTAIL'

