



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

# Ringtail

March 1980

## Editorial

Ringtail was born during February 1979, and having recently celebrated its first birthday, is growing larger and more professional with each issue.

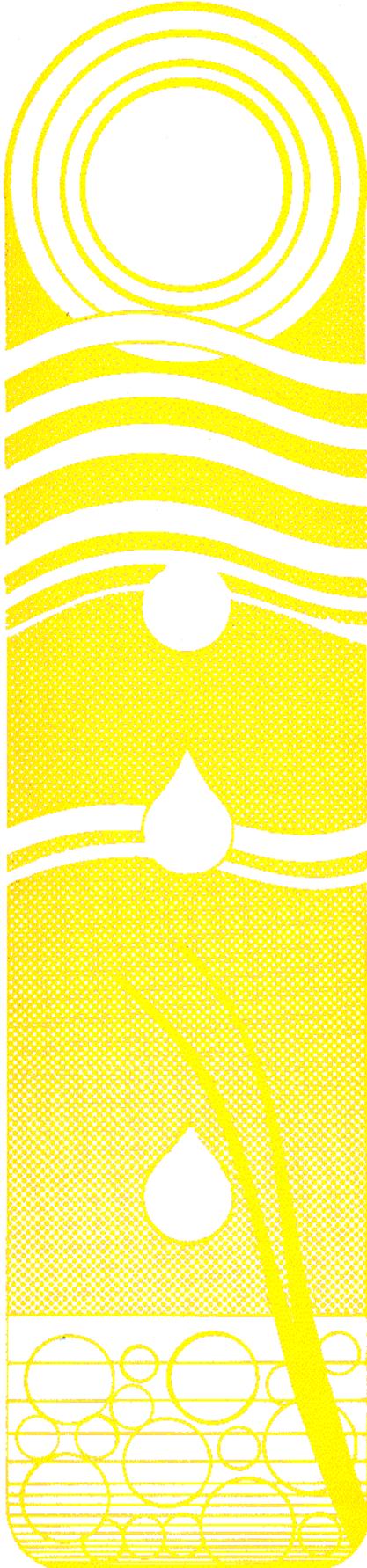
I am extremely proud that the idea to create Ringtail originated in the Administration Branch and has since provided a vehicle for each of us to tell the Service what we do or what our problems are.

In a Service which has spread rapidly across our vast State, I foresee that Ringtail will continue to play an increasingly important role in communication.

On occasions when I am able to visit our regional centres, I am amazed at the progress which the Service is making in all directions and I am convinced the Service has a most important role to play in the future of Queensland.

I do hope you will all continue to support Ringtail and thus allow it to grow with the Service.

Secretary



BIRD HO.

Some people go crazy on birds - they can spend hours and hours outdoors - armed with bird books and binoculars stalking BIRDS. You come across them on tracks, roadsides, paddling in creeks, treading slowly, carefully and methodically, pursuing those ever-elusive bundles of feathers. Sitting by the side of a dam or lake, or frozen immobile like a tree trunk in the bush - our friend the 'birdo'. What makes people go like that? When there are so many interesting things to do - like watching tellie, playing disco tapes, having a burn up the road, booing footballers, and throwing beer cans at cricketers. Dunno.

I was never much on birds myself. Every time I try to have a look at one, the dam thing flies away or goes and hides in a leafier part of the tree. All so frustrating.

A little old lady came into the office one day. Just by the tremendous look of expectation on her face, I knew I was sunk, even before she spoke. "Now", she said, "YOU would know all the birds around here". "Well, not exactly M'am, but perhaps I might be able to help".

"I saw a bird down the track today. It was this long and it had red and white wings and a pink face. What would it be?"

"Are you sure it had red and white wings and a pink face?"

"Oh yes".

"What sort of beak did it have?"

"Oh, I don't know that".

"Did it make a call, or any sound at all?"

"No."

"How high up in the tree was it?"

"Oh a good way up. Of course, I only saw it for a fraction".

"Was it a parrot of some sort?"

"No, it wasn't a parrot".

"Oh well, that narrows the field down a bit".

"Did you take any notes on it at the time?"

"No."

"Hmm. Well, I couldn't say for sure just off hand what it could be, but we have some bird books here, would you like to have a look through them, to see if you can spot something?"

"Oh yes, I'm sure I would recognise if I saw it".

All the books out and in action. Twenty minutes later all books closed.

"Well, how did you go?"

"There are a few birds here that looked like it, but I'm not sure".

"Oh, well, you might see it again before you leave. If you do, take a real good look and pop in and let's know."

"Yes, I will. Thank you".

Exit little old lady.

What do you do with bird people?

I think that the trouble is that lots of birds just aren't big enough. People can't see them real good - they always seem to be hiding in the tree tops or blady grass or something, and so you get all this confusion about size and colours and that. Maybe we need some sort of action group

like "Society for Growing Bigger Weebills" or something. To try and get bigger little birds, and so help to cut down on a lot of confusion in identity. Anyway, it's a thought.

You know some people try to tell you that birds are descended from flying reptiles. Can you imagine now, something like a lovely little Fairy Wren having such frightful looking ancestors like you see in some of those old books? Some people would tell you anything. Come to think of it now, there is a bird that might be descended from some of those sharp-fanged monsters. The more I think of it, the more I'm convinced. For sure. And that's got to be the Pied Currawong. If ever a bird was evolutionised from a flying lizard, its a Pied Currawong.

They say that crows are cunning. Maybe. But they are only bumbling amateurs compared with the currawong. We have stacks of 'em out here, and if you live more than five miles from Albert Street you probably have stacks too. We have people out here - campers - who buy loaves of bread to feed to these 'poor birdies'. Poor birdies my foot. I'll tell you something about currawongs.

I was up at a Park on Springbrook mountain one time - and near the barracks were a few Hoop Pine trees someone had planted years before. I knocked the tops out of them so that they wouldn't grow up too big and fall on us while we were having a camp of a night, and kept 'em pruned up good. They got real thick, and little birds used them to build their nests in and lay eggs and that. The prickly thick-ness kept all the big birds away - except one.

One year, close to Christmas, a pair of Red-Browed Finches (that's the fancy name - we just called 'em Red Snips) got together, built a nest in one hoop, laid some eggs, and came up with three young ones. Now there was a 3-wire boundary fence only a few yards away from these hoops, and while all this family business was going on, ole Evil-Eye as I called him (Pied Currawong to all respectable Birdos) would come along at least once each day, perch on the fence post, and had a good look at all the goings on, and made no attempt to interfere.

Each day the little ones got bigger, and each day ole Evil-Eye would turn up. Then, just before I reckoned they were due to take flying lessons, all three disappeared without a trace. Currawong tucker. For a couple of days Mum and Dad Red Snip didn't know what to do. Then, it was hove-to and full speed ahead and another nest and more littlies - in the same tree. And once more ole Evil-Eye returned for the feast. And a third time it happened. So you know why the currawong isn't exactly my favourite pin-up bundle of feathers. And I can tell you other things about them currawongs too.

There's a place up on that same mountain called Purlingbrook picnic area. And the place was alive with 'em. They had all the other birds struggling for their very existance. A couple of Pee-wees nested there regularly each year, but never got a young one out. Good currawong tucker. As far as I know, those Pee-wees finally gave it away, and flew off to hopefully better pastures. There were 8 or 9 magpies around at the

time, and I thought that magpies could look after themselves pretty well, but they were hopelessly outnumbered, and run into the ground. They did manage to breed reasonably well though. Strangely enough the Mickey birds (oops noisy Minors) did O.K. and bred and survived quite well.

The Kookaburra used to get a lacing though. The curras never gave 'em a rest. A Kooka would dive on to the ground and dig out a beaut grub - then be immediately surrounded by a dozen curras. They wouldn't allow him to even swallow his meal. They worked in together in a pre-arranged plan, and then when poor Kooka couldn't think clearly and didn't know what to do, one currawong would take the grub out of his mouth, Then, and only then, would Kooka get a bit of peace. So I guess that's something - to enjoy your empty tummy in peace.

Years later, way out here in the sticks at Carnarvon, a young lady came into the office and asked if anyone had handed in the top of a set of bikinis. After I picked my glasses off the floor, I said, "No, nobody has handed in a bikini top. Where did you leave it?"

"Oh, on the clothes line at our camp, and when we returned from our walk, it was gone."

"Was it pegged to the clothes line?"

"No, just hung on it."

"Well," I said, "A Currawong has taken it".

"A Currawong, What's that?"

"It's a fairly large black and white bird with yellow eyes."

"And why should a currawong take my bikini top?"

"Well, I'm not too sure lady, but this time of year they get around in flocks after having reared their young, and, having no real worries till next breeding season, get into all sorts of mischief, and sometimes fly off with things that don't belong to them. It's probably dangling off a tree or shrub somewhere in the bush within a few hundred yards of your camp."

Exit one puzzled young lady.

Come to think of it now, perhaps there is something good to be said about the currawong. After all the bird did show a certain amount of respect and consideration for the lady - it only took the TOP part.

A guy came in not so long ago for the lend of a silicon sealer gun. He was camping in a caravan, and having a great time feeding the curras in between walks. They would have a feed and then have a whale of a time on top of his van. Thought this was great, till he realised that they were getting stuck into the sealer on the van - jolly good tucker - hence the request for the sealer gun. I don't think that he fed those birds after that.

I was telling another guy in the office one day about currawongs. He left with a "I know-it-all" smile. Unbeliever. Two days later he called back.

" I know what you are talking about now," he said. "I watched a group of currawongs knock hell out of some rainbow lorrikees today, and I came in to tell you that I won't be feeding any currawongs again."

Friends for life.

Now I don't like telling anyone this, but one Sunday - it was my day off - I was having a quiet little spine-bash on the bed after lunch (recommended), when I heard a really beautiful bird call. Short, very soft, and very musical - an unfamiliar little song. What lovely little bird was singing this? Just couldn't place it. Up on the size tens very quietly, binoculars were strangely handy, but didn't need them. Saw through the luvres without going outside the songster, perched on the verandah handrail. Impossible - this can't be right - but it was. A blasted CURRAWONG.

I'll never make a birdo!  
Never, Ever .....?

Now sir, you say that after you came back from your walk you saw a fairly large black and white bird fluttering around inside of your kombi van. And after you chased it out you found that something had been eating your block of butter, and a lot of the wrapping had been torn off the loaf of bread that you had bought that morning, and the sugar bowl had been overturned and all the sugar spilt on the floor, and .....

No sir, all bird life is totally protected in Queensland's National Parks.

Bill Morley  
Carnarvon National  
Park.

They say variety is the spice of life - we all know that Bill Whiteman enjoys the mountain air of Binna Burra; well recently Bill joined the Sahara Club, not the sand dunes of Moreton Island but the sand bars of Moreton Bay; an old seadog told me that he enjoyed it so much he stayed on for a three hour session.

## Exchange Duties

When it was my turn to write the editorial several issues ago, I devoted my space to asking you to use "Ringtail" to communicate with each other.

Certainly the Service magazine is one vehicle for communication. Another type of communication which has recently been canvassed at staff meetings, is the concept of inter-branch/section exchange of field staff.

Does the park overseer know what the researcher does? Does the interpretive officer know what a park ranger does? When an organisation is chronically short of staff as we always are, it is inconvenient and burdensome to those left behind, to lose a person on exchange, and it is all too easy to put the idea off.

Nevertheless the Director is willing to allow a trial to be made, and has asked me to get a list of those willing to do a stint on exchange duties. I've chosen to do it this way, if for no other reason than to see if many people read "Ringtail"!

## Ground Rules

1. The minimum time will be 4 working weeks, and maximum time 3 months.
2. There is no guarantee that your application will be successful - your Branch Director/Section head must agree and in doing so he will take account of interference with Branch/Section functioning.

Catch 22

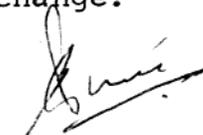
3. You will, while on exchange, be in the control of the local officer in charge as if you were permanently assigned to him.
4. Apply through your Branch/Section head quoting file No. 473/1 (Wages staff exchange duties) and state your preference for posting and why you desire to be considered. An application which says "I'd like to go to Girraween because I've heard they get snow there and I'd like to have a go at skiing" would be less likely to succeed than, "I'd like to be posted to Hermitage Research Station because I want to improve my knowledge of what happens in fauna research in general and the techniques of animal population monitoring in particular".
5. Applications received up to 30th April will be considered in this initial trial. At that time the Branch/Section heads will meet with the Secretary and me and we will draw up a recommended list for the Director's consideration. It is likely that the trials will be spread over a period of several months.
6. The trial is initially limited to (Wages) Overseer Ranger staff across the Service and will be inter (not intra) Branch/Section.

Details of transfer arrangements will be advised when the final postings are determined.

6.

You will, if selected be expected to provide a general report to the Director within a month after the exchange period covering such things as the work performed and your impressions.

The success of the trial - which means the Director's measure of the professional benefit the exchanges have given to you and the Service - depends on the effort you put in while on exchange.

  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The University of Queensland is interested in locating camps of the little red flying fox Pteropus scapulatus in south-east Queensland for a project on parasitology.

Can any field staff with such information please contact Dr. D. Moorehouse, Department of Parasitology, University of Queensland, St. Lucia,

OR

Dr. G. Gordon, N.P.W.S. Brisbane, phone 485151

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"When I was a boy," reminisced a famous lawyer, "my highest ambition was to be a pirate".

"That so?" said his client.  
"Congratulations".

## RESEARCH & PLANNING BRANCH

In this issue of Ringtail, I have given a simplified resume of the current Research and Planning Branch project aimed at establishing the relationship between Eucalypt open forest woodland and deer in Queensland.

The study is being conducted over the long term by Mr. Tony Searle, Senior Ranger, under the supervision of Dr. T.H. Kirkpatrick, the Research and Planning Branch's Chief Research Officer and Mr. J. S. McEvoy, Officer in Charge of the Management Research Section of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This coverage gives an outline of the history of introduction of deer to Queensland, their fate since, studies completed to date with emphasis on techniques, possible legislative amendments and some tentative management considerations.

Among the many species of exotic animals released in Queensland following European settlement, four species of deer (family Cervidae) have been established successfully: the fallow deer Dama dama, the axis or chital deer Axis axis, the red deer Cervus

elaphus, and the rusa deer Cervus timoriensis.

An initial consignment of three male and seven female fallow deer, despatched to the Acclimatization Society of Queensland by J. Bisdee of Hobart, arrived in Brisbane on the vessel "Cawarra" on 17th February, 1865. These were held at Bowen Park, Brisbane, for several years. By 1869 the deer were breeding well in captivity. Details of all fallow deer released are obscure, but by 1879 several groups from Bowen Park had been liberated on the Darling Downs at "Maryvale", and at Westbrook; in 1873 these were reported to be established. From the "Maryvale" release point, five miles west of Cunningham's Gap, fallow deer spread north as far as Spring Creek and south to Killarney, west to Allora and east over the Great Dividing Range. Farmers within this area in the 1930-1940 period reported groups of 20-30 fallow deer feeding on cultivation, and it appears that they were regularly shot until the 1950s; since then little has been seen or heard of them.

Others also were liberated on the main range near Toowoomba. Sightings of the species were reported from the Heifer Creek area during the 1930s. Six released on "Canning Downs" near Warwick in 1872 were a nuisance to crops and were exterminated. About 1890, a number of bucks and hinds were brought from Tenterfield, New South Wales, by Mr. C.F. White of "Pikedale", near Stanthorpe, and released on that property.

The second deer species to be introduced by the Acclimatization Society was the Javan spotted deer, now referred to as the axis deer, imported from Batavia in 1867. During 1872, five of these were released on Mr. A. Weinholt's property, "Maryvale", on the Darling Downs in south-eastern Queensland. Reports indicate that progeny of these deer were observed during one of the voyages of the steamship "Quetta", the master, Captain Jarvis E. Withers, was given an axis deer in Ceylon. On arrival at Townsville in August 1886 this hind was given to Mr. William Hann, the owner of another "Maryvale", this one north of Charters Towers. A few years later Mr. Hann imported a buck

and a hind and, later, another buck. These and their progeny eventually were released.

The red deer was the third species to be introduced. The first consignment of two stags and four hinds from the Windsor Park herd in England was a gift from Queen Victoria to the Acclimatization Society of Queensland; these arrived in Brisbane on the vessel "Great Queenslander" in early September 1873. On 23 September these animals were released near Scrub Creek on "Cressbrook" in the Brisbane River Valley. A second consignment of six deer from the Duke of Richmond's estate in England was imported by the Acclimatization Society. On 2 June, 1874 when it was apparent that the original releases were thriving in the nearby ranges, these animals were released at the same locality. The Conondale Range area and "Maryvale" Station near Warwick were two subsequent release points of red deer, the latter in the 1890s. The release at "Maryvale" Station near Warwick proved unsuccessful although for some 50 years occasional red deer were recorded; more recently, there has been no substantiated report.

It is interesting to note that the red deer from "Maryvale" Station had reached as far north as the Mistake Mountains, Liverpool Range and east of Spicers Gap; there have been sightings in the Killarney district but there has been no report for many years from that area.

The fourth species, the rusa deer, was introduced in 1912 when Mr. R.A.C. Hockings of Thursday Island released the species on Friday Island. These animals thrived and some years later were found on the nearby and much larger Prince of Wales Island. About 1914 some were transferred to Possession Island, still in Torres Strait.

The first legislation in Queensland relating to fauna protection was that enacted in 1863 to provide for the protection of imported game. The first schedule included pheasants, partridges, grouse, hares, antelope and deer. The last are still classified as protected fauna under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-76 and they may currently only be destroyed as pests on issuance of special permits by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In recent years, attention has been directed towards

these introduced animals for various reasons, including through incidents of crop damage, forestry disturbance, disease and parasite propagation, illegal shooting, requests for open hunting seasons, and, more recently, through attempts to commercially farm deer for venison production.

Prior to the establishment of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1975, these interests dictated that some attention should be given particularly to the distribution of deer in Queensland. The results of Mr. C.R.R. Roff, then in the Department of Agriculture and Stock, were outlined in a 1960 publication.

To provide more recent knowledge not only of distribution but of other ecological and biological behaviour, a long-term project was instituted in 1974 and has continued under the aegis of this Service. The project is conducted as part of the management research programme that seeks to define the tolerances of natural ecosystems to all introduced forms of disturbance; in this instance the project is

more specifically prescribed, that is to one of a scientific appreciation of the extent to which eucalypt open forests and woodlands are utilized by four deer species that have an unusual wildlife position. That is, that the dominant attitude in the rural community to these introduced animals is one of tolerance of species that sometimes can be a nuisance but with the redeeming features of being aesthetically attractive and recreationally interesting.

Most field travel and observations are conducted using four-wheel drive vehicles; occasionally horses are used. These allow quiet traversing of difficult terrain.

Results of present distribution studies indicate that the liberations of fallow deer at "Maryvale", "Westbrook" and the Toowoomba ranges were ultimately unsuccessful.

Presently, surveys reveal that fallow deer are only to be found in the Stanthorpe region of the State, with the Severn River as the southernmost, Herries Range as the northernmost extremity, Glen Lyon Dam the westernmost, the Amiens township the easternmost limit of

distribution.

Axis deer are found in two regions, these being at an original release point "Maryvale" Station near Charters Towers and the other at Rita Island at the mouth of the Burdekin River near Ayr. This latter distribution is the result of more recent introductions in the 1950s. On 8 May 1956 an axis stag was shot on "Russleigh" Station via Isisford, a locality about 600 kilometres south-west of "Maryvale". No explanation can be offered for this.

The "Cressbrook" and Conondale Range releases of red deer have provided the present-day herds which now extend at least from the Woolooga area in the north, Buaraba Creek in the south, Maidenwell township in the west, and Mapleton in the east.

Present distribution would indicate a stable situation with perhaps a minor movement northwards. The red deer range today is reasonably isolated, totally surrounded by agriculture; further extension of this range is unlikely or at the most this will be extremely slow.

Rusa deer are presently to be found on a number of islands in Torres Strait; these include Friday Island, Prince of Wales Island, Entrance Island and Possession Island, as Roff reported in 1960. Reports that rusa deer are on the mainland of Cape York have not been confirmed.

These broad surveys have given rise to more detailed investigations of the red and the fallow deer in southern Queensland. Initially, this has involved a study of the habitat preference and the relative abundance of the two species within their ranges. Results show that the fallow deer clearly prefer an open forest habitat with a shrub under-story; the area between the Severn River and Pikes Creek is a typical example of this. Additionally, fallow deer need access to cultivation or improved pastures during the dry winter period. This need for access to cultivation during winter, and the decrease in such cultivation in the Warwick district since the 1930s may explain the decline in numbers of fallow deer in this area. In districts where land clearing has occurred, fallow deer tend to congregate along timbered water-

courses, the only areas still offering suitable shelter.

Fallow deer thus have increased their range slightly in the last 20 years, with seasonal conditions influencing this distribution markedly. Kirkpatrick and Searle, in a published Stanthorpe Shire fauna survey, rated the fallow deer as common in that survey area.

Red deer are currently found in largest numbers in areas where cleared grassy slopes, open forest and closed (rain) forest are associated. Areas of habitat disturbance, for example forestry logging in the open forest/rain forest margins, are preferred. When these areas stabilise they are less commonly inhabited by red deer. Ring-barked areas that have regenerated also are attractive to red deer. The distribution of the species has increased in a north-easterly direction in the last 20 years, and a minor spread southwards has occurred over the same period. McEvoy, Searle and McDonald in the recently-completed Kilcoy Shire Fauna Survey rated red deer as common in that survey area.

Both the red and the fallow deer are currently under investigation for aspects of the life history for an understanding of the population dynamics of both species.

In the course of life history investigations, captive animals are required. Appropriate capture and restraint techniques applicable to both adult and juvenile animals have necessarily been developed.

Four adult capture techniques have been developed. The use of the "Capchur" dart gun using the anaesthetic "Rompun", a technique requiring considerable experience and skill, has to date met with little success. A second technique involves the use of large transportable mesh-box traps, baited with grain and triggered by the entering animal. A third technique involves the construction of substantial yard-traps in areas of high deer density. These latter two techniques are dependent on suitable seasonal conditions, that is dry winter when the sown pasture within the traps induces animals to enter. Such conditions have not prevailed during the

present period of use of these two techniques. On the other hand, the fourth technique has proved relatively successful. This has involved the driving of deer into pre-set, loose nets causing enmeshing and consequent bodily restraint. A fallow deer yard colony at Hermitage Research Station has resulted from this technique; the colony presently numbers approximately 15 animals.

A method of capturing juvenile animals has been developed. Once located, usually lying motionless in long dense grass by day, a large hand-held net is dropped over an animal. This technique has proved particularly suitable; the present red deer yard colony also at Hermitage has been established in this way. The capture of animals still dependent on the doe has required the development of suitable hand-rearing and husbandry techniques.

Holding captive animals also has required the development and construction of suitable pens and this aspect of the work has now been satisfactorily completed.

Observation of captive animals has allowed information on yearly, cycles to be observed at close hand, and compared with field observations. Data on reproductive behaviour and growth rates of juveniles have been obtained.

Annual behavioural studies to date on the red and the fallow deer have confirmed that the red deer mates or ruts during March and April, congregating in predominantly male or female groups from May to September, with the male's antlers being cast in October. Calving (or fawning) occurs in December. Yearling red deer tend to congregate in small groups in January while males spend a considerable period during February polishing newly-grown antlers on suitable 'rub' trees.

The fallow deer cycle is similar, although the rutting season is in April, approximately one month later than the red deer, with rutting procedure also differing.

The population work requires live-trapping of all age groups of deer, individual tagging, sampling of the female population, and observations of deer behaviour and

numbers in the field. No wild deer are presently tagged. Seasonal conditions allowing, this winter should provide the first tagged wild animals, the yard-trap technique to be used to capture all required animals.

The tagging technique adopted after trials with yard animals at Hermitage requires the use of large, coloured, numbered, cattle ear tags. This tagging enables individual animals to be identified later in the field using binoculars. Data on movements and on known-age fawns and yearlings are thus to be compiled.

Sampling of the female population coupled with field observations of females and young has been in progress for some time though it is still too early to deduce results. An observation tower has been constructed to assist field work.

Sampling of the female population is conducted in conjunction with intensive observations of field populations. The primary objective is to assess the breeding potential of the species through the percentage of does falling pregnant, this compared with the

number of fawns giving an approximation of mortality during pregnancy. A further comparison is then made between this figure and the numbers of yearlings observed congregating in the early part of the year, juvenile mortality during the first twelve months of life is then evident. Such an understanding of the annual recruitment and natural mortality enables harvest and cull figures to be determined. This sampling also will provide data on the age at which females breed for the first time, whether females breed each year, and of the age structure of the female breeding population.

Currently, activities concentrate on gaining knowledge of the population dynamics of the red deer. Another large yard trap also has been constructed in an area of fallow deer distribution and it is intended that a similar population study will commence on this species in due course.

Public interest in deer as game for their meat and trophy value is reflected in the declaration in early 1976 of the first open season on deer since their introduction to

Queensland. The season applied only to red deer and extended from 29 March to 26 April. A quota was set of 500 deer, this being controlled by the issue of permits and tags together with an increase in law enforcement activities during the period. Permit holders were required to declare their hunting areas and were requested to report the details of their hunting success on cards supplied by the Service. To assist in an understanding of the age structure of the harvested populations, shooters also were requested to forward lower jawbones for ageing, established by tooth-wear.

In the season, 211 permits and 263 tags were issued; from questionnaires circulated 88 deer were reported taken, comprising 81 stags and 7 hinds. From the jawbones received, a wide range of ages occur within the population. The low hunter success rate clearly reflects the skill required to stalk deer.

Deer occupy an unusual position for a nature conservation authority. Their status as exotics, and the pest problems often associated with these, are offset by a

considerable historic and aesthetic value ranging from presentation by Queen Victoria to a place on the Queensland coat-of-arms. Moreover, no displacement of native fauna by the four species in their present, mostly extremely confined distributions has been mooted, let alone proved. The principal species of potential as game has a distribution that is mainly in fauna sanctuaries; if it were to be pursued as game, some consideration of the legal status of the red deer not in the pest sense, nor in the protected native fauna sense, is necessary. Perhaps a 'hunting season' for 'game species' is one approach.

The subject of deer is clearly presently in the balance, and it is too early for research results to indicate the soundest course on which to proceed. Rather it is better, if time is available, to continue to develop appropriate techniques and to apply these to present-day populations of the red deer and perhaps also the fallow deer. Moreover, any activity by others involving deer should be carefully monitored; discussions in the field, and attendance at meetings within Queensland and elsewhere on the

subject of deer, are examples that research staff currently employ to this end. By way of reciprocation, one film has already been made, publications are being prepared, and reports such as this one, are being compiled.

D.G. McGreevy

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Hello from the Library.

This has been a particularly busy month as we have been organizing the Pallarenda library collection. Pallarenda is the first of the regional centres to have a library established. Lynda Evans has been at Pallarenda for a week organising things.

Another area which is taking up much of the librarians time is inter-library loan requests. On one day we received 70 requests. Depending on the availability of the item each request can take from 10 minutes to 1 hour or more to do.

We are pleased that the library services are in such demand but please try to understand if delays occur.

The guest speaker at a convention of Librarians had a glint in his eye as he began his address.

"There is something I've been wanting to say to you for years: Shhhh!"

Brochure Reprints

Instructions and requests are likely to be forgotten after a while; and so it might be timely again to ask you all to take advantage of a standing TSS invitation: please let us know if there is anything you want changed in the wording or format of a brochure or other publication.

The consumer, customer (call him what you will) is the reader of our section's output. He will tell us (mostly you the park overseer) if anything said in a brochure is unclear; and we'll never know about it if you don't pass it on.

The park user will also ask you questions, and soon there will be a pattern which shows up the ones most often asked. Maybe we can cover these in the next reprint or the new brochure - but only if you tell us.

Remember - help is as close as your nearest interpreter!!

Peter Ogilvie

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The Editor,  
Chairman Saunders,  
"Lingtail" Magazine,

Dear Mr. Kerry,

I am one of 900,000,000 from your upstairs neighbours - people's republic of China - Ho Ho. We sincerely want help you with kangaroo problem, because you lick-spittle lackeys are friends.

We have invented new dish for Chinese take-away. It are called "hop-suey". Velley tasty but hard to keep on prate with jumping about. Eat with one chopstick. Hold with other. Fun for commune.

Goodbye for now honlable capitalist lunning dog - but no lunning dog allowed in national park don't forget.

Greetings,

Mr. Austin Lloyd has joined the Service as Publicity Information Officer attached to Technical Services Section.

Our Minister (Hon. Ivan Gibbs) is most anxious for Austin to play his part in helping to project the Service to the public in general and land holders in particular.

It is obvious that some of the publicity connected with the forthcoming Second World Wilderness Congress in Cairns in mid-June is doing us no good. We are being seen in some quarters as threatening to take over the world - and that part of it which is in Cape York Peninsula.

Austin's first few months will be occupied in large measure with pouring the oil of truth on the troubled waters of panic and rumour. (And no - he didn't write that last sentence - his journalism is far better than that!)

---

Duck Street,  
PEKING.  
1st Month,  
Year of Feral  
Pig

Plice Fung Ha

A Visit to the Far North -  
Part III.

Our ship is moored about 30 km up from the mouth of one of the fairly rare spots that has a vertical bank where there is sufficient water even at low tide (the ship has a draught of about 2 metres). Opposite there is a fine patch of mangrove forest which I'd love to get into, but even at high tide there's enough deep mud to deter me. Up here a mangrove forest consists of a considerable variety of species of tall straight trees. It's rather like a rainforest and has a good variety of birds, some familiar to me and a number that were not. On our side of the river, there's much narrower strip of mangrove forest, then a large expanse of grassland and behind it an open forest of Eucalypts and tea trees (*Melaleuca*) with *Pandanus* and chest deep grass. Along the river banks in the higher reaches of the navigable part of the Blyth (down to about where the ship is moored) one finds the fan palm *Corypha* in fair abundance. (It is regarded as rare in Australia). It can grow to a large size and it has truly huge fronds, with stems about 4m long and the 'fan' up to 2m radius. A *Corypha* palm only flowers once: all the leaves die and it produces an immense inflorescence perhaps 6 metres high and 4 metres in diameter, which becomes loaded with fruit after the flowers mature. The seeds ripen and the tree then dies, its life's work complete. There are several of these palms on the bank near the ship, one in fruit (not ripe unfortunately). A few hundred yards back from the bank I found a few plants of another fan palm, a small slender palm with quite the smallest

leaves of any fan palm I have seen. I suspect that there, side by side almost, we have the smallest and the largest fan palm leaves in Australia.

The ship is 125 tons, and 21 metres long (a little less than 70 feet), and is fully air-conditioned, an absolute essential when anchored in a tropical river. The Crew consists of the Master, an Engineer and a deck hand who, on this trip at least, also acted as Cook providing excellent meals with considerable variety. The ship has a big freezer and fresh food (milk, fruit, vegetables, etc.) are flown in when possible. The Engineer Ian "Jock" Onley is a keen fisherman and fish appeared regularly on the menu: Barramundi, Tarrum, Catfish (all very tasty). The best I had though was a smallish barramundi which jumped into our boat while we were spotlighting crocs, and Graeme Wells cooked me a fillet when we got back to the ship.

The ship has a large generator, so that there is adequate power for all the electrical equipment, and it makes its own fresh water. There are three double cabins in the upper deck (Professor Messel's, the Captains and the Engineer) and three in the lower deck. Also two washrooms (hot shower, wash basin, toilet) and of course the wheel house, in the upper deck and the galley and dining/work room in the lower. There's an urn always on the boil in the galley for tea or coffee, and anyone can make toast or help themselves to ice-cream or cook an egg etc. at any hour. And Wally Gill our cheery Able Seaman/Cook provided meals at all hours depending on the tides and our work schedules. We lived very

well indeed - it being the Professor's philosophy that comfortable quarters and good food are essential for months at a time in these remote and tropical locations and for such long and varying hours.

Large crocs tended to be very wary and usually took to the water if on a bank or submerged if in the water, as soon as we approached, but there was one exception a twelve-footer out on the bank of a small creek not far from the mouth of the Blyth. No amount of shouting or banging the side of the boat would cause him to move a muscle. He appeared dead, save for a very alert eye that watched our every move.

In some 9 years of work there has been no accidents with crocs, but there was one very close shave: part of the study involved attaching radio transmitters to the crocs so as to be able to track their movements. On one occasion three scientists were trying to get a visual check on a transmitter on a 4 metre croc. They had climbed onto a mangrove branch which was over the water and found the croc basking on the other side. One of them broke off a branch and splashed it in the water (to simulate an injured or trapped fish). The croc left the bank, swam a few metres, submerged and appeared in front of them. He paused momentarily appearing to be lining them up then shot forward lifting all of his body back to his hind legs out of the water, and snapped. He was stopped by a fork of the tree and his jaws closed on the trunk leaving teeth marks a few inches from the foot of one of them.

The large crocs - males, females only grow to about 3 metres (8-10 feet) - tend to be quite territorial and sometimes attack the small boats. I was cautioned that if this happened or appeared likely to, to lie down in the bottom of the boat: anything protruding above the edge of the boat is definitely at risk.

Some 80 or more crocs from last years 'crop' were caught, very few of which were unmarked and thus not captured in the previous year. In addition, there were perhaps 20 or more seen but not captured this time. These latter were certainly marked ones, as the unmarked are ridiculously easy to catch, and the ones missed are wary from being caught before. The indications were that about 50% of last years hatchlings had survived which is very good for a wild animal population. The Professor points out, however, that there was no major flooding of the river system last wet, and that when this does occur (and it usually does) the mortality would increase.

The Blyth/Cadell river system is very lovely and constitutes excellent crocodile habitat - the chief requirements of which are a suitable salinity profile throughout the year, suitable banks for basking, and suitable vegetation for nesting. Along many rivers cattle and buffalo or both have destroyed the vegetation, but on the Blyth there are no cattle and very few buffalo. Further, the local Aboriginal people who normally eat crocodiles have agreed to forego this pastime at least for the present. White people are not allowed into the area. So perhaps in this system at least the crocs have a chance of survival.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PARKS SECTION

If populations ever do recover they could form a valuable industry: A 1½ metre (5 foot) crocodile would now be worth about \$200 or more. Even the 2-3 foot ones we caught would bring \$100 or so - which means we caught about \$80,000 worth of crocs! And if in even one river, we could return to the stage where virtually every exposed bank would have several large basking crocs, it would be a terrific tourist attraction. A croc farm in Thailand with crocs in artificial surroundings gets about one million visitors per year - at about A\$2 per person!

Syd Curtis



Syd,

This article was good, enjoyable reading - many thanks. I, like most of 'Ringtail' readers hope this is just the start of many more articles - good practice for that book you're going to write when you retire to the enchantment, the foliage and the Lyrebirds of Tamborine Mountain.

The Environmental Parks Section which formerly consisted solely of Alan Chenaweth has had an increase in staff.

Alan resign in November 1979 to take up a consultant's position with a firm of landscape architects and environmental planners.

His position of Environmental Parks Officer was filled by Warren Oxnam.

A Regional Environmental Parks Officer, Dan Prince, was also appointed and is now based in Cairns. Mr. Prince has been delegated the responsibilities of managing the northern environmental parks, defined approximately as those of the Mackay, Townsville and Cairns management districts.

Cadet Chris Murphy, a recent graduate from Queensland Agricultural College, Lawes has been assigned to assist the Environmental Park Officer. Because of the extensive range of activities involved in managing environmental parks, Chris has found himself doing anything from park inspections to aerial photograph interpretation (though tempered at times by photocopier tedium).

It was a fitting finale for Alan Chenoweth's departure that three of his major projects came to fruition at the same time; Mt. Zamia, North Tamborine Children's Activity Area and the Shelter Shed over the dinosaur trackway at Lark Quarry via Winton.

I am preparing an article on the planning, implementation and appraisals of Lark Quarry Environmental Park and am hopeful of having it completed for the next edition of RINGTAIL.

Warren Oxnam

## The Minister's Cooloola Trip.

Another exciting chapter in the continuing adventures of the Cooloola Management Plan was written on location recently.

Our Minister, the Honourable Ivan J. Gibbs, M.L.A. asked to inspect the park with members of his Parliamentary Committee in order to prepare for a decision on the plan once public submissions have been received and processed. Receipt of submissions closes at the end of February and already some 250 have been received.

On day one (13.2.80) the party met at Boreen Point to spend the day in the Kinaba-Harry Spring's Hut area. The Gympie Times was represented by invitation but cyclone Ruth sent her windy delegate uninvited.

"Elanda Plains" was the first stop and there Brian Mays explained his enterprise. The group then returned to Boreen Point to cross to Kinaba. During the rather bumpy crossing of Lake Cootharaba the Darter's motor passed away leaving the Pelican to carry on alone. Once ashore at the Kinaba Information Centre the delegation dried out with an inspection of the building and walking tracks, then climbed back aboard the Pelican to go to Fig Tree Point for lunch. A hearty dessert of management planning followed, then a trip up the river to aid the digestion of both.

The camp at Harry Springs Hut was set up by the Gympie Regional staff and the Rangers from Noosa.

Though the accommodation probably wouldn't rate a feature in 'Belle' or 'Vogue Living', the catering was a credit to the Gympie and Maryborough offices.

Brian Mays provided canoes by arrangement, and these were of interest to all. It is worthy to note that when canoeing with the Hon. the Minister, one should expect to paddle at least as far as the next most adventurous canoe.

Next morning, denied proof of the vividly described reflections, river mists and golden dawns for which Harry Spring's Hut is reknown, the party rose, breakfasted and headed up river by canoe to the 'Tarangau' track. Having walked along the track for a couple of kilometres we were picked up by 4 W D vehicles and driven through the Noosa western catchment to Freshwater Camping Area.

Once out onto the ocean beach to inspect Double Island Point we again met cyclone Ruth. Six or seven lines of breakers stirred the sea bottom to make the waves in some places grey-brown with mud.

The inspection of Double Island Point was one-upped by an air-sea rescue in Wide Bay which was showing concurrently. The excitement was maintained by another healthy dose of management planning once back at Freshwater. Having earlier driven into the Camping Area along the Service's new Freshwater Road, the old route was followed on the way out. Much management and planning was discussed en route and subsequently at the Quandong Picnic Area; fortunately practical considerations prevailed.

Thence to Rainbow Beach for a quiet evening at the Mikado Motor Inn.

Day three began in the Rainbow Beach area: locations for walking tracks, and a park headquarters; and inspections of Carlo Pt. and Seary's Creek. Lunch was served at Teewah Creek - a salad, with politics and management planning on the side, then off to Tewanin to inspect the North Shire issues before returning to Brisbane.

A great deal of ground was covered in these three days.

Thanks are due to the Head Office and Gympie Regional staff for their capable organization of transport, accommodation and catering.

It remains now to come to grips with the public submissions, so that the management plan can be modified if and where necessary.

Bob Speirs



We had watched the Peewees' build their nest, and noted that once the eggs were laid, the parents changed over covering the eggs, and later the chicks, every 30 minutes (approximately).

The nest was in a large old Rain tree, and one day after very heavy rain, half of the nest collapsed. Two chicks were dead but two had survived the 20ft fall. We put the two live chicks in an old ice cream container and placed it in the fork of the tree. When our neighbour came home from work, we discussed with him how we could return the nest to its high place in the tree. He fetched out his fishing line and at his first cast landed it over the branch the remains of the nest was on (within 6 inches),

We half filled the ice cream container with an old piece of blanket and hair taken from our German Shepherd dog and hoisted it and the chicks safely up to a more acceptable place for their parents.

Father wasn't very good at landing on this new 'nest' which swung round and round every time he alighted on the edge. Mother was able to land with very little disturbance. The next day it rained again and we all realized our mistake, no drainage holes. Down came the nest on the end of the fishing line. Holes were bored and up went the chicks again, where they stayed until they were able to fly with their parents.

Bruce Lofts  
Mt. Spec

\*\*\*\*\*

You know you are getting on in years when your back goes out more than you do!

## BARE ROCK

Within Cunningham's Gap National Park lies one of the most wonderful little places in south-east Queensland for those wishing to find an area providing solitude with breathtaking panorama. Although the many miles of walking tracks within the national park may take the visitor to many beautiful and scenic spots, such as Gap Creek Falls and the summit of Mt. Mitchell, it's the walker after a little 'extra' that will find him/herself standing on the rocky cap of Bare Rock.

The walk may take only an afternoon or a morning, however, I'd recommend that you make a day of it to spend an hour or so relaxing and/or exploring around the vicinity of the outcrop and to experience the changing patterns of light on the countryside between early morning and late afternoon on your walks to and from. The walk to Bare Rock affords many spectacular views and interesting features along the way to make this excursion a full day's duration if wished.

Bare Rock is in fact, the highest point within Cunningham's Gap National Park and at 1,170 metres (3,837 feet) is also one of the highest points along the whole of the Main Range and certainly one of the most accessible to the bushwalker being only a relatively short distance from a graded walking track.

To reach Bare Rock take the Mt Cordeaux track towards Morgans Look-out from the highway carpark at the crest of the Gap. The first part of the track to the lookouts below the summit of Mt. Cordeaux takes the form of a

long zig-zag through tall rainforest. About 500 metres into the forest from the carpark I have found to be one of the most reliable areas for the quiet walker to sight a Lyre-bird. On five out of eight separate occasions, I have chanced upon seeing a bird on a particular section of track - presumably an individual's territory. On one occasion, an impressive male with well-developed plumage perched on a log in a shaft of sunlight occupying the full frame of my camera's viewfinder before disappearing before I could press the magic button. However, considering that I wasn't even trying, I was happy just to get that near.

Shortly after the track emerges from the cool rainforest, you arrive at a series of lookouts below the cliff-surrounded summit of Mt. Cordeaux. As well as panoramic views over the Fassifern Valley, Moogerah Dam and south down the Main Range, the walker is confronted with features of curiosity rather than scenic value. Clefs and fissures bite deep into the rock adjacent to the track. One deep almost circular shaft falls parallel to the cliff-line only metres away. This and other remarkable features are presumably volcanic in origin, however, the shaft in particular with its proximity to the cliff-face and apparent uniformity of shape seems quite unnatural.

Moving on, the track contours along the western side of the mountain to a spectacular razor-back ridge on the northern side. One side of the track falls away to a chaotic tangle of jungle while the other side falls away to apparent nothingness - unless you're prepared to lean over a

bit. At least that's the impression I received when I first visited the spot when the clouds were low. Looking east to where the view was supposed to be was just white - with occasional treetops poking through the moving white blanket far below. On a clear day this is certainly a great spot to stop for a lunch break if you've started your walk mid-morning. This is also a good point to view Mt. Cordeaux rising like a pyramid from the ridge with its clinging cover of spear lillies and grass trees growing precipitously from the steep sides.

Walking further along towards Morgan's Lookout the trail leads back into dense rainforest and views are non-existent until you get to the lookout. A point of botanic interest along the way is the presence of an unusual species of tree-fern whose trunk wanders sinuously along or near the ground before terminating in its head of fronds. Apparently this species is known to occur only in this area.

After a total of about 2-3 hours walking, you arrive at Morgan's Lookout. My initial feeling upon arriving at this point the first time was of disappointment. The view through breaks in the regrowth is of the northern narrow arm of the national park known as the ramparts - a line of steep cliffs covered in clinging foliage and cut by ravines formed by short-lived waterfalls after heavy rains. Although the view is quite spectacular - the ramparts being so steep as to look like the crest of a giant wave, frozen before breaking - I have a psychological aversion to lookouts as Morgan's Lookout appears to be

- that is those that require forest to be felled to obtain a view.

Although those with opinions like mine may be few, the presence of Bare Rock nearby is a boon to those aware of its existence. About 10 metres back from the lookout a marked tree signifies the start of a narrow trail that zig-zags left and right and up and down barely 5 metres from the edge of the escarpment where the canopy of jungle meets the forest floor. Fairly regular use makes this trail visible to someone looking for it while coloured tags on trees help to avoid you straying too far off course if storms or heavy rains have either brought down foliage over the track or caused regrowth to cover the trail since last used.

Although not officially maintained in any way as far as I know by National Parks staff, there can be no denying that very little impact is made by this sort of use as may be testified by those who have strayed off the trail as no evidence of the trail may be seen from as little as five feet away apart from the odd marked tree. Unless you have got a particularly bad sense of direction there is no chance of getting lost as long as you keep the steep drop on your right on the way there and on the left on the way back.

About 20-25 minutes rambling will bring you to a pile of boulders that rise above the low rainforest canopy - Bare Rock. An eager scramble out of the dim rainforest onto the moderately flat top provides you with an instant 360° view and if you think I am going to describe it - forget it! Go see for yourself.

Paul Curtis

Extract from Daily Telegraph,  
Friday, February 1, 1980.

### ROMEO CAUGHT IN STREET COMEDY

Police are trying to make out a clear report about a mix-up involving a robber, a jewellery store owner, a husband and wife and a lover.

The story began about 3 am yesterday when a husband returned to his home at Port Melbourne to find his wife in bed with a lover.

Heated words were exchanged and the lover chased the husband into the street.

Meanwhile, nearby, a shop owner and a robber were having a battle of their own.

The store owner, armed with a rifle, had caught the robber leaving his shop through a smashed window with a bundle of jewellery.

Standing on the footpath, the owner had the robber bailed up awaiting the police.

The robber called on the store owner to drop the rifle or he would shoot him.

The store owner fired a salvo of shots.

At that moment, the husband ran around the corner and collided with the store owner.

The store owner, thinking he was being attacked by an accomplice of the robber's, fired a shot at the husband who collapsed with fright.

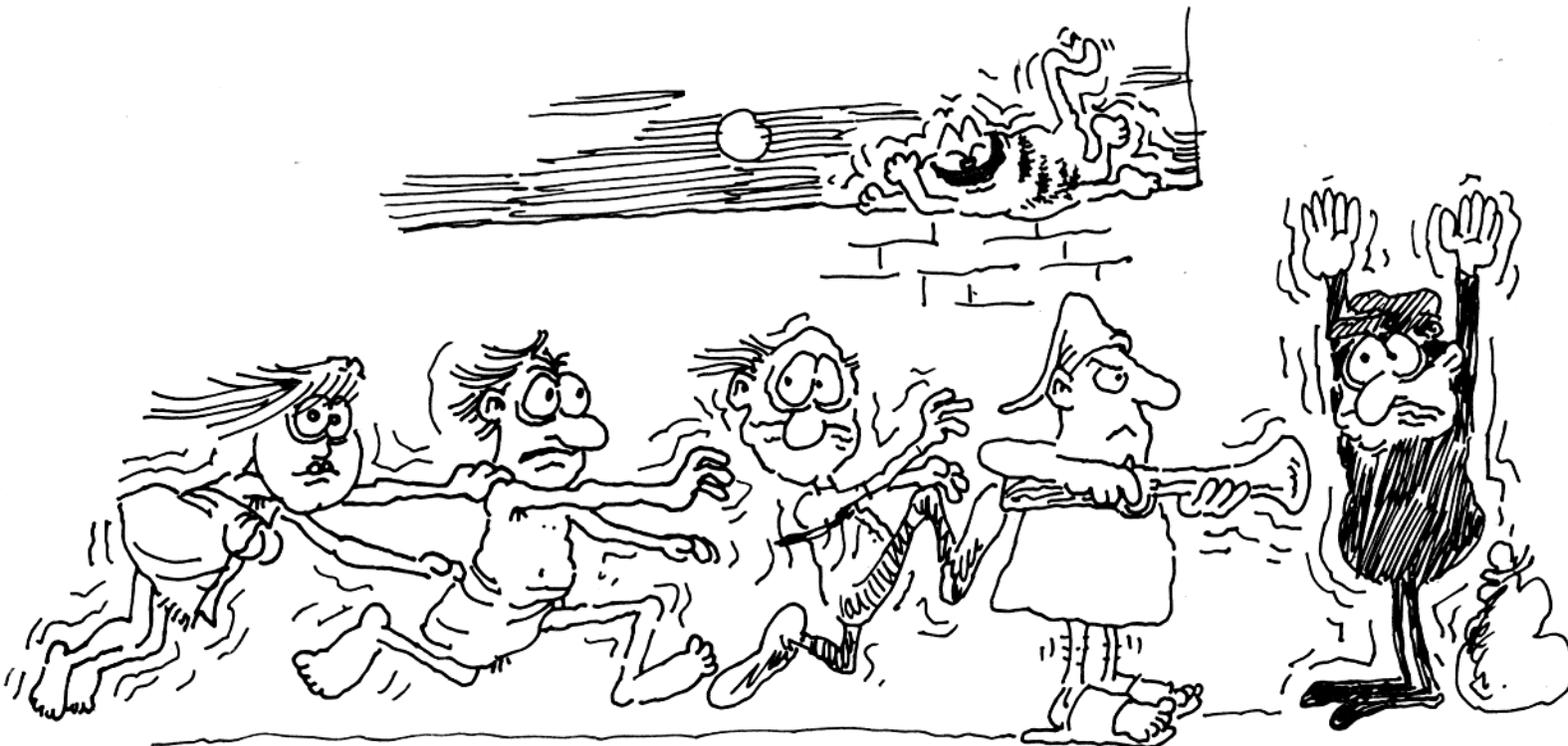
Close behind came the lover.

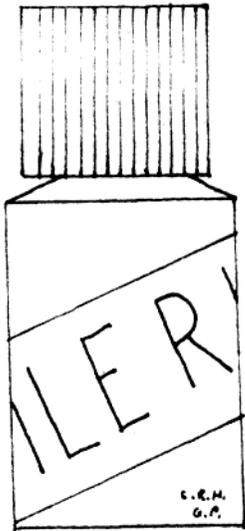
He was mad at the husband, but not mad enough to see him shot down.

So he leapt at the store owner and when the police arrived the struggle for the gun was still in progress.

At the police station the lover and husband explained as best they could and were allowed to go.

Meanwhile the robber, still with the evenings "takings" fled, probably confused and wondering who the good samaritans were who were apparently prepared to get shot to help him escape.





""""  
 "NEW"  
 """"

State Stores has announced a new product - 'FILE RID'. Just sprinkle the green powder liberally in your in-basket 3 times a day and before leaving the office each afternoon. It is guaranteed to keep those nasty files from creeping up and infesting your desk.

English as she is writ

A census taker calls at a house and after asking a number of questions of the woman in the house, he asks "Do you have any children?". The following conversation ensues:

W.: Yes, three".  
 C.T.: And how old are they?"  
 W.: "I won't tell you".  
 C.T.: "But, I have to know".  
 W.: "Well, I'll tell you that the sum of their ages is 13".  
 C.T.: "That's not enough".  
 W.: "Well, the product of their ages is equal to the number of the house next door".  
 C.T.: "That's still not enough".  
 W.: "The youngest is upstairs asleep".  
 C.T. "Ah, now I know, thank you".

How old are the children?

Yes, it can be done.

The answer will not be given. However, proposed solutions will be perused and answers as to their correctness supplied.

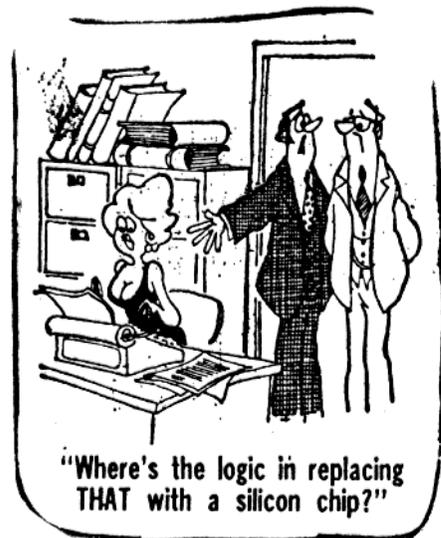
Marc Hockings      Bill Carter

We all know that professional kangaroo shooters do not place much importance on "paper work"(and even less on spelling) but the other day an application for an Open Season Fauna Permit was received from a person who described his occupation as "PERFESHLY ROW SHOTER"

Alex Kowolski reckons the applicant must be a Russian. He should know.

Neil Mee

This was sent to me in my capacity as Secretary of the new technology committee.



## MARYBOROUGH REGION

Footnote to Report of Parliamentary Back-bench Committee visit to Cooloola.

Rather a wet footnote - as the trip started off across Lake Cootharaba in almost cyclonic conditions. Ron Turner was submarine captain after the "Darter" blew a motor and was being towed by "Pelican". Observers swear "Darter" could not be seen at times as waves completely covered her and occupants.

Talking about swearing - Luckily "Gympie Times" editor Ian Pedley had enjoyed the refreshments on the first night or there may have been some naughty words said when his tent blew down around him - but Ian is reported to have slept blissfully on.

Ken Crook was not so lucky however when finally deciding in the wee small hours to "hit the hay" (read "lie-low"). After much huffing and puffing and many attempts at what he thought was falling off an over-inflated mattress, he realized that all his breath was wasted - it was "holed" and completely flat!

I think everyone enjoyed themselves as a very over-loaded yellow "chuck-waggon" came home nearly empty.

-oOo-

Best wishes and sad farewells to two Maryborough Region staff.

Les Gomersall retired from Kondalilla after nearly 26 years service. Les - the place won't be the same without you. Nobody else could make it up that track as quickly at the first sign of a wagging tail.

Dick Thomas from Bunya Mountains has also retired after 25 years service and is calling for volunteers to help paint his house. Dick - there'll be some H.O. staff up that way at Easter...

Les and Dick had morning tea with Dr. Saunders recently when he presented them with beautifully framed pictures and "Herbie" cuff-links on behalf of the Service.

### WHO NOSE??

Have you noticed how the nose has poked its way in to our language?

If you're angry, your nose is out of joint.

If you're inquisitive, you're nosey.

If you nose out an opponent, you're a winner.

If you keep your nose to the grindstone, you're a hard worker.

If you can be led by the nose, you're submissive.

If your nose is in the air, you're snobbish.

\* \* \* \* \*

APERITIF: French for a set of dentures.

\* \* \* \* \*

Following the recent "capture" of a sparrow by the Gympie Court House Staff and our protest to the subsequent surrendering of it in our office (unchecked), we have received the following:-

QUEENSLAND

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT 1974

Fauna Conservation Regulations 1974

(Regulation 9)

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO TAKE FAUNA

1. Baldwin EAGLE  
3rd Branch, 2nd Gum Tree past the Black Turp

hereby make application for a permit to take the following fauna in Queensland under Section 53 of this Act

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number
WAPRO	Birdus edibilis	1

The fauna to be taken will be used for the following purpose(s) —

- (a) ~~scientific and zoological collection (attach full details)~~
- (b) ~~educational (attach full details)~~
- (c) ~~public exhibition (attach full details)~~
- (d) other (attach full details). For the purpose of slowly and painfully removing all feathers and consuming same whole.

I enclose the prescribed fee of \$5. 2 field mouse and one cooloola monster.

Signed:

Baldwin Eagle  
(Baldy)

National Parks and  
Wildlife Service,  
P.O. BOX 190,  
NORTH LAY. Q. 4000

Name of Project: Survival

Objective: Depletion of sparrows - Value being no more sparrows  
(Describe the work and indicate the significance or potential value of the work)

Procedure: -ating  
(Describe the technique and equipment to be used for collection)

Time: As quick as it takes to swallow (a play on words) a sparrow  
(Give date or period for which the permit is required)

Location of Project: Gympie Court House

Organisation Sponsoring Project: SEES (Society for eating sparrows)

Responsible Officer: Chief Gulper Goldie Eagle

Details of Qualifications: Biggest eater of small birds for 1979

Collectors:

Details of Qualifications:

Signature of Responsible Officer:

Address of Responsible Officer:

Names and Addresses of Two Scientists who may be Consulted about the Qualifications of the Responsible Officer:

Ron Turner

Tom Moore

---

I hereby certify that this a bona fide Scientific Fauna Project and that Fauna taken will not be used for Exhibition or Sale.

Signature of Officer in Charge:

Organization Sponsoring Project: SEES

Address:

Date:



Cop this Again!

The bus stop was an island in the middle of the street. It was one of those places with a little shelter shed and a small grass-garden area; the favoured place for little old winos. In this case though, many of the down and outers were far from being old: but they all showed signs of malnutrition and chronic alcoholism.

The four or five business people at the stop sought security together and huddled close to the curb near the bus stop sign.

Refusing to be threatened by the situation and not wishing to be identified with the isolated air of the well-to-doers', I joined a black man with a leg missing and a white man with a badly knife scarred (I theorized) face on the bus stop bench.

They moved away from me!

Scar face pulled a bottle of clear liquid from his coat and took a swig. The black man pulled a dollar .... "Give us a shot!"

The money changed hands and peg leg disposed of half of the bottle in one tilting, much to my amusement and the disdain of the business people.

A slight disagreement ensued. I felt it was time to see if a bus was coming and moved to the curb to get a better view down the street.

From well behind me came the words: "Got a cigarette?"

There was no bus in sight.

"Well, you'd better go get me one, old man".

I turned to see an old grey-haired black man looking up from another bench at a wall built, but obviously drunk, twenty-five year old white.

"I don't have to do a thing for you".

"Listen you black bastard, I said go get me a cigarette!"

With that he cuffed the black man hard across the ear.

I looked around to see who'd help the old man out. The do-wellers had not moved. As if oblivious to the injustice occurring behind them, they looked straight ahead. Only the panicked expression on their faces told of their discomfort. The rest of the winos stared with glazed eyes as if in shock. I looked at Peg leg, then to Scar Face. Briefly his eyes spoke to me and then, they too turned away from the pathetic scene developing in front of me.

The black jumped up with redening eyes and tried to shape up to his young assailant. He gained two more fierce open handed slaps for his effort. He obviously had neither the ability to defend or retaliate.

In attempting to kick the old man in the crotch, the white man staggered, enabling the old man to catch his foot and throw him to the ground.

"Now kick hell out of that son of a bitch" my thoughts went out to the old man.

But with the white man prone and at his mercy, the black's face went calm and resolute. He wasn't going to fight. He couldn't bring himself to take such an unfair advantage, to hit a man

when he's down, despite what he'd done.

I was shaking with rage, with fear, with panic, with guilt, with disgust.

My eyes flashed from face to face - glazed blank eyes or turned heads.

"It makes me sick" said Peg leg.

Scar face's eyes said "Don't".

I took a step forward ...

The white man sprang to his feet, fists closed, his eyes flaring, intent on avenging his temporary loss of stature on the old man.

I calculated quickly:

"He's got a stone on me .... He's well built, but telegraphs his punches and they're all day makers and he's drunk".

I took another step.

"Leave the old man alone, hey!"

It came out as little more than a whisper and with a trmble.

"That's enough now mate".

That was better, my voice hid the fear.

My long since unused Wing Chun training came to mind. I'd place my right foot to his knee cap, a fist to his nose and as his right came through, I'd follow down his arm to his neck and wind pipe.

Each blow was supposed to disable the opponent. But who was I kidding. The best I could hope for was to stun him, perhaps knock him off balance, make his eyes water and make him gasp for air.

All eyes were on me. I could feel it. Blood sport, street brawl, the lust to see someone's held cracked open with bare knuckles, two young bucks showing their powers, and I was part of the game.

Had the implications of these thoughts come to mind at the time, I think I would have retched in disgust, in confusion and run like hell.

But I was thinking ahead "What would I do after he recovered from my initial assault? What if he pulled a knife or a gun? What then?"

I was terrified.

I moved in and shoved him away. So much for plan one.

I held his eyes, conscious of his hands and feet ....

His body shifted forward ..... and all hell broke loose.

Sirens blasted out their screaming song. A patrol car mounted the curb. A cop jumped out at my target in the back of the knees and as he stumbled, pushed his head forward so that he hit the street face down. His arms were pulled up his back and handcuffs went on.

I still looked poised to strike. I had to suppress tears of relief. The cops asked after the health of the old man, bundled the white man into the patrol car and were off without acknowledging my presence.

"I would have liked to see you take him".

I turned to find Peg leg patting me on my shoulder and a circle of smiling faces. Scar face thrust the bottle into my hand and I took a swig.

What would you do if it were you?

## RECENT Q.A.C. GRADUATES

(excluding Peter Amos, Damian McGreevy & Co.)

After 2 long, arduous years the first Gatton College graduates are among you. Somewhere, they are watching you. Watching every move you make, listening to every word you say! So be careful! The Q.A.C. grapevine is everywhere.

## PERSONAL PROFILES

Les Bleakly - the most 'experienced' cadet.

Dianne Charles - our 'little fiddle'

Brett Porter - 'macho man'

Tim Pulsford - a very honest bloke, to the point of being disgusting

Chris Murphy (loves pinetrees) - The only 'spud' from the college to get a job.

Neil Dorman - suffers from literary diarrhoea

Gary Porter - He's had a few, but can't get none.

Bruce Moore - He's good with tools

John Walsh - The bloke with the biggest nose and biggest mouth at College.

Duncan Johnston - his giggle shatters glass.

Barbie Elder - Miss Charming, 1980.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Johnny," bellowed the exasperated father, "I've told you fifty-seven thousand times not to exaggerate!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE COURSE

The development and implementation of the course, Associate Diploma in Rural Techniques (Wilderness Reserves, and Wildlife) at Queensland Agricultural College, is a significant step forward for people, and organisations, working or wanting to work in the broad field of nature conservation.

Initially, the objectives will satisfy the requirements of students seeking employment, as well as provide trained staff for the National Parks and Wildlife Services, and possibly alternative employment bodies.

The need to provide adequate training for field staff, particularly rangers, has been recognised on a national level. This course provides the basis upon which suitable training schemes can be formulated.

Each one of us (Ex-Q.A.C. students) believes the course will progress to be one of the most comprehensive available. We believe the close liaison between college administration and the employment bodies will produce a course where formal training is closely aligned with work requirements. The contributions we can make in this regard will be very valuable.

Although there were inevitable problems during the 2 years a great deal of help was given to us by the staff of the College. We appreciated this. Special mention must be made of Bob Beeton. His efforts to improve the course were untiring. We all appreciate this.

Each of us considers himself/herself very fortunate to have been among the first graduates of the course.

We also consider ourselves very lucky to have been appointed to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, particularly when the competition for jobs is so strong.

Now that we are employed in the Service we look forward to the future, and hope that our efforts will aid nature conservation.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone in the Service for the help they have given us. We appreciate it.

Thank you,

From the Q.A.C.  
Graduates. (excluding  
Peter Amos, Damian  
McGreevy & Co.).

#### SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Recent events on the Social Club calendar have included a bush dance with the "Bail-em-up Bush Band" at the Upper Brookfield Hall and a sports day with the Queensland University Botany Department.

In spite of poor attendance by the Social Club members, both events were very successful and it is hoped that more interest will be shown in coming events.

The feature of the sports day was a cricket match which, it is hoped, will become an annual event.

The Social Club lost by 20 runs, with a total of 125, despite devastating form by Bill Lavarack, 30 not out\*, Rob Seymour, 19 not out\*, and Barry Davies, 18 not out. Note that social rules were played that restricted the number of runs per batsperson.

A fine stint of accurate "bowling" by the Northern Regions new Environmental Parks Officer Dan Prince led to a collapse of Botany's middle order, restricting their total to 145. Another newcomer Barbara Elder, also starred with two wickets.

Softball and Volleyball were also played accompanied by a pleasant picnic lunch. A fun day was had by all.

It is planned to hold more sports days, hopefully involving the Museum and the University Zoology Department as well.

A well subscribed group movie booking recently saw members enjoy the new Monty Python film "The Life of Brian".

Coming events for Brisbane city and regional members include a group booking to the movie "Apocalypse Now" - See Robyn Kreis for details.

A bush dance will be held during April - details soon.

Remember the Social Club is only as good as its members are prepared to make it - Save the Social Club - Get Involved.

The Secretary.

(\* denotes sixes)

A QUIZ by Bill Carter and  
Marc Hockings

I've always had an irresistable urge to answer quizzes, especially those found in popular magazines that tell me if I'm going bald, have a rotten personality or an unhealthy sex life. Well, here is my contribution to self analysis -

ARE YOU ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS?

1. This morning I got to work by
  - (a) public transport
  - (b) personal vehicle
  - (c) bicycle
  - (d) walking
2. You purchase a shirt in a box with pins, cardboard etc. The salesperson places the package in a packet and gives you a docket. Do you
  - (a) Unpack the shirt completely and walk out with the shirt alone;
  - (b) Make a curt comment about excess packaging but do nothing else;
  - (c) do nothing;
  - (d) Remember that littly Johnny loves playing with the box and burning the plastic and ask if they have any spares.
3. You are thirsty, do you
  - (a) Buy a drink in a returnable bottle;
  - (b) Buy a drink in a can
  - (c) Buy a drink in a non-returnable bottle
  - (d) Find the nearest tap around.
4. Is Ralph Nader concerned with:
  - (a) Tooth brush manufacturing
  - (b) Jet planes
  - (c) Consumer protection
  - (d) never heard of him.
5. Is Paul Ehlich:
  - (a) A movie star;
  - (b) The author of Ark II
  - (c) One of the founders of the zero population growth concept
  - (d) Never heard of him.
6. Is Edgar Robinson:
  - (a) A British scientist fighting against blood sports;
  - (b) A United States Senator who voted against the "Clean Waters Act";
  - (c) A bus driver on the Toowong route;
  - (d) Never heard of him
7. Who first used the term "Space-ship earth"
  - (a) Mork from Ork
  - (b) Neil Armstrong
  - (c) Buckminster Fuller
  - (d) Barry Commoner
  - (e) Buck Rogers
  - (f) Brian Mackness
8. The toxin found with 245 T is called:
  - (a) 24D
  - (b) Oxo stock cubes
  - (c) dioxin
9. Who was Fraser Island named after:
  - (a) Charles Bronsen's wife
  - (b) Mal
  - (c) Mrs Fraser
  - (d) Eliza Doolittle
  - (e) Susanna York
  - (f) Dawn Fraser

10. Whales are:
- (a) Cetaceans
  - (b) Cretaceous
  - (c) Creations
  - (d) Places to bank
11. Minamoto disease was named after:
- (a) a small hospital in Brisbane
  - (b) Dwarf tomatoes which concentrate pesticides
  - (c) A fishing village in Japan
12. Of the eight marsupials presumed to have gone extinct in Australia within the last 200 years:
- (a) half are macropods
  - (b) half owe their extinction to competition and predation by feral cats and foxes;
  - (c) none are tree dwellers
  - (d) what's a marsupial?
13. The Club of Rome is
- (a) An Italian Disco in Adelaide Street
  - (b) A Bertone designed golf club
  - (c) a group of scientists concerned for environmental issues
  - (d) another name for the Catholic Church
14. Green Peace Foundation is
- (a) a group of flower children
  - (b) a group of dairy farmers concerned about noise pollution and low milk yields
  - (c) an anti-whaling group
  - (d) a plant protection society
15. Recycling is
- (a) riding round and round
  - (b) alternative transport to the Toowong pub
  - (c) reusing manufactured and man altered natural resources
  - (d) an olympic event
- 
1. This tells us nothing about your attitudes towards the environment only the extent to which you are prepared to bear discomfort. On this basis score:
- (a) 5; (b) 0; (c) 8; (d) 10.
2. Each Australian produces about 250 kilos of waste from packaging each year including 150 glass containers and 250 cans. We also use 250 kilos of paper each year. Score:
- (a) 10; (b) 5; (c) 0; (d) 5.
3. Apart from the ecological aspects, drinks in returnable bottles are cheaper. 20% cheaper than in a non-returnable bottle and over 100% cheaper than that in a can.
- (a) 5; (b) 5; (c) 2; (d) 5
4. (a) 0; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 2 - at least your honest.
5. (a) 2 (often appears to be); (b) 10; (c) 5; (d) 0.
6. (a) 5; (b) 5; (c) 2 (could be); (d) 5 (I haven't any way)
7. (a) 0; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 0; (e) 0; (f) 5.
8. (a) 0; (b) 2; (c) 5.
9. (a) 2; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 2; (e) 0; (f) 0.

- 10. (a) 5; (b) 0; (c) 2; (d) 0.
- 11. (a) 2; (b) 0; (c) 5.
- 12. (a) 2; (b) 2; (c) 2; (d) 5.
- 13. (a) 0; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 0.
- 14. (a) 0; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 0.
- 15. (a) 0; (b) 0; (c) 5; (d) 0.

who shift from issue to issue. Suitable jobs include weather bureau forecaster and environmental science lecturer (this year only). Don't you wish the Vietnam days were still here. Now that was an issue!!

HOW DID YOU RATE?

-24 - 0 You will never get a job with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. You are a complete and dedicated environmental rapist. Suitable occupations include cultural adviser to the inmates of the Cannon Hill abattoir. You not only make pollution, you are pollution!

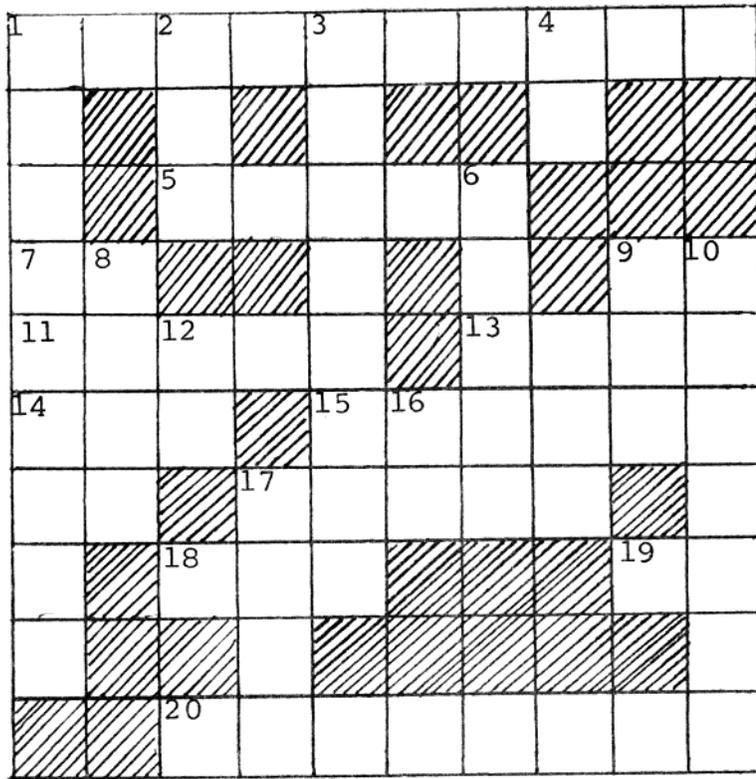
1 - 30 You will never get a job with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. You are one of those wishy-washy people that every one knows but wish they didn't. Suitable occupations include the dole, a vehicle designer of G.M.H. or Ford. You are quite at home with agent orange and are in fact probably a product of it.

31 - 60 You will never get a job with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Next year you will probably be interested in human rights for ex prime ministers. You are one of the trendies

61 - 100 You will never get a job with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. You are so aware of environmental issues you must be worrying yourself to death or you're a down-right liar. Suitable occupations are either God's right hand man or a politician. Look on the bright side, the world can only be destroyed once and think of the fun yelling "I told you so".

DECEMBER CROSSWORD

1	P	R	O	2	T	E	3	C	4	T	E	5	D		
	I				I		A	A					O	S	
7	8	9													
	C	A	M	P	I	N	G						G		
10	N	A	T				O				11	D		12	B
13	I	S			14	H	E	L	E	N	A				
15	C	K										L			T
		16	17	18									19		
		O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R	S					
20	A	V	I	A	R	Y				21	T	S			
	I		E					R	22	E				23	N
	M		24	A	L	K							25	E	P



ACROSS

DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Reptile pictured in Q.N.P.W.S. Calendar (4, 6)</p> <p>5. Bird pictured in Q.N.P.W.S. Calendar (5)</p> <p>7. Northern Hemisphere (Abb.) (1, 1)</p> <p>9. Overdose (Abb.) (2)</p> <p>11. Used in making of bread (5)</p> <p>13. Walk in water (4)</p> <p>14. Chief Management Officer (1, 1, 1)</p> <p>15. Erects (6)</p> <p>17. Habitat for 3 down (5)</p> <p>18. National (Abb.) (3)</p> <p>19. Public Relations (Abb.) (1, 1)</p> <p>20. Habitat for Comb-Crested Jacana (8)</p> | <p>1. Crustacean pictured in Q.N.P.W.S. Calendar (5, 4)</p> <p>2. Arrest (Slang) (3)</p> <p>3. Nocturnal mammal pictured in Q.N.P.W.S. Calendar (5, 3)</p> <p>4. National Park (Abb.) (1, 1)</p> <p>6. Fictional beast allegedly sighted near Kilcoy recently (5)</p> <p>8. Fibre used for rope (4)</p> <p>9. Not even (3)</p> <p>10. Habitat for 1 across (7)</p> <p>12. Administration Officer (1, 1)</p> <p>16. Ultra violet (Abb.) (2)</p> <p>17. People must ..... for native wildlife for national parks to thrive.</p> |
|---|---|

The EDITOR is very persuasive, he knows I enjoy doing CROSS WORD PUZZLES and in one of my weaker moments - I have a few - talked me into making up a crossword for the December issue - you've guessed it - he caught me again. I hope this helps to pass the time of day.

Joe Minihan

Nine new national parks have been gazetted since 1.7.79 covering 539 391 hectares.

N.P. 289 UXBRIDGE (ROUND HILL)

304.6 hectare Gazetted 14.7.79

This new National Park is situated about 34 kilometres north east of Miriam Vale and was an area surrendered voluntarily from an occupation License. The Park contains the well known landmark of Round Hill (named by Captain Cook in 1770) and features hoop pine and associated vegetation.

N.P. 3004 - NOOGOON (St. Helena)

75.1 hectare Gazetted 6.10.79

This National Park is the greater part of St. Helena Island, situated in Moreton Bay about 7 kilometres east of the mouth of the Brisbane River. The gazettal was influenced by the historic significance that is attached to this link with Queensland's early history.

N.P. 10 - LAKEFIELD

About 528 000 hectare.  
Gazetted 27.10.79.

This gazettal represented the reservation of the Lakefield National Park which is the largest national park in Queensland. It is situated on Cape York Peninsula, north of Laura and provides, in the one area, a representation of approximately 60% of the habitats and landforms on the Cape ranging from dry anthill studded plains, vast wetland systems, spectacular rain-forest clad mountain ranges and coastline of rugged grandeur.

N.P. 227 - BENDIDEE

931 hectare Gazetted 24.11.79

This National Park was part of a State Forest and a strip of closed road. Vegetation is predominately heavy brigalow-belah, wilga, tea tree scrub with intrusions of forest timber species in places.

N.P. 181 WATTLE

(CHARLEVUE CK) (BLACKDOWN TABLELAND AREA)

6359 hectares - Gazetted 26.1.80

This National Park is situated on the southern side of the head of Charlevue Creek, some 15 kilometres west of Dingo. The area is highly scenic and most valued for its brigalow and poplar box communities.

N.P. 1660 - RUSSELL

(Russell and Mulgrave River)

2930 hectare Gazetted 23.2.80

This National Park is situated on the coast about midway between Innisfail and Cairns. The vegetation ranges from palm rainforest and ti-tree barring-tonia swamps on the lower regions to tropical rainforest on the higher country.

N.P. 31 - LONG ISLAND

(Wild Duck Island)

207 hectare Gazetted 1.3.80

This National Park which is part of Wild Duck Island, is situated about 160 kilometres north of Rockhampton. The area covered by the park is recognised as an important flat back turtle rookery and is one of only two known rookeries of this species in eastern Australia.

N.P. 666 CROWS NEST

(Crows Nest Falls)

473 hectares Gazetted 8.3.80

This national park is situated south east of Crows Nest near the Perseverance Creek Dam.

The area which was formerly part of a Timber Reserve features shallow but beautifully coloured and textured sandstone caves.

N.P. 296 - BUNKER  
(Capricorn Group)

111 hectare - Gazetted 16.3.80

This National Park comprises North West and Wreck Islands within the Capricorn Group situated about 80 kilometres north east of Gladstone. Both are major turtle rookeries while North West is also a major nesting area for the Wedge-tailed shearwater (mutton bird).

On seven (7) existing national parks, additions totalling about 6531 hectares have been gazetted since 1st July, 1979.

N.P. 796 - MAIALA (Mt. Glorious).  
Additional 10 hectares - gazetted 14.7.79. Total area - 1140 hectares. This extension to the Maiala National Park is an area of closed road that is no longer required for its previously gazetted purpose.

N.P. 278 - EURIMBULA.  
Additional 2220 hectares, gazetted 17.11.79. Total area 7270. The addition to the national park is about 30 kilometres north east of Miriam Vale situated generally on the western slopes of the Edinburgh Mountains and Westwood Range. The scenery of open eucalypt forest and rugged granite mountains is quite spectacular.

N.P. 477 - CONONDALE  
Additional 127 hectares, gazetted 1.12.79, total area 386 hectares. This extension is situated less than 10 kilometres south west of Kenilworth, an area excised from a State Forest and includes the complete catchment of one branch of Scrubby Creek with well developed wet eucalypt forest and stands of rainforest along the creek valleys.

N.P. 233 - CLONMEL (Cania Gorge)  
Additional 674 hectares, gazetted 19.12.79, total area 1020 hectares.

This extension to the existing Cania Gorge National Park was formerly part of a State Forest and is bounded in part by Three Moon Creek and features a portion of Cania Gorge. It is renowned for its scenic walks and rugged rock formations, situated north west of Monto.

N.P. 16 - CARREE (Fraser Island)  
(Future Name - Great Sandy National Park)

Additional 3000 hectares, gazetted 22.12.79, total area 52400 hectares.

This extension to the existing national park on Fraser Island consists of a strip of vacant Crown land of varying width extending from Sandy Cape to a point about 8 kilometres south of Indian Head and portion 2, parish of Wathumba. Both areas are important to the future management of the Park.

N.P. 496 - ROBERTS (Lamington)  
Additional 300 hectares, gazetted 9.2.80, total area 20200 hectares. The Lamington National Park has been expanded by the addition of 4 hectares near O'Reillys for use as a camping area and portion 23V, parish of Kerry, which is in the north west section of the Park, providing a viewing point for the spectacular waterfall scenery on Cainbale Creek. Several dedicated though unformed roads have been closed and included in the Park.

N.P. 281 - BROADWATER (Girraween)  
Additional 200 hectares - gazetted 15.3.80, total area 11300 hectares. The addition of a further area of land to the Girraween National Park near Stanthorpe. The additional area was an inholding within the park and as such, posed potential management problems especially in view of its proximity to two large camping areas and a recently constructed visitor centre.

A number of national parks have been amalgamated since 1.7.79.

N.P. 767 - Abbotsford (Bowling Green Bay). Increase in area 20635 he. Total area 55300 he. Gazetted 22.12.1979

This national park is formed by the amalgamation of the existing Cape Cleveland, Mt. Elliot and Mt. Burrumbush National Parks along with new areas being portions 1, 8 and 321, parish of Ettrick, and some vacant Crown land between Cape Bowling Green and the Haughton River. The park extends from Cape Bowling Green to Cape Cleveland and inland to include Mt. Elliot and its surrounds. The park contains a wide range of landscape and vegetation types, including relatively high granite mountains, long sandy beaches and extensive wetlands.

N.P. 226 - Bellenden Ker  
Area 31000 he Gazetted 15.3.80

This Order in Council involved the amalgamation of existing national parks in the Bellenden Ker Range area, into one national park.

The amalgamation of these national parks also allowed for the definition of the boundary between the former N.P.226 Bellenden Ker State Forest 310 Bellenden Ker.

The former metes and bounds description of this boundary was ill defined and could not be located on the ground.

N.P. 236 Aubrey (Carnarvon)  
additional 65835 he. total area 160000 he. gazetted 22.12.79.

This National Park comprises the former Mt. Moffatt Pastoral Holding and part of Welcome Pastoral Holding which has been amalgamated with National Parks in that region to form a single management unit. In this way it is hoped to protect the complex more fully and also enable the public to obtain a better understanding and enjoyment of the area.

N.P. 255 - Gloucester - Increase of 1020 he, Total area 3970 he, Gazetted 26.1.80

Dedication of Gloucester National Park involving amalgamation of Gloucester Island and surrounding island national parks, addition of Grassy, Olden and other islands with two prominent peninsulas on the mainland.

N.P. 227 - Conway (Whitsunday Islands, Mt. Conway)  
Increase in area 2070 he.  
gazetted 26.1.80  
Total area 23800 he.

Dedication of Whitsunday National Park involved the amalgamation of Conway Range (N.P. 227 Conway) National Park and adjacent island national parks together with additional area from State Forest near mouth of Repulse Creek.

Three Environmental Parks have been gazetted since 1st July, 1979 with total area approximating 3088 hectares.

1393 - KNAPP, gazetted on 18.8.79

This Environmental Park is situated about 39 kilometres south east of Boonah by road, and has an area of about 123 hectares. The land is made up of high ridges and mountainous forest country intersected by small gullies. The habitat provides for a good selection of fauna endemic to the area.

163 - CARRABA, gazetted 3.11.79

This Environmental Park is situated about 20 kilometres south west of Taroom and is an area of virgin brigalow and associated scrub which is representative of the ground cover of the region and has an area of 44.5 hectares.

800 - COONAMBELAH, gazetted 2.2.80.

This Environmental Park was formerly part of a Pasturage Reserve and a Local Government Reserve and is adjacent to the city of Townsville. The area is valued as a prime water bird habitat and is held in high regard by waterbird enthusiasts. It has a total area of 2920 hectares.

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Five Fauna Sanctuaries have been gazetted since 1st July, 1979 with total area approximating 2318 hectares.

Koonabulla Fauna Sanctuary gazetted 28.7.79 is situated midway between Landsborough and Beerwah and has an area of 24.82 hectares.

Gunnadoo Fauna Sanctuary gazetted 28.7.79 is situated about 5.6 kilometres south of Roma and is approximately 209 hectares.

Charley Creek Fauna Sanctuary, gazetted 28.7.79, is situated on the outskirts of Chinchilla and is approximately 113 hectares.

Awoonga Dam Fauna Sanctuary, gazetted 15.12.79, is situated about 27 kilometres south of Gladstone - area 1960 he.

Texas Lagoon Fauna Sanctuary, gazetted 2.2.80, extends over an area which runs through the centre of the town of Texas and has an area of 10.9 hectares.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Services total Estate is as follows:

As At 21st March, 1980.

305 National Parks - 2,811,207 ha.

Amalgamation of certain national parks have reduced the actual number of parks within the Service but the area has increased considerably.

79 Environmental Parks - 37,867 ha.

3 Fauna Reserves - 30,227 ha

1 Scientific Purpose Reserve - 5,345 ha

As At 30th June, 1979.

1320 Fauna Sanctuaries - 11,121,132 ha .

From 1st July, 1979 to 21st March, 1980, an addition of - 5 Fauna Sanctuaries - 2,316 ha.

I was not able to ascertain Forestry Department's activity as regards the dedication of State Forest from 1st July 1979, which are also Fauna Sanctuaries.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Service wishes to congratulate the National Parks Association on its Golden Jubilee. The Director, Deputy Director and Secretary were among the 300 people who attended the Romeo Lahey memorial lecture in the Brisbane City Council's auditorium in the Toowong Botanical Gardens on 21st March.

Mr Keith Jarrot (Secretary since 1946) gave a most informative address, laced liberally with humor anecdote.

Our Director moved the vote of Thanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

at a reducing salon: We recycle Waists.

at another reducing salon: Hip, hip away!

At a Service station: Open  
bright and oily.

on a house: Wonderful neighbours  
for sale. House free. Inquire  
within.

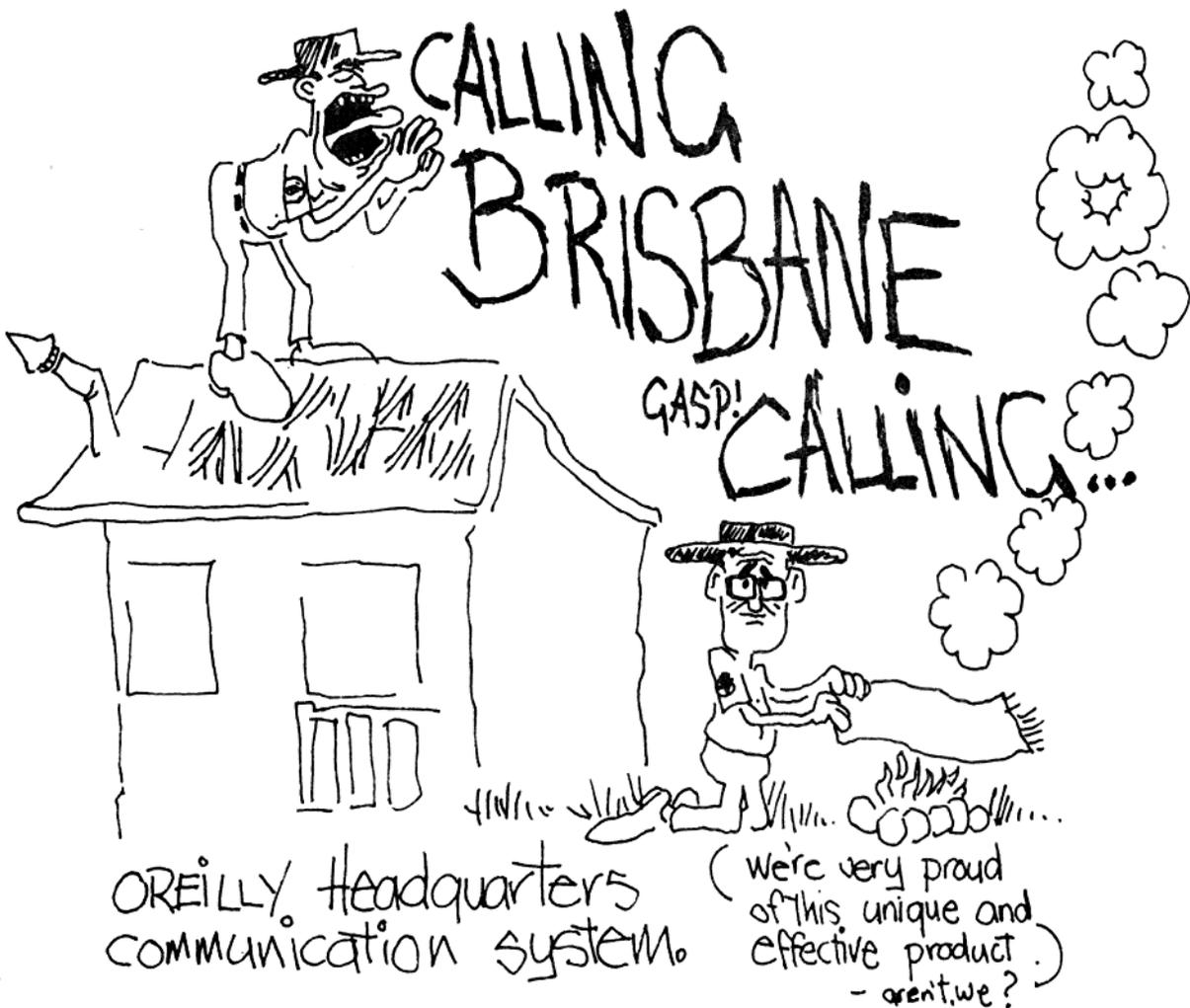
### Australia's First Settlers

WERE YOUR ANCESTORS among our earliest settlers? Here is a list of known pioneer families who arrived in Australia between 1788 and 1838.

a Beckett (2)	Close	Lamb	Scougall
Antill	Colyer	Lethbridge	Shadforth
Arndell	Cowper	Loughnan	Smith
Baylis	Cox	Macarshi	Steel (2)
Bayly	Dangar	Macarthur	Stephen
Bell	Devenish-Meares	Mackenzie (2)	Stokes
Bettington	Dowling (2)	Maclean	Street
Blaxland (2)	Ebsworth (2)	Merewether	Suttor
Blomfield	Fairfax	Minchin	Throsby
Boydell	Faithfull	Molle	Traill
Bradley	Faunce	Mowle	Waldron
Busby	Fitzhardinge	Murray	Walker
Campbell (4)	Giblin	Officer	White
Cape	Gibson	Oliver	Wilkie
Chambers	Harrison	Ranken (2)	Wilson
Chatfield	Jenkins	Riddell	Windeyer (2)
Chisholm	Kemmis	Rodd	Wyndham
	King	Ryrie	

Road maps tell a motorist  
everything except how to fold  
them up again

Wife to husband trying on a  
hairpiece: "It makes you look  
twenty years sillier".



'The whole island stank like a foul hen-roost, and we were covered in bird-lice and ticks from sleeping in the sand . . .'

Hardly encouraging words about an island off the coast of Australia that is now benefiting from assistance by BHP and the Company's links with the World Wildlife Fund-Australia.

Raine Island is 100 km east-north-east of Cape Grenville and is found just outside the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Named after its discoverer, Captain Thomas Raine, it is 850 m long and about 430 m wide. It is generally regarded as the world's largest green turtle rookery, and it is a principal seabird breeding ground. Some experts suggest it is the most biologically productive island on the Great Barrier Reef.

BHP is only one of a number of major Australian companies that is supporting the World Wildlife Fund-Australia. It has agreed to provide \$46 000 towards necessary research and conservation work on the island.

# Raine Island—a biological wonder

A green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)



There are 27 nations supporting the World Wildlife Fund, and to date there have been 2000 projects given support in more than 100 countries. Founded in 1961, World Wildlife Fund sets out to provide funds for specialist research, education and necessary acquisition of land to help conservation interests. It also has an important role to play in communicating the conservation message to the world's policy and decision-makers, and planners.

The Australian branch of WWF has 27 projects on its support programme. BHP is supporting the Raine Island scheme, while its subsidiary, Rheem Australia Limited, is providing support for what is described as "a further attempt to locate populations of the Dibbler" — an unobtrusive little animal with a fearless disposition that resembles a field mouse thought to have disappeared over 83 years ago.

Two Directors of BHP, Sir R. R. Law-Smith, CBE, who is also Chairman of the National Bank of Australasia Ltd., and Mr L. Gordon Darling, also Chairman of Rheem Australia Limited, are trustees of WWF-Australia.

The management of the Raine Island project was placed in the hands of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, whose Director, Dr Graham Saunders, is a trustee of WWF and a member of the Conservation Program Committee.

Dr Saunders, an ecologist, says that although remarked on as outstanding since its discovery in the mid-19th century, Raine Island has remained the subject of only occasional and unsystematic studies. Studies of the island and visits to it by our officers led the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service to press for the inclusion of a conservation study and action programme to be considered for support by the WWF-Australia, he says.

Responsibility for the preparation of the submission was designated in the main to Dr Hugh Lavery, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.Ec., the department's Director, Research and Planning, and Mr Colin Limpus, M.Sc., Dip.Ed., Zoologist, Research and Planning. The project plan was finally offered as the first of a proposed series of integrated studies over the long-term, hopefully involving a variety of agencies that have responsibilities for and interests in this area.

Dr Lavery and Colin Limpus felt Raine Island was in need of scientific attention as it was regarded as the last major rookery of the principal economic sea turtle species.

## Turtles for food

Visits to the island in 1976 and 1977 indicated that the natives of the Torres Strait, southern New Guinea and Indonesia used turtles from Raine as an important food resource.

The researchers estimated that 10 000 green turtles were being taken annually by the islanders.

The submission was accepted and, now with BHP's support, the project is under-way.

Dr Lavery says the project has passed through the preparatory stages and Mr Brian King, M.Sc., Zoologist, is the appointed project officer.

All the necessary equipment has been purchased and the first expedition, which included some volunteers, has already been completed.

Brian King led the party which made the recent visit to Raine Island. They travelled from Townsville by boat, but because of poor weather the journey to the island took

a week to complete. The delay meant that the party could spend only two of the four weeks they had planned at Raine Island. Yet, they counted 10 000 nests of every bird species present on the island, made a complete plant collection, tagged more than 900 green turtles, surveyed bird band sizes, and carried out other important field work.

One discovery was the absence of frigate birds, usually abundant on Raine — they expected to find 2000 of them — which suggests that these ocean wanderers may have met with some sort of disaster. (Brian King will have returned to the island by the time this article is published and he hopes to find them nesting on Pandora Cay, an area further north than Raine.)

On the recent visit to Raine, Brian King's party made the first sighting there of a white-tailed tropic bird — a rare visitor to Eastern Australia — and banded 27 red-tailed tropic birds. They did not band any of the 8000 brown gannets on the island because most were nesting, but will band some during a future two-week visit to Raine.

## Early times

But, let us revert to the none-too-encouraging quote in a diary kept by Mr J. Beete Jukes, who in 1843 spent a night on the island with Captain Blackwood and crew members of HMS Fly. It was he who wrote "... the island stank like a foul hen-roost ...", and who further suggested "the gannets and frigate birds were very good when cooked with a little curry powder."

Mr Peter Ogilvie, a zoologist with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, and author of "A Slice of History in a Loaf of Nature", has visited Raine Island twice. On his first visit in 1975 he helped noted explorer and film-maker Ben Cropp produce the documentary "Islands of Tragedy", and then in 1977 he assisted an ABC film crew prepare a television special.

In his book he says Captain Thomas Raine discovered the tiny island in 1815 en route to China in HMS Surrey. He suggests that the island was formed by wind and wave action from the smaller coral reef that surrounds it.

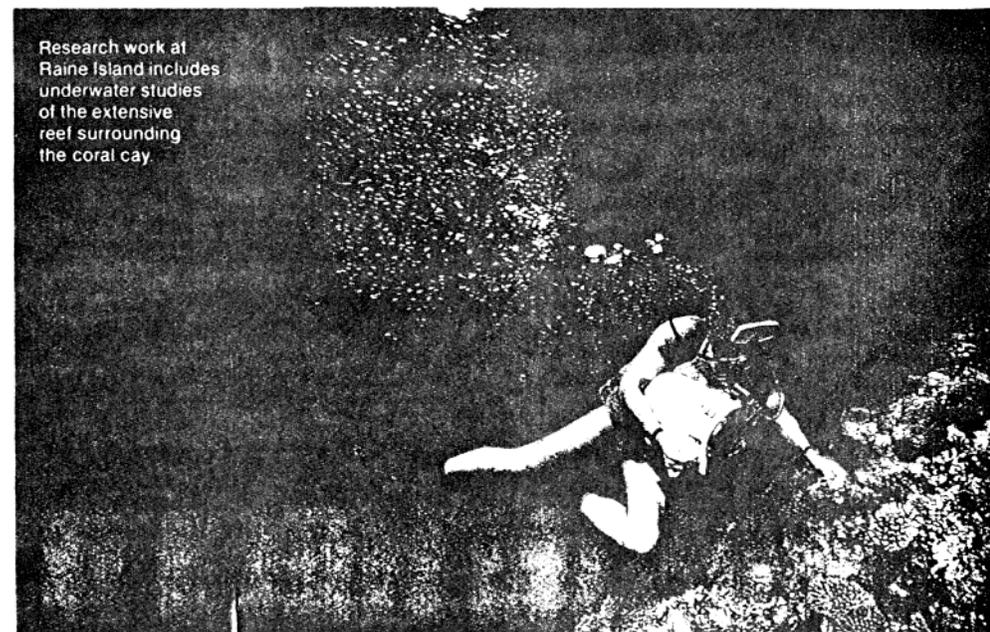
The book says that in 1845 a party from the HMS Bramble arrived at the island and the 'journalist' Sweatman recorded that "our first act on landing was, of course, to break every egg so that all we collected afterwards were sure to be fresh".

A feature of the island is the warning beacon, which is to be the subject of restoration work with assistance from Professor David Saunders of the Adelaide University, an expert in this field.

Peter Ogilvie suggests the beacon was first built in 1844 and it took four months to complete. A diarist of the time said the dome consisted of a wooden frame covered with a painted canvas. Although the wood and canvas have long since rotted away the stone tower still stands as a silent tribute to the workmanship of a Lieutenant Ince and a work party of 40 men.



The masked gannet (*Sula dactylatra*) is one of 3 gannets (or boobies) that nest on Raine Island.



Research work at Raine Island includes underwater studies of the extensive reef surrounding the coral cay.

The beacon is 30 feet in diameter at the base 27 feet in diameter at the top and stands 64 feet in height. When it was operative the beacon could be seen at sea 12 miles away.

Peter Ogilvie says external repairs were made to the base of the tower in 1961.

He further suggests that the island has survived a number of invasions of its solitude including two years spent there by nine Europeans and 100 Asians from the J. T. Arundel Company, guano miners in the Pacific.

### Tram line

They spent two years digging up the island and constructed some houses, a jetty and a tram line. The only lasting reminders are a number of rubble stacks rising out of the central depression and a grave and headstone of Annie Eliza Ellis who died June 29, 1891.

Dr Lavery and a field assistant, R. J. Grimes, are co-authors of "Sea Birds of the Great Barrier Reef". They say that explorer Captain James Cook and his accompanying botanist Joseph Banks in the "Endeavour" noted an abundance of sea fowl at Booby Island, Torres Strait in 1770.

Dr Lavery says many people have written about the bird-life of the area and, in fact, there are 29 species of birds from seven different sea-bird families found in the Great Barrier Reef.

Thirteen species, including more than 10 000 sooty terns nest on Raine Island with six to seven nests of the red-tailed tropic-bird having been there for some 100 years," he writes.

He has no doubt that Raine Island is an important breeding area and needs to be conserved.

Colin Limpus says in "Sea Turtles of the Northern Great Barrier Reef" that the continued monitoring of the Raine Island rookery is essential.

He suggested tagging of the turtles there with emphasis on the identification of the courting turtles and the females during re-nesting periods to help discern just why Raine Island is so important for green turtles.

The suggestion may have been promoted by the fact that in the breeding season of 1974/75 up to 11 500 green turtles were counted on the beach at Raine Island in **ONE** night and the total rookery size for that season was estimated at 100 000. During brief research visits in 1976 and 1977, 2470 sea turtles were tagged on the island and tags were recovered throughout the Torres Strait, southern New Guinea and Indonesia, a further reminder that the sea turtles form an important part of the food resources available in the region.

Although they are sea animals, the female turtles must return to land to lay their eggs above high water level as the soaking in salt water can kill them or waves wash them away. The average clutch of eggs numbers 110 but only a handful of the newly-hatched turtles survive the attacks of seabirds, fish or other predators.

The tropic birds and red-footed gannets breed on no other island in the Great Barrier Reef. All the species are ground nesters as there are no trees on Raine Island. This makes the presence of nesting nankeen night herons all the more

interesting as these are normally tree nesting birds. On Raine they have adapted to breeding on the ground.

### Protection

Dr Saunders says his department is also working towards having Raine Island and other areas of the Great Barrier Reef declared as a national park or protected area.

"We believe Raine Island is the largest densest green turtle rookery ever recorded and it is of major international significance because of declining green turtle resources in other countries. It is also the only known breeding site for the red-footed gannet, the red-tailed tropic bird and the Trinidad petrel."

"The probable bird population there could number as high as 25 000."

Dr Saunders, and his department officers involved in the Raine Island project, both now and in the past, are warm in their thanks for the support BHP has given WWF-Australia.

"The support to the WWF-Australia alone is of great importance and benefit, and we are fortunate enough that the Raine Island project has been designated as the programme to get that backing," he says.

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*(The Review expresses thanks to Dr Saunders and the officers of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and their photographer Stephen Parrish for their assistance in presenting this article one we sincerely believe will be of interest to a wide range of Australians.)*

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The largest research programme on sea-turtles in the Southern Hemisphere is supported also by funds from Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service



Responsibility for Imprest  
Accountable Advances

It has come to my notice that officers in the field are not complying with requirements for maintaining an imprest accountable advance. By such an advance is meant an advance made in a fixed amount to an accounting officer required to incur expenditure on a continuing basis and reimbursed to that fixed amount each time an accounting for expenditure is made.

Only imprest accountable advances shall be made for the purpose of meeting petty cash and postage expenditure.

The Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1978 sets out the following requirements that must be adhered to -

- (1) An officer to whom an accountable advance has been made shall be held responsible for its safe custody and shall be fully accountable for such advance.
- (2) Entries on a postage account shall be verified by an internal check officer who shall initial each entry or each daily total of expenditure entered therein.
- (3) Every accounting officer to whom an imprest accountable advance has been made, shall after making expenditure from such advance, submit to the Accountant at least at the end of each month, a voucher for recoupment of that expenditure and shall indicate in that voucher details of that expenditure. The accounting officer shall submit with that recoupment voucher, expenditure voucher or other records to properly support that voucher.

- (4) At the end of each month each imprest accountable advance shall be balanced by the accounting officer to whom the advance has been made and that account shall be examined and its correctness certified by an internal check officer.

Steve Burstow  
Finance Officer

Congratulations are in order for Steve Burstow and his fiancée, Cheryl, who will take the plunge on 26th April.

Not to be outdone, Peter Burke and Jenny will be married in May.

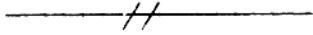
It's the season of celebrations in Accounts Section with Peter Starkey recently celebrating his 21st birthday and the intrepid Japanese-speaking judo-chopping Joe Minehan likewise coming of age.

Although Peter and Joe are rather shy lads it is significant, girls, that they are still eligible! So go to it! Remember it's a leap year - Kiss a Clerk, not a Cop!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

A playboy moth invited himself to a two-year-old's birthday party. The moth joined in not wisely but too well. He burned his end at both candles.

A piece of poetry dedicated to  
Bill and Gordon, Charlie and me  
and Syd and all of those beautiful  
people who are non-smokers and  
have at some time or other been  
inconvenienced by the great  
anti-social habit.



As a person acaphotic, \*  
I find nicotincs neurotic.  
Their habits nepheligenous,\*  
Make my ire rise prodigious  
And my appetite sorely suffers  
In the presence of these buffers.

Their odorous fumes  
Contaminate rooms  
And load the air-conditioning  
till it seems,  
That my energy is spent  
In discovering a vent  
That pours forth clean air in  
refreshing streams.

So to hell with their smokes  
Those ignorant blokes  
Inconsiderate of all we non-smokers.  
I do wish you'd learn  
To refrain from your burn  
And be courteous to all of us  
jokers.

In office and committee,  
And elsewhere in the City  
In crowded places and trains you  
are puffing.  
At restaurants, Field-days,  
And theatrical plays  
Your lungs you're continually  
stuffing.

There's only one answer to prevent  
your lung cancer,  
It's simple and no further  
warning.  
Cease this dirty racket, destroy  
that last packet  
Start living without your  
throat burning.

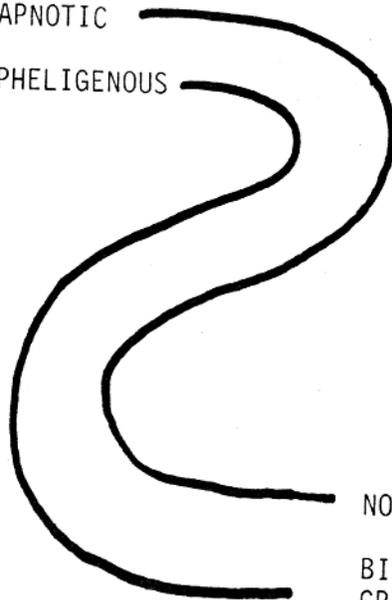
When you can say Whacko!  
I've given up tobacco  
You will find that your outlook  
will brighten.  
Without that haze of smoke  
You're a much improved bloke  
Your social acceptance will  
heighten.

If you could but see  
The medical misery  
You are causing your respiratory  
centre.  
It's oxygen starved  
And CO<sub>2</sub> halved  
In result of this function  
preventer.

Give me some air-space  
Don't light up in my face  
Or pass me the effects of your  
failings.  
I'm sure you don't see  
It's just as bad for me  
To accept the tail-ends of  
exhalings.

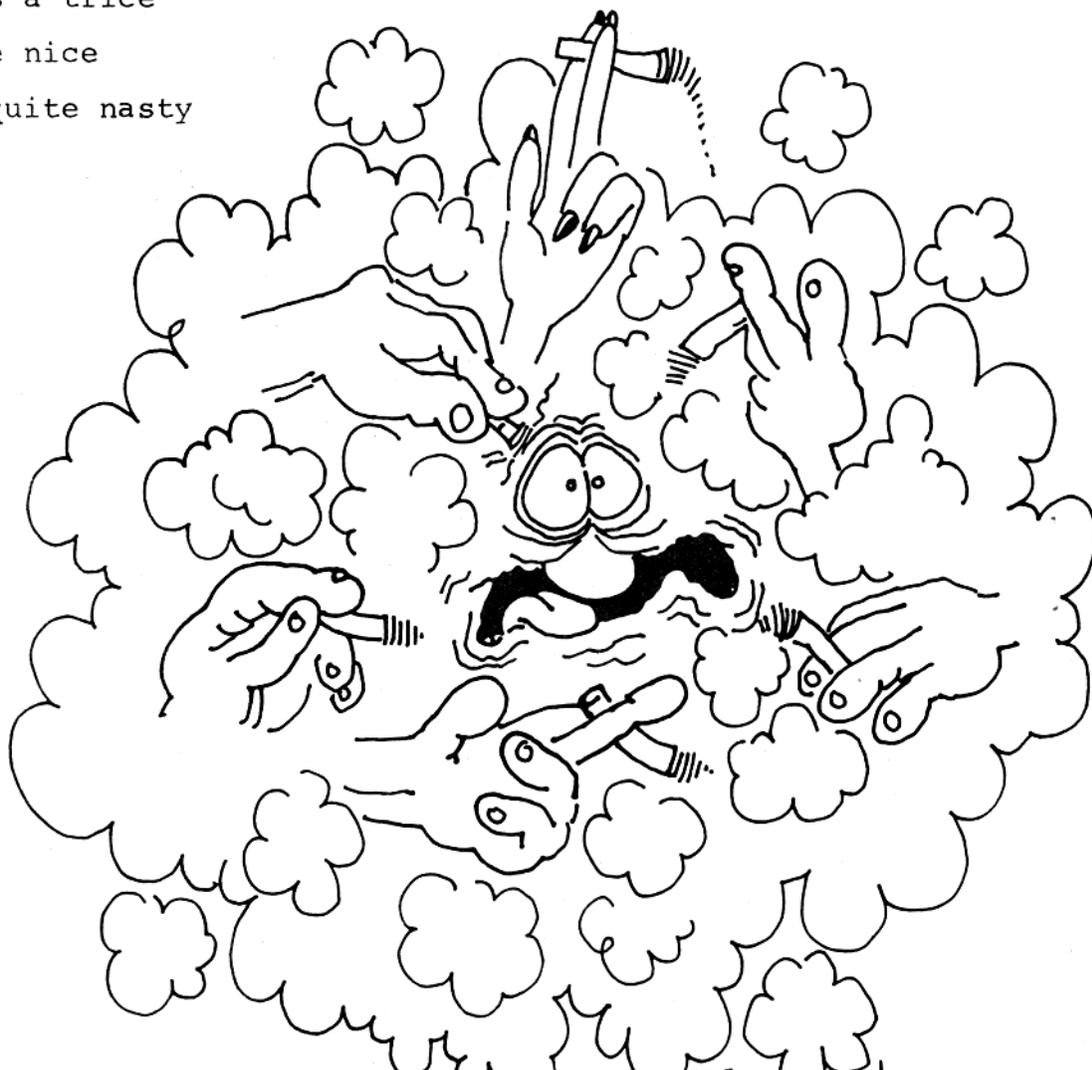
Just leave me alone  
Strictly on my own  
If of smoking you are an exponent  
For as sure as a trice  
I'll forget to be nice  
And become a quite nasty  
opponent.

\*ACAPNOTIC  
\*NEPHELIGENOUS



NON SMOKER

BILLOWING FORTH  
GREAT CLOUDS OF  
SMOKE



Smokers !!!  
... have a heart.



I wish to acknowlege the assistance of  
F.R. (Dick) Allison and his lover on  
literature, Mrs Byrne.

John Martin  
(Hedley Daniell)

Once upon a time the fastest game in the world was ice hockey. Guess what it is now - "Pass-the-parcel" in the BELFAST TAVERN.

in an antique shop: Should auld and quaint things be forgot?

If you fulfil your longing to return to your childhood town, you may find it isn't the town you are longing for; it is your childhood.

at a dry-cleaners: In by Ten dirty, Out by 4.30.

When is a door not a door?

When its ajar!??

at a shoe repair shop: Time wounds all heels.

Helen: "I wonder what men talk about when they're off by themselves?"

Nellie: "Probably the same things we do."

Helen: "Oh, aren't they awful".



It had not been a turbulent romance. They had been 'walking out together' for nigh on twenty years. Then, one Sunday afternoon he had a sudden rush of blood to the head and asked: "Rosie, will you marry me?" She said, "Yes".

They walked two miles in silence. Rosie remarked: "You're not saying much, Ned." After another half-mile he replied: "I think I've said too much already."



## FAUNA SQUAD HAPPENINGS

Merv, - maybe we better  
slow down on the rice  
a bit, - er, merv?



On a recent trip to the Conondale Ranges undertaken by Pat Galway and Merv Parker -

While checking on the deer programme in the Conondale Ranges Merv Parker fell over a log and broke a couple of ribs, and damaged his elbow.

Pat Galway volunteered to undertake nursing duties and when he went to prepare a meal for the patient found they hadn't brought any food with them.

After rummaging through the vehicle for some time he came across some tins of rice (which had been there so long they'd gone rusty) and a packet of brown sugar.

Luckily for them a local farmer took pity on them and gave them a gallon of milk.

If this is how our 'experienced' bushmen get on in the wilds, how well do you think city people would manage.

COULD YOU LIVE ON CREAMED RICE  
FOR FOUR DAYS?????????

### The Big Shift

There has been considerable effort expended in planning for the big shift of our Head Office from the Professional Suites to the M.L.C. building, cnr Adelaide and George Streets, Brisbane.

A programme was drawn up to provide for the big shift to take place on 23rd May 1980.

Works Department is pulling out all stops to see that this very rigid timetable is adhered to. Working drawings and the initial sketch plans are expected within the next two weeks.

The construction stage with provision of partitions, sinks, etc. is scheduled to commence on 7th April, 1980.

An OPTIMIST - is a man who maintains that the dry cleaners have been shrinking the waist of his pants.

Fisherman: "Say, why don't you try fishing yourself? You've been watching me for an hour."

Fred: "Not me, I haven't the patience."

\*\*\*\*\*

Angry wife: "You are being deliberately calm!"

I wish to put forward a suggestion for a possible innovation to Ringtail 1980.

When recently visiting Magnetic Island National Park the resident Overseer commented to me that he was sure he had seen my name in Ringtail, and post-haste produced it with great glee at the culprit page. Clearly, the field staff absorb much of the information Ringtail has to offer.

Thus I have a suggestion:

That all permanent staff of the Service (wages and salaried) be photographed during this year, with one or two lift out pages of photographs being published in each Ringtail issue. They could be organised on a Centre by Centre or Branch by Branch basis. In this way faces could be put to names and consequently avoid embarrassing moments at airports, parks, 5th floor counter etc.

About 20 small portrait photos could be placed on a page with name, designation and Centre printed below each photo. Black and white photos would be adequate and a suggestion is that the field officer badge photos taken in 1979 could be used as a basis.

The idea of having such pages as liftouts, is that the quality of the printing would of necessity have to be higher and secondly the pages could be accumulated separately as each Ringtail is produced. There may be some minor cost involved where photos are not currently on hand but I would suggest that the benefits accrued through better relations and communication from dealing with familiar faces, would far outweigh any cost involved.

I hope this suggestion may generate further discussion and action as an exercise in improving relations between head office and field staff and within the field staff scattered far and wide.

Carolyn Sandercoe

Thanks for the suggestion Carolyn, your comment highlighting the acceptance of Ringtail is very gratifying and helps to make the effort of producing the newsletter well worthwhile.

As a result of favourable comments from Dr. Saunders and his 'heads of state' this fine 'rogues gallery' should commence in Ringtail about the middle of this year and then continue as an ongoing project.

\* \* \* \* \*

An absent minded Santa Clause came down the chinmey with a bag full of ..... EASTER EGGS.

Have a happy Easter and for all those who are - have a happy Mother's day.

# Ringtail

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