



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

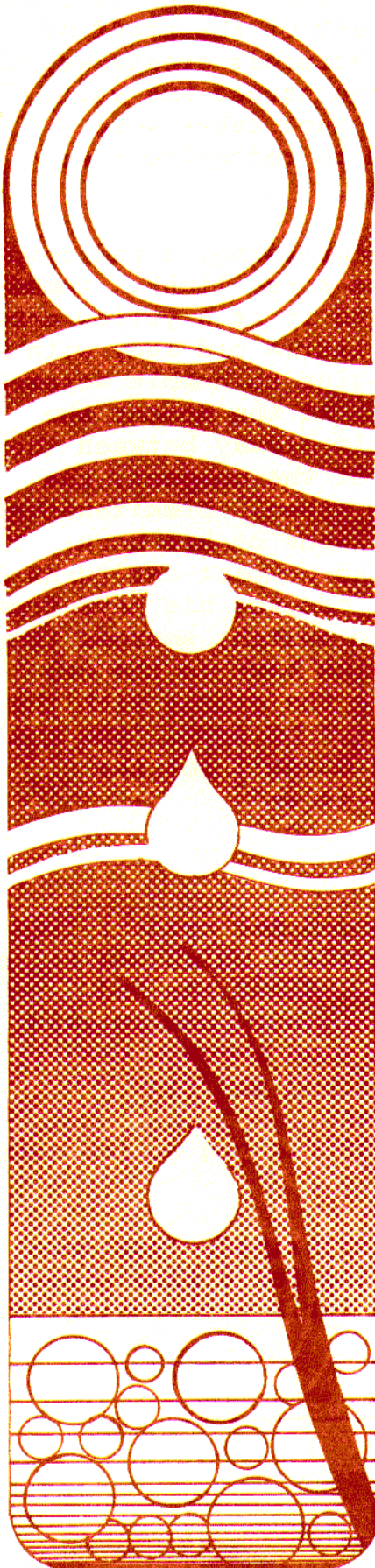
# Ringtail

May 1980

## Editorial

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed, if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases: if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence, so that never again will people be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste, and so that never again can we have the chance to see ourselves single, separate, vertical and individual in the world, part of the environment of trees and rocks and soil, brother to the other animals, part of the natural world and competent to belong in it. We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in, for it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, as part of the geography of hope .....

- Wallace Stegner  
Professor of  
English at Stanford  
University



## Letter to the Editor

The first anniversary of Ringtail having just past I feel the urgent need to offer our congratulations to the persons responsible for its publication and presentation. Yes, we do read Ringtail and look forward to its arrival. It was good to hear news from the Carnarvons! Hi! there Bill, I hope to call there in the next year or so. Could you arrange for the Currawong's to be away for a few days? Campers arriving here over the recent holidays tell me they spent time at the Carnarvons and on the return called at Bunya Mountains. This gets one interested so it will be on next year, taking a break with Les and staff at the Bunyas on the way.

Cheers to all your staff Sir,  
keep up the good work.

Bernie Moloney,  
Green Mountains,  
Lamington National Park.

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If you worry about missing the boat - remember the Titanic.

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Garage Sale: a technique for distributing all the junk in your garage among all the other garages in the neighbourhood.

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My neighbour carries a little card in his wallet. It says I AM A PESSIMIST. IN CASE OF ACCIDENT, I'M NOT SURPRISED.

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Rain is caused by high-pressure areas, cold fronts, warm moist air and weekends.

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## Cross Purposes

Just because New Yorkers don't live in little forests, studded with quaint dwellings and even quainter beings, it doesn't mean that the city is bereft of the stuff of myth. The helpless creatures, the ogres and the heroes are still around. It just takes some imagination to recognise them. For example:

At a street crossing, a red compact car waits at a red light. Immediately behind it is a yellow cab. Enter: a little old lady with a cane who begins to hobble across the street. At the moment she finds herself midway between the headlights of the compact, the light turns green. Simultaneously, the cabbie leans on his horn. The driver of the compact car turns off his engine, removes his keys from the ignition switch, emerges from the car, walks back to the cab and presents the cabbie with the keys. 'Here,' he says, 'you run her over, I haven't got the stomach for it'.

## Incentive

A woman dropped her contact lens in a wastebasket, which was filled to the brim. After she had searched diligently but in vain, her husband went through the litter and found the lens.

'How on earth did you do it?' she asked.

'Well,' he explained, 'you were only searching for a tiny piece of plastic, but I was looking for \$75'.

## Management and Operations Branch

Approached by a learned looking lady sporting binoculars, camera, etc, she asked, where would be the best place in the area for bird watching. I gave her directions to a well known spot which is frequented by all manner of water birds.

She was most interested, especially when told that Brolga's could usually be seen.

Getting onto the subject of Brolga's she informed me wistfully that she had never seen their dance.

Being in a jocular mood, I asked did you play them some music.

When instead of a laugh or even a smile I was rather taken aback when she answered in all seriousness, 'Oh, I didn't know they liked music, what sort do they prefer'.

It was time to change the subject. So steered interest towards Currawongs, learned a lot about them lately.

The thing that worries me is was I being subtly got back at, or is there a certain lady going about the country trying to entice Brolga's to fly into a fling at the sound of her transistor.

Seaforth.

-oOo-

Did you Hear?

... about the Agricultural Department's Santa - he goes "Hoe Hoe, Hoe!

... about the man who finally was able to pay his car insurance - but had to sell his car to do it.

The grass is often thought to be greener on the other side of the fence!!!

The other states have a better system for national parks, they have a better head office, they have ..... . During my last recreation leave I decided to see!

While travelling in South Australia we saw a large sign beside highway one 'National Parks Information Centre and Office'. We were greeted by the 'ranger in charge' complete with one badge half torn off his sleeve, (they wear one on each sleeve), paint, dirt, grease, etc splattered over his uniform, no socks and odd thongs. Upon apologising to him for catching him on his day off, he assured me he was on duty!!

Upon entering the 'information centre' the conditions matched the ranger.

Enquiring about brochures etc on parks, he handed me the few they had - black and white. (Congratulations to our T.S.S.).

On another national park in South Australia we were pleased to meet rangers who did more for the Service image, but they all had stories of low morale, no training, lack of direction from above and general dissatisfaction as a result of no Director - the acting Director is a member of the fairer sex!.

On to New South Wales to visit and explore a little of the famous Blue Mountains National Park.

We eventually located the national parks information office and were just inside, when there happens a fatal car smash outside the door.

Of course the national park telephone is handy for police to use and the next half hour rather hectic for all concerned. As it happened all available rangers were out fighting bush fires in the park, so the office girl, between operating the switchboard, manning two way radio and organising relief for fire fighters, gave us a little information on camping areas, etc. etc.

We proceeded to the picnic/camp area, which consisted of approx. 60 acres with steel barbecues, concrete water tanks and 'tin' toilets, and set up camp. As darkness came, so did the vandals!! We were disturbed by loud banging outside the tent (the only other campers were on the other side of the camp area) thinking of yowies or other bunyip like monsters, we soon realised that the nearby toilets were the victims, not us, thankfully. (An inspection next morning confirmed our suspicions).

Then around 2 AM another disturbance that sounded like practice for the next around Australia car trials or speedway derbys started. After the amount of crashes they had, they sure will need some practice (and more cars).

All intentions of spending a few days in the area vanished ..... early next morning we left. About 1km from the camping area, on the road to the entrance of the park, we came upon two near new cars rolled over and stripped. Upon reporting it to the Ranger in charge, he assured us he would report it to the police the next day when he was on duty! We assumed from our conversation with him that those type of incidents happen quite regularly. He claimed their head office solution

to prevent campers from being molested and disturbed all night, was to prevent camping!!! (My solution would have been to close and lock the large steel gates that they already have at the entrance to the park, to keep the undesirable out).

Later, when we spoke to the local police, the sergeant seemed astonished that we camped in the park, adding, 'respectable people just don't camp in national parks around here'.

We've thought about it and decided to stick to Queensland national parks in the future.

D. Schulz, Cape Hillsborough.

-oOo-

'Certainly the braincase is analogous to the commode; both serve a seemingly indispensable function, and thus have, as a result, remained in all particulars in a pristine and unmodified condition (at least as regards their structure) through a grievous long period of time on Earth ....'

Cuthbert Tomlinson Tedwelle, Esq., 1678. Tome II, Animalium Frustratum, Part II: 'On the skulls of divers and sundry creaturs of the Grotzwell bogs, Marston-on-Kent'.

'Prithee, is it perchance possible that the contents of his skull are analogous to the content of the commode?'

John Jones, 1679, Vol. 1: 'On the skull of C. Tomlinson Tedwelle'.

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When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism; but when you take it from many writers, it's research.



## A Brief Introduction to National Park Development Planning

The following is extracted from an in-Service discussion paper that I prepared in February 1980 and which is intended for distribution to all national park staff. I realise that in places it does lapse into an account of my personal philosophy on the subject, however I hope that it will serve as food for thought.

(Warning - if you don't like heavy reading take my advice and flick over the next 8 pages.)

Mike Harris.

### Introduction

This commentary is intended as a broad outline of some of the principles and processes necessarily involved in the planning and implementation of development work on areas reserved for nature conservation, with a degree of emphasis on those presently labelled 'national park'. The impetus for undertaking the task of setting down my thoughts on this subject derived from what I felt was a need for a broad overview of the objectives and philosophies inherent in those of our activities directed at providing recreation facilities on the areas entrusted to the Service.

It has occurred to me on many occasions that development work on parks can lack any essential objective direction, or can merely involve catering for demand, which is partially a derived demand, at the expense of the reserved areas. This can often be by way of the sometimes 'sacrificial rite' called a yearly works programme. While these words may appear overly dramatic, it is clear that new 'development' can assume an overpowering role in any financial

discussion on our reserved estate.

The majority of what follows is drawn from my own experience in this field, and notations on specific areas have been expanded into general concepts. A further consideration when I first began its preparation was the increasing demand for a park planning manual and a park furniture manual applicable to the Service. Although this is perhaps a poor substitute, an attempt has been made to include all the basic principles needed for a confident approach to facility design and planning.

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<sup>1</sup> Soon after I began to set these thoughts down, the Service appointed an officer trained in landscape architecture and hence I have elected to truncate this discussion; terminating it short of specific design principles which were originally to have been included. Over the next couple of years, it is hoped that a furniture manual will be produced to cover this area.

What is essentially required in park planning is a return from specific to general terms of reference. Too often it can be the case that projects are seen as entities unto themselves, whereas in reality any development, irrespective of size or location, has prolific implications for other areas. Perhaps it is best to return to the Service's legislative brief whose foundations lie in nature conservation; a subset of this being to acquire and manage a system of reserves dedicated to this aim.

There is little doubt that nature conservation cannot merely be accommodated within the confines of reservation boundaries, and this particularly holds true for faunal

components. However, it is essential that an integrated approach to nature conservation be incorporated in the planning of reserve development. A key to this approach is to retain the notion of a 'Service Estate' composed of a system of inter-related areas rather than a collection of discrete reserves.

No claim is made as to the absolute value of this commentary, or its success in completely exhausting the topics it sets out to discuss. Rather, it has been hastily prepared, almost as a reaction to the deficiencies currently existing in documentation in this area. A concerted attempt has been made to retain a pragmatic, 'down-to-earth' perspective throughout the text in order to ensure that its usefulness might be optimised. It will hopefully precipitate further thought, criticism and discussion on the subject.

#### The development decision

Within the context of financial availability, recreational demand, and contemporary Service objectives, decisions are made at least annually to execute specific development proposals on a variety of national park areas throughout the State. The need to co-ordinate this activity into some manner of broad objective oriented framework is vital to proper park management. Over the past three years the Service has instituted a works planning system whereby long-term proposals for park development are identified, and once ratified, are included in the 'five years works programme' for that park. This was developed primarily to ensure that all development activity is the product of considerable deliberation.

Every effort needs to be made to

integrate a particular development proposal with all other activity past, present and future (planned) in a region<sup>2</sup>, and indeed, throughout the State. This dictates a need for a systems approach to park planning. National parks cannot be viewed singly or in isolation. It is essential that in planning for a park, consideration be given to the total socio environmental setting; and of particular significance is the present and future availability of other park and recreation facilities in the region.<sup>2</sup>

The 'inevitable' escalating cycle of recreational development on a national park from the time it is gazetted should be reconsidered. The moment that an area is declared, we should not be immediately looking to where we can put 'the camping area', 'the picnic ground' or 'the toilet block'.

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<sup>2</sup> In this context the term 'region' is a rather difficult concept to define, dependent on the complex inter-relationships between demographic factors, associated recreational demand, the physical mobility of society, and the distribution and amount of open space available for public recreation. It is a 'locality-specific' term of no fixed geographic extent.

For instance, if a campground development is contemplated on a particular park, it should be the product of a sound appraisal of the function of, and demand for, such a development. This should include an analysis of the public demand for a campground; bearing in mind that a demand can be precipitated or derived from the establishment of a facility such as this. It provides a distinct recreational utility whose bounds

extend beyond those applicable to national parks. That is to say, camping per se is not necessarily an activity which requires the co-existence of a large tract of 'natural' land. As national park managers we must recognise the problems related to the disproportionate amount of outdoor recreational use, both compatible and incompatible, with which the reservation category of 'National Park' has to cope. This is not entirely peculiar to Queensland, but is compounded by the lack of provision for outdoor recreation on other public (and private) land perhaps more able to accommodate certain recreational activities within their respective land management objectives.

An important objective accepted by the Service is to provide a range of recreational opportunities which are compatible with the primary objective of nature conservation. In the pursuit of this goal, development activity on any one national park should always be the product of an exhaustive consideration of such parameters as the total physical and biological resource of the specific reserve and its consequent conservation value, the regional and local setting including the availability of other similar areas, and the recreational demand for the resource now and in the future.

Following on from the initial development decision, the subsequent site-planning, construction and design considerations, and their implementation planning needs always to be guided by a careful investigation of the particular development's function, environmental impact, and aesthetics. Within this, the notion of environmental and social carrying capacities is always an important consideration, particularly since

the establishment of any facility has been shown to almost invariably generate an increased demand for its use. Pressures from various quarters to 'over-develop' some areas beyond their environmental capabilities can be an immense problem.

This is of particular concern when the overall aim of providing for a range of recreational opportunities on national parks is, at certain development nodes, being replaced by one of maximising recreational use - an aim distinctly discordant with the precept of nature conservation. This situation is more common near relatively large urban areas with high population densities. While the mobility of the private individual has been progressively increasing in recent time, there are now indications that this trend may be reversed as the free availability of energy decreases. This will undoubtedly compound the problem of escalated demand for recreational opportunities near urban areas, and will further precipitate the need for all public and private landholders to meet their responsibility by rendering more open space available for recreational pursuits. Such pursuits need not conflict with the respective principal purposes for which such land is managed. This must particularly apply to those State Government agencies and Local Authorities which have land management responsibilities.<sup>3</sup>

Just to digress a little, it is important for each park manager to continually reinforce in his mind the fact that national parks are primarily areas dedicated for nature conservation. In many countries national parks have inherited from the outset, or have evolved, a strong ethnocentric

public image as areas which merely accommodate human recreational use without any constraining factors. And in the essential day to day activity of providing and maintaining recreational facilities on parks, the field managers themselves can subtly and inadvertently tend to take up this very activity as a solitary theme.

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<sup>3</sup>The preceding three paragraphs were extracted from this text while it was still in draft form and used as copy for the Service's annual report 1978-79.

All too often national parks are perceived by the public as merely picnic areas and recreational areas with well-kept facilities and nothing else. This also pertains to the political terms of reference where the essential value of national parks is frequently gauged solely through the extent to which they ameliorate the tourist industry. While in general it is difficult to rationalise the imposition of one value system onto another, if the concept of national parks in perpetuity is to have any substance then the park manager must recognise this current mis-conception and take a hand in what might be called cultural re-education.

While the Service has a distinct role in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities, essentially it must be realised that 'nature-based' outdoor recreation should not be the exclusive preserve of national parks. The current escalation in recreational demand is placing the whole conception of national park recreation beyond the capabilities of the specific reserved areas -

particularly in near-urban locales. As has been said, the responsibility for the provision of such recreation must be shared as far as is practicable amongst all land managers, particularly government agencies such as Forestry, Lands, and individual Shire Councils. Such a standpoint needs to be fostered within the Service and propagandised outside of the Service. In this way, national park management can be logically oriented towards addressing part of a system of land areas made available for recreation, rather than perhaps having to continually prejudice management goals to accommodate the brunt of what could be termed rural outdoor recreation.

The Service itself has under its control, a system of 'Environmental Parks' which have the potential to assume a significant role as an outdoor recreation resource thereby augmenting the national park system. This potential has not yet been fully realised. The Service - because of historical factors and inherited budgetary provisions relevant to this status of reserve - has been to an extent forced into retaining the mutual exclusiveness of national parks and environmental parks in recreational planning. This situation begs modification to ensure that recreation planning within the Service proceeds on a regional basis and takes cognisance of the total Service Estate, conjointly relating this to other non-Service recreation resources.

Related to this, there is ample justification for a reclassification of the various elements within the Service Estate with at least the creation of a category of reserve such as 'Natural Park' or 'State Park' with a lower nature conservation status than 'National



Park'. For instance approximately 70% of the presently declared national parks have an area of less than 1,000 hectares. While the I.U.C.N.'s standard of viability (1,000 hectares) may be somewhat arbitrary, it serves to exemplify the proliferation of relatively small national parks in Queensland. Areas presently labelled 'national park' range in size from over half a million hectares to less than one hectare. The value of the smaller areas within the system of reserves entrusted to the Service is without question. It should be remembered that size is not always the critical factor with respect to nature conservation values; and in addition, on some smaller areas recreational values may be at premium. However, the essence of the problem lies in the nomenclature which is applied and which in turn cannot cope with the varying statuses of reserve the Service possesses; and most importantly, the problem lies in the unfortunate consequences this has in the inappropriateness of the socially institutionalised notion which becomes attached to the term 'National Park'.

As a footnote to this discussion it should be mentioned that 'zonation' represents a powerful tool in this area of park management, and the Queensland legislation includes a statutory provision for the creation of the following zones for 'specialised management' on national parks:-

- a) a primitive area,
- b) a primitive and recreation area,
- c) a recreation area,
- d) a scientific area, and
- e) an historic area.

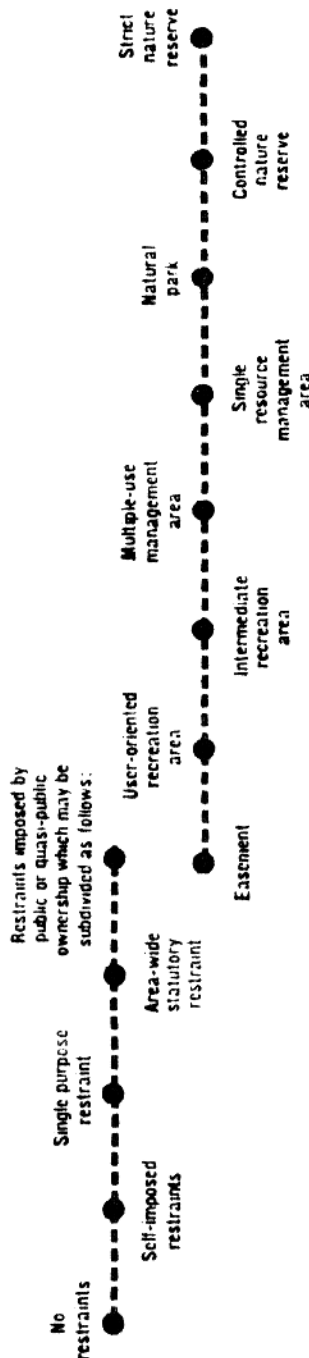
While the Service should take cognisance of this and commence to use these specific provisions

of the Act more widely, I believe that the problem of reserve classification, particularly in the area of general 'lay-consciousness', is more fundamental and hence requires a more overt and fundamental solution - that is, reclassification. The notion of zoning a small part of a national park as 'recreation area' is philosophically acceptable, however when this becomes a pragmatic requirement to zone the whole of a national park as 'recreation area' then there is a conflict with the basic precepts attached to the term 'National Park' - and indeed the Act excludes the possibility of such action by setting maximum limits of 400 acres or 50 percent of the total area of the national park for the declaration of a 'recreation area'. Hence in the present Queensland scenario, zonation can only be a partial solution.

#### The need for a conception of a 'Park System'

As William Hart points out in his I.U.C.N. paper entitled 'A Systems Approach to Park Planning', the alternative uses for which all land private and public can be managed may be arranged along a continuum, and the idea of a system of parks can be viewed in this context. One method of illustrating this continuum was set down by Hart as follows:

# THE RANGE OF SOCIAL RESTRAINTS ON HUMAN MANIPULATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



This is aligned to the degree to which man wishes to alter the natural environment and the continuum ranges from privately owned land free from restraints through to strict publicly-owned nature reserve. As illustrated, there is a point along this continuum where private ownership is no longer tenable in relation to the restraints needed, and hence some tenure by a public or quasi-public agency is demanded - commencing with a simple easement.

In terms of specific reserve management by the Service, we only really need to directly concern ourselves with the latter part of this continuum, the object being to consciously locate each specific reserve in this continuum to ensure that appropriate management practices are applied. If areas which are variously located along this continuum are identified with the same label, e.g. national parks in Queensland, it can become more difficult to identify the need to apply contrasting management objectives, and of equal importance, to rationalise this in the public and political arena. This is a problem park managers recognise and actively avoid.

Hence, I would advocate the detailed reclassification of the system of reserves entrusted to the Service on an empirical basis. The example of 'small' national parks can again be used in this context. 'Small' national parks clearly represent a viable outdoor recreation resource and are a valuable part of the Service Estate. However, their position in the overall system of park areas should be clearly identified. To label some of these areas 'national parks' must to some extent denigrate the term. To the lay person, large areas with high conservation value can become conceptually similar to smaller enclaves, and hence can become

exposed to the same recreational demands. Conversely, park managers can be led into trying unsuccessfully to apply strict nature conservation strategies on small quasi-natural areas.

A far better scenario would be for management to be intensively applied in some such 'small' areas to actively provide for suitable recreational uses while ensuring the perpetuation of pleasant 'natural' surrounds. It may not be possible to preserve a truly natural ecosystem, however, visitors can be given the opportunity to view individual components and processes which do occur in nature.

Hart sums up the concept of a park system rather well in the following passage:

'Within a given land area all parks, no matter how large they may be, or for what purpose they were established, are related to each other, to the use of resources in the landscape which includes them, and to the society which supports them. Reservations of land and water resources, particularly for parks and recreation, exert as profound an influence on the use of the resources surrounding them and upon the societies which control their fate as society and historic land use patterns exert on the reserves; parks cannot be considered in isolation. When one consciously takes into account as many of the biological, physical and social interrelationships as possible in considering various kinds of parks and park programmes for a region, nation, or group of nations, he is engaging in planning systems of parks, or park systems planning'.

### The Ideal Product

The very nature of the adminis-

trative framework for publicly owned open space in Australia represents an indirect but significant stumbling block. Co-ordination is the essence in the establishment of such a system of parks, and at the moment a host of agencies at all levels of Government - local up to Federal - are implicated. And further, the specific organisational structure of each separate agency often renders co-ordination unfeasible. Ideally, the establishment of one national (or at least Statewide) recreational authority would precipitate the necessary co-ordination by itself maintaining an overview and making recommendations to the various land management authorities - such as the Service. Similarly with respect to nature, each State has sovereign powers over its land, flora and fauna, and there is a distinct problem in the establishment of centrally co-ordinated strategies for nature conservation. Hence in this area a central authority would also be desirable.

Of course, this is not likely to occur, at least in the short term, and with respect to recreation, it is solely up to the Service to responsibly establish a clearly defined niche, itself the product of rational and positive deliberation, in the overall outdoor recreation system and to actively suppress any notion of unrestricted use of national parks for recreation or 'tourism'.

Conversely, the park manager must not empathise with the other extreme and fail to accept the distinct and significant role the Service has in outdoor recreation. There is a continuing need to finesse a balance between the Service's essential statute of nature conservation and the

continuing escalation in urbanisation, in social mobility and affluence, in time available for leisure activities, and in the consequent social demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. Park management is increasingly becoming a matter for public and political scrutiny, and it is time for managers to, at least superficially, cast off the somewhat philosophical, emotional, metaphysical, and even poetic terminology often associated with dissertations on nature, and to acquire a positive, 'down-to-earth', easily understood management framework to present at the 'shop-window'.

True public and political comprehension of the Service's philosophy, objectives and strategies would be a milestone which, if achieved, must assuredly lend assistance to the perpetual viability of the national park concept. It is only through comprehension that true empathy can be achieved, and such empathy must always await and follow on from comprehension. In this socialisation process, the park manager must be prepared to deliberately interpret his every action to the public. And for this to occur with any semblance of credibility, park management must become a virtual science with management decisions becoming the product of a comprehensive and replicable investigation and deliberation. It is too often the case that day to day park management entails a response to threats and influences from outside the Service on an ad hoc basis - moving from crisis to crisis. Rather, the park manager must take the initiative and institute positive management strategies in accordance with positive management objectives.

The century-old concept of a national park as our culture knows it was borne in the United States and is clearly subject to cultural interpretation and evolution as a concept; differences in contemporary notions over several countries and cultures illustrate this. Park managers and park interpreters must combine not only as precipitators of environmental education and awareness, but also in the equally significant task of conveying the conceptual meaning of a national park, and of national park management objectives. People are more likely to align themselves with the Service's management goals if their essential meaning can be readily comprehended.

Management through education and education through management together represent a truly handsome goal.

Mike Harris.



# ALL NAUGHTY FISHermen.

OF RANGER. (MOUNTED.)  
LAKEFIELD NATIONAL PARK.

MAY 1980.

there a mean pair.



WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

Alfred A. Allen



## The Day we went to Bunyas

A safe drive up with Ross Blick saw Dianne Charles, Alison Curless and Robyn Kreis at camp by 9.30 pm. Then began an exciting four days on the park. Pitching tents was an event in itself. Alison and Robyn aren't really into pitching tents (you can see that by the tears in the tent) - they are more in the line of keeping very late hours; and of course Ross couldn't sleep through their giggles. Fortunately for Dianne, she only spent the first and last nights at Dandabah. She was shipped to Burton's Well, to help control the campers down that end of the park.

Good Friday saw many disappointed campers. Dandabah was filled by late Thursday afternoon and Burton's Well by Friday noon. As usual the Bunyas saw a full house for the whole Easter period.

Tom Ryan spend all Thursday night at the entrance gate. He would have dozed, had not Alison and Robyn kept him chatting. We realised this when it started raining and he insisted on us going back to our tent.

First up Friday, Dianne went out to Burton's Well where she spent most of the weekend. She was assisted by Natural History Association members in keeping that part of the park in order. Apart from confiscating a baseball bat and a catamaran everything seemed in order.

Friday was busy ending with a good roll up of visitors around the campfire. Talking firstly on the general role of NPWS throughout Queensland, Australia and the world, Ross then led the visitors Star Gazing through the telescope.

Late night spotlighting was then

the order for Neil Taylor (local park worker), Robyn, Alison, Ross and John (NHA).

Almost forgot - Neil drove to Burton's Well for final check of campground while Alison and Robyn short-sheeted his bed. Neil returned so dog tired he didn't fall for the trick, although he woke around 5.00 am freezing.

Saturday was again a busy day with Ross catering for Junior Rangers, Alison and Robyn at the Information Centre, Dianne at Burton's Well. A flex afternoon saw Alison and Robyn trying to snooze. All was well until Neil's favourite currawong, after waking Alison, pecked incessantly at Robyn's head. Robyn just ignored it, thinking it was someone poking her in the head with a stick. She has neither lice nor ticks so he must have been desperate for a feed.

So we fully understand Bill Morley's sentiments re: 'wretched currawongs'.

Realising our problem with the currawong, someone saw fit at 5.30 am Sunday morning to tamper with the tent rope giving the girls the impression the bird was 'at it again'. This saw Alison crawling round the tent in a daze muttering something about 'mongrel currawongs'.

Saturday night the NHA presented campers with a slide show. There were some tremendous shots of various birds.

Sunday - a full day of walks, junior rangers, etc. Spotlighting that night - sighted lots of possums, wallabies, and as one wildly imaginative camper put it 'a tasmanian tiger'.

Monday saw Alison and Robyn spending the morning in the Information

Centre, with Ross and Dianne seeing to the Junior Ranger Programme. We headed back to the camp ground at about 12-00, and proceeded to pack up, and clean the government vehicle, while Ross spent quite a few minutes taking candid shots of the girls, cleaning the car, packing the boot, and clearing the camp site.

Headed back to Brisbane Monday afternoon and all had arrived home safely just after dark.

### A Thank You

Just a short note to say thank you to Neil Taylor for letting us take over his fridge on the Easter weekend, and for making us welcome.

And another thanks goes to Mrs Rice who kept us supplied with cakes, scones and pikelets over the weekend. As many of you will know, a visit to the Bunyas isn't quite the same without the Rice style of hospitality.

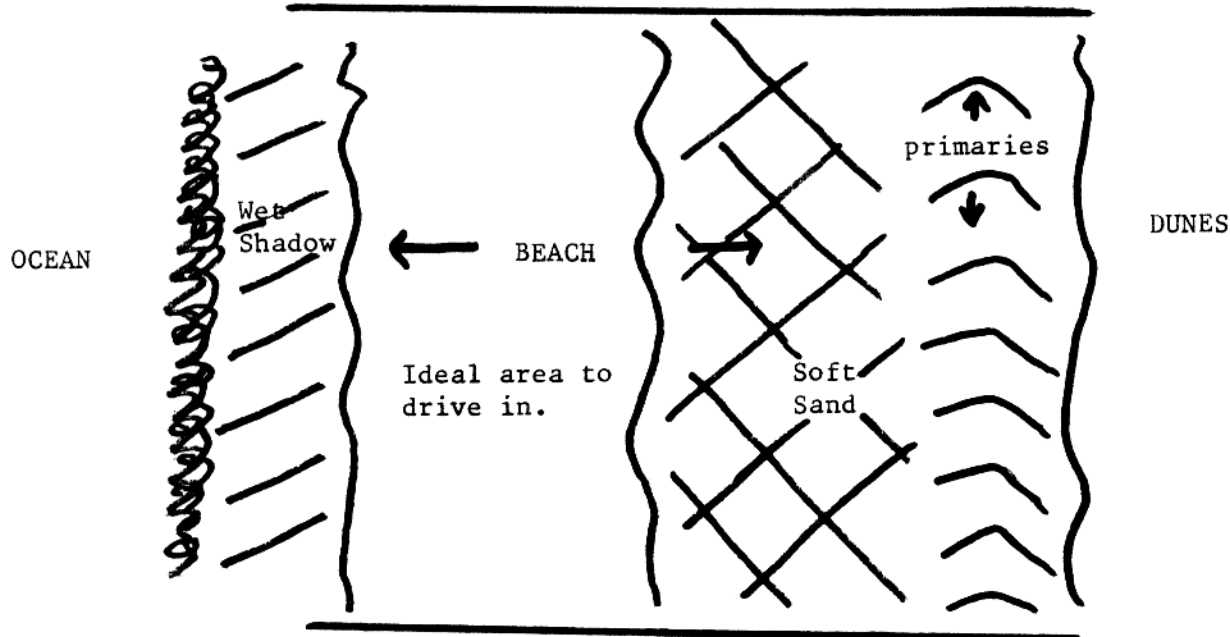
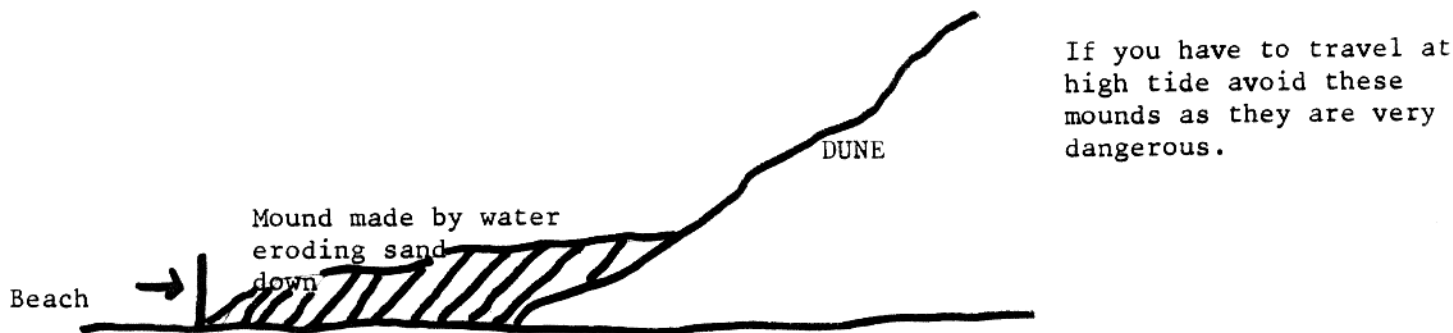
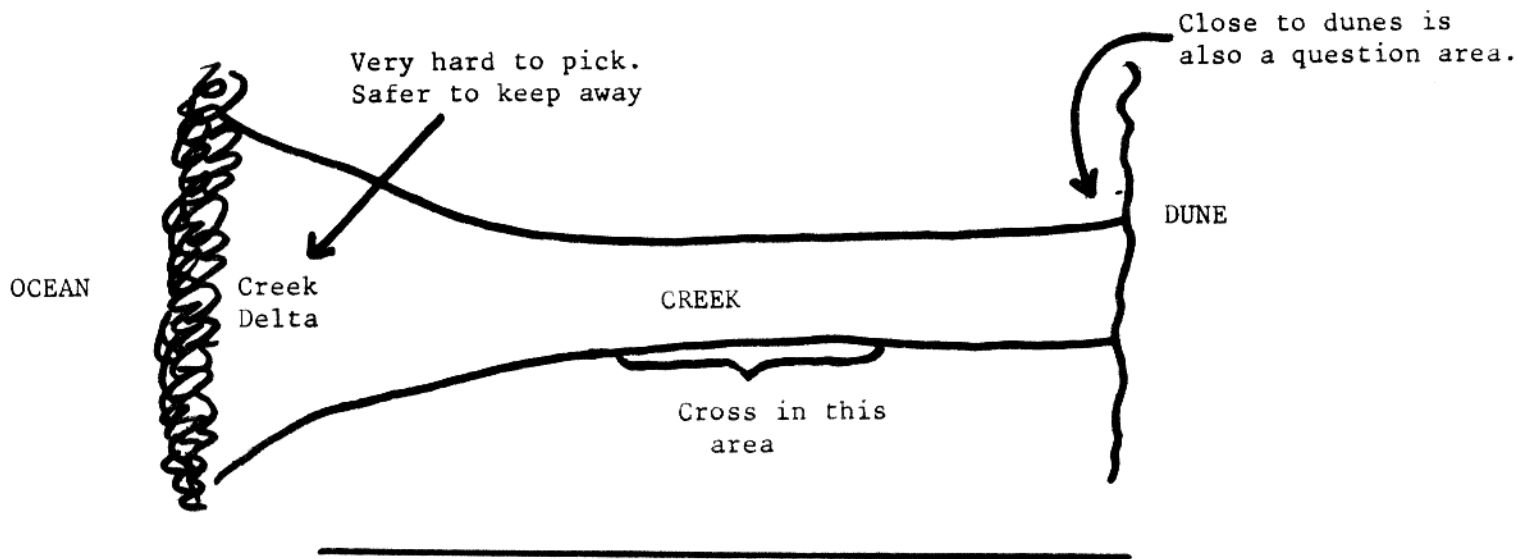
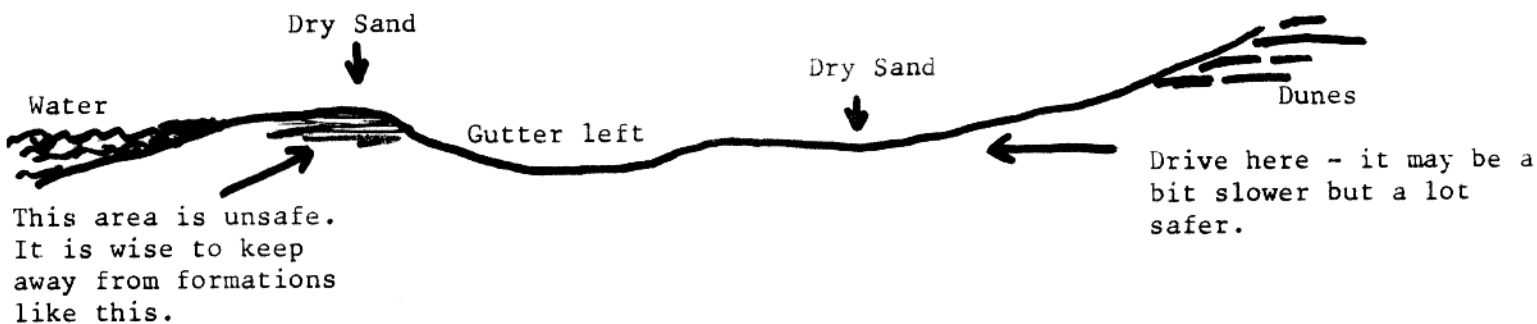
Thank you from Ross, Robyn, Alison and Dianne.



### Sand Driving

Beach driving is no harder than driving your Holden in the suburbs. Because in both cases you have to consider weather conditions, standard of road and above all, know the capabilities of your vehicle. But most people don't think, they've only read 'off-road' books and so their Toyota will do anything as long as it's got 'Big Boots' and of course a 'Winch'. Well it's these 'Pansie Wagons' that we generally have to tow out first with our rusty 'Toy' (Toyota) with its shiny 7.50 x 16 tyres and old chain. When we pull up and say 'Need a hand mate' he says 'Yeah but I'm really bogged' and 'you'll never shift me with THAT!!!' we say 'let's give her a go' he smiles and tries and we haven't failed yet'. He looks bewildered as his 'Mickey Mouse Toyota' is being towed out by our rusty old heap. But the only reason we can do it is that we've had more experience. For the important tricks are getting yourself out of trouble before you get into a sticky spot. So some of the finer points to remember are:

1. You are the driver, you are the boss, you dictate the vehicle, don't be scared of it, because it can't do a thing without a driver.
2. As soon as you see sand let the tyres down to 15lb, a good all round pressure on sand just in case you hit a soft spot. You can always let more out.
3. Where to drive on the beach.



4. When you come to an area where you know that it will be a task for both you and vehicle pick a gear that you feel comfortable in - not one that the vehicle should do it in. Gear changing only comes safely with a lot of experience, for a wrong gear change can leave you stuck.

5. If you attempt a sand blow and only get part way and stop don't go down a gear and try a standing start as generally you'll only dig yourself in - it's better to slowly reverse up and try again or perhaps go down a gear from the start. If you still don't go over it's a fairly safe bet that your tyres are too hard (too much pressure). So let them down a bit. We've been bogged at 15lb, let them down to 12lb and we were away.

6. If your vehicle seems to jump up and down in the one spot it's a sure sign your tyres have too much pressure.

7. If you have to tow someone out of a bog 2 things to remember are:

(a) roll a track for yourself - that is go back and forth a few times to smooth out the wheel ruts, and

(b) MAKE SURE THE TOWED VEHICLE KEEPS ITS STEERING WHEELS IN THE TRACKS - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT as if they're not it makes it very difficult due to the extra drag.

8. If your vehicle is bogged and you have an off-sider, and you can't reverse out, try and cock the vehicle side ways while reversing.

9. Be polite on sand crossings, that way everyone keeps their cool.

10. Try to avoid driving at night on the beach.

11. The beach changes every single day, so you must treat it with respect.

12. If you tow a trailer let its tyres down too, for you then spread its weight on a greater surface area, also try and get a trailer that tracks in your wheel ruts.

13. Use your blinker on the beach to show your direction.

14. At all times look ahead and think. Use all your knowledge in reckoning that if you stop will you be able to get out under your own power.

15. Treat the beach with the greatest respect. It changes everyday and is unforgiving - ask any of the ex-Cooloola vehicles - sometimes you just have to thrash your vehicle.

16. Always remember you're the boss, you decide what the vehicle will and won't do.

#### THINGS TO CARRY IN YOUR VEHICLE

(1) A rope, chain or similar that you know will be able to tow your vehicle. Cole's specials aren't good enough.

2. A can of wet start.

3. A shovel.

4. A spare tyre - make sure your tyres have tubes in them - tubeless aren't adequate as at low pressure tubeless tend to roll off the rim and could cause an accident.

5. An adequate supply of tools, and also a fuel and air filter.

So when going to the beach think about tides, your vehicle supplies,

tyres, safety, courtesy, and above all be in control.

There are other finer points in sand driving eg. when to gear change and what range to use, but that is mainly a personal experience. So the staff at Cooloola hope that the above is of some help to those venturing to the beach and who don't want to be embarrassed by being so bogged they need to be winched, the ultimate sin.

MARK JOHNSTON.

#### Item of Interest

Anybody requiring a crew cut hair style please contact Bob King at Mt. Spec National Park or C. Adams at Mt. Elliot National Park. The two Masters of the Weed Eater.

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#### Social Club

Social Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Attendance at these meetings is poor.

We need your ideas, of what you want to do, and where you want to do it.

The Club is quite financial at present and it is intended to conduct some functions in the forthcoming months.

Remember, it's your Social Club, we can't do much without your support at meetings and functions.

The Social Club raffles are going well, with tickets selling very fast, and the prizes are proving to be popular although suggestions would be welcomed as to what you would like as prizes.

Seen in the Wynnum-Redlands Herald.

A PROFILE by Ray Lamberth.

Charlie and rugby league made a good team

A Wynnum man who has had a long association with rugby league in the area has also involved himself in many sporting activities.

He is Charlie Roff, 59, chief management officer for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane.

Charlie was born and educated in Wynnum. He attended Wynnum Central State School and the Queensland Agricultural College at Lawes.

At school and college Charlie's main sport interests were in swimming and it was not until the mid 1930's that these changed to rugby league.

Charlie was a member of the Moreton Bay swimming club which held competitions at the Manly pool.

He was a member of the Wynnum Darling Point Rugby League Club and in 1938 started playing in the Brisbane rugby league competition.

During the war Charlie served with the Australian Army.

He played with this club until the outbreak of the Second World War.

He was stationed in New Guinea, the Phillippines and Japan with the United States Army.

He was a sergeant in the 5th Division Signals and the 1st Australian Recovery Unit.



The recovery unit released prisoners of war.

Charlie played rugby league in the 1930 s in the Geraghty Cup which took in teams from Southport, Beaudesert and Wynnum.

'The Wynnum team in the late 1940's had a lot of success.

I was captain coach during that time and because of the success of Wynnum team they were invited to join the Brisbane Rugby League competition.

At a public meeting called in 1950 I moved a motion which was seconded by Jim Cloherty that the club enter teams in the Brisbane competition.

Manager of the Commercial Bank, Wynnum, Mr. Bruce Aberchic, Jim Cloherty, my late father Russell Roff, the late Cyril Pearson and myself were largely responsible for the purchase of the land at Kougari Oval.

In 1951 I was captain of the Wynnum team and in 1952 I was captain coach.

I retired as a player at the end of 1952 at the age of 32.

I still remained in rugby league for the next 10 years as the club's treasurer.

I was a delegate for BRL, a BRL selector and Brisbane, Queensland and Australian selector.

Wynnum players that stood out in the Geraghty Cup teams were Alf (Bronc) Weise, the late Nev Ecklund, Jimmy Glass, Mick Riys (Rooney), Bill O'Connor, Ernie Glass, Bill Jones and Arch Newfong.

Mick Riys (Rooney) was a light-weight boxer who had quite a

reputation both on and off field.

The biggest change in rugby league I think was the six tackle rule.

This rule sped up the game considerably and cut out the degree of stoppages in matches which often occurred with continual possession of the ball by one side.

The rule also led to an infusion of lighter, speedier players and to some extent made it more difficult for the heavier and slower players like myself.

I played front row and being captain coach it was necessary for me to have a good back as vice captain.

Two good examples of good backs were Jim Glass and Nev Dolby.

The first year that Wynnum entered the BRL the club had a financial balance of 600 pounds and there was no incentive payments for players.

The club has now developed and has a magnificent clubhouse at Kougari Oval.

When the club first joined the BRL competition its ground was at Kitchener Park and the clubhouse was built by voluntary labor from the first committee.

This clubhouse now serves as the home ground for the Seagull junior section'.

During his last 10 years with the Wynnum Manly Rugby League Club Charlie said he saw some good players of representative standard.

Players were: Lionel Morgan, Les Greenhill, Bob Greenhill, John Gleeson, Bomber Brown and

the best players of recent times Kevin Brown and Bill McDermott.

Charlie said one of his biggest thrills was when the club won the 1959 President's Cup.

'I am now a life member of the club and still followed the game up until a year ago when I had my leg amputated'.

'My sporting career also included being the Queensland heavyweight wrestling champion for two years.

I was a foundation member of the Wynnum Gordon Club which had a good reputation in boxing and wrestling fields in Queensland', Charlie said.

In 1946 Charlie was the runner up to the Australian Champion in the Olympic elimination trials.

He was beaten by a Sydney Rugby League player Bob Armstrong.

Charlie has also been secretary of the Darling Point Flying Squadron and used to sail back in the 1930's.

He was also a member of the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club which president of the Queensland SLLA Morrie Webb was also a member.

Charlie married in 1949 and has three children (one daughter and two sons).

His daughter Judith is a lieutenant in the Australian army stationed in Sydney.

His sons are actively involved in the Northcliffe Surf Club.

Ian the eldest son has been captain of the club for the last three years and Russell is a member.

Charlie and his wife tend to follow surf lifesaving closely these days.

Charlie's first job was with the Queensland Department of Primary Industry from 1935 to 1975.

He worked in the wildlife section of the Department on crocodiles, kangaroos and a range of other native plants and fauna.

In 1975 Charlie changed jobs and went to work with the newly formed Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Charlie has 193 official publications to his credit including a text book on the honey flora of Queensland.

He is also a part time lecturer at the Queensland University Veterinary faculty.

Charlie has travelled in all states of Australia and will attend the Australian wildlife conference in Adelaide in about two weeks.

He has represented Government Departments at two overseas conferences. Conferences were at Maryland in the United States in 1970 and Genoble France in 1978.

Charlie is also president of the Queensland Beekeepers Association.

Wynnum Redlands Herald, Wednesday 7th May, 1980.

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Inflation is like getting stuck in a traffic jam. You find you are part of the problem, but you can't work out what to do about it.

Easter 1980

Organised activities were conducted on several parks in southern Queensland for Easter - 4th to 7th April.

Junior Ranger programmes were run at Bunya Mountains National Park (30 new junior rangers); O'Reillys (Lamington National Park) (25 new junior rangers), Binna Burra (Lamington National Park) (20 new junior rangers).

These activities continue to be well received and ensure the continuation of junior ranger programmes.

A wide range of other activities were conducted over the Easter period. They ranged from bird walks to guided walks; orienteering to spotlighting; stargazing and film/slide presentations. All of these activities were run by Service personnel and/or volunteers.

The interpretive work of answering enquiries and general liaison work was carried out by Service personnel and volunteers on the parks over the holiday period. This work forms a significant part of the interpretive work on a park and it's importance is stressed. This is when local knowledge is useful and where local staff and volunteers are invaluable.

On behalf of TSS and the whole Service, I would like to thank the Service staff, Natural History Association members and all other people who volunteered their time and effort to the Easter programme. Their contribution was most valuable and greatly appreciated. We hope this involvement will continue and TSS staff will be pleased to offer assistance wherever possible.

As usual, Management and Operations park staff managed to keep things running smoothly and facilities operational. These aspects are usually noticed when they are not attended to. Park staff also contribute valuable local knowledge necessary to answer many of the public enquiries.

The response of the public to organised activities, and the weekend in general, was very good. Attendance and enthusiasm were at a high level. Where no booking was required for activities, numbers were generally very large - often almost too large to cope with. Where booking was required, vacancies were easily filled.

Overall, we feel that the Easter programme for 1980 was very successful. We would be interested to know how other Service staff judged Easter and it's success; particularly the park staff, who can judge the effect of such a programme, not only over the actual holiday period but through the preparation leading up to it, and the resulting effects such intense activity has on the park.

This is an excellent opportunity to use Ringtail as a media for communication and constructive criticism between staff.

Technical Services Section

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EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR GRANNY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

With approximately 200,000 visitors per year using only 5 acres at Natural Bridge, a new problem has arisen more deadly than feral cats, foxes and goats put together.

Yes folks, its the feral granny. It's hard to believe that as soon

a meek and mild granny enters the park she turns into a wild and dangerous creature with a strict diet of ferns, staghorns and crows nests. The feral granny has evolved a unique feeding habit. While no one is looking they will grab a fern and deposit their prey in a special predigestive pouch called a handbag.

The existence of this pouch means that the feral granny may belong to the marsupial family, however more research is needed in this area.

The feral granny usually travels in pairs, but one of the most frightening sights in the bush is a flock of feral grannys travelling towards you in formation.

For this kind of emergency we always carry our granny protector kit which consists of plastic ferns, blue rinse, lamingtons and tea bags. If we throw these in front of the flock this will appease them until we can make a quick getaway by shouting 'Look! there's Kamahl' and running for our lives. Beware of running from grannys as the famous blue rinse or blue heeler will quickly bring you down from behind with a poison tipped hat pin.

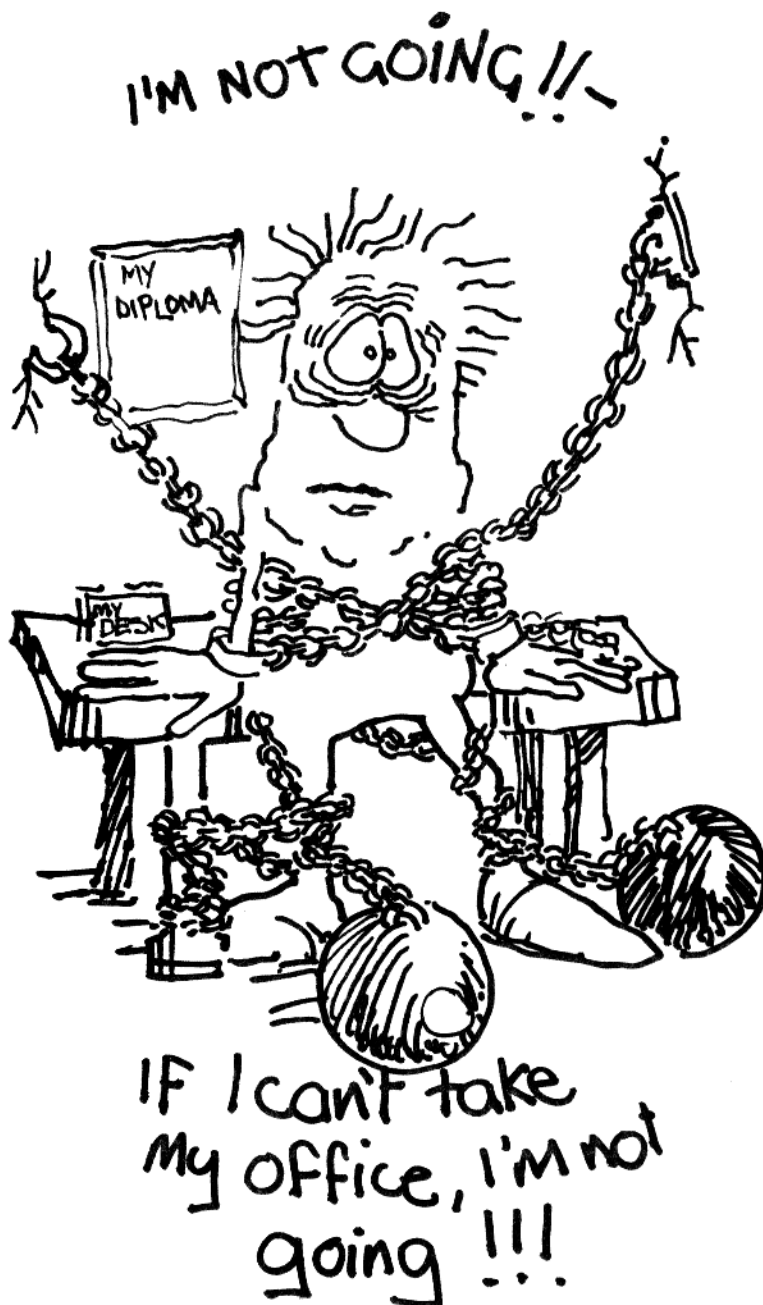
Is there a solution to this problem?

Maybe Bill Carter can design an appropriate pictogram. If not how about some suggestions from staff in parks that suffer from the dreaded and feared feral granny.

Michael Hall  
Natural Bridge National Park

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The proposed transfer to the M.L.C. Building is now expected to take place on the 1st September, 1980.



# Research and Planning Branch

Of the many research activities undertaken by Research and Planning Branch, the fauna survey programme appears to attract most interest from other Service officers. Commenced in 1964 the project is a long term one being undertaken by most officers of the branch.

In this the 7th issue of Ringtail, I have outlined the need for such a programme, the techniques employed, the current situation regarding published results and future plans.

## Fauna Surveys

Conservation of the native fauna of Queensland, by definition under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1976 the mammals, birds and reptiles of the State, is part of the wider responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to care for the total natural environment. The task was carried out until 1975 by the Fauna Conservation Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, which interpreted its role as ensuring, as far as possible, the maintenance of the fauna of Queensland in the general presence of man and his activities. The work is now conducted by the Research and Planning Branch of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

One part of the responsibility of a Government instrumentality is the provision of suitable nature conservation legislation (and the enforcement of this). Fundamental to such legislation is firstly a knowledge of the species actually present, and secondly an understanding of their distribution, habitat preference and abundance. To this end, a programme of fauna surveys was initiated in 1964, and, subsequently, 12 papers have been

presented reporting the results of 7 district surveys. This report describes primarily the methods involved in these surveys, and why these methods are used; results so far, are used to illustrate the purpose of the work, the types of answers being achieved, and the value that these have in bringing about sounder fauna conservation through more appropriate specific, biological and ecological studies and the more relevant legislation and education.

The animal groups considered in all of the surveys are the mammals, birds, reptiles and nowadays, amphibians, that are wild by nature, whether native, migratory or introduced.

Selection of the initial survey areas was governed by location of available staff, which had been in the first instance deliberately placed in areas of diverse zoological interest and opportunity, that is Warwick in southern Queensland and Townsville in the north east of the State. This had the additional advantage that resident workers were familiar with their territories and the local fauna; and was accepted as most desirable, as well as being least expensive, wherever possible in surveys.

Initially, the size of the district to be surveyed was determined after considering terrain, habitat diversity and accessibility, natural boundaries and the need to complete a survey within 2 years. Thus the first<sup>1</sup> (Warwick) was of some 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> while the second (Townsville) was of approximately 1,200 km<sup>2</sup>.

For subsequent surveys, however, it became more practical to use local government areas (Shires) to define districts; these are generally of convenient size, many



are defined by natural boundaries, and maps are readily available. Furthermore, the comprehensive series of 'Shire Handbooks' prepared by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries greatly simplifies the task of describing the features of a survey area. It must be emphasized that the objective of the programme is a fauna survey of Queensland, not of any individual area within the State; selection of districts to be surveyed must always favour the broader view of this purpose if it is to succeed.

A fundamental requirement before commencement of a district survey is an exhaustive review of relevant records in the literature and in museums. The consequent list of species for a district represents the survey base-line; in the ensuing study every effort is made to collect all species listed. In the process, species also are collected that had not previously been suspected to occur.

Next, areas of intensive study are determined from an initial review of the habitat types available within it. These areas usually range in size from 5 km<sup>2</sup> to 100 km<sup>2</sup>, although special considerations such as a locality in which some other research is being undertaken may make a smaller or larger area acceptable. Other relevant factors include accessibility and representativeness of habitat types present, it is desirable from the point of view of convenience to have as much diversity as possible present, but this can provide misleading results about abundance. Each habitat type in the survey area must be replicated at least twice in areas of intensive study.

For record purposes, the ideal objective is that all species present are collected, authoritatively identified, and housed in accredited museums where the specimens may be checked if necessary. In practice, however, many species can be identified in the field beyond question and specimens of these are not acceptable, for one reason or another, to museums; for such species, observation records only are regarded as sufficient.

Trapping and collecting/observing transects are carried out regularly in each intensive study area, a minimum objective being to cover each habitat type on four separate occasions for at least one week to cover the range of seasonal conditions encountered.

Other parts of the survey area are examined opportunistically. These include 'spot' trapping, observations made while travelling, inspection of road casualties, and checking reports from interested persons.

Trapping and collecting techniques are those usual procedures involving traps (both live and break-back) with a wide variety of baits, mist nets, shotguns, rifles, and the use of spotlights at night. Road casualties and material gathered by domestic cats, for example, are legitimate sources of data; the latter sometimes provides the first indication of the presence of a small mammal species in an area. A recent innovation has been a fence/pitfall trap with straight sided sheet steel containers some 25mm wide x 300mm deep buried in the soil beside a 450mm high mesh fence.

Reptile and amphibian collecting is mostly by foot traverse, often at night assisted by torchlight, and includes removing bark, turning

fallen trees and lifting stones.

A routine trapping session in any habitat type uses some 100 traps placed in lines; mostly these lines are 5-10m apart at 8-20 traps 2-5m apart per line, over a period of five days. Longer sessions, and more traps, rarely proved to be to advantage.

A district fauna survey should be completed within approximately two years both to provide the opportunity to encounter a wider range of seasonal differences and to allow the earliest collected data to remain valid. Furthermore, an average period of two years provides for a feasible time-scale for the State-wide exercise to be completed and ready for repetition, an important aspect of the scheme.

One of the more difficult problems is establishing the breakdown of a district into habitat types involved. The principal feature of terrestrial habitat is the vegetation present, and for many species a vegetation association is adequate to describe a habitat preference. Sometimes, however, the preference of a species is for a topographical rather than vegetation feature such as saline wetlands, soils types and caves. In establishing a list of habitat types found in a district, therefore, the main question is how to describe vegetation associations in a manner consistent with the use made of these by fauna, and which is botanically acceptable. Specht, Roe and Boughton in 1974 provided descriptions of vegetation types based on plant height and frequency while others have used less easily measured criteria; the end result has been the same, that is to recognise a larger number of plant associations than was found to be practicable for the

present surveys.

The habitat types recognised so far in the surveys are as follows:-

Closed forests. These are the closed canopy areas, often termed rain forests; a lesser category, 'dry scrub' or dry closed forest, is sometimes recognised.

Open forests. This includes all tree associations not termed closed forest. A shrub layer is sometimes significant for a species and may be signified in the description of the habitat of that species. The plant species e.g. mulga, may be significant to some fauna.

Grasslands. Here, open grassland rather than understorey is mainly involved. Tussocks are significant for some species and may therefore be recorded.

Freshwaters. These include rivers, lakes and swamps and other natural, permanent and seasonal wetlands, and many earth tanks and other artificial impoundments. Depth of water may be singled out in habitat descriptions for species to which this is of obvious significance.

Saline areas. These are the marine, estuarine and brackish situations that are inland as well as coastal in distribution.

Cultivation. A principal man-made type of habitat. Crops type is sometimes important.

Urban areas. The other principal artificial habitat, in which introduced species tend to dominate. Isolated buildings, e.g. farms, are not generally considered in this context, while on the other hand within a town some other types

may occur. For example, in an 8.7 km<sup>2</sup> central portion of Townsville in 1961, the estimated composition of the habitat types was - urban (that is buildings, footpaths, roads), 34%; saline areas, 28%; cultivation (that is parks, playing fields, gardens, unformed footpaths), 24%; open forest (usually vacant Crown land) 13%; and freshwaters (that is weirs, ponds, reservoirs, streams) 1%.

Heath is a recognisable type frequently identified on the coastal lowlands of southern Queensland but of doubtful special significance to the vertebrate fauna. Its inclusion as a recognised habitat type will depend on the results of surveys in an area including heathland as a significant vegetation type present.

The emphasis to be placed on population number assessment is related to the significance of this information to the programme. A census is out of the question, and in any event, probably the main value of a population number assessment to a conservation authority is as a guide to those species that may be in need of special attention. What matters ultimately, of course, is not whether a species is abundant or not, but whether it is 'safe', that is reasonably expected to remain present in the environment into the foreseeable future. The survey abundance rating provides little more than an initial clue to the status of a species. Thus abundance ratings for surveys were reduced to the impression of frequency of occurrence gained by the survey team during collecting throughout the study period.

The basis for such assessments was developed during early work and is

based primarily on the numbers trapped or seen relative to the number of routine trapping sessions. Assessments are as follows:-

Abundant: Usually present in large numbers;

Common: Nearly always present, but not in large numbers;

Uncommon: Not present each visit, but more than twice during the survey;

Scarce: Not present more than twice during the survey.

The ratings uncommon and, in particular, scarce are applied with care because standard collecting techniques sometimes are ineffective for species that later prove to be quite common. When doubtful, the rating is left open and only the number collected recorded. A comment on the quality of the search may be in order. Flocks of birds create a special problem, and it is more reasonable to consider a single flock as a single animal in giving a frequency. Thus, during 1970, a large flock of budgerygahs of possibly several thousand individuals was observed within the Warwick district for several weeks; this unusual sighting in the light of earlier and subsequent experience hardly justifies a rating higher than scarce. Similarly, the large territories occupied by such species as the wedge-tailed eagle make it easy to allocate a rating of common or even uncommon to a species that is in fact abundant. Only experience can overcome such matters.

Other considerations come into the matter, particularly the effects of excessively wet or dry conditions on apparent abundance

of many species. Careful documentation of weather conditions together with the permanent record of the species involved provides some opportunity to appreciate such effects. It is now evident, for example, that cyclonic effects cause unusual distributions of bird species in the Townsville district (at least); the occurrence there of the lesser frigate bird is an example of this. On the other hand, absence of the long-haired rat in Booringa Shire was clearly consequent upon prevailing drought conditions during the survey.

With regard to the scope of fauna surveys, only the inclusion of terrestrial vertebrates has proved to be practical at this juncture; the assumption (however flimsily based) must be made that the process of caring for these groups provides for the conservation of other units of the ecological pyramid.

While it is imperative that the whole fauna of the State be assessed, much of the country particularly in inland situations is uniform over large areas. Thus, particularly in such areas, each district may itself be considered an 'area of intensive study', in the same way that areas of intensive study have been prescribed for other surveys. The formulation of a final set of survey areas is progressive, depending on cumulative results. Thus present indications project the need for surveys in districts in the Diamantina, Longreach, Leichhardt River and Great Barrier Reef - Torres Strait regions. Again, it must be remembered that the purpose is a survey of the fauna of Queensland, not of any one particular district.

While it is apparent that, within the habitat types recognised, many species may occupy some discrete part governed by some narrower feature of the environment than the broad definition indicates, the work needed to define such a habitat preference belongs to the biological and ecological studies of particular species rather than one of the present surveys. With greater understanding of the relationship between the fauna and the vegetation, the habitat types recognised in the present surveys may be divided into more precise units. On the other hand, the large number of niches occupied by all species present may well defy practical classification.

From the progress made in seven published surveys - 58% of all mammal species and 70% of all bird species now handled - it is possible to predict, using the mammals and birds as a guide, that over a period of 20 years a record will have been obtained of the distribution and abundance of 90% of all species defined legally as fauna in the State of Queensland. Because no species has been found to be missing from the two most exploited regions of Queensland that constituted the first two surveys, it may be that repetition of these surveys can then usefully establish trends in the distribution and abundance of these fauna species.

Finally, although there is merit in establishing breeding status at least for some groups such as birds, the magnitude of the task involved and the considerable regional differences over such a large area as Queensland preclude its consideration in these surveys. This subject is being handled separately.

The basic principles and procedures set out for the original programme

have required little modification, and there is no reason yet to believe that the two-year surveys as described have produced other than dependable basic results.

The questions that remain to be examined concern the real value of the surveys to fauna conservation in Queensland and the extent to which these surveys will be required in the future, with or without modification.

The most obvious advantage of the surveys has been the improvement in the precision of the inventory of species found in Queensland. Several species have been added; including the blue-winged parrot, the forest rat, the pipistrelle bat and the ningau and some have been rediscovered including the bridled nail-tailed wallaby and the eastern chestnut native mouse. There can be no doubt that other species remain to be uncovered in Queensland for the first time.

Secondly, the known range of many species has been increased, in some instances dramatically, by the survey work: the list is too long to include but examples are the Australian raven, the little mastiff and the greater broad nosed bats and the tiger snake northwards, the white browed babbler, whiteface, yellow silver-eye and streaked grass warbler eastwards, the olive backed oriole westwards and the grey headed robin and the tooth billed bowerbird southwards. Similarly, the abundance of many species generally believed to be uncommon or scarce has been drastically revised; examples include the sarus crane, the yellow bellies and De Vis sheath tailed bats, and the turquoise parrot. Finally, in this context, the habitat preferences of a wide range of species are beginning to be appreciated for the first time.

This applies particularly where the species are extremely localised in Queensland - such as in the common wombat and superb lyrebird in Stanthorpe Shire, or the golden winged parrot on Cape York Peninsula.

An important additional benefit of the knowledge accumulated from the present survey work is that it is becoming easier to locate appropriate field study areas for particular species based on field distribution and abundance data. This has been of great practical assistance in facilitating progress in many detailed studies of the biology and ecology of the native fauna, and it will continue to do so. An example of this is the selection of the catbird as an indicator species for disturbance studies in the Conondale Range forests of Kilcoy Shire. Likewise, focal areas of the fauna of a district usually are recognised during a survey, and a basis is thus provided for the nomination of appropriate land reservation where this action is warranted.

Examples include the attention needed urgently to preserve the limestone caves at Glenlyon to secure the habitat of the little bent-winged bat and eastern horseshoe bat from inundation in the Stanthorpe district; or the observation that the red-necked wallaby is the only large macropod able to survive in small areas of forest (at Warwick); or the emphasis that might be placed on mangrove habitat in the Burdekin basin rather than (or at least as well as) the Herbert River basin because 98 species of birds as opposed to 57 species are distributed at the former. And so on.

Anticipated to be the most significant longterm benefit to

conservation, however, is the basis provided by the present surveys for examination of the impact of European man on the fauna in years to come. It is readily apparent, for example, that few native animals actually reside in cultivation; it is also obvious that some introduced species - such as the starling and house sparrow at Warwick - are now the most abundant birds in the district. The spread of introduced species is discernable in the surveys - the house sparrow to Townsville and the fox and the hare to the lower Burdekin River district, are examples of this. It may even be concluded - as in the Stanthorpe district - that some introduced species such as the fallow deer and the goldfinch are not competing even then with native species.

These should in turn provide a sounder basis for legislation to control the activities of man in view of adequate fauna conservation. In this respect it is important to note that man's effects are not always detrimental; for example, in the three published surveys in north-eastern Queensland 67 species of birds were found to be either abundant or common on cultivation, and 32 were likewise thriving on freshwater impoundments; appropriate priorities for conservation action can be allocated accordingly. Changes in species' composition, distribution and relative abundance are the result of a complex of natural and man-caused influences, and surveys coupled with studies of the biology and ecology of individual species also are calculated to provide the necessary basis to distinguish one set of factors from another. The current programme calls for repeats of key areas at least at 20 year intervals. That they will fulfil this expectation is yet to be tested.

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## CURLEW II

### A NEW ADDITION TO THE SERVICE FLEET

The Service has just taken delivery of its latest boat for use out of Shute Harbour for the Whitsunday group of parks.

Constructed of aluminium she is 24ft long and powered by a high speed turbo-charged diesel stern drive.

The boat is self-draining and contains a loc-up cabin and hardtop with sliding wheel house windows (instead of canopy and side curtains). It is equipped with a 27 meg. radio and graph/flasher echo sounder.

The hull is a new monohendron design for STAR boats, meaning that it has a constant deadrise on 'V' shape underwater from about midships to the stern. This is in contrast with the CORMORANT, the 22 ft boat used in Moreton Bay, whose hull shape is of a 'warped V' design with changing deadrise along its length.

Loading and off-loading onto a trailer of a relatively large boat of this type, is made simple and easy with a multi-roller trailer and electric winch.

The cost of this boat together with inflatable lift raft, was \$26,000.

I am happy to report that in CURLEW II first sea trial, she came through with flying colours and passed survey by Department of Harbours and Marine without criticism.

(All the C.M.O. (Parks) could say was that he didn't want to go back to the office!).

Paul Sattler



Two new National Parks have been gazetted since 29.3.80 covering a total area of 61.7 hectares whilst an area of 25.7 hectares is additional to an existing national park.

N.P. 686 Lacy

Additional 25.7 hectares - gazetted 29.3.80 - total area now is 1140 hectares.

This additional area to the north of the existing park near Calen via Mackay was formerly held as a Special Lease but was surrendered to the Crown for additions to the park. It contains steep country and will help to rationalize the present boundaries by extending the park to the nearby foothills. Provision for a possible future road access and a picnic area now exist with the addition.

N.P. 1694 Barron

Area 47.8 hectares - gazetted 5.4.80.

This national park is over an area of land known as Hasties Swamp and is about 3 km south of Atherton township. It is of great importance in providing a suitable habitat for numerous and varied species of birds particularly water birds.

N.P. 906 Bassett and Hampden

Area 13.9 hectares - gazetted 10.5.80.

This national park, north west of Mackay on Reliance Creek formerly consisted of a Scenic Reserve and vacant Crown land. The area contains a very good example of palm vine forest on coastal lowlands between Ingham and Gladstone.

Three Environmental Parks have been gazetted since 29.3.80 within a total area of 226.5 hectares.

E.P. 1338 Tinana

Gazetted 29.3.80.

This environmental park is an island in the Mary River on the outskirts of Maryborough City. It has an area of about 1.03 hectares and the vegetation consists of dense river vine scrub, livingstonia palms and surrounded by a margin of mangroves.

E.P. 230 Port Kennedy

Gazetted 10.5.80

This environmental park is on Round Island in Torres Strait and situated to the west of Hammond Island. It has an area of 9.71 hectares and consists of mud flats and rocky outcrops being generally steep with some forest vegetation.

E.P. 7 Uranna

Area 215.8 hectares - gazetted 17.5.80.

This environmental park covering an area known as Vandyke Creek was formerly part of a Camping and Water Reserve and is situated 40 kilometres west of Springsure. The area consists of alluvial flats between two creeks and contains mostly coolibah grassy woodlands with large deep remnant waterholes that provide a valuable fauna habitat.



Recent Appointees - Salaries -  
Head Office

Austin Lloyd - Publicity/  
Information Officer (Technical  
Services Section)

Graham Hudson - Enquiry Clerk  
(Management and Operations)

David Ritchie - Clerk Records  
(Administration)

Michael Quinn - Staff Clerk  
(Administration)

Peter Cavendish - Clerk  
(Administration)

Nicole Waters - Clerk - (Management  
and Operations)

Ian Rudd - Clerical Assistant  
(Management and Operations)

Murray Aitcheson - General  
Assistant (Administration).

District Office

Des Jones - Ranger (Management  
and Operations Binna Burra)

Staff Movements - Head Office

Joanne Shambler - Supervising  
Stenographer.

Alan Reeve - Clerk Technical  
Services Section

Roger Newnam - Clerk Reserves

Tony Moriarty - Clerk Wildlife

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Ian and Pauline Boyes have been  
appointed temporary overseers  
and will be working for a  
period of eight (8) weeks on a  
report on handicapped people  
and how they can be catered for  
in national parks.

Recent Appointees - Wages

John Bell - St Helena Island

Raymond Curtis - Tamborine

Cherie Daniell - Turtle Project

Julie Fielding - Library

Ronald Fletcher - Carnarvon

Anthony Hope - Cooloola

Peter Kessler - Springbrook

John Livingston - Palmerston

Peter Long - Carnarvon

Glen Mazlin - Lake Eacham

Modesto Melino - Lakefield

Gregory Oliver - Brisbane

Jack Remington - Lake Eacham

Thane Riney - Brisbane

Brett Roberts - Carnarvon

Geoffrey Seamark - Palmerston

Darryl Stewart - Injune

Peter Thompson - Carnarvon

Fred Thuler - Conway Range

Peter Tierney - Rockhampton

Arthur Waters - Ravensbourne

Allen Williams - Kondalilla

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Staff Movement - District Offices  
Interpretive Officers

Bill Carter - Townsville

Gordon Stone - Girraween

Marc Hockings has been appointed  
Interpretive Officer Division II  
and has been transferred to  
Mackay.

E	M	U	S	S	A	W	S	R	E	D	N	I	L	F
L	U	S	E	E	L	A	A	F	F	R	J	A	C	K
I	D	C	S	K	L	R	E	E	E	N	N	B	T	Y
Z	E	A	A	A	O	A	R	F	R	O	I	O	I	B
A	E	M	A	L	M	R	A	E	I	O	A	R	M	M
S	L	P	F	G	Y	S	F	T	S	G	L	I	B	U
R	E	T	A	W	U	P	A	R	K	A	S	G	E	R
N	E	M	U	G	Y	N	T	F	U	L	T	I	R	B
A	S	A	N	D	R	E	S	P	A	S	E	N	U	D
I	K	D	A	W	S	D	V	N	E	E	R	A	I	N
D	E	E	A	R	A	W	D	R	B	T	L	L	P	C
N	E	E	D	E	H	O	O	P	E	I	R	L	I	A
I	R	S	D	C	S	F	I	L	D	H	A	I	N	P
A	C	O	C	K	A	T	O	O	B	W	W	M	E	E

Solution: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
Island.

Find the words. Words in this puzzle may be written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or back to front.

Your solution should be 6 letters.

### CLUES

Aboriginal

Allom

Area

Ash

Bed

Blows

Brumby

Camp

Cape

Cockatoo

Creeks

Dead

Dunes

Eliza

Emus

Eucalypt

Fare

Fauna

Fern

Ferry

Flinders

Flora

Forest

Gum

Guns

Hervey

Hoop

Indian

Island

Jack

Lagoon

Lakes

Lame

Leaf

Lee

Mill

Mud

National

Need

Park

Petrie

Pine

Rain

Raw

Safe

Sand

Seas

Seed

Slain

Surf

Timber

Tip

Use

War

Water

White

Wreck

The Inala Community Conservation-ist Association is an organisation which was formed to help protect and save our wildlife. Their policy is to restore and help the sick and injured back to health and release them to their natural habitat.

Mrs. June Tooke the Secretary of the organisation has been contacted and she has agreed to the listing of voluntary helpers below.

#### Committee

President: Len Daniels, 379 7768  
129 Long Street,  
GRACEVILLE. Q. 4075

Secretary: June Tooke, 372 5340  
21 Lorikeet Street,  
INALA. Q. 4077

Treasurer: Sabrina Swatton,  
86 Willow Street,  
INALA. Q. 4077

Co-ordinator:  
Philip Buchanan, 48 3447  
55 Goodwin Terrace,  
MOOROOKA. Q. 4105

Fund Raiser: Margret Fitzgerald,  
76 Swallow Street,  
INALA. Q. 4077

Transport Officer:  
Charles Tronc, 372 5926  
664 Archerfield Road,  
INALA. Q. 4077

Veterinary Surgeon: 372 4790  
Peter Hill, B.V.Sc.,  
26 Begonia Street,  
INALA. Q. 4077

#### Veterinary Surgeons

Peter Hill, B.V.Sc. 372 4790  
Inala Veterinary Clinic, a/h 376 3160  
26 Begonia Street,  
INALA. Q. 4077

Brian Sheahen, B.V.Sc. 289 1130  
Post Offices Premises,  
SAMFORD. Q. 4520

Ross Hedgman, B.V.Sc., B.Agr.Sc.,  
M.R.C.V.S., 205 2798  
300 Gympie Road,  
STRATHPINE. Q. 4500

R.J. McNeill, B.V.Sc. & 390 1188  
W.V. Mill, B.V.Sc., 286 1800  
Redland Bay Road,  
CAPALABA. Q. 4157 &  
Middle Street, CLEVELAND. Q. 4163

H.E. Field, B.V.Sc. Hons., 208 0001  
Station Shopping Square a/h 273 3003  
Centre, KINGSTON. Q. 4205

Pat Houston, (075) 83 0313  
TOOGOOLOOWAH. Q. 4313

Christine Kidd, B.V.Sc., 396 9460  
Wondall Road,  
Shopping Centre,  
WYNNUM WEST. Q. 4178

D.F. Cummings, B.V.Sc., 370 9061  
M.A.C.V.Sc.,  
23 Union Street,  
TARINGA. 4068

Keith Hawken, B.V.Sc., 266 9992  
113 Ridge Street,  
NORTHGATE. Q. 4013

West Moreton Veterinary Clinic, 288 3253  
Simon Coates, B.V.Sc., B.Sc.,  
REDBANK PLAINS. Q. 4075

Simon Coates, B.V.Sc., 281 9705  
120 Blackstone Road,  
SILKSTONE. Q. 4305

Chermside Veterinary Clinic, 59 4528  
A.C. Thelander, B.V.Sc., and  
I.J. Munro, B.V.Sc.,  
844 Gympie Road,  
CHERMSIDE. Q. 4032

Terry King, B.V.Sc., 354 1281  
Shops 6 & 7, Southpine Road,  
EVERTON PARK. Q. 4053

Mrs. F. Reepsdorf, B.V.Sc., 399 9610  
952 Wynnum Road,  
CANNON HILL. Q. 4170

Jindalee Veterinary Surgery, 376 2392  
J.D. Odium, B.V.Sc., Q.D.A.H.,  
Looranah Street,  
JINDALEE. Q. 4074

Albert Animal Hospital, 208 9233  
K.V. Mason B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.Sc.,  
331 Pacific H'way, a/h 209 8324  
SPRINGWOOD. Q. 4127

## Veterinary Surgeons contd

Ian McBride, B.V.Sc., (071) 95 2044 150 Morayfoeld Rd., (071) 95 2044 <u>CABOOLTURE</u> . Q. 4510 31 Benabrow Ave., <u>BRIBIE ISLAND</u> . Q. 4507	Charles Tronc, 372 5926 664 Archerfield Road, <u>INALA</u> . Q. 4077  Philip Castell, 372 4632 52 Octans St., <u>INALA</u> . Q. 4077  Philip Buchanan, 48 3447 55 Goodwin Tce., <u>MOOROOKA</u> . Q. 4105  Leola Pignott, 59 8190 42 Brae St., <u>WAVELL HEIGHTS</u> . Q. 4012  Pauline Dernie, 48 2391 7 Clara Street, <u>ANNERLEY</u> . Q. 4103  Kerry Saint, 200 5095 Lot 45 Park Ridge Rd., <u>PARK RIDGE</u> . Q. 4125  Mrs. C. Warrell, 389 9874 23 Agate Street, <u>CAMP HILL</u> . Q. 4152  Mrs. Range, 2 Brook Street, <u>HENDRA</u> . Q. 4011  Arlene Purdie, 160 Douglas Street, <u>SALISBURY</u> . Q. 4107  Mrs. Jondahl, (079) 473 113 M/S 659, <u>PROSERPINE</u> . Q. 4800  Tony Evans, (079) 46 6142 P.O. Box 48, <u>AIRLIE BEACH</u> . Q. 4800  Denise Doherty, 200 5482 Lot 97, Tygum Road, <u>WATERFORD</u> . Q. 4206  Mrs. G. Lynn, 288 3047 72 Steven Street, <u>CAMIRA</u> . Q. 4300  Mrs. Chambers, 399 7513 10 Orchard Street, <u>HAWTHORNE</u> . Q. 4171  Mrs. O. Vitte 376 2245 8 Mt. Ommaney Drive, <u>JINDALEE</u> . Q. 4074	Joan Woodward, 349 6763 11 Midway Street, <u>WISHART</u> . 4122  Joan Hilton, 208 0701 14 Lennox Court, <u>WOODRIDGE</u> . Q. 4114  Mrs. Sue Chandler (sanctuary) water birds 286 1529 237 Wellington Street, <u>ORMISTON</u> . Q. 4163  Mrs. Christine Nunn, 396 9723 8 Roanpak Street, <u>MANLY WEST</u> . Q. 4179  Mrs. Eileen Bool, 396 1314 20 Bird Street, <u>MANLY WEST</u> . Q. 4179  Sue O'Rourke, 36 0395 16 Confederate Street, <u>RED HILL</u> . Q. 4059  David Eagles, 289 1429 1259 Smiths Road, 289 1330 <u>SAMFORD</u> . Q. 4520  Tessa Jones, 268 4159 30 Armonde Street, <u>ASCOT</u> . Q. 4007  Ray Lewis, (075) 83 1169 27 Drem Street, <u>TOOGLOOLAWAH</u> . Q. 4313  Mrs. Freda Johson, 264 1858 1 Doonside Pde., (refuge) <u>STRATHPINE</u> . Q. 4500  Mrs. Kim Hurbert, 367 4803 20 Zeil Street, <u>RIVER HILLS</u> . Q. 4074  Michael McKay, 372 2691 74 Lorikeet Street, <u>INALA</u> . Q. 4077  Mrs. Margret Walter, 30 3725 32 Nambruk Street, <u>THE GAP</u> . Q. 4061  Mrs. Fisher, 374 1550 756 Upper Brookfield Rd., <u>BROOKFIELD</u> . Q. 4069
Scarborough Veterinary Clinic, Paul Barber, B.V.Sc., 203 6804 198 Prince Edward Parade, <u>REDCLIFFE</u> . Q. 4020  J.H. Lewis, B.V.Sc., 30 1603 Kullaroo & Romer Streets, <u>THE GAP</u> . Q. 4061  G.A. Booth, B.V.Sc., 349 9033 55 Lumley Road, <u>UPPER MT. GRAVATT</u> . Q. 4122  Moorooka Veterinary Clinic, 48 1025 J.L. Lamberth, B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., 46 Beaudesert Road, <u>MOOROOKA</u> . Q. 4105  M. Hartman, B.V.Sc., 379 9260 123 Oxley Road, <u>CHELMER</u> . Q. 4068  S. Barrett, B.V.Sc., 273 1275 52 Learoyd Road, <u>ACACIA RIDGE</u> . Q. 4110		
<u>Receiving Agencies</u>		
Philip & Dorothy McCullough, 63 Macquarie St., 371 1923 <u>ST. LUCIA</u> . Q. 4067  Don Burnett, 206 4320 62 Winston Road, <u>CAPALABA</u> . Q. 4157  John & Kim Rix, 355 9962 11 McCubbins Street, <u>EVERTON PARK</u> . Q. 4053  Olga Allison (refuge), 285 3055 15 Akers Road, <u>LAWNTON</u> . Q. 4500  Peggy Saunders, (075) 49 1162 "Terrigal", <u>LAMB ISLAND</u> . Q. 4165  Margret Jude, (075) 49 1144 <u>RUSSEL ISLAND</u> . Q. 4165  Malcolm Nunn, 372 6007 38 Tarus Street, <u>INALA</u> . Q. 4077		

EXCHANGE DUTIES - (Wages)  
Overseer Ranger Staff.

The last issue of 'Ringtail' drew some response; but I regret there has been no time to date to evaluate the applications. It is hoped that this will be done within the next month or so. Late applications will be considered.

Not all applicants applied according to the rules, which stipulated that it was to be an inter and not an intra - branch/section exercise. Management and Operations must apply only for Technical Services Section, Research and Planning or Technical Administration and so on. One applicant made a very open-ended application. His priority preferences will be established before he can be considered.

I was disappointed to hear from one overseer that he wanted to apply but heard too late. He stated he had not received March '80 'Ringtail'. He also said he had not received September and December 1979. He had heard of the proposal by happenchance only a couple of weeks ago.

Dianne Maccoll who personally handles the despatch of 'Ringtail' says everyone should be receiving a copy and that in the case of park people, enough copies are sent direct to the officer in charge of each staffed park to distribute to each employee.

On behalf of Dianne, can I issue an Irish invitation -

"If you don't receive this, please let us know".

Senior people might follow up on the efficiency of our distribution system and let us know. Printing 'Ringtail' costs time and money and if people aren't getting their copy it's as silly as buying someone a car but keeping the garage door key.

Clive Price  
Deputy Director

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A thank you to all the contributors of this edition of Ringtail. For without their support, this circular would not have been possible.

Anyone who has an interesting item they would like to be published can now forward them c/- of Editor for the next edition of Ringtail.

In closing, I would like to thank Alison, Maureen and Simon for all their efforts in presenting this publication.

# Ringtail

**Editor**  
Tony Moriarty

**Artist**  
Simon McLean

**Typesetter**  
Alison Curless

**Printer**  
Maureen McDevitt

