



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Ringtail

October 1980

Editorial

I welcome this invitation to contribute to the Service's in-house publication.

The communication it provides is an essential ingredient to the well-being and progress of what I regard as a most progressive and creative Department of Government.

There can be no doubt that the Service has achieved much for the people of Queensland in its short period of life. The potential for even greater achievements in the future is obvious.

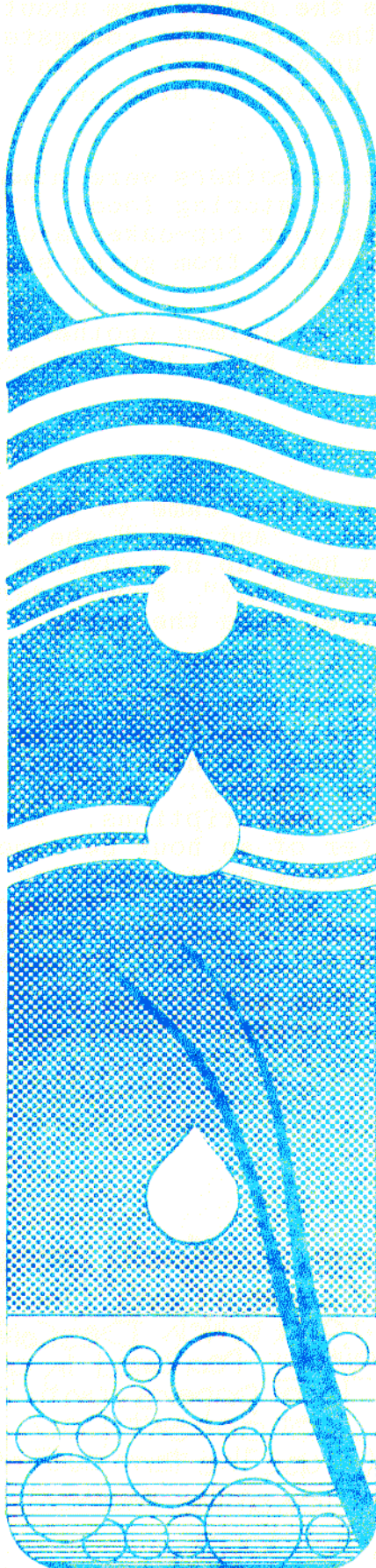
The goals and the challenges ahead are numerous. They will require the highest level of effort and dedication from us all. Of course there will be difficulties along the way, difficulties that can only enhance our job satisfaction when they are overcome.

The future rate of progress for the Department will, in large measure, be determined by our own efforts. It will be in direct proportion to the success we have in convincing the people, and therefore the Government, that we deserve increasing allocations from the public purse to get on with the job in hand.

The best way to be convincing is to ensure all examples of our work meet the expectations of the public and that those efforts receive the utmost publicity.

Ivan J. Gibbs.

Minister for National Parks



In appreciation to the Honourable the Minister for writing the editorial our esteemed artist has excelled himself with a portrait that even Rembrandt would be envious.

This very very busy artist became so inspired that a second masterpiece flowed from his "brush".

At great expense to me, these collector's items are now in my possession and as I am a very generous person I am enclosing "original" copies of these portraits.

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You can't develop eyestrain from looking on the bright side.

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Doug - please thank your wife for her Word Puzzle contribution (Page 28) I'm wondering if perhaps this could be the start of contribution from the "Better Half Society".

Perhaps a Recipe Corner or some "funny" remarks heard while speaking with visitors to our "Parks" or whatever - censored just so that I am able to print them. Thank you ladies and thank you Mrs (Doug) Schulz.

The little girl was an avid watcher of TV Westerns. She had also found time to develop an abscess on one of her fingers, and it required medical attention. Just as the doctor was about to lance the sore, the youngster looked up and asked: "Can I have a bullet to bite on?"

A group of mothers were discussing methods of storing food. "How do you keep your cup-cakes and home-made biscuits from going stale?" asked one.

"Stale!" exclaimed another. "I didn't even know they got cool."

Tommy's mother came to tuck him into bed. "And who," she scolded, "didn't hang up his clothes before he went to bed?" From under the bedclothes came the reply: "Adam."

Junior reluctantly shuffled out of the house on his first business venture: selling magazine subscriptions. Within a quarter of an hour he came dashing back home, shouting he had sold \$30 worth. "Wonderful," exclaimed his mother. "But how did you sell so many so quickly?"

"I sold them all to one family," came the reply. "Their dog bit me."

throughout Ringtail this month there is featured a strange, occasionally amusing usually rather sick cartoon strip aptly named, "The Cumleaf Gang". (the title originally intended for the National Parks + Wildlife Service.) and which Des Collins will tell you was stolen from him. The strip was originally featured in a weekly childrens page in one of Brisbane's local papers, until its creators (I use the term loosely) decided that free just doesn't pay. They grace the pages of Ringtail, as the artist (I use the term even more loosely) actually has too much work (Yes work) on at the moment. **Yes** he does work, and **no** he's not on holidays, he just looks like he is.

'The Management of Queensland Parks' by Dr G. Saunders.

Prepared for the Second World Wilderness Congress, Cairns, June 1980.

It is the impact of man upon the natural environment of Queensland which concerns the National Parks and Wildlife Service - the nature conservation authority for Queensland. Space, distance and diversity characterise this State and present the Service with a unique challenge in fulfilling its high purpose of park and wilderness management.

The cardinal principle to be observed in the management of Queensland national parks is the permanent preservation to the greatest possible extent, of their natural condition. This is a statutory provision written into the national parks legislation. Thus Parliament has insisted that all management decisions by the national parks authority are subservient to this overriding principle.

The legislation then goes on to enunciate specialised management procedures in the form of areas or zonings which may be adopted when the national parks authority has sufficient information available with respect to a national park concerning:

- (a) the flora, fauna, and natural features of the park; and
- (b) the potential value of the park in relation to its lawful uses.

The areas or zones which may then be formally gazetted over part or the whole of a national park are as follows.

1. Primitive Area.

A park so zoned as primitive area is, in the Queensland situation that which most closely resembles the wilderness area concept of North America. The Queensland legislation specifically forbids the construction of roads, building or structures, and the issuing of special leases, for example for tourist lodges or grazing, in any declared primitive area. Scientific research under permit is allowed.

2. Primitive and Recreation Area

In this zone, walking tracks may be constructed, but any roads are for the exclusive use of the national parks authority in managing the park. Leases for tourist purposes are permitted provided developments do not detract from the park's natural characteristics.

3. Recreation Area

The legislation provides that a Recreation Area zonation shall not exceed fifty percent of the park or 160 hectares whichever is the lesser. Public vehicular access may be provided along with facilities for camping, picnicking, boating, underwater diving, and like recreational activities. Such facilities and developments may be provided by the national parks authority or by concessionaires under special lease arrangements.

4. Scientific Area

These areas are to be managed so as to preserve a sample of the natural environment as national park. Facilities may be provided to assist research work.

The legislation requires the national parks authority to control and regulate all such scientific research work.

5. Historic Area

The only direction given in the legislation is that the Director of National Parks and Wildlife shall manage such area so as to preserve its historical significance to the State.

To date these zonings have only had a limited application mainly for areas of outstanding scientific interest such as Hoskyn and Fairfax Islands at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef and Thornton Peak north of the Daintree River on Cape York Peninsula. They have however, served as a useful guide to the management of other areas of the parks system and are now seen as one of a number of management tools which may be used in accordance with the preparation of park management plans as one means of achieving mid and long term management objectives.

These management provisions and directives on the Queensland statute books were written into the legislation at a time when national parks were the responsibility of the Forestry Department. Most national park land had been either State forest or timber reserve at some previous date. Consequently in this paper we must now look at the policies of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to national parks generally, within the framework of the legislation just enunciated, and more specifically our management policies for the new types of national park lands which have been acquired since 1975, especially those in Cape York Peninsula.

When the National Parks and Wildlife Service was established by Act of Parliament and Executive action of the Queensland Government in May 1975, it inherited from the Forestry Department a great many national park proposals.

Some of these were of major significance, particularly those on Cape York Peninsula. At the time, apart from some islands off the lower Peninsula east coast, and two or three small parks between Mossman and Cape Melville, Cape York Peninsula was completely devoid of national parks. There was no national park of any size and significance on Cape York Peninsula.

Building largely on the careful and painstaking evaluation work of Stanton and Lavarack the Service was able to bring to fruition many major national park proposals. We have now arrived at the situation whereby 54 percent of Queensland's national park estate is in Cape York Peninsula. Since 1975, but really during a two year period 1977/1978 the national park estate in Queensland was trebled.

Most of the land acquired during this period for nature conservation purposes was already under some form of cattle grazing regime. Properties such as Lakefield where attempts to intensify production had repeatedly failed, had been producing beef for many decades on an extensive range system. In many cases the beef production operation consists largely of mustering and marketing what often amounts to wild cattle. With one or two notable exceptions Cape York Peninsula evidences the failures of those who have attempted to heavily capitalise beef production with pasture and husbandry techniques that have proven successful in other parts of Australia and overseas.

The fact that after careful evaluation these properties were still found to be of high national park value in the fact of history of grazing activity has to be understood in the context of the Australian situation which differs from North America and possibly has greater affinity to the African environment. Australia while being rich in mineral resources is extremely dry; in fact the driest continent. We

are highly urbanised. Competition for land within the fertile and moist coastal zones is intense. We lack the spectacular areas of scenery of the Rocky Mountain chain which lend themselves to wilderness preservation in North America. Generally the scenery of Australia is more expansive and is characterised by its dryness, particularly the absence of extensive water bodies such as lakes and rivers. It is punctuated by oases of particular interest and recreational appeal surrounded by country whose beauty of vastness is more often appreciated without being physically involved. Because of the dryness and lack of alternative more productive areas most of Australia has been subjected to an extensive range system of grazing, often over greater areas than in many other regions of the world.

These circumstances are challenging park management in Queensland to develop an innovative wilderness management philosophy that is appropriate to the Australian and Queensland situation. Some elements of this philosophy have emerged and may be illustrated by reference to the Cape York situation.

The 235,000 hectare Jardine National Park is a magnificent area of wilderness at the top of Cape York Peninsula and qualifies for primitive area gazettal under Queensland Law. Here there is no pre-existing condition of grazing and it is intended to manage this area so as to maintain the area's natural condition. No grazing will be allowed and the basic management philosophy will be similar to that applied in the North American Wilderness areas.

Lakefield National Park which is twice the area of Jardine National Park will represent a major divergence of management philosophy. The area is large enough for every zoning category to be accommodated. Here the Service has had to develop a policy with respect to grazing

for the following reasons:

- (i) The Service ability for management was lagging well behind the park acquisition programme. It was in the interests of the Service, the park, and the public to have a management presence on the land. Such presence can best be achieved by the issuing of grazing rights to either the former lessee or to neighbouring landholders.
- (ii) The Service accepts that you cannot change land use traditions overnight. Such change is neither desirable nor necessary in Cape York Peninsula. Local authorities worry about losing rateable land - and rightly so. Adjoining landholders worry about increased visitation to national park lands, fire problems, vermin problems, people problems. Allowing responsible people to remain on the land until such time as the National Parks and Wildlife Service has a capability to fully manage such lands for conservation/recreation/tourism purposes seems to be a sensible expedient.

Within that general framework, the following options are being considered:

- (i) Lakefield to be the headquarters for the management of the Service estate on Cape York Peninsula;
- (ii) at least one large tourist lodge within the park;
- (iii) the cattle operations to be secondary to parks, recreation and conservation purposes, but these operations to be part of the Lakefield experience and included in the visitation programme. If grazing is shown to be having significant adverse effects on the areas'

nature conservation and recreation values then it will be necessary to modify this activity. However, it is not envisaged that this will be necessary in the foreseeable future;

- (iv) line fishing for barramundi to be allowed under permit;
- (v) vermin control, eg. shooting and trapping of wild pigs to be a major Service responsibility.
- (vi) vehicle access to key points within the park will be maintained. Long distance back-packing, one of the more traditional wilderness recreation functions is not likely to be of significance in this park.

The complexity of the management exercise is certainly manifold in a State as vast as Queensland (1.7 million square kilometres) with over 300 national parks varying in size from a few hectares on some islands to half a million hectare units in the Simpson Desert and Cape York Peninsula. Almost every recognised habitat type of the Australian environment is represented from desert to reef.

In such a complex and varied set of circumstances surely even the most rigid purist would allow that there has to be flexibility and innovation in management of these areas. The Service is building upon a system of management planning which, while being based upon our cardinal principle of management, will seek to identify just what are the main social and nature conservation values of the components of our park system and then spell out objectives for management that are most appropriate for the realisation of those values.

The accommodation and handling of park visitors is a significant problem of park management. It is apparent that for a number of parks their values for low density wilderness forms of recreation and biological conservation are threatened by their utilisation for more common forms of higher density recreation. The Service is seeking to provide for the more common recreation activities in areas of lesser ecological significance and in closer proximity to population centres where the 'natural' environment can be modified while retaining the required natural setting. In Queensland we have sought wherever possible to provide access to the more interesting points within the parks by a series of carefully graded walking tracks making access for the average person quite easy while minimising the area of human disturbance. In Lamington National Park some 150 km of such trails have been established,

For most national parks in Queensland the policy of encouraging tourist lodge development on the perimeter of the park will continue to apply. However, because of the vastness and remoteness of Cape York Peninsula and the western part of the State, the size and nature of national parks such as Lakefield, and the dryness and physical harshness of much of the country, the provision of tourist lodge accommodation within the park is going to be the only way large numbers of visitors can be given the experience of appreciating and enjoying what the park has to offer. Before such development takes place it is essential for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to establish a strong management presence.

To take one of the few remaining large, natural, terrestrial areas left in the world and establish 1.5 million hectares of national park land over a period of three years has been a most exciting project. It is testimony to the

vision and courage of the Queensland Government. The exciting prospect from the park management viewpoint is that here we are starting with a relatively clean slate. With the background of careful and cautious management of our parks in Queensland the National Parks and Wildlife Service with its high level of professionalism in many aspects of nature conservation has a unique opportunity to develop a management philosophy which is an outgrowth of this State's unique social and environmental conditions while conforming to the highest traditions of national park management.

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service sees itself as a responsible landholder. As such, it has a responsibility to its neighbours to ensure that park management priorities do not adversely affect a neighbour's livelihood. Of course the responsibility is both ways. For example in some situations in Queensland we have found enormous feral pig populations building up on the food provided by grain farms. Such pigs have caused serious damage within an adjoining national park.

Within the general framework of preserving the natural character of the park, the Service must take appropriate measures on fire and vermin control; and if necessary monitor protected native animals, such as wallabies, where they become a problem by not only damaging surrounding pastures and crops, but by building up populations in the park at the expense of other species of wildlife.

In future a large proportion of the research budget of the Service will be channelled into expanding and developing management research projects.

This is seen as a basic and essential approach to the agreed goal of lifting management decisions out of the guesswork arena. Research already underway in this area includes studies of the impact of agriculture on quail species on the Darling Downs; the effects of grazing cattle and sheep on native vegetation; the effects of forestry practices on bird species, numbers and behaviour; the effects of exotic animal populations such as deer, on native fauna and their habitats; the effect of fire on species survival.

Research is quite often long-term and management decisions have to be made today. Consequently, many management decisions to be made for our parks will have to be intuitive. The situation is little different in North America or Europe where human impact on the environment has been far more concentrated than it has been in Australia. Apart from his use of fire in land use management the Australian aborigine did not indulge in habitat alteration through clearing, cultivation or the introduction of herbivores. Nevertheless, aboriginal man did have a significant effect on the natural environment. It is quite wrong of us to speak of parts of Cape York Peninsula as pristine or totally natural if by that we infer they are unaffected by man.

I would like to see aborigines from the area very much involved with the Service in the management of national parks in Cape York Peninsula.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that national parks will incorporate the areas which will provide the main recreational resource base for Cape York Peninsula. Coinciding with the establishment of these parks private property owners are becoming less inclined to allow

public access for recreational purposes. In recent months several properties have completely closed their doors to public visitation.

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service must accept the fact that it will have to shoulder the burden of providing and managing this recreational resource. The management problems that will flow from this responsibility are overwhelming to even contemplate. The Service will have to give priority to pouring manpower and materials into Cape York Peninsula. This we will do. Our Cairns office is becoming increasingly beset by tourists demanding information about camping holidays in the Peninsula.

The national parks in Cape York Peninsula, in their vastness, and in the vastness of their setting, in their variety and their diversity will become of international significance in offering a wilderness experience unparalleled anywhere else in the world. The Service is being presented with an unprecedented challenge to ensure that the area of prime wilderness value on the Peninsula and elsewhere in this vast State are conserved and managed. I am confident that by adopting new and innovative policies for wilderness management we will be successful in meeting this challenge thereby meeting our responsibility to the people of this State, Australia and all the citizens of spaceship earth.

* * *

It has been reported that a member of Head Office Staff, when familiarising new staff to the layout of Head Office (eg toilets, etc.) explained that the five lifts are situated in the same position on all floors!!!**@?

Entrance Examination

Service staff are advised that a qualifying Examination for appointment to position of Ranger Division II will be conducted by the Department of the Public Service Board on Monday 2nd February, 1981.

Conditions as per Regulation 90A of the Public Service Regulations provide that candidates shall be aged from twenty-one to forty-five years except in special cases.

Application must be lodged with the Chief Administration Officer, Department of the Public Service Board not less than thirty days prior to the date of the examination.

A viva voce examination (oral) will be conducted for those candidates who successfully complete and obtain highest results for the written paper.

Success in this examination confers eligibility for appointment for a period of 1 year to Ranger Division II positions which are available during the year.

The examination will be held in centres throughout the State as required and application forms are now available.

Public advertisement of the intention to hold the examination will occur shortly.

Entry forms may be obtained either from the Examinations Section of the Public Service Board P.O. Box 59, North Quay Brisbane or from the Service Liaison Officer, Geoff Cole at Head Office.

* * *

"I can't get my report card back," the boy said to his teacher. "You gave me an A in something and Mum and Dad are still mailing the card around to the relatives."

ENVIRONMENTAL PARKS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

A paper presented by C.W. Price, Deputy Director, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service to the Local Government Engineers Association of Queensland conference: 9 October 1980.

Most of us are familiar with the concept of a national park and what this implies in terms of protection and management.

But who here can claim to be conversant with the concept of an environmental park, the laws that protect it, or its management objectives?

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is now actively engaged in a programme of creating public awareness of the environmental parks system. My presence here today is evidence of this programme which has been centred initially on Queensland's Local Authorities.

What are we trying to create interest in? How does an environmental park fit into the developing system of nature conservation in Queensland?

The Service booklet "Environmental Parks in Queensland" states in its introduction:

"An environmental park is not a large area of wilderness, nor is it a picnic ground with mown grass and planted trees. It is meant to be somewhere in between".

Areas which do not meet the standards of size, national significance and low level of disturbance now demanded for national parks but which contain vegetation, fauna or geological features of regional or local significance, are logical choices for inclusion in the environmental parks system.

In comparison to national parks, environmental parks are smaller, often close to urbanised areas and sometimes show minor effects of disturbance by man or his domestic beasts.

Environmental parks serve the functions of preserving vegetation associations, animal communities and geological features that are too small or not important enough to be considered a national park, but are nevertheless important for maintaining landscape, floral and faunal quality and diversity.

.2.

Had the legislation been available pre 1973, there is no question that some of our smaller national parks would have more appropriately been gazetted as environmental parks. One thinks of Jolly's Lookout and Boombana near Brisbane and Double Head and Bluff Point south of Rockhampton, as random examples.

Sir Wallace Rae, then Minister for Lands and Forestry, introducing the Bill to amend the Land Act to provide for environmental park legislation said, inter alia, in March 1973:

"An environmental park could be manifested by a water-course, a lake, a patch of rainforest, a patch of open forest, a small sand mass, a rocky outcrop, a low-lying wildflower swamp, or as, may be, a combination of these."

The intention of the Government in creating an environmental parks system is clearly presented in this speech (Hansard - 27 March 1973).

The Government recognised that:

"We must ensure that every now and then we bypass some areas so that all the fresh air of the woods and the creatures and plants that inhabit them are not destroyed irreparably by man and his many machines."

A further key to the understanding of the concept and the broad outline of its proposed administration is also found in his speech, which stated "Officers of the Lands Department are positioned throughout the State of Queensland and are specifically trained to take cognisance of all relevant situations when reporting and recommending upon the disposal of Crown land".

The argument was put that the objective could be effected within the existing framework of the Lands Department, and that "No special or supernumerary committees or administrative segments will be necessary".

It allows for individuals and organisations to also recommend areas and to share trustee duties. However it states that "Local Authorities will be particularly encouraged to become seriously engaged in this general activity" (that is "sharing the duties as trustees of such parks and the supervision thereof").

It was also provided that an Environmental Park Fund be established, funded chiefly by Parliament; but importantly, so far as principle is concerned, providing that Crown rents from parks, and money from fines for offences etc. be put into it.

Out of this Fund, costs of surveys, the building and maintenance of improvements, and prosecutions are to be paid.

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.3.

The Fund being limited, the legislation provided that "The Minister may undertake and do, or approve that the trustees of the park concerned undertake or do within an environmental park, all such works and acts as he considers to be necessary or desirable for the preservation, proper management, or public enjoyment of the park, or for the welfare of animals whose natural habitat is within the park".

In practice this means that the Minister can formulate a policy to cover expenditure on environmental parks. This matter will be referred to later in the paper.

The early history of environmental parks then is very closely tied to the functioning of the Lands Department. When the Service was set up some two years after environmental parks were legislated for, it took them over along with the national park lands gazetted under the Forestry Act and a few reserves under the Fauna Conservation Act. The last named allowed for only one land tenure - the fauna reserve of which only three existed - and two types of constraint of a voluntary nature over other land tenures. These were the fauna refuge and fauna sanctuary.

There are legislative differences between these Service holdings by reason of their different legislative origins, and these are summarised - almost to the point of oversimplification - in the attachment.

With the absorption into the Service administration of environmental parks, the Environmental Park Fund was terminated. Even though initially the Service was a subdepartment of Lands, its budgetting was autonomous. Treasury replaced the Fund with a special revenue grant of \$100,000. This has now been increased to \$150,000 as at the 1979-80 year. Thus, environmental parks are regarded as a special expenditure vote, even though such things as fines and lease fees are no longer added to it.

The decision to recommend gazettal of environmental parks, is a Service one. Anybody can suggest that an area be made environmental park. A Local Authority, M.L.A., a private individual, a club or society, another Government department or the Service itself in the process of assessing the conservation requirements of Queensland, can suggest an area. Were one to check the files of the National Parks and Wildlife Service or Forestry or Lands, one would find environmental park proposals coming from all of these sources. It is important to note the inclusion of Local Authorities in this list. All suggestions eventually come to the Service for evaluation.

.../4.

.4.

Initially, a file is created using all available information on a suggested environmental park and it is checked against existing parks and proposals within the region.

The proposal is then inspected by a field officer of the Service and an assessment made of its significance for inclusion within the park system. The data collected by the field officers cover environmental, logistical and social factors.

Geology and geomorphology, topography, hydrology, soils and climate are described in terms of the non-living resource. The living resource is then considered. This will include the flora and fauna as parts of natural communities (i.e. rainforest community, riverine community).

The final section of data collection will then deal with people and the resource; existing recreation opportunities, alternative access, history and pre-history, scientific and educational study, current and future use of the land including extractive industry.

Administration, visitor facilities, surrounding land use and threats from non-native species, pollution or over-use must also be identified.

The Service takes the raw data in its absolute terms and assesses its relative importance in terms of representativeness, adequacy of the sample and its significance for nature. Problems inherent in the management must be recognised for each element of the resource including those factors which pose a threat. Possible impacts of such threatening elements and any constraints will need to be discussed and detailed.

The criteria by which an area would be judged suitable for environmental park purposes are:

1. The land should not generally exceed 500 hectares although there have been exceptions.
2. Vegetation associations and other features should be largely undisturbed.
3. A minimum of management problems such as noxious weeds, feral animal populations, rubbish dumping, erosion etc. should exist.
4. The proposal should be capable of withstanding edge-effects such as urban development.
5. Reservation of the land is important to maintain the quality or diversity of the landscape, fauna or vegetation in a local, regional or national frame of reference.
6. Any existing or intended recreational, educational or scientific demands placed upon the reserve should not harm the natural environment.

.../5.

.5.

While the assessment is proceeding, the feelings and requirements of other Government departments are ascertained. Objection by one of them generally concludes the matter, though in the nature of their size there is usually less likelihood of say Mines Department objecting than to larger areas proposed for national parks.

It is at this stage that the involvement of Local Authorities is possible. This is the grand opportunity. The Service in its gazettal and development of national parks does consider the effects of the proposal and its subsequent management on Local Authorities and the attitudes of the Local Authorities towards the Service's proposals. As advised in a paper delivered to the last Local Government Association conference in Mt. Isa in September 1979, this is now a policy decision at the highest level.

The grand opportunity with environmental parks is the possibility of having Local Authorities as trustees, a situation which cannot occur with national parks. This can give maximum involvement of Local Authorities in the grass roots level of park management. Under the provisions of the Land Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the management of an environmental park is the responsibility of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the trustees (if any) appointed for each park.

We should note that there is no requirement that trustees need be appointed for an environmental park apart from the Service. But the spirit of the legislation recognises the value of involving trustees and that wherever practicable, Local Authorities could be invited to be trustees. They are given preference over other eligible bodies or individuals and are encouraged to undertake that role. Why accept such a role?

Considerable advantages can accrue to the Local Authority when it decides to become the trustee for an environmental park. Firstly, it gives a degree of local control over the land so reserved. The trustees can make by-laws covering the day-to-day management of the environmental park and these by-laws can cover many aspects of the recreational and educational use of the reserve. A qualifier is that these by-laws must comply with the relevant provisions of the legislation concerning environmental parks especially those dealing with the protection of flora and fauna.

Secondly, as trustee, the Local Authority can participate more directly in protecting the landscape and take credit for its resultant benefits to residents and visitors alike. Council as trustees can be seen to be upholding a balanced attitude between conservation and development.

Thirdly, the trustees will have access to information including design standards and specifications from the resources of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for their environmental parks. Especially in the case of small Local Authorities without the staff, technical expertise or finance to procure and up date this information, the assistance of the Service could result in designs, techniques and specifications that would be useful for building improvements in other types of parks and reserves. There is no copyright on Service designs or signs, other than our typeface.

Fourthly, all Local Authorities benefit from the expertise which the Service has developed in the matter of publications. Service brochures, posters, etc. are governed by an overall "house" style and format. Producing environmental park brochures and other publications is part of our overall effort in the field, and will cost the Local Authority nothing extra.

Finally, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service has accepted the responsibility for funding capital works in environmental parks. It was stated earlier that the Minister decides in effect how the Environmental Park Fund is expended. Very early in the life of the Service, the Honourable K.B. Tomkins, our first Minister, stated that the Service should pay for buildings etc. and the Local Authority should maintain them. To date this has worked well in practice. However, as time goes on, there will no doubt be more competition for capital funds and more requests for help with maintenance. It is likely that as need arises, other Ministers will vary the rules.

Overall however a Council claiming to spend its funds in a balanced and sensible way will have a commitment to spend money on parks and reserves in the shire, town, or city. This being so, if it can avail itself of State capital funds to help develop one of these, it would seem good business to do so.

Having stated the advantages to Local Authorities, the responsibilities should also be considered. Firstly, according to the legislation, the trustees are responsible for the destruction of noxious plants on lands under their control. For many lands, such as camping and water reserves, the Local Authority was previously responsible for noxious weed control anyway - so this generally does not represent increased burdens, should such a reserve be converted to an environmental park.

Secondly, the legislation provides that the trustees should pay for the erection of signs unless otherwise directed by the Minister. In practice the Service has interpreted the word erection to cover only the placement of signs. The sign itself, the standard timber mount and fixings and even the paint are provided at no expense. The trustee is likely to know better than any other authority where best to place the signs.

Thirdly, if the park is used by picnickers or if toilets and amenities have been constructed, then the Local Authority must be willing to undertake rubbish removal, cleaning and maintenance duties at its cost.

Fourthly and most importantly, the trustees must ensure that the land is protected from interference with flora or fauna, or any natural features and that persons using the park do not damage or deface the park or prevent others from enjoying its values. Under the provisions of the Land Act the trustees are given the right to appoint "prescribed persons" such persons being given extensive powers to guarantee the protection of the environmental parks. We shall discuss these "prescribed persons" and the making of by-laws later.

In weighing the responsibilities and the advantages, Local Authorities should consider these guidelines laid down by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service to help trustees of environmental parks.

1. All capital works must be approved by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. We are obliged to do this according to our responsibilities under the legislation. Costs for capital works are borne by the Service according to priorities and subject to the availability of funds. Contributions from the trustees are solicited to supplement these funds wherever possible; but the commencement of a project does not stand or fall on this.
2. Where it is deemed appropriate to install facilities such as barbecues and picnic tables, these standard items can be supplied free of cost to the trustees for installation on an environmental park. Where vandalism is a problem, there may be a case for building non-standard items. The picnic tables built by Toowoomba City Council in its own Perseverance Dam picnic area would be an example. See also 4.
3. All signage requirements for any environmental park are supplied directly by the Service using strict specifications. Installation costs for signage are borne by the trustees.
4. Maintenance is not subsidised by the Service and is the responsibility of the trustees. In the event of damage being caused by fire, flood or vandalism, the Service will consider all requests for funds to rectify such damage.
5. The Service may bear the costs of rectifying problems including clean-up of litter or the eradication of noxious plants depending on the competition for such funds. Preference is given to newly gazetted parks where such conditions pre-existed the gazettal of the environmental park. Indeed it is not uncommon for the Local Authority to make this a pre-condition and this is a reasonable approach.

.8.

How are work priorities determined by the Service?

Service officers are currently investigating formulae which will make the determination of priorities less of a subjective judgement and more equitable to the trustees of environmental parks competing for funding. It will be impossible to completely remove all subjectivity from funding decisions but the formulae will be based upon such factors as proximity to urban population, local interest, educational and scientific study opportunities, capacity for nature based recreation, access, and the measures necessary to protect particular parks from environmental damage.

The creation of such formulae is a small part of the Service's efforts to communicate with Local Authorities which includes the provision of the guidelines mentioned earlier. We want to improve the opportunities.

Up to the present, a "first cab off the rank" approach has been capable of adoption; because the demand for developmental works has not been great. Inevitably this will alter; and one supposes this conference will tend to accelerate demand. It would seem that our use of a "job proposal" pro forma will form part of any system.

By-laws under the legislation can be drafted by trustees to regulate the use of a park and supplement the protection afforded by the environmental parks legislation. The procedure used is Order in Council.

Subjects which can be covered by such by-laws are the protection, public use, times of opening, access, traffic control, unauthorised structures, camping, use of fire, removal and prosecution of offenders and appointment of "prescribed persons". The Service is seeking to produce a standard model set of by-laws with a list of modifications necessary for different classes of environmental park which could be adopted by Councils having existing or proposed environmental parks within their boundaries and for which they are or will be trustees.

These by-laws are being developed so that they conform to the provisions of the environmental park legislation, are compatible with the management goals of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's legislative charter, and will fit Local Authority needs.

.... /9.

The Service is moving towards preparing a management manual for trustees of environmental parks to aid them in understanding the concept of the environmental park system developed by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the implementation of this concept. This manual is intended to include information on technical matters ranging from signage and picnic ground layout, to weed control and fire management.

Similarly, for environmental parks which are capable of attracting high visitation, the Service is evolving a management committee system to ensure adequate liaison between the Service and the trustees in park protection and management objectives.

The Service, by assisting Local Authorities in this manner, hopes to achieve a consistency of environmental park standards according to its charter and at the same time reduce the workload of the Local Authority. The essence of co-operation should be mutual benefit; and Service planning for standards for environmental parks is seen in this light.

This paper has traced the history of development of environmental parks. Essentially Local Authority trusteeship was made a cornerstone because Lands Department had no field management staff of its own. The Service, while being short staffed and still embracing the concept of the Local Authority as being in many cases the constructing and maintenance authority, has established a nucleus of specialist Environmental Park Officers. It has two Environmental Park Officers in head office and in Cairns. It has also appointed its first resident Environmental Park Officer on an environmental park - at Lake Broadwater in the Wambo Shire and will as soon as possible be appointing one for the Townsville Town Common.

The Chief Management Officer (Parks and Reserves) has in his charge both environmental park and national park field staff. Thus there is the machinery for work face co-operation. In practice, national park field staff extend the Environmental Park Officer's supervisory capabilities. The major works on Mt. Zamia Environmental Park in the Bauhinia Shire for example were supervised by the Regional Superintendent for Rockhampton on behalf of the Environmental Park Officer. Quite effective Service-Shire contact was maintained in this way.

One area which has concerned the Service is the legislation covering day-to-day responsibility for supervision of environmental parks. For a particular environmental park, the Minister may appoint "prescribed persons" or an honorary ranger to ensure the daily protection of that park. A Local Authority also has the ability to appoint "prescribed persons" though this is normally done after consultation with the Service.

.10.

The question as to whether "field officers" under the National Parks and Wildlife Act are "prescribed persons" under the Land Act is still to be resolved.

The powers of a "prescribed person" and, more alarmingly, an honorary ranger include the power of arrest. In the light of today's public opinion on such matters, it is small wonder that the Service is in no hurry to appoint honorary rangers for environmental parks.

Heavy legislative loads on the Parliamentary draftsman and more pressing Service needs for major legislative changes in its field, have caused the delay in resolving these matters. In passing reference to more urgent needs, the Native Plants Protection Act is literally 50 years out of date, and it is intended to complete it before these matters are resolved. The fines under the environmental park legislation are also very different from fines for similar offences prosecuted under the Fauna Conservation Act. This would need to be tidied up.

It will be seen then that the environmental park infant is healthy but still in need of house training and discipline. If the Service is regarded as the adoptive parent given the baby when Lands Department could no longer look after it, then I would like to think of the Local Authorities as doting aunts and uncles interested in a proprietorial way in the welfare of the child.

They will be expected to provide presents for their particular nephew or neice; but in return will have the pleasure of seeing it develop into something they can be as proud of as the parents.

There is nothing peculiar to computer science in the statement that "what you put in is what you get out". Take pride in the environmental parks given you in trust and put material effort into them and you will certainly have material rewards - increased local pride, identity and purpose, better adjusted citizens, a more varied scene, increased tourist dollars.

Early in this paper I quoted extracts from the speech of Sir Wallace Rae who, as Minister for Lands in 1973 introduced the necessary legislation. I can do no better then quote another extract to conclude the paper.

"If we can preserve a reasonable proportion of our lands in the state in which we found them, we shall have in some small way been obedient to the wise counsel which suggests that each one of us should endeavour to leave the world a little better or at least no worse than we found it".

* Attachment

Comparison of certain tenure and usage conditions:
national parks and environmental parks

Aspect	National Park	Environmental Park
Ownership	Crown, in control of the Service through its Minister.	Crown, in control of the Service through its Minister.
Shared authority	None once gazetted; but the Service will consider the desires of Government and other bodies in aspects of management planning.	Provision is made for trustees and for drawing up by-laws for each park. Generally a Shire or Shires are invited to be trustees, but at times there are private or other Governmental, or there may be none.
Amenities and Development	By Service at Service cost, usually with Service or contract labour.	Usually by Councils at Service cost. However, by arrangement and on the principle that it is more a park of local interest, the Service expects maintenance help of Shires.
Restrictions	Developments limited to those which will be compatible with the ethic of allowing enjoyment by people while leaving them unimpaired for future people use. Retention of natural values is paramount.	As for national parks, but additionally no grazing is allowed mostly because of their small size and likely impact on the park and its users.
Staffing	Resident staff are on some parks. Others are managed by periodic visits.	Resident staff on only one park to date. Usually managed by visiting staff, and/or by Council staff who can be "prescribed persons" to administer the law.
Legislation	Part of the Forestry Act	Part of the Land Act.



C'MON
get into
it!

UP
THE
WILDLIFE

PRESERVE
POLITICIANS

Research and Planning Branch

Even though bats constitute by far the largest group in the Queensland mammal fauna, they still remain poorly understood and even less recognised. With approximately 50 species currently located throughout the State together with the fact that 4 of these are endemic to Queensland it would be hoped that future generations will have a more enlightened attitude towards this fascinating and oft times beneficial faunal group.

To this end this Service presently conducts a biological study directed principally towards one of these species the Ghost bat, Macroderma gigas.

The project is being undertaken in central coastal Queensland as a three year programme, initiated in 1975, by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in collaboration with the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education in Rockhampton. The project officer is Mr. John Toop.

There has been much concern over the years for the fate of caves in the Mt. Etna - Limestone Ridge area some 20 kilometres north of Rockhampton on the central coast of Queensland. The situation has been exacerbated in recent times by open-cut mining for limestone on faces of Mt. Etna. On the other hand, Limestone Ridge has been declared a national park, imposing at the same time problems attendant upon recreation.

In particular, interest has been expressed in the conservation of bats in the cave systems, in two regards. Firstly, in securing the habitat for the relatively small populations of the ghost bat Macroderma gigas that are, by all accounts, most frequently found here in Australia. And secondly,

to protect the comparatively large populations of the much more widespread and abundant little bent-winged bat Miniopterus schreibersii and other microchiropterans. The amount of relevant information on which to base management procedures is negligible.

The current project has therefore been designed to provide some fundamental data on the habitat and the population dynamics of the ghost bat, the more readily studied, as well as the more apparently threatened, species in the area. More specific investigations cover physical habitat characteristics (notably temperatures, humidities and surface rainfall); birth, nursing, day and night roosting, and feeding sites; social organisation; reproductive behaviour; flight behaviour; flight range, night activity patterns and foods; population range; laboratory studies of physiological capabilities; and so on.

A complete survey of the cave systems of Mt. Etna, Limestone Ridge, Olsen's, and Karst Glen during October 1975 - May 1976 has revealed 114 caves, some discovered for the first time.

Of 34 of these caves studied in detail to June 1977 only three have been found to be birth caves. Five were nursing sites for ghost bats; 17 were day roosts; 34 were night roosts; and 31 were feeding roosts. It is noteworthy that, contrary to belief, ghost bats were found to make use also of man-made structures other than mines. Sheds are one example of this.

On breeding matters, results have shown that adults of both sexes achieve greatest annual weight at the end of the wet season (March and April), these weights declining

thereafter through autumn into winter; that average weight of young bats increases at the same time by 5-10 grammes per month until near adult weight by June; that peak testes sizes are reached in March/April; that false teat sizes peak in October/December; that weaning occurs in March; that females breed in their second year; and that birth (at about 25 grammes weight) occurs in October.

To achieve results of this type, as well as on aging (by sizes and by teeth-wear), on injuries, and on population numbers, ghost bats are collected by means of mist netting. The individuals are tagged, using separately-numbered metal patagial tags. Animals are weighed, measured for forearm length and for testes size, canine teeth are examined, and abnormalities are noted.

It is significant that every ghost bat in the area - some 140-170 animals - is now believed to be individually identifiable, a unique opportunity for development of sophisticated interpretation of population behaviour by means of modelling. It must be remembered that the species is at the extreme edge of the intertropical distribution range of the genus, with the possibilities of erratic population behaviour, from reduced breeding success (as in 1977) to the extent of imminent extinction, that this ambient temperature profile entails.

The movements of ghost bats among caves daily, seasonally and annually is now being plotted, and the coinciding physical factors are being measured to establish correlations. Rainfall, with its consequent effects on humidity, temperature and, simply, 'dryness', has clear bearing on behaviour; but the movement patterns are still

too complex and clouded to be quantitatively unravelled.

The feeding habits and foods of the ghost bat population around Rockhampton is now well documented. In 1975/76, a small mammal plague occurred and bats capitalised on this outbreak of small rodents and marsupial mice; more recently, the opportunistic nature of the species' feeding habits and diet has been more evident. Larger insects, notably katydids Tettigoniidae, short horned grasshoppers Acrididae, longicorn beetles Cerambycidae, scarab beetles Scarabeidae and cicadas Cicadidae, predominate, but amphibians and other (smaller) bats are eaten. Birds identified from remains by the Queensland Museum have included nightjars, honey-eaters, cuckoos, trillers, thornbills, fantail-warblers and fantails. The neighbouring vine scrub ecosystem is thus also heavily implicated in the ecology of the ghost bats around Rockhampton.

Flight range has not been able to be described; flight behaviour has been unsatisfactorily examined using Cyalume light sticks attached to individuals; and population range is still to be resolved from detailed lists of appropriate areas being prepared by the Mines Department.

While hunting at night, ghost bats frequently emit screams for communication and territorial purposes. A sentinel listening device attached to a tape recorded in the form of a voice-activated relay provides the opportunity for a one-hour tape to detect activity throughout an entire night; studies have so far been fruitless.

Laboratory studies on individuals held for protracted periods have

been successful insofar as animals have been suitably maintained, successfully bred and the young successfully re-established later in the wild. Growth rates of young, audible vocalisations, grooming behaviour, and prey capture techniques, are some data that have been best obtained in this way.

In summary, there must be doubt about previous population estimates for this species in the Rockhampton area. If the earlier estimate of 450 ghost bats in Johannsen's Cave in Limestone Ridge is correct, then clearly the species is under intolerable pressure. With present data to calculate from, the number of ghost bats present can only be established accurately if the current type of study proceeds until 1980. Then, and only then, can a precise assessment of the population trend be made.

During August 1976, reference to a colony of 200 ghost bats at Cape Hillsborough National Park was investigated. The cave area is a volcanic headland containing five fairly large caves formed in the larva; ghost bats were found using the smallest and hottest cave. No Rockhampton-tagged individuals were located, nor have any Cape Hillsborough-tagged individuals subsequently been detected at Rockhampton. The nature of this population, and its size and relative importance, remain questions of obvious consequence to the conservation of the species.

It must be emphasized that the current study was not undertaken with the intention to indict mining activities. Rather, the study has deliberately sought to confine itself to a statement of facts about the population

behaviour and prospects for one species of the local cave inhabitants, namely the unusual and uncommon ghost bat, that may be insecure for whatever reasons. At the outset, no data were unavailable to assess properly the effects of present and projected land uses on the species; this still applies, although substantial opportunity now exists to progress towards sound judgements.

At the same time, nevertheless, the study has wider implications for the National Parks and Wildlife Service. There are data on the physical nature and behaviour of Queensland caves and their ecosystems, which constitute a peculiar and popular section of the Service estate. There is knowledge on the real forms of disturbance to which caves are subjected and the extents to which these forms are destructive or should be admitted as legitimate land uses; from these, appropriate steps to minimize or ameliorate damage, and to rectify any past effects of man - that is to manage the resource, become available.

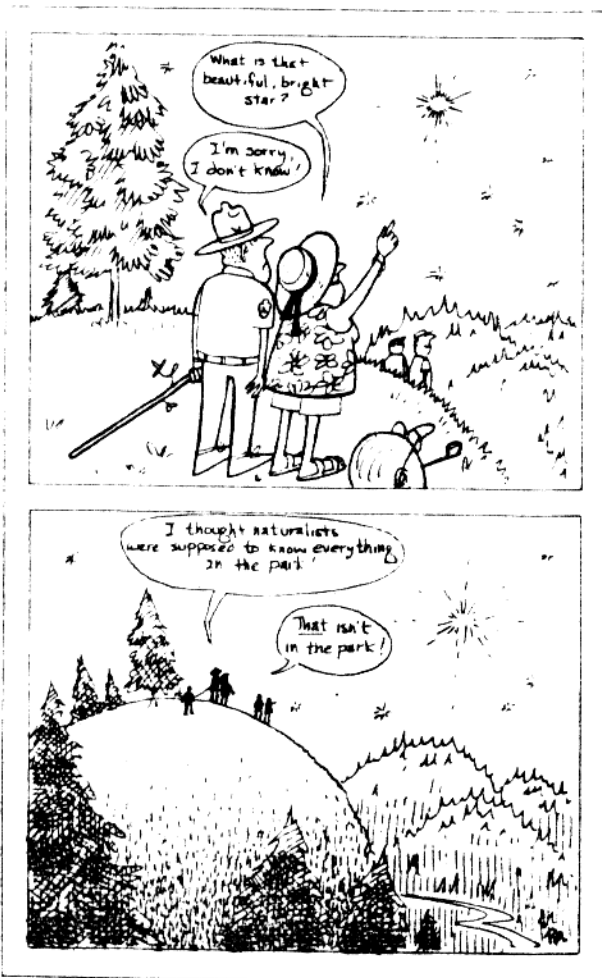
Finally, it is pertinent to note that Mr. Toop has been responsible for the preparation of the safety techniques recommended by the Australian Speleological Society. This experience is invaluable to a Service that is responsible to provide for a large and interested public the opportunity to enjoy these enchanting but dangerous environments.

* * *

A small city boy was on a camping expedition with the scouts when he saw his first snake. "Look!", he yelled. "Here's a tail without a dog!"

I happened to read in the last Ringtail of Ross Blick's "astronomical" exploits as part of the Service's Easter interpretive programme and it immediately brought back into my mind the wisdom behind the cartoon above. From my own individual perspective, broadening one's perceptual horizons in any facet of life is like "a deep breath of fresh air" - keep up the good work Ross.

Mike Harris



On a different note, Mark's article on 'sand driving' reminded me of a bush-driving tip I myself once stumbled upon. Very early in my career, and even as an impressionable student working during vacations, many and varied 'sages' warned me of the necessity to avoid the perils of a "stick in the radiator" - which I had successfully done until recently, when the inevitable happened.

Not having seen or heard any sign of contact with any sort of object, I was amazed to find that on alighting from my QG to open a wire gate many miles from habitation, there was a curious fountain virtually emanating from the front grille - at this point the car "had a leak" in the middle of the track.

After a quiet curse I let the car run down off the steep ridge it was on and in order to get a better look at the damage I proceeded to dismantle all the plastic parts which make up the front end of a modern car and prevent easy access to the radiator - all the time cursing under my breath that the b..... radiator must also be plastic. Resigned to the fact that I would be stuck on this lonely bush track for some time I was amazed and relieved at this point in time to hear the distant rattle of an approaching diesel motor.

Flashing through my mind were the two possible roles which I could adopt. I could either play the little dutch boy with my finger in the hole, burning it in the process, and making out that nothing was amiss, or I could embarrassingly appeal for help and hope that the wise cracks were not too severe. Of course there wasn't any real choice, especially since QG's are not renowned for the comprehensive range of tools they have on board I started waving my arms

Two small boys at a modern art exhibition stared at a wildly abstract painting. Finally one said: "Let's get out of here quick before they say we did it."

As it turned out, my saviours were extremely sympathetic and helpful - and what's more they offered a magical solution. One gentleman produced a container of ground white pepper and exclaimed: "This'll fix it mate!" - and blow me down (to put it nicely) if it didn't do just that.

As I stood there with my mouth gaping, and trying to hold back a sneeze, he proceeded to pour a whole packet of this magical potion into the radiator, topped it up with water and called out with a confident air: 'Start her up!' After the engine had been turning over for several minutes the picturesque but depressing curved fountain of water from the damaged radiator deminished to a mere trickle! By this time I had recovered from my amazement sufficiently to hesitantly and self-consciously ask if such action would have any damaging effect to the radiator coil or the cooling parts in the head (a little late I guess), to which the retort was "no worries mate .. just flush her out a few times once you're out of trouble". I can't fully vouch for this opinion and I would only tend to use this method after all other avenues are exhausted, however, the car has not exhibited any appreciable side-effects since the ordeal. The only 'scientific' explanation I could gleam from this guy was that "the pepper just gums up around the hole!?"

Apart from the need for an occasional 'top-up' on the road back to civilisation - which was achieved by carefully scrambling down into a couple of 'itchy-jack' infested creek crossings - it was as if the whole thing has been an illusion.

So whatever you do, don't forget the humble 50 gramme container of Harper's Ground White Pepper - but I guess that all of you 'sages' already have a can snugly stored in your QG's tool box or picnic hamper.

Perhaps it really was just an illusion?!!??

Mike Harris

CROCODILE RESEARCH

The crocodile research team operating out of the Northern Regional Centre in Townsville is interested in obtaining information on saltwater crocodile nesting in the region Daintree River south to Proserpine.

Nest construction occurs from November through to March with incubation and hatching carrying through to June. Favoured nesting sites are usually adjacent to water and generally located in stands of broad leaved grasses eg. blady grass. Any suspected nest should be approached with caution as females during this period can remain in wallows adjacent to the nest and can be particularly aggressive.

Any reports can be forwarded to Mr Keith McDonald at Pallarenda. Details that would be of assistance include location (map reference), date first observed, a description of the habitat in the region and any notes on activity observed.

K.R. McDonald
RANGER



'Wild' Life in the Service

Over the next few issues we will be including some of the reminiscences of field officers of Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It's not all form-filling and permits as we sometimes tend to believe.

In this, the first of the new series, Overseer 'Jono' Walsh takes a sometimes lighthearted look at a stint of Easter 'rush' duty at Cooloola National Park.

'I was awakened suddenly by Brett, shaking me non-too-gently by the foot. Looking at my watch, I read five a.m.

'What the?', I began to say and then remembered that I had come up to help with the Easter 'rush' at Cooloola National Park.

Brett, who was his usual well-groomed and organised self, grinned. 'Come on Jono. We've got to clean the dunnies'. Dunnies at five-o'clock in the morning! Stumbling into my clothes and uttering a few well-chosen words, I wondered just when it was when I started to go mad.

For a moment, there are few sounds - just the distant rumble of the surf. Then, as if directed by an orchestra leader, the dawn chorus begins. Little wattle birds, crows and honey eaters are among the calls which I recognise. Life isn't so bad after all as an officer of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. But then it's back to the reality of the moment - the forbidding line of dunnies, a deep breath of the salt-laced air and a strategic attack with a squirt of the old 'Green

Magic' and a toilet brush.

Our duty done and a row of shining pans behind us, we make our way back to the old Mines Department caravan which forms the living' quarters and H.Q. for the park's field staff. 'Good morning' to Russell and Barbie who have been busy making breakfast and then a check on the wounded stormy petrel which had been brought in after being struck by a car. Poor little blighter seems alert enough despite a badly mangled wing.

We are just finishing breakfast when Mark and Doug arrive with their 'Come on team - maggot run' meaning, of course, the garbage run. First the dunnies, then the garbage! Mark, Russell and I jump enthusiastically (?) aboard the Toyota.

A quick circuit of the bins in the main camping ground, being careful not to spill any of our precious cargo - beer cans, bottles, nappies, fish bait with non-too-fragrant odour, broken eskies and little Johnnie's steak that he wouldn't eat last night. Then it's off to the dump.

A noisy, black cloud of crows lifts as we approach the pit and spoil their meal. On the excavated sand sits a cheeky wild dog with two white sox on his forepaws, waiting for little Johnnie's steak, an anxious, hungry look in his watchful eyes.

We back the Toyota to the edge of the pit and choose a partner for 'the maggot waltz', a graceless dance which involves standing on the back of the truck and kicking the rubbish over the edge.

Next, we have a good wash and

head off down to the beach to check out a report of a dog in the park. On the way we pass scores of silver gulls and terns, a pair of pied oyster catchers standing quietly on patrol like policemen at the alert and, further on, a pair of sand pipers scampering away to avoid the damp embrace of an incoming wave. Overhead, majestically soaring, a brahminy kite!

The rest of the day is spent on patrol - and doing more garbage runs. On the way over to Double Island Point, across the dunes at sunset, we stop short, captivated by the breath-taking views of the coloured sands of Rainbow Beach, glowing like opals in the final fiery rays of the setting sun.

On the glistening sea a lone fishing boat rocks gently with the swell whilst overhead, a solitary osprey quarters the skies, the beat of its wings in harmony with the pulse of the dying day. For a moment the imagination paints a picture of a Mediterranean sunset but then comes the satisfied realisation that this is Queensland - our own Elysian field.

After supper, we head down to the camping ground where Mark is due to give a slide show and talk - sixty minutes of specialised knowledge of Cooloola. There's something of the born performer about Mark. The audience is entranced. Some hang back to ask questions and prolong the magic of the hour but, eventually, the last one departs and we fall into our tents to await Brett's next early morning call.

WHO IS IT?

The following library loan requests were received in the library:

1. Underexploited tropical plants with promising economic value. 1975.
2. Peters, Monatsber akad wiss Berlin 1881, p.482-485.

Unfortunately, we have one problem in obtaining these items. The person who requested the above did not fill in their names on the requests.

Would the concerned officer please identify themselves to the library.

Thank you.

P.S. This is not the first time this has happened. Please sign all requests for information which are sent to the library. It would be most appreciated if your signature was printed.

* * *

"Some lawyers spend their time trying to assemble words in such a pattern that the rules society wishes to write are explicit, invulnerable and do the job required of them. Other lawyers spend their time (for profit and their clients' good) attempting to find ways of distorting the intended consequences of the rules dreamed up by the first lot. Yet a third lot spend their time, curiously costumed acting as referees in the continuing battle between sets one and two".

Dr Donald Gould - in
'New Scientist & Sc. J.'
5.8.71

Rocky Creek National Park

My first article in 'Ringtail' about this time last year, introduced itself saying that this and forthcoming articles were to be around a theme of 'little known and out-of-the-way national parks. Surely Rocky Creek National Park must reign supreme in this category. You will almost need a magnifying glass to find it on the Southern Coastal Queensland brochure.

Certainly the startlingly unoriginal name of Rocky Creek does little to attract attention to the place. In fact this small park tucked away in the ranges north-east of Warwick almost could have become Queensland's first national park when in 1892 it was declared a 'Reserve for Recreation Purposes'.

Perhaps it is best that not too much attraction be directed to this park owing to its small size (64 ha) and the fact that private property must be traversed to gain access. However I will presume that readers of 'Ringtail' are all good conservationists and will do the right thing by the park and property owners.

Being approximately a 350 kilometer round trip it is a good full days outing or a worthy inclusion as a place to visit if camping in the area, or perhaps returning from Girraween with an afternoon to spare.

From Brisbane head south-west over Cunningham's Gap. With 37 kilometers behind you after passing through Cunningham's Gap turn left on the road to Freestone. A good RACQ map is handy in this area as there are a lot of dirt and bitumen roads criss-crossing the countryside however the rural

scenery is quite beautiful so follow your nose (or your compass south-east) from the highway turnoff to Yangan and thence to Emuvale.

At the 'T' intersection at Emuvale turn left and over the bridge over Emu Creek. Follow this road for about a kilometre until (just prior to a small creek crossing) a dirt road leads off to the right. The creek that this road follows is Rocky Creek and can be seen to originate in a deep valley. A good indication of whether the falls are flowing or not is if there is any water in the creek at this point. Yes that's right Rocky Creek Falls is extra rocky most of the year except for a few weeks following heavy rain, however don't let the absence of water in the lower reaches deter you. Apart from being an absolutely first class walk to the base of the falls the spectacular cliff formation of the main drop is magnificent.

Anyway, back to the access. After turning off from the main Emu Creek road follow the 'Rocky Creek Road' for about 500 metres until a homestead is encountered on the opposite side of the creek. Stop there, walk over the rickety bridge made out of split logs and let the owners know of your intentions. They will probably let you drive on further however the road rapidly deteriorates and at a point where the road swings away from the creek and uphill it is best to leave your car and follow the creek on foot.

The creek is one of the most delightful I've encountered for rock hopping. Wide open slabs surrounded by Kurrajong and Hoop Pine on the banks make for easy walking and picturesque scenery.

After about an hours walking the

vegetation will find you at the head of the falls to view through the previously mentioned curious 'U' shaped formation formed by countless floodwaters charging over the edge of the precipice.

If you have some time (and preferably a food map) perhaps you might like to explore upstream a little. The forest is fairly open providing good walking conditions and, although I haven't done it myself, it may be possible to walk upstream and over the ridge to the south and down to Hoffman's Falls in another valley.

Anyway, enough from me. I'm sure you'll enjoy yourself if you've got a mind to explore some of these parts of Queensland many don't know exist.

* * *

Sister's first-grade class had been preparing for a week in anticipation of a visit from the parish priest. Sister allotted to each child just one answer from the catechism.

An uneasy silence fell upon the room, and the priest repeated the question. Finally, a small girl raised her hand and said, "Please, Father, the boy that God made is home sick with measles."



What's in a name?

The old saying "Give a dog a bad name and it will stick," may well be revised to read "Give a place an unofficial name and you stick your neck out," and stuck out necks become easy targets for chopping off by the Queensland Place Names Board.

Maybe the measures taken by the Board won't be quite as drastic as chopping off necks, especially if you're standing on a national park at the time. However, at a recent meeting between members of the Board and representatives of this Service some concerns of the Board were expressed as to problems which can arise when an unofficial place name finds its way into publication.

A working relationship has been developed between our two organisations which will need to be adhered to in the future.

It wasn't a case that we've been naughty little boys and they came to make us toe the line, but rather a fact finding mission on our part as to the correct approach to give official status to a place name.

At present most of the areas of land administered by our Service have been designated 'unofficial' names, which are freely used in Service files and reservation lists etc. and this practice is quite acceptable. However, before these names may appear on an official map they must be authorized or gazetted by the Place Names Board.

We, as a Service, have the responsibility to submit suggested names with any relevant background information which will help to support the recognition of such a name. To this end, Des Collins as Senior Draftsman, has been given the responsibility to liaise between our Service and the Board in these matters.

What can you do?

1. If you are aware of a certain locality which is known to all the local residents by a certain name, but this name does not appear on a map, then send in a diagram of the locality with the suggested place name and the background information on the names origin to the Senior Draftsman. The locality does not have to be connected to a National Park.
2. We intend to systematically go through our reservation catalogue and ask for comments on our 'unofficial' names. When a list is sent to your region, please take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the name to be chosen will have general local acceptance.

Because of 'red tape', it will be a longer process to name National Parks and Environmental Parks, than to name Fauna Sanctuaries and Fauna Refuges.

What's in a name? Maybe its simply a tag to an obvious piece of landscape, but maybe contained therein is a memory of a pioneer, or a reminder of some eventful happening, and that name, inserted into the official records of our State ensures that a piece of our nation's heritage is preserved for posterity.

Give a place a name, a good name, and we'll stick it on a map.

Des Collins.

* * *

Little boy to his mother,
preparing dinner in the kitchen:
"Mum, how did a nice person like
you ever get mixed up with
vegetables?"



Artist's note:
they made me do it
they made me do it.
I didn't wanna
They made me.
Honest Dr. S.
Honest!!!

One of the questions often asked in the library (or not asked in some cases) is what books would be helpful in finding out either the basics (or more) about some subjects. Over the next few issues of Ringtail we will be listing books on various topics held in the library or with regional offices which may be useful.

Before we start, the word 'bibliography' refers simply to a list of books, journal articles and other publications on a subject. It is meant to be a reference list. It will not convey any more information.

This month we will list a few of the useful references on mammals.

The only book that covers all these Australian mammals and in which there are illustrations is:

'Furred animals of Australia' by E.L. Troughton. This book also discusses some characteristics of the various groups generally as well as describing all species - this is the best we have for identification.

'Native mammals of Australia' by W.D.L. Ride lists both specific descriptions and illustrations of all groups. It does, however discuss each group generally and list all species and their distribution. It is the best for someone just wishing to know something about mammals.

For those wishing to identify native rodents, rats and mice 'Rats and Mice in Queensland' by J. Covacevich is an excellent book. These animals are the placentials species.

For those interested in introduced mammals 'Deer of Australia' by A. Bentley covers these animals well.

If you are interested in the most scientific details of marsupials 'Life of Marsupials' by H. Tyndale - Biscal is a good start.

For feral and introduced animals 'They All Ran Wild' by E.C. Rolls and 'Friendly Vermin' by T. McKnight both give a basic start.

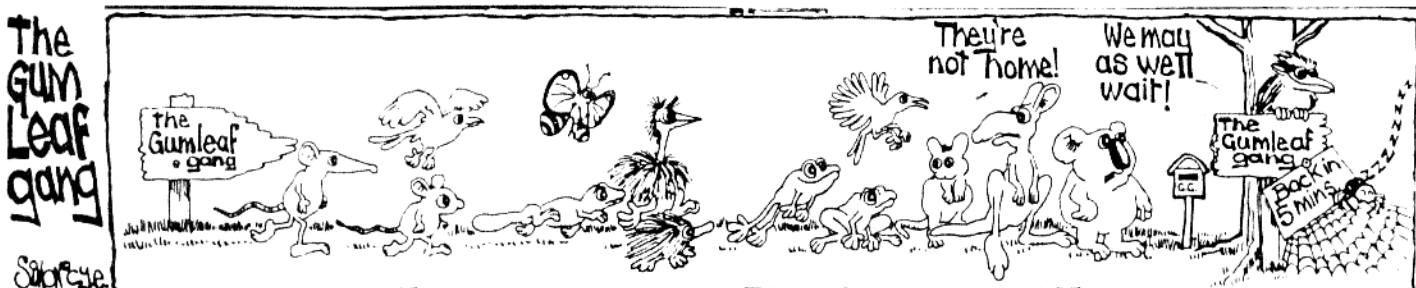
At this point we leave mammals. If you have an interest not covered here let us know and perhaps we can recommend a book.

* * *

A deaf old gentleman decided that a hearing aid was too expensive, so he got an ordinary piece of wire and wrapped it round his ear.

"Do you hear any better now with that wire round your ear?" a friend asked.

"No." the old gent replied, "but my friends talk louder."



This is what happens when its 2:00 in the morning, you don't want to draw you're tired, you hate kids, you just want to go to bed, you're not getting paid anything, and you can't think of any ideas anyway.

Work Experience for School Students

I wish to express my appreciation to staff within the Service for the effort and support given to this activity.

Since our first students from high schools arrived some weeks ago, there has been a succession of young boys and girls both in Head Office and in field situations finding out what the Service is all about.

The response and assistance given to these students by all sections has indeed been a credit to the Service.

It has become very evident from interviews with the students prior to their departure that they have been made welcome and have received a degree of assistance and training which has far exceeded their expectations.

They leave us as wonderful ambassadors for our organisation and for the people who go to make up the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. After they return to their schools they are required to report to their classes and often a number of classes on their one week stay with an employer.

Feed back which I have received from several schools indicates that the Service will be a popular area for placement of students in future years.

From the Service point of view, I am sure that staff have been agreeably surprised at the standard of those students who have been placed with us. Their manner, desire to learn and their enthusiasm have resulted in considerable favourable comment from Service staff.

In the present sad employment situation it is a wonderful thing to see all staff assisting these students who next year in many cases will be facing the problem of finding a job.

I am confident that the assistance which they have been given during their short stay with us will be of enormous help to them in this quest.

I sincerely hope that staff who have assisted so generously may in future see some of these students return to full time employment with us.

Geoff Cole
Liaison Officer

COOLOOLA COMMENTS

We had two (2) very red faced rangers the other day. They found a tourist bogged on the Freshwater road. They looked at the car and the man and said - 'No worries mate. We'll just let out a bit of air and you'll be right'. But while explaining to the man about how you watch till the tyres just start to "bag out" they were watching the driver's shapely companion.

But the tyres didn't bag out and they said - 'Well they must be hard walls. Get in and see what happens'. Well the little escort took off no worries except the guy's tyres were just about flat. He'd have no problems on the Freshwater track but the rangers decided they'd better go home the back way just in case.

It pays to have a tyre gauge.

* * *

Sally had misbehaved at table, so her parents punished her by making her eat alone at a small table in the corner. After the family had finished saying grace, Sally bowed her head and prayed: "I thank you, God, for preparing a table for me in the presence of mine enemies."

We Continue to Grow

A new National Park -

N.P. 230 Munburra (Nymph Island)
abt. 65 hectares, gazetted 19.7.80.

Nymph Island lies approximately 20 kilometres west of Lizard Island and 90 kilometres north of Cooktown. It is a low lying island with characteristics of a coral cay, but possessing features similar to a mainland type island. It contains substantial internal waters together with extensive and diverse mangrove areas as well as vegetation common to coral cays. Additionally there is a dense low forest within the main body of the island.

An Historic Area -

N.P. 3004 Noogoon (St Helena Island National Park)

Historic Area. Gazetted 13.9.80.

This island has now been declared an Historic Area as from 13.9.80. This ensures that the Service can restrict public access to the ruins to access under supervision only in order to protect the ruins and safeguard visitors.

Additions to Existing National Parks -

N.P. 863 Tamborine (Cedar Creek National Park) 59.8 hectares, gazetted 19.7.80.

The area added to the park was vacant Crown land that was recommended as having good potential for recreational purposes. It adjoins the existing park at its northern boundary.

N.P. 933 Clumber, Alford, Gilbert, Killarney, Gladfield and Fassifern (Scenic Rim National Park) about 1050 hectares gazetted 9.8.80.

This gazettal consists of a number of new areas being amalgamated with existing parks to form the one unit totalling about 7750 hectares. The park extends along the Scenic Rim from near Cunningham's Gap to the New South Wales border.

N.P. 793 Tamborine (The Knoll), .392 hectare gazetted 27.9.80.

This addition to The Knoll National Park is an area of closed road which provides for better management. The park is situated on Tamborine Mountain.

N.P. 602 Hampden ('The Leap' National Park).

Additional 9 ha. Total area now is 112 ha. Gazettal 23.8.80.

This freehold block was purchased to add to 'The Leap' National Park which is north west of Mackay. The block is valuable in terms of rainforest protection and fire control.

Our Environmental Parks have increased in number -

E.P. 3070 Bundamba, 27.5 hectares, gazetted 16.8.80.

This park is situated about 9 kilometres south west of Goodna, consists of rugged terrain and is of high recreational value.

E.P. 266 Selkirk (Horeshoe Lagoon), 76 hectares, gazetted 16.8.80.

Situated about 29 kilometres west of Ayr, the park has long been a favourite spot for bird watching enthusiasts providing as it does an excellent habitat for waterfowl species.

E.P. 384 Folkstone, 7.5 hectares,
gazetted 6.9.80.

This park is at the southern end
of Storm King Dam about 12
kilometres south east of
Stanthorpe. It possesses good
views overlooking the ponded
area of the dam and comprises
easy undulating forest country
timbered with gum and stringy-
bark.

The Services Total Estate as
at 25.9.80 is as follows -

304 National Parks - 2,812,476 ha

Amalgamation of certain national
parks have reduced rather than
increased the actual number of
parks within the Service which
at the same time increasing in
total area.

85 Environmental Parks -
38,205 ha

3 Fauna Sanctuaries - 30,227 ha

1 Scientific Purposes Reserve -
5,345 ha.

1321 Fauna Sanctuaries -
11,229,621 ha

Recent Appointees - Salaries -
Head Office

Marcia Wendell - Supervising
Stenographer. (Admin)

Staff Movements - Head Office

John Martin - Senior Management
Services Officer (Admin)

Dianne Charles - Townsville

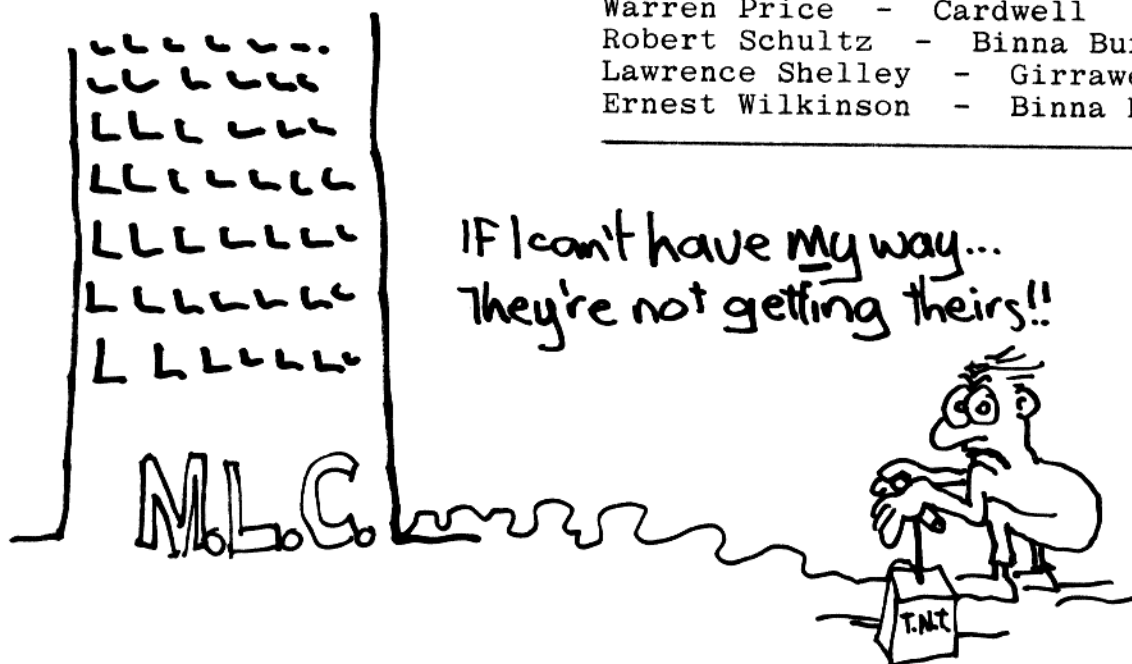
P.S. (Bill) Lavarack - Townsville

WAGES

Rosemary Carter - Moggill
Claude Azzopardi - Townsville
Vincent Byrne - Brisbane
Richard Carrigan - Lakefield
Robert Chugg - Lake Eacham
Andrea Collison - Cairns
Paul Enkelmann - Green Mountains
temporarily St. Helena
Peter Harris - Cairns
Leslie Jackson - Lake Eacham
Ronald Lund - Mt Elliot
Rodney Mackay - Eungella
Ronald Teece - Lake Eacham

Staff Movements

Robert Bauer - Cooloola
James Denison - Mt Elliot
Denis Dray - Cunningham's Gap
Neil Hansell - Springbrook
Edward Long - Mt Spec
Mark Planck - Maryborough
Warren Price - Cardwell
Robert Schultz - Binna Burra
Lawrence Shelley - Girraween
Ernest Wilkinson - Binna Burra



Social Club News

At the recent general election there was a good attendance of 24 members. This was an encouraging sight for both the outgoing and incoming office bearers.

Those elected to the new positions were:

President: Peter Cavendish
Secretary: Cecily Versace
Treasurer: Robyn Kreis

Also at the meeting there was chosen an Ideas Committee of eight persons and a Dinner Dance Committee of two.

It is hoped that the office bearers and committee members will receive good support from all members during their term of office. As members of the club everybody should be prepared to give assistance and support by attending functions as often as possible. Particular emphasis should be given to the monthly meetings which are the main working unit of the club and all members should place a much higher priority on attending these.

At present, membership is strong with 63 people filling the ranks. However, this is not as morally boosting as one would think as not all 63 people 'pull their weight'.

Country members are advised that they will be entitled to a free ticket in the fortnightly raffle. Up to the present time such members have been deriving no benefit from their subscription and it is envisaged that more consideration will be given to them in the future.

* * *

A woman on crutches at a ski resort was talking about her accident: "I just didn't realise that the laws of gravity were so strict".

A venue has been arranged for the Annual Dinner Dance on Friday 5th December, 1980. It is to be held at the Fairview Reception Lounge Bowen Hills.

An excellent night is planned and of course the bigger the attendance the better the night will be. Cost will be approximately \$6.00 for club members and \$12.00 for partners while non-members and partners will be charged \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 per single. Further details will be distributed in the near future.

Recently two 'Happy Hours' have been held and these were thoroughly enjoyed by the club members who attended. The Social Committee will be endeavouring to hold these 'Happy Hours' on a regular basis for members only.

Employees wishing to join the Social club should contact one of the Committee members who will arrange to have 50c deducted from your fortnightly pay.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

* * *

From: A Reliable Source.

Dashing young accounts personality, Lewis Hayes, has just announced his long awaited engagement. The lucky lady is Miss Karen Deem who is a secretary at the Art Gallery.

For those of you that have seen Miss Deem that should explain the big smile he's been sporting for the last few weeks. So all you girls can cross him off your lists now.

As for accounts staff - try to understand why it's been such a difficult task teaching him wages preparation.

Our congratulations and best wishes to you both.

THE BIG MOVE I



The big move of the Service headquarters from the Professional Suites to the MLC Centre was completed on 25th August, 1980.

Many funny events took place at that time. None can be repeated here - the innocent must be protected. It would suffice to repeat the comments made by some officers when confronted by the MLC Open Offices for the first time:

Rob Adair: 'Not the Kitchen!'

Dianne Maccoll: 'They want to get rid of me!'

Stuart Tait: 'Very good!'

Pam Harmon-Price: 'My desk fell apart!'

Gordon Wilkinson: 'Keep your voices down!'

Damian McGreevy:

1st day - 'Boy, how did I get such a good desk?'

2nd day - 'Where did my desk go?'

Peter Ogilvie: '@@#!!*\$#@##!?!'

FIRST DAY in a WORK STATION!



Neil Mee being consoled by Social Worker

Management and Operations Branch

"How do you get a Job like Yours?"

"How do you get a job like yours?", the bloke on the banana lounge in his shady campsite, with frosted stubby in hand, enviously asks me as I whistle while, with sweat trickling down my spine, I clean out the bin full of magotty rubbish, (stinking to high heaven), wondering in the back of my mind how after this choice job I'm going to face lunch in 15 minutes' time! (And HE wonders why I return his query with a withering look !!??!!)

I'm sure most Ranger/Overseers have been asked this question many times, as I have. Among the many standard answers I give, I find my favourite is, "You have to be slightly mad". (I'm joking, of course I think). Although N.P.W.S. does not stipulate this as one of the qualifications on job application forms, it certainly does help to be a little mad, and if you don't start off this way, after 8 years of being a Ranger/Overseer you certainly end up going bonkers!

Of all the occupations in the world, what other job requires such a wide range of skills or accomplishments? (Besides being slightly mad, that is!) For starters, a Ranger/Overseer has to be a sanitation and cleansing service expert with jobs ranging from what to do with tons of garbage to pumping or cleaning out septic tanks because trenches are not coping with all the effluent they are copping. At the other extreme the Ranger/Overseer has to be a policeman or priest and, at 8 o'clock at night, locate one particular person out of a possible 500 massed in the camping area to tell him his father has just died.

It also helps for a Ranger/Overseer to be a veritable walking encyclopedia with questions from visitors ranging from:

"What's the road like to Carnarvon?", or

"What time does the church service start in Wallangarra?", or

"What's the oldest tree in the park?", to:

"What did the temperature get down to last night?", or

"When do you feed the koalas?".

Or questions to try your patience like:

"Do you sell souvenirs or teaspoons here?", (from little old ladies with blue-rinsed hair, pearls, and patent leather shoes and handbags), or

"Are you the camp ranger?", (to which I reply, limp-handed,

"Oh, you found me at last, sweetie!").

It goes without saying that a Ranger/Overseer should be an experienced vet with decisions having to be made about how to deal with a kookaburra with its beak falling off or how to look after an orphan wallaby joey with diarrhoea!

Of course everyone knows that the Ranger/Overseer is a qualified medical practitioner and that he doesn't mind getting up from a sound sleep at half past one in the morning to attend to a camper taking an epileptic fit and that he naturally has the kind of constitution that can calmly cope with a gory car accident scene!

A Ranger/Overseer is also pretty good at finding lost people - even when they're not really lost! When Fred and Joe and Mabel front up to the counter frantically babbling that "Ethel's lost somewhere up on the Pyramid!", a Ranger/Overseer should naturally immediately be able to determine whether he should organise a search because Ethel really is lost up on the Pyramid or whether, having dragged behind, Ethel is now haring

off down the JUNCTION track cursing "those thoughtless so-and so's up ahead"! Or whether young Harry actually is lost or has merely decided that boarding school is a bore and has done a carefully-planned bunk!

If your car has broken down, go see the Ranger/Overseer! He provides a pretty good towing service, any hour. And if you've run out of petrol, go see him for that, too. No worry! (Oh, yes! He always carries a spare gerrycan full of petrol in his own vehicle for just such an emergency. If not, he can always nick some from the park supplies, can't he? After all, "The Government" takes plenty of money from us in taxes, doesn't it, so "They" won't miss a gallon of petrol, will "They"?)

The "man-of-many-talents", the Ranger/Overseer, is also a trained weather forecaster and should be able to answer enquiries such as, "We are thinking of coming to camp in the park in two weeks' time. What will the weather be like then?". Or "Do you think it will snow this coming weekend? We'll come up if it will." Then, when its literally chucking it down with rain outside and the real weather experts (?) have forecast "NO rain for the next three days west of the ranges", "Big Chief" Ranger/Overseer is expected to be able to give a reassuring reply when his "tribe" asks "How long will this rain go on?".

Another part of a Ranger/Overseer's job is to be an ombudsman. When the Calathumpian church group complains that the mob of long-hairs camped next to them have their stereos blaring out at 11 o'clock at night and then he discovers that the Calathumpians had a church service with accordians and hallelujahs echoing through the camping area at 6.30 in the morning, a Ranger/Overseer soon learns he has to be very diplomatic!

Besides the skills or attributes I've already mentioned, a Ranger/Overseer must be: a clerk, receptionist, plumber, fireman, photographer, mechanic, diplomat, surveyor, groundsman, botanist, biologist, engineer, magistrate, landscape architect, nurseryman, soil-conservationist, draughtsman, carpenter, painter, statistician, professional whinger, comedian, Lord mayer, and dunny-cart man, all rolled into one!

And then, everyone thinks a Ranger/Overseer hates pets and expects him to "kick 'em out or shoot 'em on sight!". This couldn't be farther from the truth. No! He'd be much happier kicking PEOPLE out or shooting THEM on sight! Why do they have to come HERE? Why can't they go and annoy some other ranger? Or go to the Gold Coast? Or stay at home where they belong? Why come here, eh? (Plaintively:) Why pick on me? If it wasn't for THEM, there'd be no problems with the septic trenches, no firewood to chop and carry, no fireplaces, bins, toilets or showers to clean and repair, no tracks to maintain, no wounds to bind, no bites to daub, messages to deliver, kids to search for, no stomach ulcers from pandering to the whims and vagaries of various personalities, no workmen to instruct. No! I could just relax and sit here happily surveying "my backyard" in peace! (HMMMMMMMM. Perhaps I could erect an electric fence around the whole park, or paint a sign, "BEWARE! BUBONIC PLAGUE!", or)

(NOW do you believe I'm MAD?????)

Why does a Ranger Overseer @!%&*** do all this? Why Hmmp? Why, eh? Yes. Why? Because he's #%&*!##? mad, that's why! And because he once asked -

"HOW DO YOU GET A JOB LIKE YOURS?"

Signed PAUL (Basil) GRIMSHAW
Fawltly Towers National
Park,
(Ex. Girraween National
Park)

The cost of Thirteen permits

"Let's go and shoot a duck" said Chips,
And Sid straight off agreed,
He said, "I like these little trips,
"What do you think we'll need?"

"Oh, just a bit of tucker, Sid,
"A shot gun and a shell,
"And p'raps we'll take a bit of squid
"And catch some fish as well."

Old Sid said, "Look 'ere mate,
what say,
"We take the nets and pots,
"And we can drop them in the bay,
"While we go and have some shots."

Old Chips agrees right now and here,
But says, "Let's not be stingy,
"If we are taking all this gear,
"We'll need the bloody dinghy."

They had a beer and thought it through,
And said they'd do it proper,
With licences and permits, too,
In case they met a copper.

A National Park would do the trick,
And just to keep from danger,
They'd get a hunting permit quick
In case they met a Ranger.

A fishing permit they'd get each
So they would be protected,
In case while fishing on the beach
They had their fish inspected.

If the Harbour Master comes," said Chips,
"While we are all afloat,
"He'll want our registration slips,
"Or he'll confiscate the boat."

"And if a licence we don't get,
"We'll get a sound berating,
"And if that happens you can bet
"He'll stop our navigating."

"Now what about our camping site?"
Said poor old Sidney sadly,
"If Rangers come past in the night,
"We'll need a permit badly."

"Another thing" said Chips with gloom,
"I think we overlooked,
"We'll need net licences real soon,
"To keep from getting booked."

"Oh Hell," said Sid, "I near forgot,
Another thing we'll need,
"A bloody licence for the pot."
An oversight indeed.

"Is your gun licensed yet?" said Chips,
"I know that mine's expired."
"Mine, too," said Sid with downcast lips,
"These permits make me tired."

"The registration discs we've got
"For trailer, boat and ute?"
Said Sidney grimly, "No, we've not,
"I couldn't spare the loot."

"One thing I've got," cried Sid with glee,
"And it expires next year,
"I've got me driver's licence see."
And old Chips shed a tear.

"God bless you mate," said Chips with pluck,
"My car's still legal see"
"We'll drive to town and buy a duck,
"And let the wild ones be."

"We'll have some grog and stay till dark,
"And eat our duck in leisure,
"We'll let the Rangers keep their Park,
"They'll not disturb our pleasure."

Old Sid looked up with glist'ning tear
And said, "Chips, I agree,
"To enjoy the Parks is too damn dear
"For the likes of you and me."

The moral you see, is no matter how grand,
Whether millionaires or hermits,
They couldn't afford to enjoy Park land
At the cost of thirteen permits.

- MACGIB

DOUG SCHULZ

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

SOLUTION: 17 letters

---- National
Parks.

MRS. DOUG SCHULZ

WORD LIST

CANIA GORGE
CAPE HILLSBOROUGH
CONWAY
COOLOOLA
CORELLA
COUCAL
CRAKE
CROW
CURLEW
CURRAWONG

DARTER
DIPPERU
DOVE
DUCK
DUNK IS.

EAGLE
EGRET
EMU
EUNGELLA

FIG BIRD
FINCH

GALAH
GIRRAWEE
GRASS WREN

HAWK
HERON ISLAND

IBIS

KEPPELL
KOEL
KONDALILLA

LAKEFIELD
LOVEBIRD

MAZEPPA
MT. COOK
MT. HYIPAMEE
MT. TEMPEST
MOUNT MOFFATT

NATIONAL PARKS
NEST

OWL

PIGEON
PLOVER

QUAIL

RAVEN

SWALLOWS
SWAN

TERN
TULLY FALLS

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Actor Sir John Gielgud was indisposed and unable to keep an engagement. He sent a note of explanation: "Sorry, cannot attend your party. Gielgud doesn't fielgud."

A man staying at a Mexican hotel called the clerk and complained that twomice were squabbling in his room.

"What do you expect for a peso?" the clerk answered. "A bull fight?"

An Application Interview

So you want to be a ranger son
Correct me if I'm wrong
You want to fire that issue gun
Eradicate pigs all day long.

You want to cruise in that 4
wheel drive
Talk on a 2-way too.
And use the jargon - the CB jive
Correct me son if it isn't
true.

No doubt you've heard of all
those birds
the ones that sigh and wink
Your uniform will get them in
Much cheaper son than buying
drinks

Then there's the wildlife to be
seen
The snakes and the crocodiles
The lovely sounds and the curlew
scream
Ah yes, my son, you might
well smile.

Think young man of that bush so
wide
Those endless miles of plains
Those brooding holes at every side
Great weather son until it rains

But the wet is only 3 months long
No doubt you've thought of that
The frogs keep up that droning song
They keep the mozies down a bit.

The Barramundi fisherman
Who slave so hard all night
Is handy with a 4-inch net
Or gun or gelignite

You'll have to watch them closely
Son,
Try not to stir them up
But I see your never one to run
Put them straight, 'The game
is up!'

You've got to empty garbage too
It tends to stink a bit.
How the sun on last weeks stew
Can spoil it, has got me beat.

Then there's tins and broken bottles
And stubbies scattered round
All sorts of rubbish by the ton
Just waiting to be found.

And you want to be a ranger, Son,
It's a glamour job you know.
I'll get the papers and you can
sign,
'Hey, where did that
go?'

Modesto Melino
(Lakefield)



Several men were discussing how
many miles per gallon they were
getting from their cars. One of
the company surprised the others
when he said: "About four."

"You must be joking," they
protested.

"No, seriously," the man replied
"I get only four miles. My son
gets the other nineteen."

We have welcomed Marc Hockings to the wilderness north of Maryborough, and if we can keep him out of the public library, he will be an asset to the area.

Being conservation and pollution conscious he has bought a push bike, and we believe has plans to attach placards, flags, etc to it saying nice things about national parks (Simon?). He will use it to ride around the tracks at heavy visitation times. However, all jokes aside, he is a welcome and much needed addition to the staff, and is now one of the mob, and a denizen of the wilderness.

Recently, a Forest Ranger was injured at work, while staying at barracks, and there was some doubt as to whether he would be eligible for compensation.

This brought up the question as to eligibility for compensation is in the course of his duty, and officer is required to stay overnight at a hotel or motel; I check with the Union and this is their reply:

"Unless special circumstances prevail, the time spent in the barracks or in the hotel-motel would be regarded as being akin to being accommodated in your own residence, and would not be regarded as being eligible for workers compensation."

However, I'm led to believe that the barracks situation is a 'grey area', and possibly could be contested.

So, if you stay in a motel, have your tea first at a cafe, then lock yourself in the room and next morning go outside very carefully and start up your vehicle then go and have your breakfast.

It's really quite simple....?

In the last issue of Ringtail, Mike Harris wrote at the beginning of his article - "If you don't like heavy reading, take my advice and flick over the next 8 pages."

A text from this article is as follows:

"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."

Then from the early Possum brochure:

"Man can gain insight to the workings of nature, but without a perception which transcends rationality he can never achieve complete understanding, for nature is the quintessence of the universe."

Legend has it that Christ returned to earth and in his wanderings came on a group of Park Planners and Interpretive people and he said:

"Who do you say that I am?"

And they replied:

"You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma in which we find the ultimate meaning of our interpersonal relationship."

And Jesus said: "What?"

And where was Moses when the light went out?

According to the nocturnal atmospheric conditions he was left in total obscurity - like me!

Report on raid on fisherman on
Kennedy River by N.P.W.S. Rangers
mounted on horseback (fictitious)

Words by E.C. Long with apologies
to A.B. (BANJO) Patterson.

Peeler's Patrol to tune Waltzing
Matilda.

1. Once there was a fisherman
 camped by the Kennedy,
Under the shade of a eucalypt tree;
 And he sang as he cast his net
 into the waterhole,
I'll get enough barramundi for tea.

CHORUS

 Stoke up the fire boys, stoke
 up the fire boys,
Bring out the frying pan and then
we shall see,
 What we get when we drag the
 net out of the waterhole
We'll get enough barrumundi for tea

2. All through the night he
 netted that waterhole,
Slowly he dragged them in two by
three;
 And he sang as he stowed the
 barra in his freezer box,
I'll get enough barrumundi for tea

3. Up came the morning sun
 shining o'er the countryside,
There lay the Rangers straining
eyes to see;
 Watching while the fisherman
 covered up his freezer box,
Then hung the net out to dry on a
tree.

4. Up rode the Super' mounted on
 a thoroughbred,
Out rode the Rangers one! two!
three!;
 Now where's that barramundi
 that you've got in your
 freezer box,
You're coming right back to
Lakefield with me.

5. Up jumped the fisherman and
 sprang into the Kennedy,
'You'll never take me alive' said
he,

 Now his ghost may be heard as
 they ride by the Kennedy,
I'll get enough barramundi for tea.

* * *

My thanks to The Honourable the
Minister for writing this editions
editorial. Your contribution is
very much appreciated.

To the regulars and the newcomers
who contributed articles for
"Ringtail" - many thanks.

Please remember, its the articles,
which you give up your time to
write, when combined together,
become "Ringtail".

From comments received, the 1979
Christmas Edition of "Ringtail"
was well accepted. I hope time
will permit the printing and
distribution of "Ringtail" -
Christmas Edition 1980.

I would like your contribution
for the 1980 Christmas Edition by
20th November.

I hope you find this October 1980
Edition interesting and enjoyable.

Ringtail

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