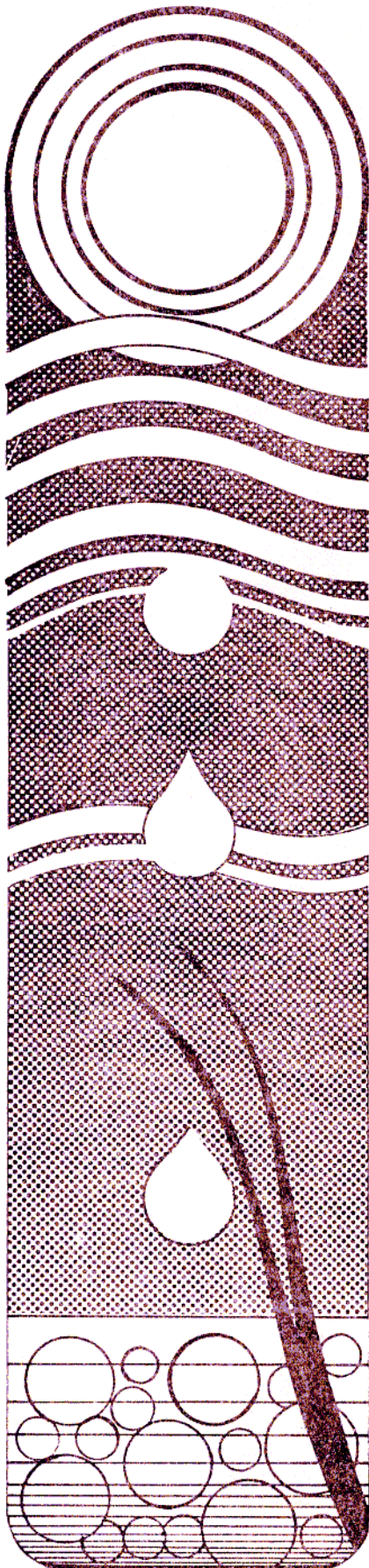




QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

# Ringtail

March 1981



## The Ranger's Prayer

Teach me O Lord not how to close gates  
but how to open eyes;  
Let me not stand in exalted places  
gazing down upon my fellow me, but  
rather, give me the humility to  
speak on the level;

If I should lose sight of the arboreal  
ecosystem because of its constituent  
plant species, then Lord, show me the  
way whereby I may see the wood as  
well as the trees;

Though there be mud on my boots, may  
I still have stars in my eyes, yet my  
head not lost in the clouds;

Help me to acknowledge Lord, that  
awareness of my ignorance is the  
beginning of wisdom, for if I possess  
knowledge but have not intelligence;  
If I have skill but lack understanding;  
If I represent Authority and  
Dominion - but have not charity;  
If I minister justice but have not  
mercy, then surely - I am nothing.

## A Ranger's Lament

On being transferred from the dry west  
to the wet humid coast.

Some love the surf and beaches  
and the green suburban streets,  
The shining new expressways  
and noisy discotheques  
These are the things you live for  
these are the things you prize  
I have no wish to share them  
my love is otherwise.

I love a sun scorched country  
a land of wide bare plains  
and broken down old fences  
the drought and falling rains.  
I love those flat horizons  
that shimmer in the haze  
In dry relentless summers  
on windy dusty days.

Now you say there is no beauty  
in the hot and dusty west,  
and the roads you put it mildly  
No they surely aren't the best  
But you cannot be a bushman  
Far too blind to understand  
How we read the signs of beauty  
In a harsh and arid land.

Have you never seen a sunset  
on the rolling western plains  
Have you ever seen the wildflowers  
After big monsoonal rains  
Have you seen the hardy ghost gum  
as the daylight slowly dies  
standing stark, defiant lonely  
silouetted against the sky.

Have you seen the brolgas dancing  
and the stately sauras crane  
Have you seen the giant spinifex  
Like a field of ripening grain  
Have you seen the topknot pigeons  
like a cloud before your eyes  
No you've only seen the duststorms  
and the heat and haze and flies.

No you've never been a bushman  
and you can never understand  
How we still can love a desert  
when a drought is on the land  
There's a beauty in the outback  
when the plains are wide and bare  
Though the devil rules supremely  
There's a cruel beauty there.

When Cook came to Australia  
He just sailed along the shore  
and a lot of his successors  
Haven't seen much flaming more  
Think on that my dear fellow  
and don't think it somewhat strange  
There's a whole lot more of Queensland  
Beyond the Great Dividing Range.

Strong love for blue green breakers  
The rush of city streets  
of air conditioned lounges  
and shady cool retreats  
That love for ordered pleasure  
and a forty hour week  
These pleasures that you treasure  
are NOT the ones I seek.

E.C. LONG

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Welcome to our new Minister for  
Tourism, National Parks, Sport and  
The Arts, Tony Elliott.

Many of the staff have already met  
Mr Elliott and as the Minister tours  
the other regions of Queensland I am  
sure everyone will have a similar  
opportunity.

I am sure the Minister will find the  
portfolio an interesting and  
challenging one.

Our previous Minister, Ivan Gibbs, has  
now the responsibility of the Mines  
portfolio and we also wish him every  
success in his new position.

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# Management and Operations Branch

This article has been divided into two parts with the second half to be printed in the next edition of Ringtail.

'Nature Conservation in the United Kingdom and Some European Countries - 1979'

P.S. Sattler

## Introduction

Whilst on leave from March to May 1979, the opportunity was taken to study first hand some of the nature conservation efforts and management policies for a number of parks and reserves in England, Wales, Catalunya (Spain) and Belgium. Some parks in France were also visited.

Some comments are made on the approaches to nature conservation and park management in these countries.

A number of publications were also collected and in particular, park management plans for Lake District National Park, Exmoor National Park and Avon Gorge Nature Reserve in England and Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales as well as a range of information and interpretive material. A bibliography of material collected is attached to this report and available on request.

## Great Britain

An itinerary was prepared by the International Branch of the Nature Conservancy Council (N.C.C.) in London and places visited included:

- Taunton N.C.C. Regional Office for South-west England
- Exmoor National Park
- Ebbor Gorge Nature Reserve
- Rodney Stoke Nature Reserve
- Cheddar Gorge
- Peat mining, Somerset
- Countryside Commission Central Headquarters, Cheltenham
- Forest of Dean
- Brecon Beacons National Park, Wales
- Snowdonia National Park

- Merlewood Research Station, Institute for Terrestrial Ecology and N.C.C. Regional Office for Northern England
- Lake District National Park
- Yorkshire Dales National Park
- A number of designated historic monuments

## National Parks

Ten national parks have been established in England and Wales (none in Scotland) over principally, privately owned, rural lands. Villages and towns also occur within these parks.

The philosophy of national parks in the United Kingdom<sup>1</sup> is based principally on:

- landscape conservation (the major emphasis)
- public open air enjoyment
- preservation of wildlife and buildings
- maintenance of established farming use

Development controls within national parks are through town planning provisions and therefore, do not cover agriculture and farming activities. Indeed, park authorities have been charged under legislation 'to give due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas'.<sup>2</sup>

Herein lies one conflict, between park management in relation to conservation and recreation, and everyday life of the countryside.

Broad complications of fundamental importance to the national parks of England and Wales are:

Firstly, most of the land in all national parks is privately owned and there are few constraints on the freedom of landowners to exercise the same rights as those which apply outside the parks. Any constraints would incur compensation payments.

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<sup>1</sup> Dower Report, 1945

<sup>2</sup> Countryside Act, 1968

Secondly, the system of park administration is part and parcel of local government, and national park authorities must work closely with County and District Councils. Superimposed on this is prolific legislation catering for diverse interests.

Some interesting examples of the conflicts associated with this national park philosophy were encountered.

One of my memorable 'park experience' was while standing on a heather covered moor on a bleak and overcast day in Doone County in Exmoor National Park and recalling 'Lorne Doone' and 'Wuthering Heights' of school days.

A major reason for establishing Exmoor National Park was to preserve these heather moors, an essential landscape element of the area. However, with farmers trying to improve their profitability, these moorlands are being ploughed and sown to pasture. In fact a Ministry of Agriculture subsidy for such 'improvements' is available.

Confronted with the problem of meeting their principal charter 'landscape conservation' the park authority now negotiates to buy annual ploughing rights, ie. paying the farmers annually not to plough the heather moorlands (one figure quoted was £20/ac/yr (\$94/ha/yr) and indexed for inflation).

Eight of the ten parks are run by committees responsible to, and partly funded by, County Councils. The problems above, appear exasperated by this administrative arrangement.

Two-thirds of the park committees are appointed by County and District Councils (one-third by the Department of Environment or Secretary of State for Wales) and it was suggested by park officers interviewed that these appointees are often County Councillors who are either large land owners or have a vested interest in protecting the rights of land owners within the park. Also, some appointees

were seen as professional committee representatives with limited ability to contribute to park administration. Under these circumstances, staff on one park felt that they were impotent in affecting the outcome of land use decisions within the park.

The alternative administrative arrangement for Lake District and Peak District National Parks is by a planning board. Though these planning boards are similarly constituted, eg. in Lake District eighteen members are appointed by County Council and nine by the Department of Environment, they do enjoy a more autonomous position. Planning boards approve their own budget where as on the other eight parks, the budget is approved by local government. This administrative arrangement was preferred by all officers interviewed.

Management plans for each park are a statutory requirement. Plans go to the Countryside Commission for vetting and then to the Minister for approval. Specific details on the approach taken to the preparation of park management plans can be gained from the plans that I collected.

Examples of how the complications and conflicts described above, have affected management strategies may be more revealing of the British park system than a detailed description of these management plans.

In Exmoor National Park, exotic rhododendrons are considered a weed in the park in that they shade out ground flora species and 'do the wood harm' (quaint). The park authority began a management program to clear and control the weed, however, a section of the public and the local Parish Council did not like to see all the flowers going, so pressure was brought to bear to have the management program stopped.

To allow natural succession of the oak woods has lead to an increased incidence of wind-throw of mature trees. Again however, public pressure against seeing trees blown over has dictated management regimes to arrive at uneven aged stands



(even aged stands today may well be the result of management practices, centuries past). This has entailed deliberate thinning of the woods to encourage natural vegetation and also the introduction of seedlings from a nursery. This practice has generally been unsuccessful and the authority is now clearing 0.2 ha (0.5 ac) coupes to encourage regeneration. The theory that staff now have is that the woods are 'oak sick' (?) and in need of a change in crop to the naturally invading beech. The need to take cognizance of natural succession is therefore being learnt but conflicts with their basic charter, to preserve the existing landscape, and with public opinion, are likely to be encountered.

Conflicts in management with other conservation (and sporting) agencies also occur. The National Trust is now a major landholder in Great Britain of lands purchased for conservation purposes. These lands are often rented back for farming thus providing revenue for the Trust. Apparently, conflicts of interest have occurred when the park authority have attempted to implement a management regime that have interrupted this commercial arrangement, eg. the exclusion of grazing.

An indication of the activities of the park authorities is given by the administrative structure for the Exmoor National Park authority.

- Land Management Section -  
including: forester, ecologist,  
estate officer or superintendent,  
field staff.
- Development Control Section -  
planning section with a number of  
land use planners to vet  
development applications in the  
park.
- Visitor Services Section -  
largest section
- Administration and Finance

Of the 69,000 ha in Exmoor National Park, only 1,600 ha is owned by the park authority.

In Chapter 1 of the Exmoor National Park management plan<sup>1</sup> it is stated with reference to the future of the moorland, that:

'Sooner, rather than later, preferably with Government guidance, it will be necessary to consider how much weight should be given to the objects for which the national park was designed, and how much to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas.'

This summarizes a major problem confronting the national park system in England and Wales.

### National Nature Reserves

These reserves are administered by the Nature Conservancy Council (N.C.C.).

The Council has three main functions:

- establishment of National Nature Reserves (N.N.R.), where prime examples of British wildlife can be specially managed and conserved;
- provision of advice to local authorities and others on matters of nature conservation.
- research and survey

One of the N.C.C. advisory duties is the notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) which are areas identified as being of importance for flora and fauna but which are not yet set aside as nature reserves. This declaration of scientific value is especially useful in identifying important areas for nature conservation in relation to the planning of other land uses and developments by various levels of government. Such a system of identification would be especially useful in Queensland for park proposals and in fact, all areas of high scientific, recreation and scenic value, pending their thorough evaluation.

By the 31st March, 1978, 161 N.N.R. totalling 126,246 ha had been declared. Rather than a description of the various reserves visited it is perhaps more useful to comment on the activities and approach to nature conservation by the N.C.C.

In most N.C.C. regions, a major part of the workload is outside of the reserve system. Any project that will affect a nature reserve or S.S.S.I., the proponent, or local government, must submit proposals to the N.C.C. for review. This contact with local government has resulted in good liaison being established that has now resulted in local government seeking N.C.C. advice on a range of issues.

It would appear that this approach is enabling the N.C.C. to have a much greater impact on nature conservation and environmental protection than by a system of reserves alone.

Ideally in Queensland, further liaison with local government and other State instrumentalities in land use decision making would also contribute to a greater effort towards nature conservation and environmental protection. Such a conservation planning approach is important to complement a State system of parks and reserves.

This effort by the N.C.C. in nature conservation and environmental advising outside of the reserve system is leading to detailed resource surveys (1:10,000 was one scale mentioned !!! - compare that with 1:1 x 10<sup>6</sup> being carried out in south-western Queensland). These surveys also aim at filling in the gaps in the nature reserve system. A comment made at the Merlewood Research Station was that the development of their nature reserve system could not have waited upon the results of detailed resource surveys as this would have meant missing the opportunity to acquire many nature reserves. This comment accurately describes the situation also faced in Queensland.

No distinct national policy or philosophy of management for nature reserves exists, rather it is generally left to the regional offices. The extra and often unforeseen, workload associated with consulting on issues outside of the reserve system is taking priority over detailed management planning of nature reserves. Some reserves receive detailed study while others, once acquired (the major effort) receive only a general management statement and an annual work program for local wardens. However, with nature reserves being lands owned or leased by the State, as distinct from national parks which consists principally of private lands, does enable the N.C.C. to carry out specific management programs for nature conservation. This may still mean not allowing natural processes, eg. succession, but rather the maintenance of the status quo. Often management is directed to the preservation of the existing character and condition of the land for which it was reserved.

The format for resource management plans for nature reserves to be adopted is to be based on:

'Discussion Paper No. 18', University College, London.

One comment made on this approach was that it could be too detailed and time consuming. A detailed management plan had been prepared for Avon Gorge Nature Reserve and included such details as coppicing strategies for elms, however, the park was then hit by Dutch elm disease and the effort wasted.

Management plans for nature reserves are internal documents with no public involvement except for consultation with adjoining landowners. Considerable involvement of field staff occurs in management planning and annually a formal meeting is held with field staff to discuss the plan and works programming.

Some of the mined peat bogs in Somerset were examined (the mining of swamps in southeast Queensland for peat has been suggested in recent years.). Historically, peat extraction in the United Kingdom has been a manual operation where as now, large scale machine extraction is used.

Mining consents were given when the industry was only small and non-mechanized and do not take account of other land uses and many social aspects valued today.

Agricultural drainage improvements of the Somerset Levels (subsidy also available from the Ministry of Agriculture) is also being carried out at an increasing rate and together with peat mining, could destroy the rich flora and fauna of the bog lands. Changes of approximate one metre in the water table have been reported.

The notification of S.S.S.I. have proved ineffective in conserving land proposed for peat working and not a wholly effective means of conserving agricultural habitats. Agricultural (and forestry) operations do not require local authority planning permission and public vetting. This gives rise to a similar problem, as the control of such land uses in national parks.

Due to the falling water tables in the natural raised bog areas, the viability of nature reserves is also being closely studied. At Woodwalton Fen Nature Reserve for example, although the reserve covers some 200 ha it has proved necessary to construct clay seals along the boundaries to prevent water seepage.

Some 160 ha of high quality natural habitat of raised bog remain and acquisition costs would approach a million dollars.<sup>1</sup> What has resulted from the concern over these land uses has been almost total support for preparation of a land use strategy. This has been initiated through the N.C.C.'s studies on the area. Such a conservation and land use planning role by the Service in Queensland is also considered an important direction for Service development.

Most nature reserves are established by agreement with interested and sympathetic landowners. A relatively small allocation is made for the purchase of land for nature reserves. In 1978, approximately \$665,000.00 was

allocated. The difficult task of acquiring many reserves can be gauged from a comparison of this amount with the costs of lands in the Somerset Levels.

Acquisition is carried out from a three year rolling fund. Such a fund would overcome the problem of negotiation and acquisition, a lengthy process at the best of times, within the constraints of a twelve month period.

(To be continued next issue)



All plants, animals and features must not be disturbed.

He was BIOL.ing Mad

The metal strips used to band birds are inscribed: 'Notify Fish and Wild Life Service, Washington, D.C.' They used to read 'Washing Biological Survey,' abbreviated to 'Wash. Biol. Surv.' This was changed after an Alberta farmer shot a crow and disgustedly wrote to the U.S. Government:

'Dear Sirs: I shot one of your pet crows the other day and followed instruction attached to it. I washed it and boiled it and surved it. It was turrible. You should stop trying to fool the people with things like this ....'

<sup>1</sup> The Somerset Wetland Project, 1977.

## The Sick Bay at Carnarvon

When Brett brought the Dollar Bird in the shoe box to me, asking if I would look after it because it didn't look very well, I said 'of course'. Apparently, someone had picked it up beside the creek. It was only a baby.

For a moment I wondered where we would keep this half-drowned little bird. Fortunately the possum who had had concussion had been released the night before, so we figured that the bird could share the spare bedroom with the baby koala during the day, and come into our bedroom at night when the koala wanders around.

Needless to say neither Peter nor I had ever looked after a possum or a koala, let alone a bird. So I raced around looking for reference books on caring for baby birds. 'Feed as often as the bird will gape and place the food well down its throat.' Well, our little fellow doesn't mind the food when he gapes, which is quite often, but after the first couple of days he had different ideas about the food being placed well down his throat. The book suggested using a toothpick, but unfortunately they don't make twelve inch long toothpicks. Consequently our feathered friend has earned the name Jaws.

He is now quite an active little bird who is at the stage of learning to fly, in between episodes of hiding under the cupboard. He frequently tests his vocal range especially if the insect falls out of his mouth, or if you try to feed him and he doesn't want it, even if he has got his mouth open. Well, at least it is fun - I think.

For those who may be interested in a little more detailed information, one book with which we could not have done without was: 'The Care of Sick, Injured and Orphaned Native Birds and Animals' by Jack Wheeler. Published in 1976 by Geelong Field naturalists Club.

The common brush-tailed possum fell out of a tree when his branch broke in a storm. He was kept quiet in a large cardboard box in a dark corner for 4 days. He did not attempt to move around but ate a small amount of bread dipped in honey, if placed in front

of him. On the fifth day he showed some signs of movement and started to eat his bread and honey, sultanas and dried apple quite hungrily. Gum leaves didn't interest him. As he wanted to get out of the box we tried to release him at dusk. He started walking in big circles which became smaller and smaller until he fell over. So home he went into a cage for a day and night. Then we let him have the run of the bathroom (because by now the koala was in the bedroom). As we moved him out of the cage his back leg was tangled in the cotton waste that we had in the cage. In the process of removing this we found a piece of string tightly tied around his leg near his foot. It had to be cut off. Perhaps this was why he had acted strangely when we tried to release him before, because after it was removed he seemed okay. We tried to release him again, by taking him away from the camping area so that the other possums wouldn't attack him. After exploring the area and eating some sultanas, he climbed a gum tree and looked to be eating the leaves.

We watched him for a long time, then left some food under the tree and left. The next day we went back and both the food and the possum were gone. So hopefully he survived.

The koala was only 17 inches long and weighed 1.5 kilos when he(?) was brought to us. He was found in the creek bed in Hellhold Gorge. This is the first live koala that Bill Morley has seen in the park for 5 years. We guessed that he was probably still on his mothers milk so using our trusby book we read that a good formula to feed him was 50-50 evaporated milk and warm water plus one raw egg and 4 multivitamin drops per 200 mls. For the first couple of days he was fed about 4 times a day as many spoonfuls as he would drink, which wasn't many. I made him a flanellette 'pouch' and fed him while he was in this. I don't know who ended up with the most milk over them - him or me.

We decided to try him on some gum leaves the first night, and to our surprise he ate them - so perhaps he wasn't as young as we thought. After trying him on a variety of leaves, we found that he favoured the narrow leaf ironbark. The lower leaves are now becoming more difficult to find even with the 7 foot steel pole that Peter uses to pull the



branches down. We still supplement his diet with the milk formula which fortunately he now enjoys. It has gradually been reduced to once a day. He averages 50 mls at a time although he would probably drink more, but I read somewhere that 1-1½ ounces was enough to feed a marsupial at any one time. We should have toilet trained him, but unfortunately we didn't.

We have a 6 foot tree stump with two forks in it for the koala and he sits quietly in the higher fork all day, and he is fed while he is in the tree. At night, he usually wanders around the room for a while. He used to scratch at the glass windows trying to get out until we covered them with cardboard. He will probably be released after the rainy season. I have written to Dr Greg Gordon from this Service for his advice regarding his release.

Because it is a month since I started this article Jaws is now a very active bird with three different calls and he is a real little character. When the book which I referred to earlier said it was a very rewarding experience to raise a baby bird, in the first stages I really thought the author was having me on. Having to feed this ungrateful bird every hour and getting my fingers bitten at the same time was not my idea of a rewarding experience. Well, we persevered and ..... to quote a reliable source - it was a rewarding experience.

His diet of insects is supplemented with raw meat and wheatgerm dipped in raw egg. He flies through the house and perches himself on the kitchen table. Previously he would try and fly through the windows, but now they have soap and masking tape over them. He sits on the window sills for hours and practices his calls, which is softer and not quite the same as the adult Dollar bird. I am sure he thinks Peter and I are mother bird, because every time he sees us he 'drops his lip' and calls non stop until he is fed. We are having fun trying to teach him to catch his own insects when we put them in the room.

Our most traumatic experience was when we let him go. We felt pressured by time because Dollar birds leave Australia for New Guinea in late February. We took him down to the creek twice a day for a week in a wire cage to let him become familiar with the area. Well, he flew off okay, slowly and a bit weakly. He was investigated by a Currawong and chased by another Dollar bird. Meanwhile we were trying to stay with him. Five hours later, he had flown 5 times but made no attempt to catch any insects and he would not come to us to be fed. So we decided that he had to come home because he was still too young to look after himself.

That was when the fun began. Needless to say, after a number of attempts, including playing monkey up a casuarina, he flew low enough to catch him. We were really very lucky. So now he is back again, flying through the house, calling out for food every time he sees us, and now he has the audacity to be fussy about what insects he will or will not eat.

Well, I did say it was fun, ..... or did I?

Jocelyn Thompson  
Carnarvon National Park

*Thank you Jocelyn for your article.*

That's My Story ....

The following quotes are actual statements taken from insurance forms where car drivers attempted to summarise the details of an accident in the fewest words possible.

'The telephone pole was approach. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it stuck my front end.'

'I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.'

'An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.'

'Over twelve months ago I completed a study into the status of nature conservation in certain South-east Asian countries. I learnt a lot while doing the research and thought that it may be of interest to others within the Service. I will submit it to 'Ringtail' in small doses to avoid the need to read large volumes on the same subject at the one time.

Mike Harris

"THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL PARKS IN INSULAR SOUTHEAST ASIA"

1. SYNOPSIS

The aim of this discussion is to describe and explain the spatial and temporal patterns of the conservation of nature in Insular Southeast Asia. Since it is logistically impossible to conduct a field study into this topic at this point in time, use has been made of a critical examination of the somewhat scant literature available, and comparisons are made with the Western world's concept of nature conservation.

The topic itself does not lend itself to the extensive use of illustrative materials, and hence the study is rather in the form of a detailed discussion of the interplay of the concept of nature conservation with the social and natural environment of the region. Considerable emphasis is placed on identifying the evidence of nature conservation in each country, and also how this relates to, and is determined by, certain aspects of the cultures which are found in Insular Southeast Asia. The notion of 'conservation' and its relevance to these cultures is examined, and some detail is given on the outlooks of the various governments and the consequent legislative frameworks.

Also of great importance to the conservation of nature in the region are the efforts of various non-governmental agencies, and these are examined within the overall consideration of the topic.

## 2. INHERENT NATURE CONSERVATION VALUES IN INSULAR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Because of its equatorial position, and its insular nature which contrasts with Africa and northern South America, this region represents a broad biogeographic region which is relatively unique. Its value is particularly emphasized when one looks at the extensive incursions man has made in areas of Africa and parts of 'Amazonian' South America with the consequent, and much discussed, process of 'desertification' of rainforest ecosystems. Hanbury-Tenison (1978) considers that parts of the island of Borneo contain "some of the most remote and untouched regions of rainforest left in the world", and in relation to certain limestone areas of the same island, British speleologists have acclaimed them as some of the world's great cave regions.

A cursory observation of this tropical region shows it to be one of the most richly forested in the world with a wide range of plant communities from coastal mangroves and poorly drained freshwater swamps, to savanna woodland, dry monsoon forest, and of course the species-rich lowland rainforest. It is this latter community which is the most threatened in the contemporary scenario - particularly by logging operations for commercial timber, and to a lesser but still significant extent, by agricultural development.

A regional meeting convened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.) at Bandung in 1974 to discuss 'ecological guidelines for development in tropical forests' determined that "tropical rainforests" (which are well represented in Insular South-east Asia) "are one of the last remaining reserves of unutilized land in the world, and therefore represent prime targets for development - some of these are successful, but most result in serious failure and irreversible damage". The long-term costs of such development programmes often far outweigh the short-lived benefits of exploitation. Locally, one can see this phenomenon paralleled in some of the cattle ventures on eastern Cape York Peninsula which struggle to become economic, and where there is no attempt to

understand the total ecological system or adopt management practices which are viable in perpetuity.

The recommendations of the above-mentioned conference included the following: "It is highly important to conserve samples of each of the great number of natural ecosystems in the region of South-east Asia; these samples to be sufficiently large to ensure self-perpetuity and to encompass the range of the larger mammals and migratory species. Particularly important is the conservation of samples of lowland rainforest ..... such ecosystems have been almost completely destroyed by centuries of agriculture in temperate regions .....". This is an admirable statement and would quickly find empathy with middle class western man, however, such is not the culture indigenous to this region. Tropical lowland rainforest may be of 'world importance', however it is difficult to interpret the essence of this importance in an overpopulated, 'developing' nation where mass starvation becomes increasingly plausible. This facet will be considered in detail in the fourth section of this study.

The Insular South-east Asian region also contains an extensive number of wildlife species which are considered to be endangered. Most prevalent of these are the larger mammals which are hunted or captured, such as the Orangutan, at least two species of Rhinoceros, the Javan Tiger, several Gibbons, and the Proboscis Monkey. Again there is the problem of relating the value of conserving 'endangered species' to the indigenous human cultures of the region - this problem will emerge time and again in this discussion.

So as a starting point, it can be stated that from a world perspective there undoubtedly is considerable inherent nature conservation value in the natural ecosystems of Insular South-east Asia. The next section will strive to look in detail at the region's achievements in this field to date.

### 3. NATURE CONSERVATION IN INSULAR SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

The conservation of nature, in its broadest sense, can be manifested in a variety of ways, each not necessarily superior to the other. One of the most flexible of these is to develop a general community consciousness of the need to conserve samples of the wide range which nature can provide. In this way there need not be strict land tenures imposed on specifically defined pieces of land. The establishment of 'reserves' is the contrasting method which is perhaps more secure and tangible, and more able to be assured, theoretically, of perpetuity.

First it is important to realise that a conservation consciousness does not exist amongst the vast majority of the inhabitants of this region, and hence more definite and tangible methods of nature conservation are needed. Governments in the region have to date responded to world pressures calling for the institution of conservation programmes with such tangible methods, but this is most often in an unco-ordinated manner. Most frequent problems arise from the establishment of reserves which are unsuited to their goals (each reserve often being treated as an entity and not part of a system of reserves), or the creation of unrealistic wildlife protection legislation modelled on western parallels, without trained enforcement staff.

These may merely reflect token efforts to mask a lack of Governmental interest in nature conservation when mammoth human-related problems fully tax their resources, or there may be, in the region, a significant lack of education, training, and knowledge in this field. I maintain that both the above are significant. This is not to say that many useful conservation measures have not been achieved to date; it may now be useful in this discussion to look at each country in turn and gauge the extent to which conservation efforts are evident.



## Malaysia

Wyatt-Smith (1961) suggests that the notion of nature conservation in 'Malaya' has existed since the early 1930's, however this would only be a reflection of colonist's perceptions and not those of the indigenese. Today there are distinct threats to nature conservation in Malaysia from timber getting, agricultural practices, (especially plantation agriculture), industrial development and towns, and mineral exploitation - the solution must lie in well-considered land use planning.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.) periodically publishes a 'world list of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves'. To qualify for this list, a reserve must have "a statutory basis giving it sufficiently strict protection, be of a certain minimum size, and be adequately staffed and funded to ensure that the statutory protection can be effectively applied". The 1971 I.U.C.N. list included 4 reserves in Malaysia which are depicted in Figure 1. Malaysia's efforts in national park establishment have been concentrated in Sarawak, and since 1971 four further national parks have been dedicated in Sarawak including Gunong Mulu (204.1 square miles) and Niah (12.1 square miles). These supplement Bako National Park constituted in 1957 with an area of 10.5 square miles. There are also 5 national park proposals in Sarawak which total 61.5 square miles. Chai (1978) relates that "the Government fully supports the establishment of national parks, but legal constitution is a long process".

There are other categories of reserve in Malaysia but they do not have the same security of tenure (on paper) as 'national park'. Sabah possesses three categories of conservation reserve - 'Forest Reserve', 'Virgin Jungle Reserve', and 'National Park'. There are some 54 'Virgin Jungle Reserves' ranging in size from 28 hectares to 2,210 hectares (only 9 over 400 ha.), and these represent small areas of each Forest Reserve (itself dedicated to timber production) which are retained under their original vegetative cover. Most significant however, is that these areas are

## FIGURE 1 : CONSERVATION AREAS IN MALAYSIA

Listed Areas : four.

a) Malaya :

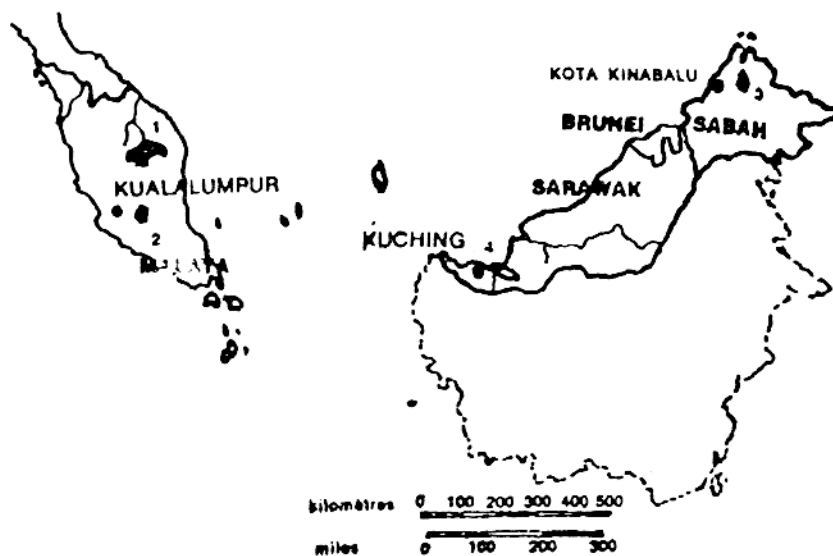
1. Taman Negara (formerly King George V) National Park.
2. Templer Park.

b) Sabah :

3. Kinabalu National Park.

c) Sarawak :

4. Bako National Park.



(Source: IUCN New Series Publ. N° 15)

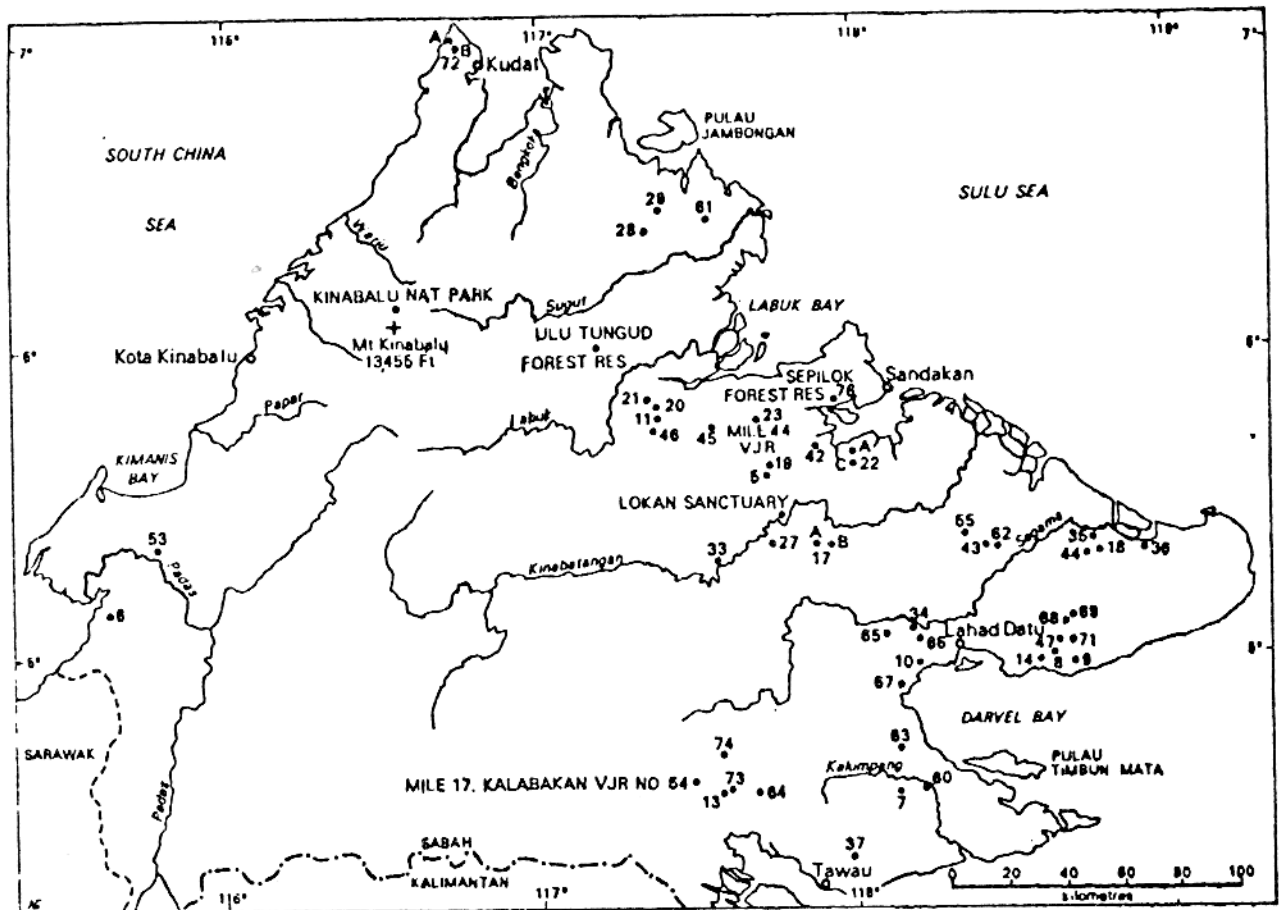
created, and sometimes revoked, by internal Forestry Department selection during the preparation of logging maps. Hence the selection criteria are often inappropriate, and some merely represent areas which are not profitable to log. Cockburn (1973) relates that "the Forestry Department has a policy of establishing 2% of all Forest Reserves as Virgin Jungle Reserves, but this has not been achieved". Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of these reserves in Sabah as at 1971.

While Forest Reserves themselves have conservation value in their wildlife protection clauses, and where they cover unloggable, steep land, water catchment, limestone hills, and the such, the commercial logging industry is a great threat to conservation in the region. Table 1 shows the growth in this industry in Sabah this century, and statistics for the 1970 year show that about 6.5 million cubic metres of timber was logged in that year with a value of \$155 million (U.S.) from Sabah alone. Hence commercial interest, with the consequent injection of foreign investment and technology, is high. Most of the activity is concentrated in the lowland Dipterocarp forest with some small-scale cutting for poles and firewood in the mangrove forests. The highly exploitative woodchipping industry is also a major threat on the horizon.

TABLE 1.  
Timber Production - 1920 - 1969

Year	Area of Forest Reserve (Ha.)	Total Production (x 1000 cubicmetres)
1920	-	65
1931	48,666	158
1939	160,062	270
1949	181,507	241
1959	924,889	1,586
1969	2,916,340	6,201

FIGURE 2: VIRGIN JUNGLE RESERVES W SABAH - DISTRIBUTION



Virgin Jungle Reserves and Conservation Areas in Sabah (based on Forest Department Map, Sabah, 1971).

(Source: Costin & Graves 1973)

Conversely, there is very little interest in logging the mountains and hills - and it is frequently as a consequence of this that many of the region's national parks are located there. However, new pressures emerge in these areas from shifting cultivators and increasing prospecting and mining interests. Cockburn in Costin and Groves (1973) describes the Kinabaku National Park - the only national park so far constituted in Sabah under the National Parks Ordinance of 1964. It was originally gazetted as 71,225 ha of an uninterrupted gradation of forest from 300 metres above sea level to 4,100 metres, however "recently, 2,850 hectares was excised for the production of copper ore by open cut mining ..... the ecological impact will extend much further than the area excised".

Malaysia also has numerous, and usually small, game reserves or sanctuaries which are specifically for wildlife protection and are most frequently preoccupied with the larger 'game' animals; many of these reserves are found in West Malaysia. Wyatt-Smith (1961) relates that West Malaysia also has "hill stations" which are relics of attempts to mimic an 'English landscape' in the uplands near urban centres. These have prime recreational value, but are not as significant for conservation. With large urban areas and some intensive agricultural practices, West Malaysia has a number of associated environmental problems. Costin and Groves (1973) list some of these as "organic pollution and eutrophication in densely settled and agricultural areas; the deleterious effects of suspended fine particles in tin-mining areas (downstream); localised pollution around sawmills and timber stocking areas (also Sarawak); arsenic and weed killer pollution through careless disposal in rubber estates which can cause total depletion of fish over long stretches of streams".

A conference held in 1974 (I.U.C.N. 32) concluded that in Malaysia there is "a growing social and political awareness of the importance of conservation of natural forests for scientific and cultural reasons". This is presumably mostly amongst the better-educated and 'officials'. However, there is a poor ecological (scientific) knowledge, and improvement of this is essential to effectively



establish and maintain systems of conservation reserves, and to manage other land-uses to minimize environmental impact. Formal legislation is difficult to enforce because of the large areas lacking communication facilities, the large number of firearms amongst native people, the lack of suitable trained staff, and a lack of public interest.

M.J. HARRIS

To be continued next issue.



Domestic animals are not allowed!



Always be careful with fires.

## Poetic Justice

Between the Director and Bob, Neil  
Krause and the Mob and I may need some  
helpful defenders.

My expectations are low  
And my self-esteem slow  
In history I may be entombed in the  
class  
Of the insufferable offender  
And the hideous contender  
For the Award of the Director's broken  
glass.

### 'Yesterday'

Seated to lunch  
At Director's invitation  
Serious thoughts  
Sober conversation  
Thoughts came to mind  
Of jocular intention  
Thoughts about jokes  
I really shouldn't mention  
Gesticulating wildly  
Like a stupid ass  
With a non-verbal  
I broke a precious glass

One of a set that Neil and Ruth  
Had laboured for exclusively  
To grace Director's guests banquets  
Deflowered so obtrusively

Neatly severed 'tween stem and bowl  
My first reaction was to howl  
But - I sat amazed at my disasterous  
intervention  
And the effect it had caused upon that  
happy convention

The Director spluttered into his wine  
And with renowned compassionate mood  
Said dear me, don't mind the glass  
John  
And querulously 'Is there any in your  
food?'  
Neil Krause, of course  
An exponent of the unrehearsed wit  
Said 'Never mind, with a mouth like his  
he wouldn't notice it'.

And Bob McTaggart (intemperately)  
laughed  
And spoke a technical rumbler  
'He's snapped the stem off at the base  
and made it a bloody tumbler'.

Rober Newnam with a surreptitious smile  
Invited a gambling bother  
I'll take ten to one from any mother's

son,  
That the S.O.B. smashes another.

John Churchward who had just told me  
about his coming disposal  
Said 'Never mind, sweep up the bits,  
And we'll draft them into a proposal'

Steve Burstow with an embarrassing  
laugh  
Added to my confusion  
I thought I might have heard him say  
This will help the budgetary illusion.

Neal Mee the brute, just stared and  
laughed  
Since just before the accident  
I said to him with pungent nostalgia  
I wonder where Archibald went.

Tony Moriarty looked at me  
His eyes were glazed - with pity  
I assumed that he  
On the part of me  
Wished my presence elsewhere in the City.

Geoff Cole heard Roger's soft spoken  
remark  
This caused him to pause and mutter  
I'd take you on  
But I don't think John's  
Ready for another glassy flutter

Graham Hudson sat at the right hand  
A situation which made him nervous  
I think alack  
I copped some flack  
About the Government Tourist Service

Ron Kelly sat there, with a non-verbal  
stare  
His eyes were silently appealing  
For more of this stuff, He'd not had  
enough  
New Ringtails were wheeling and  
spieling

Deep in his mind  
He soon would find  
Some editorial comment to disquiet me  
So I'm in for the worst  
Quench your editorial thirst  
So your readers may endeavour to incite  
me

I feared the worst  
Expected more of a burst  
And even a cold, colder shoulder  
But what I got  
Was a reception so hot  
T'would make a virgin's blush smoulder

The Director I feel  
Covered with a joke of appeal  
To the merriment of all there assembled  
With laughs hale and hearty  
I was helped back to the party  
My equanimity carefully dissembled

But I still fear that there's worse  
To come from this verse  
I was aware of some hidden agendas.

John Martin

#### Gazettal Action

The dawning of December saw the dawning of a new era for the Bridled Nail-tailed wallaby. After much deliberation, Taunton, the property where some of the last of the above species are found, was declared as a Fauna Refuge. Notification of this appeared in the Government Gazette on 6th December, 1980.

Other gazettals in the last few months include the following:

#### N.P. 301 Littabella

This park which is situated 40 kilometres north-west of Bundaberg is approximately 2 240 hectares in area and comprises areas of forest and wildflower heath and features a large freshwater lagoon.

#### N.P. 1566 Cedar

This park, although only about 5 hectares in size, is situated on a prominent spur on Mt Tamborine known as Panorama Point. Views from Bribie Island to Fingal can be seen from the park.

Two Fauna Sanctuaries were also declared.

The first which is about 52 hectares in size is about 19 kilometres west of Dalby and covers an area known as 'Ranges Bridge Reserve and Roadside Rest Area'.

The second Sanctuary covers an area of 720 hectares on the Nogoa River about 48 kilometres south west of Springsure.

#### Work Experience for School Students

The Director has approved the continuation during 1981 of the Service involvement in the Work Experience program for school students.

Since our involvement with the scheme began in mid-1980 a total of 60 students have spent periods of employment with us both in head and district offices and in field situations.

The success of the scheme within the Service can be judged by the response of students, school staff and the parents of children who have been involved.

Service staff who have so willingly participated in the activity will be pleased to learn of the success of many of our students in finding employment and the fact that many have advised us of where they are working. They obviously regard the time spent with us as being a valuable experience which has assisted them with job applications, interviews and other aspects of finding employment.

The 1981 intake of students started on 23rd February at Head Office and enquiries from schools indicate that as predicted the Service is regarded as a most desirable area for work experience.

Regional offices are again advised that an Agreement for an Arrangement must be officially completed before taking students to ensure insurance and compensation coverage for the students.

I would urge all staff to consider favourably requests to take students for this activity which is proving beneficial to so many of them.

Geoff Cole  
Liaison Officer

ROY:

On Friday, 3rd April, 1981, Ranger T.R. Aaskov will retire from our Service.

The time is opportune in this printing of Ringtail to portray some of the working life of 'Roy' a fellow officer known well to most Service staff. Those that may not know him in person certainly would know him by reputation.

In my position of Regional Superintendent, Rockhampton for the past four and a half years, I have had a close working relationship with Roy and the opportunity to get to know him probably better than other Service officers.

While in a way this story may be looked at as a mini 'This Is Your Life', I trust that it will also serve as advice and inspiration to other Service staff, as the story unfolds that the resourcefulness and determination that got Roy to where he is today will become apparent.

Roy came to our Service from many years in the Department of Forestry.

In that Department during a span of 26 years, he worked his way up from the position of workman on a Forest Reserve near Yeppoon to National Parks Ranger at Mackay.

His early years in Forestry, commencing in 1950, were spent on inventory surveys and his only training was a brief 'this is how it's done, now get out and do it'.

In three years he obtained the position of Overseer Grade III (Surveys).

With some brief training in soil survey work in Gympie District in 1953 it was again back to the field and into the work.

In 1955, Roy was promoted to Survey Overseer Grade II and in 1957 to Grade I after completing a Survey school at Beerburrum.

I must stress that during these times, promotion was by achievement and ability, training was limited.

I recollect the stories Roy tells of Rangers who would give a quick rundown on job procedure and survey methods and on parting would advise - 'see you next month'.

The achievements continued by the altering of existing forms and procedures to suit the conditions and requirements of the job.

Roy was promoted to Ranger II Surveys in 1958 and continued to work in Yeppoon and Theodore areas of the then Mackay Forestry District.

In 1961 he was transferred to Mackay office and continued on surveys until he obtained the National Parks Ranger position in September 1974.

On appointment as National Park Ranger, Roy immediately set about managing the national parks and the staff of Mackay Forestry District. A complete evaluation of work requirements and work procedure was carried out. Many existing practices were changed. Some of the more significant changes were - the creation of a more flexible island work system where staff could be moved around as the work load required rather than the previous existing system where staff would spend 2 weeks at a time on each of the developed islands (to appease resort management) whether work was required or not.

Another significant change was the reconstruction of walking tracks to shed rainwater run-off to the outside of the track edge over the entire track length rather than the existing procedure of an inside gutter and the water periodically crossing the track at inverts. Roy also took an interest in his staff as individuals improving their working conditions and creating job involvement.

Roy's management and actions have been successful and this success has been achieved by extreme dedication to the job often in adverse and trying conditions.

For those that claim times are tough now, times have, in the case of national park, been far worse in the past.

I thank Roy for what he has done for our Service and for the help that he has given to me in Rockhampton Region and I wish he and his wife, Margaret, a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Kevin Bade  
Regional Superintendent.





(An article from Kuranda Village News  
January/February 1981, No. 19)

### The One Tree Aviary

Keeping birds in cages does not appeal to me. I've always had a suspicion that it restricts the development of bird and owner, fostering an unnatural ersatz symbiosis between warder and conditioned jailbird.

Yes, I have been told that neither of them is hurt by what they don't know.

O.K. folks, now that I've got that one off my chest, I'd like to plug the benefits of the one tree outdoor aviary.

It is cheap, requires no maintenance to speak of, which means you can go away for days without finding darling tweetie tweet stiff as a board, legs in the air at the bottom of the cage, and it gets bigger every year.

Your birds will be healthier than their caged cousins and will breed with careless abandon whenever the season is right.

For the past three weeks, I've been observing the comings and goings around an umbrella tree in bloom in my friend's back yard. A blooming Umbrella Tree.

What a busy place. Rainbow Lorikeets, up to three dozen at the time, chattering away from early morning till dusk, performing highwire acrobatics walking along the flower and seed-bearing branches, small honeyeaters feeding upside down, friarbirds, clumsily oblivious to the frantic activities around them, and butterflies (mainly Birdwing but also the occasional Ulysses) fluttering above it all, settling for a spell or two on the blossoms which also attracted finches and some other birds I did not recognize.

The destruction of natural habitat continues with the growth of population into yet undeveloped areas, monoculture with its associated methods of pest control threatens all forms of wildlife

unless some efforts are made to balance this lopsided development we will be living in a pretty boring world. Nothing but people and cockroaches, with perhaps a rat or mouse here and there.

If one Umbrella tree in a backyard can keep a flock of maybe fifty birds going for three weeks, how mucy mini-habitat could be created with a little effort. Of course it would be necessary to provide more than just Umbrella trees, they take a few years to get to the flowering stage, and a three week bonanza is not quite enough to keep your parrots perky.

See your friendly nursery man about trees and shrubs to improve the quality of life in your backyard.



## Research and Planning Branch

Information has filtered down to Head Office that Susanna Haffenden, sometimes National Parks and Wildlife Service Pallarenda worker and wife of Research and Planning animal attendant Andrew, is having an exhibition of her art work in Brisbane in early April.

Susanna works in black ink, and draws mostly native animals and plants in representational style. Susanna has been selected as one of the contributing artists illustrating the up-coming RAOU Bird Atlas. Susanna has also had successful exhibitions in the north, but this show marks a new achievement - a one-woman show in a major capital city gallery.

Susanna's favourite subjects are snakes, lizards and frogs, but for this exhibition mammals and birds predominate, though her favourites are still represented. Plus the odd rock and fish!

The exhibition is being held from 30th March for 2 weeks, at the McInnes Gallery, 88 Edward Street, Brisbane.



No soap in freshwater lakes or streams.

### Research and Planning Branch CASUALTY LIST

Winter, J. - back at work - recovery advanced following a recent bout with the dreaded Weal's disease

Toop, J., recovering well following surgery to remove cartilage from one of his knees following a fall in one of his beloved caves.

King, B., (Bionic Brian) Back at work firing on all cylinders. Raine Island or bust (burst)

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### Sure-Fire Map

A vacationist planned to take a solo hike into the mountains. An old grizzled guide was checking up on the supplies he was taking with him.

'Have you got a map and a compass?' asked the guide.

'Certainly,' replied the hiker.

'And have you got a deck of playing cards?'

'No,' said the surprised man. 'What do I need playing cards for?'

'It might save your life,' replied the guide. 'I always carry a deck. If you get lost in the woods, just sit down and start playing a game of solitaire. The next thing you know some darn fool will pop up behind you and start telling you what card to play next.'



Stick to the tracks, whether driving or walking.

## WOMBAT'S FIRST XI !!!

### UNDEFEATED

It was late afternoon of Sunday the 22nd February, 1981 that news reached the Queensland Sporting Public of a glorious Queensland cricketing victory.

No, it is not the victory of Queensland in the McDonald's Cup to which I refer, but the crushing 80 run defeat inflicted on a 'Combined Barbarians' cricket side by the mighty 'WOMBATS FIRST XI'.

You may be asking 'Who are the WOMBATS FIRST XI?'. Well, to start with, they're not really the FIRST XI in the true sense of the term, merely the first eleven players who happened to come forward. Wombat regulars as they 'stand' at the moment are:

Bob McTaggart  
Lewis Hayes  
Joe Minehan  
Darryl Jeffress  
Peter Cavendish  
John Tozer  
Ian Rudd  
Dave Ritchie  
Russell (Gundappa) Claus

Top scorers were Bob McTaggart, Lewis Hayes, Ian Rudd and Lindsay Bloss, who all attained the maximum run limit of 30 runs. Space is not sufficient to list bowling figures, etc., but everybody performed well in all departments, particularly in the field.

Anyone else interested in joining the side should contact Peter Cavendish on 224 5511 before the next match - planned for Sunday, 29th March.

Details of the venue for this match will be circulated shortly.

As usual, the match will be preceded by a practice session in the nets at the Albion Cricket Centre followed by a de-briefing at the Breakfast Creek Hotel.

Finally, many thanks to the spectators who gave us much support on the day and I can assure anyone thinking of coming to the next game, a great day's entertainment will be had.

### WOMBATS FOR PREMIERS!!!!!!?

#### Social Club raffle winners:

21.01.81	Lynda Evans Janell Ryan
04.02.81	John Tozer Pam Harmon-Price
18.02.81	Charlie Roff Peter Cavendish
04.03.81	Cecily Versace Merv Parker

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Just a Thank You from Di and Cecily

We can't say enough about the generosity of staff here at head office.

Our thanks to all who contributed.

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A well known Service officer was seen standing in a queue outside a picture theatre waiting to see Superman II. It was considered by several members of the staff that the person in question was seeking inspiration to soar to new heights.

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### WELL PUTT

A rather cocky Sunday golfer looked toward the next green, waggled his driver confidently, and declared, 'That's good for one long drive and a putt.' He gave his club a mighty swing, blasted up about two inches of sod, and managed to get the ball about three feet from the tee.

The caddy stepped forward, handed him the putter, and suggested, 'Now for one helluva putt.'

You may remember that in the May edition of Ringtail, the Inala Community Conservationist Association gave a listing of voluntary helpers.

Mrs June Tooke the Secretary of the organisation has contacted the Service to advise of additional Veterinary Surgeons who have donated their time:

Mrs J. Toai, B.V.Sc.,  
Bulimba Veterinary Clinic,  
11 Oxford Stree,  
Bulimba.

Mr Nicholla, B.V.Sc.,  
Morningside Veterinary Clinic,  
560 Wynnum Road,  
Morningside.

Mr Warren Brown, B.V.Sc.,  
Kedron Veterinary Clinic,  
256 Gympie Road,  
Kedron.

#### Transfers - Wages Staff

Peter Chapman - Binna Burra to Burleigh Heads  
Neil Hansell - Springbrook to Maiala  
Duncan Johnston - Brisbane to Springbrook  
Robert Laws - Burleigh Heads to Girraween  
Gordon Stone - Girraween to Toowoomba  
Margaret Woodland - Brisbane to Cairns

#### New Appointments - Wages staff

Claude Azzopardi - Pallarenda  
Cecil Hais - Pallarenda  
James Finn - Maiala  
Thomas Graham - Freshwater  
Errol Ryan - Crows Nest  
Peter Slaughter - Cunningham's Gap

#### New Appointments - Salaries Staff

Shelly Jones - Head Office - Drawing Office Aide  
Cathryn Lloyd - Head Office - Drawing Office Aide

#### Resignation

John Churchward - resigned to join the Baptist Ministry

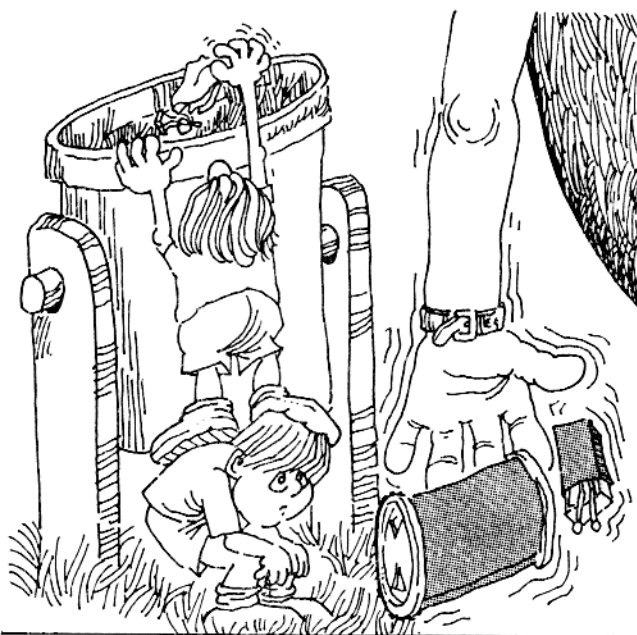
#### 1981 Service Calendar

It was decided to give each employee a calendar this year.

Distribution arrangements were made through Regional staff to save postage.

Please advise Mr Ron Kelly through your Regional Superintendent if you haven't yet received your copy.

Even our systems aren't perfect!



Litter. Dispose of it properly or take it home.

## Ringtail

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