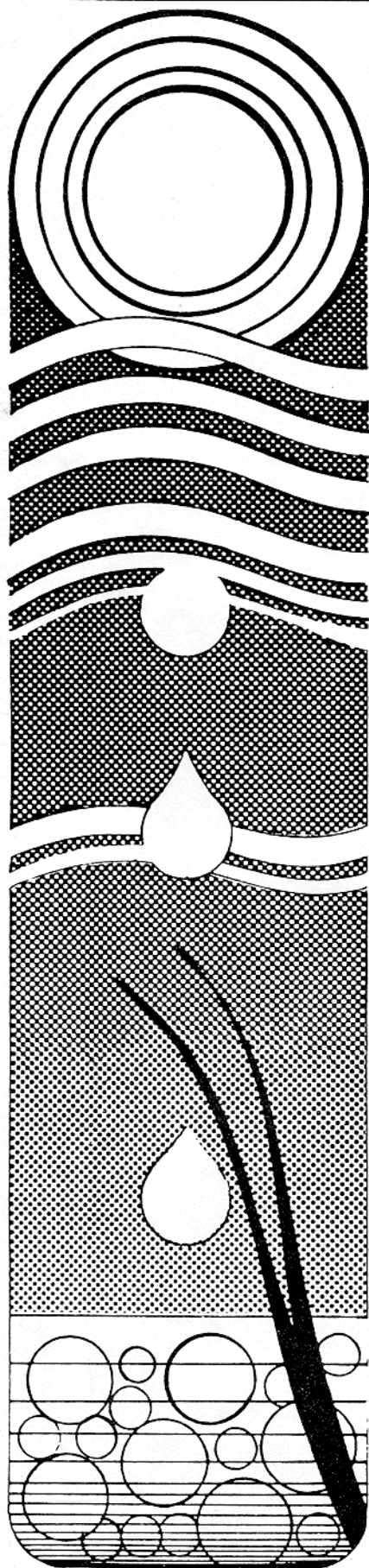




QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Ringtail

August 1982



Phoenix Edition

EDITORIAL

Greetings from your beleaguered and embattled Acting Director at the end of a rough and hectic week when sickness, recreation leave and field duties seem to have made this place as deserted as Simpson Desert National Park. Those of us left here are too busy to notice except when we need to check something.

With busy-ness comes stress, and with stress comes bad temper. When I find myself getting gritty I try to remember overhearing a discussion which finished "Yes - he's even tempered all right - bad all the time". It seems to help calm me, as does biting pieces out of the blotter.

I'm happy to tell you that 'Ringtail' is alive and well and will continue to be issued in this or another form. The restructuring of the Service has put Dr Lavery in charge of the communication aspects of the Service and he's been reorganising the already depleted forces he took over within the publicity area.

We held a meeting recently and decided that it was best to have this and if necessary another issue of 'Ringtail' produced as it has been to date by the clerical Administration Branch. Note that I've said "produced". It is still up to you all to offer contributions for them to incorporate in the production.

As soon as Dr Lavery can manage it, he intends to review the format - can it be done better and cheaper, etc., and I'm sure he'd welcome your ideas in this regard. Rest assured however that the Director certainly believes as I'm sure we all do, that an in-house publication should continue. We can be much more informed and informative and much franker in such a journal than we can in brochures, reports and official communications with a circulation. You'd better keep that in the family eh?!

Speaking of publications, some of the first efforts of the new Production Unit have come out of the sausage machine. So it's an appropriate time to remind you that we want you to submit your corrections so that

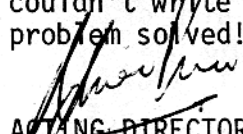
mistakes in layout, type face, spelling, columns, etc. can be picked up before the reprint is done.

Don't think it isn't important. Don't imagine that someone else will have picked up mistakes and deficiencies, so you won't bother. The best thing is to get a copy of the brochure or whatever, mark your corrections and notings on it (preferably but not mandatorily in red ball point pen) and send it through the usual channels to Dr Lavery. He's a perfectionist and believe me will thank you for helping him towards perfection.

If you don't think mistakes matter, imagine what a murderous and adulterous world it would be if Moses, with his wrists aching from chiselling stone, had left out a few 'nots' in the 10 Commandments. (After recent global events I think he may have).

Many of you will be wondering what if anything will be happening as a result of the Public Service Review. Graham Brighton, the team leader, spoke with some of us recently and we share his hopes that our needs will be allowed for in the next budget. I refer you to the Director's article inside Ringtail.

This is the sort of writing I like; but as I reach the right hand of each line, I get a glimpse of 2 trays of files which I must attend to. Ita Buttrose headed her Woman's Weekly column "From my desk". I thought I might call mine "From my straightjacket". Then I realised I couldn't write if I were in one. Hey - problem solved!


 ACTING DIRECTOR
 30.7.1982

MARINE PARKS SECTION

This is a new Section within the Service, having been established in late December, 1981. At that time, the Marine Parks Section of the Queensland Fisheries Service (Department of Primary Industries) was transferred to the Service.

As the name implies, the Section has responsibility for parks established in the marine environment. However, it also has responsibility for the management of island national parks which are enclosed by established marine parks.

Two marine parks have been gazetted under Queensland legislation - Heron Wistari Reefs Marine Park and Green Island Reef Marine Park. These were originally set aside (as marine national parks) under the Forestry Act in 1974 and subsequently (1976) redesignated as marine parks under the Queensland Fisheries Act when administrative responsibility was transferred to the Queensland Fisheries Service.

In 1975 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act was passed by the Commonwealth Government. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was established, and 1979 saw the first gazettal under that legislation, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - Capricornia Section, or Capricornia Marine Park as it is more commonly known. The zoning plan, which is effectively the plan of management, for Capricornia was proclaimed and published in 1981.

The Prime Minister and Premier agreed that Capricornia would operate as a joint State/Commonwealth exercise. A State/Commonwealth Ministerial Council was agreed upon and established. This body oversees, amongst other things, the three year rolling programme which incorporates the cost sharing arrangements. One very important aspect of the agreement between Prime Minister and Premier was that the day-to-day management of Capricornia would be carried out by State officers.

The Marine Parks Section has responsibility for this operation.

In 1981 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - Cairns Section was gazetted. The same State/Commonwealth arrangements will operate here as for Capricornia. A zoning plan for the Cairns Section is presently being prepared.

Staff

Five officers transferred from the Queensland Fisheries Service to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in December 1981 - Mr A. Winterton, Director of Marine Parks; three Marine Park Officers, Mr Geoff Mercer, Mr David Savage in Brisbane, and Mr John Hicks in Cairns; and one Marine Park Technician, Mr John Cornelius in Cairns. A vacant Marine Park Officer position was filled by Mr Peter Hunnam in January 1982 and he is also stationed in Brisbane.

Mr Peter Ogilvie was transferred from the position of Chief Technical Services Officer to act as Officer-in-Charge of the Marine Parks Section under the direction of the Director of Marine Parks, Mr Winterton.

The Capricornia three year rolling programme provides for four Marine Park officers, three Marine Park technicians, two clerks and a typist in the 1981-82 financial year and a further two officers and two technicians during 1982-83. Interviews are being held for the officer and technician positions and appointments will be made in the near future. The two clerical positions have been filled, in an acting capacity, by Mr Bob McTaggart (Brisbane) and Mr Paul Curtis (Rockhampton) pending interviews and appointments.

The headquarters for Capricornia staff will be Rockhampton - Heron Island will be the field centre for Capricornia and the rolling programme provides for accommodation and facilities to be established there.

This has been only a brief overview of the section's functions, and as time progresses further articles can be prepared for publication.

* * * * *

A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD REVIEW

As you will all be aware, the Service underwent a Review by Public Service Board staff during April and May. An analysis of the key problem areas has been presented to the Honourable the Minister and several subsequent discussions have been held between the Minister and the Public Service Board.

Some of the key problem areas identified during the Review included -

- . the role of the Service and its future development;
- . a need to enhance the existing management policies and systems;
- . resource allocation and utilisation practices;
- . a need to strengthen the staffing component in certain key areas.

During discussions with the Minister, it was agreed that action arising from the Review should be implemented in three stages, namely -

- (i) the immediate strengthening of the Service's senior management structure by two positions;
- (ii) the conversion to the Public Service establishment of certain wages staff performing Public Service duties; and
- (iii) the implementation of other development initiatives identified conjointly with the Public Service Board involving new policies, systems and procedures.

On July 29, Executive Council approved the creation of two new positions - Deputy Director (Administration) and Assistant Director.

The role of the Deputy Director (Administration) will be to manage and co-ordinate the administrative operations of the Service and be actively involved in the implementation of on-going development initiatives arising from the Review. The Assistant Director will be responsible for special projects across the Service.

In addition, the role of the present Deputy Director has been redefined as being responsible for co-ordination of the professional/technical programs of the Service. The designation of this position has therefore been changed to Deputy Director (Technical).

A submission is presently being prepared seeking provision in the 1982/83 Budget of a number of additional positions for the Service to facilitate the conversion to the Public Service establishment of certain wages staff engaged on Public Service type duties. The practice of employing wages staff to perform Public Service duties has been ceased and, in future, staff will be engaged on work in accordance with their substantive appointment.

The Review Team is now embarking on the further development of the Service and you will be kept informed of progress. At the conclusion of the Preliminary Review, the Team Members expressed to me their appreciation of the assistance given them by the staff and the open and frank way in which you discussed the various issues with them.


G.W. Saunders
DIRECTOR

Morale is faith in the man at the top!

Show Report

In the best traditions of the Public Service ethic, I did, in fact, use my half-staff half-day to visit the R.N.A. Show and have to report that the Ekka is still the same old crowded place it ever was.

My smart cab driver, wanting to get us there quickly and get back for another fare, no doubt, dropped us at the less crowded McConnell Terrace entrance and so we reached the Service exhibit via a rather tortuous route. Starting with looking at some very large smelly Landrace Pigs, we moved via some extremely disturbed blood stock and having negotiated dangers both on and above the ground, we then wended our way through the gold fish exhibit area. Here I was interested to see some pink-tongue skinks on sale (for it seems pet shops which sell aquaria and fish, also dabble in reptilian species). Had the owner been a metre and a half high and in a wheel chair, I'd have immediately closed him down. Instead of that I wandered off and found myself completely lost in the Bantam and other chook maze. By the way, one of the most beautiful animals I've seen in my life was the champion 'other sea animal' exhibit which was a ribbon eel - a magnificent creature of about a metre and a half in length, very slim, beautifully electric blue in colour with a yellowish head. He certainly was a worthy champion.

Finally, we got to the Frank Nicklin pavilion and I am happy to report that our exhibit was quite creditable and very well patronised and Bob Schulz looked positively handsome in his NPWS uniform as did Neil Hansell behind the counter giving handouts. The theme this year is rural conservation and I think it was very well received. There were some magnificent photos of dreadful erosion and well managed areas. It needed no more than the few words with the photos to get the message across. It's a credit to Ross Blick and others who put the show together.

I then said that I'd like to try the sky lift from one edge of the showground to the other and it's quite a spectacle looking down on the crowds, on the ring events and on the odd thong which has slipped off a foot and landed forever

on one of the roofs of the exhibition buildings. Before we alighted at the Side Show Alley end, I noted all the magnificent, scary looking rides so much more sophisticated and powerful than when I was a kid, which is probably the last time I rode one of them. Whether my trip above the ground revived my macho air force days and stirred my thinning blood, I don't know but I said to my wife, 'I'm going to ride the Super Loop.'

I guess we've all uttered sentences that, before the last word is out of our stupid mouths, we wished we had stopped at the first word. Such was the case here but I was too proud to back down. As I was being strapped into the seat I kept repeating to myself, 'Remember we're British, chaps!' and saying 'Well, Val won't get a lump sum but at least she'll get the widow's pension.' As she watched me, a woman standing next to her said, 'Fancy anyone riding in that thing.' Val replied, 'Well, my husband's in there, the silly old goat.' I'll say this for her - she never waffles.

Mercifully, ours was a short ride because the attendant could see that a big crowd was building up. However, we did one complete loop and one heart stopping attempt where we sat poised at the top for I swear, half an hour but probably no more than half a second. Finally, it stopped and we were released and I staggered back to her. She didn't say much, just, 'Chalk'd leave a black mark on your face dear.'

Still, 10 minutes later I found myself saying to myself, 'Well done Clive, well done. The flames haven't gone out yet and I can always skite about it.' However, I think next time I go to the Ekka, I'll stick with the Service exhibit which is always nice and safe and in amongst a lot of other sensible, safe Queensland Government exhibits.

Clive Price

MUSICAL A-RANGERS

Hi, I'm Peter Chapman and I work at Burleigh Heads National Park. Previously I spent two years working in Lamington National Park and I wrote the following song up there. It's really devoted to the men who built the many, many miles of track there, but Perc Denning and Trevor and Rodney Toney and myself built two miles of track through fairly rugged rainforest when I was there, so I got an inkling as to what those track-building days must have been like.

The song goes like this (to the tune of 'The Overlander', the version by The Bushwakers'). Chords are included for those handy with basic guitar. Give it a brisk, marching beat!

Verse 1 - 'Trackie's Lament'

Am C Dm
Listen while I tell you about the men of
Am
Lamington,
Am C
The men who build the tracks through the
Dm Am
mighty McPhersons,
C G C
They swear and sweat all day to make a
G
few feet of track,
Am E Am
Then you townies just waltz over it in
E Am
seconds flat.

Chorus:

C G C
And it's hi-ho to work we go, a working
G
on the tracks,
Am E
We'll walk and walk and walk for miles,
Am E Am
with tucker in our packs,
C G
And we'll talk, and talk and talk for
C G
hours, a talking all the while,
Am E
To take our minds off our feet, as they

Am E Am

tread another mile.

Verse 2

And even when the tracks are built, of course our work's not done,
The forest giants fall, to block the way for all and one,
Pat put tucker in your packs, boys, and grab the saw and axe,
And we'll march out into the scrub, to clear those 'dirty' tracks.

CHORUS And it's

Verse 3

And when we reach a lookout and gaze across the green,
A grander sight, I'm sure, no man has ever seen,
Our stops are so regular, you'd think they're in the award,
But to feel free for just this moment, we cannot afford.

CHORUS Because it's

Verse 4

Three wise men beneath a tree, who swear they know its name,
The only trouble is, their names are not the same,
It's got me puzzled to see, why they disagree,
'Cause somehow that tree still looks the same to me.

CHORUS And it's

Verse 5

Sometimes our work takes us down to the valleys green,
But I long for that mountain air that is so crisp and clean,
I've got to go up now boys and see my favorite scene - ho,
Grab that file, give our blades a rub, and we're off to Mt Merino!

CHORUS And it's

* * * *

Copyright: 'Binna Burra Bush Bashers Band'. Infringers of copyright publicly flogged with Lawyer Vine (Calamus muelleri).

A Small Possum Makes Enquiries.

A possum came calling,
came creeping and crawling,
so weary of falling
from toppling trees.
He came to the counter
to ask for advice
but his natural stature
was far too concise
to be seen.
He was keen
to avoid any scene.
He was meek,
He was weak,
but he started to speak.

The possum was small
and his voice was discrete
His accent was local
He talked with his feet
He said he had read
with incredible dread
of his kin who were dead
and the others unfed
who wanted a good life
instead.

He came uncomplaining,
had heard, after training,
these people could keep all
of nature at ease.
He was loathe to cause trouble
and anxious to please
but his forest was rubble
and stubble of trees.
Could something be done
and be done on the run?
It's no fun to be shot
by the Tom with a gun
or left homeless
to fry or to freeze.

The people were friendly,
supportive and kind,
but were busily fussing
with forms to be signed.
Then voices from sources
around him abounded
and sounded in chorus
'till he was surrounded.
'We have plots to be hatched
and posters dispatched,
misquotes for detecting
our jobs for protecting,
wages for paying
and egos displaying
our powers conserving,
our judgements reserving
and we are deserving
of praise and acclaim!'

The possum was silent
He furrowed his brow,
then spoke up as clearly
as fear would allow.
'I'm sorry to question
I won't keep you long,
But somebody somehow
has got something wrong.
Night parrots for hatching,
wild pigs for dispatching,
rare plants for detecting,
the Reef for protecting,
old debts for repaying
and legs for displaying,
forests conserving
and land for reserving
and other deserving
causes to name.'

The people all chuckled
and patted his head
'It's all in our hands,
don't worry' they said.
'We have havoc to wreak
and speeches to speak,
promotions to seek,
and secrets to leak.
Don't bother us now
Don't offer critique,
but come back and pick up
a poster next week.
No one will harm you.
Relax and be calm. You
will find they'll be fined
we mind where it's mined
and logged and the kind.
The laws are defined.
Go home and unwind
the problem is all in you mind.'

The possum was reeling
from wheeling and dealing.
His feet had gone numb
He'd forgotten his name.
He needed some help
to encourage the aim
of refraining from taming
remaining terrain.
'You don't understand.
Your plans may be grand
but you've mangled the land
for your mineral sand
and the trees and the oil,
even altered the soil.
Now there isn't enough.'

We're not very tough
and it's hard to compete
against cattle and sheep,
your cats and your dogs,
your goats and wild hogs.
We're willing to share
but it's very unfair
to uncaringly leave us
to barely survive
and to proudly declare
with your heads in the area
that there's plenty of space
in your parks. There's a place
for a few and the Zoo
has a room with a view
for a new kangaroo
and an emu or two
but what do the rest of us do?

He stopped for a breath
and met with a deathly
silence around.
Not a sound to be found.
Then faces went blank,
minds shut with a clank
they continued the chorus
they'd started before.

'We have meetings to meet,
free lunches to eat,
mistakes to delete,
old tales to repeat.
We are the elite
keeping out of the heat.
Our carpets are clean
and our letters are neat.'

They all turned away
going home for the day.
The possum delayed
to deposit a gift in an
incoming tray,
then limped out the door
and was heard of no more.

Anonymous

A THANK YOU

Gerri Kluver from Gympie office wishes
to convey her thanks to the Service staff
for their sympathy to herself and her
family.

Also for the donation made to the
Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland
after her son passed away earlier this
year.

Library News

Currently, Lynda Evans is on a well-
deserved holiday in Europe. She will
be on leave until September. During
this time it appears that there may be
no replacement for her from State
Library because of staff shortages.

While trying not to discourage use of
the Library, I hope all staff will be
merciful in their search for information
and make allowances for shortcomings in
the library service during Lynda's
absence.

While on holidays, Lynda has volunteered
to spend two days at the BBC Natural
History Unit Library to study the
organisation and management of its vast
collection of non-book material. We
expect the information gained from the
visit to be useful as the Head Office
Library begins to expand its own
collection.

Kathy Buckley
Librarian

An angry subscriber, having trouble
with the telephone, bellowed at the
operator, 'Am I crazy, or are you?'

'I'm sorry, sir,' she replied in her
sweetest professional voice, 'but we
do not have that information'.

Much has been written about helping
plants to grow by playing music or
singing to them. Success has now
been reported by a man who has been
experimenting with obscene fern calls!

Rabbits

On the 1.1.82 at 2 pm whilst on a routine boat patrol, Doug Schulz and myself were ashore on the camping area of Rabbit Island checking camp permits. Whilst speaking with a Mr John James of Andergrove, Mackay re camp permit, he mentioned seeing a large black and white rabbit. Stopping the conversation for a moment to mentally check whether it was Jan 1 or April 1st, I realised it was too close to Christmas to be April 1st. I said, 'Is it still around and can you show me?' Mr James led me toward the rear of the camp area and there nibbling quietly at the grass was a large, 'live' black and white rabbit.

Mr James went on to explain that earlier in the day he had wandered up to a small wooden structure which contained a box-like seat. Upon lifting the seat he noticed a very large cavity approximately 2m x 1m x 1m in which the said rabbit was hopping. He and his son retrieved the rabbit, but upon retrieving same soon realised it was no ordinary rabbit but some kind of cross between a rabbit and an American skunk as it had the ability to give off a most offensive scent.

The rabbit, or whatever, was caught by Overseer Schulz, bundled very quickly into a sack and deported from the island.

P.J. (Tug) Wilson
Skipper,
'Osprey',
Seaforth.

Dr Oliver Wendell Holmes once warned a hypochondriac patient found reading up on his disease: 'Look out, or you'll die of a misprint some day'.

The Greater Need for Conservation Priorities in South-east Queensland

Paper presented to the Wide-Bay Burnett Conservation Council's Seminar on 'Conservation Priorities in South-east Queensland', Gympie, May 15 and 16, 1982.

- P.S. Sattler, M.Nat.Res., B.App.Sci. (Rur. Tech.), Senior Management Officer, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Introduction

The south-east part of Queensland contains a diverse environment, predominantly sub-tropical, though meeting tropical and temperate influences to the north and south, and thus warrants intensive efforts in nature conservation.

Being the most populated part of the State, of excellent climate, this region also witnesses high competition for a wide variety of land uses. The extensive, past disturbance to the natural environment, the intensity of continuing development, the need - indeed demand - to protect environmental quality, and the high recreation demands dictate that a range of measures for nature conservation must be developed and implemented. It is contended that particularly in this part of Queensland, the responsibility for such extends well beyond that of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and must be shouldered more by all other land use decision makers and by the public generally.

For a review of nature conservation requirements for any part of the State, it is appropriate to first consider the broad objective of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as originally framed in 1975:

'to foster harmony between man and his environment, thereby facilitating the well-being of man, and safeguarding the integrity of nature'.

To meet this objective, a range of activities are undertaken by the Service including direct action, consultation, encouragement and extension.

This range of activities includes reserving areas as national parks, marine parks, environmental parks and possibly regional parks in the future, contributing to regional strategic and town planning, environmental impact assessments for proposed developments, promoting nature conservation as a legitimate part of the multiple use of rural lands, enforcing wildlife legislation aimed at protecting native species and promoting a greater and general concern in the community for our environment through education and interpretation.

Each of these activities is an integral part of any comprehensive approach to safeguarding the natural heritage of Queensland, and all must be integrated in the development of a nature conservation blue-print for any region. A number of these measures are now discussed.

Reservation of Lands

The chief criteria for selecting lands for reservation, particularly national park, in Queensland include: the need to conserve the diversity of the natural environment; the conservation of unique, rare and endangered ecosystems and species; and to provide for nature-based recreation.

National Parks today are declared over areas that should approach state, national, or international significance. A number of the older national parks in Queensland may not meet these criteria because no alternative reserve system was available at the time of their gazettal, and also, because the concept of what is a national park has changed since 1908 when the first national park in Queensland of 131.1 ha was gazetted at Witches Falls.

Environmental parks are areas of only regional or local significance, and usually have limitations of size, boundary configuration or management difficulties. However, the emphasis is still on nature conservation. The educational value of such areas, especially of those close to urbanized areas (and many are) is emphasized.

Trusteeship is an important aspect associated with environmental parks and this is often offered to local authorities so bridging the gap between State and local government responsibilities.

A new tenure, regional (or recreation) park has been suggested. The intention of such a tenure would be to enable a greater range of recreational uses than that possible within national or environmental parks to take place in non-urban surroundings. Such parks would be close to urban centres and have high recreation values. High nature conservation values would not be a pre-requisite, and a degree of pre-existing disturbance may be acceptable.

Possible locations for proposed regional parks include: South Stradbroke Island, the Toowoomba Range, and Mt Archer - Berserker Range near Rockhampton.

Strategic Planning

Regional land use planning is essential for the rational allocation of resources between competing land uses: but is of course only of value if implemented. Unfortunately, lack of implementation has been the failing of a number of such efforts undertaken over the last decade in south-east Queensland.

A major strategic planning exercise recently undertaken by the Service* has concerned the central Queensland coast, extending from Baffle Creek, just north of Bundaberg, to the southern boundary of the Shoalwater Bay Army Reserve, some distance north of Yeppoon. The length of this coastline taken in a straight line exceeds 300km.

Important nature conservation, recreation and historical values exist within this coastal region, as it is where northern, tropical influences overlap with the subtropical environment, an environmental overlap, first observed by Sir Joseph Banks, and which has resulted in a wide ecological diversity.

The recreational values of this coastal region are also extensive. Recreation opportunities extend from those associated with wilderness areas such as the proposed Rodd's Peninsula National Park, to those depending on proximity to infrastructure which is likely to occur south of Agnes Waters, and near the proposed Deepwater National Park.

Future recreation demands are likely to be high from major centre such as Gladstone, a rapidly expanding industrial city, Rockhampton and Bundaberg, from inland towns which may not have ready access to other suitable areas for recreation, and from southern Queensland.

Historical interests includes the fact that Bustard Bay was the site of the first landing in Queensland by Captain James Cook on 23rd May, 1770.

Recognition of these values has led to the proposing of many national and environmental parks over the last two decades, but in fact no other similarly industrialized or populated part of the eastern Australian coastline has had less land reserved for nature conservation and recreation. The reason is that coinciding with these park proposals is extensive commercial interest for heavy mineral sand mining and this conflict in land use has prevented gazettal of parks. Indeed, the same major conflict between nature conservation and sand mining that has occurred elsewhere on the eastern Australian coastline is most likely to occur along the central Queensland coast. This has already been evidenced over the initial granting of some mining leases at Agnes Waters, a few years ago.

The aim of this strategic planning study was to determine a conservation strategy taking account of mining and other land uses to enable reservation of the most important areas for nature conservation and also to avert the threatened confrontation between these land uses. Such a strategy necessitated the development of a series of compromise solutions between nature conservation and mining.

* 'Nature Conservation for the Central Queensland Coast in relation to Mining and other Land Uses' - Sattler, 1980 - paper presented to Natural Resources Symposium, Armidale, N.S.W.

This study involved a critical examination of all areas of interest for nature conservation, incorporating a review of:

- . specific nature conservation values
- . recreation values and potential demands
- . extent of mining interests, as reflected by existing mining tenure
- . structure of dunes to be mined, likely rehabilitation success, mining infrastructure needs such as roads
- . tenure of lands within park proposals
- . park management guidelines and suggested strategies for park development
- . other land uses, especially urbanization, and possible subsequent uses after mining

Briefly, as a result of this exercise one mining company has offered:

- . to withdraw mining lease applications and a mining lease north and south of Wreck Rock within the proposed Deepwater National and Broadwater Creek Environmental parks in return for the Service withdrawing park interests in an area further north around Rocky Point where extensive ore reserves exist;
- . to withdraw a mining lease application east of Eurimbula Creek and parts of two mining leases and one application between Eurimbula Creek and Middle Creek adjacent to Eurimbula National Park in return for the Service withdrawing interests from Middle Island; and
- . to withdraw a mining lease north of Stockyard Point within the Bayfield National Park proposal in return for the Service withdrawing interests from an area covered by a mining lease south of Stockyard Point.

In some of the areas of mining interest adjacent to existing or proposed parks, Departmental and Official Purposes Reserves have been proposed to enable the Service to manage these areas partially for nature conservation and recreation purposes while allowing mining.

Unfortunately the same response has not yet been forthcoming from the mining industry in relation to the proposed national parks on Rodd's Peninsula and on part of Curtis Island, where a similar compromise arrangement was offered.

The location of any compromise line can be debated as community priorities change. However, it is important that the agreements reached so far with the mining industry are implemented. The longer a state of inaction occurs, the pressure for alternative land uses will increase, and may prevent the conservation of important areas. For example, the threat to the finalization of the Deepwater N.P. proposal is not mining but the potential spread of urban development, while the greatest threat to the eventual consolidation of Eurimbula National Park may well be increasing timber demand in the region.

The most recent strategic planning study in south-east Queensland has been the Pumicestone Passage Land and Water Use Study which is shortly to be submitted to the government. This planning study undertaken interdepartmentally and incorporating both local authorities within the study area, recommends the establishment of a Pumicestone Passage National Park to conserve terrestrial areas adjoining the Passage and so contribute to the long-term preservation of the estuarine system itself and the establishment of a large environmental park of approximately 3,000 ha on Bribie Island. This environmental park will not only incorporate a substantial part of the eastern beach and dune areas but will also preserve the largest remaining area of wallum heath on the coastal plain between Noosa and the Queensland-New South Wales border.

If these objectives are to be attained, the early implementation of these parks, by the State Government and the recognition by local government of the need to buffer them adequately from intensive development is essential. In fact the preservation of Pumicestone Passage, its landscape and estuarine system, can only be assured through sympathetic development adjacent to other parts of the Passage and the provision of buffer areas between development and foreshore areas, for example at Bell's Creek, Caloundra, where urban development on the south bank has been mooted.

The requirement to prepare strategic plans as part of the formulation of Town Planning Schemes pursuant to the Local Government Act and Another Act Amendment Act of 1980, has significant ramifications for nature conservation.

The preparation of strategic town plans enables areas of nature conservation, open space and recreation value at a local level to be initially identified and appropriate zonings applied. Those areas requiring specific zonings could include existing and proposed parks and reserves and other areas of nature conservation value. Such areas may include streams and stream banks which often support diverse vegetation and habitats. Wallum heathlands are often of considerable wildflower appeal and because of the extent of heathland destruction in south-east Queensland, remaining areas are especially important for preservation. Swamps and tea-tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) communities, areas adjacent to estuaries, dunal areas, and mountainous or hilly areas may also have particular value for nature conservation. Many such locations could also be unsuitable for development owing to drainage, stability or erosion problems and action to conserve these areas may not be in major conflict with other land use demands.

The application of appropriate zonings could lead to either: the reservation of areas with or without the involvement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, possibly as environmental parks or recreation reserves under the Lands Act with a local authority as trustee; or the prohibition of further development.

An indication of the need for increasing local government involvement in the protection of areas of nature conservation and recreation value is best given by an example.

Kondalilla National Park near Montville on the hinterland edge of the Sunshine Coast, is a small (75 ha) park that seeks to conserve one of the very few remaining patches of the once extensive rainforests of the Maleny plateau and Blackall Range. This park not only makes a

valuable nature conservation contribution but it provides for local recreation currently in excess of 96,000 visitors per annum. It contributes to the environmental quality of the area which is rapidly becoming urbanized, and it is associated with a popular tourist route on the Sunshine Coast.

Unfortunately, Kondalilla National Park protects only half of Skenes Creek Gorge and its rainforest, and does not link with the nearby Obi Obi Gorge National Park or the nearby State Forest. Consequently, this park is most susceptible to deterioration as already evidenced by considerable weed invasion. To remain viable and to meet the increasing demands made of this park, urgent action must be taken to consolidate it either by the acquisition and incorporation of adjoining areas or at the very least the freezing of further development of some adjacent areas to provide a buffer. The latter alternative will however, not provide long-term protection or allow further recreational development.

Any action to consolidate the park so that it will remain viable and be able to meet increasing recreation demands will be expensive because of high land prices. Such action will require a greater commitment than would be possible by the National Parks and Wildlife Service alone, as the Service must establish its priorities on a Statewide basis. Involvement by the local Shire Council is therefore essential to assist in the acquisition of land to consolidate this park.

Similarly, the purchase by the Service of small areas having local nature conservation values on the Gold Coast or in the vicinity of Brisbane, may well be at the cost in real terms of the establishment of major national parks elsewhere in Queensland and even within the south-eastern region of Queensland because of the high cost of such areas.

Thus an important overlap in responsibilities exists between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and local government, and indeed with other landholders, to meet this increasing need for nature conservation and to make provision for future recreation demands.

Environmental Impact Studies accompanying development are important for nature conservation through two aspects: planning and mitigation of direct environmental effects; and providing for a review of regional land use implications such as changes in infrastructure and urban requirements and possible conflicts with areas of Service interest.

An example of the latter has been the regional land use implication of the aluminium smelter proposed for Goodwood near Bundaberg last year. Adjacent to this proposed development is the proposed Kinkuna (or Coonar Creek) National Park which is probably the most important area for nature conservation recommended in the Maryborough-Elliott River regional land use study of 1976*. Concurrence to this park proposal by Lands Department was withdrawn recently as it was perceived that other land use requirements would result from the proposed development. Thus the proposed siting of the smelter has far greater regional or State-wide nature conservation implications than any direct environmental effects from its operation.

The withdrawal of this proposed development may enable reconsideration of the decision to withdraw concurrence to the park proposal.

* 'Maryborough Elliott River Land Use Study'. Coastal Lowlands Land Use Committee, 1976. Govt. Rep.

This proposed smelter development was also gazetted a 'prescribed development' * by the Co-ordinator General's Department. This recent amendment to the State Development and Public Works Organization Act may provide an opportunity to extend consideration of on-site land use to include regional implications, similar to the way consideration of regional infrastructure is required for such developments.

Extension

The Service has recently also been investigating means of promoting and encouraging nature conservation on rural lands.

It is clear that only a small percentage of land will ever be set aside in parks and reserves, and so it is most important that the reserve system must be complemented by the wise use of other land with an awareness of hazards that can lead to degradation of both land and to wildlife values generally.

Probably the most important land use decision maker in the State is the private landholder. While private land is legitimately used for a wide range of pursuits, it is essential that such use much be in accordance with its long-term capability, fragility, susceptibility to erosion and salinity, the need for protection of water courses, the provision of buffer strips and the repair of degraded areas. The conservation of natural processes is essential not only to sustain long-term productive use of land but to ensure the continuence of native species throughout their natural distribution.

The Service is currently initiating a case study of the eastern Darling Downs to examine, and promote, rural nature conservation in this intensively used landscape. Such conservation has of course been carried out for many years by many environmentally aware farmers, and it is proposed that management practices that have been, or are likely to be effective, be researched, collated and extended to others.

The responsibility of other government, public and corporate landholders to manage and use land cognizant of a nature conservation ethic must also be fostered.

Conclusion

To achieve a desirable level of nature conservation particularly in south-east Queensland where land use competition is fierce, it is essential that a range of conservation measures be adopted. Such measures range from the gazettal of national parks, while it is still possible, to the need for strategic planning at both a regional and local level, to the fostering of rural nature conservation and public involvement in conservation generally.

An excellent opportunity now exists through strategic town planning for areas of nature conservation value to be identified and zoned accordingly and for town planning generally to be sympathetic to the needs of nature conservation. The Service offers to give what ever assistance is possible to local government in this matter.

There is thus a wide range of measures to achieve an adequate level of nature conservation in south-east Queensland; the responsibility to implement them is far reaching and must involve the entire community.

* No 18 of 1981. An Act to amend the State Development Public Works Organization Act of 1971-1979 Part V.

SOCIAL CLUB

Your Club's activities during the first part of 1982 included a Ten Pin Bowling night at the Milton Bowl and theatre night at Hoyt's Cinema Centre, to see the Australian film "A Man from Snowy River" with drinks provided after the film. Also members enjoyed a Happy Hour at the State Service Club.

A group booking was arranged to see the new performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show with drinks following.

COMING EVENTS

9.9.82 Ten Pin Bowling Night

25.9.82 Boat Cruise. This year to be called Festival '82 as a lead-up to the Commonwealth Games (normally 'Warana').

5.10.82 (1 pm) Annual General Meeting.

3.12.82 NPWS Dinner Dance - Lands Office Hotel.

Those who joined last year's boat cruise will wish to attend this year's as a most enjoyable evening was had by all. This year's should be even better as the arrangements made by the people of Brisbane to welcome our international visitors to the Commonwealth Games are quite lavish.

If you wish to nominate for the next committee please rally support now as the Annual General Meeting date is fast approaching.

The Committee decided on the same venue for our Annual Dinner Dance because of the great enjoyment of those who attended last year. Also this venue still offers the best value in a central location.

Apart from your fees, your committee has conducted raffles each pay day. The proceeds from these raffles augment the club's finances allowing you, as members, concessions at the function's organised.

SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE.

R.I.P. SOMEONE ELSE

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our most valuable club members: Someone Else.

"Someone's" passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with the club since inception. He did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a committee to be chaired, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips, "Let Someone Else do it".

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest contributors of his time to the club whenever there was a need for volunteers. Everyone just assumed Someone Else would volunteer.

Someone Else was a wonderful person - often appearing superhuman, but an individual can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember - we can't depend on Someone Else!

The famous oriental detective Charlie Chan was wounded by an opponent. Hurridely bandaged, he was rushed to a hospital. While waiting in the emergency ward, he peered under the bandage and was heard to mutter 'Ah, so, the clot thickens!'

NATIONAL PARK ESTATE

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Area (hectares)</u>
National parks	304	3 151 419
Environmental parks	97	40 989
Fauna reserves	3	30 227
Fauna refuges	2	5 450
Scientific purposes reserves	1	5 345
		<hr/> 3 233 430

The total number of national parks in Queensland is unchanged since 30th June, 1981 due to the amalgamation of certain parks; environmental parks increased by seven, details appear hereunder.

Since the last issue the following extensions to existing national parks have been gazetted as shown below:

6.3.82 N.P. 236 Parish of Aubrey

These additions to Carnarvon were voluntarily surrendered from portions of five holdings (Barngo, Goathlands, Kareela, Morella Creek and Westgrove Pastoral Holdings) have been added to the existing network of national parks in the Central Highlands bringing the total area of the consolidation of the park to 217 000 hectares. Boundaries are now better defined with new vegetation communities and exceptional scenic areas suitable for future recreational development have been included in this recent gazettal.

19.6.82 N.P. 1110 Parish of Hull

An area of 11.426 hectares of Crown land has been added to Clump Mountain National Park. The new area carries a rare example of lowland mesophyll vine forest and is part of the scenic attractions of Mission Beach.

Numerous Cassowary and scrub fowl inhabit the area. This extension to the existing park will bring the total area to about 241 hectares.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARKS ESTATE

There are now ninety-seven parks in the environmental park estate.

Mr H.E. Corbould has gifted to the State several blocks of land for environmental park purposes. So far four of these areas have been gazetted as follows:

(1) 27.2.82 E.P. 1238 Parish of Toorbul

- About 16.3 hectares between Toorbul Point and Beachmere. Situated on the beachfront it has low dunes crossed by a small creek. Vegetation is a mixture of ti-tree and vine forest with mangroves fronting the bay.

(2) 27.2.82 E.P. 1593 Parish of Tamborine

- About 407.7 hectares near the existing Cedar Creek Falls National Park at Tamborine. This park consists of steep mountain spurs radiating to the north from Mt. Tamborine drained by numerous small creeks providing attractive timbered flats of blue gum, bottlebrush and ti-tree, while on the ridges there are ironbark, stringybark and brushbox. This new area will be managed in conjunction with the existing national park.

(3) 17.4.82 E.P. 1227 Parish of Wararba

- Situated in the headwaters of the Caboolture River near Mt. Mee, this environmental park is approximately 52 kilometres from Brisbane. The area consists of steep basalt hills intersected by narrow creek gullies carrying good stands of rainforest. The ridges are forested with brushbox, tallow-wood, blue, flooded and grey gums, and grey ironbark.

(4) 19.6.82 E.P. 1226 Parish of Maroochy

covers an area of 81.729 hectares and is about 15 kilometres north-east of Nambour and is near the Coolum State School.

The area formerly part of an agricultural farm is low lying and is intersected by swampy drainage lines. Vegetation consists of melaleuca forests and extensive areas of low wallum heath with tall and low banksia.

Further advice of Mr Corbould's donations will be issued as they are gazetted.

(5) 5.6.82 E.P. 2 Parish of Smyth

- known locally as Lark Quarry, this area of about 374 hectares was surrendered from part of Happy Valley Pastoral Holding and is situated about 98 kilometres south-west of Winton. This environmental park features graphic evidence of a dinosaur stampede considered to have taken place 100 million years ago on the edge of the Tully Range. Hundreds of dinosaur footprints are captured in rock formed from the mud that once bordered a prehistoric lake. Visitors to the park are confronted by stark, flat-topped hills whose steep gravel sides are studded with spinifex. Stunted eucalypts, plains of Mitchell grass, lancewood and barren zones or ironstone pebbles may be found in the surrounding area.

FAUNA SANCTUARIES

Thirteen fauna sanctuaries were gazetted during the last year totalling 48 036.069 hectares.

Seven fauna sanctuaries were declared on 28.1.1982. These sanctuaries were recommended by the Queensland Water Resources Commission for gazettal as a deterrent to illegal shooters on and around the following dam storages: Callide; Wuruma; Beardmore; Fairbairn; Kinchant; Fred Haig; and Atkinson Dams.

Three fauna sanctuaries declared on 5.6.1982 were all on freehold land, one sanctuary being in the Maryvale area and the other two within 500 metres of each other in the Toowoomba area. The properties concerned are:

F.S. 12 North Ridge Fauna Sanctuary,
Maryvale (40.46 ha).

Consists of steep hillside country covered in open forest and native grasses typical of the Great Dividing Range. Situated about 5 kilometres north-east of Maryvale township.

F.S. 15 Yuwandi Fauna Sanctuary,
Toowoomba, (71.789 ha).

Known locally as "Yuwandi" the country consists of dry verging into wet sclerophyll forest with some scrub. Although the terrain is rugged with sandstone cliffs and steep slopes. The area which is well endowed in flora and

fauna is very suitable as a fauna sanctuary. The sanctuary lies on the Great Dividing Range approximately 5 kilometres north-east of Toowoomba.

F.S. 116 Allambee Fauna Sanctuary,
Toowoomba, (138.02 ha)

This property is situated within 500 metres of "Yuwandi" sanctuary at the bottom of the Range and consists of dry sclerophyll forest well endowed in flora and fauna.

A girdle is a device to keep an unfortunate situation from spreading!

The King's foot was becoming sore from booting the complaining peasants out of the throne room. The royal carpenter finally came to the King's rescue when he gave him a length of wood. 'What's that?', asked the King. 'This, Your Majesty', explained the carpenter, 'is the world's forst serf board!'

At one time, there was a Sea Scout camp that was so close to the beach the porpoises used to swim in to shore at dinnertime. The camp's chef would announce the meal by yelling 'Chow time. For all in tents - and porposes!'

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

Find the words. They may be listed horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Letters may be used more than one time.

SOLUTION:

In this we all

You should have eleven letters left to achieve your goal.

Act
Activities
Aft
Aim
Air, Area
Attitudes
Ban
Bee
Boat
Care
Centre
Children
Depends
Destroy
East
Education
Effort
Erects
Environs
Fauna
Fees
Feral
Fine
Fiord
Fire
Fish
Flora
Foot
Forests

Heron
Islands
Laws
Lee
Legal
Less
Marine
Noosa
Onus
Permits
Policies
Programme
Proposal
Rangers
Reef
Regulations
Resume
Rural Conservation
Salute
Sanctuary
Scene
Seas
See
Set
Shoots
Sun

Terrestrial
Tests
Tides
Trees
Unity
Venue
Volunteer
Weed
Wildlife
Yard
Zoo

PERMITS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES ON NATIONAL PARKS

National Parks are of particular importance for certain forms of scientific research. This is recognised in the Queensland legislation which while making it an offence for a person to interfere with anything occurring naturally on a national park, provides for permits and scientific purposes to be granted by the Director. Such permits are not obtainable as of right but are granted at the discretion of the Director and 'subject to such provisions, reservations and conditions as he deems fit'. In exercising this discretion, the Director may be guided by the legislative requirement that he manage the parks to preserve their natural condition to the greatest possible extent: Research that involves significant disturbance is obviously incompatible with this management principle.

Where research does not result in disturbance it can be readily approved if it meets the following criteria -

- Either, it is expected to produce results of value in managing the park,
or, it is likely to produce results of significant scientific importance,
and, it could not reasonably be carried out on non-national park areas.

Depending on the amount of information supplied in an application, it can be very simple or quite difficult to determine whether the proposed work justifies the granting of a permit for scientific purposes. The standard application form indicates that the following information should be supplied:-

- A. WORK PROPOSED: Describe the work, techniques and/or equipment to be used, indicate the potential value or significance of the work.
- B. NECESSITY FOR USING A NATIONAL PARK: Provide reasons why a national park is essential for the work. Where possible such work is directed to areas of State Forest, Timber Reserve or other Crown Lands.
- C. IF COLLECTION PROPOSED: (a) Define as closely as possible the range of species, genera, families etc., and maximum number of specimens of any one species. (b) State where it is intended to lodge type specimens of any new species.
- D. TIME AND PLACE: Give date or period for which permit is required, the name of the park and if possible, location within the park.
- E. PERSONNEL: Give name, address, qualifications and/or experience, and/or position, of the field officer who will be on the park in charge of the proposed work; give names of others working under his control, and name of organisation to which personnel belong.
- F. PREVIOUS PERMITS: Give place and time of most recent of any previous permits held by the field officer.

The attitude of the scientific community to the permit system is generally favourable with most scientists supplying the information as requested. Visiting scientists of international standing in particular have strongly commended Queensland's thorough protection of its national parks. It is to be appreciated of course that their international standing usually ensures the granting of a permit and this to some extent may colour their attitude, but on the other hand it is also true that being of high standing their expert knowledge allows them to be far more responsible and selective in the material they collect which greatly facilitates the decision of granting the permits.

Some individuals however, are opposed to the system, apparently believing that as scientists they should have largely unrestricted access to the biological resources

of the parks and that for example with insects, general collection should be permitted without any requirement to account for the material collected, that in fact this should merely be sorted into groups and stored for future identification when a specialist decides to work on a particular group.

In contrast to the above attitude a major project carried out under permit by the Queensland Museum in November 1981 resulted in a substantial interim report by March 1982 with a final report expected in 1983. This project involves the co-operation of a large number of scientists and amply demonstrates the tremendous value of a carefully planned and roundly based study. Some thousands of species of invertebrates will have been identified including new species and new locality records and a significant advance will have been made in biogeographical knowledge.

The stimulus for submitting this note for Ringtail came from a research project by Dr G.W. Gibbs of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand whose application for a permit not only left no doubt at all that the permit should be granted, but makes fascinating reading in itself:

G.W. Gibbs - Collection of *Micropterigidae* (Lepidoptera)

DETAILS OF APPLICATION

- A. Work proposed: A survey of the eastern Australian rainforests for moths of the family *Micropterigidae*. These are tiny insects, 3-5mm long and are remarkable for their antiquity and their possession of functional jaws (used for feeding on pollen) whereas virtually all other moths are liquid feeders. My research, being done in collaboration with Dr N.P. Kristensen, Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, is to document and classify the species of the wider Australasian geographic region including Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, New Caledonia and New Guinea. These areas were formerly part of the ancient continent of Gondwana and the distribution pattern of present-day species of these archaic, forest-dwelling moths is of vital importance to the understanding of past events and rates of evolution in this part of the world. Fossil *Micropterigidae*, very similar to those existing today in New Zealand and Australia are known from the lower Cretaceous, making them the oldest known *Lepidoptera*. These insects are usually overlooked, even by trained entomologists, because of their small size and restricted habitats. Thus the Australian fauna is poorly known with only three species described. I have had many years experience looking for them in New Zealand and recently in New Caledonia where many new species were discovered.

I propose to search for them mainly by means of a small sweep net used amongst ferns and low vegetation in damp places. Night collecting with a small (8W) UV tube may be used on occasions, but since the adults are basically diurnal, this is not generally so useful. Both methods take the insects alive and all other unwanted specimens are released. I require the moths alive for photographic purposes. I also wish to search for larvae of these species which are hitherto unknown in Australia. They occur in litter and, in the case of the New Zealand and New Caledonia species, usually feed on liverworts growing in damp places on the forest floor. To search for them, I need to remove a few handfuls of litter and scrape off liverworts for Berlese extraction techniques. These samples are not taken at random, but only where sufficient concentration of adults warrants it. No more than 0.2m² of liverwort, taken in small patches is required.

- B. Necessity for using a national park: Firstly, these insects occur only in rainforest and much of Queensland's isolated patches of rainforest is held in national parks. To restrict my survey to the areas outside these parks would severely limit its value. Secondly, the type locality of one of the described species is within a national park at Tamborine Mountain. The early Queensland entomologist, A.J. Turner, collected these moths mainly at

Tamborine Mt and in the Lamington National Park.

- C. Collection is proposed on a limited scale. The Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) in Canberra has a series of specimens from a wide area. While I have permission to dissect and study these, it is more desirable for me to secure my own specimens for dissection. For one thing, it enables me to preserve them much more effectively for anatomical study and will allow me to photograph the living insects in colour.
- a) All specimens taken will be of the family *Micropterigidae* (*Lepidoptera*), currently placed in the genus *Sabatinca*. The 3 described Australian species are - *S. calliplaca* (type locality Tamborine Mt.), *S. sterops* (type loc. Kuranda) and *S. prophrodes* (type loc. nr. Ravenshoe). Several other species are likely to be described as a result of this study. I will, of course be searching for more. I require no more than about 10 specimens of each sex, but with the uncertainty of knowing what they are until examined later in microscopic detail, I would try to obtain up to 20 or so if possible.
- b) Any new material will be lodged with ANIC, Canberra.
- D. Time and Place: I plan to visit Queensland for a few days 18-23 August (Lamington, Tamborine Mt.), then to travel to Cairns area from 11 September to about 7 October. I will be back in the Brisbane area about 20 October, 2 November and 20 January to check the seasonality of these insects. Thus I would very much appreciate a permit covering the period 18 August to 20 January 1982. I regret it is not possible to cite exact dates and places. I would contact the Ranger on each occasion. I wish to visit the following parks:
- Lamington National Park
National parks at Tamborine Mt.
Cunningham's Gap National Park
Mt Glorious National Park
Eungella National Park
Mossman Gorge National Park
Lake Barrine National Park
Lake Eacham National Park
- E. Personnel: I will be working on my own. My full name is George William Gibbs, (Ph.D. Sydney). I am at present on sabbatical leave from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand for 7 months. Intensive research on *Micropterigidae* started about three years ago with the collaboration of Dr. N.P. Kristensen of the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, a world authority on primitive *Lepidoptera*. I am currently working at Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra with Dr I.F.B. Common. I am a Reader in Zoology and very much concerned with conservational matters, being an appointee to the Fauna Protection Advisory Council in New Zealand. I cite this to indicate my understanding of the necessity for protecting indigenous fauna.
- F. Previous Permits: I do not have any previous permits for Australian National Parks but have sought and obtained permits to collect insects from New Zealand National Parks, including Fiordland, Westland, Arthurs Pass, Nelson Lakes and Abel Tasman.

SIGNED G.W. Gibbs, 25.07.81

Note: In addition to the parks requested under D in the application, the Service added Mr Hypipamee (Crater N.P.) to the permit issued, as a potentially fruitful area).

A basic tenet of the National Parks concept as internationally accepted, is that these parks be equally available for all people to enjoy subject only to their being protected from disturbance. A child picking a pretty flower, a hunter shooting game, an angler killing a fish, a home-gardener collecting an ornamental plant, a scientist collecting a specimen of a plant or animal, - all of these get considerable personal

satisfaction from their actions, and there has to be a special reason if the scientist is to be given a permit but others refused. Hence there is a need to examine critically all applications for scientific purposes to determine whether the expected results are sufficient to justify the granting of a permit.

In the case of the application quoted above it was clear that the study could be expected to produce results of substantial value and this indeed proved to be the case. Dr Gibbs has kindly agreed to his report being quoted in Ringtail but as the information was supplied to the Service on a confidential basis in advance of scientific publication, anyone wishing to quote from it should contact Dr Gibbs first.

The following is the text of Dr Gibbs report to the Service:

Dear Sir,

I received permit No. 440 to collect moths of the family *Micropterigidae* in national parks of Queensland. This permit expired on 20 January 1982, and I now submit a report on my activities.

Eleven national parks were visited during my survey. Six yielded positive results. No *micropterigids* were found at Cunningham's Gap N.P., Palm Grove N.P., Conway N.P., Mt Spec N.P. or Lake Eacham N.P.

The following is a record of specimens collected from national parks in Queensland:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Mossman Gorge National Park	22-23/9/81	5	<i>Sabatinca sterops</i>
		10	<i>Sabatinca</i> 'species a'
Lake Barrine National Park	25/9/81	1	<i>Sabatinca</i> 'species a'
Crater National Park	25/9/81	1	<i>Sabatinca</i> 'species a'
		32	<i>Sabatinca porphyrodes</i>
Palmerston N.P. (Henrietta Ck.)	26/9/81	16	<i>Sabatinca</i> 'species a'
Eungella N.P. (Finch Hatton G.)	25/9/82	16	<i>Sabatinca calliplaca</i>
Joalah N.P.	5/11/71	27	<i>S. calliplaca</i>

Habitat Details

- 1) Mossman Gorge. Both species occurred amongst track-side vegetation between the car park and a swimming hold up river.
- 2) Lake Barrine. Turner had found this species (not recognised as distinct from *S. calliplaca* by him) at this locality in 1937. It is good to know that it still survives there, along the lakeside track.
- 3) Crater N.P. Here two species occurred in great abundance amongst ferns on the roadside between the main road and the car park. The species *porphyrodes* Turner had previously been known by the single ♀ holotype taken by Turner near Ravenshoe in 1930.
- 4) Palmerston N.P. The undescribed 'species a' was moderately common in rainforest along the highway and at Henrietta Creek. When this new species is described, I will designate Henrietta Creek as its type locality since it is accessible and is protected within the boundary of a national park. The species first turned up as early as 1904 but has been confused with *S. calliplaca*. It is distributed around the Atherton Tableland region and near the coast from Mossman Gorge in the north to Mission Beach in the south.
- 5) Eungella N.P. No specimens were found on the top of the Range but *S. calliplaca* occurred in rainforest at Finch Hatton Gorge. This is a new locality for the species, well north of its previously known limit at Byfield. The species extends

from here south to Elizabeth Beach N.S.W.

6) Joalah N.P. I made five visits to this locality because it was designated as the type locality for *S. calliplaca*. Moths were only taken on one occasion, which was immediately after heavy rain.

Lodgement of Specimens

The holotype of 'species a' will be deposited in the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), Canberra. Paratypes will be lodged there also, and in the Queensland Museum, British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London and National Arthropod Collection, Auckland.

The majority of specimens taken on my survey will be kept at ANIC.

Voucher specimens of all species will also be placed in the Queensland Museum.

Comments

As a result of this research, a total of nine species of *Micropterigidae* are now known from Australia, four of these in Queensland, five in N.S.W. (One overlaps both States) and one in Tasmania. Only three of these are described (all from Qld.). They are restricted to rainforest.

These extremely ancient moths, with fossils known from the *L. cretaceous* (100 m.y.a.) which closely resemble present day forms, were possibly more widely distributed throughout Australia in the past. Increasing aridity has forced them to contract with the rainforest to occupy the relict, patchy distribution that now pertains along the coastal strip. Much of the rainforest, especially the lowland type, has been destroyed by man; we will never know what *micropterigids* that might have been destroyed by man; we will never know what *micropterigids* that might have contained. The occurrence of 'living fossils' in Queensland rainforests indicates the importance of these forests in scientific terms and stresses the need to preserve them and research the fauna of them.

Micropterigids have poor powers of dispersal and are thus excellent indicators of biogeographical relationships. They are an old enough group to have been present in the rainforests of Gondwana prior to its break-up in the Cretaceous. In this context, we find that the dominant group of species in Australia (7 spp.) are related to one species in the north of New Zealand. There is also a very close relationship between *S. sterops* in north Queensland and an undescribed species in New Caledonia, but in general terms, the fauna of New Caledonia (21 spp.) shows far closer ties with that of New Zealand (16 spp.), than with Australia.

Publication of these results will take place in due course and copies of any relevant papers will be sent to your address.

I am most grateful for your permission to collect these insects in the national parks of Queensland.

Yours faithfully,

G.W. GIBBS

NOTE As mentioned above, this is a confidential report to the Service. Do not quote from it without first getting permission from the author, Dr G.W. Gibbs, Reader in Zoology, Victoria University of Wellington, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand.

It is interesting (and pertinent to the on-going debate on rainforest preservation) to note Dr Gibbs' comments on the value of the rainforests:

'The occurrence of 'living fossils' in Queensland rainforest indicates the importance of these forests in scientific terms and stresses the need to preserve them and research the fauna of them'.

But what infinite sadness lies behind his speculation about the long destroyed lowland rainforest:

'We will never know what *micropterigids* that might have contained'.

Not only *micropterigids*, but the whole range of life-forms that a rainforest contains: We will never know the biological riches that are now lost forever from the face of the earth for want of preserving representative samples of those forests.

H.S. Curtis

An inexperienced butcher in northern Canada was asked by a hunter to cut up and package a huge moose. Never having seen one before, the young man nonetheless managed to get it cut into pieces and to parcel and label the obvious parts: steaks, chops, ribs, etc. He had a lot of pieces left over, however, that he couldn't identify. So he parcelled each of them as well and marked them 'Mooselaneous'.

Mr J.P. McEvoy received the following letter on hold-embossed letterhead:

Rev. Paul W. Alvin
Temperance Society
Boston, Mass.

Dear Brother J.P.:

Perhaps you have heard of me and my nationwide campaign in the cause of temperance. Each year, for the past 14 years, I have made a tour of the United States and delivered a series of lectures upon the evils of drinking.

On these tours, I have been accompanied by a young friend and associate, Herman Forsyth. He was a pathetic case; a man of good family and excellent background, whose life was ruined because of excessive indulgence in whisky, gin and rum. How much better off he would have been had he given up his evil ways!

Herman would appear with me at my lectures and sit on the platform drooling at the mouth and staring at the audience with bleary, bloodshot eyes, while I would point at him as a glaring example of what drink would do.

Unfortunately, last spring Herman died. A mutual friend has given me your name and I wonder if you would care to accompany me on my fall tour and take the place of poor Herman.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Paul W. Alvin

"Service 2000"

The following is a personal glimpse of the good old NPWS on the eve of its first quarter century.

Any reference to persons living or dead is purely bad editing on the author's part.

Scene 1

National Parks Headquarters, 16th floor, National Party Building, 197 Queen Street. The office of the Acting Sub Under Director of Operations and Management.

In storms CMO/Barbecue Plates - 'Struth Stewart, it's these new self-igniting, solar-powered barbecues. They were supposed to be supplied and installed at Thornton's Beach picnic area - instead they've arrived at Thornton's Peak picnic area! What are we going to say to the Minister when he arrives to open the pebble bouncing carnival next week?!

A know tightened in A/SUDOM's stomach. He knew it had been a bad decision to bow to the pressure of the Veteran's Bushwalking Club to have a Wheelchair Lift up to Thornton's Peak. 'This would never have happened in the good old days', he mused aloud as he glanced wistfully up to the portrait of the benign figure, surrounded by curious glass artifacts, hung high up on the wall.

Scene 2

Outside the Acting Sub Under Director's office, junior staff ran busily between the public counter and the automatic permit/brochure dispenser. It had been a quiet week in comparison to last week when the machine refused to dispense grass-skiing permits as it objected to the colour and fold of the paper. The delays had offended the grass-skiing fraternity who, along with the hang gliders, metal detectors and wombat shooters, were now a powerful lobby group.

Elsewhere on the floor the Officer in Charge of Terrestrial Parks (1 000M+) conferred with his (500-100M) counterpart. 'Well Liz, this new programable laser sign router is what we've needed

all along. Isn't it a great achievement to have over the years established a universal sign system, a stylised type-face, a corporate colour identity and now we've jumped the final hurdle'. 'Ahh, yes,' replied Liz hesitantly, 'though I suspect there will still be some public resistance to re-naming all lookouts 'Python Rock', all picnic areas 'Palm Grove', and all water falls 'Big' and 'Little' falls.

'No problem' beamed OCTP (1 000+), 'Our PR guys did a great job with 'birds' and 'reptiles'. Folks these days are quite happy to go avifaunawatching, and herptofauna isn't such a mouthful. It'll be the same again'.

Scene 3

The administrative centre of the Service. Telex machines chattered, word processors spat forth copies of last weeks (and next weeks) ministerials, photocopiers whirred, clicked, hummed and broke down. The Chief Relations Officer for Underclassified Staff sat in his office running his fingers through his hair. 'I've never seen anything like it', he said. He was disrupted from his reverie by a middle-aged, bespectacled clerk who walked with a stoop to his left (caused by a permanent chip off his shoulder) who piped up with false cheer in his voice 'What's the problem, surely not more strife in Acquisitions'. He knew this couldn't be so as things couldn't get worse in Acquisitions. Ever since Roger left years ago to breed horses with longer noses, there was only one word processor left to wind up the gazettal of the Scenic Squiggle - that vast proposed dogs-hind-leg of national park stretching from Burleigh Heads to Noosa.

'No, no, of course not' replied CROUS. 'After the Director retired last week we found this memo in his out basket. The both stared at the contents in wonder.

COULD THIS BE THE END OF THE SERVICE AS WE KNOW IT, OR THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RENAISSANCE?

Paul Curtis

Damian McGreevy, who was mentioned in the last edition of 'Ringtail' with the story on the mouse who lunched at 'Jo-Jo's', is now a multi-media personality who gets more than his fair share of fan mail. This is a sample he received on 14th February, 1982.

Damian did not leave a forwarding address when he finally left for his sojourn with the BBC Natural History Unit, so your Editor will censor his mail!



DEAR DAMIAN

I WATCH YOU ON
WOMBAT ALL THE TIME. YOU MUST
BE A NICE PERSON TO HAVE ALL
THOSE ANIMALS. DO THEY ALL SLEEP
IN YOUR BED. I LIKE ANIMALS.
TOO. AT HOME I HAVE A PET PIG
CALLED PORKY. BUT MOMMY SAID
WE WILL EAT HIM AT EASTER
BECAUSE LOTS OF OUR COUSINS
ARE COMING TO STAY WITH US.
SHE PROMISED ME TO BUY ME
A DUCK WHEN WE EAT PORKY
AND I WILL NAME HIM
AFTER YOU. DAMIAN DUCK. I
HOPE YOU LIKE THIS LETTER.

SARAH

This clown
is really tickled,
And he has
good reason, too--
He gets to bring
this Valentine
To someone special
--YOU!

~~WOODRIDGE~~ WOODRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Come on up!

FOREST WEEK at O'REILLY'S

13TH/20TH Feb.
1983

The Lamington Natural History Association have written to the Service asking that their Forest Week at O'Reilly's in February 1983 be circularised to all staff. If you are interested please contact the Association direct.

Write

O'REILLY'S GUEST HOUSE
Green Mountains
via Canungra 4275

or PHONE: **(075) 451611**

STAFF

New Appointments - Salary Staff

Claude Azzopardi Ranger - Pallarenda
Paul Candlin Photograph - Head Office
Andrea Dobbyn Clerk - Head Office
Peter Harris Ranger - Cairns
Peter Hunnam Marine Park Officer - H.O.
Desleigh Lawlor Clerk Typist - Pallarenda
Dave Perkins Management Officer H.O.
Mike Pople Ranger - Charleville
Alan Rolandsen Draftsman - Head Office
Tim Vanderkop Clerk - Head Office
Glenn Wessling Draftsman - Head Office
Joe Winterton Director of Marine Parks -
Head Office
Geoff Mercer Marine Parks Officer - H.O.
David Savage Marine Parks Officer - H.O.
John Hicks Marine Parks Officer - Cairns
Norm Cornelius Marine Parks Technician -
Cairns

New Appointments - Wages Staff

Barbara Blackman - Cairns
Barbara Bryce - Moggill
Stephen Crane - Mt Glorious
Colleen Gravatt - Girraween
Greg Hinchcliffe - Carnarvon
Bronwyn Holm - Head Office
Debra Hotchkins - Moggill
Kevin Lees - Pallarenda
Peter Lehmann - Cooloola (Freshwater)
Peter MacDonald - Frazer Island
Stuart MacNab - Maiala
Frank Manthey - Charleville
Peter Milne - Lamington (Green Mts)
David Osten - Chillagoe
Robyn Piggott - Pallarenda
Don Pringle - Kondalilla
John Ravenscroft - Mt Glorious
Linden Seale - Head Office
Stephen Smith - Mt Elliott
Doug Unwin - Bunya Mountains
Greg Walker - Gympie
John Zekants - Pallarenda

Transfers

Paul Devine Cairns to St Helena
Barbara Elder Head Office to Lake Eacham
Gil Field Natural Bridge to Moggill
Bill Flenady Springbrook to Natural Bridge
Marc Hero Cooloola to Ravensbourne
Roland Howlett Charleville to Miriam Vale
Margaret Lisle Moggill to Rockhampton
Guy Thomas Mt Elliott to Cairns
Rob Atherton Pallarenda to Head Office
Des Jones Girraween to Moggill
Brett Porter Cairns to Girraween
Ed Power Brisbane to Rockhampton

Don Seton Warwick to Brisbane
Paul Sheehy Toowoomba to Lakefield
Roger Turnbull Charleville to Toowoomba



Maryborough Regional Office

The Maryborough Region is now located in the old Bank of New South Wales building on the corner of Wharf and Richmond Street. The Service purchased this building from Telecom late last year. This building was constructed in 1878 and it is of significant historical value to the Maryborough city area. The building is representative of the architecture and construction of that era. Major renovations were completed in 1976 and other alterations were carried out in 1981 to accommodate the Service's requirements.

I am sure that Tom Ryan and staff will be very happy with their new office. The phone number for Maryborough remains unaltered.

Editor

Stone the crows

On 30 July 1982, I received a call from a lady at Daisy Hill, with regard to crow problems. She was most distressed about the ever increasing number of crows which were harassing her chickens, disturbing other native fauna, eating the scraps she dumped on her compost heap, eating her chicken grain and generally hanging around with a view to causing havoc and mayhem.

The lady, speaking with an undiscernible accent, assured me that prior to her moving to that address some eight years previous, crows had never before perched, landed or so much as flew over her property and to her knowledge, had never occurred in the Daisy Hill area. The crows in question were also reeking havoc amongst the native birds and water-fowl which at this stage were nesting around a lake area at the end of her street.

'Why should such a horrible, yucky bird be allowed to blatantly interfere with native birds and animals. Why shouldn't someone shoot them all!'

I informed her that -

- i) she may be correct about the crows never before appearing at her property, but I believe that because they had been around slightly longer, there was a good chance they had.
- ii) with regard to shooting all of the crows, I stated that it wasn't Service policy to shoot things which were problems and I shed a bit of light on the situation with regard to their protection, food sources, population numbers etc. etc. etc.
- iii) with regard to the excessive numbers in her back yard, I told her to stop feeding them and they may fly away. I suggested methods of preventing the crows from getting at her compost heap, baby chickens and chicken grain.
- iv) I also mentioned that until the public became aware of their creation of suitable food sources (compost heaps with scraps, litter,

chickens, etc. etc.) and until local councils improved disposal methods at dumps, little could be done to rectify the crow problem.

The woman generally understood. However she informed me that there was no way sixteen crows were going to stop her from having her compost heap just the way she likes it.

We ended the conversation and she was quite happy and comforted in the fact that I hadn't helped her one bit!

J. McDonnell
District Wildlife Overseer

The Service now has telex machines installed in -

Cairns	48377
Townsville	47879
Rockhampton	49238
Maryborough	46525
Brisbane, HQ	44027
Moggill	44040

Remember as the ad says: Don't phone, telex it instead.

Ringtail

EDITORIAL TEAM

Graham Hudson
Joanne Shambler
Alison Curless
Robyn Kreis

