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International Crane Foundation director Dr George Archibald takes another egg from a sarus crane nest in the wetlands of Morr Morr Station, near Normanton. Each egg taken was recorded and tested to ensure it was suitable for transfer to incubators at Townsville or Baraboo, Wisconsin.

# Cranes find godmother

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is playing a vital 'godmother' role in a unique biological project on three continents.

Chicks hatched from eggs taken from sarus crane nests in north Queensland are today looking over the melting snows of Wisconsin, USA, and the wetlands of the Townsville Town Common.

One day soon their progeny may be flying in the wild over Thailand and other south-east Asian countries.

The project involves the International Crane Foundation, of Baraboo, Wisconsin, whose director Dr George Archibald is a world authority on cranes and who has helped re-establish crane populations in several countries.

Dr Archibald with Q.NPWS officers Andrew Haffenden, Peter Hensler and Keith Smith collected 36 fist-sized off-white eggs of the eastern sarus crane on Morr Morr Station, near Normanton, last month.

Station staff headed by manager Mr Bill Johnston assisted in every way.

Dr Archibald was given permission to fly 24 of the eggs in two insulated boxes warmed by hot water bottles to the United States. He took 12 brolga eggs also for comparison study.

The sarus crane, a distinctive grey bird, looks like the Australian brolga but is slightly

larger with more red skin down the neck, and has pink rather than dark legs.

The crane and the brolga breed in the wetlands of the north at the same time - January to April.

The sarus crane has been identified in Australia only in the last 20 years as the last pairs disappeared in south-east Asia.

The study of the crane and its interaction with the brolga now being undertaken is a natural test of evolutionary theory.

The National Parks Minister, Mr. Peter McKechnie, said: 'Queensland is very proud to provide the nucleus of the genetic material needed if the sarus crane is to fly again in the wild in south-east Asian countries like Thailand.

'National Parks and Wildlife Service officers are certain the collection from 60 nests studied in a small area will pose no threat to our sarus cranes which, like all native fauna, are fully protected.

'In fact, Dr Archibald feels that in time the sarus crane will become so prolific in the north that the brolga will be forced back to areas where once it was common.'

The transfer of eggs to

Wisconsin is necessary for adjustment of seasonal conditions between the hemispheres.

The eggs of mature birds eventually will be transferred to the nests of several Indian sarus cranes pinioned in Thailand. Thus the chicks will be raised in the wild environment.

The permit to export the eggs to the United States was in the name of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

At the same time, sarus crane chicks are being raised at the Q.NPWS Pallarenda, Townsville, regional centre for close study over the next four or five years.

The research in Queensland is part of the continuing long-term study of all aspects of the wetlands of north Queensland by the Service.



## Cooloola changes force plan review

A major revision of the Cooloola National Park management plan is under way by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

The revision of the 1978 plan is expected to be available for discussion primarily with local authorities within a few months.

This was announced by the Service Director, Dr Graham Saunders, in an address on Cooloola National Park — Past, Present and Future to a Cooloola Coast Visitors' Bureau seminar at Tin Can Bay.

Dr Saunders said that as a result of concerns and changes that had taken place in recent years, the original plan proposed for Cooloola was no longer adequate for the area.

In its revision, the Service would take into account many of the concerns that were expressed by local councils and the public when the first plan was presented.

He said: 'Cooloola is not an easy park to manage. Sand and salt makes demands on vehicles and other equipment. Sand erodes easily. Overhead costs are high. Fire is an ever present problem. Roads are costly to build and to maintain.

'The Service has wanted to achieve more public visitation as well as resource management, but priorities have had to be given to establishing basic infrastructures for staff and visitor management in critical areas.

'We are being presented with new demands in the form of the western catchment and its management and Elanda Plains. (Agreement has been reached with the Commonwealth for the Service to take over and manage Elanda Plains. Procedures are now in hand to include this area within the park)'

Dr Saunders said that in making the management plan revision, the Service could endeavour to accommodate expressed concerns as much as possible within the overriding responsibility of the Service in its role of managing national parks to preserve their natural conditions for present and future generations.

'We would hope to be able to present more information to the public about Cooloola, its wildlife and scenery.

'The Service has had discussions about the development of the Cooloola Way. We want to see the road developed primarily as an access that will enhance visitor opportunity to the area, not as a high speed through road.

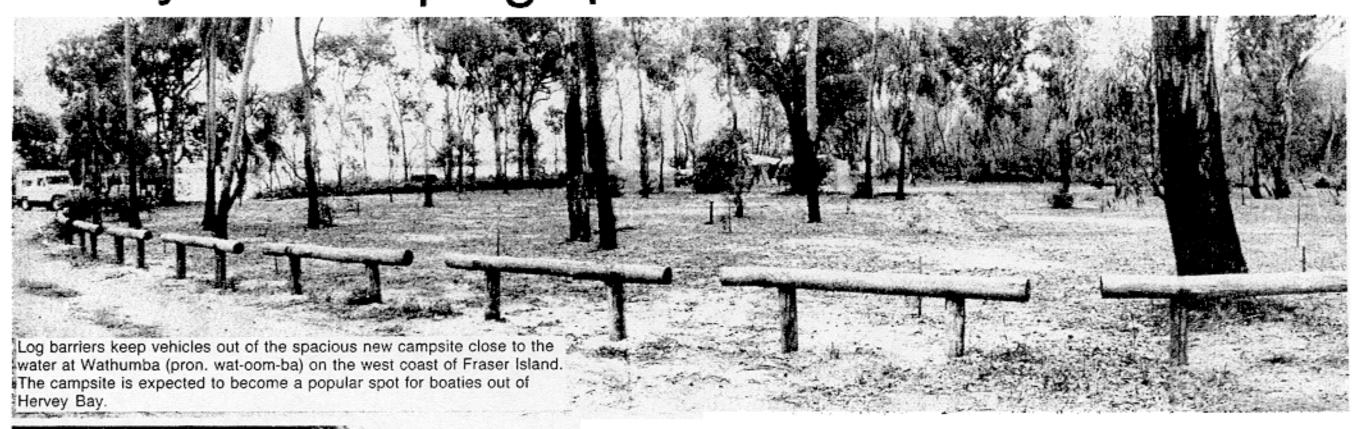
'This emphasises a conservative approach towards the development and maintenance of this road. It must be in character with the surrounding park, not an intrusion.'

Dr Saunders said the Service looked forward to working in co-operation with the local tourist industry, local government, residents and visitors in managing an outstanding gift of nature, which, when looked at objectively, had so much to offer.

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



## Plenty of camping space at Wathumba





## 'Minder' at work

'He'll be right now' said the sun-tanned man in the sweaty khakis. 'He just needs a bit of warmth until we get back to the homestead.'

With that Andrew Haffenden of teathers and legs and pressed it close to his stomach.

Minutes before, we had seen the emergence from the egg of the first eastern sarus crane chick born into captivity.

Not that it was a very gracious entry into life! Those who did not have willing hands had cameras to record the event as we sat in a trailer behind a tractor in the hot sun of Morr Morr Station, north of Normanton.

The chick had beaten the intention to take the eggs of sarus cranes for hatching at Wisconsin and Townsville for research and breeding (see Page 1).

The early hatch did not upset Andrew. He was just stirred to greater enthusiasm in his very fulltime job as animal attendant at the Service's Pallarenda regional centre.

At the homestead, out came the torn cardboard boxes, hot water bottles and towels to give his fawn and dark brown bird with orange beak and gangly legs the best possible start.

The rest of us were sent to capture live grasshoppers, frogs and any other bugs for the time in a day or so when the chick would eat.

Life is like that often for Andrew,

First flight for a sarus crane chick barely one day old in the hands of Andrew Haffenden. I looded roads necessitated a light aircraft charter.

35, 10 years on the job in Townsville where he lives in a Service house not far from 160 creatures in captivity for wildlife studies.

The Herbert River ringtail possum, the Service emblem, is one of five species of possum he look after along with 12 species of macropods and three species of birds.

'It's an interesting job,' Andrew says matter of factly. 'I spend a lot of time with the scientists.

'Once an animal is brought in I'm involved in the study project or a sub-project.

'And often the experience gained with one animal can be a good guide to the well-being of another.'

Andrew is keenest on possums and magpie geese. But he has to deal with unusual animals like the brushtailed bettong or the bridled nailtail wallaby, and the usual calls to collect and identify snakes.

Leaving work for home is not to get away from animals. Andrew's wife Susanna is an artist who chooses wildlife and plants to paint. They have a son Kaj. 2.

Andrew hopes that his involvement with the sarus crane and brolga studies will lead to a trip overseas in future to see the results of his labor in the Gulf and at Pallarenda over the next few years.

Meanwhile, Dr George Archibald is seeking special research funds for Andrew to concentrate on cranes before they write a joint paper. Don Marshall

## Early birds snap Easter bookings A new campsite for 80 people on Fraser Island is among many

A new campsite for 80 people on Fraser Island is among many changes visitors to national parks will see this year, particularly at the Easter holiday break.

The attractions of parks like Coolooia, Bunya Mountains, Carnarvon, Girraween and Lamington and the prospect of an extra long break this year resulted in all campsites at those parks being booked in a few weeks.

Some who left booking too late or those who decided just to arrive will be disappointed when they are turned away. But there are parks offering camping away from developed sites and there are other times.

The new campsite at Great Sandy National Park is at Wathumba Creek, the only large sheltered inlet on the island's western side.

The site for 20 tents is accessible by four-wheel drive vehicle from Moon Point or from the east coast, or by boat from Hervey Bay.

The area is mown, barricades, keep out vehicles, trees have been planted and water comes from taps at the end of a 2km pipe system.

A toilet and shower block has been completed for campsite guests. New campsites can be built in future should demand warrant.

The Wathumba campsite will be a feature of the Service report to the Fraser Island Recreation Management Authority set up by State Cab-net recently to coordinate the efforts of several departments.

On other parks, almost \$100,000 has been spent at Girraween, south of Stanthorpe.

More than \$50,000 has been spent re-developing the main Bald Rock Creek campground forming 33 campsites plus a large open area for group camping, toilet block painting, replacing barbecues, installing new tables, improving drainage and extending tap water.

The Pyramid track has been realigned and regraded.

Service staff have moved into the ranger centre in Mt Tempest National Park, Moreton Island, near where Middle Road reaches the west coast beach.

This will facilitate the Service presence on the island, particularly as campsite work is extended.

The campsite at Green
Mountains, O'Reillys,
Lamington National Park, is
being re-developed as weather
permits, as is Cedar Creek
National Park picnic ground,
Tamborine Mountain.

Those who venture to Carnarvon will notice much rehabilitation work around the popular Gorge campground.

In the north, the Bowling Green Bay — Mt Elliot National Park near Townsville will have a campground with 20 sites reopening on 26 March.

Many other major parks have improvements to tracks and signage as a result of wage pause funding last year.

The State Government has allocated a further \$200,000 to subsidise roadworks to improve access to parks in the next few months.

Parks affected include Carnarvon, Crows Nest Fails, Mossman Gorge, Mt Elliot, Cooloola, and Blackdown Tableland.

## By the tail...

Ponder this message in a brochure to visitors to Sagarmatha (Mt Everest) National Park in Nepal: Let no one say, and say it to your shame, that all was beauty here until you came.

Sorry about the free hot shower you were expecting at the Bunyas recently. Excessive use overloaded the drainage trenches and the hot water unit so the system had to be turned off. The problem is being investigated.

District ranger Paul Grimshaw was overheard saying to a fellow worker at Picnic Rock at Lamington recently: 'See that lone tree left standing there? A man once hung himself on that overhanging limb.' After a suitable pause, he continued: 'Surely you've heard of The Hanging at Picnic Rock?'

A back pack suitable for a day's walk in a park is difficult to find. Jim the Backpacker has on sale at his Queens Arcade, Queen Street, Brisbane, store a new type he has imported with large and small pockets zipped with padded straps. The pack comes in two sizes, \$35 and \$40, and in various colours.

Channel 7 State Affair crew on Heron Island recently needed a quick lesson in natural history. They were filming turtle research at night and were estatic about some great shots of a turtle returning to the water after nesting. Trouble was their subject revealed on replay was a large male!

Special sticker on Service mail these days proclaims Queensland's 125th anniversary of statehood of 6 June. The sticker is a timely promotion of the Queensland Day Committee.

A reminder that Fleay's Fauna Centre, West Burleigh, taken over by the Service last year, is closed for redevelopment. Prospective visitors are still being disappointed at the gate.

'A week of Fraser Island and the environment' will be the theme for activities at the Orchid Beach resort from 10-16 June. Service officers now arranging the program with managing director Keith Leach will participate in activities like guided walks, talks, slide shows, canoeing and fishing. Write to the resort, Mail Bag 4, Maryborough, or phone 011 and ask for Orchid Beach 2.

## Islands are so special

Within the Maritime Estate, islands are perhaps the most important and vulnerable natural feature. Such islands include the coral cays of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the continental islands closer inshore adjacent to the Queensland coast.

These two island types have different origins and different ecologies. The coral cays are generally small low islands of sand or coralline rubble from the reef on which the cay is located.

The vegetation of these small islands is composed of plants adapted to a windy, dry, and salty environment.

This vegetation often forms a limited forest in the centre of which some large trees may grow. A rather special tree characteristic of cays at the southern end of the Barrier Reef is Pisonia grandis.

The pisonia is special for two main reasons. Its beauty makes the islands on which it grows green shady havens, cool retreats on a hot summer day.

The large light green leaves delight the eye and contrast sharply with the often intense glare of beaches.

The biological significance of pisonia trees lies in their relationship with a nesting sea bird, the white-capped noddy (Anous minutus). These birds often nest in pisonia trees in tens of thousands.

The continuous droppings thus enrich the sandy soil with vital nutrients. The tree provides the bird with a nesting site and materials and the bird provides the tree with nutrients to sustain its growth.

The continential islands have a direct relationship to the mainland. They are remnants of mainland peaks and hills isolated by a rising sea level thousands of years ago. The flora and fauna is similar to that of the mainland.

Each island type possesses its own biological and aesthetic characteristics. Islands are of interest scientifically for a number of reasons.

They are refuges for plants and animals relatively untouched by human development and increasingly, islands represent isolated pockets of natural plants and animals. However, some islands are now threatened by human disturbance and development.

Small islands may represent ecologically fragile communities of plants and animals. Because of their size and stress of an often harsh environment, human interference can be very damaging. The loss of a few trees in strategic places can allow sunlight and salt laden air to penetrate the forest bringing about changes.

Human activity, if too great, can drive away shy ground nesting birds such as terns, or island birds including sea eagles.

Perhaps the greatest value of islands lies not in their scientific interests, but in their aesthetic quality.

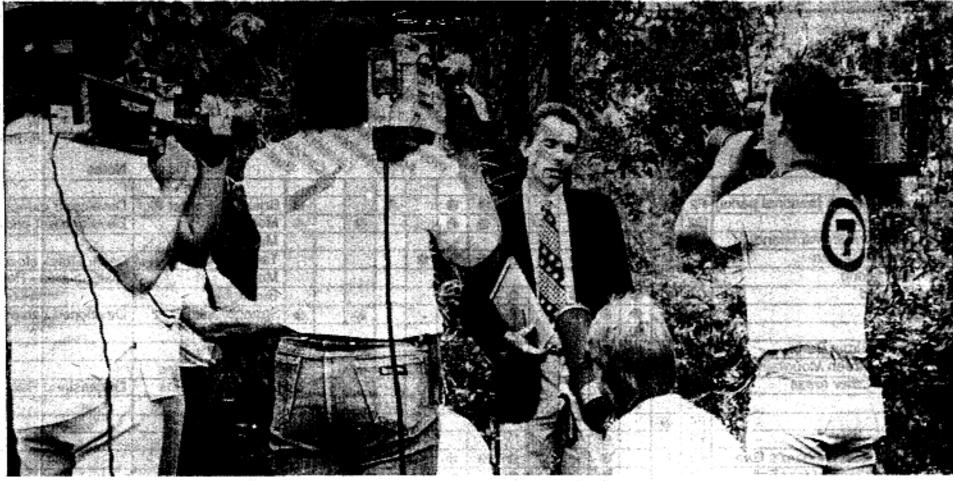
In a world where natural areas of beauty are being destroyed at an accelerating rate, islands are increasingly refugees of natural beauty, places of unique charm.

Islands possess special characteristics that people are learning to value. These isloated fragments of land separated by the ever restless sea are a special combination of forest and beach, foreshore and headland.

By now the importance of islands to the Maritime Estate should be obvious. We are the caretakers of a precious heritage whose value is steadily increasing.

Islands are a special category within the Maritime Estate. Islands are special places. I know. I lived on islands for 10 years.

Steven Domm Management Officer, Rockhampton



Centre of media attention in Brisbane was Q.NPWS Cairns regional director Mr Peter Stanton. He had received the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Fred M. Packard merit award for service to the conservation of nature. He is the first Australian to receive the award.

## Regional directors in posts

Four most experienced officers have been named as Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service regional directors.

They are Mr Peter Stanton (Far Northern Region based in Cairns), Mr Bill Fisher (Northern Region based in Townsville), Mr Terry Vowles (Central Region based in Rockhampton) and Mr Noel Dawson (Southern Region based at Moggill).

The positions are being taken up this month in one of the most major

changes in the Service re-organisation begun last year.

Mr Stanton is an Australian National University forestry graduate.

He left the Forestry Department national parks section in 1975 to become a consultant and was appointed Service senior botanist in 1978. He transferred to Cairns in 1979.

In his spare time, Mr Stanton is a competition runner. He and his wife have three boys who are also keen athletes and swimmers.

Mr Fisher holds an ANU forestry.

honours degree and is a Master of Natural Resources from the University of New England.

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He joined the Service from Forestry in 1980 and has worked at Yeerongpilly and Moggill.

He and his wife have two boys. Mr Fisher is a Cub Leader and practises karate.

Mr Noel Dawson, a Master of Agricultural Science, has served the Department of Primary Industries since 1964.

Recently, he has been Director of the Land Resources Branch responsible for evaluation and planning over much of the State.

He and his wife have three girls and enjoy camping in national parks near Brisbane when not surfing.

Mr Vowles joined the Forestry Department in 1966 after completing his B.Sc (Forestry) honours degree at ANU.

He has served in several areas besides Brisbane, and has been in charge of the computer section and in resources and marketing.

He and his wife have two children. He enjoys fishing, golf and woodwork.



Mr Fisher



Mr Dawson



Mr Vowles

### Guide to parks, camping

An up-to-date listing of the attractions and facilities of the most popular national parks and environmental parks is summarised on the following pages.

Features of many of the parks are outlined, the locations of the major parks are shown on the map, and details given about facilities and the offices concerned.

Addresses and telephone numbers are given on the back page.

These pages incorporate a guide to camping in the national park system.

A written permit to camp is required for camping on any national park in Queensland.

A site booking system operates to ensure the visitor a site is available before he travels to his destination.

An application for a site should reach the booking office listed not earlier than 12 weeks or less than six weeks before the proposed date of arrival.

The application in writing should include the group leader's name, address and vehicle registration number, the number in the party, the date of expected arrival and proposed duration of stay, the number and type

of camping structures and or vehicles, the proposed camping area, whether the group is from a club or organisation and if so, which one, and whether an alternate date or area in the park would be acceptable.

You must include a self-addressed envelope for the notification of whether a campsite is available.

This will be sent at least four weeks before the visit.

Late applications for sites in writing, by telephone or in person will be considered only if a site is available within the camping area.

Visitors should be aware that the more popular national park camping areas like Freshwater and Double Island Point, Green Mountains, Bunya Mountains, Girraween and Carnarvon Gorge are often fully booked at peak holiday times.

Whether you book ahead or make a late application, you require a camping permit from the ranger on the park.

Where the park is unstaffed, your permit will be forwarded to you with your site notification.

If you change your plans or find you have double booked, please notify the booking office to allow reallocation of the site.

There is no fee for site booking or a camping permit,

If you reach a camping ground in the late afternoon or at night when no ranger is on duty, set up your camp in a vacant space.

Your booked space can be determined next day. If you have not booked a site, and all have been taken, be prepared to move on perhaps to another park.

Service rangers are praised often for their ingenuity in making arrangements satisfactory to all visitors.

Please appreciate that some national parks, because of their size, location use or environmental importance, are not available for camping.

In some areas, road access for vehicles is provided and facilities developed.

In others, the park has been left undeveloped to provide a more primitive camping experience.

Backpack camping is prohibited within 2km of developed camping grounds, graded tracks and roads.

Park rangers have details of other conditions of the privilege to camp designed to protect the natural environment.

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## Guide to national parks

#### Maiala (1140ha)

This popular park on the D'Aguilar Range 42km north-west of Brisbane is managed as part of the 25,000ha Brisbane Forest Park. The park is ideal for day visits and picnicking, and offers scenic views of the coastal plain and walks through a variety of forest communities. Manorina (with overnight camping), Jolly's Lookout and Boombana are other national parks along the Mt Nebo Mt Glorious road.

#### Mt Tempest (Moreton Is) (9360ha)

Mt Tempest (285m), reputed to be the highest coastal sand dune in the world, crowns this large island composed almost entirely of sand. Park areas now cover 58 percent of the island and include wind-blown sand, heath, swamp and forests. A management centre and campgrounds with facilities are being developed. Access is via vehicular ferries, for off-road vehicles, a fast passenger ferry or light aircraft.

#### Blue Lake (501ha)

This lake is a water table window in a sand dune about 10km east of Dunwich accessible by fourwheel drive vehicle only from the main coast road followed by a short walk. Eucalpyt woodland surrounds the lake which is popular for day visits. Access via vehicular ferries from Redland Bay and Cleveland.

#### Tamborine Mountain

On and around this distinctive plateau 70km south of Brisbane are a series of relatively small national and environmental parks preserving some of the mountain's natural features of forest and waterfalls. All are popular with day visitors and most have facilities. Cedar Creek (230ha), Joalah (36ha), The Knoll (Henderson's Knob) (85ha), Witches Falls (131ha), Palm Grove (117ha), McDonald Park (12ha) and Macrozamia Grove (Franklin Park) (7ha) all have their own interesting features.

#### Burleigh Head (24ha)

This complex of vegetation types including rainforest, open eucalypt forest, tussock grassland and pandanus is a landmark area in the sweep of the highly urbanised Gold Coast. Walking tracks lead to lookouts and pleasant places of

#### Springbrook

A series of four parks help comprise a green mountain backdrop to the Gold Coast. Warrie (599ha) offers extensive walks past waterfalls and through forests to lookouts. Gwongorella (534ha) has tall eucalypts with rainforest gullies. Wunburra (140ha) is an area of wet eucalypt forest. Mt Cougal (788ha) is an undeveloped area for adventure bushwalking and spectacular views along the border.

#### Natural Arch (212ha)

This interesting natural formation caused by cascading waters is set in an area of dense rainforest high in the Numinbah Valley. The park is popular for day visits but only the night time visitor sees glow-worms in the cave under the

#### Lamington (20 200ha)

Rainforest, eucalypt forest and heathland, magnificent views and series of waterfalls are features of this major park some 100km south of Brisbane. Extensive walking tracks and picnic facilities are provided in areas but others are reached only on bushwalking excursions. Access is via Binna Burra in the north-east, Green Mountains - O'Reilly's in the north-west, and several roads and tracks in the west and south.

#### Mt French (63ha)

This 468m peak near Boonah has a road to the top to picnic areas, walking tracks and lookouts. Several rock faces are used to learn and test climbing techniques.

#### Mt Barney (11400ha)

This landmark double peak (1360m) with nearby Mt Lindesay (1191m) and Mt Maroon (965m) are undeveloped areas of eucalypts and rainforest among a variety of natural features exciting bushwalkers and climbers. Reach the area via Rathdowney, 100km south of Brisbane.

#### Cunningham's Gap

Part of the 10,500ha Main Range National Park with Mt Mitchell and Mt Cordeaux forming the sides of the gap through which runs the busy Cunningham Highway. Walking tracks pass through eucalypt forest and rainforest and there are several picnic areas and lookouts. Popular for day visits from Brisbane, Ipswich and Warwick with overnight camping.

#### Girraween (11400ha)

Massive granite tors and outcrops tower over a diverse and often dense vegetation of eucalypts, flowering shrubs and herbs in this park 30km south of Stanthorpe. Camping facilities allow for long days walking to see birds and wildflowers in season, and swimming in creeks and holes in summer. At elevations about 1000m. temperatures are often much lower than expected. Bald Rock National Park in New South Wales adjoins.

#### Sundown (6680ha)

Rugged gorges leading to the Severn River are a feature of this park reached via Stanthorpe or via Ballandean. Dense forests of cypress pine and eucalypts cover hill slopes. Facilities at campsites are being extended as the park's popularity grows.

#### Kondalilla (75ha)

A waterfall dropping more than 100m is a feature of this rainforest park off the Maleny-Mapleton road. Tracks lead from a popular picnic area to the top and bottom of the falls and a swimming

#### Mapleton Falls (26ha)

Scenic views, the falls and walks through rainforest and eucalypt forest make this another popular picnic spot 24km west of Nambour just off the Mapleton-Kenilworth road.

#### Ravensbourne (100ha)

This park off the Hampton-Esk road north-east of Toowoomba preserves a remnant of the wetsclerophyll and rainforest vegetation which once covered the surrounding countryside. Ideal for a picnic and a walk.

#### Crows Nest Falls (949ha)

A two-part park north and south of Perserverence Creek Dam east of Crows Nest. The waterfall in the north tumbles into a steep granite gorge with mixed vegetation. A picnic area and swimming holes make the park ideal for day trips.

#### Bunya Mountains (11700ha)

An expanse of coniferous rainforest and grassy balds on the Great Dividing Range crest between Dalby and Kingaroy. Two developed campgrounds and a network of tracks make this a popular area to visit through winter nights at about 1000m elevation can be cold. Road access from Kingaroy, Maidenwell and Jondaryan.

#### Noosa (382ha)

One of the most popular parks offering coastal scenery with mixed communities including dune vegetation, heath and rainforest growing on sand. Walking tracks and picnic areas. Adjacent to Noosa Heads township.

#### Cooloola (39 400ha)

A vast sandy area encompassing a range of vegetation types from heathland to rainforest. Ocean beaches, freshwater lakes and coloured sands add to the variety. Access is by boat from Boreen Point, four-wheel drive vehicle on Tewantin ferry, by a special road for conventional vehicles to the Freshwater camp, and by fourwheel drive to the Double Island Point camp.

#### Great Sandy (Fraser Is) (52 400ha)

The park preserves most of the northern end of the largest sand island in the world. Included are eucalypt woodland, heath and swamp vegetation which should be seen in conjunction with state forest reserves to the south. Two developed campsites. Access from Urangan and Rainbow Beach and by light aircraft.

#### Woodgate (5498ha)

Pleasant beach scenery backed by a series of sand dunes and vegetation types make this park attractive for weekend visits and holidays. Wallum heath provides wildflower displays in season. Access via Goodwood.

#### North Keppel Island (580ha)

Most popular of a group of continental island parks about 25km off Yeppoon. Open eucalypt forest with some pandanus along the coast with tussock grassland on exposed windward sides." Popular for fishing and camping holidays. Launch service from Rosslyn Bay.

#### Heron Island (Capricorn Group) (12ha) Greater part of this coral cay is national park

with total protection for animal and plant life marine and terrestrial. Rookery for turtles and nesting area for seabirds. Access by helicopter or boat to the tourist resort and research station. No camping.

#### North-West Island (Capricorn Group) (94ha) Typical coral cay with pisonia, pandanus and casuarina vegetation about 75km north-east of Gladstone. Seabird nesting site and turtle rookery. Popular camping spot for self-sufficient groups. Minimum facilities. Reached by charter boat from Gladstone or Rosslyn Bay.

Lady Musgrave Island (Bunker Group) (20ha) True coral cay with a large surrounding reef 115km east of Gladstone. Popular safe anchorage with camping except bird nesting season 1 October to 28 February. Ideal for diving and snorkeling. Access by charter boat from Bundaberg or Gladstone.

#### Carnarvon (217 000ha)

A combination of four areas, Carnarvon Gorge, Mt Moffatt, Salvator Rosa and Ka Ka Mundi, in the central highlands sandstone belt. Features include a variety of vegetation, spectacular escarpments and gorges, and relics of Aboriginal culture. Resort near the Gorge, Self-contained groups may explore extensive areas rarely visited by man.

#### Blackdown Tableland (23 800ha) Sandstone plateau at the junction of three

ranges reached by road off the Capricorn Highway near Dingo. This park with waterfalls, a variety of vegetation and sandstone cliffs is run in conjunction with the Forestry Department. Popular camping and picnic spot distinctly cooler. than the surrounding plains.

#### Cape Hillsborough (816ha)

Coastal park of hoop pine rainforest and open eucalypt forest with fringing mangrove areas. Popular for nature study and recreation 45km from Mackay via the Seaforth road.

#### Isla Gorge (7800ha)

This park preserves a deeply dissected sandstone range vegetated with eucalypts and wildflowers with heavy stands of softwood scrub and some brigalow on the lower flats. Suitable for self-contained bushwalking groups. By the Taroom-Theodore road.

#### Simpson Desert (555 000ha)

The State's largest national park west of Birdsville complementary to an even larger conservation park in South Australia. Preserves dunefields and spinifex open-hummock grassland with some shrubs and a distinctive wildlife habitat. Suitable for the well-equipped, careful and adventurous.

#### Eungella (49 610ha)

Large area of tropical rainforest with some grassy eucalypt woodland west of Mackay. Most is inaccessible except to experienced bushwalkers. Tracks at Broken River pass through rainforest and lead to points of interest. Ideal for day picnics and limited camping.

#### Conway (23 800ha)

This park of tall lowland rainforest, tall eucalypt forest and coastal scenery forms the mainland edge of Whitsunday Passage. Walking tracks are limited to the northern end around the camping area on the Airlie Beach-Shute Harbour road.

#### Whitsunday Passage Islands

A large group of continental islands some of which are developed extensively for tourist activities. Fringing reefs, rocky outcrops and rainforest make many difficult even for bushwalkers. Whitsunday (10,930ha) is by far the largest. North Molle (259ha) and Hook (5180 ha) are also popular. Access is by launch from Shute Harbour and the resorts of Lindeman, Long and South Molle Islands, and by air.

Bowling Green Bay (Mt Elllot) (55 300ha) Area of extensive lowlands of relatively low rainfall. The upper slopes of Mt Elliot include the southern limit of the tropical rainforest belt. Reach the Alligator Creek camping and picnic area from the Bruce Highway 25km south of Townsville.

#### Magnetic Island (2533ha)

A major part of this continental island off Townsville is national park. It features boulder strewn hillsides with hoop pine and eucalypt forest with 22km of walking track. Habitat for koalas. No camping. Regular ferry service.

#### Crystal Creek — Mt Spec (7224ha)

This park along part of the Paluma Range near Townsville includes rainforest and eucalypt forest. Picnic areas and walking tracks are reached from the Bruce Highway.

#### Jourama Falls (1070ha)

Series of cascades over salmon coloured granite amid lush greenery with eucalypt forest surrounds. Popular picnic area off the Bruce Highway 35km south of Ingham.

#### Wallaman Falls (602ha)

One of a number of parks featuring gorge scenery and falls on the Herbert River and its tributaries inland from Ingham. Wallaman (278m) is the largest single drop waterfall in Australia. Popular camping and picnic area.

#### Dunk Island (730ha)

Most of this island named by Captain Cook is national park. The rest is a holiday resort where an attempt is made to preserve the rainforest and open forest immortalised by author E. J. Banfield. Access by launch from Clump Point, via Tully, and by air. Dunk and nearby island national parks are suitable for day visits.

#### Edmund Kennedy (Cardwell) (6200ha) Explorer Edmund Kennedy traversed this area

on his ill-fated 1848 expedition. Mangroves. dense rainforest, tea-tree — sedge associations, fan palm and sword grass swamps make up an outstanding park between the Bruce Highway and the coast. Suitable for picnics and camping.

#### Hinchinbrook Island (39 350ha)

Largest of the island national parks separated from the mainland by a drowned river valley. Rugged rocky mountains, waterfalls, beaches, rainforest, mangroves and tall eucalypt forest make this a valuable part of the national park estate. Launches travel from Cardwell and Lucinda Point.

#### Mt Hypipamee (The Crater) (364ha)

Geological curiosity similar to a volcanic crater and while solidified volcanic ash is present, the sides are of granite, a rock not directly associated with eruptive volcanic activity. Rainforest and eucalypt forest too. By the Kennedy Highway between Atherton and Ravenshoe.

#### Bellenden Ker (31 000ha) Undeveloped park covering the eastern slopes of

the Bellenden Ker Range and including Queensland's highest mountain, Mt Bartle Frere (1657m). Numerous waterfalls and streams flow through dense upland rainforest, the habitat of many mammals, including the tree kangaroo, birds and reptiles endemic to Queensland. Josephine Falls in the south is a popular day picnic spot reached from the Bruce Highway south of Miriwinni.

#### Palmerston (2556ha)

Walking tracks from the Palmerston Highway between Innisfail and Ravenshoe lead to many waterfalls set in luxuriant rainforest on the Johnstone River, Popular for picnics.

#### Davies Creek (486ha)

This park preserves an area of eucalypt forest growing on granite soils. The creek tumbles over a 100m waterfall into a deep valley. Wildflowers in spring. Reached from the Kennedy Highway.

#### Millstream Falls (372ha)

An open eucalypt area crossed by a bottlebrush bordered stream and featuring one of the widest falls in Australia (65m). A small camping area nearby. Reached 1km off the Ravenshoe-Mt Garnet road.

#### Lake Eacham (490 ha)

This is a maar, a lake in the cone of an extinct volcano, surrounded by rainforest in which might be seen the musk rat kangaroo, carpet python, water dragon and Ulysses blue butterfly. For picnics, swimming and walking. Near Yungaburra.

#### Lake Barrine (491ha)

Another crater lake just off the Gillies Highway 6km from Lake Eacham. A 5km track circles the lake giving excellent opportunities for nature study in the rainforest.

#### Barron Gorge (2784ha)

River bed of the Barron River drops 260m into the rainforest covered gorge seen by travelling on the Cairns-Kuranda railway which winds up the garge. Most water is held for irrigation or diverted for power generation before the falls.

#### Chillagoe-Mungana Caves

A series of reserves for limestone caves, some of considerable size. Regular guided walks are offered through three, Royal Arch, Tower of London and Donna, and Ryan Imperial. Donna Cave is lit to highlight cave decorations. Reached by road from Mareeba.

#### Green Island (7ha)

Most of this coral cay and surrounding reef is national park with total protection of all features. A walking track passes through varied vegetation. Launches make regular trips from Cairns. Overnight accommodation is available.

#### Daintree (56 450ha)

Extensive undeveloped national park drained by many tributaries of the Daintree River. Variety ofvegetation types but broad areas of tropical rainforest. For the self-sufficient bushwalker out of Mossman or Daintree.

#### Cape Tribulation (17 100ha)

A vehicle ferry at the Daintree River crossing provides access to this important area of coastal rainforest. Camping areas at Noah's Beach and at Cape Tribulation are popular.

#### Lizard Island (1012ha)

This continental island almost surrounded by fringing reefs is difficult of access some 120km north-north-east of Cooktown. An airstrip is used to service a tourist resort and a research station. A walking track leads to the peak where Captain Cook stood to seek a passage through the outer Barrier Reef. An unusually large variety of plant and animal species.

#### Lakefield (528 000ha)

Extensive example of peninsula country with vegetation ranging from fringing rainforest, stringbybark forest and paperback woodland to mangroves, mudflats and open grassy plains and swamps. Natural habitat for many species of birds and also freshwater and estuarine crocodiles. Impassable in the wet.

#### Iron Range (34 600ha)

True wilderness area of world significance containing the largest area of lowland rainforest remaining in Australia as well as mangroves, heathlands and open forest. The Janet and Tozer Ranges, coastal scenery and the variety of forest and wildlife impress visitors.

#### Archer Bend (166 000ha)

The Archer River and tall vine forests which line it are features of this park on the western side of the peninsula. Swamps and lagoons are home to many ducks, pelicans and other waterfowl. Freshwater crocodiles are common in the river.

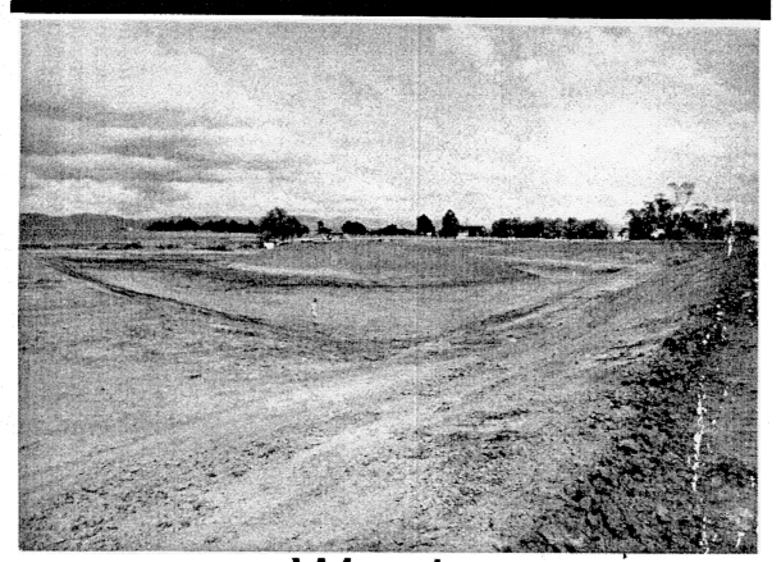
#### Rokeby-Croll Creek (291 000ha)

An extensive area stretching from the McIlwraith Range to the Archer River flood plain preserving a variety of peninsula vegetation types and hosting some rare and beautiful birdlife and freshwater crocodiles. Visit in the dry only.

#### Jardine River (235 000ha)

This park covers most of the catchments of the largest perennial stream in Queensland, a true wilderness with a variety of vegetation types including rainforest, open forest, heath and shrubland with a corresponding variety of fauna. not fully recorded. To be seen by the adventurous in the dry.

## Dam practical



The Service's rural nature conservation project is having a very practical close-to-home start as this picture shows.

This is a large farm dam adjacent to the Q.NPWS and Department of Primary Industries research stations at the Hermitage, near Warwick.

Officers convinced the DPI to have the Water Resources Commission to redesign the dam to provide for a large

# Word out to farmer

island in the middle of the dam to encourage a range of wildlife when the dam is full.

The change did not increase

the construction cost of the 24 megalitre dam.

Several thousand copies of a colour brochure on RNC were sent to Darling Downs landholders recently as a first step to encourage nature-minded people to share their experiences and knowledge with others.

Mr Stuart James has been appointed chief management officer, rural nature conservation, in the Service.

**Publications** 

# In the cause of nature

A range of information brochures produced by the Service are among nature-oriented publications issued recently.

Among them are the Magnetic Island and Bellenden Ker National Parks visitor information sheets, the Tamborine Mountain walking track guide, Aboriginal Rock Art, Carnarvon, the Central Coast bird key, and Birds of Cairns City Foreshore.

Another half a dozen Service publications including reprints of some very popular walking track guides should be printed and available by Easter.

The second annual report of the Raine Island Corporation was presented to Parliament in February. Limited copies are available on request to the Service.

Supplies of the Service single sheet calendar for 1984 are available free on request to most Service offices.

The World Wildlife Fund Australia will benefit from some of the royalties paid to author Vincent Serventy for a series of books for children called Animals in the Wild.

The Australian titles of koala, kookaburra, kangaroo and penguin follow the first four of panda, monkey, tiger and elephant. Each sells for \$2.95.

Sydney publisher John Ferguson Pty Ltd has another eight in preparation including whales and dolphins, parrots, snakes, and crocodiles and alligators.

On the Edge of Wilderness — Wild Places near Brisbane is a first rate publication by the author Robert Rankin, and by now you will be lucky to find a copy in the shops at \$19.95.

His pictures in colour and black and white and maps combine well with an unusual division of text covering the Scenic Rim, Glasshouse Mountains, Moreton Island and Cooloola. Robert's personal experience in this area of Queensland shows in the same way as his specialist calendars.

Department of Primary botanists
Trevor Stanley and Estelle Ross
have produced the first of three
proposed volumes on the Flora of
South-eastern Queensland. Copies
are available from the department
at \$20 each.

'Aboriginal Pathways of South-east Queensland: and Richmond River' by Dr John Steele (University of Queensland Press \$29.95) is a different look at the past where many national parks exist today.

#### Junior Ranger corner

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Many animals are getting ready to migrate for the winter.

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Many park camping grounds may be booked out over the holidays.

## Two messages

Hello Junior Rangers,

This time we have two secret messages. To find out what they are find the letter (ABC etc) in the message in the down column, then move across until you are under the number in the across column. The letter you find there is the letter for that word in the message.

For instance the first letter is A7. In the A column find the letter numbered 7. Your first letter has been found. It is M. The message is upside down.

Over the Christmas holidays I visited several national parks and observed and helped with the Junior Ranger programs.

What an enthusiastic group of children they are. One group at Green Mountains, Lamington National Park, and Ranger Gil took the magic ball and went looking for little rotters (things that help dead plants decompose (or rot)).

They found a most marvellous lizard. At first they thought it was a snake and it had very

small legs. It was a 'legless lizard'. It is actually a skink with reduced limbs so it is not really legless.

Its legs are so tiny you hardly notice them and they have only three toes on each foot. It burrows under rocks and fallen timber.

It's name was Anomalopus verreauxii. It was a blacky color and resembled a snake.

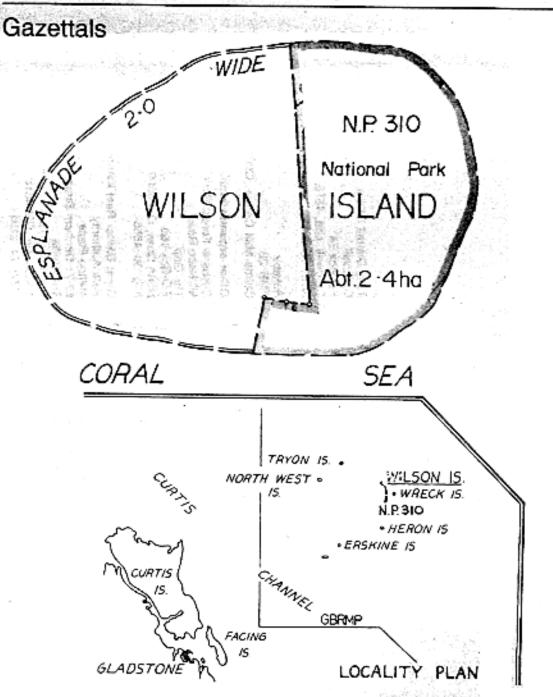
Another common legless lizard, often killed for a snake, is Burton's legless lizard. If you look closely at this one you see it has a very pointed nose which no snake has. It is also greyish in color.

Most snakes are green, brown or black not grev.

Have any of you ever seen a legless lizard? If so tell me about it.

Look hard

Ranger Frances



Part of Wilson Island, one of the important islands of the Great Barrier Reef, is now national park.

Gazettal of the 308th national park in Queensland was a feature of estate changes in the last quarter.

Wilson Island is a 5.5 hectare sand and shingle coral cay in the Capricorn group 90 km north-east of Gladstone and about 15km north of Heron Island.

The park area of 2.4ha preserves pandanus and is a significant haven for many species of sea birds including roseate and blacknaped terns.

The island is also a small but significant nesting area for turtles.

# Wilson is park

An exchange of land enabled gazettal of a 32.7ha addition to Mt Bauple National Park between Gympie and Maryborough.

The land is the last remaining major area of pristine rainforest near Mt Bauple and had long been sought for addition to the 505ha national park.

The 6.5ha Sheep Island, a tidal mangrove island in the Noosa River adjacent to Tewantin, is now environmental park.



Toowoomba

PO Box 407

(076) 38 1897

### Where to find us

Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts 6th floor Comalco House cnr George and Ann Sts Brisbane PO Box 155 North Quay, Old 4000 (07) 227 6181

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service 5th, 6th and 7th floors MLC Centre 239 George Street, Brisbane PO Box 190 North Quay, Qld 4000

Southern Region Southern Regional Centre 55 Priors Pocket Road Moggill PO Box 42

(07) 224 0414

Natural Arch

Moreton Island

Cowan Cowan

(075) 48 2710

(075) 33 5147

Kondalilla Falls

Nambour, Qld 4560

Nambour, Old 4560

via Montville

Mapleton Falls

Falls Road

Mapleton

MS 956

Flaxton

MS 956

Springbrook

Tamborine

via Tangalooma

Moreton Island, Qld 4004

via Mudgeeraba, Old 4215

via Nerang, Qld 4211 (075) 33 6156

Kenmore, Qld 4069 (07) 202 7000 Burleigh Head 6 Peggs Road Burleigh Heads, Qld 4220 (075) 35 3183

Sundown Fleay's Fauna Centre Kabool Street West Burleigh, Qld 4219 (067) 37 5235

Lamington Scenic Rim Binna Burra Mt French Road Beechmont Boonab via Nerang, Qld 4211 MS 161 (075) 33 3584 Green Mountains via Canungra, Old 4275

(075) 45 1734 Alfred Street Charleville Mt Glorious c/- Post Office PO Box 149 Mt Nebo, Old, 4520 (07) 289 0122 (074) 54 1279

> Maryborough PO Box 101, Maryborough, Qld 4650

> > Gympie District Office Lands Office Building 27 Shannon Street PO Box 350

Knoll Road North Tamborine Woodgate c/- Post Office c/- Post Office Tamborine North, Old 4272 (075) 45 1171

> Noosa Park Road (071) 47 3243

Sir Thomas Hiley Information Centre (Kinaba) Q.NPWS Box

Toowoomba Sub-Regional 142 Margaret Street Toowoomba, Qld 4350

Hermitage Research Station via Warwick, Old 4370 (076) 61 3710

Cunninghams Gap Cunningham Highway via Maryvale MS 394 Warwick, Qld, 4370 (076) 66 1133

Granite Belt District Office Girraween Wyberba via Ballandean, Old 4382 (076) 84 5157

Lake Broadwater PO Box 401 Dalby, Old 4405 (074) 63 3562 Crows Nest

ck 33 South Street Crows Nest 4355

via Glenlyon Dam Road via Stanthorpe, Qld 4380

Boonah, Qld 4310 (075) 63 1579 (after 6pm)

South-west District Office Charleville, Qld 4470

Maryborough Sub-Regional Office onr Wharf and Richmond Sts

(071) 22 2455

Gympie, Qld, 4570 (071) 82 4189

Woodgate, Old 4660 (071) 26 8810

Noosa Heads, Qld 4567

Boreen Point, Qld 4568 (071) 49 7364

Bunya Mountains MS501 via Dalby, Qld 4405 (074) 68 3127

Mon Repos c/- Turtle Sands Caravan Park Mon Repos Beach Bargara, Old 4670

Central Region Central Regional Centre 212 Quay Street Rockhampton Marine Parks office Royal Bank Building 194 Quay Street Rockhampton PO Box 1362 Rockhampton, Qld 4700 (079) 27 6511

Mackay District Office Court House Victoria Street Mackay PO Bax 582 Mackay, Qld 4740 (079) 57 6292

Biackdown Tableland via Dingo, Old 4702

Cape Hillsborough MS 895 Seaforth, Old, 4741 (079) 59 0222

Carnarvon Carnarvon Gorge via Rolleston, Old 4702 Mt Molfatt via Mitchell Qld 4465

Central Highlands District PO Box 906 Emerald, Qld 4720

Eungella c/- Post Office Dalrymple Heights, Qld 4740 (079) 58 4552

Keppel Islands 65 Rockhampton Road Yeppoon, Qld 4703 (079) 39 2215

Miriam Vale c/- Post Office Miriam Vale, Qld 4677

Northern Region

Northern Regional Centre Marlow Street Pallarenda Townsville, Qld 4810 (077) 74 1411 Proserpine District Office Conway PO Box 332 Airlie Beach, Qld 4741

Ingham District Office 20 Lyn Street Ingham, Qld, 4850 (077) 76 2727

(079) 46 9430

Crystal Creek-Mt Spec c/- Post Office via Rollingstone, Qld 4816

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Bowling Green Bay - Mt Cardwell PO Box 1954 PO Box 74 Townsville, Old 4810

Magnetic Island c/- Post Office Picnic Bay, Old 4816 (077) 78 5378

**Barkly District Office** Cnr Hilary and Butler Sts Mt Isa PO Box 2316 Mt Isa, Qld, 4825 (077) 43 2528

Far Northern Region

Cairns Regional Centre Moffatt Street Cairns PO Box 2066 Cairns, Qld 4870 (070) 53 4533

Chillagoe District Office PO Box 26 Chillagoe, Qld 4871 Chillagoe 13

Lake Eacham District Office PO Box 21 Yungaburra, Qld 4872 (070) 95 3768

PMB 29 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4870 Laura 4D

Josephine Falls/Palmerston PO Box 800 Innisfail, Qld, 4860 (070) 67 6304

Mission Beach Garners Beach Road Mission Beach PO Box 28 Mission Beach, Qld 4885 **Tully District Office** Cardwell, Qld, 4816 (070) 66 8601

Rokeby PMB 28 Cairns Mail Centre, Old 4870

Other organisations Brisbane Forest Park Mt Nebo Road The Gap PO Box 168 North Quay, Old 4000

(07) 30 4855

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Melton Place 67-71 Denham Street Townsville PO Box 1379 Townsville, Qld 4810 (077) 71 2191

Queensland Department of Forestry 13th floor Mineral House 41 George Street Brisbane **GPO Box 944** Brisbane, Qld, 4001 (07) 224 8369

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service 189-193 Kent Street Sydney PO Box N189 Grosvenor Street Post Office Sydney, NSW, 2000 (02) 237 6500

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# Rinoltai





Proud mother and father eastern sarus crane in unison call by their grassy mound nest in the wetlands of Morr Morr Station, 80km north of Normanton. World crane authority Dr George Archibald took this picture for Ringtail with a 600mm Nikon lens from a bush hide about 60m from the nest after many hours of patient observation. Report, picture Page 1. Service 'minder' report, picture Page 2.