

Autumn issue

Quarterly newspaper of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service

More offices, facilities and a boat Boost to public

Contact

Five recent events enhance Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service contact with the public.

Better relations follow in three of the Service's four regions.

The National Parks Minister, Mr McKechnie, unveiled a plaque to open the Downs and South-west sub-regional centre, Toowoomba.

The office is in a former house on a four hectare property donated to the Service for a nominal \$1 in 1982 by the late Mr Percy Hartmann, of Murgon.

The range-top land fronting Alderley Street had been in the Hartmann family since the early 1860s.

Mr Percy Hartmann's grandfather Carl was a noted figure in early colonial Queensland and introduced many new plants to the property which became known as Hartmann's Gardens.

"What we see today was Mr Hartmann's expressed wish, that this magnificent property be preserved in perpetuity in a responsible way,' Mr McKechnie said.

'The land and building is important to Toowoomba but it is also a workplace for staff covering perhaps 20 percent of Queensland.'

More than \$100,000 has been spent upgrading the house to meet office requirements and adding a workshop-storeroom and pens.

A special room is being set aside to house significant momentoes of the benefactor.

A home-made sundial with the initials PJH has been reestablished in the grounds as Mr Hartmann wished.

The Service's Deputy Director, Mr Herb Bonney, represented the Minister at the naming of a new workboat Remora in Cairns when Mr McKechnie had to attend a Cabinet meeting.

The 7m locally-built twin outboard monohull puts the 13-strong regional marine parks team on the water in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Cairns section.

The boat will mean practical waterlevel management of the park which covers more than 200 reefs in a sea area of more than 35 000 sq. km from Mission Beach to beyond Lizard Island.

Patrols will complement regular surveillance flights.

Service barracks costing \$100,000 were opened at Jourama Falls National Park between Townsville and Ingham by Mr McKechnie.

He said they would allow for a greater presence of rangers in the park to enhance its tourist potential while giving protection.

'Often a ranger has only a matter of seconds to give a good impression of the park, its attractions and facilities,' he said.

'The same ranger will be the first to respond in an emergency.

'It's important that park staff have adequate quarters from which they can undertake their duties.'

Q.NPWS Director Dr Graham Saunders opened the redeveloped recreation facilities at Boombana National Park within the Brisbane Forest Park.

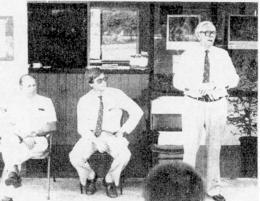
He said the park of almost 38 hectares was a mere spot in BFP but a very beautiful one, a haven for some people who considered other parts like Jolly's Lookout too popular.

Redevelopment has cost \$118,000 and more will be spent to make Boombana a bird-watcher's special place.

Hinchinbrook MLA Mr Ted Row opened the new Service office at 2 Herbert Street, Ingham, a former service station on the Bruce Highway.

Northern Regional Director Mr Bill Fisher said Ingham district staff would now have direct contact with district residents and tourists.





Plaque unveiled by the National Parks Minister, Mr McKechnie, to officially open the Downs and Southwest sub-regional centre, Toowoomba. The plaque will be fixed to a large rock set in the landscaped grounds.

March 1985

Hinchinbrook MLA Mr Ted Row (left) speaking at the Ingham District Office opening. Also present were Hinchinbrook Shire chairman, Cr. J. Andrews (far left) and Northern Regional Director Mr Bill Fisher.

Police investigating

park

fires

Girraween, Main Range

and Sundown National Parks under District

worked for two days to

Among their work was

Ranger Brett Porter

contain the fires.

Five fires deliberately set have burned about 100 hectares of Girraween National Park.

Wallangarra police who are investigating the outbreaks have been told a man in a vehicle was seen in the area on 5 March.

The fires occurred along a 4km stretch of the fire access road between South Bald Rock and the old stone house, a road not open to the public.

Ten Q.NPWS staff from moving burning logs and chipping break lines.

Conditions were unusually dry for the season. Rain fell on 7 March to extinguish the fires

Gates to the access road in future will be padlocked.

The first occurred in a relatively remote part of Girraween and will not affect the Easter plans of park visitors.

All campsite space has been booked for two months.

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

Q.NPWS goal

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Raine Is. now fauna refuge

Raine Island off the far north Queensland coast has been declared a fauna refuge to give extra protection for the preservation of its environment.

Raine Island, 100km east of Cape Grenville, is the largest, most important green turtle rookery in the world and the largest tropical seabird rookery in Australian waters.

The 30ha coral cay is a Reserve under the trusteeship of the Department of Community Services Under Secretary.

The Fauna Conservation Act fauna refuge declaration gives authority to those few people permitted to be on the island to prevent any interference.

Refuge condition breaches carry penalties to \$3000.

A Service scientific team was on the island for seven weeks recently to record an irruption of turtles nesting on the beaches as well as survey thousands of birds nesting in the central depression.

On one night at one time 11 467 turtles were counted ashore, and an estimate of turtles within 30 km of the island was 100 000 to 150 000.

Reasons for such a mass nesting are not understood but studies are vital to turtle conservation in the Coral and Arafura Seas region.

Q.NPWS Director and Raine Island Corporation Chairman, Dr Graham Saunders, has rejected recent claims that turtles were dying on Raine Island as a result of guano mining last century.

Of the 0.4 percent recorded mortality, most was from heat exhaustion.



All aboard soon

A timber deck road is being built across the Double Island Point isthmus in Cooloola National Park

The deep, often soft sand of the four-wheel-drive crossing known as the Leisha Track is being decked for 1.2km.

The more difficult sections and some passing bays will be double lane of the heavy pallets of rough sawn planks 2.4m long bolted to hardwood bed planks. The construction has proved practical on sand in several national parks. As sand and traffic pressures change, pallets can be lifted and re-set.

The track is being closed for varying periods over the next few months to allow for construction.

Much of the work is being done by 10 workers employed under the Community Employment Program using local materials costing \$40.000.



RATS! This could well the reaction of Queensland

National Parks and Wildlife Service scientists asked to identify this bush rat that continues to plague the Central Queensland grain and cotton belt.

The rat, about 160mm long in head and body with a short tail, was not recorded in Q.NPWS fauna surveys between Collinsville and Springsure.

The long-haired or plaque rat, Rattus villosissimus, was first suspected, then the canefield rat, Rattus sordidus.

Chromosome test results are unique and the animal is now believed to be a new subspecies of the canefield rat.

Cover picture

Regrettably, a year will pass before the making of another in the series of nests by a magpie adapted to living in the inner city!

The magnificent nest was found in Parliament House grounds after the big January storm.

It features plastic-covered and bare wire, springs, a windscreen wiper blade, packaging stripping, tubing and cord but few twigs and little nest fibre.

By the tail

Many Queensland national parks are included in the four-wheel-drive camping safaris of Trekabout Expeditions.

Trips this year include 30-day safaris to north Queensland and Cape York in August and September, monthly departures to Mt Moffatt and the Gorge of Carnarvon National Park, and also to Cooloola and Fraser Island, with a special Simpson Desert crossing.

Phone (07) 229 0149 or after hours (07) 287 3866 for details.

Brisbane Forest Park has increased its charges for its Go Bush autumn activities to a minimum \$5.

A great range of nature-based activities are planned from 4 April to 26 May. Full details in the BFP Bush Telegraph or telephone (07) 30 4855.

* Mark March 29 in your calendar now for that is 12 weeks before the mid-year school holidays start. Service offices take site bookings from that date (see guide on page 3).

The Service, the Boonah and Glengallan Shires, the Forestry Department and landholders have come to an agreement over the Spicer's Gap road through Main Range National Park.

Signs have been erected warning motorists that access gates may be locked without further notice after heavy rain. This is to ensure many users will have reasonable dry weather access.

The Service continues to guide the Queensland Government's gifts of koalas to Japan.

We recently hosted dignitaries, officials and authorities from the Saitama prefecture government.

Saitama Children's Zoo, one of the world's leading zoos designed for children, is due to receive the second small colony of koalas from Queensland this year.

The third and final tiny colony designed to complete the viable and once-only official gift — is promised to the Yokohama government, now building the world's newest and most expensive zoo to cater for the Tokyo-Yokohama urban community.

Work has started on a \$250,000 project at the Southern Regional Centre, Moggill.

Stage two development involves a new administration building to house adequately the staff now working out of this centre.

On 18 April, the Service will be holding its first field day specifically to promote the need for and the value of wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors on the Darling Downs.

Mr Ray McCarthy, of Anchorfield, Brookstead, has invited the Service to conduct the field day, with Greening Australia and the Primary Industries and Forestry Departments, as part of the rural nature conservation program.

Phone the Toowoomba office for details.

Q.NPWS new information centre at

on Thursday, 28 March, to mark national parks day.

Proceed about 3km past Purlingbrook Falls and turn left at a Service sign.

Meet native animals and see a continous slide show during the day. From 7 at night, join in a campfire with Burleigh Head ranger/minstrel Peter Chapman and enjoy an open air slide show. BYO billies and damper.

Enquire further with Springbrook staff (075) 33 5147.

Wombat view



Marine parks management officer Geoff Mercer (left) and Channel 7 Wombat presenter Tony Gordon on camera at Lady Eliot Island at the Great Barrier Reef's southern end recently. Service media unit members co-ordinated the visit so that informative segments on reef and island aspects will be shown in Wombat on more than 30 TV stations in Australia.

Lawn Hill NP influx likely

Despite the area's remoteness, an influx of visitors is expected this year at Lawn Hill National Park, gazetted recently.

The park, of 12 200 hectares, lies midway between Camooweal and Burketown in the far northwest.

Work is expected to resume shortly on the ranger's house, office and workshop for effective management of the unique oasis park.

The land was surrendered from the surrounding Lawn Hill pastoral lease.

The park encompasses part of the eastern edge of the Barkly Tableland where creeks have eroded the sandstone rock to form gorges.

Permanent deep waterholes and a relic population of several rainforest species including palms make this park quite different from the generally dry landscape. Gazettal means part of another biogeographic region is included in the national park estate, and protection and supervision is extended to a number of important archaeological sites.

So far, more than \$500,000 has been spent by the Queensland Government through the Service and the Burke Shire Council on facilities and access.

The shire is certain that the already popular gorge will become a major tourist attraction in the region. Ready for the influx is a basic campground, shower and toilet block, and 6km of signposted walking tracks.

The park declaration brings national park regulations and visitors abiding by these help ensure the area's preservation.

Men of the Domadgee community between Camooweal and Burketown in far north-west Queensland working on part of the new walking track system for Lawn Hill National Park.

Gazettal of Lawn Hill National Park brought the number of national parks to 313 covering 3 346 392 ha.

Fraser Bill before

Legislation for a vehicle access scheme for Fraser Island is expected to go before the present session of State Parliament.

Cabinet recently approved preparation of such legislation to involve the authorisation and control of vehicle access by the public to declared areas of the island, and control of public recreational use of these areas.

The National Parks Minister, Mr McKechnie, and the Lands and Forestry Minister, Mr Glasson, said the scheme

Parlt soon

Fraser's natural beauty while allowing recreational use now and for future generations.

Legislation will provide for the issue of permits for which users will pay a fee. No fee has been determined.

Funds accruing will be used for development and maintenance of declared areas and facilities. Areas will include State forest, national park, mining tenements, other Crown reserves and vacant Crown land including the beach to low water mark.

The legislation will provide for appointment of a management committee of the Conservator of Forests and the Department of The Arts, National Parks and Sport Under Secretary or their nominees.

The committee will be responsible for the development, maintenance, field management and administration to be outlined when the legislation is presented.

Guide to parks, camping

Praise for fauna vets

Queenslanders are indebted to veterinary surgeons who treat injured native fauna, according to the National Parks Minister, Mr McKechnie.

While Q.NPWS was responsible for the preservation of native species in the wild, caring for such individual birds, mammals and reptiles was a specialist task.

He praised the efforts of those who organised a recent one-day post-graduate course on emergency treatment of native fauna at Queenstand University Veterinary School, St Lucia.

Speakers considered the legal and social responsibilities of veterinarians towards injured animals as well as practical matters of transport, care, feeding, disease, anaesthesia, hospitalisation, orphans and releasing in the wild.

He said the person bringing a sick or injured wild animal to a veterinarian would be reassured that this professional had animal well-being at heart and that the vet had the expertise as he had for domestic animals.

Mr McKechnie said veterinarians had to be prepared for emergencies like bushfires and oil spills when many wild animals could be involved. 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 cn 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.

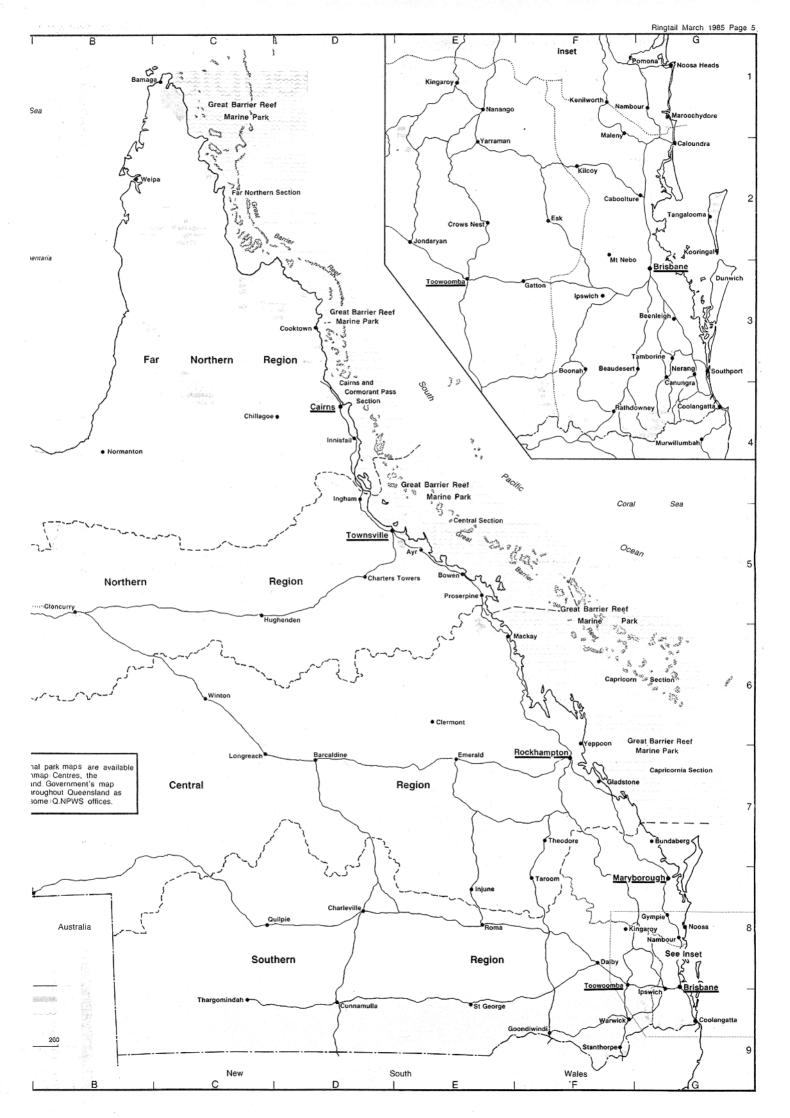
In others, the park has been left undeveloped to provide a more primitive camping experience.

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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Blue Lake (Stradbroke Island) Tamborine Mountain	G3 • • C • • Moggill G3 • • • C • • • • Tamborine	
St Helena Island Burleigh Head	G2 B Moggill Historic area - Restricted access G4 G4 C C B	
Springbrook	G4 • • • C • • • • • Springbrook Small camp area Purlingbrook Falls	
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Salvator Rosa Ka Ka Mundi	E7 C O Springsure Carry extra fuel, water E7 CU O Springsure Carry extra fuel, water	
Simpson Desert	A8 U B Rockhampton Remote area. Contact Q.NPWS first	
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Lake Eacham Chillagoe-Mungana Caves	D4 • • C • • • • Chillagoe Tour times 9am and 1.30pm	1:5 000 000
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Iron Range	C2 U Cairns Carry extra fuel, water	- Niometres
Archer Bend Rokeby Jardine River	C1 U Cairns Carry extra fuel, water	
Lawn Hill	A5 • U • • Cairns Carry extra fuel.	A



Parks for the people

Maiala (1140ha

Marata (1140na) This popular park on the D'Aguilar Range is mana, ed as part of the 25 000 ha Brisbane Forest Park. The park is ideal for day visits and picnicking, and offers scenic views of the coastal plain and walks through varied forest communities

Mt Tempest (Moreton Is) (9360ha) Mt Tempest (285m) crowns this large island com-posed 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 camp areas with facilities are provided. Access is via vehicular ferries for off-road vehicles, fast passenger ferries or light aircraft,

Blue Lake (501ha) This lake is a water table window in a sand dune about 10km east of Dunwich accessible from the main coast read by a short walk. Popular for day visits

Tamborine Mountain (total 594ha)

remourner mountain (total 594ha) 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 forest and waterfalls. If are in-teresting and popular with day visitors.

St Helene Island (74ha) An historic area off the Brisbane River mouth with restructed access. Much of the Island function as a high security prison from 1867 to 1932. Prison Isbour was used for all activities including building. and some sections remain. Reached by special ferry from Manly.

Reactived by special itemy intern maminy. Burleigh Head (24ha) This complex of vegetation types including rain-forest, open eucalypt forest, tussock grassland and pandanus in a landmark area in the sweep of the highly urbanised Gold Coast. Walking tracks lead to lookouts and pleasant places of retreat.

Springbrook (total 2084ha)

Springprook (total 2084ha) Four parks comprise a green mountain backdrop to the Gold Coast. Warrie offers extensive walks past waterfalls and through foresis to lookouts. Gwongorella has tall eucalypts with rainforest guilles. Wunburra, an area of wet eucalypt forest, and Mr Cougal are undeveloped areas for adventure bushwalking and spectacular views along the bacteria border

Natural Arch (212ha)

Natural Arch (212ha) This interesting natural formation caused by cascading waters is set in an area of dense rain forest high in the Numinbah Valley. The park is popular for day visits but only the night time visi sees glow-worms in the cave under the arch.

sees glow-worms in the cave under the arch. Lamington (20 100ha) Rainforest, eucalypt forest and heathland, magnifi-cent views and waterfalls are features of this major park some 100km south of Brisbane. Extensive walking tracks and picnic facilities are provided in areas but other are reached only on bushwalking excursions. Access is via Binna Burra in the north-wast, or wountains — O'Reility's in the north-west, and several roads and tracks in the west and south

Pine Ridge (109ha) An environmental park, the last major area of natural costal lowlands on the Gold Coast. Vegeta-tion of heath, swamp and woodland 8km north of Southport. Boardwalked track suitable for wheelchairs.

Mt Barney (11400ha) This landmark peak (1360m; with nearby Mt Lindsay (1191m) and Mt Marcon (965m) are undeveloped areas of eucaylots and rainforest among a variety of natural features exciting bushwalkers and climbers.

Mt French (63ha) This 468m peak near Boonah has a road to the top to picnic areas, walking tracks and tookouts. Several rock faces are used to learn and test climbing

Cunningham's Gap Part of the 10 500ha Main Range National Park with Mt Mitchell and Mt Cordeux bounding 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. Day visits and camping.

Queen Mary Falls (78ha) This waterfall in tall open eucalypt woodland with rainforest gullies is not large but is a pleasant spot for family picnics 10km east of Killarney.

Girraween (11 400ha)

Massive granitle fors 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 particularly to see birds and wildflowers in season. At elevations about 1000m, temperatures are often much lower than expected.

Sundown (6680ha)

Rugged gorges leading to the Severn River are a feature of this park reached via Stanthorpe or via Ballandean. Dense forests or cypress pine and eucalypts cover hill slopes.

ake Broadwater (1220ha) n environmental park near Dalby important as a aterfowl habitat and as an example of natural Darl-g Downs country. Popular recreation spot.

Bunya Mountains (11 700ha) An expanse of coniferous rainforest and grassy balds on the Great Dividing Range crest between Daiby and Kingaroy. This popular area has two developed campgrounds and a network of tracks. Winter nights at about 1000m elevation can be cold.

Crows Nest Falls (949ha) The waterfall in the north tumbles into a steep granite gorge with Interesting mixed vegetation. picnic area and swimming holes make the park ideal for day trips.

Ravensbourne (100ha) This park off the Hampton-Esk road preserves a remnant of the wet sclerophyll and rainforest vegetation which once covered the surrounding countryside. Ideal for a picnic and a walk.

Conondale (2126ha)

Conondate (2126ha) This two-part park separated by state forest west of Conondate township preserves wet eucalypt forest and rainforest and associated fauna. Glasshouse Mountains

Glasshouse Mountains Remnant voicanic plugs of rhyolite and trachyte with forest and heath vegetation, Mt Cooncowin (Crootneck) (113ha) at 52am is for climbers. Mt Beerwah (245ha) 556m, Mt Tibrogragan (291ha) 393m and Mt Ngungun (49ha) 236m are suitable for bushwalkers and families taking care.

Kondalilla (75ha)

Kondailla (75ha) Kondailla Falls is a feature of this rainforest part off the Maleny-Mapleton road. Tracks lead from the pic-nic area to the falls and swimming hole. Mapleton Falls (26ha)

all park off the Mapleton-Kenilworth road offer ing scenic views, a waterfall, rainforest and evcalvol est walks Noosa (382ha)

A popular scenic coastal park, preserving dune vegetation heath and rainforest. Walking tracks and picnic areas.

Cooloola (39 400ha)

Cooloola (39 400ha) A coastal sand park featuring ocean beaches, freshwater lakes, coloured sands and vegetation from healthland to rainforesi. Access by boal from Tewantin and Boreen Point, four-wheel-drive from Rainbow Beach and Noosa or by conventional vehicle from Rainbow Beach. Camping areas at Double Island Point, freshwater and along Noosa River.

Great Sandy (Fraser Island) (52 400ha)

Great Sandy (Fraser Island) (52 400ha) The park preserves most of the northern end of ti largest sand island in the world. Included are ucualypt woodland, heath and swamp vegetation. Two developed campsiles. Access by boat, four-wheel-drive and barge from Urangan or Rainbow Beach and by light aircraft. end of the

Woodgate Woodgate Pleasant beach scenery backed by sand dunes and coastal vegetation make this park an attractive holi-day spot. Wallum health wildflower displays in season. Access via Goodwood.

Mon Repos

Mon Hepos This small environmental park preserves a turtle rookery on the coast 14km east of Bundaberg. At night from November to January loggerhead turtles nest here. Occassionally flatback and green turtles are seen. From January to March turtle hatchlings can be observed.

Auburn River (389ha) The scenic Auburn River Gorge is the main attrac-tion of this park. Road access Mundubbera via Hakwood road (27km).

Cania Gorge (1020ha) The sandstone gorge, its luch vegetation and drig ing water are features of this popular park. Road cess Monto via Moonford road (26km).

Most popular of a group of continental island parks of Yeppoon. Open euclaylin forest, pandanus along the coast and tussock grassland on exposed wind-ward sides. Popular for fishing and camping holidays.

Heron Island (Capricorn Group) (12ha) Greater part of this corcal cay is national park with total protection for animal and plant life marine and terrestrial. Rookery for turtles and nesting area for seabirds.

North-West Island (Capricorn Group) (94ha) Typical coral cay with pisonia, pandanus and casuarina vegetation. Seabird nesting site and lurtle rookery. Popular camping spot for self-stifticient groups. Minimum facilities. Reached by charter boat.

Lady Musgrave Island (Bunker Group) (20ha) True Coral cay with a large surrounding reel. Popular safe anchorage with camping except bird nesting season 1 October to 28 February. Ideal fo diving and snorkeling. Access by charter boat.

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. Gorge campground is very popular. Wilderness experience offered in may other parts.

Capricorn coast

Double Head and Bluff Point (107ha) are coastal features for day picnickers 8km south of Yeppoon.

Eurimbula (7270ha) A biologically important area where tropical and sub-tropical enviroments overlap. Rainforest and sub-tropical enviroments overlap. Rainforest and swamps on deep sand backed by grassy eucalypt onen forest

Blackdown Tableland (23 800ha)

Sandstone plateau at the junction of three ranges near Dingo. Height above the surrounding plains, vegetation, waterfalls and walking tracks makes the park a popular day picnic and camping spot.

Isla Gorge (7800ha)

This park preserves a deeply dissected sandstone range vegetated with eucalypts and wildflowers with stands of softwood scrub and some brigatow on the lower flats. Suitable for self-contained bushwalking

Robinson Gorge (8903ha) Sandstone scenery and deep gorges. Contrasting vegetation from that of dry plateaus to moist ever-shaded gorges.

Eubenangee Swamp (1520ha) A long boardwalk helps visitors see this last natural coastal swamp area between Townsville and Cairns

Barron Gorge (2784ha) The Barron River drops 260m into the rainforest covered gorge seen by travelling on the Cairns-Kuranda railway. Most water is held for irrigation or diverted for power generation before the falls.

Michaelmas Cay (3ha) With nearby Upolo Cay, one of Queensland's most important seabird nesting areas.

Patmerston (2556ha) Walking tracks from the Palmerston Highway bei-ween Innistali and Ravenshoe lead to many water-falls set in luxuriant rainforest on the Johnstone River. Suitable for camping and picnics.

Davies Creek (abona) This park preserves an area of aucalypt forest grow-ing on granite soils, the creek tumbles over a 100m waterfall into a deep valley. Wildflowers in spring. Reached from the Kennedy Highway.

Uaintree (56 450ha) Extensive undeveloped national park drained by many tributaries of the Daintree River. Variety of vegetation types but broad areas of tropical rain-forest. For the self-sufficient bushwalker out of Mossman or Daintree.

Cape Tribulation (17 100ha) A vehicle ferry at the Daintree River crossing pro-vides access to this important area of coastal rainforest.

Cedar Bay (5650ha) Northern extremity of the wet tropical rainforest region south of Cooktown still relatively inaccessible.

Green Island (7ha) Most of this coral cay and surrounding reef is na-tional park with total protection of all features. A walking track passes through rainforest. Launches make regular trips from Cairns. Overnight accom-

Millstream Falls (372ha) An open eucallyst area crossed by a bottlebrush bordered stream and featuring one of the widest falls in Australia (65m). A small camping area near-by. Reached 1km off the Ravenshoe-MI Garnet

Mt Hypipamee (The Crater) (364ha) Geological curiosity similar to a volcanic crater and while solidied volcanic ash is present, the sides are of granite, a rock not directly associated with erup-tive volcanic activity. Rainforest and eucatypt forest too. By the Kennedy Highway between Atherton and Ravenshoe.

Lake Barrine (491ha) Another crater lake just off the Gillies Highway 6km from Lake Eacham. A 5km track circles the lake giv-ing excellent opportunities for nature study in the rainforest.

Lake Eacham (490ha) 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,

A series of reserves for limestone caves. Regular guided walks are offered through Royal Arch and Donna. Donna Cave is lit to highlight cave

Lizard Island (1012ha) This continental Island almost surrounded by fring-ing reels is north-north-east of Cooktown. A walking track leads to the peak where Captain Cook stood to seek a passage through the outer Barrier Reef.

Lakefield (357 000ha) Extensive example of peninsula country with vegeta-

Iron Range (34 600ha) True wilderness area of world significance contain-ing 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 im-press 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

roxepy (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 (253 000ha) This park covers most catchments of the largest perennial stream in Oucensland, a true wilderness with a variety of vegetation types including rain-forest, open forest, heath and shrubland with a cor-responding variety of fauna not fully recorded. For the adventurous in the Dry.

Lawn mill (12 2006) Remote oasis-like area between Burketown and Camooweal in the far north-west. Permanent waters of Lawn Hill Creek are contained by rich red sandstone walls forming a gorge which protects remnant rainforest species, some endemic.

crocodiles are common in the river

Rokeby (291 000ha)

Lawn Hill (12 200ha)

tion ranging from fringing rainforest, stringbybarl 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.

swimming and walking. Near Yungaburra Chillagoe-Mungana Caves

decorations

Davies Creek (468ha)

Daintree (56 450ha)

modation is available

Millstream Falls (372ha)

Mt Hypipamee (The Crater) (364ha)

ville and Cairos

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. For the well-equipped, careful and adventurous.

Lark Quarry (374ha) Enviromental park south-west of Winton preserving evidence of a dinosaur stampede 100 million years

Cape Hillsborough (816ha) Coastal park of hoop pine rainforest and open eucalypt forest with fringing mangrove areas. Popular for nature study and recreation.

Eungella (49 610ha)

Large area of tropical rainforest with some grassy eucalypt woodland west of Mackay. Most is inacoccarypt wourdand west of Mackay. Most is inac-cessible except to experienced bushwalkers. Tracks at Broken River and Finch Hatton Gorge pass through rainforest and lead to points of interest. Ideal for day picnics and limited camping.

Brampton Island (464ha) One of a group of scattered islands at the southern end of the Whitsunday-Comberland chain. Tracks lead to viewpoints for densely vegetated islands nearby and fringing coral reefs.

Cape Palmerston (7160ha) Undeveloped beachfront land of sand dunes, mangroves and swampland with two campsites for self-sufficient visitors.

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 Arille Beach-Shute Harbour road.

Whitsunday Passage Islands A large group of continental islands some of which are developed extensively for fourist activities. Fr-inging reefs, rocky outcrops and rainforest make th going difficult even for bushwalkers. Whitsunday (1 930ha) is by far the largest. North Molle (259ha) an Hock (5160ha) are also popular. Access is by launch from Shute Harbour.

Bowling Green Bay (Mt Elliot) (55 300ha) Area of extensive lowlands of relatively low rainfall. The upper slopes of Mt Elliot include the southern limit of the trojical rainforest bell. Reach the camp-ing and picnic area from the Bruce Highway 25km south of Townsville.

Magnetic Island (2709ha) A major part of this continental island off Towns' is national park. It features boulder strewn hillsic with hoop pine and eucalypt forest with 22km of walking track. Habitat for koalas. No camping. Regular ferry service.

Townsville Town Common (3248ha) An outstanding environmental park adjacent to a large city featuring coastal wetland habitat. Popular

Porcupine Gorge (2938ha) Relatively inaccessible area north-east of Hughenden challenging the adventurous.

Crystal Creek — Mt Spec (7224ha) This park along part of the Paluma Range no Townsville includes rainforest and eucalypt f Picnic areas and walking tracks are reached 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.

Waliaman Falls (602ha) One of a number of parks featuring gorge scenery and falls on the Herbert River and its tributaries in-land from Ingham. Waliaman (278m) is the largest single drop waterfall in Australia. Popular camping and picnic area.

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. Launches from Cardwell and Lucinda Point.

Edmund Kennedy (6200ha) Explorer Edmund Kennedy traversed this area on his ill-fated 1848 expedition. Mangroves, dense rain forest, 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.

Dunk Island (730ha) Most of this Island named by Captain Cook is na-tional park. A holiday resort immortalized by author E.J. Banfield. Access by launch and plane. Suitable for dow with

Bellenden Ker (31 000ha) Undeveloped park covering the eastern slopes of the Bellenden Ker Range and including Oueensland's highest mountain, Mt Bartle Frere (1657m). Numerous watertalls 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.

Rare frog made

fauna

The State Government has given extra legal protection to the rare gastric brooding frog found only in Queensland.

This is among gazettal and other actions involving the Service recently.

The frog is now declared to be fauna under a Fauna Conservation Act provision.

The Act previously covered mammals, birds, reptiles and two butterflies but not frogs which are amphibians.

One species of the genus Rheobatrachus (pronounced rio-bat-rik-us) was re-located in Kondalilla National Park in the Sunshine Coast hinterland in 1977.

Another species was found in the Eungella National Park area west of Mackay last year.

Both have attracted national and international interest because of their unique form of breeding involving



embryonic development in the gastric cavity.

Biomedical institutions are very keen to continue research in this field for it has possible application to humans.

While the known range of both species appears to lie within national parks and state forests and is therefore protected under relevant legislation, populations elsewhere are unprotected.

Pressure to collect specimens is high and is likely to remain so in the future.

Only by the gazettal of the genus Rheobatrachus as fauna will Q.NPWS be able to consider requests and monitor any collections to ensure the gastric brooding frog remains in the wild.

Cabinet recently approved the purchase of extra land to add to the redevelopment of

Fleay's Fauna Centre on the Gold Coast.

The National Parks Minister, McKechnie, said the 2.9 hectare block would be bought jointly by the Service and the Gold Coast City Council from Mr David Fleay for \$100 000.

The parcel fronting Tallebudgera Creek is mostly heavily timbered coastal forest. It was not included in the transfer and sale of Fleav's Fauna Centre.

Fleay's is being redeveloped and rehabilitated by the Service as part of the Tallebudgera Greenspace concept.

Land with a 3km frontage to the Mackenzie River in central Queensland is now environmental park.

The 30ha reservation is where the Fitzroy Development Road crosses the river about 60km northeast of Blackwater.

18 more jobs under CEP

Another 18 jobs are to be offered this month for Q.NPWS projects under the Community Employment Program.

Four people will be taken on at Maryborough to help build visitor facilities at Woodgate National Park costing almost \$40 000. Two will be employed from Atherton/Mareeba for sign construction at Lake Eacham, a project costing almost \$19 000.

The major job, construction of facilities at the Mon Repos turtle nesting area, will occupy 10 people from the Bundaberg area. Project cost is atmost \$200,000. Redevelopment of tracks, camping and picnic areas in the Mt Spec/Jourama Falls area near Ingham will occupy two people in a project costing almost \$35,000.

These are addition to the 12 projects giving work to 49 people detailed in the last Ringtail.

Publications

Meeting the need to answer visitor requests for information is a constant task of the Service, partly met by publications.

Visitor information sheets are a way of helping people see some of the more remote, less-visited areas where a comprehensive brochure is not yet required.

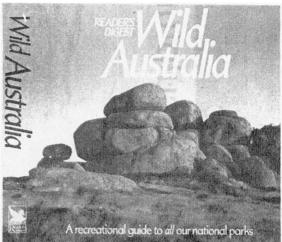
Information sheets distributed recently include Michaelmas Cay and North West Island on the Barrier Reef, Sundown, Eurimbula, Palmerston and Edmund Kennedy National Parks, and Kalpowar Crossing at Lakefield National Park

The format of each is not set. But

Sheets help visitor

a basic map is common, as is reference to where further information may be found.

Don't ask for these at offices a long way away. They are largety an on or near park guide with practical details of how to get to campsites, what facilities are and are not available and warnings as well as advice about caring for national parks.



Reader's Digest has done it again! Wild Australia is another in their never-ending stable of high quality paper productions.

This 432 page coffee table edition is a guide to the recreational of Australia's national parks and proudly boasts some 800 magnificent colour pictures depicting 150 national parks by Robin Morrison.

The text goes further giving visitor information to more than 540 parks Australia wide.

The guide focuses emphasis in four main areas — scenic enjoyment, variety of activities, family holiday suitability and long range bushwalking. Other sections cover the nature of Australia, marine parks, wildlife, restoration and confrontation.

Queensland's 103 pages reflects the State's wide range of national parks and the co-operation of staff in its compilation.

Some minor errors have crept into this first edition, but a more positive observation would be almost total emphasis on pictures of landscape and flora with little wildlife.

Look for this long overdue compilation in bookstores in late March at \$39.95 or write to Reader's Digest Services, GPO Box 85, Sydney, for a copy for \$34.98 plus \$3.30 postage.

Help your parents camp at Easter

Hello Junior Rangers

Another summer is nearly over and you are all back at school. Are you looking forward to starting some interesting projects about the natural world? The next thing we know Easter will be here.

Junior Ranger corner

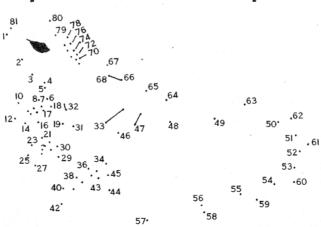
Many of you have already made your bookings for campsites on the various parks. Be sure and remind your parents to cancel any bookings early, especially if they have double booked.

Not cancelling unneeded bookings means someone misses out because of selfishness.

Do you remember the two baby bandicoots I raised which went to live at Brisbane Forest Park? They grew to be big bandicoots and dug holes in the floor of their cage.

In fact they dug such good holes that they dug their way out and are now roaming around the park and the neighbours backyards. They knew where they wanted to be.

The other animal I raised and you may remember is the ringtail possum.



Unfortunately it died. No one knows why as it was fat, had a varied diet and everything a possum could want.

Over the holidays I conducted or helped with a number of Junior Ranger and children's activities programs. I'm sure the children who come to these programs become more interested every year. At Lamington I also took a group of people on a short guided walk.

On the walk we found a southern angle-headed dragon or rainforest dragon on a tree. The children with me spotted it. I was able to catch it by the tail and put it on my backpack while I held on.

As these lizards can bite and some lizards will loose their tails when scared, catching them is not a good idea unless you know what your doing.

If you connect the dots you will see what this lizard looks like.

I also got a bit of a scare one day when I was minding the office at Bunya Mountains. One of the teenage boys who was camping there with his family came in all swollen. I thought at first he had been silly and fallen in the stinging nettles but I wasn't so lucky. He'd been stung by a bee and was getting an allergy reaction.

Lucky one of the other boys was able to go find his parents who weren't too far away and they had something he could take. He has other allergies but never before bee stings.

Park first aid kits can cope with many things but they have their limitations.



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(07) 224 0414

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Mt Glorious

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Lamington

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Beechmont

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North Tamborine. Old 4272

Burleigh Heads, Old 4220

Fleay's Fauna Centre

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via Mudgeeraba, Old 4215

via Nerang, Old 4211

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via Canungra, Old 4274

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South West District Office

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Northern Downs District

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4 Alderley Street

via Tangalooma

Moreton Island, Old 4004

Downs-South West Sub

Toowoomba Mail Centre

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via Warwick, Old 4370

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Garners Beach Boad

Mission Beach, Old 4885

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(070) 67 6304

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Daintree District Office

via Daintree, Old 4873

Yungaburra. Qld 4872

Chillagoe, Old 4871

see Regional Centre

Northern Einsleigh District

Cape York District Office

Lakefield, New Laura, Bizant

Cairos Mail Centre, Old 4870

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Cairns Mail Centre, Old 4870

Gulflands District Office

see Regional Centre

Lawn Hill Gorge

Mt Isa, Old 4825

Lake Eacham District Office

see Regional Office

Cane Tribulation

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Office

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Rokeby

PMB 28

PMB 12

MS 1463

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(070) 53 4533

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see Sub-Regional Office PO Box 175 Fraser Island Base Taroom, Qld 4420 c/- Park Overseer Blackdown Tableland via Dingo, Old 4702 Freshwater Base

Mackay District Office MLC Building 64 Victoria Stree PO Box 623 Mackay, Qld 4740 (079) 57 6292 Cape Hillshorough

MS 895 Seaforth Old 4741 (079) 59 0222

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

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Mt Moffatt via Mitchell, Old 4465 Springsure c/- Park Overseel Springsure, Old 4722

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Conway PO Box 332 Airlie Beach Old 4741 (079) 46 9430 Burdekin District Office see Regional Centre

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PO Box 1954 Townsville, Old 4810 Townsville Town Common see Regional Centre Ingham District Office Herbert Street

PO Box 1293 Ingham, Old. 4850 (077) 76 1700

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

North West District Office c/- District Range onr Hilary and Butler Streets PO Box 2316 Mt Isa, Old 4825 (077) 43 2528



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Pop-art sculpture gift



Classical example of primitive pop-art sculpture prepared by an anonymous benefactor and now held by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. This delicate but functional structure reflects its sculptor's choice of high-tech materials. The sculpture is considered to have near-perfect colour balance, symmetry of line and is a judicious combination of hard and soft materials. Pause to reflect on the hazards and hardships of an artist working in this medium. Turn to page two for further details.