



Ringtail



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Quarterly newspaper of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service

March 1987



Overseer Gary Robertson releasing one of the crocodiles into a pond at Fleay's Fauna Centre.

Fleay's new phase

Redevelopment of Fleay's Fauna Centre, West Burleigh, entered a new phase this month with the release of six freshwater crocodiles into the 2 ha wetlands habitat.

This will allow the harmless, fish-eating, 60cm to 1.2m 'freshies' time to acclimatise before days become cooler.

The freshwater or Johnstone River crocodile is found only in Australia. Small crocodiles eat insects, spiders and beetles. When they grow, they eat fish, eels, frogs, and even cane toads apparently without ill-effect.

Ponds at Fleay's Fauna Centre have been stocked with native fish species, but the crocodiles will have access to supplementary feed as necessary.

When the centre, being redeveloped by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, is opened, visitors will be able to see them basking on the banks of two large ponds by day, and see their eyeshine by spotlight at night.

The crocodiles, released but still within the centre's double layer fence, joined four duck species, some released, some natural, and magpie geese on the water.



Q.NPWS Director Dr Graham Saunders (left) and Dr David Fleay who observed the release. At right is the Service's sign combination warning of the presence of crocodiles.

State marine parks task

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, the state's nature conservation authority, has been given the responsibility for planning and managing Queensland marine parks.

Necessary amendments to the Marine Parks Act 1982 will go to the current session of Parliament.

This is the largest transfer of powers to the Service since its formation in 1975.

The Act provides for the setting apart of suitable parts of Queensland's tidal lands and tidal waters as marine parks.

(Queensland has 7400 kilometres of coastline and about 1200 islands. Declared marine parks are Pumicestone Passage, Capricorn-Bunker, and Green Island.)

Management plans for marine parks must have regard to encouraging and regulating the use and enjoyment of the area by the public, and protecting and conservation of objects, significant sites, and marine products.

The Queensland Government decision extends seawards the mandate the Service has in conservation of national parks including many offshore islands.

National Parks Minister Mr

Geoff Muntz said: 'I see significant reef and estuarine areas throughout Queensland being considered for marine parks with their multi-use concept being applied to the benefit of their many users.'

'This is in addition to proposals for Queensland marine parks covering tidal lands and tidal waters adjacent to much of the coastline and offshore islands in the Great Barrier Reef region.

'Here the aim is to achieve a zoning which will

accommodate a range of desirable uses and be complementary with the zoning in force under Commonwealth legislation.'

The Service is already responsible for day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park zones.

Mr Muntz said organizations and the public would have opportunities to comment on proposed marine park areas, when zoning was proposed, and when park reviews were made.

Draft plan released

A number of Queensland marine parks are proposed for tidal lands and tidal waters of the central Queensland coast.

A draft zoning plan, map, and background report for the area from north of Bundaberg to north of Mackay and to sea to the Outer Barrier Reef were released this month.

Opportunity is also being taken to review zoning of the existing Capricorn-Bunker Marine Park gazetted in February last year.

This is complementary with the current review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Capricornia zoning.

Submissions for this review close with the Authority in Townsville on 30 April.

Copies of the plan and report are available from Q.NPWS offices in Brisbane, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Mackay.

Comments should be posted to reach the Director, PO Box 190 North Quay by 30 April.

Minister's message

The recent, much-publicised death of Dr Julian Ford, an internationally-known ornithologist, has served to highlight to what extent birdlife is protected in Queensland.

In answer to a question in Parliament last month, I pointed out that between 1975 and 1985, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service changed its approach when dealing with applications for taking birds for scientific research.

In 1975, the system was for the Service to be the sole arbiter of the application, but 10 years later the system had developed where external advices were sought from independent and respected members of the scientific community most closely related to the field to be covered by the application.

As I told the House, Dr Ford's first contact with the Service was in 1975 when he applied to take more than 8400 birds throughout the state.

He was asked by the Service to answer a series of questions and give certain undertakings, but after numerous letters the Service's requirements were not satisfied.

Eventually the matter lapsed and a permit was not issued.

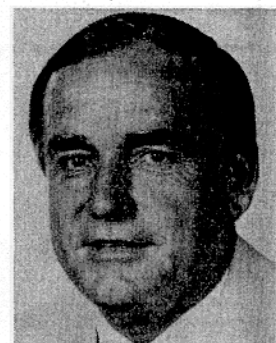
Almost 10 years later, Dr Ford

applied to take something in the order of 2500 birds in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The substance of this application was referred for independent scientific evaluation, but Dr Ford went ahead and collected birds without awaiting the outcome of his application.

As I told the House, both applications were dealt with efficiently and with reasonable despatch. The history with Dr Ford was one of protracted negotiations. On neither occasion was any permit issued.

Geoff Muntz
Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport



Mr Muntz

To advocate and foster harmony between mankind and our environment, thereby facilitating the well-being of humanity, and safeguarding the integrity of nature.

Q.NPWS purpose



A change of attitude

December 1921

The group of young men and women gathered excitedly on the decks as the ketch sailed from the cobblestone wharf. This summer's day would see them leave the seaside town of Emu Park for the pyramid-shaped Peak Island 10 miles away.

High tide in the late afternoon promised the sunset glow would reflect from the ocean to the sandy beach. After swimming and picnicking most of the day, they rested on blankets at 6 o'clock.

Then they saw the rocks moving! No, not rocks, but the first of many flatback turtles lumbering out of the water.

Natural curiosity with a lack of understanding prompted the young people to 'ride' the turtles in a carnival air of ignorance.

December 1986

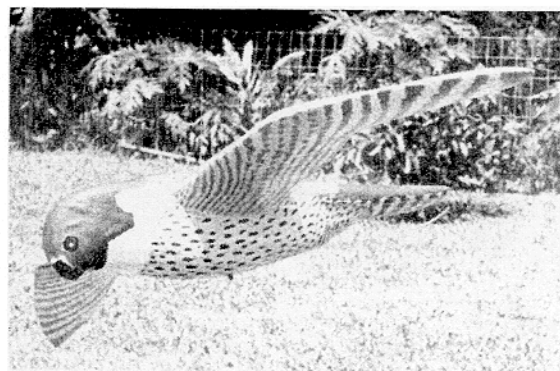
The group of young men and women gathered excitedly . . . Peak Island's turtles were to be visited again!

Natural curiosity with understanding prompted the young people to study the turtles' behaviour.

The students of nature watched in awe as the turtles climbed the beach profile, laboriously dug a body pit, excavated the egg chamber, laid many small cream-coloured eggs, refilled the hole with sand, and snuggled themselves back to the ocean.

Zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Southern Section will happen in 1988. Peak Island is proposed to be gazetted as a Preservation Zone.

Giving this highest level of protection to Peak Island and surrounding waters will ensure the flatback turtle, a species unique to coastal Queensland, will have secure nesting sites every summer regardless of decade.



Mock falcon wins

Bill Cryer, of Palm Cove, north of Cairns, largely created a bird problem when he 'clear felled' his property to build his house.

He made a flight path from a large tree on a neighbouring property where a colony of metallic starlings has nested for a number of years.

These starlings are a gregarious migratory species which travels between north Queensland and New Guinea.

When the birds leave the nesting tree, they take the least line of resistance from the perch in order to pick up speed to gain height.

Other residents of the area left their trees intact so the birds flew across Bill's place.

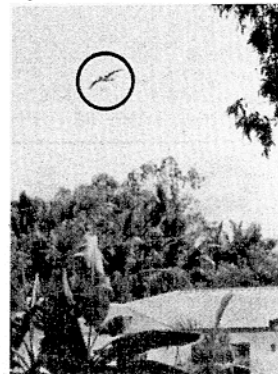
As with fruit bats, the birds defecate at the start of a feeding foray, and much of this ended up on Bill's house, patio floor, walls, and roof.

The Service's suggested solution was to build a corthane and

fibreglass model of a peregrine falcon, suspend it from two 16m bamboo poles by nylon monofilament.

Results have been dramatic. The starlings are flying in other directions and the landowner is happy.

The mock falcon has been working well for several months with only slight modifications.



Campground completed

Work on the new campground at Freshwater, Cooloola National Park, has been completed ready for opening before Easter.

The area will accommodate 400, the same number of campers as the old campground nearby which will be redeveloped as a day picnic area.

Taps are close to all new grassed campsites, and visitors may have hot showers provided they keep the boiler stoked with wood provided.

A communal fire ring will be convenient for sing songs. An amphitheatre will be used for films, slide shows and talks.

Teewah Beach is only a short walk away though the banksias and sheoaks.

Freshwater and Double Island Point campgrounds have been fully booked for Easter. Now is the time to book for June!

Permits are now required for beachfront camping along 14km from Little Freshwater Creek south to the Noosa Shire boundary.

No camping is permitted along the beach from Little Freshwater to Double Island Point.

By the tail ...

Grants totalling \$503,000 under the 1986/87 National Estate Grants program go to Queensland projects.

These include archaeological investigation of the Chillagoe limestone caves, further survey work on historic maritime sites in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Capricornia Section, and determination of pasture requirements of the northern hairy-nosed wombat.

As a matter of record, recent investigations by Service researchers have brought the population of hairy-nosed wombats in Epping Forest National Park to 55 with a good chance of more to be located.

Planning a camping visit to a national park often involves knowing when the school holidays occur — either in or out depending on your view.

This year, the first mid-semester break is 11-20 April including Easter 17-20 April.

While Anzac Day is of course on 25 April, this is a Saturday with no holiday in lieu.

Labour Day is 4 May and Queen's Birthday 8 June.

Then comes the mid-year break 27 June to 12 July.

Mid-semester is 19 September to 4 October. End of year holidays are 12

December to 24 January including Christmas Day 25 December (Friday) and Boxing Day 26 December (Saturday) with a day in lieu on Monday 28 December.

Australia Day 1988 is a Tuesday holiday.

If form filling is not your game, then you can still help in the National Koala Survey.

Simply make a note of any koalas you have seen or know of and send it to Ross Patterson, PO Box 42 Kenmore Qld 4069.

The sort of information he is looking for includes where, when, how many and in what tree types koalas are seen.

Every recorded sighting will increase our knowledge of koala distribution and help in planning for their long-term conservation.

Yes, detailed observation forms are still available from Q.NPWS offices.

The Service has opened a new office in the Cane Growers building, Innisfail, to improve direct operations.

Remember the Boulton Reef tagged fish report in the last Ringtail?

Our diving marine parks rangers give an assurance there are still tagged fish in the vicinity, worth \$5 each if

the tag is returned to the Service.

Congratulations to the winners of the competitions held to mark the reopening of the reef's waters to fishing.

Interesting to note an addition of 1560 hectares to Bald Rock National Park in New South Wales so now there is a 12km common boundary with our Girraween National Park.

National Parks Day weekend to be observed on 28-29 March at Lake Broadwater Environmental Park, via Dalby.

Lake Broadwater Natural History Association members have organized a busy time based on the new campground, to be opened on the Sunday by National Parks Minister Geoff Muntz.

Wide range of activities as usual being offered by Brisbane Forest Park in the Go Bush — Autumn program starting with a Magical Mystery Tour and Kids Camp on 13 April.

Phone (07) 300 4855 or write PO Box 168 North Quay for details.

Responses received by 55 people and organizations to the invitation to comment about the future planning of the Fraser Island recreation area.

They will be considered by a consultant firm which has to

prepare a report by the end of June.

Work starting on new toilet blocks at Burrows Waterhole (Sundown), Ravensbourne, and Cunningham's Gap.

Very favourable response recently to two training workshops conducted by the Service in Cairns for reef tourist organizations' staff. More to come.

Court action will be taken if necessary soon to remove 27 unauthorized shacks located in three north Queensland national parks.

Most are on Bowling Green Bay National Park.

An excellent reference book, Toxic Plants and Animals: A guide for Australia, is now available from the Queensland Museum Bookshop, PO Box 300, South Brisbane, 4101.

There is \$28 of value in 500 pages of contributions of 42 specialists including first aid and medical treatment.

A trial of marker buoys for zoning and dive sites is under way at Butterfly and Manta Ray Bays off Hook Island.

This should provide useful data on materials and techniques for use in the reef region generally.

STOP PRESS: The Service's new \$350,000 Burleigh Heads Visitor Centre on the Gold Coast Highway is to be opened officially by National Parks Minister Geoff Muntz on Friday 10 April.

Volunteers are being trained to help the Service staff the centre.

Track work continuing at Blackdown Tableland, and work under way on toilets at Robinson Gorge and a shelter shed at Isla Gorge.

Service staff are preparing materials for commercial fishermen to help research by reporting all sightings of crocodiles, particularly in Gulf waters.

Crocodile researchers this month are trying to determine whether crocodiles are selective in the vegetation used in their nests or whether any grassy patch near a stream will do.

Service staff have held a series of meetings with Mines Department representatives to plan the future management of a department and official purposes reserve at the Palmer River goldfields.

The Service and the department are joint trustees of the 16 200 hectare reserve in the parish of Maytown declared last October.



New life in our desert region

Heavy rains in February have triggered a remarkable transformation of the normally very arid environment of south-west Queensland including Simpson Desert National Park.

A depression brought more than half of the region's annual rainfall of 150mm to 200mm over a few days causing flooding in the Diamantina and Georgina Rivers.

In the sandhill desert, there is little runoff. Water seeps through the sand until it reaches a clay basin which traps it.

While rain compacts sandhills making them easy to drive over, interdune areas and salt pans become extremely boggy for the unwary.

Now, a few weeks later, the unique flora and fauna has had time to regenerate for a short period before normal arid conditions return.

Seeds of wildflowers blown into drifts in the dry have become a mass of colour in places covering sandhill flanks and gibber stone plains. Acacias, daisies, rattlepods, burrs and cassias are the most common.

Burrowing frogs which have

lived buried in a dormant state encased in a sac of secreted substance have surfaced. With sufficient rain, they mate and tadpoles grow in the short-lived pools.

Other species of burrowing fauna — blind snakes, pygmy monitors, skinks, hopping mice, and even marsupial moles — are also forced to the surface of the saturated sand.

Service wildlife officers and scientists plan to visit Simpson Desert soon as part of an ongoing study of this remarkable, fragile yet resilient area.

Activities to keep you busy

Special activities have been planned by staff and volunteer helpers for a number of national parks for the school holidays including the four-day Easter break in April.

This is the most popular time of year on many parks. Regular visitors this year will notice changes to facilities to cope with growing demand. (see report below)

While at press time details had not been fixed for some areas, visitors should look for on-park notices and ask staff when receiving camping permits.

Central Region national parks will be particularly busy. Carnarvon Gorge staff plan a slide presentation or spotlight walk each night from 11 to 19 April. At least one organized activity will be conducted each day including ones for children.

The usual factors of numbers and weather will determine times and frequency of slide shows, spotlighting and guided nature walks at Blackdown Tableland over Easter.

Marine park rangers will (weather

permitting) conduct three nature-based educational activities between 13 and 20 April at North West, Tryon, Masthead, Lady Musgrave and Heron Islands.

These are audio visual shows, reef walks, snorkelling and scuba dives, and guided tours of a coral cay covering topics such as birdlife and geology.

Keppel campers can expect a visit from rangers ready to discuss marine park zoning.

Eungella rangers plan spotlight tours, platypus watches, rainforest walks and birdwatching sessions between 11 and 20 April.

A what's on park news sheet will tell Cape Hillsborough visitors about nature walks, orienteering games for children, birdwatching walks and guided bushwalks by day and slide shows at night between 11 and 18 April.

Film/slide programs and guided walks are proposed for Cooloola and Fraser Island visitors. Noosa National Park staff will have a trial of holiday activities.

Girraween and Bunya Mountains will have their regular interpretation programs for capacity visitation.



An end is in sight for the last of 51 Community Employment Program projects undertaken by the Service and funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments for more than \$5 million.

Thirty-seven involved development work on national and environmental parks. The remainder covered research, administrative and technical services tasks.

Some 300 positions of an average length of 30 weeks were offered to long-term unemployed persons.

From late 1984 to this year, projects ranged from track construction, bridge building and sign making in the north to picnic ground redevelopment at Springbrook, and implementing records file management systems in offices.

While staff turnover of 40 per cent may seem very high, factors included loss of work ethic, project location, type of work, selection criteria, and availability of permanent work, some with the Service.

With such a large number of projects, the increased administrative workload on Service staff from park to Head Office level was enormous.

CEP projects boosted the Service's works program with labour and capital but changes to suit unemployment criteria did not always coincide with Service needs.

While also disruptive, the scheme was successful in exposing 420 people to the Service's philosophy and to a wide range of tasks.

Taking the sting out

Stinging trees and shrubs are plentiful in some situations in Queensland rainforests.

They favour disturbed habitats such as the edge of clearings, along roads and in windfall areas.

The worst species are all members of the genus *Dendrocnide* and most are locally known as Gympie or Gimpi-gimpi.

Commonly encountered species are: Giant stinging tree, *D. excelsa*, a large tree occurring in south-east Queensland; shiny-leaved stinger, *D. photinophylla*, a medium-sized tree, and the mulberry-leaved stinger, *D. moroides*, a shrub with large, heart-shaped, peltate leaves, both occurring from the Atherton Tableland to the border; and stinger, *D. cordata*, a shrub with large cordate leaves which occurs on Cape York Peninsula.

D. moroides and *D. cordata* probably produce the most painful stings.

Their habit of growth is significant as they form large, lush, suckering colonies at just the right height for the unwary.

The leaves and young branches of these and other species are covered with minute hairs (see drawing) which readily enter the skin if one is unfortunate enough to brush against the plant.

These hairs release a poison, the exact nature of which has not been ascertained, but which may contain a histamine.

out of
#! &!!

Dead leaves are as dangerous as live ones.

According to Everist in *Poisonous Plants of Australia* (Angus and Robertson, 1974) there is first a slight itch followed by a severe prickling effect which quickly becomes intense pain of a complex nature.

After time varying from a few minutes to a few hours, the stings of sharper pain decrease in intensity, but some diffuse background pain remains.

The sharp, tingling sensation is increased by touching, rubbing or by cold.

A swelling accompanied by pain often occurs in the arm pit or groin, and headaches also may develop.

The duller pain may persist for several days and even after it is gone, the application of cold water to the area of the sting results in a short burst of rather sharp pain.

This can continue for several months after the sting.

The immediate intense pain is caused by poisons in the hollow stinging hair. Treatment with an antihistamine cream of capsule seems of some value.

A brush with a stinger also results in many minute hollow needles in the skin.

These are the source of the long-term problems as they cause pain each time they move and open tissue to the air.

This mechanical problem is best treated by removing the hairs.

Cover the affected area with a very sticky sticking plaster, then remove rapidly thus taking the stinging hairs also.

Repeat several times with fresh plaster each time and pulling in the direction of the sting if known.

Painful as this may be, particularly if the patient has a hairy limb, it is effective.

After this or if no plaster is available, seal the affected area so the hairs cannot move and water cannot penetrate. This is best done with artificial skin or, failing this, hairspray.

Several bush remedies are often suggested, the most common being rubbing with the sap of the Cunjevoi, *Alocasia macrorrhiza*, or with the bark of the tree itself.

Neither remedy is of use, except perhaps where the user believes implicitly in the effectiveness of the treatment.

Learn to recognize the plants; be aware of where touching stingers is likely; wear long trousers and long-sleeved shirts in rainforest; carry sticking plaster and antihistamine cream; when encountered, do not try to cut down the plants; and learn a few really colourful words and use these freely when stung!

Bill Laverack

Another six posters from this year's Service/Channel 7 calendar have been added to the Queensland-wide landscape series.

They extend from Lizard Island and Lakefield National Parks in the north to Girraween National Park on the interstate border in the south.

They bring to 40 the number available for sale.

The Living together, Animals close-up, Taking time and Thematic series posters cost \$2 each or \$10 for a set of six.

Queensland-wide landscape series cost \$3.95 each or \$19.75 for six.

More posters

Some kinds of kangaroos cost \$9 for the set of four.

A discount of 40 per cent off single selling prices is offered on sales of 20 or more posters.

They are available from Head Office in Brisbane, Moggill, Toowoomba, Gympie, Rainbow Beach, Maryborough, Charleville, Rockhampton, Townsville, Cardwell and Cairns offices.

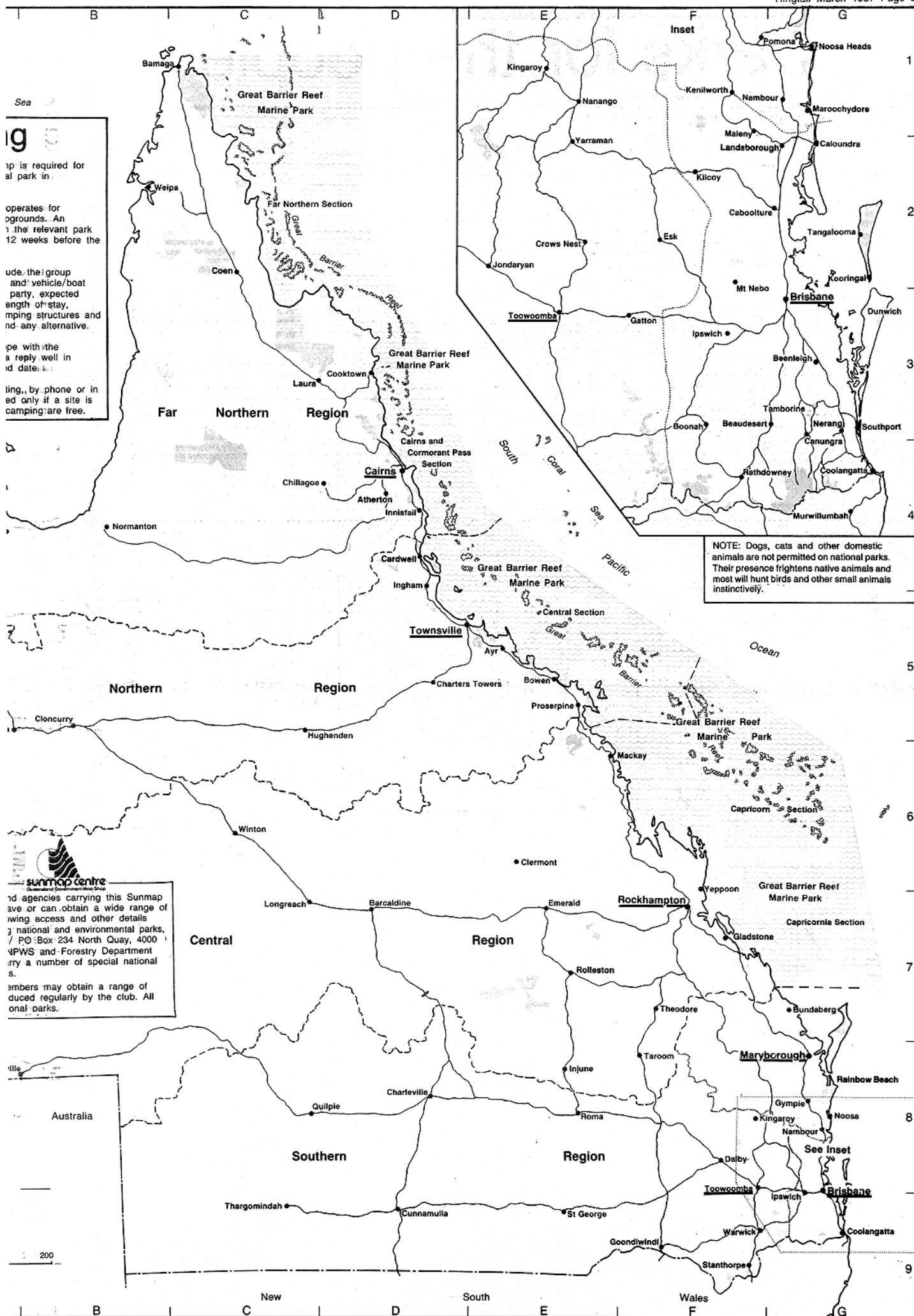
They are available by mail only from Head Office, PO Box 190 North Quay. Add postage and packing cost of

\$2 for up to six posters and \$3 for seven or more.

Handling may take one week. Make out cheques to Q.NPWS. Do not send cash in the mail. Please print your name and full address.

If a poster is out of stock, the Service reserves the right to substitute another. (Currently, the scorpion fish is out of stock, and butterfly stocks are low.)

Proceeds go to reprinting, and extending the range of the Service's education and information materials.



Parks for the people

Malala (1140ha)

This popular park on the D'Aguilar Range 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 varied forest communities.

Moreton Island (15 400ha)

Mt Tempest (285m) crowns this large island composed almost entirely of sand. Park areas now cover 89 per cent of the island and include wind-blown sand, heath, swamp forest and forests. A management centre and camp areas with facilities are provided. Access is via vehicular ferries for off-road vehicles, fast passenger boat 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 coastal road by a short walk. Popular for day visits.

Tamborine 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 and cultural values. All are interesting and popular with day visitors.

St Helena Island (74ha)

An historic area off the Brisbane River mouth with restricted access. Much of the island functioned as high security prison from 1867 to 1932. Prison labour was used for all activities including building, and some sections remain. Reached by special ferry from Manly. Schools must contact the Darling Point Special Education Centre.

Burleigh Head (24ha)

This complex of vegetation types including rainforest, 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)

Four parks comprise a green mountain backdrop to the Gold Coast. Warrie offers extensive walks past waterfalls and through forests to lookouts. Gwongorella has tall eucalypts with rainforest gullies. Wunburra, an area of wet eucalypt forest, and Mt Coughal are undeveloped areas 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 Numbah Valley. The park is popular for day visits but only the night time visitor sees glow-worms in the cave under the arch.

Lamington (20 100ha)

Rainforest, eucalypt forest and heathland, magnificent 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-east, Oran Mountains — O'Reilly'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 coastal lowlands on the Gold Coast. Vegetation of heath, swamp and woodland 8km north of Southport. Boardwalk track suitable for wheelchairs.

Mt Barney (11 400ha)

This landmark 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. Mt French (631ha). 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.

Main Range (11 500ha)

This park includes the main western part of the Scenic Rim system. At Cunningham's Gap, walking tracks pass through eucalypt forest and rainforest. Popular area for picnics and camping. Spicer's Gap to the south has an interesting history. Bushwalkers revel in many areas in this diverse park.

Queen Mary Falls (333ha)

This waterfall in tall open eucalypt woodland with rainforest gullies is not large but is a pleasant spot for families 10km east of Killarney. A second part includes Blackfellow Knob to the north.

Girraween (11 400ha)

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

Sundown (11 200ha)

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.

Lake Broadwater (1220ha)

An environmental park near Dalby important as a waterfowl habitat and as an example of natural Darling Downs country. Popular recreation spot.

Bunya Mountains (11 700ha)

An expanse of coniferous rainforest and grassy balds on the Great Dividing Range crest between Dalby 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 (962ha)

The waterfall in the north tumbles into a steep granite gorge with interesting mixed vegetation. A 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)

This two-part park separated by state forest west of Conondale township preserves wet eucalypt forest and rainforest and associated fauna.

Glass House Mountains

Remnant volcanic plugs of rhyolite and trachyte with forest and heath vegetation. Mt Coonowrin (Crookneck) (113ha) at 523m is for climbers. Mt Beerwah (245ha) 556m, Mt Tibrogargan (291ha) 393m and Mt Ngungun (49ha) 236m are suitable for bushwalkers and families taking care.

Kondallilla (128ha)

Kondallilla Falls is a feature of this rainforest part of the Maleny-Mapleton road. Tracks lead from the picnic area to the falls and swimming hole.

Mapleton Falls (26ha)

A small park off the Mapleton-Kentworth road offering scenic views, a waterfall, rainforest and eucalypt forest walks.

Noosa (432ha)

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

Coooloolo (40 900 ha)

A coastal sand park featuring ocean beaches, freshwater lakes, coloured sands and vegetation from heathland to rainforest. Access by boat 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)

The park preserves most of the northern end of the largest sand island in the world. Included are eucalypt woodland, heath and swamp vegetation. Two developed campsites. Access by boat, four-wheel-drive and barge from Uganar or Rainbow Beach and by light aircraft.

Woodgate (540ha)

Pleasant beach scenery backed by sand dunes and coastal vegetation make this park an attractive holiday spot. Wallum heath wildflower displays in season. Access via Goodwood.

Mon Repos (23.5ha)

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. Occasionally 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 attraction of this park. Road access Mundubberia via Hawkwood road (27km).

Canis Gorge (1026ha)

The sandstone gorge, its lush vegetation and dripping water are features of this popular park. Road access Monto via Moonford road (26km).

North Keppel Island (580ha)

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

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.

Tryon, Masthead Is (Capricorn Group)

Typical coral cays with pisonia, pandanus and casuarina vegetation. Seabird nesting sites and turtle rookeries. Popular camping spots for self-sufficient groups. Reached by charter boat. No engine driven equipment permitted.

North West (Capricorn Group) (94ha) and Lady Musgrave Is (Bunker Group) (20 ha)

Coral cays with large surrounding reefs. Popular safe anchorages with camping. Ideal for driving and snorkelling. Access by charter boat.

Carnarvon (223 000ha)

A combination of four areas. Carnarvon Gorge, Mt Moffatt, Salvoir Roca 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 many other parts.

Capricorn coast

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

Eurimbula (7830ha)

A biologically important area where tropical and sub-tropical environments overlap. Rainforest and swamps on deep sand backed by grassy eucalypt open 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 make 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 brigalow on the lower flats. Suitable for self-contained bushwalking groups.

Robinson Gorge (8903ha)

Sandstone scenery and deep gorges. Contrasting vegetation from that of dry plateaus to moist ever-shaded gorges.

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-heath grassland with some shrubs and a distinctive wildlife habitat. For the well-equipped, careful and adventurous.

Lark Quarry (374ha)

Environmental park south-west of Winton preserving evidence of a dinosaur stampede 100 million years ago.

Cape Hillsborough (816ha)

Coastal park of hoop pine rainforest and open eucalypt forest with fringing mangrove areas. Popular for nature study and recreation.

Eungella (50 800ha)

Large area of tropical rainforest with some grassy eucalypt woodland west of Mackay. Most is inaccessible 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-Cumberland 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 and around the camping area on the Airle 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 the going difficult even for bushwalkers. Whitsunday (10 900ha) is by far the largest. North Molle (269ha) and Hook (5180ha) 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 tropical rainforest belt. Reach the camping and picnic area from the Bruce Highway 25km south of Townsville.

Magnetic Island (2720ha)

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.

Townsville Town Common (3272ha)

An outstanding environmental park adjacent to a large city featuring coastal wetland habitat. Popular day visit area.

Mt Spec — Crystal Creek (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.

Porcupine Gorge (2938ha)

Relatively inaccessible area north-east of Hughenden challenging the adventurous.

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)

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.

Dunk Island (730ha)

Most of this island named by Captain Cook is national park. A holiday resort immortalized by author E.J. Banfield. Access by launch and plane. Suitable for day visits.

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.

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.

Palmerston (14 200ha)

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

Davies Creek (468ha)

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.

Mt Whitfield (297ha)

Scenic rainforest and open forest area on the northern outskirts of Cairns with tracks, shelter sheds and views over city, sea and countryside.

Daintree (56 450ha)

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

Cape Tribulation (16 965ha)

A vehicle ferry at the Daintree River crossing provides 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 national park with total protection of all features. A walking track passes through rainforest. Launches make regular trips from Cairns. Overnight accommodation is available.

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.

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.

Lake Barrine (481ha)

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.

Lake Eacham (489 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.

Chillagoe-Mungana Caves

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

Lizard Island (1012ha)

This continental island almost surrounded by fringing reefs 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 (537 000ha)

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

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 (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 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. For the adventurous in the Dry.

Lawn Hill (12 200ha)

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.

Grants for upgrading

Fifteen local authorities are benefiting from a \$300,000 Queensland Government allocation this year for the upgrading of access roads to national and environmental parks.

The latest cheque to be sent is \$24,000 to Biggenden Shire towards the cost of a proposed access road to Mt Walsh National Park, south of Biggenden.

Other areas involved include Carnarvon, Blackdown Tableland, Eurimbulla, Auburn River, Sundown, Mt Barney, Mt Spec and Jourama Falls National Parks, and Lark Quarry, White Blow and Fleay's Environmental Parks.

Allocations for the financial year total \$80,000 for the Far Northern Region based on Cairns, \$48,000 for the Northern Region based on Townsville, \$87,000 for the Central Region based on Rockhampton, and \$85,000 for the Southern Region based on Brisbane.

They recognize local authorities are reluctant to spend shire money on roads in areas where they receive little money directly from a few landholders.

Yet such roads are important for tourism with benefits for the districts nearby.

Publications

More to read

The Service continues to expand the range of printed matter to inform and educate park visitors and the community generally.

This quarter's contributions include a visitor information sheet on Tamborine Mountain national parks outlining their major features and advising how to get there in text and on locality and local maps.

Visitors to Moreton Island will have seen new posters — one giving an island camping code and another on visitor rights on national parks applicable everywhere.

A Reef Note on whales by marine park ranger Mark Simmons is one of a series to promote a better understanding of the Great Barrier Reef.

Visitor information sheets likely to be produced by Easter cover Southern Cooloola, Binna Burra (Lamington National Park), the Whitsunday islands, and the Dunk-Hinchinbrook Islands area.



Agro, that love-hate puppet character on the Channel 7 network's Wombat program, is now a ranger. Meeting him in his special uniform for the first time recently was Q.NPWS ranger Tina Dalton, who also makes regular appearances on the Brisbane-based program (for children but often appealing to adults) shown on 37 stations across Australia. Watch for Wild Wombat segments on nature.

Court penalties

Magistrates imposed fines, royalties and costs exceeding \$10,000 in actions under the Fauna Conservation Act in several areas in February.

The fauna involved included koalas, crocodiles, kangaroos, galahs and snakes.

In the Southport Magistrate's Court, the penalty for two technical breaches was increased greatly when the magistrate decided to impose double royalty on eight koalas and other fauna held in a Coomera tourist attraction.

Royalty on a koala is \$340.

In Maroochydore Magistrate's Court, a man was fined \$3670 on five charges involving dealing in fauna while not licensed and not submitting returns.

Fines and costs totalling more than \$1100 were imposed in Goondiwindi Magistrate's Court on charges involving kangaroo skins and a live joey.

Two men were fined \$1900 and ordered to pay \$990 in royalties in Mackay Magistrate's Court for having taken crocodiles in Cape York.

Gazettals, actions

Two further park areas

Two new environmental parks have been created by the Queensland Government in recent gazettal actions.

A significant part of the Berserker Range overlooking Rockhampton is now Mt Archer Environmental Park.

About 1990 hectares of the Moore Creek catchment on the north-western side of the range under the landmark Mt Archer is involved.

The former timber reserve is mostly hidden from the city but is revealed in a short drive to the city outskirts.

The land is considered an ideal example of an environmental park, an area of local significance in its near-natural state close to a major city for residents and visitors to use and enjoy for nature-based recreation and education.

The Service and the park trustee, the Rockhampton City Council, worked together in anticipation of the formal gazettal.

A 12km track links the peak of Mt Archer and German Street via rainforest, vine thicket and open eucalypt forest, while shorter tracks lead to scenic lookouts.

A variety of birds may be seen along the creek and occasionally wallabies and other small animals.

One of the few large remnants of tea-tree forest in the Woongoolba area near Beenleigh is now environmental park.

The 16.8ha block fronting the Stapleton-Jacobs Well

road is a district landmark for most similar land nearby has been cleared for or affected by sugar cane growing.

The land was given to the Queensland Government for environmental park by Mr H.E. Corbould for \$1.

This is the 14th such gift by Mr Corbould to be gazetted environmental park.

The parks, all in south-east Queensland, cover more than 1865 hectares.

The worth of such low-lying tea-tree areas is often under-estimated. Such areas are becoming more important refuges as these lands along the coastal strip are put to other uses.

A 93.4 hectare part of the rugged crest of the Little Liverpool Range north-west of Aratula around Kangaroo Mountain was added to Main Range National Park.

This former vacant Crown land complements a major addition to the national park last June.

The area has rainforest species in gorges and crevices with eucalypt and box forest on the spurs.

The apparently sheer eastern cliffline above Boyd Creek is broken in several places allowing walkers to reach the crest and the 756m peak.

The area of Main Range National Park is now about 11 500 hectares.

Junior Ranger column

Insects which can walk on water

Hullo Junior Rangers

If you go to a pond or a quiet stretch of a creek or river, you should be able to find a number of interesting insects.

How to do know if the invertebrates you see are insects? Adult insects have six legs and an exoskeleton. Spiders have eight legs.

Zippering across the surface are water bugs that look like they are skating. They are water striders or pond skaters. How do they stay on the surface and not fall and drown?

Their feet have microscopic feathery hairs which are water repellent.

You might count only four legs at first glance but a closer look shows water striders have six legs. The front pair of legs are adapted and used for seizing prey.

Like water, whirligig and diving beetles, water treaders and skaters or water boatmen, the water striders prey on other animals.

The bigger water bugs and beetles may be able to catch and eat small fish, tadpoles and insects but the smaller water insects prey on other water animals.

These include insect larvae, small insects and such small invertebrates, and their larvae such as worms, freshwater shrimp, copepods, isopods and amphipods.

Water boatmen or backswimmers live much of their lives under water. Adults only come to the surface to breathe through siphons in their tails. On each side of their abdomens (stomachs) are hair-covered grooves which trap air. This allows the bug to stay underwater.

The back (dorsal surface) of these bugs looks like the keel of a boat. If you watch closely you will see some really do swim upside down on their backs.

They use the back two pairs of legs to swim with and the front two to catch prey.

If you keep them in an aquarium, you can teach them to take food. Flies or pieces of meat held in tweezers on the water surface are good.

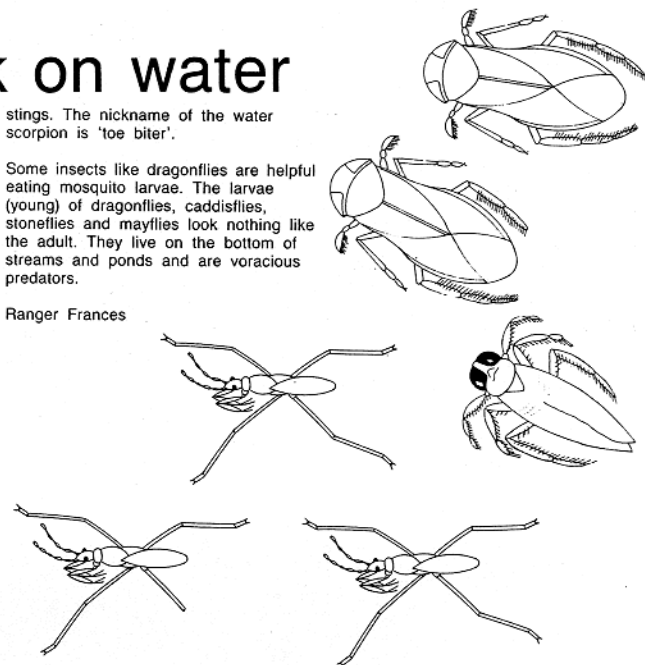
The water boatmen suck up their prey through their beaks and can (and will) accidentally stab you with these if you are not careful. This can be very painful.

Some other species of water insects can also give you painful bites or

stings. The nickname of the water scorpion is 'toe biter'.

Some insects like dragonflies are helpful eating mosquito larvae. The larvae (young) of dragonflies, caddisflies, stoneflies and mayflies look nothing like the adult. They live on the bottom of streams and ponds and are voracious predators.

Ranger Frances



Can you spot the differences in the drawings of water striders (above) and water boatmen (above right).



QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minister for Tourism, National
Parks and Sport
25th floor
State Law Building
50 Ann Street
Brisbane
PO Box 155
North Quay, Qld 4000
(07) 227 4831

Queensland National Parks and
Wildlife Service
5th, 6th and 7th floors
MLC Centre
239 George Street, Brisbane
PO Box 190
North Quay, Qld 4000
(07) 227 4111

Southern Region
Southern Regional Centre
55 Priors Pocket Road
Moggill
PO Box 42
Kenmore, Qld 4069
(07) 202 0200
202 0232 (wildlife)
202 0212 (parks)

Moreton Sub-Regional Office
see Regional Centre

Eastern Scenic Rim District
103 Pine Ridge Road
Coombabah, Qld 4218
(075) 57 1203

Burleigh Head
5 Peggys Road
Burleigh Heads, Qld 4220
(075) 35 3183

Fleay's Fauna Centre
Kabool Road
West Burleigh, Qld 4219
(075) 56 2194
Springbrook
via Mudgeeraba, Qld 4215
(075) 33 5147

Natural Arch
via Nerang, Qld 4211
(075) 33 6156

Central Scenic Rim District Office
PO Box 135
Beaudesert, Qld 4285

Tamborine Mountain
Knoll Road
North Tamborine, Qld 4272
(075) 45 1171

Lamington National Park
Binna Burra section
Beechmont
via Nerang, Qld 4211
(075) 33 3584
Green Mountains section
via Canungra, Qld 4275
(075) 45 1734

Boonah
Mt French Road
MS 161
Boonah, Qld 4310
(075) 63 1579 (after 6pm)
Moreton Bay and Canning
Districts
see Regional Centre

Glass House Mountains Office
Rays Road
Beerwah, Qld 4519
(071) 94 6630
Mt Glorious
c/ Post Office
Mt Nello, Qld 4520
(07) 289 0200 (3.30-4pm)

Moreton Island
via Tangalooma
Moreton Island, Qld 4004
(075) 48 2710
St Helena Base
PO Box 66
Manly, Qld 4179
(07) 396 5113

Downs-South West Sub-Regional
Office
4 Alderley Street
PO Box 7054
Toowoomba Mail Centre
Qld 4352
(076) 35 0688

Southern Downs District Office
Hermitage Research Station
via Warwick, Qld 4370
(076) 61 3710

Girraween
via Ballandean, Qld 4382
(076) 84 5157

Sundown
via Glenlyon Uam Road
via Stanthorpe, Qld 4380
(067) 52 5235



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Central Region
Central Regional Centre
Royal Bank Building
194 Quay Street
PO Box 1395
Rockhampton, Qld 4700
(079) 27 6511
Southern Reef District
including Capricornia
see Regional Centre

Gladsstone District Office
Roseberry Street
PO Box 315
Gladsstone, Qld 4680
(075) 76 1821

Heron Island Base
Cardwell, Qld 4816
(079) 72 5690

Fitzroy District Office
see Regional Centre
Keppel Islands-Capricorn Coast
Rosslyn Bay Harbour
PO Box 770
Yeppoon, Qld 4703
(079) 33 6608

Central Highlands District Office
PO Box 906
Emerald, Qld 4720
(079) 82 2246

Carnarvon National Park
The Range
Carnarvon Gorge section
via Rolleston, Qld 4702
(079) 84 4505
Park Overseer
Mt Moffatt section
Mt Moffatt
via Mitchell, Qld 4465

Wide Bay-Burnett Sub-Regional
Office
c/ Whitart and Richmond Streets
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(071) 22 2455

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see Sub-Regional Office

Woodgate
c/ Post Office
Woodgate, Qld 4660
(071) 26 8810

Mon Repos
PO Box 1735
Bundaberg, Qld 4670
(071) 79 2628

Great Sandy District Office
Fraser Island Recreation Board
c/ Q.N.P.W.S.
Rainbow Beach Road
PO Box 30
Rainbow Beach, Qld 4570
(071) 86 3160

Fraser Island Base
c/ Park Overseer
Dundubara, Qld 4570
(071) 28 4434

Freshwater Base
c/ Park Overseer
Rainbow Beach
(071) 49 7959

Noosa District Office
Bruce Highway
Monkland
Gympie, Qld 4570
(071) 82 4189

Southern Cooloola
Q.N.P.W.S. Box
Elanda
via Tewantin, Qld 4565
(071) 85 3245 (071) 49 7384

Noosa
Park Road
Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
(071) 47 5243

Kondalilla/Mapleton Falls
3 Kondalilla Falls Road
Flaxton
via Nambour, Qld 4560
(071) 45 7301 (noon and 4pm)

Hinchinbrook District Office
2 Herbert Street
PO Box 1293
Ingham, Qld 4850
(077) 78 1700

Jourama Falls
PO Box 1293
Ingham, Qld 4850
(077) 77 3112

Mt Spec (Crystal Creek)
Main Street
CMB 10
Paluma, Qld 4816
(077) 70 8526

Cardwell Office
PO Box 74
Cardwell, Qld 4816
(070) 66 8601

Edmund Kennedy
PO Box 74
Cardwell, Qld 4816
(070) 66 8850

North West District Office
2nd floor Mt Isa House
c/ Carpenters and Mary Streets
PO Box 2316
Mt Isa, Qld 4825
(077) 43 2055

Far Northern Region
41 Esplanade
PO Box 2068
Cairns, Qld 4870
(070) 51 9811

Lake Encham District Office
PO Box 21
Yungaburra, Qld 4872
(070) 96 3798

Lawn Hill
PMB 12
MS 1463
Mt Isa, Qld 4825

Northern Ensliegh District Office
PO Box 36
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Garners Beach Road
PO Box 89
Mission Beach, Qld 4854
(070) 68 7193

Josephine Falls
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Mirawinn, Qld 4871
(070) 67 6304

Palmerston
PO Box 800
Innisfail, Qld 4860
(070) 64 5115

Damree District Office
see Regional Centre

Cape Tribulation
PMB 10
PS 2041
Mossman, Qld 4873

Cape York District
see Regional Centre

Lakeland National Park
PMB 29
Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871
(070) 60 2162

New Laura
PMB 79
Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871
(070) 60 2160

Bizant
PMB 30
Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871
(070) 60 2158

Rokeby
PMB 28
Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871

Heathlands
PMB 76
Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871

Ringtail



QUEENSLAND
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Fine sketch of a brushtail possum by Honorary Protector Marcia Alexander who has called it Kooloo. Marcia and husband George first spotted the brushtail in their headlights as they towed a boat from a creek near their north Queensland home. Now the possum is a familiar friend, obviously quiet enough for Marcia to record on paper. She says she believes it lives in a big tree near the creek, and apparently survives without drinking by obtaining enough fluid from fruit and foliage.