

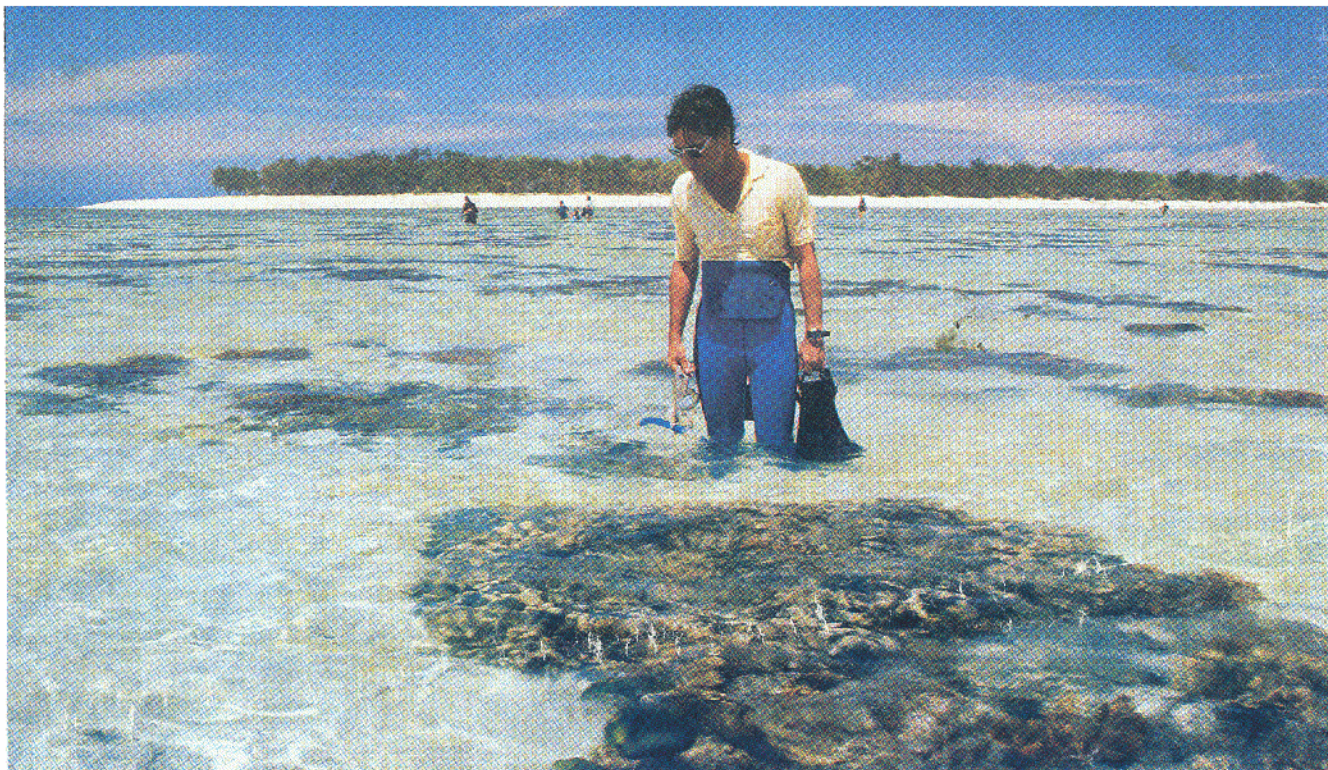


Ringtail

Department of Environment
Conservation and Tourism

Special edition of the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism quarterly newspaper

The best environment for great recreation



Minister's message

The creation and operation of the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism reflects the Queensland Government's co-ordinated involvement in the ever-growing public interest in these matters

Because almost every human activity is connected in some way with the environment, an elected government has a vital responsibility to the community to ensure that the environment is not upset to affect our well-being.

One department cannot be charged with the task of looking at every possible aspect of our environment.

I believe this department is carrying out its duties involving the most important elements of air, water and noise, co-ordination, nature conservation, and recreation in the form of tourism.

While this 1988 RNA Show display and this newspaper outline major aspects of department activity, every member of the community living in or visiting our vast state has the prime role of 'doing the right thing' by the environment.

This is not an onerous task but a simple one if we all work together and set the standards by good example.

We owe it to our descendants to pass on to them an outstanding part of the world in at least as good a condition as it was bequeathed to use, hopefully a little better.

Think of the environment first!

Sincerely

Geoff Muntz
Minister for Environment,
Conservation and Tourism



Mr Muntz

If one picture can ever be said to incorporate the scope of the activities of a government department, then the scene above is representative of the Queensland Government's Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism.

As the tide ebbs, a wet-suited visitor makes his way across the coral reef for his recreation diving off Heron Island, central Queensland.

The air is clean, the only noise is of wavelets breaking, the Capricorn Marine Park waters are unpolluted allowing corals and fish to thrive, and national park status conserves the island's vegetation and wildlife.

The amalgamation of no fewer than 10 spheres of Queensland Government activity under the one department umbrella last December represented a milestone in the community's consideration of the environment, conservation, and recreation within the term 'tourism'.

While some of the practicalities of amalgamation are still to be determined, the operations of the new department this year give promise of a most effective agency within government and in the community's view.

A corporate services division is providing a strong base for department activities.

Department responsibilities are grouped broadly as:

Environment — Noise abatement, air pollution, water quality, and environment co-ordination.

Conservation — Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane Forest Park, Fraser Island Recreation Board

Seeking a better lifestyle

(with the Queensland Forestry Department), and Raine Island Corporation.

Tourism — Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, an independent statutory authority.

Legislation to be introduced in the Queensland Parliament soon will amalgamate some functions legally, and create recreation/tourism opportunities across several Crown tenures.

Cabinet will be asked to approve the staffing structures and the scope of department divisions for best use of resources and to avoid duplication of effort.

The breadth of meaning of the terms 'environment', 'conservation', and 'tourism' is so great one government department could not be

expected to cover every aspect of activity which involves individuals, groups and companies, communities, and government at local, state, national and international levels.

This newspaper outlines the major activities of the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism as presented in different forms in the 1988 RNA Show display.

Turn the pages to find out about managing wildlife, environment co-ordination, giving information, managing natural areas, managing for recreation, monitoring environmental levels, providing advice for industry, the Brisbane River Committee, and hints how you can help.



Wildlife ranger examines an echidna, a fairly common Australian animal but not seen often by urban residents. Its spines may be a great deterrent to animals like dogs but its slow movements make it no match for vehicles.

Wildlife needs good habitat

Responsible wildlife management covers much more than protection. Habitat conservation is the key to the continued survival of any species in the wild. All animals have preferred habitat or habitats.

Some species like the common brushtail possum are tolerant of a wide variety of conditions and are found in many places. They may prefer some habitats over others.

Other species like gastric brooding frogs are found in limited areas seemingly only in times of certain conditions.

For reasons of size or mobility, some species require large areas to meet their daily requirements. Others need only very small areas.

In whatever habitat they live, animals must have certain basic needs filled. These include food and places to breed and raise their young successfully as well as protection from weather and enemies.

Research reveals not only the kinds of animals which live in an area but their habitat preferences. Many species vary in number with seasons. They may move about following food

sources or with changes in weather or season.

To properly manage any species of animal, information on breeding, length of pregnancy (gestation period), and usual number of young is important.

Also necessary are the average lifespan, age at first breeding, how many times it breeds and the number of young it produces in a year, and the survival rate of young.

Such observations need to be made over a number of years. Most details will change over times of drought, in wet years, and in average years.

Animals should be managed as species or populations, not as individuals. For any population to continue, there must be a good number of healthy breeding individuals.

Each area has a carrying capacity — the number of individuals of a species that can be supported in a healthy condition without the area deteriorating.

Animals in excess of that capacity must be able to move elsewhere. If excess animals are confined, often they will die from stress or disease.

Their condition may become so poor they do not breed. In the

process, they may alter the habitat so it will support only fewer animals.

Natural predation is one way excess animals are taken from an area and the animal population and habitat remains healthy.

Some animals, specially smaller ones, are intolerant of the nearness of people. Many were never widely distributed and disturbance has resulted in their decline in numbers.

For them, undisturbed habitat is essential.

Introduced herbivores can graze the same plant species as native animals. They trample vegetation or eat grass tussocks making nesting for small animals impossible.

The provision of permanent water supplies has also had an effect on native mammals. They can now be year-round rather than seasonal residents of an area.

Corridors linking areas of natural habitat are important. They allow seasonal migrations through what otherwise might be difficult terrain.

No matter how well we protect animals, we must keep habitat to keep the animals.

Co-ordinating unit central to govt.

The role of the Department's environment co-ordination unit is directed to co-ordinating consideration of matters involving the environment within the Queensland Government and its agencies.

In this context, 'environment' refers not only to the physical and natural systems like landscape, plants and animals but also the social and economic framework.

In particular, the unit has a central role in the Government's impact assessment process. By law, State Government authorities must take into account environmental issues in evaluating whether a development, government or private, should proceed and if so under what conditions.

In attempting to consider the environmental impact of development projects, it is essential to take account of other interests in the physical vicinity and demands on or use of the systems involved.

This requires access to planning information sources as well as specialist advice.

To provide an effective service, specialists must be engaged and their disparate interests brought together through liaison.

The Department's conservation and environment divisions are major contributors particularly on the significance of habitat values, the conservation of flora and fauna and the 'pollution capacity' of a water or air body — the surrounding environment.

Environmental management in Queensland remains largely based on a system in which each agency is responsible for those environmental aspects of its activities. Yet legislation provides for an essential co-ordinating mechanism.

This unit function ensures all environmental policies and requirements of government are considered, and that liaison between agencies occurs.

Such a mechanism extends to environmental relations with other governments, particularly in the area of project assessment, which might involve the Commonwealth or even the Australian Environment Council.

This body has a broad mandate to consider nationally important environmental issues. These include pollution, climatic change, waste management, land use, and hazardous chemicals to the environmental aspects of land use, forestry, and bushfires.

The role of the recently established unit is evolving. It is helping co-ordinate department technical activities which do not fall neatly into either the natural or physical environment areas.

Examples of this role include co-ordinating input into development of Queensland's economic development strategy, department involvement in international consulting, and implications of multi-functional policies within Queensland to Ministerial consideration of infrastructure policy.

Unit input to these is mainly centred on the need for long-term sustainable development having regard to good environmental management and to keeping an awareness among decision makers of the environmental consequences, good and bad, of undertaking projects or policies.



Ranger answers the queries of a visitor to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's Burleigh Heads information centre on the Gold Coast.

Providing all the answers

One of the Department's important functions is to inform the community about the activities of its agencies and to be able to answer visitors' questions.

This newspaper is but one form of information about the department. Collectively, more than 300 publications are available from card-sized reminders to detailed park guides, posters, and technical reports.

Answering written and telephone requests takes considerable staff time but this is considered well spent reflecting continued interest in the environment and conservation.

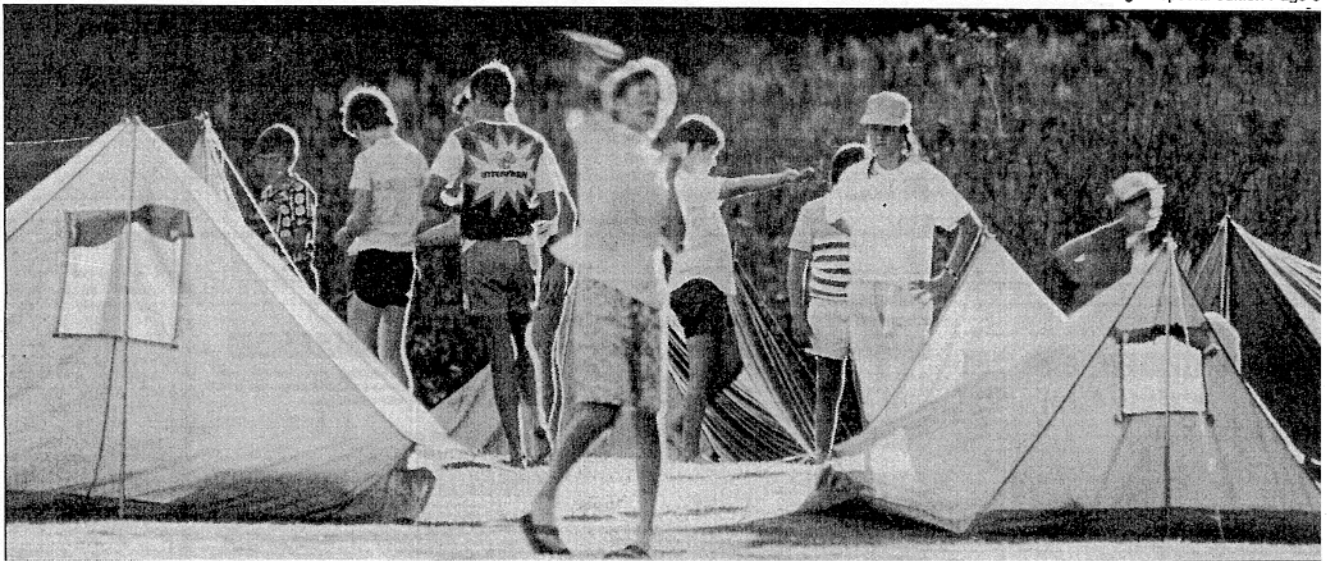
By far the most effective communication is

face-to-face with one or more of the 650 people who make up the department.

The list of addresses and telephone numbers on page 7 indicates the many opportunities you have to make your enquiries.

The list includes major offices in Brisbane, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns, and special information centres at Fleay's Fauna Centre, Burleigh Head, Brisbane Forest Park, Binna Burra (Lamington National Park), Gympie, and Cardwell.

While no one is expert in all fields, you can expect a cordial response and a re-direction for detail if necessary.



The provision of facilities and programs in Queensland's many natural areas provide recreation and tourism opportunities and contribute to enjoyable experiences for local residents, intrastate, interstate and overseas visitors.

Such areas include national parks, environmental parks, marine parks, state forests, and other lands and waters under government control.

In most areas, visitors may drive to reach natural areas and their attractions. Proper siting of roads ensures the attractions are not spoiled by unnecessary human interference.

Provision of picnic tables, fireplaces, barbecues, shelter sheds and toilets increase our enjoyment of the outdoors while lessening our impact.

Walking tracks are built for ease of access to many parts of these natural areas. Their slopes and construction encourages walking and minimizes damage to the natural environment.

Track lengths vary to challenge the fitness

Camping for one or more nights in a national park is a rewarding pastime for many thousands of people in Queensland each year. A properly-managed park caters for the needs of a wide range of people, many of whom seem to find extra energy in the great outdoors. Here a group enjoys a quick game near their tents after a day's walking in Bunya Mountains National Park.

Managing parks for recreation

of the young and old. Some tracks have been developed to allow wheelchair use.

Today, rainforests can be seen from canopy walks, and boardwalks give access to the secrets of mangrove areas and melaleuca wetlands.

In many areas, campgrounds have been provided. To ensure a quality experience and to prevent degrading surrounding natural areas, maximum visitor numbers are set. A 'first-in' campsite booking system applies the year round.

Permits are issued so campers can be aware of rules applying to the area, and so the Ranger knows where to find bush campers in an emergency.

Recreation in a natural area is restricted to activities compatible with its conservation in its natural state.

Walking along a graded trail with a minimum of signage is in keeping with its natural state.

Riding a trail bike or driving an off-road vehicle is not. In coastal areas, water skiing and speedboats are incompatible with swimming and fishing.

A properly planned and managed area can provide for a wide range of activities as demanding as bushwalking, abseiling and rock climbing or as relaxing as bird-watching or sky-gazing!

In keeping with this nature-based recreation, a variety of programs and activities can be offered to visitors.

These may include children's nature programs, crafts, guided walks, botany walks, birdwatching, spotlighting and stargazing.

These may be conducted by trained staff or keen volunteers with expertise in their fields.

The knowledgeable park manager also plans for the demand by visitors to be informed. Carefully prepared brochures can contain interesting details about an area's plants and animals, geology, history, and place in Queensland's diverse natural regions.

A clear walking track map can be the key to release a new page in the world of nature.

Proper and effective management of a natural area is very demanding but essential if the visitor is to have a quality nature-based recreation experience.

Fires, weeds and feral animals have major effects Keeping that 'natural' look

In managing natural areas, their natural condition should be maintained as nearly as possible. This is a key point in the law governing Queensland national parks.

Only where vulnerable or threatened species of wildlife having specific habitat requirements are found should conditions be manipulated to ensure necessary conditions are met.

Research has shown that some species require habitat which has been burnt at intervals. For the ground parrot, this is between three and seven years.

The continued existence of this bird in wallum areas depends on controlled burning to produce a mosaic of burnt and unburnt habitat.

In many areas, prescribed burning is used to reduce the level of dead vegetation.

Such a fire protects park facilities and adjacent properties, and reduces the incidence of wildfires.

Aboriginals commonly used fire as a habitat management tool and Australian vegetation is well adapted to it. If fuel builds to high levels, fire intensity may be so great as to kill or discriminate against certain species. Too frequent fires have a similar effect.

The reduction of fire hazard is managed to ensure wildflowers and other plants and animals which cannot survive severe or frequent burns are protected.

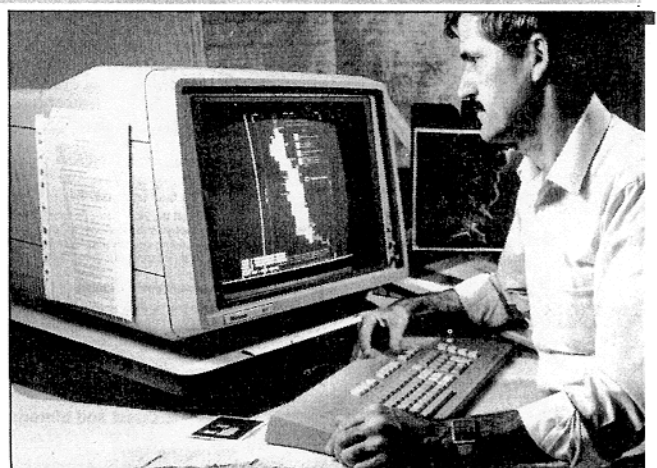
Setting maximum numbers of people using park campgrounds and the siting of facilities are other means of managing natural areas to maintain their natural condition.

Feral animals and weeds are hazards to an area's natural condition. Feral horses, pigs, goats, cattle and donkeys compete with native animals for food, degrade natural areas and cause serious damage to wetlands and other fragile vegetation.

Large introduced herbivores trample fragile plants, crop grasses lower than native animals, and can churn wetlands into muddy wallows.

All such animals need to be controlled or where possible removed from natural areas. Control or absence is more likely to allow rare native animals and plants to survive if not flourish.

Rapid growth of weeds allows them to



Modern computers are powerful tools of analysis allowing for very detailed studies of areas provided sufficient data is supplied.

reach maturity before slower-growing native species can reach a size to compete successfully.

Not only do weeds choke native plants and restrict their access to sunlight but their more mature root systems absorb vital nutrients more successfully.

Herbicides have been used successfully at park boundaries to limit unwanted ground vegetation yet allowing tree species to survive.

Determining an area's 'natural condition' can be a difficult task involving searches

of explorers' diaries, historical records, and museum and herbarium records, and a range of maps.

Satellite and aerial photography and computers aid modern day analysis but there is no substitute for on-the-ground detailed surveys of flora and fauna.

Checks and re-checks of survey data indicate subtle and occasionally marked changes of areas considered by the casual observer to be 'natural'.

Parks for the people



Staffed park	Suitable for disabled	Drinking water	No swimming
Information centre	Campground	Showers	Crocodiles
Picnic area	Bush camping	Walking tracks	Accommodation nearby (motel or caravan park)
Toilets	No camping	Swimming	Barbecue

Southern Queensland

Parks near Brisbane

1 Brisbane Forest Park (26 500ha)

B V
Maiala (1140ha) 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. Manorina is for camping and walking in the mist. Boombana is for bird-watching, and Jolly's Lookout is for views and picnics. Booking centre: Brisbane Forest Park, The Gap (07) 300 4855.

2 Glass House Mountains

V
Remnant volcanic plugs of rhyolite and trachyte with forest and heath vegetation. Mt Coonoorwin (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. Information: Beerwah.

Moreton Bay parks

3 St Helena Island (74ha)

W
An historic area off the Brisbane River mouth containing relics of a 19th century penal settlement. Regular ferry services from Manly and the Brisbane River. Access to historic ruins is by guided tour only. School groups must contact the St Helena Field Study Centre (07) 396 0754. Information: St Helena.

4 Moreton Island (15 400ha)

BCFUW
This large sand island features 285m Mt Tempest, reputedly the highest sand peak in the world. The park covers 89 per cent of the island and contains freshwater lakes, heath, swamp, sand blows and open forest and unspoiled beaches. Access by vehicular ferry, passenger boat or light aircraft. Booking centre: Moreton Island/Moggill.

5 Blue Lake (501ha)

V
This popular day visit park on North Stradbroke Island features a water table window lake located 10km east of Dunwich accessible off the east coast road. Information: Moggill.

Gold Coast and hinterland

6 Burleigh Head (24ha)

V
This scenic park preserves small areas of rainforest, open forest and heath at the eastern end of the Tallebudgera Greenspace, a haven amid intense urban development. Walking tracks lead to lookouts and pleasant places of retreat. Information: Burleigh Head.

7 Fleay's Fauna Centre

V
Enjoy our native wildlife in natural surroundings. Rainforest, open forest, rocky slope and wetland animals can be viewed from boardwalks. Special children and animals area. Kiosk. Admission fee. Information: Fleay's.

8 Pine Ridge (109ha)

V
A remnant of the heath, swamp and woodland vegetation which once covered what is now the Gold Coast. Wildflowers in season. Boardwalks with wheelchair access. Information: Pine Ridge.

9 Tamborine Mountain (total 646ha)

V
Numerous relatively small reserves, mostly rainforest. Popular for day visits. Extensive walking tracks to waterfalls and lookouts. Information: Tamborine.

10 Springbrook (2084ha)

BCV
Four parks comprise a green mountain backdrop to the Gold Coast. Warrie offers extensive walks past waterfalls and through forest to lookouts. Gwongorella has tall eucalypts with rainforest gullies. Wunburra is an area of wet eucalypt forest. Mt Cougal, for those venturing from the Currumbin Valley, 'as rainforested pools and an old sawmill. Booking centre: Springbrook.

11 Natural Arch (212ha)

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

12 Lamington (20 100ha)

ACV
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 on the park's northern half. Access is via Binna Burra in the north-east, Green Mountains/O'Reilly's in the north-west and several roads and tracks in the west and south. Booking centres: Binna Burra, Green Mountains, Christmas Creek, Moggill.

Parks near Boonah

13 Moogerah Peaks (676ha)

BCPV
Complex of isolated volcanic peaks including Mt French, Mt Groville, Mt Moon, and Mt Edwards in the Fassifern Valley near Boonah. Predominantly open eucalypt forest with dry vine forest in the gullies and montane heath on exposed rock faces. Popular for the adventurous and rock climbers. Mt French and Mt Edwards are popular day use areas. Booking centre: Boonah.

14 Mt Barney (11 000ha)

CPV
This mainly open forest and heathland park includes the twin peaks of Mt Barney (1360m), Mt Lindesay (1191m) and Mt Maroon (965m). Largely undeveloped, the park is very popular with bushwalkers and climbers. Access from the Rathdowney/Boonah road. Booking centre: Boonah.

Scenic Rim

15 Main Range (11 500ha)

BCUV
Bushwalkers often enjoy the rough trail along the Great Dividing Range from Mt Mistake to Wilson's Peak on the New South Wales border through rugged, often densely forested country. Picnic areas, camp grounds and walking tracks at Spicer's Gap and Cunningham's Gap cater for other visitors. Access from the Cunningham Highway. Booking centres: Main Range, Moggill, Warwick.

16 Queen Mary Falls (333ha)

V
This two-part park east of Killarney features a 40m waterfall. A very popular picnic area in rainforest in the Condamine River headwaters. Information: Warwick.

Granite Belt

17 Girraween (11 400ha)

ACV
Massive granite tors and outcrops tower over a diverse and often dense eucalypt and heath vegetation in this park 30km south of Stanthorpe. Outstanding wildflower display in spring. Walking tracks along creeks and to rocky viewpoints. Very popular camping and picnic areas. Winter days and nights are cold. Booking centres: Girraween, Warwick.

18 Sundown (11 200ha)

BCU
Rugged gorges leading to the Severn River are a feature of this park reached via Stanthorpe or Ballandean. Dense forests of cypress pine and eucalypts cover hill slopes. No tracks but creek walking is easy. Booking centres: Girraween, Warwick.

Parks near Toowoomba

19 Lake Broadwater (1220ha)

CV
A remnant of cypress and brigalow vegetation which once partly covered the Darling Downs around a shallow lake. Popular for short walks, birdwatching and water sports. Booking centre: Toowoomba.

20 Crows Nest Falls (962ha)

BV
This large waterfall tumbles into a steep granite gorge. Walking tracks above and below the gorge. Popular for picnicking and swimming. Booking centres: Toowoomba, Moggill.

21 Ravensbourne (100ha)

V
This park off the Hampton-Esk road preserves a remnant of the wet sclerophyll and rainforest vegetation which once covered the surrounding countryside. Walking tracks and picnic areas are popular. Information: Crows Nest.

22 Bunya Mountains (11 700ha)

ABC V
Largest remaining area of bunya pine forest. Also features balds — treeless grassy areas — and open forest. Spectacular views from extensive walking tracks. Winter nights are cold. Booking centres: Bunya Mountains, Toowoomba, Moggill.

Sunshine Coast and hinterland

23 Peregrine (93ha)

U
This small environmental park protects a low-lying wallum heath landscape. Short scenic walks across swampland and dunes to beach. Information: Gympie.

24 Kondalilla (128ha)

V
Kondalilla Falls is a feature of this rainforest park off the Maleny-Mapleton road. Walking tracks and popular picnic area. Information: Kondalilla.

25 Mapleton Falls (26ha)

V
A small park off the Mapleton-Kenilworth road with scenic views, a waterfall, rainforest and eucalypt forest walks. Information: Kondalilla.

Access code

V Suitable for conventional vehicle
U Unsealed road. Four-wheel-drive recommended
W Access by water
F Access by air
P Walk-in access

Campground fees

A \$7/site/night up to six people
B \$5/site/night up to six people
C \$2/person/night or \$5/night/max. for six people

26 Noosa (432ha)

V
A popular scenic coastal park featuring rocky coastlines, heath and rainforest. Extensive walking tracks to lookouts and coastal features. Self-guiding trail. Information: Noosa.

Cooloola Coast parks

27 Cooloola (40 900ha)

ABCUW
An extensive park embracing coastal heathlands, coloured sand cliffs, rainforest, freshwater lakes, and the unspoiled Noosa River catchment. Access by boat from Tewantin and Boreen Point, and four-wheel-drive from Rainbow Beach and Tewantin. Camping areas at Freshwater and Double Island Point, along the Noosa River, and along the Cooloola Wilderness Trail. Booking centres: Rainbow Beach, Freshwater, Kinaba, Noosa, Gympie.

28 Great Sandy (Fraser Island) (52 400ha)

FUW
This park preserves most of the northern end of the largest sand island in the world. Included are eucalypt woodland, heath and swamp vegetation, and freshwater lakes. Campsites at Waddy Point, Dundubara and Wathumba Creek. Access by boat, four-wheel-drive and barge from Urangan, River Heads and Rainbow Beach, and by light aircraft. Vehicle access and special camping permits required. Booking centres: Rainbow Beach, Noosa, Gympie.

Parks near Bundaberg

29 Woodgate (5490ha)

B U
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. Booking centres: Woodgate, Maryborough.

30 Mon Repos (24ha)

V
This small environmental preserves a turtle rookery on the coast east of Bundaberg. Turtles nest between November and January. Hatchlings emerge from January to March. Information: Mon Repos, Maryborough.

Upper Burnett

31 Auburn River (389ha)

C U
The scenic Auburn River gorge is this park's main attraction. Access is from the Munduberra road via Hawkwood. Booking centre: Maryborough.

32 Cania Gorge (2000ha)

V
This sandstone gorge, lush vegetation and dripping water are features of this popular park seen from walking tracks. Road access is from the Monto road via Moonford. Private campground adjacent. Information: Maryborough.

33 Mt Walsh (2987ha)

C V
This undeveloped park features the rugged peaks of Mt Walsh and the Bluff. Eucalypt forests on the slopes with dense vine and palm-filled valleys. A challenge for climbers and backpackers. Booking centre: Maryborough.

Central Queensland

Central coast

34 Keppel Group (867ha)

BCW
Popular group of eight continental island parks off Yeppoon. Open eucalypt forest, pandanus along the coast and tussock grassland on exposed windward sides. Campsites Humpy and North Keppel. Booking centres: Roslyn Bay, Rockhampton.

35 Heron Island (12ha)

F W
Half of this densely vegetated coral cay is national park. Turtle rookery and seabird nesting area. Fishing and collecting are prohibited in the surrounding Marine Park. Information: Heron Island, Gladstone.

36 Masthead, Tryon Islands (total 46ha)

A W
Typical coral cays with pisonia, pandanus and casuarina vegetation. Seabird nesting sites and turtle rookeries. Popular camping spots for self-sufficient groups. Access via charter boat. No engine-driven equipment permitted. Booking centre: Gladstone.

37 North West Island (94ha) and Lady Musgrave Island (20ha)

A F W
Coral cays with large surrounding reefs. Safe anchorages. Popular for camping, diving and snorkelling. Access by charter boat. Booking centre: Gladstone.

Arafura

Sea

Camping

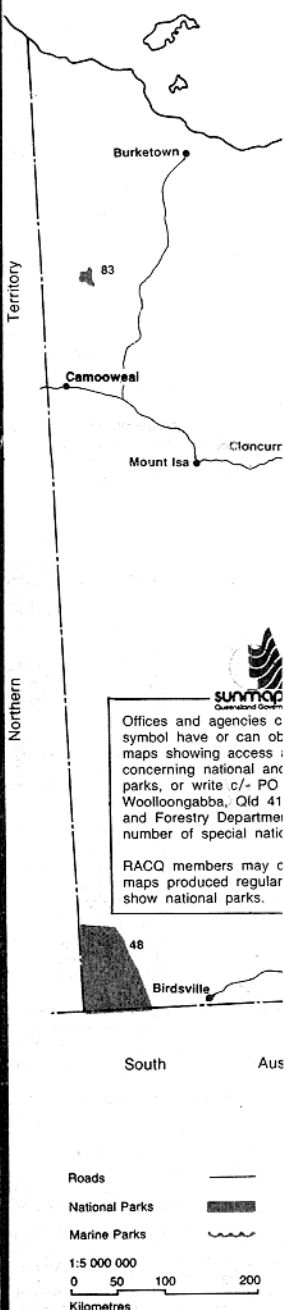
A written permit to camp is required camping on any national park in Queensland.

A site booking system operates for developed Service campgrounds. An application should reach the relevant office listed opposite 6-12 weeks before proposed date.

Applications should include the group leader's name, address and vehicle/number, number in the party, expect arrival date, proposed length of stay, number and type of camping structures, desired site and any alternate.

A stamped self-addressed envelope with application will ensure a reply well in advance of the proposed date.

Late applications in writing, by phone person will be considered only if a site is not taken.



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NOTE: Dogs, cats and other domestic animals are not permitted on national parks. Their presence frightens native animals and most will hunt birds and other small animals instinctively.



sunmap centre

agencies carrying this Sunmap or can obtain a wide range of ig access and other details ational and environmental ite c/- PO Box 40, ba, Qld 4120. Some Q.NPWS Department offices carry a pecial national park maps.

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al parks.

Australia

200

New

South

Wales

Popular central, northern parks

38 Capricorn coast (107ha)



Double Head and Bluff Point south of Yeppoon are popular coastal parks for day visitors. Information: Rockhampton.

39 Mt Archer (1990ha)



Environmental park on Rockhampton's eastern outskirts with a walking track passing through a variety of vegetation. Information: Rockhampton.

40 Eurlimula (7630ha)



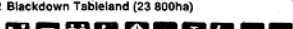
A biologically important area where tropical and sub-tropical environments overlap. Coastal heath and swamps on deep sand backed by grassy eucalypt open forest with patches of rainforest. Booking centre: Gladstone.

41 Deepwater (4090ha)



A high dune landscape backed by open forest and vine thickets with banksia heath to the west. Deepwater Creek is an undisturbed freshwater stream. Located 70km north-west of Bundaberg. Booking centre: Gladstone.

42 Blackdown Tableland (23 800ha)



Sandstone plateau high above surrounding plains with tall eucalypt forest, wildflowers and waterfalls. Popular camping and picnic spot. Access unsuitable for caravans. Booking centre: Blackdown Tableland.

43 Isla Gorge (7800ha)



This park preserves deeply dissected sandstone gorges and ridges vegetated with eucalypts and wildflowers. Stands of softwood scrub and some brigalow occur on the lower flats. Suitable for bushwalking. Booking centres: Gladstone, Taroom.

44 Robinson Gorge (77 300ha)



Large park with magnificent sandstone scenery and deep gorges where Robinson Creek carves its way towards the Dawson River. Contrasting landscape with palm trees along the creek lines. Four-wheel-drive access only. Booking centres: Gladstone, Taroom.

45 Carnarvon (223 000ha)



Carnarvon Gorge—

46 Mt Moffatt—



47 Salvator Rosa, Ka Ka Mundi—



Four areas in the Central Highlands sandstone belt are combined in this major park. Features include diverse vegetation, spectacular sandstone scenery with gorges and escarpments and relics of Aboriginal culture. Gorge campsite very popular. Elsewhere, the self-sufficient carrying extra fuel, food and water can enjoy a wilderness experience. Booking centres: Carnarvon Gorge, Mt Moffatt, Springsure.

Western Queensland

48 Simpson Desert (555 000ha)



Queensland's largest national park west of Birdsville complements an even larger reserve in South Australia. Preserves dunefields and spinifex, open hummock grassland with some shrubs and distinctive wildlife. For the well-equipped, careful and adventurous. Information: Rockhampton.

49 Lark Quarry (374ha)



Remote environmental park south-west of Winton preserving evidence of a dinosaur stampede 100 million years ago. Information: Rockhampton.

Mackay district

50 Cape Hillsborough (816ha)



Coastal park of hoop pine rainforest and open eucalypt forest with fringing mangrove areas. Popular for nature study and walking. Smalley's Beach campsite does not have water. Booking centres: Mackay, Seaford.

51 Eungella (50 800ha)



Large park where tropical and sub-tropical rainforests meet. Camping areas and facilities are provided at Broken River, Fern Flat and Finch Hatton Gorge. Much of the park is for experienced bushwalkers. Booking centres: Eungella, Mackay.

52 Brampton Island (464ha)



A popular park in the Cumberland Group. Walkings tracks to lookouts over surrounding islands and reefs. Camping allowed on nearby islands. Booking centres: Mackay, Seaford.

53 Cape Palmerston (7160ha)



Undeveloped coastal park with grassy headlands, mangroves and swamps. For self-sufficient visitors. Carry extra fuel and water. Booking centre: Mackay.

North Queensland

Whitsundays

54 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 Airie Beach-Shute Harbour road. Four-day camping limit. Booking centre: Conway.

55 Whitsunday Islands



A large group of continental islands, some of which are developed extensively for tourism. Fringing reefs, rocky outcrops, and rainforest make the going difficult even for bushwalkers. Whitsunday (10 930ha) is the largest. Access by launch from Shute Harbour and Hamilton Island. Camping is allowed on 19 islands. Booking centre: Conway.

Parks around Townsville

56 Bowling Green Bay (Mt Elliot) (55 300ha)



Extensive lowlands of relatively low rainfall are backed by the rugged Mt Elliot area, the southern limit of the wet tropics. Access from the Bruce Highway south of Townsville. Road gate is closed at night. Booking centre: Mt Elliot.

57 Magnetic Island (2720ha)



Most of this continental island off Townsville is national park. It features boulder-strewn hillsides and headlands, hoop pine and eucalypt forest, and a 22km walking track system. Habitat for koalas. Reef walk at Geoffrey Bay. Regular ferry service from Townsville. Information: Magnetic Island.

58 Townsville Town Common (3272ha)



This environmental park on Townsville's outskirts covers extensive coastal lands, wet in season. Popular waterbird viewing area. Cape Pallarenda Environmental Park fronting Cleveland Bay adjacent. Information: GBR Wonderland.

59 Mt Spec (7224ha)



This park along part of the Paluma Range north of Townsville includes rainforest and open eucalypt forest. Access from the Bruce Highway. Campground at Big Crystal Creek. Booking centre: Paluma.

Ingham district

60 Orpheus Island (1300ha)



Continental island off the coast from Ingham with grassland, open forest and rainforest. Surrounding reef excellent for snorkelling. Access by private boat or charter launch. Booking centre: Ingham.

61 Herbert River (32 100ha)



Five adjoining parks — Herbert River Gorge, Herbert River Falls, Herkes Creek, Yamanie Falls, and Sword Creek — form a magnificent conservation reserve in the Herbert River valley west of Ingham. Booking centre: Ingham.

62 Wallaman Falls (602ha)



Wallaman Falls west of Ingham has the largest single drop waterfall in Australia (278m). Popular campground and magnificent views over the Herbert River valley. Booking centre: Ingham.

63 Jourama Falls (1070ha)



Series of cascades over salmon-coloured granite amid lush greenery with surrounding eucalypt forest. Popular picnic area off the Bruce Highway 29km south of Ingham. Booking centres: Jourama Falls, Ingham.

Western parks

64 Porcupine Gorge (2938ha)



Remote sandstone gorge in the headwaters of the Flinders River. Lookout off the Kennedy Developmental Road north of Hughenden. Challenge for the adventurous. Booking centre: GBR Wonderland.

65 Great Basalt Wall (30 500ha)



Remote area including part of a major geological feature from the last major volcanic activity in north-east Australia. Access from Charters Towers. Booking centre: Charters Towers.

Cardwell district

66 Hinchinbrook Island (39 350ha)



Queensland's largest island-national park, separated from the mainland by a drowned river valley. Rugged rocky mountains, waterfalls, beaches, rainforest, mangroves and tall eucalypt forest. Wilderness area for self-sufficient bushwalkers. Access by boat from Cardwell and Lucinda Point. Booking centre: Cardwell Information Centre on the Bruce Highway in Cardwell providing information and displays on the wet tropics.

67 Edmund Kennedy (6200ha)



Explorer Edmund Kennedy traversed this area on his ill-fated 1848 expedition. Diverse vegetation includes mangroves, dense rainforest, tea-tree—sedge swamps and fan palm and sword grass swamps. Access from the Bruce Highway north of Cardwell. Booking centre: Cardwell Information Centre.

68 Dunk Island (730ha)



Most of this island named by Captain Cook is national park and was immortalised by author E.J. Banfield. Booking centre: Cardwell Information Centre.

Far North Queensland

Parks south of Cairns

69 Bellenden Ker (31 000ha)



This largely undeveloped park on the eastern slopes of Bellenden Ker Range includes Queensland's highest mountain, Bartle Frere (1657m). Numerous streams with waterfalls flow through dense upland rainforest habitat for many mammals including the tree kangaroo, birds and reptiles found only in Queensland. Josephine Falls west of the Bruce Highway is popular for walking and picnics. The Goldfield track passing through the park challenges hikers. Booking centre: Josephine Falls.

70 Eubenangee Swamp (1520ha)



The last remaining natural swamp between Townsville and Cairns can be viewed in comfort and safety from a long boardwalk. Good views to Bellenden Ker. Information: Josephine Falls.

71 Mt Whittfield (297ha)



A scenic open forest and rainforest park on Cairns' northern outskirts provides extensive views over the city and surrounds. Information: Cairns.

72 Barron Gorge (2784ha)



The 260m falls on the Barron River may now be seen only in floodtime. Water dammed for power generation is released periodically for rating on the rainforest-fringed gorge below and for the enjoyment of passengers on the Cairns-Kuranda railway. Information: Cairns.

73 Michaelmas Cay (3ha)



Together with the nearby Upolo Cay, this cay is one of the Great Barrier Reef's main seabird nesting areas. Disturbance of nesting is minimised by strict controls on visitors. Information: Cairns.

74 Green Island (7ha)



Most of this densely vegetated coral cay is national park. A walking track passes through the dry rainforest. Most popular destination on the Great Barrier Reef. Access by regular ferry service from Cairns. Information: Cairns.

75 Davies Creek (468ha)



Granite-strewn landscape with eucalypt forest north-west of Cairns off the Kennedy Highway. The creek flows over a 100m waterfall into a deep valley. Wildflowers in spring. Booking centre: Cairns.

Atherton Tableland and surrounds

76 Lake Eacham (489ha)



A crater lake surrounded by rainforest off the Gillies Highway. A 5km walking track circles the lake providing excellent opportunities for nature study. Information: Lake Eacham.

77 Lake Barrine (491ha)



Another maar, a lake in the cone of an extinct volcano, 6km from Lake Eacham. The park's 6.5km circuit track passes through rainforest once typical of the north-eastern tablelands. Habitat for reptiles, birds and mammals. Information: Lake Eacham.

78 Mt Hypipamee (The Crater) (364ha)



This geological curiosity is a water-filled crater with sheer granitic sides as the result of a volcanic explosion. Walking tracks through rainforest and eucalypt forest. Information: Lake Eacham.

79 Malanda Falls (18ha)



This small rainforest environmental park is adjacent to Malanda Falls over an old lava flow on the North Johnstone River. Information: Lake Eacham.

80 Millstream Falls (372ha)



This open woodland park features Millstream Falls, reputedly the widest in Australia. Access off the Ravenshoe-Mt Garnet road. Limit of three nights for camping. Booking centre: Lake Eacham.

81 Palmerston (14 200ha)



Superb rainforest scenery, gorges, waterfalls and swimming holes are features of this park. White water rafting on the North Johnstone River. Self-guiding trail at Tchupala Falls. Off the Palmerston Highway between Innisfail and Ravenshoe. Booking centre: Palmerston.

82 Chillagoe/Mungana Caves



A series of national parks preserving outstanding examples of a broad limestone belt. Three caves, Donna, Royal Arch and Trezking, have regular guided tours. Tour times 9am and 1.30pm. Small camping area. Booking centre: Chillagoe.

Mt Isa district

83 Lawn Hill (12 200ha)



Remote oasis like area in the far north-west between Burketown and Camooweal. Permanent waters of Lawn Hill Creek are contained by rich, red sandstone walls forming a gorge which protects remnant rainforest species, some found only here. Rich in Aboriginal history. Booking centre: Lawn Hill.

Parks north of Cairns

84 Daintree (56 450ha)



Extensive largely undeveloped national park drained by many tributaries of the Daintree River. Magnificent tropical rainforest can be enjoyed by walks around Mossman Gorge, just outside Mossman. The rest of the park is for experienced, self-sufficient bushwalkers. Information: Cairns.

85 Cape Tribulation (16 965ha)



This scenic coastal rainforest park extends from reef-fringing beaches to misty mountain tops. Access is via a vehicular ferry across the Daintree River or from Cooktown. Booking centre: Cape Tribulation.

86 Cedar Bay (5650ha)



Northern extremity of the wet tropics. This remote park is accessible only by boat. Information: Cairns.

87 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. Major habitat for many species of birds and fresh and saltwater crocodiles. Several popular campgrounds. Access via Laura. Booking centre: Lakefield.

88 Iron Range (34 600ha)



True wilderness area of global significance containing the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest in Australia as well as mangroves, heathlands and open forest. Booking centre: Iron Range.

89 Rokeby (291 000ha)



This extensive park stretching from the McIlwraith Range to the Archer River flood plain preserves a variety of Peninsula vegetation types and provided habitat for rare and beautiful birdlife and crocodiles. Visit in the dry season only. Booking centre: Rokeby.

90 Archer Bend (166 000ha)



This park on the western side of the Peninsula features the Archer River and its fringing tall vine forest. Swamps and lagoons are homes to many waterbirds. Freshwater crocodiles are common in the river. Booking centre: Lakefield.

91 Jardine River/Heathlands



Jardine River: National Park (235 000ha) is managed with the adjoining Heathlands reserve. A true wilderness area, this park contains most catchments of the largest perennial stream in Queensland. Its rainforest, open forest, heath and shrub land provide habitat for a variety of fauna yet to be fully recorded. For the adventurous in the dry. Booking centre: Heathlands.

Offshore islands

92 Lizard Island (990ha)



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. Limited camping area. Booking centre: Cairns.

93 Flinders Island group (2962ha)



Several continental islands in Princess Charlotte Bay. Tracks lead to several outstanding Aboriginal art sites. Booking centre: Cairns.

Most parks listed are detailed in brochures available free at Q.NPWS offices.

What YOU can do to help

Though prevention and control of environmental damage and pollution is a department responsibility, you are in an excellent position to ensure future generations also enjoy those vital elements of life — air and water.

Consider water quality: Use soap if water is 'soft'; use detergent sparingly if water is 'hard'. Use only the required amount of household cleaners and bleaches.

Scrape dishes before washing. Put scraps on a compost heap or wrap them for disposal. Limit use of appliances like garbage disposals, dishwashers and washing machines. Run them only with full loads.

Use chemical pesticides only when other methods such as encouraging natural predators are inadequate. Follow manufacturers' instructions.

Buy goods in recyclable containers. Save our resources and prevent unnecessary

manufacturing. Then you can dispose a minimum of rubbish in declared controlled tips. If you live near a waterway, natural or man-made, help keep your section clean.

Consider air pollution: Avoid backyard fires. Recycle paper, cardboard and old clothing. Garden waste makes a great compost heap to add back to your garden.

When driving, ensure your vehicle engine and pollution controls are working properly. Use public transport or share rides.

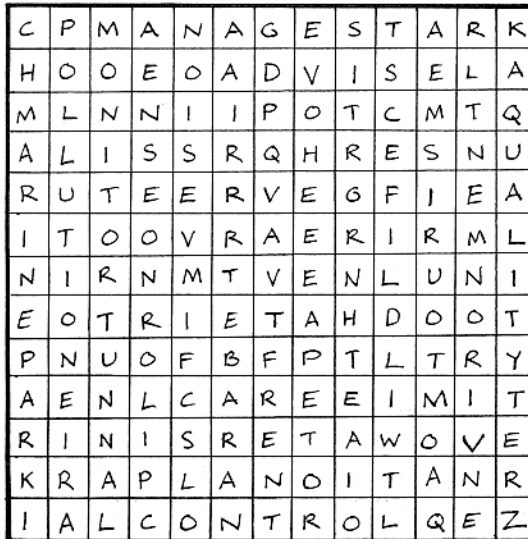
No longer a puzzle

Hidden in this matrix are 18 words, pairs or initials involving the tasks of the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism.

Words can be read forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally.

Turn the page for the words.

The hidden words are: park, Brisbane Forest BFP (Brisbane Forest BFP), quality, tourism, for, noise, air, water, manage, control, mont, pollution, recreation, environment, marine park, park, conservation, en, wildlife, plan, national



Rich river heritage



Queensland Premier Mr Mike Ahern and the Brisbane River Committee chairman Mrs Beryce Nelson discussing an entry in *Beautiful Brisbane River* at the publication's launch recently.

Brisbane residents are returning to river recreation with renewed vigour, according to Mrs Nelson.

'The Brisbane River is the reason for the very existence of our beautiful expanding city yet over the years it has been taken for granted to the point of becoming our most valuable and most unused asset.'

'River oriented tourism, thanks to the entrepreneurial skills behind such enterprises as the Kookaburra Queens and Golden Mile Marine — with support and promotion from the Queensland Government — is drawing more and more people towards a river experience,' Mrs Nelson said.

Mrs Nelson's committee, comprising representatives of the community and relevant Queensland Government departments, has published an exciting colour booklet

entitled *Beautiful Brisbane River* which encourages people to discover river heritage.

She said her committee had been most effective in its activities to beautify the Brisbane River. Major tree plantings had taken place at St Lucia and Kangaroo Point. Building developers on the river had been guided to work on a co-ordinated river landscaping theme.

The committee's work involves advising the Queensland Government on decisions directly affecting the river liaising with development companies for planned strategies for the river promoting public recreational use of the river and co-ordinating Brisbane River beautification projects.

Brisbane River Committee, PO Box 155, North Quay, 4002, (07) 224 4206.

Department of Environment Conservation and Tourism

Minister for Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Floors 24, 25, State Law Building 50 Ann Street Brisbane PO Box 155 North Quay, Qld 4002 (07) 227 4111

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service 5th, 6th and 7th floors MLC Centre 229 George Street, Brisbane PO Box 190 North Quay, Qld 4002 (07) 227 4111

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

Burleigh Head Gold Coast Highway Burleigh Heads, Qld 4220 (07) 35 3032

Flay's Fauna Centre Kabool Road West Burleigh, Qld 4219 (07) 55 2194

Moreton Sub-Regional Office see Regional Centre

Eastern Scenic Rim District 181 Oxley Drive Hollywell, Qld 4218 (07) 57 1203

Springbrook via Mullergeraba, Qld 4215 (07) 33 5147

Natural Arch via Nerang, Qld 4211 (07) 33 6156

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

Tambrine Mountain Knoll Road North Tamborine, Qld 4272 (07) 45 1171

Lamington National Park Birnie Burra section Beechmont via Nerang, Qld 4211 (07) 33 3584 Green Mountains section via Canungra, Qld 4275 (07) 45 1734

Boonah Mt French Road MS 161 Boonah, Qld 4310 (07) 63 1579 (after 6pm)

Moreton Bay and Canning Districts see Regional Centre

Glass House Mountains Office Roys Road Beerwah, Qld 4519 (07) 94 6630

Mt Glorious c/ Post Office Mt Nebo, Qld 4520 (07) 289 0200 (3.30-4pm)

Moreton Island via Tangalooma Moreton Island, Qld 4025 (07) 48 2710

St Helena Base c/ Park 68 Manly, Qld 4179 (07) 396 5113

Downs-South West Sub-Regional Office 4 Alderley Street PO Box 7054 Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4352 (07) 35 0689

Southern Downs District Office Hermitage Research Station via Warwick, Qld 4370 (07) 61 9710

Girraween via Ballandean, Qld 4382 (07) 84 5157

Sundown via Glenlyon Dam Road via Stanthorpe, Qld 4380 (07) 37 5235

Main Range Centre Cunningham's Gap MS 394 Warwick, Qld 4370 (07) 66 1133

Northern Downs District see Sub-Regional Office

Bunya Mountains MS501 via Dalby, Qld 4405 (07) 68 3127

Crows Nest Falls/Ravensbourne PO Box 68 Crows Nest, Qld 4355 (07) 98 1296

Lake Broadwater PO Box 401 Dalby, Qld 4405 (07) 63 3562

South West District Office c/ District Ranger Park Street PO Box 149 Charleville, Qld 4470 (07) 44 1255

Wide Bay-Burnett Sub-Regional Office c/ Wharf and Richmond Streets PO Box 101 Maryborough, Qld 4450 (07) 22 2455

Bundaberg District see Sub-Regional Office

Woodgate c/ Post Office Woodgate, Qld 4680 (07) 26 8810

Mon Repos PO Box 1735 Bundaberg, Qld 4670 (07) 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 4581 (07) 66 3160

Fraser Island Base c/ Park Overseer Dundubara, Qld 4570 (07) 29 4424 Waddy Point (07) 35 4576

Freshwater Base Cooks National Park c/ Park Overseer Rainbow Beach, Qld 4581 (07) 49 7959

Noosa District Office Bruce Highway Monkland Gympie, Qld 4570 (07) 82 4189

Southern Cooloola c/ N.P.W.S. Box Elianda via Tewantin, Qld 4565 (07) 85 3245 (07) 49 7364

Noosa Park Road Noosa Heads, Qld 4567 (07) 47 3243

Kondalilla/Mapleton Falls 3 Kondalilla Falls Road Flaxton via Nambour, Qld 4560 (07) 45 7301 (noon and 4pm)

Central Region Central Regional Centre Royal Bank Building 154 Quay Street PO Box 1395 Rockhampton, Qld 4700 (07) 27 6511

Southern Reef District including Capricornia see Regional Centre

Heron Island Base (07) 72 5690

Gladstone District Office c/ Wharf and Richmond Streets PO Box 315 Gladstone, Qld 4680 (07) 76 1621

Taroom c/ Post Office Taroom, Qld 4420

Fitzroy District Office see Regional Centre

Keppel Islands-Capricorn Coast Rosslyn Bay Harbour PO Box 770 Yeppoon, Qld 4703 (07) 33 6608

Central Highlands District Office PO Box 306 Emerald, Qld 4720 (07) 82 2246

Carnarvon National Park The Ranger Carnarvon Gorge section via Rolleston, Qld 4702 (07) 84 4505 Park Overseer Mt Moffatt section Mt Moffatt via Mitchell, Qld 4465

Springure c/ Park Overseer PO Box 161 Springure, Qld 4722 (07) 84 1173

Blackdown Tableland via Dingo, Qld 4702 (07) 86 1964

Mackay District Office 64 Victoria Street PO Box 823 Mackay, Qld 4740 (07) 57 6292

Cape Hillsborough MS 995 Seaford, Qld 4741 (07) 55 0410

Eungella c/ Post Office Dalrymple Heights, Qld 4740 (07) 58 4552

Northern Region Northern Regional Centre Marlow Street PMB 10 Patalanda PO Box 5391 Townsville Mail Centre, Qld 4810 (07) 74 1411

Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Office Flinders Street East Townsville (07) 21 2399

Proserpine District Office Conway PO Box 332 Airie Beach, Qld 4802 (07) 46 9430

Bundaberg District Office see Regional Centre

Magnetic Island c/ Post Office Picnic Bay, Qld 4818 (07) 73 5378

Bowling Green Bay — Mt Elliot PO Box 1954 Townsville, Qld 4810 (07) 78 6203

Charters Towers PMB 76 Charters Towers, Qld 4820

Hinchinbrook District Office 2 Herbert Street PO Box 1293 Ingham, Qld 4850 (07) 78 1700

Jourama Falls PO Box 1293 Ingham, Qld 4850 (07) 77 3112

Mt Spec (Crystal Creek) Main Street CMB 16 Paluma, Qld 4816 (07) 70 8526

Cardwell Office Bruce Highway PO Box 74 Cardwell, Qld 4816 (07) 86 8601

Edmund Kennedy PO Box 74 Cardwell, Qld 4816 (07) 86 8650

North West District Office 2nd floor Mt Isa House c/ Camooweal and Mary Streets PO Box 2316 Mt Isa, Qld 4825 (07) 43 2055

Far Northern Region 41 Esplanade PO Box 2058 Cairns, Qld 4870 (07) 51 9811

Daintree District Office see Regional Centre

Cape Tribulation PMB 28 Mossman, Qld 4873

Cape York District see Regional Centre

Lakefield National Park PMB 29 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871 (07) 60 3271

New Laura PMB 79 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871 (07) 60 3260

Bizard PMB 39 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871 (07) 60 3258

Rokeby PMB 28 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871 (07) 60 3256

Iron Range King Park Lockhart River, Qld 4871

Jardine River/Heathlands PMB 76 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 4871 (07) 60 3241

Lake Eacham District Office PO Box 21 Yungaburra, Qld 4872 (07) 95 3768

Lawn Hill PMB 12 MS 1463 Mt Isa, Qld 4825

Northern Einleigh District Office PO Box 38 Chillagoe, Qld 4871 (07) 94 7163

Tinity District Office 88 Ranson Street Ingham, Qld 4860

Mission Beach Office Gannars Beach Road PO Box 89 Mission Beach, Qld 4854 (07) 86 7185

Josephine Falls PO Box 83 Mirivini, Qld 4871 (07) 67 5304

Palmerston PO Box 800 Ingham, Qld 4860 (07) 64 5115

Division of Environment Noise abatement, air pollution control

Cairns House 64-70 Mary Street Brisbane PO Box 2594 Brisbane, Qld 4001 (07) 224 5812 (07) 224 5520

Water quality Old Treasury Building Queen Street Brisbane PO Box 155 North Quay, Qld 4002 (07) 224 2415

Air pollution control c/ Rossberry Street and Oaks Lane PO Box 440 Gladstone, Qld 4680 (07) 76 1627

Air, noise, water 2 Barrow Street South Townsville, Qld 4810 (07) 72 1468

Brisbane Forest Park 60 Mt Nebo Road The Gap Brisbane PO Box 155 North Quay, Qld 4002 (07) 300 4855



Published by the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism. Printed by The Queensland Times, 260 Brisbane Street, West Ipswich. ISSN 0811-6237.

Any opinions expressed or inferred from articles are not necessarily those of the Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism.

Editors of non-commercial publications may use any item with acknowledgement. Other editors should contact the department's media unit.

This publication is not available on a regular mailing basis.

Department officers monitor our environment



Department officers using sensitive recording equipment near a building site to obtain tapes to be used for laboratory analysis of the area's noise levels.

Quality checks on water air, noise

Water quality, levels of noise in commercial and industrial areas, and minimizing of air pollution throughout the state are some functions covered by the Division of Environment.

The quality of waters of the state are preserved, restored and enhanced through surveys, investigations, and research into water pollution.

Watch is maintained over wastes discharges, industrial and domestic, and organizations and people are advised on the need to prevent water pollution, and how to reduce existing pollution.

Information on this important aspect of the environment reaches the community via the media and other forms such as publications suitable for school projects.

Functions covered by water quality officers include water pollution control and management, investigation of water quality complaints, incidence of fish and other wildlife mortality, dissemination of information about water quality, and licensing of waste discharges.

A major activity in seeking to improve water quality is the monitoring of all known sources discharging waste into water. Licensed and other waste generating premises are inspected regularly.

The department is responsible for noise emanating from business, commercial and industrial activities.

(Levels of domestic noise — from homes, recreation areas and other public places such as halls and clubs — are the responsibility of the police and local government.)

Management of commercial and industrial noise is undertaken at three levels — complaint investigation, development advice, and legislation and liaison.

Noise surveys are undertaken before industrial facilities are built, and then in the vicinity of industrial estates.

Recordings are made of the noise present. These tapes are subject to extensive analysis in a laboratory.

An analyser divides the total noise signal into components at standard frequencies.

Variations in the component noise levels can then be examined and compared.

Laboratory analysis is also obviously the basis for identifying the pollutants and their extent in our air.

Monitoring stations throughout the state are used to take air samples regularly.

The kinds of things which

pollute the air commonly measured include sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, total suspended particles, fluoride, insoluble dust, and tiny suspended particles.

Weather variables such as visibility and wind speed/direction are also measured for these will affect types and levels of air pollution at any time.

Monitoring extends to urban areas surrounding industrial areas and 24-hour averages are obtained.

Officers also make emission tests on exhaust gases from particular industrial plants.

For places like Brisbane, mathematical models have been developed to predict pollution concentrations.

For Brisbane, the model identifies areas where increased emissions of pollutants into the air can be expected to result in undesirable concentrations likely to affect community health, property, and surrounds.

By monitoring the levels of substances released into our environment, department officers can take action before problems occur.

Advice service for industry

Advice concerning the ways industry, business and commercial premises can reduce and control excessive noise and water and air pollution is provided by department officers.

These officers also liaise with local government and other government departments on such problems.

By issuing licences to discharge waste, the waters into which waste is discharged may be protected from pollution.

Frequent inspections ensure licence conditions are being observed.

Research into water quality and on-site inspections of how well wastes entering water are being absorbed enables correct advice to be given to industry and guidelines developed.

In some cases, existing practices are adequate to control pollution.

When the advice concerns sewage treatment, if new or different methods are needed recommendations can be made rapidly.

Remote sensing provides information on temperatures, chlorophyll (green plant material, usually algae), and turbidity.

Dissolved oxygen and nutrient concentrations under future or proposed levels of pollutants are predicted using mathematical models.

Complaints and monitoring can lead to the issue of notices to carry out controls.

Advice can help control before problems arise. Abrasive blasting of metals can be done in a closed chamber. Water can control dust. Incinerator smoke or odour can be controlled by better design, maintenance, or alternative ways of disposal.

Advice on areas of incompatible land use in town plans is given regularly. Care is taken that solving one type of pollution does not create another.

Sources of unacceptable noise levels include construction sites, amplifiers, engineering workshops, commercial refrigeration, and recreation centres.

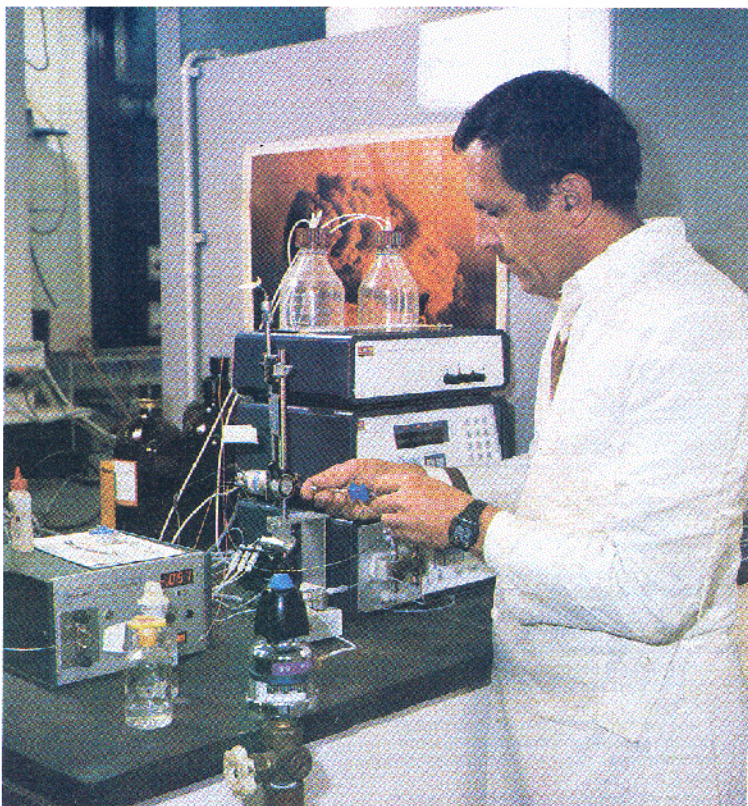
Controls include fitting of efficient mufflers and rescheduling early morning and late night activities.

Sound amplifiers may be reduced in output and speakers changed in capacity and direction.

Planned natural buffer zones can surround industrial estates. Other acoustic treatments include sealing and screening.

Recreation centres should be sited away from residential areas.

Proper planning and advice about existing problems can reduce pollution and improve relations with neighbours.



Extensive laboratory testing is the only proof of progress towards a better environment. Even apparently clean water and air can contain many pollutants revealed through careful analysis.