

Autumn issue

Ringtail

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service quarterly newspaper

March 1988

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Enjoy your park day

As you sit reading this autumn issue of Ringtail, chances are you are one of many thousands of people holidaying in one of more than 300 national parks in Queensland.

Did you realize when you booked your campsite that Easter is the most popular time for Queenslanders to visit national parks?

Last year, 14 per cent of total camping occurred during the Easter school break. This comprised mostly Queensland family groups who stayed for four nights. Do you qualify?

National parks are located in many parts of Queensland from Jardine River on Cape York Peninsula to Sundown on the New South Wales border south-west of Stanthorpe, and from Burleigh Head and Great Barrier Reef islands in the east to Simpson Desert in the west. Which parks have you visited?

The most popular areas at Easter are Cooloola, Great Sandy (Fraser Island), Bunya Mountains, Girraween, Moreton Island, Green Mountains (Lamington) and Carnaryon

National parks provide opportunities for a range of experiences from bushwalking in a rainforest within an hour of central Brisbane to fishing on the sand islands of

Moreton and Fraser, from visiting wilderness areas like Lakefield and Simpson Desert to a day's paddling in quiet waterways of Cooloola.

Many popular parks have ceilings for numbers of people who can stay. It pays to book up to 12 weeks ahead for these.

Limits are to optimise your enjoyment by not overstressing the facilities and preserving the natural values of the park you have come to enjoy.

Some national park rules — no dogs, no litter, no disturbance of plants and animals, and keeping to tracks — are there to help you enjoy your visit as are the Rangers, signage and brochures.

This edition of Ringtail features some popular mainland park activities by day.

Whatever your nature-based recreational need, be it picnicking, walking, birdwatching, sightseeing or relaxation, enjoy your day in a Queensland national park.

PeterJohnston

Some of 40 school children from Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria having a practical lesson about estuarine crocodiles at a Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service research station near the town.

More than 400 curious townspeople also made the trek after two 4.7 m male crocodiles were captured for study before release.

The crocodiles, believed to be more than 50 years old, are the largest caught by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

Sixteen wildlife and research staff went to Karumba to trap crocodiles in net traps with steel gates, to tag their catches, and to perform laparoscope examinations.

Researchers gave priority to determining reproductive status by identifying the breeding and nonbreeding individuals in the nonulation.

Many questions about the relationship between age and fertility of crocodiles remain

Researchers did discover the two large males were able to be reproductively active.

For wildlife rangers, the task was valuable experience in trapping and handling large crocodiles.

Pupils study crocs

Over three weeks, more than 70 juveniles and six large adults were caught, tagged and released.

For the first time, an alarm system was used to indicate when and where trappings occurred.

With eight traps over 70 km of river, regular checks would have been expensive and time-consuming.

Although public education was not a primary aim of the trip, this aspect was also most successful. Visitors (many with mixed feelings about crocs) had opportunities to learn more about the largest animal inhabiting their part of Queensland.

Knowledge gained will be added to the crocodile research program which has immense signficance for conservation of the species.

Staff and volunteers believe the all the sandflies, sleepless nights and mud were worth the effort.

George Krieger

Message from the Minister

It's difficult to imagine a better time of the year than autumn to experience Queensland's great outdoors

With the school holidays, Easter and a string of other public holidays ahead of us there is plenty of time to visit a national park for a short walk or, better still, an overnight stay.

Queensland is well endowed with national parks. In fact we have 314 in the state covering 3 495 700 ha.

There are about 1.33 hectares — roughly two football fields — of national park per head of population in Queensland. This is twice the comparable New South Wales figure and four times those of Victoria and the A C T

My Government is proud of its conservation record, second to none in Australia.

With the formation of the new Department of Environment, Conservation and Tourism under my administration there will be even greater emphasis on nature

The Department of Forestry, formerly with the Lands portfolio, is now part of Conservation and Environment where it rightfully belongs.

Their network of forest parks across the state can only complement national parks, environmental parks and other nature-based recreation areas.

The environment is there to enjoy. We should make the most of it.

Geoff Muntz Minister for the Environment, Conservation and Tourism

Do you know what these signs mean? Turn to page 2.







Death of Director*

The founding Director of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dr Graham Saunders, died last month after resigning through ill

He served the Queensland Government with distinction over 34 years as an entomologist, a management officer, as Department of Primary Industries Fauna Conservation Branch director, and as Q.NPWS head since 1975.

Dr Saunders was a tireless worker and his sincere, friendly nature made him many acquaintances in politics, government, private industry and conservation organizations.

The Service will sorely miss his scientific, managerial and public service skills.

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











In 1979, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, in conjunction with the Forestry Department and Michael Bryce and Associates Design, adopted symbol signs as part of a review of national park and state forest signage

Criteria were that symbols should be simple in shape, of a consistent design theme, and be recognized universally.

Advantages of symbols are they can

without words

consideration

blend more harmoniously with the environment than word signs, they cost less to instal and maintain, and are more easily understood by non-English speaking visitors and children

The value of symbols should not be underestimated. Not only do they help direct visitors to enjoy their park visits more fully but they also promote safety. A waterhole might inviting for a swim but for the erection of the 'no swimming' symbol sign, particularly in association with the crocodile warning sign. The messages of most signs are easily understood. Only a few need a little extra

Take time to check symbol signs. That time could save your life! Peter Burke

Birdwatching

There is plenty of art in birdwatching! Believe it or not, I am led to believe it was one of the reasons (excuses) for the downfall of the Roman Empire.

Without delving too deeply into the artistic nature of this aspect of history, one can only speculate on what type of birds were being observed and the methods of that era.

In modern times, the noble 'art' is practised by a wide variety of human beings for a wide variety of reasons and on an equally broad range of subjects.

Observers come in four main groups

 Those 60 and over — retired with nothing better to do with their time, in other words are past doing other more active things.



has been 'at it' all his/her life (and

- usually progressively bored with it).

 Amateurs who are enthusiastic part timers of all ages; those with limited time who out of necessity must do a lot in a relatively short time.
- Twitchers, the new breed, must get it at all costs (frequently extravagantly) and as quickly as possible before others of the ilk frighten it away. The aim is 700 (ticks that is).

Reasons for the behaviour are too numerous to detail. But some basic to the above are:

The first group is now happy to merely The second — lucky them; they get paid

(and can take their time).

The third group is in the fast lane but it's the challenge that gets them in. The fourth is the real express lane to

achieve membership of the Australian 700 Club (700 different birds). Of course, the real challenge for twitchers is to achieve the world pinnacle of having ticked 5000 species! What do they want to look at? Some

observers are rather specific but most will look at any bird such as the following

- Oceanic types, gliding easily over the rise and fall of the swells like boobies and albatrosses.
- Waders, usually overseas migrants with long legs and beaks like godwits and stilts which frequent sandy beaches, backwaters and tidal flats.
- · Herons/cormorants found in fresh and salt water, including ibis and egrets.
- Raptores, the birds of prey like hawks, eagles and owls.
- Nightbirds also including owls, nightjars and frogmouths.



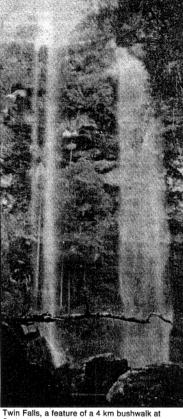
- Grassland species quails, larks. quailthrushes, and wrens, usually terrestrial types.
- Pigeons and doves.
- Smaller forest species like flycatchers, robins and thornbills.
- Larger forest species crows, magpies and bowerbirds.
- Kingfishers.

Opportunity, expense, transport and available time are factors which will determine which birds can be observed and these can be linked with the observer types.

Twitchers will go anywhere to see anything they haven't seen (ticked). Prolonged observation or study is not part of their scheme. Probably most expensive.

A twitcher could rush to Fraser Island today to see a rare pied wagtail then catch a plane to Cairns for a possible view of another new species to Australia, the laughing gull, a factual recent event.

Professionals usually are specific. Other observer groups will usually look at species more conveniently located and of a more common type aesthetic recreation (even if it is most frequently done in one's backyard). Next time you see a birdwatcher (or a group) in a park, see if you can categorise them for more useless data for a future computer program!



Springbrook considered one of the best short

Springbrook is great for bushwalking

Try to picture a 1000 m high rainforested plateau surrounded by spectacular escarpments with crystal clear mountain streams cascading over them to form some of the best waterfalls in Queensland.

If you like what you imagine, take a 1½ hour drive from Brisbane to the Springbrook Plateau behind the Gold Coast and go for a bushwalk.

The first park you come to is Gwongorella National Park which is where you find the majestic Purlingbrook Falls.

The lookout is only 100 m from the carpark. A 4 km circuit takes the visitor along the top of the cliff before descending to the rainforest at the base of the falls.

The track continues behind the waterfall where you can experience the joy of watching this 106 m waterfall falling from the sky!

The track continues up the other side of the gorge to the picnic area, 4 km taking two hours.

If you want more, the best is yet to come at Warrie National Park 4 km further along Springbrook Road.

Call in at our information centre to view our display, pick up maps and pamphlets, and stoll along the boardwalk from where you can see Moreton Bay and the Gold Coast.

Another 2 km away is Canyon Lookout featuring several waterfalls and a rugged canyon

The Twin Falls circuit (4 km) is one of the best short walks in Queensland passing behind two waterfalls, past several smaller falls and through massive rock overhangs and giant boulders.

The vegetation is varied with eucalypt forest and wildflowers on top of the escarpment and dense virgin rainforest underneath.

Wildlife is also varied and numerous. The base of the cliffs is the haunt of the Albert lyrebird which can be heard (and seen) during autumn and

Numerous other waterfalls and lookouts can be seen on bushwalks from 400 m to 17 km on Springbrook Plateau.

Hinchinbrook Island by local naturalists Arthur and Margaret Thorsborne and illustrated with superb photographs by Cliff and Dawn Frith will have a dual launching — in Townsville on 15 April and at the Cardwell Information Centre on 16

Exciting book on

Q.NPWS staff and advisors required to manage national park and related reserves around Moreton Bay will soon be using a \$162,500 11 m aluminium monohull craft powered by twin diesel

The launch will be able to travel in the Bay's changeable weather and seas, and be suitable to help in boating emergencies.

Fraser Island's many thousands of visitors this month and next have the final opportunity to comment on a green paper proposing a formal recreation management plan for the island.

The 90-page report plus maps is available for inspection and copying of required pages at Forestry Department offices at Maryborough, Fraser Island and Brisbane, Q.NPWS offices at Maryborough, Fraser Island and Brisbane (head office and Moggill), and the island's main visitor access office at Rainbow

Remember

Fleays Fauna Centre for the nature of Queensland

West Burleigh, Gold Coast (075) 56 2194

butterfly dealers from permits and fees. * * *
Chillagoe Caves guide Lionel Leafe, now in his 12th year, has a fine record of public

Weighty problem about

so!) has been resolved.

The Cairns birdwing and

Ulysses blue are declared

fauna but are being bred

legally on seven butterfly farms in north Queensland.

Moving eggs and larvae from

one farm to another required

permits and also payment of

50c for every egg over 11

Executive Council altered

regulations exempting

service.

butterfly eggs (several thousand make up a gram or

He estimates he has taken 1200 tours of Royal Arch Cave, 1700 tours of Donna and 300 tours of Trezkinn

guiding and answering the questions of a total of 71 000 visitors!

tail

* * *
An historic 1.5 km tramway which ran on St Helena Island in Moreton Bay for almost 50 years is to be re-established on the island national park.

A \$60,000 order has been placed with Queensland Railways to provide 2400 sleepers of Cooktown ironwood.

A train on the tramway could carry up to 100 passengers from the new jetty to the top of the island to see the remains of Queensland's main prison from 1867 to 1932.

Rebuilding of what was the St Helena chief warder's residence and provision of building are other projects under way on the national

Mike Hall

Planning sets Centre to explain Lamington park facilities

The fact some national parks have campgrounds with ablution blocks, some have only pit toilets and some have no development at all is no accident.

The Service goes to considerable trouble to plan the distribution and placing of facilities on national parks so our users, seeking meaningful experiences, can have a choice.

Planning is undertaken not only on the park. A regional overview is

The Service is striving to have developed facilities on at least one park close to every centre of large population.

At the same time, there is a need to provide opportunities for more primitive experiences should that be the choice of the user without the visitor having to travel a great

Both needs can be met on the one park provided it is very extensive. In other situations, the most appropriate park for development is chosen based on studies by Service

Not all parks are suited to development. Some parks or portions of parks are extremely sensitive and access to these areas is restricted

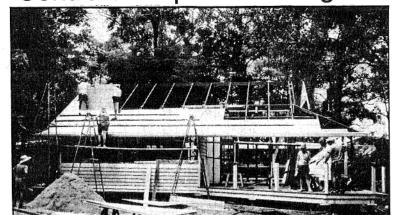
Only extensive studies can reveal this and and care has to be taken in selecting sites for development.

This strategy of providing various options to our users is strongly supported by the Queensland

The Service has made considerable progress in achieving this aim

In the west of the state, due to the lack of Service estate, we are falling short of our target.

Des Boyland



Binna Burra Information Centre under construction adjacent to the Service barracks on the Beechmont-Binna Burra road in Lamington National Park

The centre and its associated display will be opened by the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Minister, Mr Geoff Muntz, on Saturday, 26 March.

Wide verandahs will offer shade and a place to relax for visitors in summer. A wood fire inside

will keep them warm in winter. Its site near the 'bottom' end of the Caves walking circuit will allow visitors to begin their park exploration immediately after seeing the information display.

This has been prepared by Lamington Natural History

Association members in

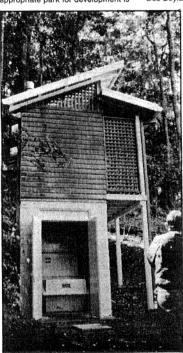
The display introduces the park's vegetation communities and animal inhabitants

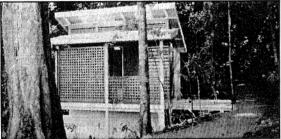
Lamington NHA members will staff the centre at peak periods

Busy Parks Day Green Mountains Natural History Association, host to this year's National Parks Day observance, has planned numerous er keep visitors busy on the weekend of 25-27

Highlight will be the opening of the Bicentennial canopy walk project by the Premier on the

Spotlighting, bird watching, guided walks, BYO





Two views of a new Service composting toilet at Cunningham's Gap in Main Range National Park — from the walking track (above) and from below showing the base of the tank (left).

New toilet works on

air, sun

This is the organic composting toilet

which comprises a self-contained fibreglass tank in which human

waste is broken down through

natural aerobic decomposition

Air flow, generated by a solar-

powered exhaust fan, passes through the waste and added

evaporating liquids

bulking agent (sawdust or leaves)

remainder is broken down into nutrient-rich compost by aerobic

tanks, little odour is generated.

The solar-powered fan in the vent

pipe running continuously causes slight positive suction down the chute when the lid is opened

Use of compost toilets is not only for improving user comfort but is also

for reducing undesirable impacts on

the environment through changes in

The compost toilet is essential in

fragile ecosystems or when a toilet needs to be sited close to a

preventing any odours from

escaping.

nutrient status.

About 80 per cent of human waste is water or evaporable elements. The

Aerobic decomposition uses oxygen in the decaying process. Unlike the decomposition in pits and septic

Many people have found pit toilets on national parks to be offensive to their visual and olfactory senses.

They have preferred to 'hang on' until they found an alternative

Pit toilets have been necessary on parks where water supply is limited or soils are unsuitable for septic absorption.

Lately you may have noticed a new type of toilet on some parks.

barbecues, and a rainforest audio-visual are other activities for those who have booked Rubbish task

Sunday

now 'bagged' For several years, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service has been experimenting with a new way of

managing garbage in the Whitsunday

area of north Queensland The Whitsundays contain many island national parks and these are islands set within Marine Park waters. The large Conway National Park on the mainland forms the coastal boundary.

Initially, the Service installed rubbish bins at the numerous beaches that are the focus of camping and day-use recreation. Emptying these became a major task taking vessel and staff resources for too many hours each week.

Increasing visitor use and other demands on resources led to a new approach. Concepts of minimal impact camping, developed for wilderness area management, offered some promising ideas.

Salpage oins have been removed from the islands and campers are asked to return all rubbish to the mainland. Heavy duty garbage bags supplied free bear the slogan Ship it in - Ship it out.

The approach has been remarkably successful. Thanks to a co-operative public, staff have gone on with other work of more lasting benefit to isitors and the environment while the Islands have staved clean.

Roland Howlett

Girraween also

Rins have also been removed from Girraween National Park. Visitors are now asked to put rubbish in bags and put bags in a rubbish trailer near the amenities block. Bags are supplied on

Crushed aluminium cans can be put in an adjacent bin for recycling.

Colleen Gravatt

Climbing can be fun

'On belay!' came a shout from atop the near vertical cliffs of Mt French

'The crux is a bit tricky. I'll keep a tight rope on you,' called down his belayer.

This is the language of the rockclimber, a language all of its own.

Every autumn, around Easter, climbers forget the summer heat and think about brisk mornings and warming-up on a classic climb on the best climbing cliffs of Queensland.

With their gear sorted, a pair of climbers size up a climb of 30 m to 40 m. They rope-up and the leader makes his first

He places wedges and camming devices (protection) in the natural cracks he uses to make upward progress.

He then establishes a good belay (making fast) and his second follows the climb removing the protection

New developments in technique and equipment have made the activity safer and the impact on the environment less longer used.

Promotion through outdoor equipment stores and outdoor education stores have

Recause of this, we see a need to protect the environment and to ensure the safety of other park users is not endangered.

national parks, but every climber must be aware the environment comes first at all



Pitons (spikes) driven into the rock are no

increased the popularity of rockclimbing.

Rockclimbing is a great activity which enhances the experience of our precious

> watercourse or lake They are also one answer to providing facilities on sites lacking power or water supply.

The end product? Shovel this out for a nitrogen-rich garden fertilizer.

Elizabéth Wihter

Parks for the people

Maiala (1140ha)
This popular park on the D'Aguilar Range is managof 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)

Moreton Island (15 400ha) MT Tempost (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 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 coast road by a short walk. Popular for day

Tamborine Mountain (total 594ha)

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 forest and waterfalls. All are interesting and popular with day visitors.

teresting 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 euclaytr forest, fussock 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 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 Cougal are undeveloped areas for adventure bushwalking and spectacular views along the

Natural Arch (212ha)

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

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

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

Mt Barney (11 400ha)
This landmark peak (1360m) with nearby Mt Lindesay (1191m) and Mt Marcon (955m) are undeveloped areas of euclypts and rainforest among a variety of natural features exciting bushwalkers and climbers.

Mt French (119 ha)

This two-part park is adjacent to the 468 m peak near Boonah with a road to the top to picnic areas, walking tracks and lookouts. Frog Buttress on the northern side is a popular rock climbing venue.

Main Range (11 500ha)
This park includes the main western part of the Scenic Rim system. At Cunningham's Gap, walking tracks pass through eucallyst 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 pacific.

Queen Mary Falls (333ha)
This waterfall in tall open eucalpypt woodland with rainforest guillies 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)

nite tors and outcrops tower over a nd often dense vegetation of eucalypts vering shrubs and herbs in this park 30km south 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 (11 200 ha)
Rugged gorges leading to the Severn River are feature of this park reached via Stanthorpe or v Ballandean. Dense forests or 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) Ân expanse of coniferous rainforest and grassy balds on the Great Dividing Range crest betwee Dalby and Kingaroy. This popular area has two developed campgrounds and a network of track Winter nights at about 1000m elevation can be

Crows Nest Falls (962ha)
The waterfall in the north tumbles into a steep granite gorge with interesting mixed vegetation. picnic area and swimming holes make the park

This park off the Hampton-Esk road preserves a remnant of the wet sclerophyll and rainforest vegetation which once covered the surrounding

Conordate twenship 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 Conoowin (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.

Mapleton Falls (26ha)
A small park off the Mapleton-Kenilworth road offering scenic views, a waterfall, rainforest and eycalypt

Noosa (432ha)

Coologia (40 900 ha)

Cooloola (46 900 ha)
A coastal sand park featuring ocean beaches, freshwater lakes, coloured sands and vegetation from heathland to rainforset. Access by boat from Tewantin and Boreen Point, four-wheel-drive from Rainbow Beach and Noosa. Camping areas at Double Island Point, Freshwater, and along Noosa

Great Sandy (Fraser Island) (52 400ha)
The park preserves most of the northern end o largest sand island in the world. Included are eucelypt woodland, heath and swamp vegetatir Two developed campsites. Access by boat, for

Woodgate (5490ha)
Pleasant beach scenery backed by sand dunes and coastal vegetation make this park an attractive holiday spot. Wallum health wildflower displays in season. Access via Goodwood.

Mon Repos (23.5ha)

on Repos (23.5ha) ins small environmental park preserves a turtle okery on the coast 14km east of Bundaberg. At ght from November to January loggerhead turtle sist here. Occasionally flatback and green tur e seen. From January to March turtle hatchling:

Auburn River (389ha)
The scenic Auburn River Gorge is the main attraction of this park. Road access Mundubbera via rood road (27km).

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

North Keppel Island (580ha)

North Reppel Island (Seuna)
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 corcal cay is national park with total protection for animal and plant life marine and terrestrial. Rookery for turtles and nesting area for

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 permitte

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.

Carnaryon (223 000ha)

Carnarvon (223 000ha)

A combination of four areas, Carnarvon Gorge, Mt
Moffatt, Salvator Rosa and Ka Ka Mundi, in the
Central Highlands sandstone belt: Features include,
a variety of vegetation, spectacular escarpments
and gorges, and relics of Aboriginal culture. Gorge campground is very popular. Wilderness experien offered in many other parts for the self-sufficient.

Capricorn coast

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

A biologically important area where tropical and sub-tropical enviroments 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 makes the park a popular day picnic and camping spot.

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

Recently expanded park with magnificent sandstone scenery and deep gorges where Robinson Creek carves its way towards the Dawson River. Contrasting landscape and vegetation. Includes the Amphitheatre natural basin.

Amphitheatre natural basin.

Simpson Desert (555 000ha)

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

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

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

Fungella (50 800ha)

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

Conway (23 800hs)
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 Altie 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 th inging reers, rocky outcrops and raintures; make the going difficult even for bushwalkers. Whitsunday (10 930ha) is by far the largest. North Molle (259ha) 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 bett. Reach the camp-ing and picnic area from the Bruce Highway 25km

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 lerry service.

Townsville Town Common (3272ha)
An outstanding environmental park adjacent to large city featuring coastal wetland habitat. Poday 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

Five parks — Herbert River Gorge, Herbert River Falls, Herkes Creek, Yamanie Falls and Sword Creek — now adjoin to form a magnificent conservation reserve of more than 32 O76 ha along the river and its tributaries. Wallaman Falls (602 ha), including the largest single drop waterfall in Australia at 278 m, is adjacent.

Porcupine Gorge (2938ha)

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

Great Basalt Wall (30 500 ha)

Remote area including part of a major geological feature from the last major volcanic activity in north-

Hinchinbrook Island (39 350ha)

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

Edmund Kennedy (6200ha)

Explorer Edmund Kennedy traversed this area on his ill-lated 1848 expedition. Mangroves, dense rain forest, tea-tree — sedge associations, tan 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

Bellenden Ker (31 000ha)

Bellenden Ker (31 000ha)
Undeveloped park covering the eastern slopes of the Bellenden Ker Range and including Queensland's hijdest mountain, Mt Bartile Frere (1657m). Numerous waterfalls and streams flow through dense upland rainforest, the habitat of many mammals, including the tree kangaroo, birds and repities endemic to Queensland. Josephine Falls in the south is a popular day picnic spot.

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 Innistall 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.

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

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.

Cane Titution

Cape Tribulation (16 965ha)
A vehicle ferry at the Daintree River crossing provides access to this important area of coastal

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

Green Island (7ha)

Green Island (7na)
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 accom-

mudation 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 near-by. Reached 1km off the Ravenshoe-Mt Garnet road.

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

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. guided walks are offered through Royal Al Donna. Donna Cave is lit to highlight cave

Lizard Island (990 ha) This continental island almost surrounded by fring-ing 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 vegetion ranging from fringing rainforest, stringbybark forest and paperback woodland to mangroves, mudflats and open grassy plains and swamps.

Natural habitat for many species of birds and also freshwater and estuarine crocodiles.

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 im-press visitors.

Archer Bend (166 000ha)
The Archer River and tall vine forests which line it are features of this park on the western side of the peninsula. Swamps and lagoons are home to many ducks, pelicans and other waterfowl. Freshwater 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 beaufful birdlife and freshwater
crocodiles. Visit in the Dry only.

Jardine River (235 000ha)

Jaroine Hiver (235 000ns)
This park covers most catchments of the largest personnial 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)

Lawn Hill (12 200ma)

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.

Studies find koalas 'safe

Koalas face genuine conservation problems but death to extinction is not one of them.

This assurance was given by the Environment, Conservation and Tourism Minister, Mr Geoff Muntz, in response to claims reported in newspapers recently.

'Queensland is the home of the koala with the greatest populations in the wild of any state.

While koala conservation is a most complex problem, the threat of extinction is an unreal supposition so far as Queensland is concerned."

Mr Muntz said two projects in the O NPWS knala conservation and management program were nearing completion.

Preliminary findings had identified strengths and weaknesses of the species in this state much more accurately than past studies.

Mr Muntz said researchers made the following observations:

A long term study of factors controlling koala numbers in inland Queensland had found different controls in different areas.

In a central Queensland study area. climate was the principal control. Koalas prospered in good seasons and declined in poor seasons.

On the Darling Downs, disease was found to be a critical factor. Two diseases in conjunction, 'dirty tail' and female infertility, had acted to limit koala numbers over the last decade resulting in a population decline which reached a low point in 1985

While these diseases did not threaten the existence of koalas, they certainly controlled their numbers and were capable occasionally of reducing them to very low levels.

On the other hand, a state-wide koala survey had shown koalas

remained widely distributed. occurring in most of their original range, and were abundant locally in some areas.

Australia-wide findings from this American Express Corporation-funded survey conducted by the Australian and Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Services remained to be analysed.

In Queensland, koalas had to be considered quite vulnerable as most survey reports came from private

Koalas were not well conserved in state forests and national parks as many people believed. This was because the species' prime habitat is usually on other land tenures, particularly private holdings

Because of this, koala conservation was very much a matter for community action.

The other specific problem identified in the survey was the contraction of koala colonies due to gradual clearing of trees for urban development such as the Redland district, and for agricultural expansion.

Mr Muntz said researchers believed the most urgent need for koala conservation was the development of regional management plans in areas where koalas were threatened mortality by dogs, traffic, disease, and by clearing.

These could involved local authorities which could plan koala corridors along creeks and basalt hill areas intentionally avoiding

Mr Muntz said he welcomed actions by public-spirited people in recent years of forming organizations to raise funds for koala conservation or to carry out conservation

Problems complex but... Not too wild about wildlife



Environment, Conservation and Tourism Minister, Mr Geoff Muntz, meeting a common wombat in company with Q.NPWS chief ranger Mr Damian McGreevy and Mr Gary Willett, of Canon Australia

At the Imagery Gallery, South Brisbane, Mr Muntz opened a Canon/National Geographic Society sponsored photographic exhibition of 41 of the world's animals considered endangered

He said much time of Q.NPWS researchers, managers and wildlife rangers was taken up with well-known species. He questioned why people professing to be conservationists put so much effort into worrying about common species when many others deserved attention and action. This month the display moved to the Service' Burleigh Head Information Centre where it will be

Trustees to hold Mt Etna caves

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Mines Department will be joint trustees of a departmental and official purposes reserve scientific area to be declared over more than 80 per cent of Mt Etna, central Queensland.

The mining lease land, covering 40 of the 46 cavernous areas on Mt Etna including Bat Cleft, was relinquished by Central Queensland Cement as evidence of its good faith in wishing to ensure conservation of the area's limestone caves and wildlife

The reserve will allow for access for visitors from the south instead of the north across the company's mining lease.

Park donors



Mr and Mrs Arthur Higgs, of Scarborough, who received a cheque for \$1 to acknowledge their most generous donation of 2.47 ha of land with a house off Benzara Lane, Mooloolah, declared an environmental park recently.

Gazettal of long-time Tamborine resident Miss Kathryn Dobbie's donation of almost a hectare of land increased the area of land she donated for Tamborine Mountain National Park to more than

Mrs J.W. Joyce and Mr A.J.T. Coates, of Eidsvold, received \$1 to acknowledge their gift of 23.5 ha of forested land 6 km south-west of Cooroy declared environmental park

Naturally forested Mt Dumaresq, adjacent to the Cunningham Highway near Gladfield, is part of a recently-gazetted 117 ha environmental park.

Landmark Flinders Peak (685 m) 22 km southeast of Ipswich is part of a new 105 ha environmental park.

Bainforested Skull Knob, a 22.4 ha volcanic island north-west of Mackay, is now environmental park following nomination by the Progress Association of nearby St Helen's Beach.

The Queensland Government bought a 2 ha freehold block of rainforest on the O'Reilly Resort road added recently to Lamington National

Island access restricted

now restricted to avoid disturbance of nesting birds and turtles. They are considered to have natural resources of particular significance

Access to four national park islands off the central Queensland coast is

for conservation internationally Permits to enter the national parks

will be granted only to those considered with valid causes

The islands and reasons for the actions are:

Hoskyn — two small coral cays least disturbed, of major significance for brown boobies and bridled terns; in 1984 and 1985 significant numbers of roseate terns nested; a major green turtle nesting area.

Fairfax Island — two cays, principal breeding colony for brown boobies; extensive areas for ground nesting seabirds.

loggerhead turtle nesting location in Australasia and south-west Pacific likely increased breeding by roseate and black-naped terns.

Peak Island - island with the largest nesting colony of flatback turtles on the Great Barrier Reef and second largest in the world; also nesting site for sea-eagles.

Junior Ranger column

So many different things to do

Hi Junior Rangers

This issue is all about a day in a park When you visit a park, what sort of activities do you do? I'm sure many are things you don't do in other places.

The first thing you do is unpack the car. The next thing that happens is someone says 'I forgot . . . ' I hope it is says 'I forgot' I hope it is something you can get by without or buy

Many national parks don't have shops . A national park is a place for nature conservation where things are in their natural state. Built-up areas where we find shops are usually not in their natural state.

You will have left your dog in good care at home. It's not that we don't like domestic animals but their instinct and scent can disturb the park's birds and

animals and can interfere with the activities of other visitors.

You might like to lay out your lunch and a sheltered picnic table or out on the grass. The Ranger hopes you can help keep these places and the toilets clean for others.

This is not the place for a noisy bat and ball game, nor a football challenge. Other parks provide for these activities.

Soon then you'll be off to explore. If you have been to this park before, you may have a favourite place like a waterfall or swimming hole you want to visit. If not, you will want to take a short hike and look at your natural surroundings.

If you are on a park where there are Ranger-led activities, you might want to join one of these. Look for a notice board which will state the activity for the day

such as a plant walk, bird-spotting or å talk about animals.

If you have the skills and are in the right park, you might take part in more strenuous activities like rafting, abseiling, climbing, swimming or canoeing

You may be content simply to walk quietly and observe the plants and animals. The landscape is ideal for sketching or photography.

Back at the picnic ground, you may wish to rest on the grass and look at the clouds drifting in the sky. Your parents tell the Service they go to a park primarily to relax!

At the end of the day, you'll go home — refreshed by the day in the outdoors but tired from the activities you don't do every day. Sleep well.

Ranger Frances

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Hidden in this puzzle are the names of 21 activities you can enjoy in national parks. The names are below

Bar-b-cue, bushwalking, photography, camping, sail, birdwatch, look, listen, spotlight, picnic, art, cilmb, dive, jog, swim, draw, hike, write, rest, raft, photography.



Minister for Environment, Conservation and Tourism, 25th floor State Law Building 50 Ann Street Brisbane -PO Box 155 North Quay, Qld 4002 (07) 227 4831

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service 5th, 6th and 7th Iloors MLC Centre 239 George Street, Brisbane PO Box 190 North Quay, Old 4002 (07) 227 4111

Southern Region Southern Regional Centre 55 Priors Pocket Road Moggill PO Box 42 Konmore, Old 4069 (07) 202 0200

202 0212 (parks)

Burleigh Head
Gold Coast Highway
Burleigh Heads, Old 4220
(075) 35 3032

Fleay's Fauna Centre Kabool Road West Burleigh, Old 4219 (075) 58 2194

Moreton Sub-Regional Office see Regional Centre

Eastern Scenic Rim District 161 Oxloy Drive Horlywell, Gld 4216 (075) 57 1203

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 Beauticeart, Old 4285

Tamborine Mountain Knoll Road North Tamborine, Qld 4272 (075) 45 1171 Lamington National Park Binna Burra section Beechmont via Nerang, Old 4211 (075) 33 3584 Green Mountains section via Canungra, Old 4275 (075) 45 1734

Boonah Mt French Road MS 161 Boonah, Qld 4310 (075) 63 1579 (atter 6pm)

Moreton Say and Canning Districts see Regional Centre

Glass House Mountains Office Roys Road Beerwah, Old 4519 (071) 94 6630

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

Moreton Island via Tangalooma Moreton Island, Qld 4025 (075) 48 2710

St Helena Base

PO Box 66 Manly, Old 4179 (07) 396 5113 Downe-South Weet Sub-Regio Office 4 Alderley Street PO Box 7054 Toowoomba Mail Centre Old 4352

(078) 35 0688 Southern Downe District Office Hermitage Research Station vis Warwick, Qld 4370 (078) 61 3710

Girraween via Ballandean, Qld 4382 (076) 84 5157

Sundown via Glenlyon Dam Road via Stanthorpe, Old 4380 (067) 37 5235 Main Range Centre

Cunningham's Gap MS 394 Warwick, Old 4370 (076) 66 1133

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Yennoon Old 4703

Emerald, Qld 4720 (079) 82 2246

(079) 84 4505

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Mt Moffatt

PO Box 157

(079) 86 1964

Carnarvon National Park The Ranger Carnarvon Gorge section via Rolleston, Old 4702

via Mitchell, Old 4465

Springsure, Qld 4722 (079) 84 1173

Blackdown Tablelan

via Dingo, Old 4702

Mackay District Office

64 Victoria Street PO Box 623 Meckay, Old 4740 (079) 57 6292

Cape Hillsborough

Seaforth, Old 4741

Dalrymple Heights, Qld 4740 (079) 58 4552

Townsville Mail Centre, Old 4810 (077) 74 1411

Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Office Flinders Street East

Proserpine District Office

Airlie Beach, Old 4802

Burdekin District Office

see Regional Centre

Northern Regional Centre

c/ Post Office

Marlow Street

PO Box 5391

(077) 21 2399

Conway PO Box 332

(079) 46 9430

MS 895

(079) 33 6608

ORAL NO.

Keppel Islands-Capricorn Coast

Northern Downs Dietrict see Sub-Regional Office Bunya Mountains MS501 via Dalby Old 4405

Crows Nest Falls/Ravensbourn PO Box 68 Crows Nest, Old 4355 (076) 98 1298

Lake Broadwater PO Box 401 Dalby, Qld 4405 (074) 63 3562

South West District Office of District Ranger Park Street PO Box 149 Charteville, Old 4470 (074) 54 1255

Wide Bay-Burnett Sub-Regional Office on Wherf and Richmond Street PO Box 101 Maryborough, Old 4650 (071) 22 2455

Bundaberg Dietrict see Sub-Regional Office

Woodgate c/ Post Office Woodgate, Old 4660 (071) 26 6810

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

Great Sandy District Office Praser Island Recreation Board c/ Q.NPWS Rainbow Beach Road PO Box 30 Rainbow Beach, Old 4570 (071) 86 3160

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

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

None District Office Bruce Highway Monkland Gymple, Old 4570 (071) 82 4189

Southern Cooloola Q.NPWS Box Elanda via Tewantin, Qld 4565 (071) 85 3245 (071) 49 7364

Noosa Park Road Noosa Heads, Qld 4567 (071) 47 3243

Central Region

194 Quay Street

PO Box 1395

(079) 27 8511

Central Regional Centre Royal Bank Building

Rockhampton, Qld 4700

Kondalilla/Mapieton Falls (Poet Office Stand (Poet Office) Picnic Bay, Old 4816 (97) 48 Asymbour, Old 4560 (977) 48 7301 (roon and 4cm)

Bowling Green Bay — Mt Elliot PO Box 1954 Townsville, Old 4810 (077) 78 8203

Charters Towers PO Box 187 Charters Towers, Qld 4820 Hinchinbrook District Office 2 Herbort Street PO Box 1293 Ingham, Old 4850 (077) 78 1700

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

Mt Spec (Crystal Creek) Main Street CMB 16 Paluma, Qld 4816 (077) 70 8526

Cardwell Office Bruce Highway PO Box 74 Cardwell, Old 4816 (070) 66 8601

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

North West District Office 2nd floor Mt les House ont Camooweal and Mary Streets PO Box 2316 Mt Isa, Old 4825 (077) 43 2055

Far Northern Region 41 Esplanade PO Box 2066 Caims, Old 4670 (070) 51 9811

Cape Tribulation PMB 10 PS 2041 Mossman, Qld 4873

Lakefield National Park PMB 29 Cairns Mail Centre, Old 4871 (070) 60 3271 New Laura PMB 79 Cairns Mail Centre, Old 4871

(070) 80 3260 Bizant PMB 30 Cairns Mail Centre, Qld 1871 (070) 60 3258

Rokeby PMB 28 Cairns Mail Centre, Cld 4871 (070) 60 3256

Iron Range King Park Lockhart River, Qld 4871

Jardine River/Heathlands PMB 76 Cairns Mail Centre, Old 4871 (070) 60 3241

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

Lawn Hill PM8 12 MS 1463 Mt Isa, Qld 4825

Northern Einsleigh District Office PO Box 38 Chillagoe, Old 4871 (070) 94 7163

Trinity District Office 88 Rankin Street Innietall, Old 4860 Mission Beach Office

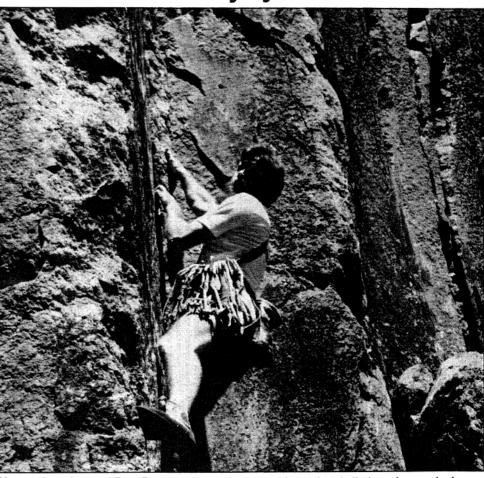
Garners Beach Road PO Box 89 Mission Beach, Old 4854 (070) 68 7183

Josephine Falls PO Box 93 Miriwinni, Qld 487 (070) 67 6304

Ralmerston PO Pox 800 Innisfail, Qld 4860 (070) 64 5115



All for the enjoyment



Almost sheer faces of Frog Buttress do not deter experienced rockclimbers from enjoying their exacting activity in Mt French National Park, near Boonah. This national park is renowned internationally for its challenges to climbers. The modern climber knows to take particular care of the environment. Turn to Page 3 for a report on this activity as part of the feature topic of this issue — A day in a national park.

