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PART II

NATIONAL PARKS IN AUSTRALIA

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Introduction

Whereas in the United States of America, considerable areas of federal lands were available for dedication as national parks, in Australia, apart from the small area of the Australian Capital Territory, the land is controlled by the States and, although "national parks" have been declared in most States, the land remains State-controlled, and its management and control are matters entirely for the particular State Government concerned.

The dedication of national parks in the different States generally followed a haphazard pattern, if indeed they were any pattern. Usually national parks have been created as a result of representations by interested groups of naturalists or conservation-minded citizens and not in consequence of a systematic examination of the floral and faunal assets of the State, followed by the reservation of selected areas. Generally, land which was considered to have commercial potential from the aspect of forestry or agriculture has not been available for national parks purposes. In general, only land thought to be of low economic value has been available for dedication as national parks.

However regrettable this may seem in the light of present-day knowledge and attitudes, it is understandable that, in a young country, the taming of what appeared to be inhospitable country and the creation of areas of land which could provide foodstuffs for local consumption and export, were the primary objectives. The idea of conserving some of the natural treasures of the country in the form of superb stands of timber or habitats for native animals did not repose in the minds of the early developers who saw before them only hostile elements to be overcome and eliminated - hence the ruthless destruction (now regretted by many) of the great forests of Gippsland and the elimination of such rarities as the Thylacine.

Those of our ancestors who were responsible for the introduction of the fox and rabbit and such noxious weeds as the black-berry could hardly be expected to think in terms of conservation as we are beginning to understand the word today.

Nevertheless, there were those, even in the early days of our history, who urged upon the Government the reservation of certain areas of land because of their outstanding features and gradually a system of national parks was created. The following notes summarize briefly the development of such national park systems within several States of the Commonwealth.

It is not proposed here to trace in detail the various enactments which preceded the legislation currently in force, but to present a summary of the present position in regard to national parks in the different States.

For obvious reasons, in all cases, the final reservations were made under the different State Land Acts, the legislation being amended as time passed, to meet the needs of the times. As in most things, legislation in regard to national parks has evolved over a long period. One of the reasons for this is that public opinion and public attitudes have undergone a change over the years, with a decided trend towards conservation.

NATIONAL PARKS IN QUEENSLAND

Control

The earliest provision for reserves for public park and scenic purposes was made in legislation relating to Crown lands (Crown Lands Acts of 1884).

In 1906 the State Forests and National Parks Act provided for the creation of national parks which could be alienated only by Act of Parliament and this became the primary measure for nature conservation in Queensland, the first national park at Witches Falls, Tamborine Mountain, being proclaimed in 1908. The area was 324 acres.

Control of national parks was vested in the Forestry authority as from 1910. In 1957 the Department of Forestry became an independent department under the control of a Director (later Conservator) of Forests.

For many years the Department of Forestry was under the control of the Minister of Local Government and Conservation, but in 1969 this portfolio was abolished and the Department is now under the control of the Minister of Lands.

Number and Area

The total area of the national parks system in Queensland as at 23rd June 1969 was 2,236,916 acres, made up of many hundreds of reservations, ranging considerably in size.

The national parks may conveniently be grouped in four areas: south-east, central, north and Barrier Reef parks.

Parks of the South-East

Lamington National Park of 48,510 acres is probably the best known of all Queensland national parks. It is essentially a plateau lying generally along the border of Queensland and New South Wales with McPherson Ranges, 70 miles south of Brisbane.

Within the boundaries of the park are the headwaters of the coastal streams and tributaries of the Nerang, Coomera, Albert and Logan Rivers.

These streams provide a variety of spectacular and beautiful waterfalls over five hundred in number.

Most of the park consists of rain forest with its associated range of birds and animals. In the higher parts of the park the Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus mopei*) flourishes; many of these trees are said to be over 6000 years old.

This park is one of the homes of the Albert Lyrebird.

Other national parks in this region are as follows:

Name of Park	Area
Springbrook	2,858 acres
Natural Bridge	491 acres
Cunningham's Gap	7,470 acres
Mountain Peaks - Mount Lindssay	600 acres
- Mount Barney	12,980 acres
- Mount Maroon & } Mount May	3,630 acres
Burleigh Heads	58 acres
Tamborine Mountain - Witches Falls	324 acres
- Cedar Creek Falls	412 acres
- Palm Grove	288 acres
Bald Rock and Castle Rock	12,603 acres
Queen Mary Falls and Blackfellow's Knob	327 acres
Glasshouse Mountains	1,440 acres
Mount Glorious	2,845 acres
Bunya Mountains	24,230 acres
Ravensbourne	247 acres
Kondalilla	185 acres
Noosa	825 acres

Parks of the Central Region

Name of Park	Area
Canarvon	66,480 acres
Robinson Gorge	22,000 acres
Salvator Rosa	64,920 acres
Eungella	122,600 acres

Parks of the Northern Region

Name of Park	Area
Palmerston	6,315 acres
Bellenden-Ker	80,140 acres
Lake Barrine	1,213 acres
Lake Eacham	1,200 acres
Millstream Falls	(?) acres
The Crater	900 acres
Barron Falls	7,000 acres
Chillagoe Caves and Mungana Caves	4,732 acres
Mount Windsor Tableland	73,000 acres

Parks of the Great Barrier Reef

From south to north there are twelve different island parks, the principal ones of which are as follows:

Name of Park	Area
Heron Island	42 acres
Brampton Island	1,280 acres
Whitsunday Island	27,000 acres
South Molle Island	1,016 acres
Lindeman Island	1,767 acres
Long Island	2,066 acres
Magnetic Island	6,260 acres
Orpheus Island	3,380 acres
Hinchinbrook Island	97,222 acres
Dunk Island	1,805 acres
Green Island	17 acres

The Management of National Parks - Queensland

In Queensland's national parks, emphasis is on conservation, the Conservator having wide powers.

Section 40 of the Forestry Act 1959 provides -

"The cardinal principle to be observed in the management of National Parks and Scenic Areas shall be permanent preservation, to the greatest possible extent of their natural condition, and the Conservator of Forests shall exercise his powers under this part of the Act in such a manner as appears to him most appropriate to achieve this objective."

Section 41 of the Act lays down -

"Consistent with this Act, the Conservator of Forests may within any National Park or Scenic Area from time to time construct, carry out, improve, maintain, operate, protect, control and otherwise manage any works, or do any act to make such provision as he considers necessary or desirable for the preservation, proper management or public enjoyment of that National Park or Scenic Area."

The Department's policy is to administer the parks in accordance with the principles laid down in the Act, and interfere as little as possible with natural conditions. Thus in national parks and scenic areas there is -

- (a) no marketing of timber;
- (b) no gathering or destruction of native flora;
- (c) no hunting of wild animals;
- (d) no shooting of bird life;
- (e) no attempt to adorn nature by landscaping or such action;
- (f) no introduction of any plant, animal or bird life not indigenous to the particular locality.

No charge is made on visitors to national parks in Queensland.

The chief work on national parks and scenic areas in Queensland has been the construction of carefully located and easy graded walking tracks which can be carried out with a minimum of interference to nature and fit unobtrusively into the landscape.

Public roads provide access to the perimeter of the Parks and from here, on the more-frequented areas, walking track systems have been put in along which visitors may stroll at leisure and observe the beauty of the Parks at close quarters. The actual entrances to the tracks have been featured by appropriate designs using local materials to harmonise with the surroundings.

At carefully selected spots, picnic grounds have been developed whereon toilets and shelter sheds have been erected, and fireplaces, barbecues and tables provided. Radiating from these picnic grounds are short, circuit tracks taking in features of interest on the Park, and these can be walked by all, including elderly persons, without fatigue.

Along the walking tracks, selected trees have been name-plated whilst on feature lookouts, safety fences have been erected.

A comprehensive system of distinctive timber signs, often in cedar with its natural colouring, has been developed to guide and inform the visiting public. Where the signs are painted, the standard colours of chestnut with lemon lettering have been adopted.

Improvement work on these reservations is carried out by resident Overseers and workmen as employees of the Department of Forestry. They are directed and supervised by National Park Rangers.

Persons desiring to camp on a National Park are required to secure a permit from a Forest Officer.

(Note: A National Park comprises an area of one thousand acres or more.

A Scenic Area comprises an area of less than one thousand acres. However, both are administered to the same code, the distinction being in name only).

NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

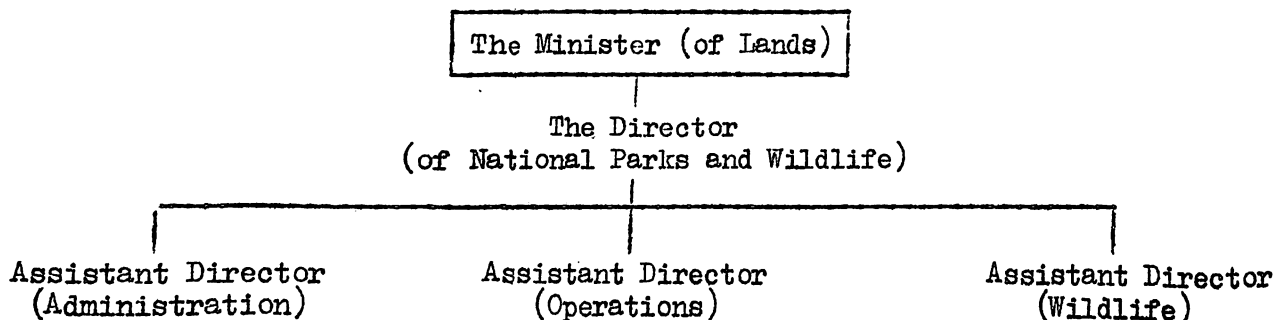
The first national park to be declared in New South Wales was The National Park near Port Hacking (now the Royal National Park), in 1879. Subsequently other national parks were declared, also under the Land Act. In 1944, the Kosciusko State Park Act established the 1,300,000 acre park of that name.

Until the passing of the National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1967, national parks and fauna reserves were administered separately. National Parks were administered under the Lands Act and controlled by Trustees appointed under the Act.

With the passing of the National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1967, national parks and wildlife reserves were brought together under the one controlling body. The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service is the only Australian parks authority which is a specialized independent organ of Government.

Administration

The form of administration which exists in New South Wales may be represented as follows:



The National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1967 set aside 12 national parks, 7 state parks and 6 historic sites. The Act authorised existing trusts to hold office as bodies corporate and to have responsibility for the control of individual parks; but it also provided for the control, care and management of new parks by the Director and for the transfer of control from existing trusts to the Director. The Minister can effect transfer of powers from the trusts to the Director by notice in the gazette, subject to disallowal by a resolution of either House of Parliament. A local committee may be established for a park or site under the control of the Director, its function being to make recommendations to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Director or Park Superintendent. To date the trusts of eight major national parks have been replaced by local committees. Trusts still control 11 out of 19 national and state parks.

The Minister is further assisted by an Advisory Council consisting of the Director (who is the Chairman) and 12 other members including representatives of park and site trusts conservation societies and Government departments. The Council advises on the care, control and management of parks, sites, and nature reserves, the preservation of wildlife and other matters referred to it by the Minister.

In addition, an Advisory Committee of Architects advises the Minister or the Director on matters referred to it, relating to design and planning, etc. in parks, sites and reserves.

Powers and Duties

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is required to carry out such works and activities for the preservation and protection of parks and sites and the conservation of nature reserves and wildlife as the Minister may direct.

In the case of parks and sites where control is vested in the Director, the Director is required for such parks and sites to promote educational activities and arrange for the carrying out of works in connexion with their management and maintenance.

The Minister may grant leases, licences, easements, and franchises, for a wide range of purposes, subject to such conditions as he may determine.

Staff

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is organised into a Wildlife Section, a Management Division, and an Administrative Division. Individual parks are under the control of rangers. The National Parks and Wildlife Service employs a staff of 201, and the park trusts employ a further 53 men.

Finance

The Act established a National Parks and Wildlife Fund into which is paid all moneys received, including moneys taken by trusts. This fund can be used for the purchase of lands, and for expenditure on lands adjoining a park or site where necessary to provide improved visitor access and facilities.

The National Parks

1. Kosciusko (1,322,000 acres). High plateaux with glaciated landforms and extensive winter snowfield. Vegetation - alpine, wet and dry sclerophyll forest, and temperate woodland. Interesting vegetational sequence (altitudinal range over 6,000 feet).
2. Blue Mountains (243,000 acres). Deeply dissected sandstone plateau, gorge, cliff, and waterfall scenery. Wet and dry sclerophyll forest, distinctive sandstone flora.
3. Kinchega (87,100 acres). Menindee Lakes area near Broken Hill. Former sheep station, to be allowed to revert (varied soils, semi-arid vegetation communities). Waterfowl on lakes. Created October 1967.
4. New England (56,400 acres). Eastern slope of Northern Tableland. Interesting vegetation sequence from sub-alpine to sub-tropical.
5. Morton (45,000 acres). Dissected sandstone plateau, gorge, mesa, cliff, and waterfall scenery. Wet and dry sclerophyll forest, and sub-tropical rain forest.
6. Gibraltar Range (38,000 acres). Granite plateau. Heath and swamps. Sub-tropical rain forest on slopes and in gullies.
7. Royal (36,700 acres). Dissected sandstone plateau. Port Hacking River - tidal estuary, coastal beaches and lagoons. Heath and dry sclerophyll forest dominant. Sub-tropical rain forest in gullies and on shales. Wide range of developed recreation facilities.
8. Mount Kaputar (35,300 acres). Eroded remnants of tertiary volcanoes. Predominantly dry sclerophyll forest.
9. Ku-ring-gai Chase (35,000 acres). Dissected sandstone plateau. Shoreline comprises tidal inlets of Broken Bay. Predominantly dry sclerophyll forest, wetter elements on shales. Developed recreational facilities.

10. Dharug (29,000 acres). Dissected sandstone plateau. Dry sclerophyll forest. Aboriginal rock carvings. Created October 1967.
11. Brisbane Water (16,500 acres). Dissected sandstone plateau. Dry sclerophyll forest with wetter elements in places.
12. Warrumbungle (16,500 acres). Eroded remnants of tertiary volcanoes forming spectacular landforms. Dry sclerophyll forest.

NATIONAL PARKS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

General

The South Australian park and reserves system has had a complex evolution. Today the parks and reserves of this State are still administered under four Acts.

Reserves for various public purposes including public recreation and protection of flora and fauna were established under Crown lands legislation from the second half of the nineteenth century onwards.

Then in 1891 The National Park Act established a national park at Belair as a national recreation and pleasure ground under a controlling body known as The Commissioners of the National Park.

The National Pleasure Resorts Act of 1914 provided for the acquisition of lands as national pleasure resorts and for their control by the Director of the State tourist authority.

In 1919 the Fauna and Flora Reserve Act created Flinders Chase under the control of the Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia.

In 1937 reserves for flora and fauna which had been set aside under the Crown Lands Act vested in the Minister for Agriculture were placed under the control of a new body named the Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee.

In 1955 the National Park Act was amended to give the Commissioners of the National Park power to control reserves elsewhere in the State. This body now became known as the Commissioners of The National Park and Wild Life Reserves. In 1962 eight major reserves were transferred to the Commissioners from the Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee. The Committee continues to exist and still plays an important rôle in recommending areas for preservation.

In 1966 the National Park and Wild Life Reserves Act, 1891-1960, was repealed and replaced by the National Parks Act 1966. The wild life reserves were now given a higher security of tenure and became national parks under the control of the National Parks Commission.

In the fauna reserve field a beginning was made in 1919. The Animals and Birds Protection Act of that year was mainly concerned with the general regulation of fauna, but provided for sanctuaries in which an additional measure of control over fauna could be obtained. The Fauna Conservation Act of 1964, which replaced this earlier legislation, for the first time gave powers for the retention of habitat in certain classes of reserve.

The National Parks Act 1966

Reservation

The Act declared a number of former wild life reserves to be national parks, and provided that the Governor may declare, by proclamation, that, on the recommendation of the Minister any Crown lands, and on the recommendation of the National Parks Commission, any land(s) owned by the Commission shall be a national park. Powers for the compulsory purchase of land for national parks were given by amendment of another Act.

Revocation

Revocation of national park land requires a resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

Purpose

The preamble to the Act states that the purpose is "to enable national parks to be established, developed and maintained for public recreation, and to provide for the management, control and conservation therein of animals, plants and land in its natural state".

The Act requires the Commission "as far as practicable" to "maintain and preserve the indigenous fauna and flora in the natural features of the national parks for the use and enjoyment of the people of the State".

The Governor may from time to time by proclamation declare the name by which any national park shall be known. The Commission has decided to use naming to indicate differences of either significance or management intention. To date the following names have been used.

1. ".... National Park"
2. ".... National Parks Reserve" - used for the smallest national parks (most parks of under 200 acres have been given this name), and
3. ".... Wilderness National Park" - this name has been given to one remote park (the Elliott Price Wilderness National Park of 160,000 acres) where the intention is to maintain the area in a wilderness condition.

Protection and Land Use

Mining is excluded from national parks except that the Governor by proclamation may declare that national park land be brought under the Mining or the Mining (Petroleum) Acts.

The Commission can permit grazing and this is taking place in two parks, but with the sole aim of reducing fire risk.

Control

All national parks are placed under the control and management of the National Parks Commission. The Commission is a body corporate consisting of 15 members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Minister, one of whom is appointed Chairman. No ex-officio members are specified in the Act. Three primary producers have been appointed to the Commission. The Minister for Lands is responsible for administering the Act.

Powers

The Commission may employ officers, set aside land in a national park for various purposes (including gardens, enclosures for animals and sports and games), make roads, erect buildings, and sell stone, timber, plants and animals.

With the approval of the Minister the Commission may grant leases.

The Commission may, with the consent of the Governor, make by-laws concerning amongst other things, the charging of entry fees, the grazing of cattle, and the fixing of times during which parks shall be open to the public.

The Commission is required to take measures for the control of noxious weeds, vermin and insect disease, and to reduce the hazards of bushfire.

Staff

The National Parks Commission employs a full-time staff numbering 35. There are resident staff at five national parks. Others are visited regularly by field officers of the Commission. There are no committees of management.

Management Planning

There is no provision in the Act for management plans, but the Commission intends to draw up such plans as a matter of policy. It also has an opportunity to choose national park names which reflect the management intentions.

In addition to the legislation enabling national parks to be established, there are three other important pieces of legislation dealing with (land) conservation. These are:

- (i) The Fauna Conservation Act 1964-65
- (ii) The National Pleasure Resorts Act 1914-60
- (iii) The Flora and Fauna Reserve Act 1919-1940

Park and Reserve Statistics

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Area (acres)</u>
National Parks	33	555,958
Fauna reserves, prohibited areas, and one dam reserve	42	19,813
National pleasure resorts	21	23,316
Flinders Chase	1	135,745
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total</u>	97	734,832

(1,148 sq.miles)

The National Parks

1. Hincks (163,315 acres). Sand plain, sand hills, and rocky range. Mallee-broombush.
2. Flinders Chase (135,745 acres). Low dissected plateau, coastal scenery. Dry sclerophyll forest, and mallee. Propagation of koala and other fauna.
3. Hambidge (93,865 acres). Sand hills and flats. Mallee-broombush.
4. Billiatt (90,874 acres). Sand hills and flats. Mallee-broombush.
5. Mt. Rescue (70,149 acres). Sand plain and sand hills. Mallee-broombush, and mallee-heath.
6. Lincoln (35,521 acres). Sand hills, mallee-broombush, savannah woodland. Coastal cliffs and dunes with associated vegetation and bird life.
7. Messent (28,000 acres). Sand plain and sand hills, lake and swamps. Mallee-broombush, mallee-heath, head, tussock grassland, and sedge flats. Waterfowl.
8. Canunda (22,120 acres). Large coastal dunes. Dune and cliff vegetation.
9. Wilpena Pound National Pleasure Resort (19,900 acres). Closed synclinal basin ringed by rocky ranges. Semi-arid shrub savannah.

Finance

The Annual Reports for the National Parks Commission for the year ending 30th June 1968 contains the following information regarding receipts and expenditure for that year. The corresponding figures for 1966/67 are also shown.

	1967/68	1966/67
<u>Revenue</u>		
Government grants	\$114,100	\$110,200
Park services and other sources	65,191	57,386
Total Revenue	179,291	167,586
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries and Wages	73,253	57,119
Capital Works	43,617	63,424
Other Works	66,300	51,585
Total Expenditure	183,170	175,128

NATIONAL PARKS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Land has been reserved under various forms of legislation, from as far back as 1872.

The Land Act, 1898 (replaced by the Land Act of 1933), consolidated the land regulations and specifically provided for the setting aside of lands for purposes such as the preservation of native flora and fauna which could be placed under boards of control.

The Permanent Reserves Act of 1899 provided three classes of reserve, each having a different degree of security against alienation.

One of the boards established under the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895, was the State Gardens Board, created in 1920. This body was at first concerned only with small parks and garden reserves in and around Perth, but later it was given control of reserves in country areas. In 1956 the State Gardens Board became the National Parks Board of Western Australia.

Reservation and Revocation

The Governor may reserve Crown lands for a number of public purposes, and also classify these reserves as either "A", "B", or "C". A reserve can have several purposes.

A Class "A" reserve is forever dedicated to the purpose for which it has been proclaimed "until by Act of Parliament ... it is otherwise enacted". The Governor by notice in the Gazette may cancel or amend the boundaries of any reserve not classified as Class "A" and change the purpose of such reserves. Reasons for the cancellation of a Class "B" reserve must be given to both Houses of Parliament.

Protection and Land Use

The relative security of different categories of reserve is dependent upon several factors of which the most important are the procedures for revocation, the relationship to other acts affecting land use, the type of ownership, and the arrangements for management.

The most secure reserves are those which are "A" class and which have been vested in bodies such as the National Parks Board and the Wild Life Authority. The next most secure are those of "A" class which have not been vested, and those of "C" class which have been vested. However, where a reserve is also a sanctuary (as defined in the Fauna Conservation Act) a working plan can be prepared and approved and this will tend to make the reserve more secure, even though it is not vested, or of "C" class.

The National Parks Board of Western Australia

The National Parks Board of W.A. was created in 1957 under the Parks and Reserves Act 1895-1963. It is a body corporate of seven members responsible to the Minister of Lands. It currently controls 35 reserves totalling 821,220 acres of which most are class "A". Sixteen reserves which are regarded as areas of national character have been given the title of national park.

The Board employs a staff of 48. There are resident rangers at several parks and mobile rangers visit the more remote reserves. Honorary rangers assist in some reserves. The Board also draws upon the specialist services of various Government departments, which it pays for from its budget.

The Board has power to construct walks, reservoirs, etc., to improve and ornament parks and reserves, and to grant licences for the depasturing of stock, and for the removal of sand, gravel, minerals and timber.

The Board's policy is not to permit grazing on parks and no grazing is taking place at present. Timber getting is normally not permitted, but logging rights have been granted in Walpole-Nornalup National Park where it is hoped this will improve timber stands.

The general policy of the National Parks Board of Western Australia is to ensure the conservation of the lands, flora and fauna, and features of special interest in the parks and reserves under its control, and to develop and improve certain areas for the purpose of promoting their enjoyment by the public. The Board has announced its intention of progressively preparing overall management plans for each major national park and reserve.

The National Parks

The principal reserves are as follows:

1. Prince Regent River (1,565,000 acres). Rugged sandstone country, precipitous gorge of the Prince Regent River. Tropical woodland. Fauna reserve.
2. Kalbarri National Park (358,000 acres). Sand plain, Murchison Gorge. Mallee, and heath.
3. Stirling Range National Park (284,540 acres). Mountain range. Heath, and dry sclerophyll forest.
4. Lake Magenta (232,700 acres). Salt lake. Heath and mallee. Mallee fowl, and other mallee fauna. Fauna reserve.
5. Dale's Gorge (58,400 acres). Hammersley Range. Flora and fauna reserve.
6. Barrow Island (50,000 acres). Fauna and flora reserve. Low sandy island, some limestone. Semi-arid tussock grassland. Rich in mammals rare on mainland. Productive oilfield.
7. Cape le Grand National Park (39,500 acres). Granite, and gneiss. Heath.
8. Cape Range National Park (33,171 acres). Rocky range. Sclerophyll shrub savannah.
9. Walpole - Nornalup National Park (32,229 acres). Wet sclerophyll forest (includes karri stands). Important for coastal recreation.
10. Bernier and Dorre Islands (26,000 acres). Reserve for fauna and flora, tourism and fishing industry. Important for mammals.
11. Two People Bay, R. 27956 (11,460 acres). Fauna reserve. Set aside to protect the rare Noisy Scrub bird and other rare fauna.
12. Nambung National Park, R. 24522 (10,945 acres). Sand plain. Heath.

Other Legislation

The Fauna Conservation Act 1950-1967, the Parks and Reserves Act 1895-1933, and the Native Flora Protection Act 1935-1938 are important pieces of legislation directed to the conservation of the natural heritage in Western Australia.

NATIONAL PARKS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORYReservation

The Crown Lands Ordinance 1931-1967 enables the Governor in Council to make reservations "for the recreation and amusement of the public, the protection and conservation of wildlife, the conservation of native flora, national or public parks or gardens, and the preservation or protection of places of historic interest".

Revocation

The Governor-General may by proclamation revoke reserve land upon the recommendation of the Administrator, and with the approval of the Legislative Council. A copy of the recommendation must be laid before the Legislative Council and the recommendation is deemed to have been approved if no motion dismissing it is accepted. A statement setting forth the reasons for resumption must be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Control

The Ordinance provides for the appointment of bodies corporate for "the control of reserves for the recreation and amusement of the public". Such trustees can make by-laws which are published in the Gazette. Where no such body is appointed, the land may be managed by such persons as the Administrator directs. Most of the reserves created under the Crown Lands Ordinance are controlled by the Northern Territory Reserves Board. Others are administered mainly by the Surveyor-General.

National Parks and Gardens Ordinance 1959-67Control

The Administrator may by notice in the Gazette commit to the control and management of the Northern Territory Reserves Board land reserved under section 103 of the Crown Lands Ordinance for a "place for the recreation or amusement of the public, a national park, a monument, a botanical garden, a zoological garden, a reserve or sanctuary for the protection of flora or fauna or for any similar purpose".

The Board is a corporate body. Its chairman and six other members are appointed by the Administrator.

Powers

The functions of the Board are to control, manage, and develop the reserves, and to encourage and promote public use and enjoyment.

The Board has powers to preserve and protect natural features, grant leases, permit and assist research on reserves, employ staff, carry out works, construct hotels, make fences, and "do any other thing designed to improve reserves and adapt them for the purposes of public recreation, health and enjoyment". Any exercise of its powers must be consistent with the purpose of the reserve.

The Board may investigate sites for future reserves, and recommend to the Governor-General that land be reserved under section 103 of the Crown Lands Ordinance. In practice the creation of a reserve requires the approval of the Surveyor-General and the Minister for Territories.

The Administrator has the power to make regulations and the Board can make by-laws.

Selection

In reserve selection most attention has been paid to accessible areas of obvious tourist interest, but recently the Board has become interested in remote areas mainly of importance for the conservation of wildlife. Many of the lesser areas controlled by the Board are features of historic significance.

Protection and Land Use

Grazing licences, and licences to remove sand and gravel may not be granted in relation to reserved lands controlled by the Northern Territory Reserves Board unless the Board recommends the grant.

The Board has been active in making recommendations for reserves and in the development of facilities.

Staff

The Board employs an Executive Officer, and a full-time staff of 14. There are curators at 6 reserves.

Reserves Controlled by the Northern Territory Reserves Board

1. Ayers Rock-Mt. Olga National Park (331,680 acres). Monoliths, sand plain. Arid scrub, and shrub savannah.
2. Palm Valley Fauna and Flora Reserve (113,280 acres). MacDonnell Range, rugged gorge, and waterholes. Arid scrub, and shrub savannah. Relic palm in gorge.
3. Katherine Gorge National Park (56,069 acres). Tropical woodland.
4. Ormiston Gorge and Pound Scenic Reserve (19,520 acres). Gorge on tributary of Finke River in MacDonnell Range. Arid scrub.

NATIONAL PARKS IN TASMANIA

In Tasmania advanced legislation for scenic reserves and fauna sanctuaries was passed at a relatively early date, and the State is unusual in that there have been no major changes in the laws governing this aspect of land use for several decades.

The first Tasmanian reserves for the protection of scenery were set aside under Crown lands legislation beginning with the Waste Lands Act of 1863.

In 1915 special legislation for scenery preservation was enacted providing greater security of tenure for scenic and historic reserves and making improved arrangements for their management. The Scenery Preservation Board established under this legislation was the first special central authority for parks and reserves in Australia. Several major scenic reserves were proclaimed in 1916.

More secure arrangements for fauna sanctuaries were made in the 1919 Animals and Birds Protection Act (replaced and considerably strengthened in 1928).

Scenery Preservation Act 1915 (as amended)

Reservation

The Scenery Preservation Board is empowered to inspect lands of "scenic or historic interest" and recommend to the Governor what lands, whether Crown lands or otherwise, should be permanently reserved as scenic or historic reserves. Crown lands are declared as reserves by the Governor by proclamation in the Gazette. Private lands can be purchased or taken for reservation under the Lands Resumption Act.

Nine major reserves have been named as national parks by the Board, but this is not a statutory term.

A wide range of scenic and historic reserves have been set aside particularly in the Central Highlands and in western Tasmania. The pace of reserve acquisition has slackened in the last 12 years.

Revocation

The Act states that except as specially provided every reserve is to be inalienable. There are numerous exceptions:

1. The Governor on the recommendation of the Board can declare land exempt from any specified provision of the Act (Crown land by proclamation, acquired private land at any time).
2. For mining purposes the Governor by proclamation, on the recommendation of the Director of Mines with the consent of the Scenery Preservation Board, can revoke the reservation or exempt any reserve land from all or any of the specified provisions of the Act, either conditionally or absolutely. The Board is not to consent unless it is satisfied that the advantages of mining outweigh those of scenery preservation.
3. Where in the opinion of the Governor a reserve is no longer suitable for scenic purposes he may by proclamation revoke the reservation upon a resolution of both Houses of Parliament.
4. Where in the opinion of the Governor it is desirable to alter the boundaries of the reserve he may acquire adjoining land, or reduce the area and proclaim new boundaries.

Purpose

The only statement of the aim of the reserves is in the short title which describes the Act as for "the preservation of lands of scenic and historic interest".

Protection and Land Use

Protection of fauna and flora is by means of regulation, and the Act lays down the penalties for certain offences. All native fauna and flora are protected in scenic reserves. The provisions for mining are mentioned above.

The Board, with the consent of the Minister, may sell timber or firewood on a reserve which in the Board's opinion can be removed without detriment to the reserve. Proceeds go to consolidated revenue. Few timber leases have been granted in recent years.

The Minister on the recommendation of the Board can permit grazing on reserves. The only grazing on a scenic reserve at present is on Schouten Island.

The Board is not specifically empowered to provide facilities for the public and its policy has been to develop simple facilities such as tracks, huts, and car parks. The Board favours the provision of suitable accommodation in scenic reserves, but the conditions suggested to lease applicants and the business risk have so far deterred this kind of development. The Board has approved the building of roads in several national parks.

Control

The Act is administered by the Scenery Preservation Board subject to the direction of the Minister for Lands and Works. The members of the Board are mainly representatives of Government departments and of societies interested in scenic reserves. Six out of nine are ex-officio members. The Secretary for Lands is the statutory chairman and has executive control over the Board's staff.

The Governor may on the advice of the Board, by notice in the Gazette, vest the control of any reserve in a municipal council, local authority, or special board, with such powers as are declared by notice. There are at present four special boards. Their rôle is mainly advisory.

Powers

Subject to the directions of the Minister, the Scenery Preservation Board has the entire care, control, and management of reserves under the Act, and is required to carry out all work authorised by Parliament.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands may on the recommendation of the Board grant leases, or licences to occupy reserve land and buildings.

The Minister may take such steps as he thinks fit for the fencing and maintenance of any reserve.

Staff

The total staff engaged full-time on work under the Act is at present 21. There are resident staff at 4 scenic reserves and 3 historic reserves. Other reserves are visited from time to time by inspectors. Sixteen part-time employees are located at various centres.

Reserve and Sanctuary Statistics (30th June 1967)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Area (acres)</u>
Scenic and historic reserves	78	608,926
Sanctuaries on Crown land controlled only by Animals and Birds Protection Board	35	102,724
<u>Total</u>	113	711,650
		(978 sq. miles)

Principal Scenic Reserves

1. Cradle Mt.-Lake St. Clair National Park (338,496 acres). Dolerite peaks, glaciated landforms. Vegetation - alpine, wet sclerophyll forest, and temperate rain forest. Fifty-two mile walking track with shelter huts.
2. Lake Pedder National Park (59,000 acres). Includes Frankland Range (precambrian fold mountain, glaciated landforms. Vegetation - alpine, sedgeland. A large hydro-electric power reservoir has been authorised which will cover the lower areas of the park, including Lake Pedder.

3. Mt. Field National Park (40,058 acres). Dolerite plateau, glaciated landforms, winter snow. Vegetation - alpine, wet sclerophyll forest, and temperate rain forest. Interesting altitudinal sequence of vegetation. Partly developed ski resort.
4. Ben Lomond National Park (39,615 acres). Dolerite plateau, winter snow. Alpine vegetation, wet sclerophyll forest. Partly developed ski resort.
5. Frenchmans Cap National Park (25,240 acres). Quartzite range and peaks, glaciated landforms. Vegetation - alpine, wet sclerophyll forest, and temperate rain forest. Access by walking track only.
6. Hartz Mountains National Park (21,300 acres). Dolerite plateau, glaciated landforms. Alpine vegetation, wet sclerophyll forest and temperate rain forest.
7. Freycinet Peninsula National Park (18,420 acres). Granite peaks, coastal landforms. Dry sclerophyll forest.
8. Lyell Highway (18,000 acres). Roadside strips in mountain country. Wet sclerophyll forest, and temperate rain forest.

* * * * *

NATIONAL PARKS IN VICTORIA

Introduction

The earliest parks and reserves in Victoria were set aside under the nineteenth century Land Acts. Most of the present-day national parks were administered under the provisions of the Land Act. Wilson's Promontory-, Wyperfeld-, Mount Buffalo-, Tarra Valley-, Bulga Park-, Mallacoota Inlet-, Wingan Inlet-, Fern Tree Gully-, Kinglake-, The Lakes- and Churchill National Parks were all reserved under the Land Act and administered by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey until 1956, when the National Parks Act was passed creating a National Parks Authority, to deal exclusively with national parks.

Constitution of National Parks Authority

Section 6(1) of the National Parks Act reads as follows:

"For the purposes of this Act there shall be a National Parks Authority consisting of -

- (a) the Premier of Victoria or such other Minister as is for the time being nominated by the Premier, who shall be the Chairman of the Authority;
- (b) the Director (who is the Executive Officer);

- (c) the Secretary for Lands or his nominee;
- (d) the Chairman of the Forests Commission of Victoria or his nominee;
- (e) the Secretary of the Public Works Department or his nominee;
- (f) the Chairman of the Soil Conservation Authority or his nominee;
- (g) the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or his nominee;
- (h) one member appointed by the Governor in Council as representing organizations concerned with the protection of native fauna and flora;
- (i) one member appointed by the Governor in Council as representing persons having a special interest in national parks;
- (j) one member appointed by the Governor in Council as representing the Victorian Ski Association;
- (k) one member appointed by the Governor in Council as representing the Victorian Tourist Bureau.

Objects of the Act

Section 4(1) of the Act reads as follows:

- (a) to provide for the establishment and control of national parks;
- (b) to protect and preserve indigenous plant and animal wild life and features of special scenic scientific or historical interest in national parks;
- (c) to maintain the existing environment of national parks;
- (d) to provide for the education and enjoyment of visitors to national parks and to encourage and control such visitors.

Duties of the National Parks Authority

Section 10 of the Act reads as follows:

It shall be the duty of the Authority -

- (a) unless inconsistent with any special purpose for which a national park has been proclaimed, to maintain every national park in its natural condition and to conserve therein ecological associations and species of native plants and animals and protect the special features of the park and as far as practicable to exterminate exotic plants and animals therein;
- (b) to encourage and regulate the use of national parks by the public and to provide for the enjoyment thereof by the people in such a way as to leave parks unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;
- (c) to protect national parks from injury by fire.

Provisions of the Act

The Act provides, inter alia, for the various functions listed hereunder:

1. Declaration of National Parks

Section 8 of the Act reads:

- (1) The areas of Crown land which have already been reserved under the Land Act 1958, and which are referred to in the Second Schedule to this Act, are hereby declared to be national parks under this Act.
- (2) Any area of land declared by this or any subsequent Act to be a national park may be declared to be subject to such conditions (including responsibility for fire protection) restrictions and reservations as the Governor in Council having regard to recommendations of the Authority thinks fit and prescribes by proclamation published in the Government Gazette and such conditions restrictions and reservations shall have effect accordingly; and the Governor in Council may having regard to any recommendation of the Authority revoke amend or vary any such condition restriction or reservation or impose any new condition restriction or reservation by a subsequent proclamation published in the Government Gazette.
- (3) The Governor in Council may by regulation prescribe classifications of national parks and may by proclamation published in the Government Gazette declare that any national park or any part thereof is of any such classification or that parts thereof are of different classifications.

Schedule to National Parks Act

1. Wyperfeld National Park	139,760 acres
2. Kinglake National Park	14,079 acres
3. Fern Tree Gully National Park	927 acres
4. Wilson's Promontory National Park	102,379 acres
5. Mount Buffalo National Park	27,280 acres
6. The Lakes National Park	5,238 acres
7. The area known as "Lind Park"	2,882 acres
8. The area known as "Alfred Park"	5,406 acres
9. Wingan Inlet National Park	4,730 acres
10. Mallacoota Inlet National Park	11,225 acres
11. Tarra Valley National Park	315 acres
12. Bulga Park	91 acres
13. The area known as "Churchill National Park"	477 acres
14. The area known as "Fraser National Park"	7,749 acres
15. Mount Richmond National Park	1,534 acres
16. Mount Eccles National Park	84 acres
17. Hattah Lakes National Park	44,000 acres
18. Glenaladale National Park	403 acres
19. Port Campbell National Park	1,750 acres
20. Morwell National Park	342 acres
21. Little Desert National Park	2,870 acres

2. Appointment of Staff

Section 7(1) reads as follows:

- (1) Subject to the Public Service Act 1958 there may be appointed a secretary to the Authority and such other officers and employes as are required for the administration of this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act the Authority may with the consent of the Minister administering the Department concerned make use of the services of any officer or employe in any Government Department.

3. Performance of Functions

Section 9(2)

In the exercise and performance of its functions under this Act the Authority in respect of any national park may subject to this Act -

- (a) carry out permanent works for the establishment protection (including fire protection) development and improvement of the park and (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) may erect buildings for the accommodation or convenience of the public, set apart and establish camping places, provide conveniences amenities and attractions and provide roads and tracks in or into the park;
- (b) grant to any person or body of persons a tenancy of or a permit to manage or occupy any building camping place convenience amenity or attraction so erected set apart or provided or any other building convenience or facility in the park at such rent charge or fee for such periods not exceeding seven years and subject to such reasonable conditions as the Authority determines;
- (c) carry out works of maintenance in the park;
- (d) subsidize any person or body carrying out any works of permanent improvement or maintenance in the park with the approval of the Authority;
- (e) with the approval of the Minister and the consent of the Minister of Lands and the Minister of PublicWorks carry out permanent works for the protection of any foreshore outside the park but adjacent to its boundaries and provide jetties and launching places and landing places on or in any foreshore or waters in the park or outside but adjacent to its boundaries.

4. Leases and Permits

Section 9(4) provides, subject to the provisions of the Act, for the granting by Authority of leases and permits in national parks.

5. Regulations

Section 16 of the Act reads as follows:

The Governor in Council may make regulations for or with respect to -

- (a) classifying national parks;
- (b) the protection preservation and care of national parks or any class of national parks and of permanent works and works of maintenance and of facilities and amenities and of native flora and fauna and features of scenic scientific or historical interest therein;
- (c) regulating the conduct obligations and duties of persons visiting or travelling exploring or camping in national parks or any class of national parks and (without affecting the generality of the foregoing) the safety of persons visiting such parks and liability for all reasonable expenses incurred in connexion with searches to find persons who have become lost, or (after failure to comply with the regulations) are reasonably believed to have become lost therein;
- (d) fixing tolls fees and charges to be paid by persons using accommodation or amenities provided in national parks;
- (e) the proceedings of the Authority and of committees under this Act;
- (f) prescribing penalties (not exceeding One hundred dollars in any case) for breaches of the regulations;
- (g) generally, prescribing any matters or things authorized or required to be prescribed under this Act or necessary or expedient to be prescribed for carrying this Act into effect.

6. Committees of Management

Section 12 provides for the appointment of Committees of Management and for the delegation thereto of such of its powers and functions as the Authority deems fit.

7. Finance

Under the Act "there shall be established and kept in the Treasury a fund to be called the "National Parks Fund" (hereinafter called "the Fund").

There shall be paid into the Fund -

- (a) any gifts or bequests made to the Authority;
- (b) any moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of this Act;
- (c) any other money received by the Authority.

There shall be paid out of the Fund -

- (a) costs and expenses incurred by the Authority in the exercise of any functions powers or authorities or the performance of any duties conferred or imposed upon the Authority by this Act;
- (b) any other costs and expenses, as certified by the Minister, of the administration of or arising under this Act.

8. Impounding of Cattle or Sheep

Sections 10A and 10B provide for the impoundment of cattle and sheep wandering in national parks.

9. Legal Proceedings

Section 17, 18 and 19 authorise the Authority to take legal proceedings against persons offending against the Act, and detail the relevant procedures in such cases.

10. Mining Leases

Section 11 reads as follows:

"No lease or licence shall be granted under the Mines Act 1958 or the Petroleum Act 1958 in respect of any part of a national park except with the consent of the Authority.

Provided that if any person is aggrieved by any refusal of the Authority to give any such consent he may in writing to the Minister appeal to the Governor in Council whose decision shall be final."

Location of National Parks in Victoria

In order to ensure that the national parks system encompassed the best features of our natural resources, it would have been desirable in the first instance to have made a systematic examination of the various ecological associations throughout the entire State, followed by the reservation of representative areas selected as the basis of their ecological value. This has not been the pattern of development of the national parks system in Victoria, though it may not yet be too late to apply this approach to what remains of our natural heritage.

The location of Victoria's 21 national parks is shown in the attached maps which also show the various State regions.

Principal Functions of the National Parks Authority
Fire Protection

The greatest enemy of the national parks is fire; early in its history the Authority therefore appointed a Fire Protection Committee which has, with the assistance of the Forests Commission of Victoria, prepared fire protection plans for every national park in the State. Considerable sums of money have been spent on implementing such plans. The work consists of the following:

- (a) construction of "tracks" and maintenance thereof to enable fire fighting equipment and personnel to gain access in the event of an outbreak,
- (b) provision of fire fighting equipment including radio-telephone in the parks for use by staff and others,
- (c) the construction of helipads to enable helicopters to land fire fighting personnel as close as possible to any outbreak. (So far only at Wilson's Promontory National Park),
- (d) training of park personnel in use of fire-fighting equipment and in principles of fire fighting,
- (e) construction of dams where possible, to provide water for fire fighting purposes, if required,
- (f) construction of green firebreaks to reduce fuel hazard in selected areas,
- (g) carrying out of "protective burning" with appropriate controls, in strategic areas.

Expenditure on Fire Protection

The following table indicates the expenditure to date on fire protection works in Victoria's national parks, since the Authority began to function (1957).

Year	Amount
1958/59	\$11,500
1959/60	2,200
1960/61	5,590
1961/62	8,396
1962/63	11,460
1963/64	18,104
1964/65	19,220
1965/66	13,701
1966/67	11,538
1967/68	10,814
1968/69	24,591
	<u>\$137,114</u>

Public Amenities

The key to the development of a national park so as to provide for the "education and enjoyment of visitors to national parks" is water for drinking and sanitation purposes.

Considerable effort has therefore been devoted to the development of water supplies in the national parks. Where water is available naturally, it is usually impounded in a small dam by means of a weir, and pumped to the point of use.

At Tidal River, in Wilson's Promontory National Park, a weir has been constructed across the Tidal River at a point just below the confluence of two streams (Lilly Pilly- and Tristania Creeks), from which the water is pumped via a rising main into a 60,000 gallon concrete storage tank. From here it is distributed by gravity, through a comprehensive ring-main system, throughout the entire camping area, lodges and staff houses, with appropriate provision being made for stand pipes to be used in the event of an outbreak of fire.

The cost of this system was of the order of \$35,000.

At places like Tarra Valley, Dulga Park and Mount Buffalo, there is an abundance of good water and it is merely necessary to pump it to a suitable storage from which it can gravitate to the points of use. But at Mount Buffalo there is the complication that during the winter it is essential to ensure that water flows continuously through the system, so that freezing does not occur overnight. Failure to do this has on occasions proved very costly, especially where expensive copper-pipe reticulation systems have been involved.

In the semi-arid areas such as Wyperfeld and Hattah Lakes, reliance for fresh water has to be placed on roof catchments and storage tanks. In 1968 an ironclad catchment, 9000 sq.ft. in area, was constructed in Wyperfeld, thus ensuring in a normal year, when the rainfall might reach 11-12 inches, a yield of 45,000-50,000 gallons.

These examples are merely illustrative of the problems to be overcome in supplying water for visitors to national parks.

Roads and Tracks

It is the Authority's policy to provide, within the national parks, an adequate system of roads, car parks, and walking tracks to enable visitors to see the features of the parks, but great care has to be exercised to ensure that the park does not suffer in consequence.

For the past six years, the Government has allocated \$100,000 in the form of a Special Road Fund, administered conjointly by the Country Roads Board and the Authority, to enable roads to be constructed and maintained within national parks.

During the past six years, the sum of \$509,870 has been spent on road works in Wilson's Promontory-, Mount Buffalo-, Wyperfeld-, Kinglake-, Fern Tree Gully-, Fraser-, Mount Richmond- and Mount Eccles National Parks.

It should be mentioned that the major roads at Wilson's Promontory and Mount Buffalo National Parks are classified Tourist Roads and are constructed and maintained by the Country Roads Board, independently of the Special Road Fund.

At Wilson's Promontory, two men are employed full-time on the construction and maintenance of walking tracks, but this is not really adequate.

Conservation

In all roadworks it is the established practice in negotiations with the Country Roads Board, for 10 per cent of the total estimated cost of any roadworks to be allocated at the planning stage, for conservation works. The Country Roads Board and Soil Conservation Authority have collaborated actively with the National Parks Authority in ensuring that such conservation works are carried out.

Tree Planting

In many of the national parks, as a result of fires and other causes in earlier years, many areas were deficient in native trees and shrubs. A considerable amount of tree planting has been carried out in many parks, with most encouraging results. Some excellent examples of such work may be seen in Wyperfeld, Hattah Lakes, Fraser, Wilson's Promontory, Mount Eccles and Port Campbell National Parks.

Extermination of Rabbits and Noxious Weeds

The Act requires that "as far as possible the Authority exterminate exotic plants and animals" from national parks.

In collaboration with the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, the Authority has been very active in attacking the rabbit problem in almost every national park, especially Wyperfeld, Hattah Lakes, Fraser, Mount Buffalo, Mount Richmond, Mount Eccles and Wilson's Promontory National Parks.

By careful attention to the concentration of "1080" used to poison the rabbits, and by dyeing the bait (carrot) green with Malachite Green, it has been possible to control rabbit populations to a surprising degree without significant damage to the native animal and bird populations. The only animal to suffer is the possum and this is an animal which, under the conditions of complete protection which obtain in national parks, multiplies rapidly.

As a result of the sustained effort to reduce rabbit populations in Wyperfeld, it is now common to see considerable numbers of Cypress pine trees (*Callitris* sp.) growing in areas where previously only bare sand existed. This now applies outside the special fenced conservation plots as well as inside.

Camping Areas

To enable visitors the better to enjoy their experiences in national parks, camping areas have been established and extended at Wilson's Promontory, Mount Buffalo, Fraser, Port Campbell and Wyperfeld National Parks.

No charge is made in the latter park, but revenue is derived from this service at the other parks mentioned.

The development of camping areas (for tents and caravans) entails the provision of reticulated water supplies, extensive sanitation systems, ablution blocks and internal roads and tracks.

As a necessary consequence, the Authority has had to provide adequate systems of effluent disposal and make arrangements for the collection and disposal of garbage.

Garbage Disposal

Up to a certain stage of development, it is possible (even if undesirable) to dispose of garbage by some form of the "sanitary landfill system". However, this entails destroying what ultimately becomes extensive areas of national park and the creation of a public nuisance through the attractions provided for flies, rats, mice, scavenging birds and animals.

The Authority has declared its policy in regard to the disposal of garbage by the erection at Tidal River of an industrial-type incinerator designed to burn efficiently without producing smog. The Tidal River incinerator cost approximately \$30,000, which will indicate the importance which the Authority attaches to this phase of its activities. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the disposal of waste products (sewage and garbage) arising from human activities during man's periods of leisure can no longer be treated as a minor issue. As man's leisure activities of necessity become more highly organised their impact on natural environments is also increased and the unsophisticated methods employed in the past for the disposal of waste products are no longer appropriate.

Services for Camping Areas, Water, Gas and Electricity

Reference has been made in the foregoing to the provision of an adequate water supply and the provision of overnight facilities for visitors to national parks. As the public demand increases, so too does the need to provide additional services such as L.P. gas and electricity.

For many years now it has been the practice of the Authority to equip the ablution blocks within the national parks with L.P. gas-burning appliances for the provision of hot water for showers, cooking, refrigeration and space heating. At Tidal River, L.P. gas is stored in large tanks from which it is reticulated by means of underground pipes to various points of consumption, i.e., lodges for public accommodation, Tidal River Cafe, Tidal River Store, the homes of park staff and ablution blocks. The annual consumption now exceeds 50 tons.

L.P. gas appliances are used also in Mount Buffalo, Fraser, Port Campbell, Bulga and Wyperfeld National Parks.

Electricity is generated at Tidal River for purposes of street lighting and for the operation of refrigerators in the Tidal River Cafe and Store and for special purposes in lodges and residences. The remoteness of Tidal River has so far rendered it too costly to provide S.E.C. power; but, by a judicious blending of gas services and locally-generated electricity, it has been possible to meet the local requirements.

At Port Campbell Camping Area, S.E.C. power is used within the camping area, because of its proximity to the town of Port Campbell. At Fraser National Park, L.P. gas lighting is used within the camping area (amenity blocks). No lighting is available at the Lake Catani camping area in Mount Buffalo National Park.

The foregoing provides a glimpse of the problems associated with the provision of essential services in the remote areas where the national parks are generally situated.

Public Accommodation

The Act requires that the Authority provide for the "education and enjoyment of visitors to national parks". Reference has been made to the provision of road access to the national parks, which implies that at all events day visitors would have access to the parks, and to camping areas where facilities for tent campers and caravanners are available.

In addition, the Authority has to cater for those who wish to make an extended stay in the park but do not wish to live in either tents or caravans. Overnight facilities are available in several of the national parks.

At Mount Buffalo, the Victorian Railways Department operates the Mount Buffalo Chalet which has 174 beds. Also, the Authority has granted a lease under the provisions of the Act to Tatra Development Pty. Ltd. to provide public accommodation in the Cresta Valley and, to date 84 beds have been provided with all the necessary facilities and amenities.

At Wilson's Promontory National Park, under the auspices of the Committee of Management and the Authority, a number of lodges are available for public letting, the number of beds being 146. These units are completely self-contained and equipped with L.P.-gas-operated hot-water services, refrigerators, room heaters and cooking ranges. It is planned to extend this type of accommodation.

There is no lodge accommodation provided in any of the other national parks.

Ranger Training

Ten years ago the number of Rangers employed in national parks throughout Victoria was four along with four part-time rangers. Since that time the Authority has steadily increased the number of Rangers employed to protect the national parks and at the present time the Ranger force is as follows:

<u>Rangers Employed</u> <u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Rangers Employed</u> <u>Part-Time</u>	<u>Park Assistants</u>
13	5	15

In order to provide national park Rangers with basic training in the principles of national park management, the Authority instituted a short training course in 1963 and the fourth of these courses will be held during October 1969. All the Rangers from all the national parks are brought together for a period of one week during which they receive instruction from officers of the Authority and of other Government departments and, in some cases, non-Government organisations in specialised aspects of their work. Particular attention is given to public relations, the interpretation and application of the national park regulations, fire protection, conservation, identification of native plants and birds, first aid, control of noxious weeds, vermin and maintenance of vehicles and equipment, etc.

These biennial training courses afford the rangers an opportunity of discussing mutual problems with their opposite numbers from other parks and the results from the courses have been particularly good.

Classification

The Act provides that "national parks may be classified and, further, that areas within national parks may be classified so as to provide for particular purposes." The Authority's Classification Committee has adopted as a basis for the classification of areas within national parks the following categories:

1. Environment Preservation Areas
2. Primitive Areas
3. Scenic Areas
4. Recreation and Accommodation Areas
5. Special Purpose Areas.

In order to apply the classification scheme for a national park, it is necessary to have detailed knowledge of the ecological associations within the park. On this basis it then becomes possible to formulate management plans for the different national parks and the Authority is addressing itself to such work. The planning and development to provide for visitors to national parks and of conservation works (in the broad sense) to preserve the ecological associations is recognised as being more and more important as the number of visitors to national parks increases. It will be appreciated that progress in this field depends on having an adequate scientific force to interpret the various data; but, although the Authority's scientific staff is small in number, sufficient experience has now been gained for these problems to be tackled, even if progress is still slow.

Development of the Snow Fields - Mt. Buffalo National Park

Mount Buffalo National Park is the only area under the control of the National Parks Authority which provides scope for the development of snow sports for visitors. The question of whether or not selected areas within the national parks should be modified to provide for ski-ing is a very complex one and cannot be explored fully at this juncture. Nevertheless it should be remembered that the Authority's activities are prescribed by Act of Parliament and the Authority is required to "provide for the education and enjoyment of visitors to national parks".

With the limited number of snow fields readily accessible to Victorians, it was inevitable that, sooner or later attention would be turned to the potential of certain slopes within the Mount Buffalo National Park from the aspect of ski-ing. In fact, long before the National Parks Authority had been formed the decision had been taken and provision had been made for ski-ing developments at two areas known as "Dingo Dell" and "Cresta". Since its formation the Authority, in active partnership with the Committee of Management, has embarked upon a programme of improvement of the facilities in these two areas.

At Dingo Dell, a Pomalift was installed to replace the rope tow which formerly operated, thereby improving conditions for skiers, and at the same time, increasing the revenue from the service provided. Recently a lodge, which had been constructed in 1954, was enlarged and remodelled along modern lines to meet the needs of the more sophisticated present-day skier. The cost of the new building was of the order of \$70,000. The snow fields have systematically been extended and improved.

Reference has been made on page 58 to the Tatra Development Pty. Ltd. which occupies an area under lease in the Cresta Valley in Mount Buffalo National Park, for the purpose of providing public accommodation. The Authority has undertaken a systematic programme of ski-run development and has cleared and groomed five runs during the past five years, at a cost of approximately \$19,000. The Company has installed a chair lift, a Tee bar and a mini Pomalift at Cresta.

Finance

To enable the necessary works and maintenance to be carried out in the national parks, the Government makes an annual grant from Loan Fund. This is supplemented by revenue derived from park services, the money being used to provide such services as water supplies, sanitation, camp development for tents and caravans, overnight accommodation (Tidal River only), walking tracks, vehicles, signs, etc. and the wages of park rangers and other field staff.

The total expenditure from the National Parks Fund (i.e. ex Loan Fund) over the past ten years is listed hereunder, alongside the total expenditure including park revenue.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount ex Loan Fund</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
1958/59	\$ 44,999	\$ 94,626
1959/60	69,794	117,930
1960/61	127,168	174,026
1961/62	131,462	190,094
1962/63	132,470	195,990
1963/64	163,348	217,712
1964/65	157,972	273,404
1965/66	189,384	273,731
1966/67	206,922	274,495
1967/68	267,058	402,479
1968/69	314,781	*
Total	<u>1,805,358</u>	<u>2,214,487</u>

* Figures for 1968/69 are not yet available.

The growth of revenue from park services (day-visitor fees, camping, lodges, leases, etc.) is illustrated in the following table which includes the figures for Wilson's Promontory, the greatest revenue earner.

Year	Revenue from Park Services	
	Total (All Parks)	Wilson's Promontory
1958/59	\$ 31,856	\$ 26,490
1959/60	34,296	28,690
1960/61	41,114	33,734
1961/62	57,492	46,570
1962/63	69,972	62,874
1963/64	80,778	70,802
1964/65	88,532	74,416
1965/66	96,626	78,587
1966/67	119,856	95,276
1967/68	123,518	95,210
1968/69	*	104,214
Total	744,040	716,863

* Figures for 1968/69 are not yet available.

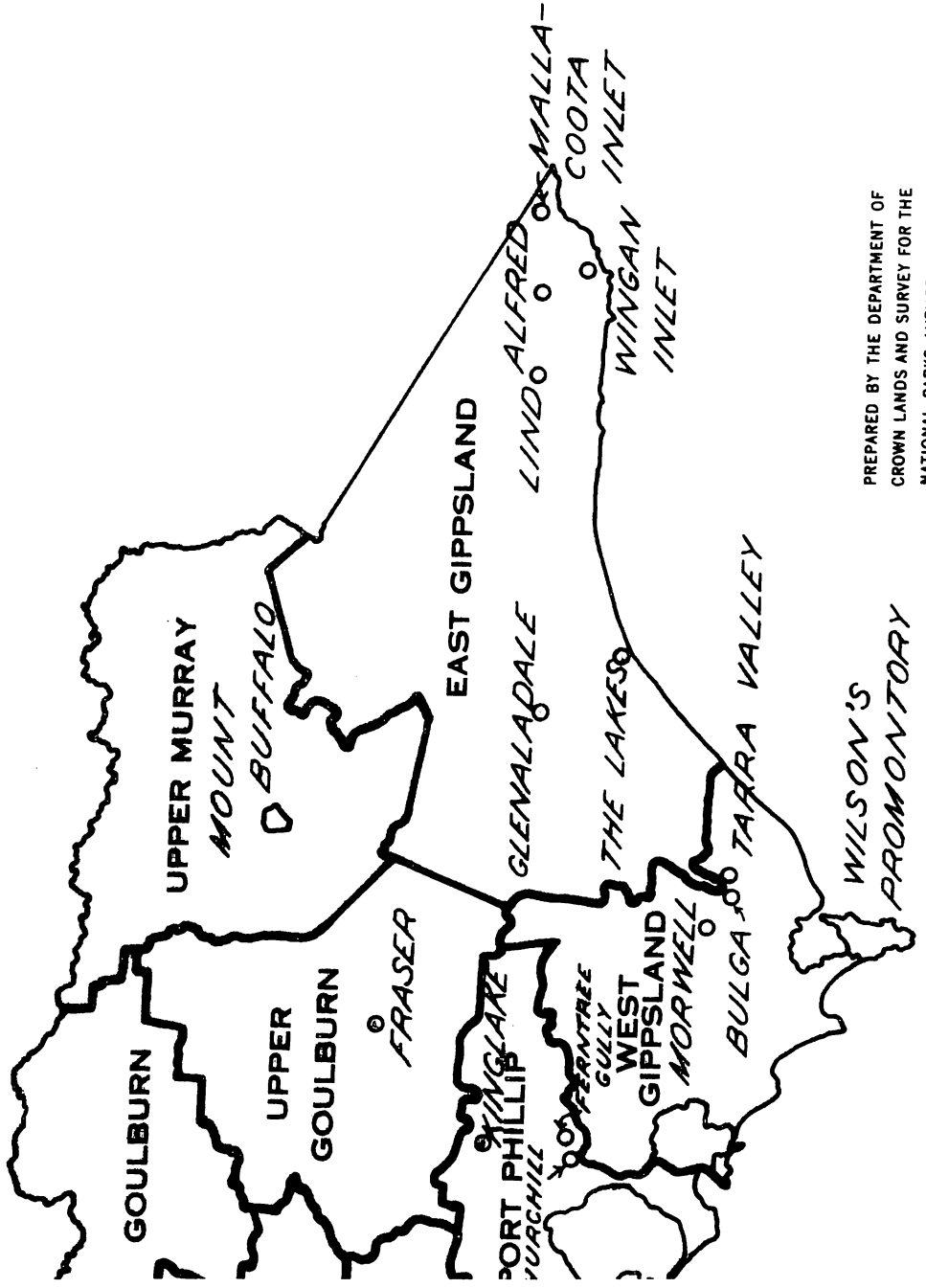
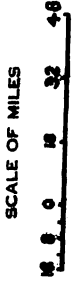
Special Road Fund

In addition to the allocation from Loan Fund for works and maintenance in the parks, for the past six years, the Government has made a sum of \$100,000 available annually in the form of a Special Road Fund, administered conjointly by the Country Roads Board and the National Parks Authority, for use in the construction of roads within and leading to national parks. This fund also covers related parking areas and conservation work. To date, a total of \$569,268 has been spent on such work.

* * * * *

VICTORIA
SHOWING

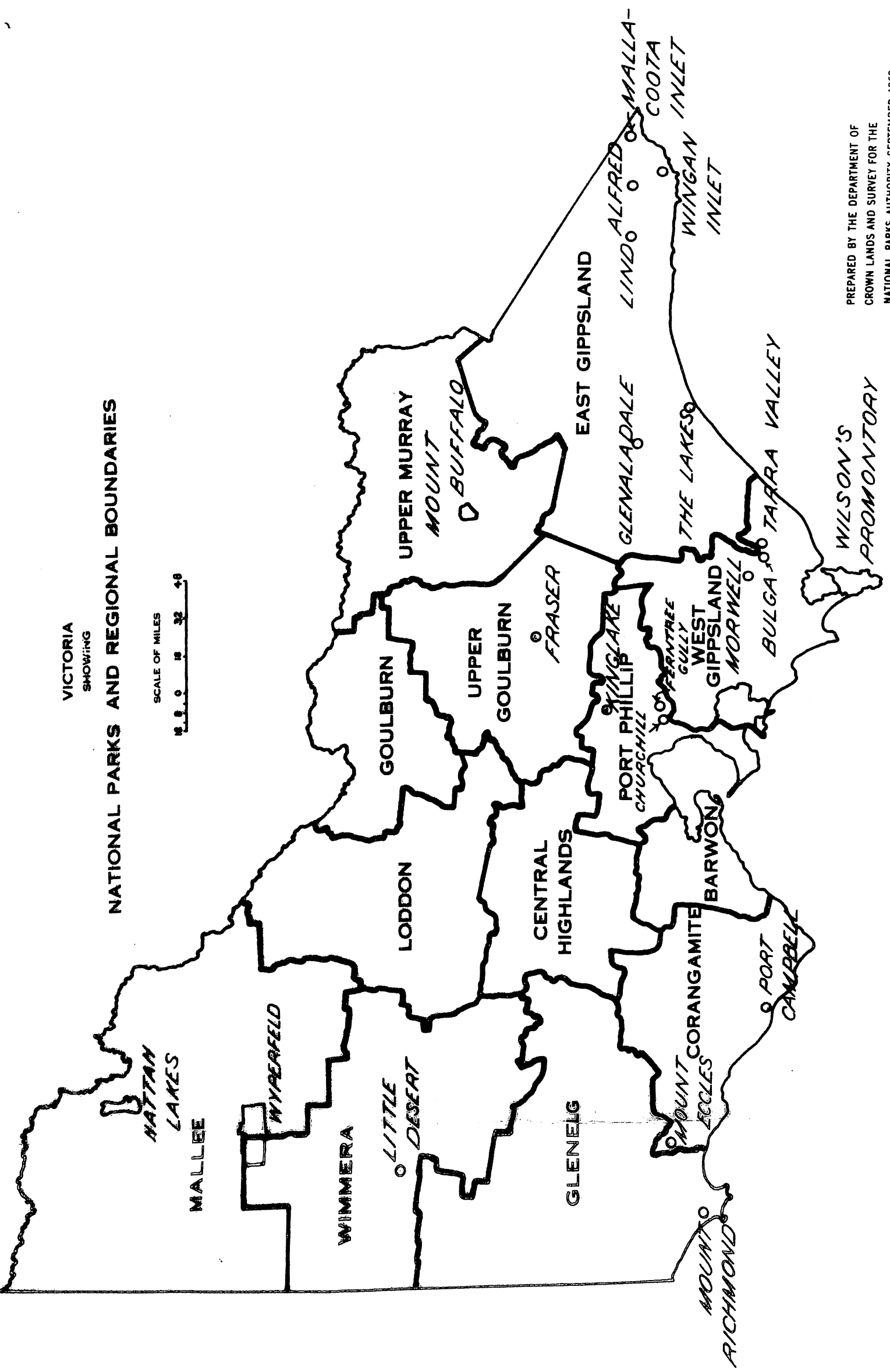
PARKS AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES



VICTORIA
SHOWING

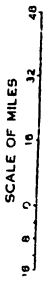
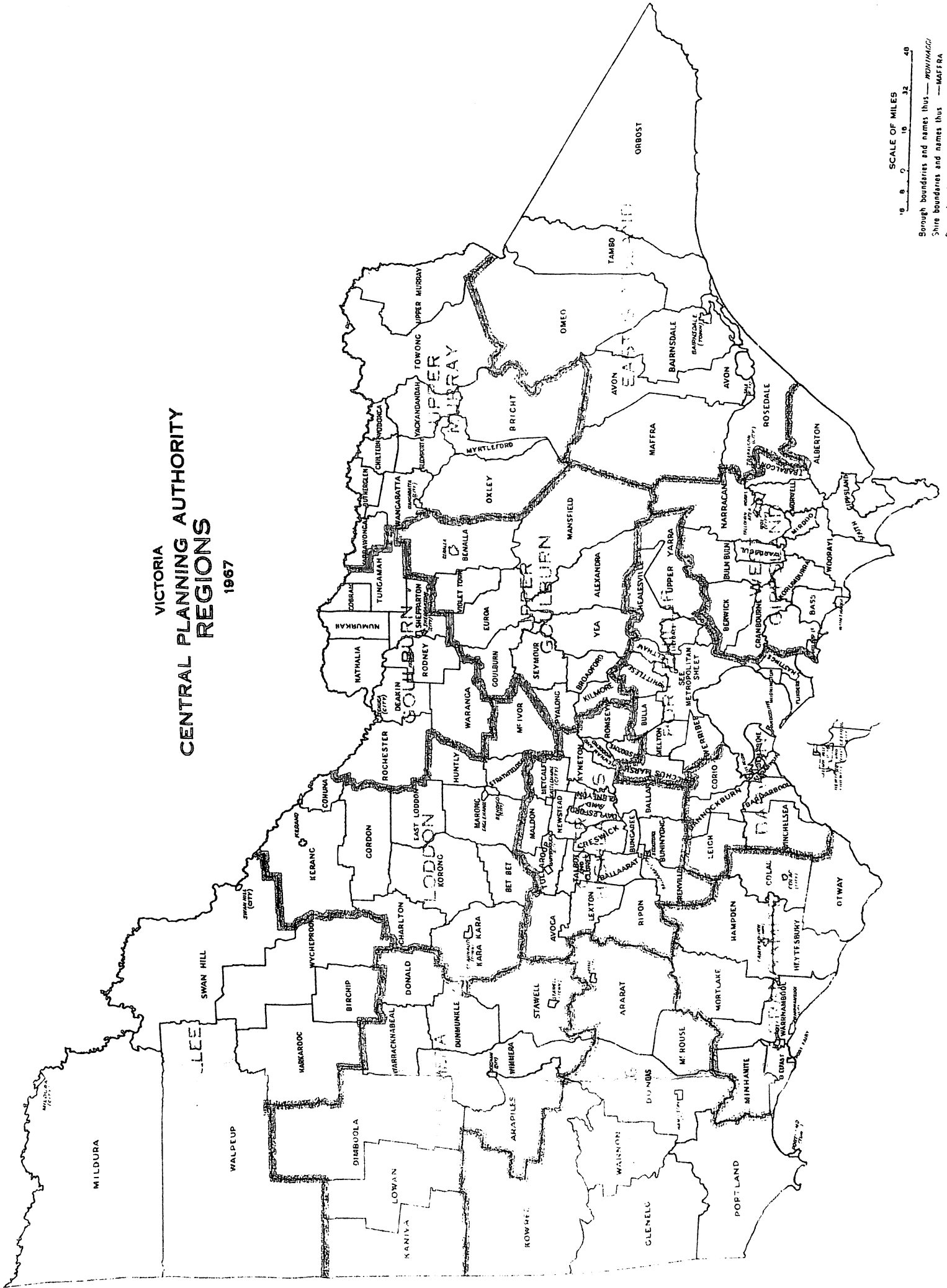
NATIONAL PARKS AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

SCALE OF MILES



PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY FOR THE
NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY SEPTEMBER 1969

VICTORIA
CENTRAL PLANNING AUTHORITY
REGIONS
1967



Borough boundaries and names thus ———
Shire boundaries and names thus ———
Region boundaries and names thus ———

NATIONAL PARKS

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