

A SURVEY OF WETLANDS

IN AND ADJACENT TO DUNN ROCK AND LAKE BRYDE NATURE RESERVES

March 1987

For
Wheatbelt Region
Department of Conservation and Land Management

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The Consultancy

Following good rainfall in the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve area in 1986, some of the wetlands flooded for the first time in several years. Water skiing and some site development had taken place illegally on one small wetland on Dunn Rock Nature Reserve. In November 1986, Ken Wallace (Regional Manager) saw that it was opportune to collect further information on these wetlands. Consultants were contracted to survey the following:

- (1) three small wetlands on Dunn Rock Nature Reserve (Reserve No. 36445);
- (2) Lake Ronnerup (Reserve No. 39422);
- (3) Lake Bryde (Reserve No. 288667); and
- (4) a wetland on Reserve No. 29020.

On each of these wetlands the consultants were to:-

- (a) Describe and map the vegetation within and fringing each wetland.
- (b) Collect and identify all submerged aquatic plant species.
- (c) Collect water samples for salinity, pH and total phosphorous analysis.
- (d) Collect a representative sample of the aquatic invertebrates.
- (e) Estimate depth of water.
- (f) Describe and assess the values of the habitat for feeding and breeding of waterbirds.

A report was to be prepared including the information described in (a) - (f) above together with summaries of the wildlife conservation values of each wetland.

The contract was to involve five days field work and six days office work.

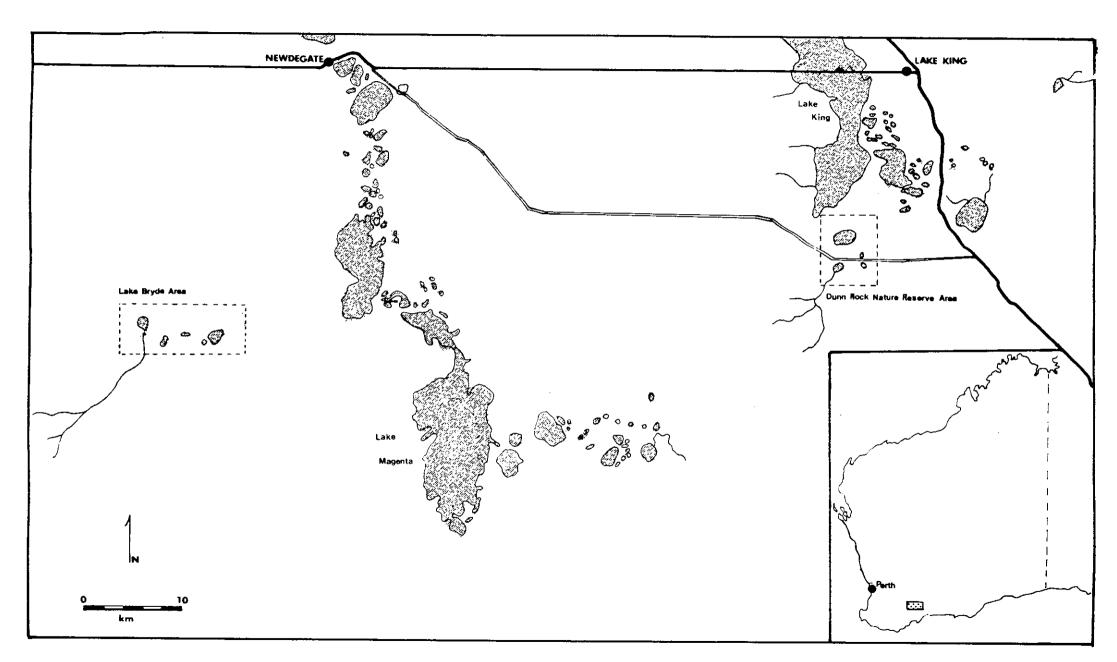


FIGURE 1 LOCATION OF AREA SURVEYED

INTRODUCTION

The wetlands surveyed are located in the south-eastern corner of the Katanning District of the Wheatbelt Region (Figure 1). The wetlands can be divided into two geographical groups:

(a) Dunn Rock Nature Reserve area - "Magdhaba Lake", "Lunette Lake", "Dunn Lake" and Lake Ronnerup;

(b) Lake Bryde area - Lake Bryde and East Lake Bryde.

The wetlands are situated at the "head-waters" of a vast salt lake chain that runs northwest towards Merredin then turns southwest and runs into the Avon River (Mulcahy 1973). In the Kondinin/Lake Grace region the salt lake chain branches into three main forks (Lake Grace, Lake Magenta and Lake King) and a minor fork (Lake Bryde). The Dunn Rock Nature Reserve area wetlands are at the southern end of the Lake King chain.

The salt lakes of the Lake King, Lake Grace and Lake Magenta chains have a low frequency of flooding. In 1986, Dunn Lake flooded for the first time in 10-15 years (Ken Wallace pers. comm.). The distribution of local rainfall, the size of the Lake and its catchment area determine to what extent a wetland is flooded in any year. Low frequency of flooding in this region is caused by low rainfall, little water movement and high evaporation. These factors increase the accumulation of ions from precipitation and therefore the salinity of wetlands (Bayly and Williams 1975).

Water salinity and frequency of flooding are important factors in determining the vegetation of salt lakes. A decrease in aquatic and terrestial plant diversity occurs with an increase in salinity (Bayly and Williams 1975).

Some previous studies have been conducted on the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve and Lake Bryde area wetlands. An outline of information available on the wetlands surveyed is given below.

Wetlands of Dunn Rock Nature Reserve Area

Two previous studies have been conducted on the flora and fauna of Dunn Rock Nature Reserve. The first was a vegetation survey by W.G. Martinick & Associates Pty. Ltd. in early 1984 (Martinick 1984). This report gave special mention to the salt lakes occuring in the north-eastern corner of the Nature Reserve for their diversity of flora and fauna. Included in the report were four vegetation survey sheets describing the vegetation of Lunette Lake. The second study was a survey of the vertebrate fauna of the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve by Andy Chapman in early 1985 (Chapman 1985). Chapman noted a disused Black Swan mound on Dunn Lake, Australian Shelduck and Maned Duck on Dunn Lake after extensive rain and a pair of Hooded Plovers on one of the bare salt lakes.

Lake Bryde

There are four main sources of information on Lake Bryde:

- (a) a biological survey of the Shire of Kent, conducted in 1972/73 by the then Department of Fisheries and Fauna (McKenzie 1973),
- (b) water level and quality data collected by Wildlife Research,
- (c) visitation reports by Department staff, and,
- (d) waterbird usage information collected for the South-west Waterbird Project conducted by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union under contract to CALM.

Water level and water quality data have been collected every two months, since 1979, by the Waterbird Research Group, Wildlife Research, CALM. Information on the waterbird usage of the lake includes data collected from thirteen different visits during the period 1969 to 1985. A total of 21 species have been recorded with the highest count on any one visit being 431.

Details on water level, water quality and waterbirds of Lake Bryde are given in Appendix 1.

RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

Field work was undertaken between December 18 and 21, 1986, by Doug Watkins and Shapelle McNee. Only one wetland was found to contain water; Dunn Lake on Dunn Rock Nature Reserve. Full information was collected at this wetland, but was restricted to vegetation at the other wetlands. Figure 2 and 3 show the location and names used for the wetlands.

(1) Vegetation

At each wetland the vegetation was assessed using a transect that ran from the centre out to the mallee. The main species of plants were collected and the structure described by means of the Muir classification (Muir 1977). Maps have been produced from ground surveys with further interpretation using aerial photography (Figures 4-8). The dominant species in each structure are listed opposite each wetland map.

(2) Water Level and Quality

Water level and quality for the wetlands at the time of the fieldwork are given in Table 1. Samples were collected from Lunette Lake and Lake Ronnerup by digging through the salt crust to the water below.

Table 1 Water Levels and Quality - 21 December 1986

	Dunn Rock	Lunette	Magdhaba	Ronnerup	Bryde	E Bryde
Water depth	1.0	(0.05)*	dry	(0.2)*	dry	dry
Water quality pH Salinity	9.6 19.5	6.48 314.4		6.48 288.8	<u>-</u>	-

Figure 2 Location of Magdhaba Lake, Lunette Lake, Dunn Lake and Lake Ronnerup Source: R.F. 1.50 000 Magdhaba (2831-III) and Lake King (2831-VI)

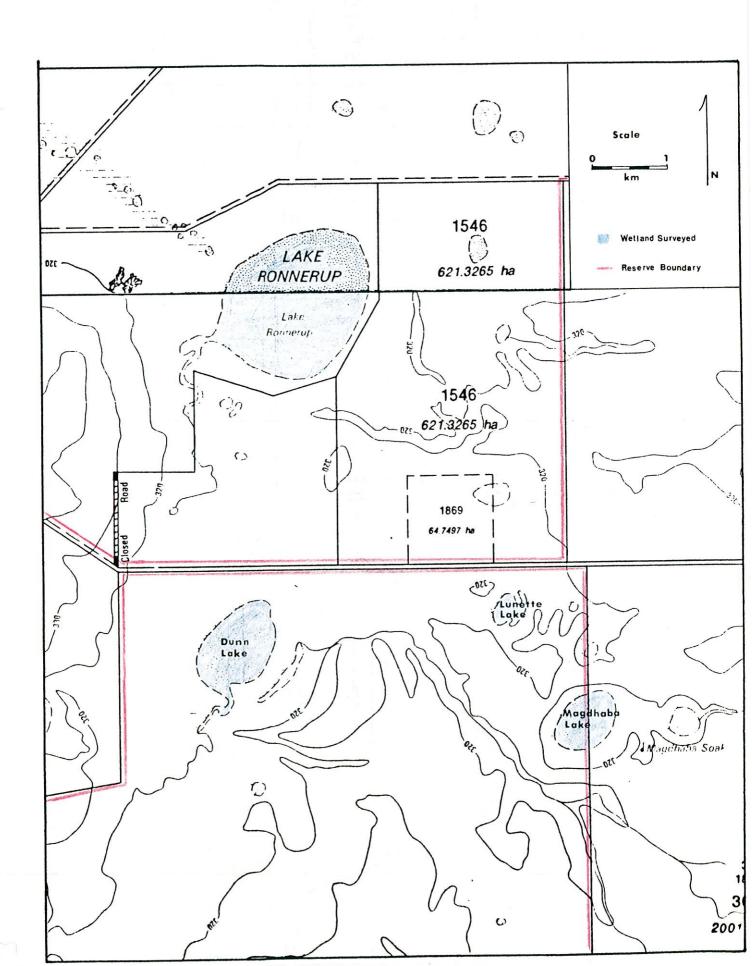
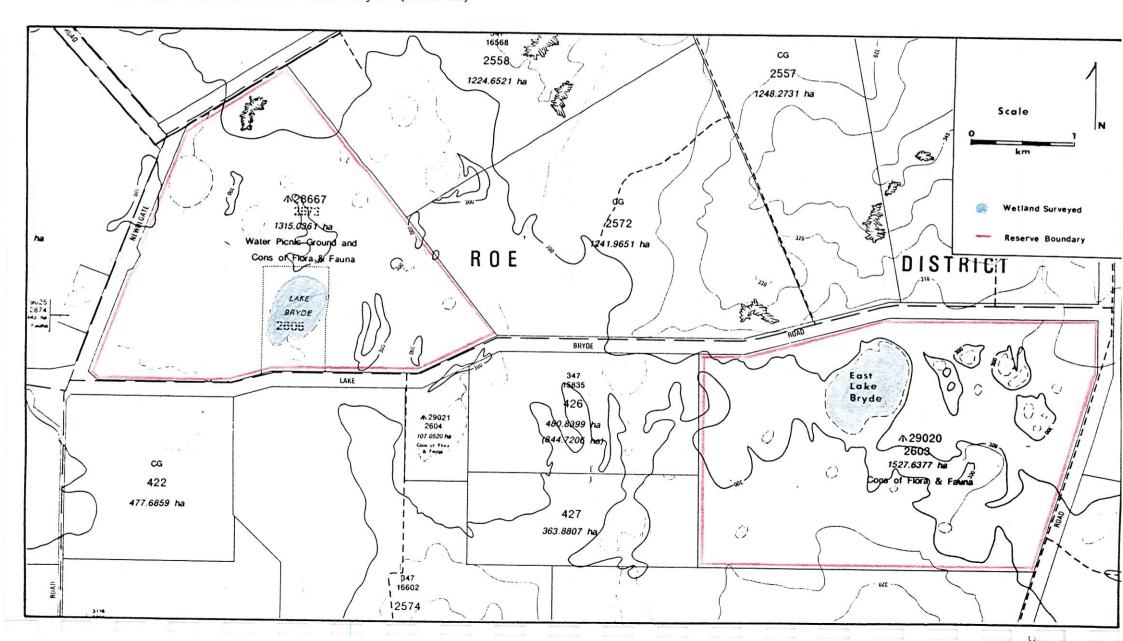


Figure 3 Location of Lake Bryde and East Lake Bryde Source: R.F. 1.50 000 Lake Bryde (2631-II)



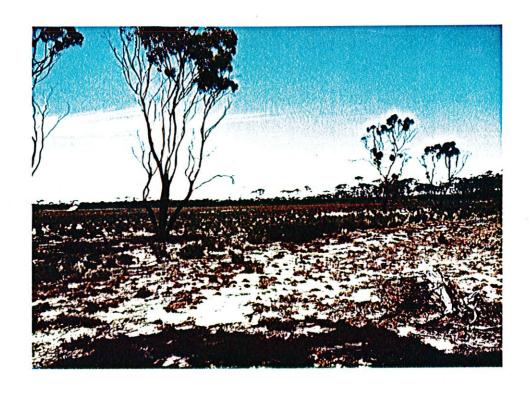


Photo 1 View north across Magdhaba Lake, Dunn Rock Nature Reserve, Dec. 1986

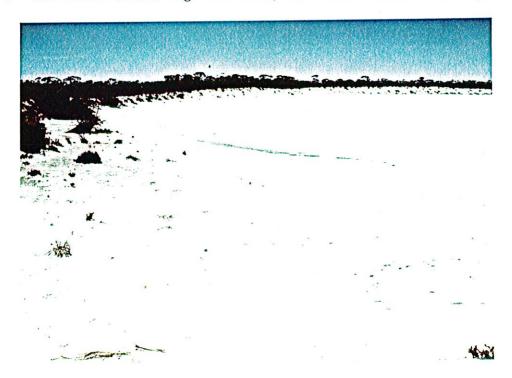


Photo 2 View south across Lunette Lake, Dunn Rock Nature Reserve, Dec. 1986



Photo 3 View east across Dunn Lake, Dunn Rock Nature Reserve, Dec 1986

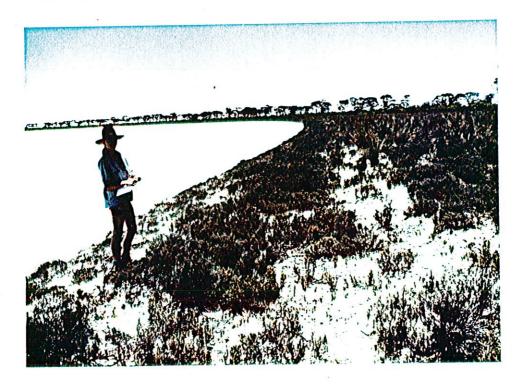


Photo 4 View of north-east corner of Lake Ronnerup, Dec. 1986

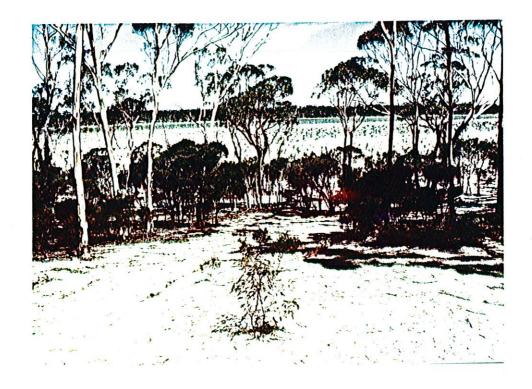


Photo 5 View south-east across Lake Bryde, Dec. 1986



Photo 6 View north-east across East Lake Bryde, Dec. 1986

DUNN ROCK NATURE RESERVE

<u>Magdhaba Lake</u>

Ji Atriplex vesicaria

Halosarcia halocnemoides Sclerostegia moniliformis Sarcocornia quinqueflora

MiJi Eucalyptus kondininensis

Disphyma crassifolium Sclerostegia moniliformis Sarcocornia quinqueflora Frankenia aff. pauciflora

MiSiSDcJi Eucalyptus kondininensis

Melaleuca thyoides Exocarpos aphyllus Atriplex vesicaria Atriplex cf. nana Disphyma crassifolium

Lunette Lake

SrJr Melaleuca halmaturorum

Angianthus tomenentosus Lawrencia squamata Maireana oppositifolia

SrGTiJr Poa sp.

Atriplex vesicaria Halosarcia syncarpa

Ji Halosarcia halocnemoides

Halosarcia syncarpa

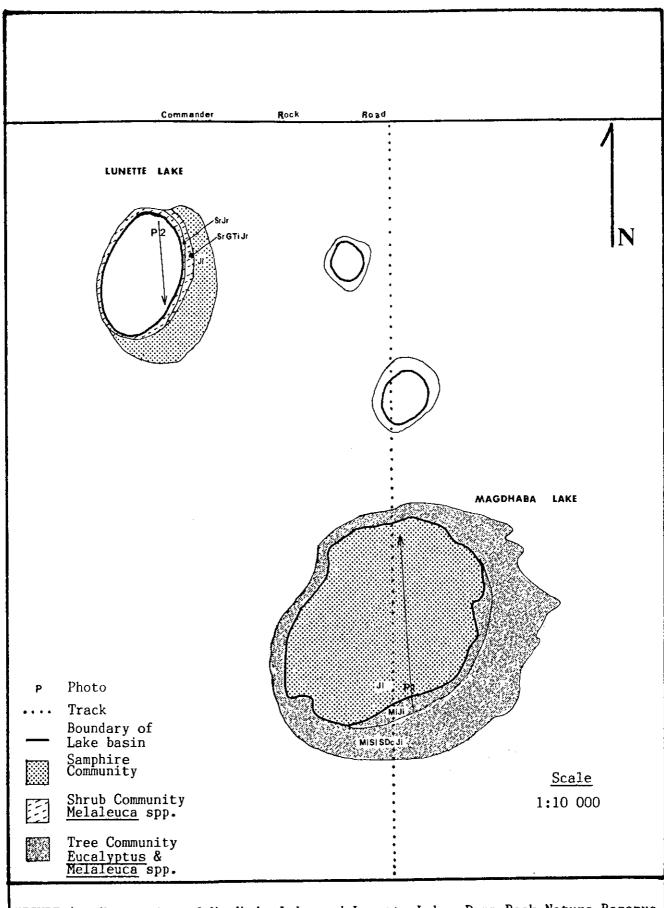


FIGURE 4 Vegetation of Magdhaba Lake and Lunette Lake, Dunn Rock Nature Reserve.

Dunn Rock Nature Reserve

<u>Dunn Lake</u>

Ji Haloscarcia pergranulata

Haloscarcia syncarpa Lawrencia squamata

Frankenia aff. pauciflora

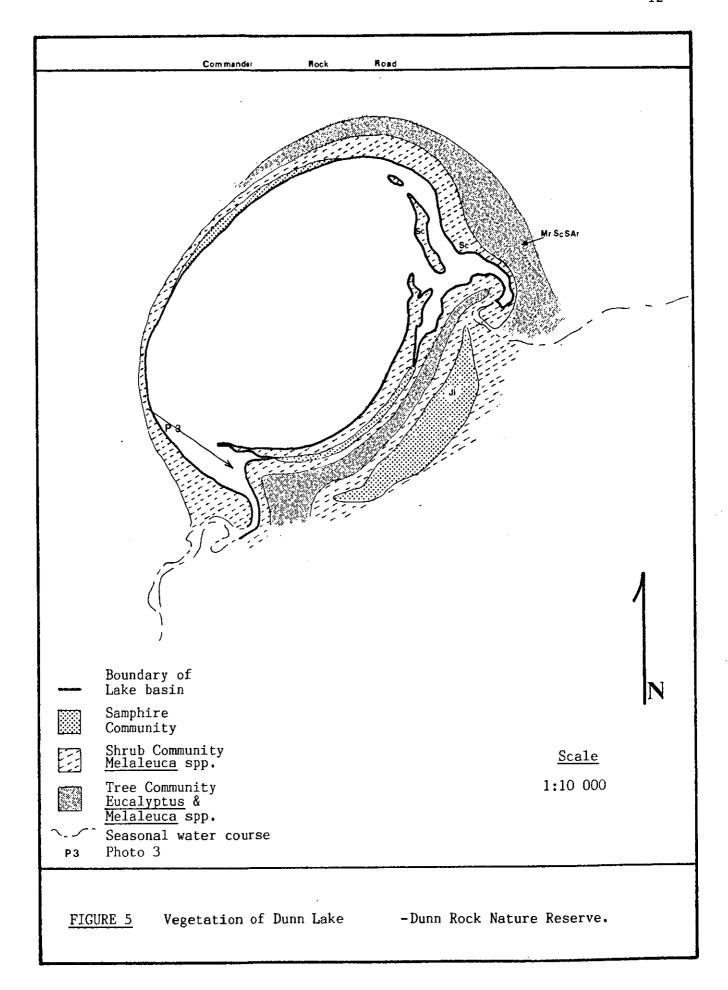
Dishyma crasifolium

Sc Melaleuca halmaturorum

MrScSAr Eucalyptus occidentalis

MrSiSAiGTi Exocarpos aphyllus

Melaleuca sp.3G
Melaleuca uncinata
Melaleuca halmaturorum
Melaleuca thyoides
Melaleuca viminea
Schoenus brevifolius



<u>Lake Ronnerup</u>

Jc

Atriplex vesicaria Lawrencia squamata Halosarcia sp.

Frankenia aff. pauciflora Disphyma crassifolium

SDrGTcJr

Poa sp.

Schoenus brevifolius

Cyperaceae

Maireana oppositifolia Halosarcia pergranulata

MrSrSDrGTc Eucalyptus kondininensis

Santalum acuminatum Acacia saligna Atriplex vesicaria

Allocasuarina corniculata

SBrSDrJc Ma.

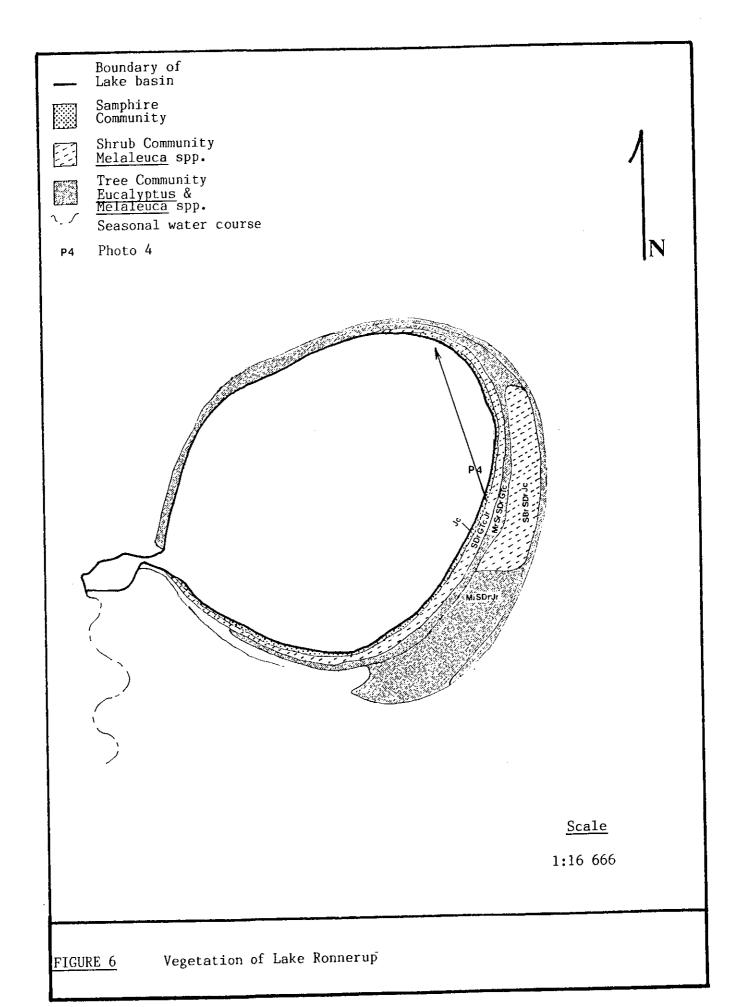
Maireana erioclada Exocarpos aphyllus

Frankenia aff. pauciflora Disphyma crassifolius

MiSDrJr

Eucalyptus occidentalis Hakea aff. preissii Melaleuca uncinata Melaleuca sp.3G Scaevola spinescens

Pittosporum phylliraeoides



Lake Bryde

Ji Muehlenbeckia declina

Jr Tecticornia verrucosa

Wilsonia humilis

Halosarcia lepidosperma Dishyma crassifolium

ScSAc Melaleuca lateriflora

Melaleuca sp.3G

Melaleuca halmaturorum

MrSr Eucalyptus occidentalis

Melaleuca lateriflora

Growing on the Dam: Maireana brevifolia

Spergularia rubra Chenopodium glaucum Muehlenbeckia declina

Lake Bryde East

Ji Disphyma crassifolim

Muehlenbeckia declina

Halosarcia aff. pergranulata

SiJr Disphyma crassifolium

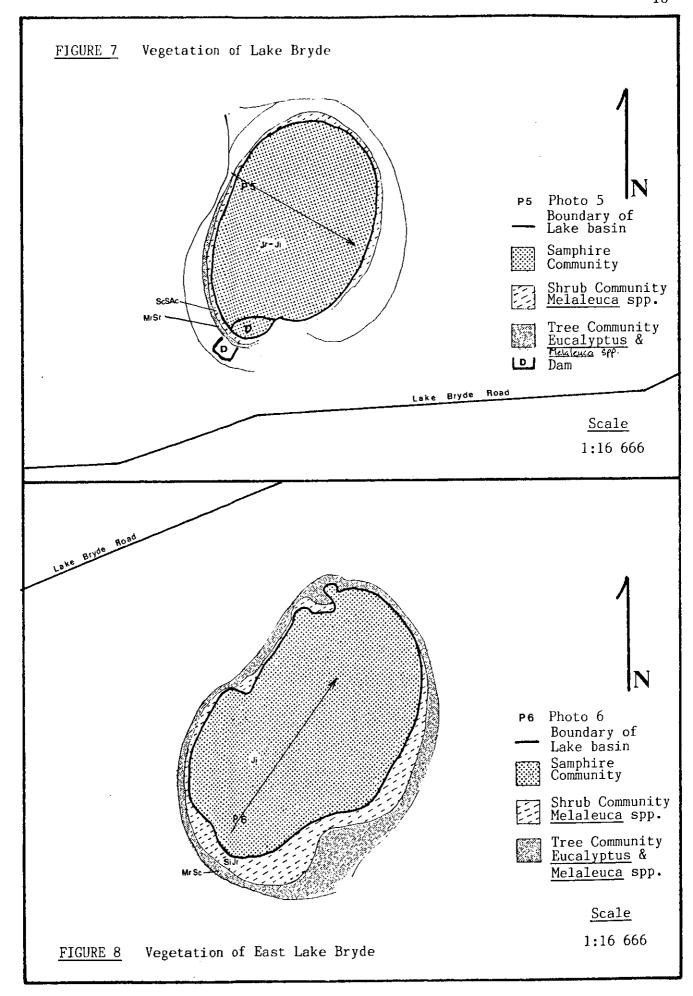
Lawrencia squamata Melaleuca halmaturorum

Melaleuca sp.3G

Melaleuca lateriflora

MrSc Eucalyptus occidentalis

Melaleuca lateriflora



- (3) Aquatic Vegetation, Aquatic Invertebrates and Waterbirds
- (a) Aquatic Vegetation
 Two species of aquatic plants were collected at Dunn Lake; <u>Chara sp. and Ruppia tuberosa</u>. Both species were distributed across the lake floor.

(b) Aquatic Invertebrates Aquatic invertebrates were collected at Dunn Lake using a plankton net and a scoop net. Samples were sorted and identified by Dr Stuart Halse of the Wildlife

Research Centre, CALM. Fifteen species were identified (Table 2).

Table 2 Aquatic Invertebrates collected in the Dunn Lake, (19 December 1986)

Species	Abundance in Samples
rustacea	
Ostracoda	
<u>Australocypris</u> <u>hypersalina</u>	dominant
Mytilocypris henricae	very common
Platycypris baueri	moderately common
Cyprinotus edwardi	moderately common
Copepoda	
<u>Calamoecia</u> <u>clitellata</u>	moderately common
<u>Microcyclops</u> sp.	moderately common
Amphipoda	
Austrochiltonia subtenuis	moderately common
secta	
Odonata	
(Zygoptera)	
Austrolestes annulosus	common
Hemiptera	
(Corixidae)	
Agraptocorixa hirtifrons	uncommon
(Notonectidae)	
<u>Anisops occipitalis</u>	common
Anisops thienemann	moderately common
Diptera	
(Chironomidae)	
<u>Chironomus</u> (<u>Chironomus</u>) <u>australis</u>	rare
Chironomus (Cryptochironomus) curtival	<u>va</u> moderately common
<u>Procladius</u> <u>villosimanus</u>	moderately common
(Stratiomyidae)	
1 sp	uncommon

(c) Waterbirds

Counts of the waterbirds on the Dunn Lake were conducted on December 18 and 19, from a boat. The figures given in Table 3 are the highest count recorded for each species. Survey sheets have been submitted to the RAOU for addition to the South West Waterbird Project database.

Table 3 Waterbird Counts on Dunn Lake

Species / Date	18,19/12/86
Hoary-headed Grebe White-faced Heron Australian Shelduck Pacific Black Duck Grey Teal Pink-eared Duck Maned Duck Musk Duck Eurasian Coot Hooded Plover Red-capped Plover Banded Stilt	6 1 32 4 44 7 5 1 21 2 16 1
Totals	140

Two hours were spent looking for nests in the vegetation fringing the wetland. Three old Eurasian Coot nests (this season) and an old Black Swan mound (not used this season) were found on the east edge in flooded $\underline{\text{Melaleuca}}$ halmaturorum.

Immature ducks (ie. juvenile plumage, flightless) of the following species were recorded:

Australian Shelducks - clutches of 1, 2 and 5

Pink-eared Duck - a clutch 2

Grey Teal - 10+

DISCUSSION

It was unfortunate that at the time of the fieldwork only one of the six wetlands was flooded. As a result only a limited assessment can be made of the conservation value of the wetlands. Before discussing the conservation values of the wetlands it is useful to review the information and features of each wetland.

(1) Summary of features and information on each Wetland

(a) Magdhaba Lake

(b) Lunette Lake

The wetland covers approximately 7 ha. There does not appear to be drainage into the lake. A large lunette has formed to the east of the centre of the lake. There is no vegetation growing on the lake basin due to having a thick salt crust. Water, 5 mm below the surface in December 1986, was found to have a salinity of 314 ppt. A few Melaleuca halmaturorum plants have established on the lunette together with three halophyte species. Beyond the lunette is a large area of samphire. There are no melaleucas on the edge of the wetland to be flooded when the lake is full. No information is available on fauna usage.

(c) Dunn Lake

The wetland covers approximately 58 ha. The wetland has surface drainage entering from the southwest and east. To the southwest the catchment area is approximately 12 000 ha, most of which is contained on Dunn Rock Nature Reserve and Reserve 36446. The remainder is on farmland. The catchment area to the east is approximately 2 000 ha and is mostly on farmland.

In mid-December 1986, the lake had water to a depth of 1m. It was estimated that earlier in the year the lake had reached a depth of at least 2 m based on the waterline around the edge of the lake. The water had a salinity of 19 ppt and supported the vigorous growth of two aquatic plant species and a high diversity and abundance of aquatic invertebrates. There were 140 waterbirds of 12 species on the lake in mid-December 1986. Eurasian Coot and Black Swan were found to have been using the flooded Melaleuca halmaturorum for nesting. Immature Australian Shelduck, Pink-eared Duck and Grey Teal were also present.

Flooded samphire plants indicate that vegetation existed on the lake basin prior to flooding. An area of samphire on the east side was not flooded in December 1986. Edge vegetation is dominated by melaleucas. Melaleuca halmaturorum occurred furtherest into the lake basin. Eucalyptus occidentalis was dominant on the margin of the lake.

The road into the lake has recently been upgraded. A small area on the western edge of the lake has been cleared and gravelled. This development appears to have been for people to water-ski on the lake.

(d) Lake Ronnerup

Lake Ronnerup is a wetland of approximately 145 ha. It is the southern-most lake in the recently proclaimed Nature Reserve No. 39422. This Nature Reserve stretches north from Dunn Rock Nature Reserve to encompass Lake King. The reserve has an area of 40 105 ha. Surface drainage enters the lake from the southwest corner.

The lake basin has a thick salt crust on its surface. Water sampled 20 cm below the ground in December 1986 had a salinity of 288 ppt. Small lunettes on the east side are vegetated with <u>Eucalyptus kondininensis</u>, <u>Santalum acuminatum</u>, <u>Allocasuarina corniculata and Acacia saligna</u>. Beyond this is either a woodland of <u>Eucalyptus occidentalis</u> or samphire. A limited area of melaleucas would be flooded when the lake is full. No data is available on fauna usage.

(e) Lake Bryde

The lake covers approximately 50 ha. It is situated on a 1 315 ha reserve that is vested in the Water Authority for the purposes of Water, Picnic Ground and Conservation of Flora and Fauna. The catchment for the lake is from farmland to the south. During the years 1979-86 the wetland had a salinity range of 0.1 - 6.3 ppt. which is unusually low for this region. Information collected when the lake was flooded show that it is used by at least 21 species, with up to 431 waterbirds counted on one visit. Six species of waterbirds have been recorded as breeding on the lake; White-faced Heron, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Musk Duck and Australian Shelduck (Jaensch in prep.).

<u>Tecticornia verrucosa</u>, <u>Muehlenbeckia declina</u>, <u>Halosarcia lepidosperma</u> dominate the lake basin. The edge vegetation of <u>Melaleuca halmaturorum</u> and <u>Melaleuca sp.3G</u> is restricted to a narrow band by the steep grade of the basin.

The lake is of botanical interest due to the presence of <u>Tecticornia verrucosa</u>. This is the only known location for this species in southwestern Australia (Wilson 1972). The species is more commonly known from mudflats and freshwater claypans in tropical and sub-tropical North-West and Central Australia.

Two dams exist on the south end of the lake. The main dam (northern) was empty in December 1986 and had some vegetation cover including species not found elsewhere on the lake; <u>Spergularia rubra</u>, <u>Maireana brevifolia</u> and <u>Chenopodium</u>

<u>glaucum</u>. The main dam of 37 000 cubic metres was constructed in 1970 by the Public Works Department to act as a supply of water in drought years. The procedure is to fill the dam to a depth of 3 m with water from the lake. There will be a longer retention of water in the dam because of the depth of water. The Water Authority is presently re-evaluating the future of drought supply dams.

In 1978, the Shire of Kent proposed building a boat launching ramp and toilets. In response to this the Public Works Department prohibited boating on the lake because of the effect it might have on water quality. Whilst no facilities have been developed for recreation, there exists numerous tracks, rubbish and picnic sites.

(f) East Lake Bryde

This wetland has an area of 95 ha. Surface drainage enters the lake from the south. The vegetation is similar to Lake Bryde. Muehlenbeckia declina is dominant on the lake basin. Melaleuca halmaturorum and Melaleuca sp.3G occur in a wide band around the edge of the lake. No information is available on fauna usage.

(2) Management Concerns

Three main factors pose threats to the conservation values of the wetlands. These are increasing salinity, recreation and drought water supply.

Increasing salinity will have marked effects on wetlands which at present have low salinities; ie. Dunn Lake, Lake Bryde and East Lake Bryde. There is evidence that salinities are increasing at Lake Bryde (Appendix 1). Other examples of increasing salinity are Lake Toolibin and Lake Towerrinning (Froend 1987). As most of the Dunn Lake catchment will remain uncleared only a limited increase in salinity should occur.

Active recreation is causing disturbance to vegetation and fauna on Dunn Lake and Lake Bryde. While it is possible to prohibit this at Dunn Lake, recreation (Picnic Grounds) is part of the purpose in the case of Lake Bryde and the area is vested in the Water Authority. Some consideration is needed, on a Shire or regional basis, as to which wetlands are available for recreation.

Drought water supply could be adversely affecting fauna usage of Lake Bryde by decreasing the period in which the Lake is flooded. There could be increasing pressure to further develop water storage at the lake at the expense of conservation values.

(3) Conservation Values

The main criteria used in assessing the conservation value of an area are; diversity, rarity, naturalness, area, the threat of human interference and

representativeness (Margules and Usher 1981). Assessment using these criteria requires extensive information on not only the wetlands being assessed, but also the other wetland resources in the area to enable determination of relative value. In the case of these wetlands the assessment of the conservation values is very limited in that information is only available for two of the wetlands when they are flooded.

The following information is available on the resources of the wetlands;

water quality
water level
waterbird usage,

Dunn Lake, Lake Bryde
Dunn Lake, Lake Bryde
Dunn Lake, Lake Bryde

invertebrate fauna Dunn Lake

vegetation structure all six wetlands floristics all six wetlands

Dunn Lake and Lake Bryde stand out as quite different from the other wetlands. The most significant feature of these wetlands is that they have lower salinities, and in the case of Lake Bryde flood more frequently. Waterbird usage information shows that when flooded these wetlands are used by over 12 species with population levels between 100 and 500. Several species of waterbirds breed in the flooded melaleucas on the margin of the wetlands.

It would be expected that East Lake Bryde would have a similar salinity and waterbird usage to Lake Bryde based on the floristics of the lake basin.

Low salinity wetlands are unusual in this area and this makes Lake Bryde, East Lake Bryde and Dunn Lake of regional importance for conservation.

There is insufficient information on Magdhaba Lake, Lunette Lake and Lake Ronnerup to assess their conservation value. Each wetland is quite different. Magdhada Lake appears to have a lower frequency of flooding and lower salinity than Lunette Lake and Lake Ronnerup. Lunette Lake is interesting in that a lunette has formed across the middle of the lake. This has resulted in a bare salt basin on the west side of the lake and an area of samphire on the east. Melaleucas are colonising the lunette. Lake Ronnerup is characterised by its large size. It has extensive low lunettes on the east side with complex vegetation associations.

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APPENDIX 1

Information on Lake Bryde

(a) Water Level

Table 1.1 Lake Bryde - Water Depth

Month/Year	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
Jan. March May July Sept. Nov.	0 0 0 <0.1 0	0 0 0 <0.2 0	0 0 0 0.18 0.08	0 0.08 0 0.05 0.08	0 0 0 1.0 1.73 1.54	1.32 1.03 0.95 0.95 0.98 0.81	0.50 0.25 0.08 0 0	0 0 0 0 0

Note: Depth in metres

Additional information on the water level of Lake Bryde can be gleaned from the Lake Bryde Nature Reserve file and this is shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Lake Bryde Water Depth and Quality - Additional Information

Date	Comments
1968	report of ducks and two Swan being shot
1969	"maximum depth 2-3 ft", local farmer
72/73	waterbirds reported, McKenzie 1973
23/12/75	water levels "good"
11/11/77	"covered - muddy water"
late 11/77	photos show lake very full, possibly 1.5 - 2.0 m.
14/12/77	Reaction faintly alkaline
	Appearance very cloudy with heavy deposit
	Colour pale yellow
	Odor musty
	T.D.S.(evap) = 1290 mg/1
	NaCl (cal. from chloride) = $317 \text{ mg/}1$
3/78	40 Pacific Black Duck
10/78	"fills usually to lm until Christmas".
	T.D.S. = 1145 ppm
26/10/78	aerial photo shows lake covered with water
	"half full"

Rainfall and Flooding of Lake Bryde

Water level and rainfall information can be use to establish under what conditions the lake floods. Sets of data are available on the water depth of the lake and annual rainfall for 11 years (Table 1.3). The rainfall data is from Pingrup, 35 km south-west of Lake Bryde. In examining the relationship between annual rainfall and water depth the data can be divided into three sets;

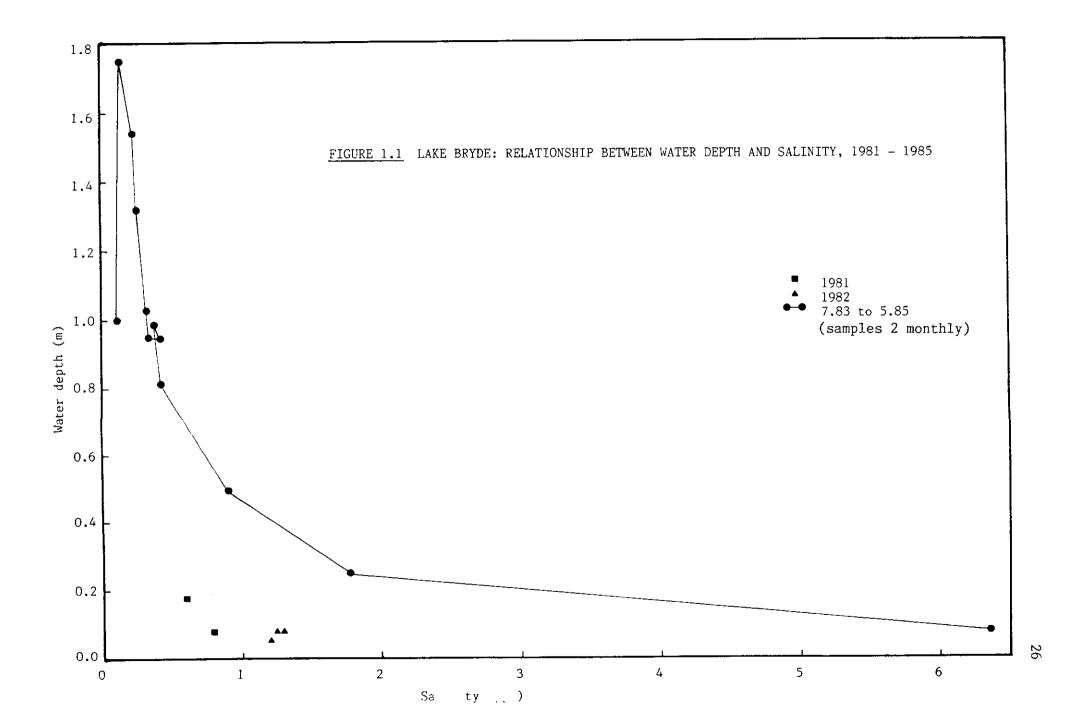
- (a) years in which the lake flooded, (F);
- (b) years with water following flooding, (FF) and;
- (c) years with negligable water (ie. for less then 4 months), (dry).

Table 1.3 Relationship between Annual Rainfall and Flooding of Lake Bryde

Year	Stage of Flooding	Rainfall	Flood in years when Rainfall >348mm
67	?	317	
68	F	533	Y
69	FF	202	
74	?	473	
75	F or FF	348	Y
76	prob.FF	354	_
77	FF	-280	
78	FF	284	
79	dry	239	
80	dry	333	
81	dry	267	
82	dry	350	N
83	$ar{ extbf{F}}$	469	Υ
84	\mathbf{FF}	316	
85	dry	284	

The data shows that the Lake flooded in three years when the annual rainfall was over 348 mm (1968, 75 and 83). However, in 1982 it did not flood in a year with 350 mm.

As a general guide it can be expected that the Lake will flood in years when the annual rainfall exceeds 350 mm at Pingrup.



(b) Salinity

Data collected since 1979 shows the salinity levels of Lake Bryde ranging from $0.1~\rm ppt$ to $6.3~\rm ppt$. Salinity levels have tended to be around 1 ppt at water depths of less then $0.2~\rm m$.

Table 1.4 Lake Bryde - Salinity

Month/Year	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
Jan. March May July Sept. Nov.	1.6	1.25	-	1.25 1.2 0.8	0.154	0.26 0.322 0.412 0.355 0.373 0.438	1.76	

Note: Salinity units ppt.

The increase in salinity as the lake dried out after the 1983 flooding is of concern (Figure 1.1). The level of 6.3 ppt in May 1986 is over 5 times higher than in 1981 and 1982. Further evidence for the increasing salinity of the lake can be seen by comparing the salinity levels as the lake filled and dried out in 1983/84;

Date	Depth (m)	Salinity (ppt)
July 1983	1.0	0.11
March 1984	1.03	0.322

(c) Waterbirds

Data on waterbirds using Lake Bryde have been collected during 13 visits over the years 1968-86 (Table 1.5). A total of 21 species have been recorded with a highest count on any one visit of 431.

Waterbird usage of Lake Bryde Table 1.5

							
Species / Date	12/69	72/73	3/78	10/84	10/84	7/85	SWWP
Great-crested Grebe		+					4
Australasian Grebe				+			
Australian Pelican		+					
Pacific Heron							2
White-faced Heron	2	+					20
Black Swan	1	+					5
Australian Shelduck	8	+				+	70
Pacific Black Duck	20	+	40	+	2		8
Grey Teal	400	+		+	3		90
Pink-eared Duck					4		8
Hardhead		+					
Maned Duck		+			8		30
Musk Duck							1
Eurasian Coot		+					
Black-tailed Native-hen							3
Red-kneed Dotteral							2
Black-fronted Plover		+					
Black-winged Stilt		•					2
Red-necked Avocet							3
Greenshank							ī
							2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper							
Total	431	_	40	-	17	<u>-</u>	NA

Note: SWWP = South West Waterbird Project database, 1981-85.

Other notes on waterbird usage;

1968 - one pair of Swans, "only ones on lake"
23/12/1975 - "no birdlife what-so-ever"
11/11/1975 - "no waterbirds" (aerial survey)
26/10/1978 - "no waterbirds" (aerial survey)
1978 - "little use by waterbirds"



Photo 1.1 View west across Lake Bryde in flood, 26 Oct. 1978



Photo 1.2 View south-east across Lake Bryde in flood, 26 Oct. 1978

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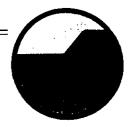
Please address all enquiries to:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTRE

 \neg

OCEAN REEF ROAD WOODVALE

Phone (09) 405 1555



Your Ref: Our Ref: Enquiries

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L

Mr Ken Wallace CALM 56 Clive Street

Katanning W.A. 6317

Postal Address PO Box 51 WANNEROO W.A. 6065 Facsimile (09) 306 1641 Telex AA94616

Dear Ken

I have just finished identifying the animals collected by Doug Watkins at Dunn Rock Nature Reserve on 19th December, 1986. There were 15 species present:

Crustacea

Ostracoda

- Australocypris hypersalina dominant animal 1. samples. This species is very difficult to separate from A. insularis; I have sent specimens to Patrick De Deckker for confirmation but perhaps the species is best treated as A. hypersalina/insularis.
- Mytilocypris henricae very common. 2.
- Platycypris baueri moderately common. 3.
- Cyprinotus edwardi moderately common.

Copepoda

- Calamoecia clitellata moderately common. 5.
- Microcyclops sp moderately common. Several species 6. of Microcyclops occur in saline lakes but published descriptions of species are pretty much inaccessible so at this stage I have not attempted to identify beyond genus.

Amphipoda

Austrochiltonia subtenuis - moderately common. 7.

Insecta Odonata (Zygoptera)

Austrolestes annulosus - common.

Hemiptera (Corixidae)

9. Agraptocorixa hirtifrons - uncommon.

(Notonectidae)

- 10. Anisops occipitalis common.
- 11. Anisops thienemanni moderately common.

Diptera

(Chironomidae)

- 12. Chironomus (Chironomus) australis rare.
- 13. Chironomus (Cryptochironomus) curtivalva moderately common.
- 14. Procladius villosimanus moderately common.

(Stratiomyidae)

15. 1 sp - uncommon. As far as I am aware no-one in Australia works on this group and there are no keys available, so I cannot take the identification further.

As far as the biological/conservation value of the lake is concerned, there really is not much information for comparison with other lakes. Bearing that in mind, I would make three tentative statements:

- 1. The species collected are probably all reasonably widespread and can tolerate at least moderate salinity (though at 19 ppt TDS the lake would be near the upper limit for several, some others can withstand >100 ppt). In other words the value of the lake does not lie in the particular species present.
- 2. The lake has a very high number of species, considering its salinity. Lakes with a salinity of >10 ppt with this diversity are unusual and I feel this is where the biological value of the lake lies.
- 3. The main reason the lake has a comparatively high number of species is that it supports a lot of insects. I am unable to offer any explanation for this.

Yours sincerely

Shart Halse.

STUART HALSE

January 20, 1987

c. Mr Doug Watkins

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EAGU SURVEY OF WATERBIKOS. REPURT BY RESERVE. OPDATED MAXILA BY MURITH, FOR ALL SPECIES RECORDED (LAST PRINTOUT - 11 SEP 85 : THIS DATA SUBMITTED 15 JUL 85											24 (24 OCT 85						
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PART : 1 - LAKE BRYDE	PAGE 2
SVYS JU SVYS MAX T RECU YEAR MAXIMUM RECORDED AND BREEDING RECORDS (**DR,SN,E,YN) J. SPECIES RECU P BROG GRY JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR AP 38 UIDR 1 03 T 0 A 64-85 0 0 0	
SUMMARY: NUMBER OF SURVEYS: 81-62 IN 63-64 IA IN 2N IA 84-65 IA 1A	2 4
NOMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 81-82 74 WHICH USED THE RETLAND 83-84 133 10 46 59 TOTALS FOR EACH MONTH 84-85 53 16 1 (IDENTIFIED SPP UNLY)	70
NUMBER OF SPECIES : 81-82 3 53-84 5 4 5 5 5 84-85 3 3	7 7
HUMBER BREEDING SPP: 81-82 0 83-84 0 0 5 0 84-85 1 0	0 0
NUMBER OF SURVEYS ENTERED = 11 (7A)	
RUMBER OF SPECIES RECORDED TO DATE = 16. BREEDING SPECIES = 6	
MONTHS IN WHICH GREATEST NUMBER OF SPECIES AND GREATEST NUMBER OF BREEDING SPECIES FERE RECORDED SEVERAL / OCT 83	
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHICH USED THE WETLAND A - LARGEST TOTAL IN ANY DNE SURVEY = 133 (JUL 83) B - LARGEST TOTAL FOR ANY DNE MONTH = 133 (JUL 83) C - NO. OF INDIVIDUALS FOR THIS STUDY = 261	
MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES = GYTL 90 (JUL 83) SHEL 70 (APR 85) MANU 30 (FEB 84) MOST FREQUENTLY RECORDED SPECIES = GYTL (9 SURVEYS: REPORTING RATE 82%) WHEN (7 SURVEYS: REPORTING RATE 64%)	36
PABD (7 SURVEYS: REPORTING RATE 64%)	

APPENDIX 5

PLANT SPECIES FOR LAKES IN THE DUNN ROCK AND LAKE BRYDE NATURE RESERVE AREAS

	D1	
Ву	Plant Species	Specimem Number
*	POACEAE	
W.A. Herbarium	Poa sp.	2B; B11.
	CYPERACEAE	
W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb.	Schoenus brevifolius Cyperaceae sp.	3A; B12. B13.
	CASUARINACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Allocasuarina corniculata	C13.
	PROTEACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Hakea aff. preissii	S1.
	SANTALACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Exocarpos aphyllus	1B; 3B; D11.
W.A. Herb.	Santalum acuminatum	C10.
	POLYGONACEAE	
W.A.Herb.	Muehlenbeckia declina	L6; L8.
	CHENOPODIACEAE	
W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb.	Atriplex cf. nana Atriplex vesicaria	1D; 1H; 1C; 2H; A1O; C12.
W.A. Herb.	Chenopdium glaucum	L11.
W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb. W.A. Herb.	Halosarcia halocnemoides Halosarcia lepidosperma Halosarcia pergranulata Halosarcia aff. pergranulata Halosarcia syncarpa Halosarcia sp.	1G; 2G. L7. B14; 102. E12. 2E; 2F; 103. A11.

W.A. Herb.	Maireana brevifolia Maireana erioclada Maireana oppositifolia	L9; L12. D10. 2K; A13; B10.
W.A. Herb.	Sarcocornia quinqueflora	1K.
W.A. Herb.	Sclerostegia moniliformis	1F.
W.A. Herb.	Tecticornia verrucosa	L4.
	AIZOACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Disphma crassifolium	11; 1E; E10.
	CARYOPHYLLACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Spergularia rubra	L10.
	PITTOSPORACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Pittosporum phylliraeoides	S5 .
	MIMOACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Acacia saligna	C11
	MALVACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Lawrencia squamata	2I; 2J; 104; A12; E11.
	FRANKENIACEAE	
W.A. Herb.	Frankenia aff. pauciflora	IJ; 105?
	MYRTACEAE	
S. McNee S. McNee	Eucalyptus kondininensis Eucalyptus occidentalis	3H. ??.
Watkins & McNee WTK & McN WTK & McN WTK & McN WTK & McN WTK & McN	Melaleuca sp.3G Melaleuca halmaturorum Melaleuca lateriflora Melaleuca thyoides Melaleuca uncinata Melaleuca viminea	3G; S3; E14; L2 101. 2A; 3E; 106; 107; E13; L3. L1; E15. 1A; 3F. 3D; S2. 3C; 100.
	CONVOLVULACEAE	

Wilsonia humilis

W.A. Herb.

L5.

GOODENI ACEAE

W.A. Herb.

Scaevola spinescens

S4.

ASTERACEAE

W.A. Herb. Angianthus tomentosus

2C.

WETLAND

PLANT SPECIMEN NUMBERS

MAGDHABA LAKE LUNETTE LAKE DUNN LAKE

1A - 1K2A - 2K

3A - 3H, 100 - 107 RONNERUP

A10 - A13, B10 - B14, C10 - C13, D10, D11, S1 - S5.

LAKE BRYDE

L1 - L12EAST LAKE BRYDE E10 - E15

APPENNDIX 6

WETLANDS OF DUNN ROCK AND LAKE BRYDE NATURE RESERVE AREAS

A COMPARISON OF PLANT SPECIES

Species/Wetland	Ronnerup	MGB	LUN	DUNN	Bryde	E Bryde	
Poa sp. Schoenus brevifolius Cyperaceae Allocasuarina corniculata Hakea aff. preissii Exocarpos aphyllus Santalum acuminatum Muehlenbeckia declina	X X X X X X	Х	X	X X	X	X 	
Atriplex cf. nana Atriplex vesicaria	Х	X X	X				
Chenopodium glaucum					X		
Halosarcia halocnemoides Halosarcia lepidosperma Halosarcia pergranulata Halosarcia aff. pergranulata Halosarcia syncarpa Halosarcia sp.	X X	X	X	X X	Х	X	
Maireana brevifolia Maireana erioclada Maireana oppositifolia	X X		X	. 	X		
Sarcocornia quinqueflora Sclerostegia moniliformis Tecticornia verrucosa		X X			X 		
Disphyma crassifolium Spergularia rubra Pittosporum phylliraeoides Acacia saligna Lawrencia squamata Frankenia aff. pauciflora	X X X X X	X	Х	X X X	X X	X X	
Eucalyptus kondininensis Eucalyptus occidentalis Melaleuca sp.3G Melaleuca halmaturorum Melaleuca lateriflora Melaleuca thyoides Melaleuca viminea	X X X	x	Х	X X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	
Wilsonia humilis Scaevola spinescens Angianthus tomentosus	X		Х		Х		

APPENDIX 7

RESERVE FILES - DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

LAKE BRYDE

016264F3102

Cons. Flora & Fauna, Water, Picnic Ground Res 28667

Cons. Flora & Fauna - Res Nos 29021, 29026

Details

Reserve No.: 288667

Date: 30/10/70

Purpose: Cons Flora & Fauna, Water, Picnic Ground

Area: 3249a-2r-4p

Vesting: Min for Water Supply Location No.: Roe 2573-2605

Litho: 407/80 F.2.

Local Authority: Nyabing-Pingrup Size of file - about 70 pages

EAST LAKE BRYDE

015952F3102 (East) F.P. Act. Roe. Res No. 29020 Loc No. 2603 Lake Bryde

Details

Reserve No.: 29020

Date: 15/3/68

Purpose: Cons Flora and Fauna

Area: 3774a-3r-20p Vesting: W.A.W.L.A. Location No.: Roe 2603

Litho: 406/80

Local Authority: Nyabing-Pingrup Size of file - about 20 pages

DUNN ROCK NATURE RESERVE

017683F3102

Details

Reserve: Lake King Reserve 36445 Formerly Reserve 20346

Created: 01:01:74

Class: 3102

Old Number: WL 19740663

Area: 40 105 ha

Vesting:

Location No: Roe 3073 - 3077 inclusive.

Litho.: 375/80, 369/80, 388/80, 405/80, 405/80

Local Authority: Lake Grace Size of file - about 10 pages

RESERVE 39422 - Conservation of Flora and Fauna

023336F3102

Details

Reserve No: 39422

Purpose: Conservation of Flora and Fauna

Other files: Wildlife Research - small file on Lake Bryde, water level information.