



Department of Conservation and Land Management, W.A.

# Yanchep National Park



DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
APRIL 1988

## Supplementary Papers

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## SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

### INTRODUCTION

These papers supplement the draft management plan for Yanchep National Park, and provide for summary of the public participation involved with the preparation of the plan.

In relevant sections throughout the draft management plan overall results and specific comments are included as part of the background information, combining all aspects of public comment.

It is a requirement under the CALM Act (1984) that public comment be invited on draft management plans. However it is now practice also to seek public comment and participation during the preparation of the draft management plans. This enables planning to be responsive to public feeling and attitudes throughout the planning process.

Since Yanchep National Park is such a popular and well known Park, public comment and information on visitor use has been sought extensively.

Much of the direction of the management plan, and specific objectives and strategies, took the information collected into account.

Public participation for the preparation of this plan involved: letters sent to 300 individuals and organisations; a display and pamphlets in the Park office; advertisements in the local papers; signs in the Park; a visitor survey; a public workshop; and forms were available in the Park office for people wishing to make a written comment while in the Park.

Table 1 is a summary of the main issues raised and the general responses.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Major Issues and Responses (from letters, comment forms and visitor survey)

| ISSUE                      | TOTAL No. OF<br>RESPONSES | LIKE | DISLIKE | UPGRADE | DISCONTINUE | CHANGES   |                            |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------|---------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                            |                           |      |         |         |             | SUGGESTED | OTHER                      |
| Park Character/Environment | 592                       | 592  |         |         |             |           |                            |
| Overall Condition of Park  | 179                       | 41   | 120     | 14      |             | 4         |                            |
| Wildlife                   | 153                       | 147  |         |         |             | 6         |                            |
| Koalas                     | 124                       | 113  |         | 6       | 2           | 3         |                            |
| Pool                       | 115                       | 49   | 17      | 10      |             | 12        | Keep open 20. Longer hrs 7 |
| Kangaroo/emu enclosure     | 112                       | 14   | 57      | 1       |             | 40        |                            |
| Entrance fee               | 98                        | 2    | 65      |         | 11          | 20        |                            |
| Information/interpretation | 94                        |      | 31      | 1       |             | 62        |                            |
| Caves/Tours                | 72                        | 71   |         |         |             | 1         |                            |
| BBQ/Picnic Areas           | 72                        | 69   | 1       | 1       |             | 1         |                            |
| BBQ's                      | 66                        | 24   | 22      | 4       |             | 16        |                            |
| Buildings                  | 46                        | 24   |         | 13      |             | 9         |                            |
| Kiosk/Food facilities      | 44                        | 11   | 18      | 6       |             | 9         |                            |
| Variety of activities      | 35                        | 12   | 11      |         |             | 12        |                            |
| Launch                     | 29                        |      |         |         |             |           | Reintroduce 29.            |
| Facilities                 | 26                        | 2    | 9       | 8       |             | 7         |                            |
| Gardens                    | 25                        |      |         | 21      |             | 4         |                            |
| Walk Trails                | 23                        | 22   |         |         |             | 1         |                            |

## SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER No. 1

### LETTERS AND COMMENT FORMS

Letters, a display, pamphlets and signs all informed people that the draft management plan was being prepared and invited any comments, thoughts and ideas. 300 letters were sent to individuals with annual Park passes, Government departments, local and State organisations, community and environmental groups, tourism bodies, local schools and local members of Parliament.

#### Letters

A total of 43 letters were received, with individual letters covering a variety of issues. Issues raised have been grouped into categories. The following is a summary of the issues raised, in order of the number of comments, with the number of comments in brackets. This is followed by specific representative comments and ideas.

Swimming pool (15) - keep open; upgrade the facility; City of Wanneroo should assist with or take over management of pool; keep open for longer hours; close the pool.

Park deterioration (13) - the Park has deteriorated, it is run down; needs more maintenance; disappointed with the condition of the Park.

Buildings and facilities (comments on specific ones) (11)

Yanchep Inn - in poor condition; needs modernising; needs top class restaurant; food is poor.

Better access for disabled needed.

Panger houses - lease as holiday cottages; keep occupied by rangers.

Carparks - locate at the Park entrance and visitors can walk in or catch a shuttle bus.

Tennis courts - badly need upgrading.

Maintain the Park character (10) - no more development; no commercialisation; keep it a quiet peaceful Park; maintain as a family facility; keep areas natural and some for recreation; restore the Park to its former glory.

More information and interpretation needed (10) - provide better signs; provide more signs; provide labels for plants; provide guided walks; provide an educational facility; provide more information on natural and developed features of the Park.

Entrance fee is too high (10) - increased price too much; it is too much for families; advertise annual Park ticket more; offer group discounts.

Re-introduce the launch (10) - it was a favourite activity in the Park; it was an interesting educational experience.

Animal enclosures (9) - bring back the bird cages; upgrade kangaroo/emu enclosure; provide paths through the enclosure; provide more kangaroos; koalas upkeep involves high costs and they can be viewed at other places, so discontinue koala display.

Management and staff (8) - rationalise Park staff duties into 2 areas - Park maintenance (contract out) and public contact and natural areas (rangers); more staff needed; set up a Park Board for management.

Private concessions (8) - lease out facilities (including the caves) and CALM manage the remainder; promote the Park more; provide 40 year leases for major lessees; allow craft groups to sell their wares.

Golf course (7) - needs upgrading; needs to be better maintained; publicise it more; there is little justification for keeping it when alternatives are available; convert it to picnic areas.

BBQ's/picnic areas (6) - BBQ's badly maintained (dirty, don't work); need regular maintenance; clear more bush areas for picnic areas; control active games in picnic areas.

Upgrade gardens and lawns (6) - lawns and gardens have deteriorated; replace the rose garden; weeding required; more wildflower gardens needed.

Costs (6) - the Park should not be a profit-making venture; more money should be spent on the Park, the high number of visitors should give the Park priority for spending; increase the Park patronage and therefore increase the Park income; some facilities or services should not be money makers but should be used as drawcards to the Park, they should be funded appropriately.

Caves (5) - provide access to Cabaret Cave; allow Cabaret Cave to be hired for functions; develop Cabaret Cave for a commercial and tourist venture; provide tours of more caves; provide more tours.

Public involvement (4) - seek community or voluntary assistance in Park maintenance; set up a friends of Yanchep National Park group.

Camping (4) - provide limited well supervised camping facilities; charge to cover costs; provide a caravan park; provide a holiday camp for children.

Walk trails (4) - provide more walk trails; provide a variety of trails for a variety of experiences.

#### Comment Forms

Forms were available in the Park office for anyone who wished to put comments to Park staff in writing. A total of 27 forms were filled in until February 1988. As with letters received, issues raised have been categorised. The following is a summary of the issues raised, in order of the number of times they were raised, followed by the number of people who commented on the issue, then followed by representative specific comments.

Positive about the Park (10) - thoroughly enjoyed our visit; beautiful Park; loved the innocent charm; staff were helpful and friendly; koalas were a delight; it is the best Park close to Perth; I would recommend it to others.

Re-introduce the launch (8) - we were disappointed it is no longer running; we always looked forward to it.

Park deterioration (6) - we have been coming to the Park for 14 years and we've never seen it so rundown; we were disappointed and embarrassed; is the public being subtly asked to stay away from the Park?

BBQ's/picnic areas (5) - there are not enough BBQ's; there are long waits for a BBQ; they need to be cleaned better and more regularly.

Entrance fee is too high (5) - the fee is a rip off, for the amount of money we pay the facilities are very poor; it has been one of our favourite Parks, on a limited income we could have a cheap day out; with \$4 for entry and \$3 for golf fee, it must be the most expensive golf course in Australia.

Swimming Pool (4) - keep the pool open until the end of summer; we were disappointed the pool was closed on the day of our visit.

Animal enclosures (3) - we were disappointed the bird cages were empty, they were an asset and an attraction for the Park.

Caves (3) - increase the cave tour fees for more revenue; we enjoyed Crystal Cave, we would like to see the other cave (Yonderup?); open Cabaret Cave for public use.

Buildings/facilities (3) - we would like play equipment for children; toilets are in bad condition.

## VISITOR SURVEY

A visitor survey was conducted to find out a variety of information including visitor use patterns, visitor attitudes towards the Park, frequency of use of facilities and any ideas for improvement. Much information derived from this survey has been used in developing the future directions and management of the Park.

### Method

The questionnaire was developed in consultation with the Bureau of Statistics (see Appendix 1). The survey was conducted during the week beginning Sunday, 15 February, 1987 with a sample of visitors being surveyed on the Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week. Observation over many years has indicated that Sunday visitors to the Park comprise a slightly different cross section of the community to those on other days (eg. more family groups) and so care was taken to sample Sunday and other day visitors independently and in proportion to the estimated relative numbers of visitors on Sunday and other days. The results for the two groups were then combined to give results statistically representative for the total visitor population in that week.

The survey, having been conducted during one week only, makes the implicit assumption that visitors in any week of the year are representative of the total visitor population. Although it is arguable that seasonal influences, school holidays and special events may affect the makeup of visitor groups to the Park, it is felt that the group chosen is broadly representative of the entire visitor population and its views on the Park.

Subsequent surveys should reveal more information on different visitor groups.

Questionnaires were handed out to visitors at the ticket sale point, with visitors asked to fill the forms out at the end of their visit, and to deposit them in a return box at the exit.

The questionnaire and survey techniques were pilot-tested in the Park to ensure that questions were clearly understood by visitors and that the

techniques were effective. To ensure representation of visitors arriving throughout the day questionnaire forms were distributed to visitors arriving in the Park during three time slots over each of the days on which the survey took place. Forms were distributed beginning at 0900, 1100 and 1400 hours on each day. CALM personnel were available in the Park on each of the survey days specifically to answer questions.

For the commercial tours that entered the Park on the survey days, questionnaires were given to the coach drivers, who were asked to hand out the forms as the visitors left the Park. Completed forms were later picked up at the tour operators' offices.

Overall 706 questionnaire forms were distributed on the three days, with 532 responses, a response rate of 75.4 percent. Estimated visitation for the week is 3119 visitors to the Park giving a sample equivalent to 17.1 percent of visitors during the week. This number of questionnaires gives a statistically representative sample of visitors during the week.

The results were encoded and the data entered onto a Perkin-Elmer computer using an SPSS-2 program. The data was copied onto flexible discs which were used with a software program to produce the graphics in this report.

### Results and Discussion

There was a very low return rate from the commercial tours, and therefore the results do not give a representative picture. In the year 1985/86, the proportion of the total visitors to the Park on commercial tours was 31 285 or 16.4 percent. In the survey only 19 forms were returned from commercial tours, equivalent to 3.6 percent. Therefore the results from commercial tours are not statistically representative, and so are disregarded for this survey.

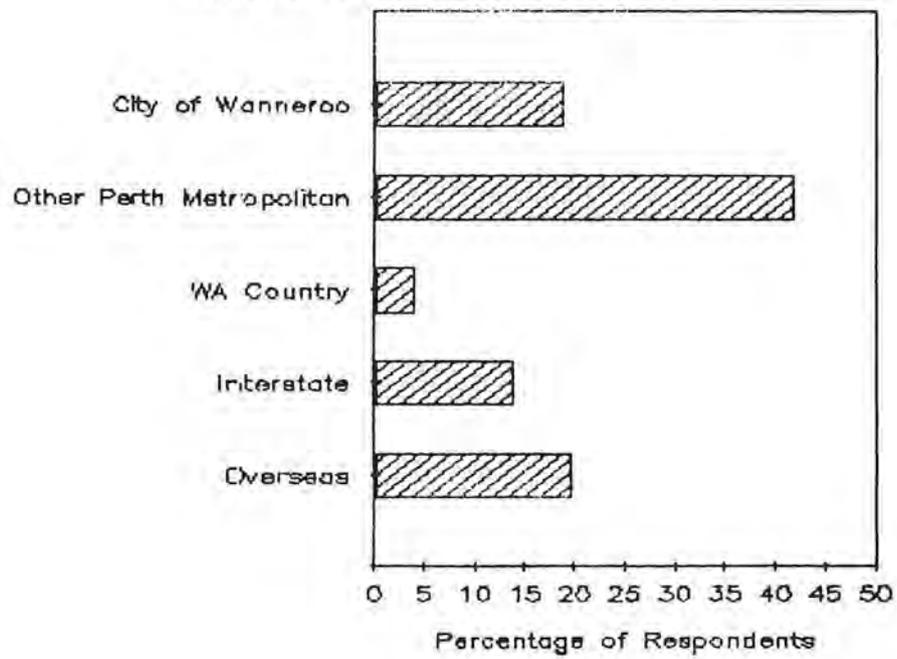
1. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Refer to Graph 1)

The highest proportion of visitors come from the Metropolitan Area (other than the City of Wanneroo) (42 percent). This is not surprising since the Park is only an hours drive from Perth. With 14 percent of visitors from Interstate and 20 percent from Overseas, combined 34 percent are from outside W.A. (and this does not include people on commercial tours). This is a significant proportion, particularly when seen in comparison with the 5 percent result for the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (in a popular tourist region). The residents of the City of Wanneroo are quite high users of the Park (19 percent).

Implications for Management

1. Information on regular or changing events in the Park needs to be targetted to tourism bodies, metropolitan information outlets and City of Wanneroo information outlets.
2. Tourists may have special requirements such as the provision of information, languages and types of food, and since they comprise a significant proportion of visitors to the Park their requirements need to be catered for as far as possible.
3. The Park is an attraction (together with others) that draws many people to the Wanneroo/Yanchep area.
4. It is an important recreation area for the people of the City of Wanneroo.

Question 1  
Where do you usually live?

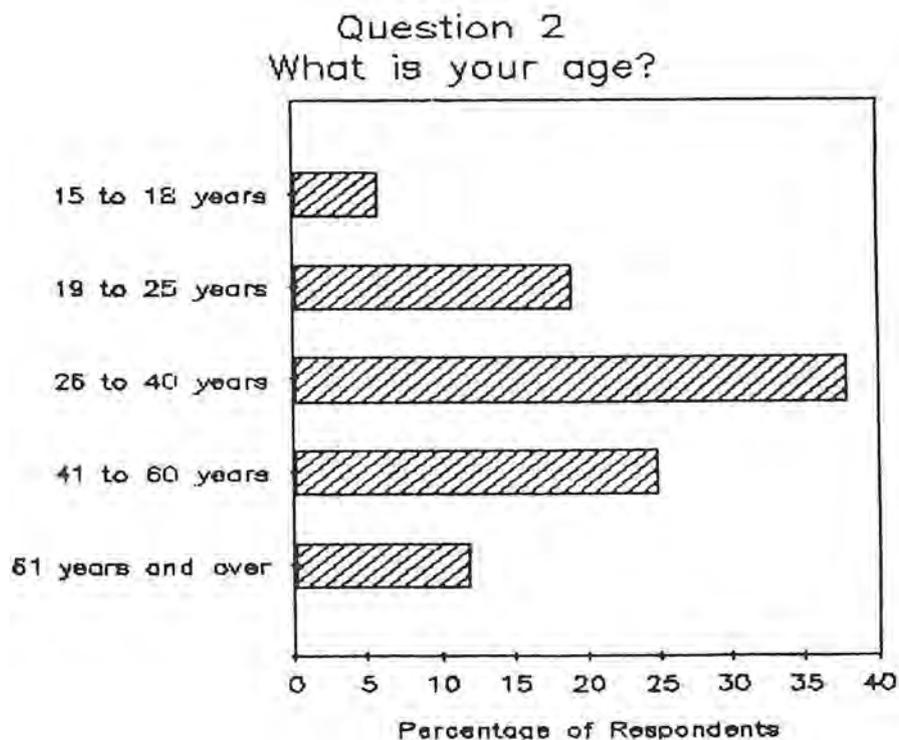


2. AGE OF VISITORS (Over 15 years old) (Refer to Graph 2)

The Park attracts people from a range of ages, with the majority from 26 to 40 years old (38 percent) and from 40 to 60 years (25 percent). This is a more mature visitor age than, for example, the visitors to Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park where the majority of visitors are aged 15 to 25 years, and probably reflects that types of activities available in each Park.

Implication for Management

Interpretation programs and types of facilities provided should take into account the ages of the majority of visitors.



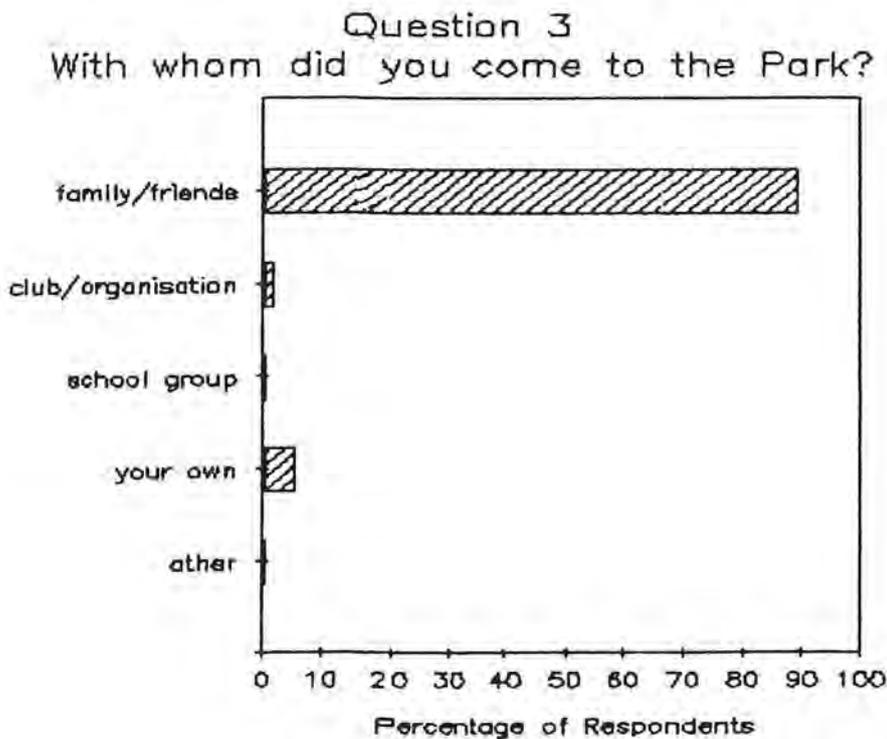
3. TYPE OF VISITOR GROUP (Refer to Graph 3)

90 percent of respondents came to the Park for social gatherings with family and/or friends, with the remainder visiting on their own (6 percent), with a club or organisation (2 percent) and school group or other (1 percent). At other times of the year these proportions may vary, for example in December (pre-Christmas) many school groups and clubs visit the Park, often booking the ovals or parts of picnic areas.

As already noted, groups on commercial tours are not included in these figures, although Park visitation figures indicate that these account for about 16 percent of visitors.

Implication for Management

Facilities and activities need to cater mainly for groups of families or friends, with only a few catering for clubs or organisations etc.

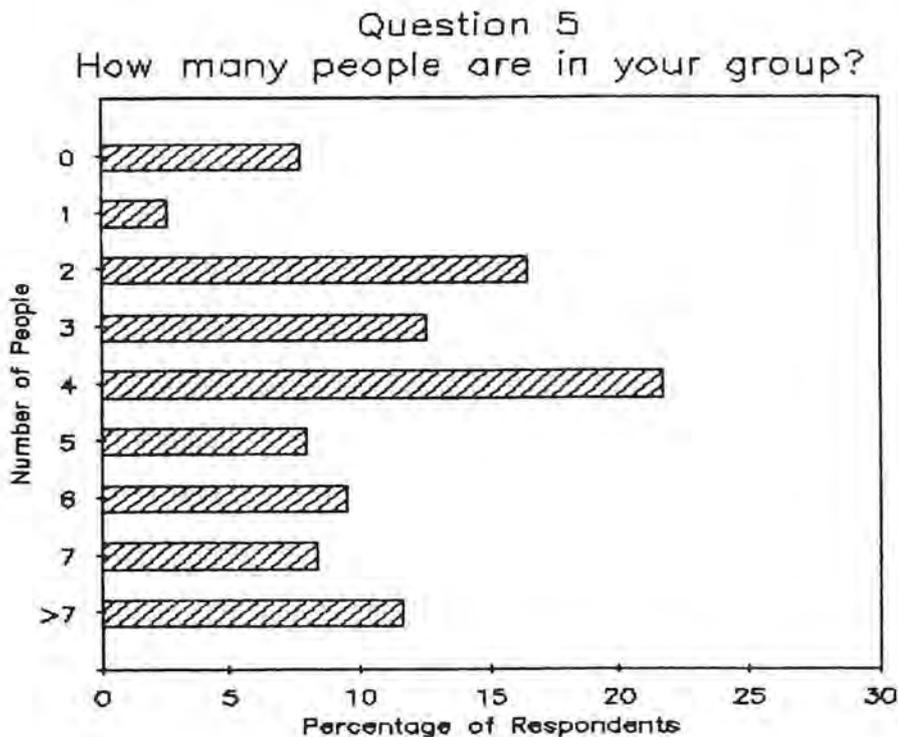


5. SIZE OF VISITOR GROUP (Refer to Graph 5)

There was a range of visitor group sizes. Generally they are small with groups of 4 being the most frequent (22 percent) although groups of around 50 also visit the Park. Group size will vary as discussed in Section 3, and large family/friends groups may be more prevalent than these results show.

Implication for Management

The ranges in sizes of groups needs to be taken into account in the provision of facilities eg. picnic facilities.

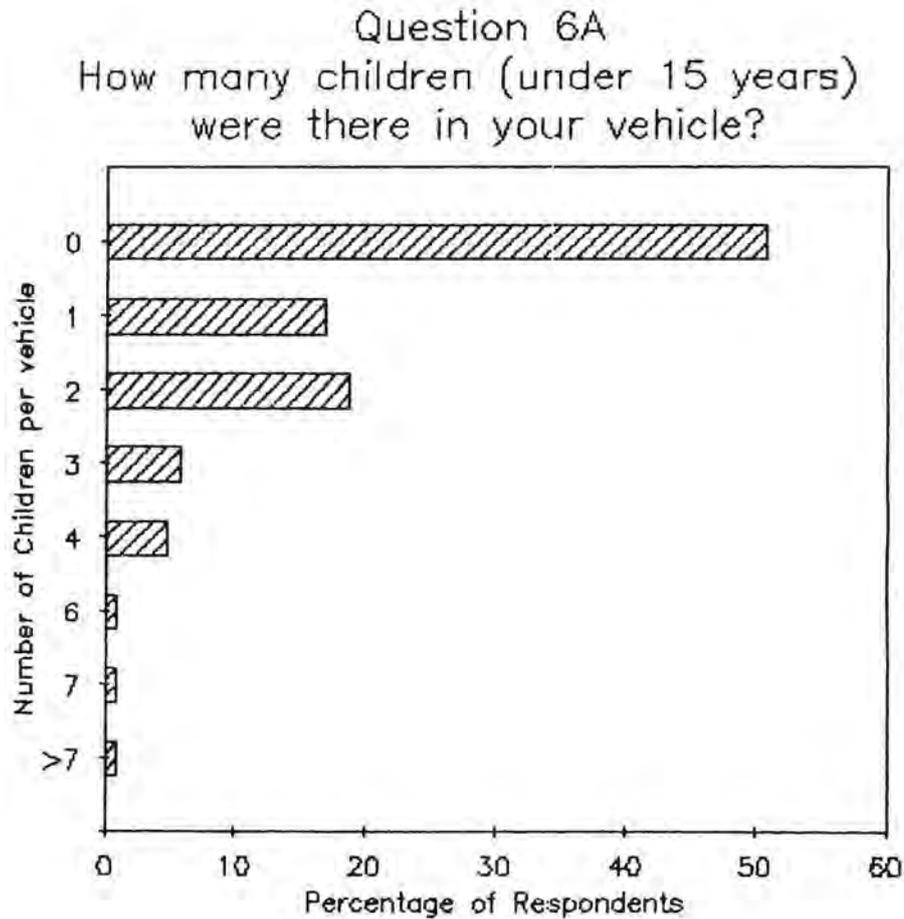


6. NUMBERS OF CHILDREN (Refer to Graph 6A and 6B)

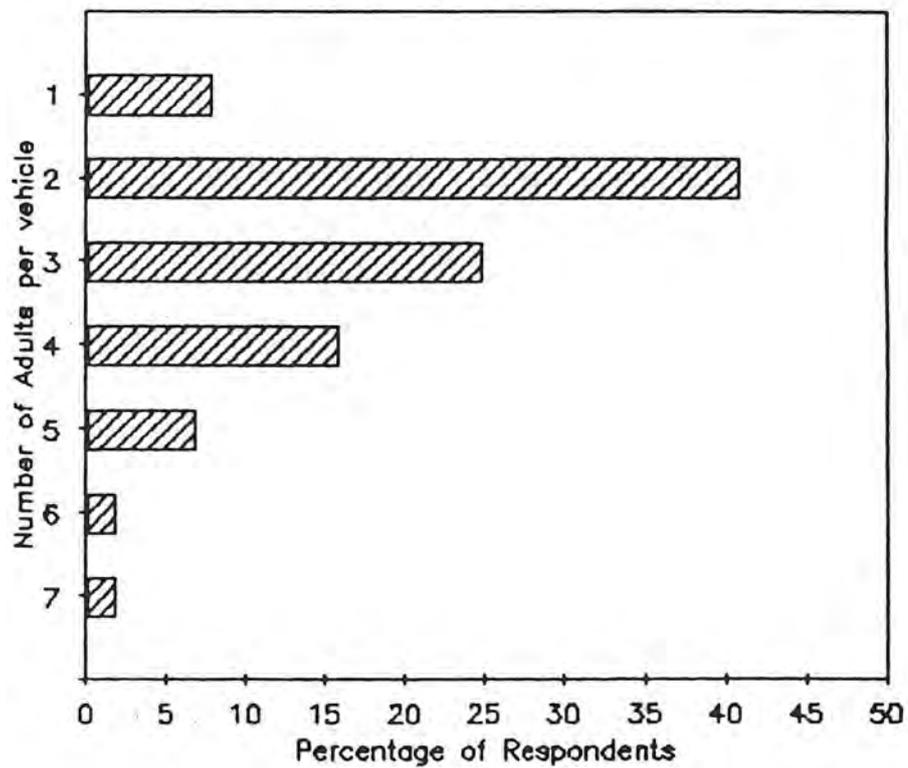
Of the total number of visitors, 53 percent were children. This included several bus loads of children visiting on the survey days. This question was asked primarily so the proportion of children could be calculated; it also revealed that 51 percent of visitor groups included no children, and 36 percent had 1 or 2 children per vehicle.

Implications for Management

1. Considering over half of the visitors to the Park are children, the provision of facilities for them needs to be assessed.
2. Interpretation and education programs need to take into account the high proportion of children.



Question 6B  
How many adults (15 years and over)  
were there in your vehicle?

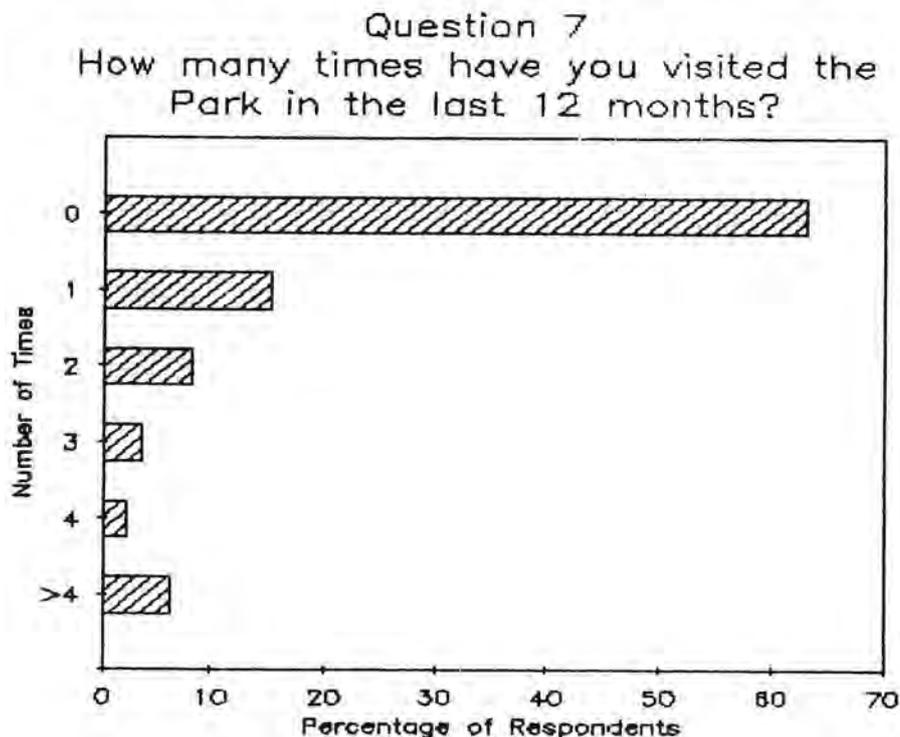


7. FREQUENCY OF VISITS (Refer to Graph 7)

The greatest proportion of visitors had not visited the Park in the previous 12 months (63 percent), while 15 percent visited once and 8 percent twice. This is a high turnover of visitors per year with few visiting more than once per year. This is a surprising result since it was expected the high proportion of visitors from the metropolitan area would find the trip to the Park easy to make, and so visit more frequently. With greater opportunities available for recreating close to the metropolitan area perhaps recreators try a range of locations; perhaps, also, the Park has provided a fairly similar experience for many years and so people do not feel the need to visit to Park often. Comments from visitors do indicate that many return, but often after a few years.

Implications for Management

1. Displays and other information/interpretation programs probably only need to be re-newed about every 12 months.
2. The provision of new and changing recreational opportunities in the Park may increase the frequency of visits.



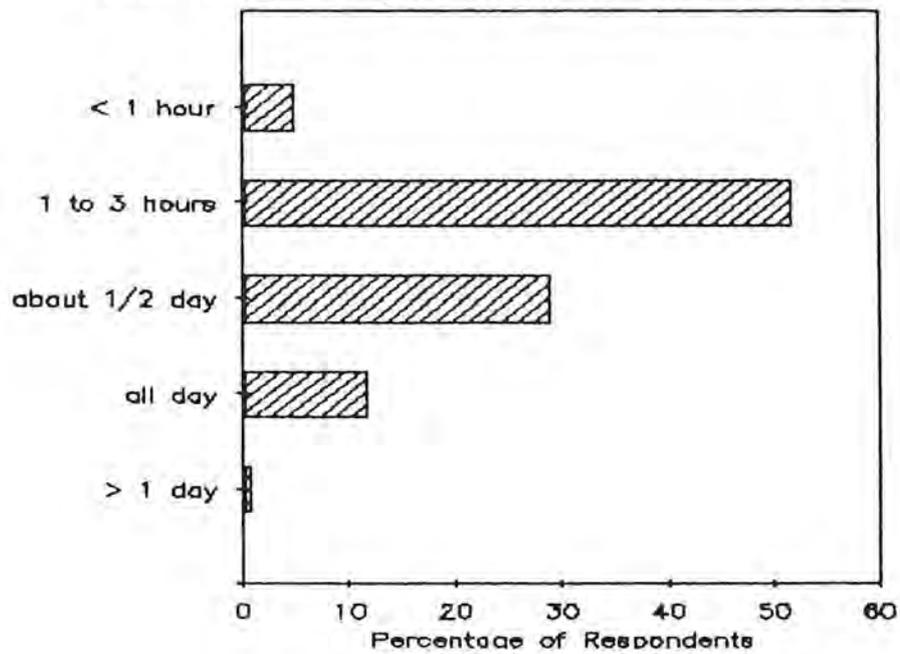
8. LENGTH OF STAY (Refer to Graph 8)

Yanchep National Park, ideally located so close to Perth, is almost exclusively a day-visit Park. Over half of the visitors stay in the Park from one to three hours. Many visitors may choose to also explore other attractions in the region on their day out, and so only spend a fairly short time in the Park. Also, the most popular activities in the Park (as revealed in Question 9), the koalas, picnicing, the kangaroo/emu enclosure and visiting the kiosk, can be enjoyed in a short space of time. Probably the more time-consuming activities, such as using the row boats and walking on the nature trails, are done mostly by the 29 percent that spend half a day in the Park. Experience has shown there is a peak period in the Park between 11 am and 2 pm (around lunchtime).

Implications for Management

1. The provision of carparking needs to take into account the high turnover of vehicles, as well as the peak use time.
2. Facilities need to be provided to cater for the average peak use.
3. Interpretation programs need to cater for both the short term and longer term visitors.
3. If a greater variety of activities are provided, some visitors may stay longer in the Park.
4. The length of time taken to walk along a trail needs to be estimated so visitors can judge whether they can participate within their time frame.

Question 8  
How long did you stay in the Park?



9. USE AND RATING OF ATTRACTIONS AND FACILITIES (Refer to Graph 9)

The most popular attraction/facility in the Park is the Koalas (76 percent) followed by the BBQ/picnic areas (55 percent), Kangaroo/emu enclosure (41 percent) and the kiosk (40 percent).

A number of facilities were used by around 20 percent of visitors, including the swimming pool (21 percent), nature trails (20 percent), rowboats (23 percent), the hotel (24 percent), cave tour (21 percent) and the souvenir shop/office (19 percent). The least used facility was the golf course (5 percent). The results for the tennis courts (2 percent) and the sports ovals (10 percent) are doubtful because neither was booked on the survey days nor was anyone observed using them; it is probable respondents observed these two facilities during their visit, and counted this as 'used'.

The results for the tennis courts have been disregarded since the nets have to be obtained from the office, so Park staff would be aware of their use; the results for the ovals have been included because some respondents may have used the ovals without being observed.

The results for use of the wildflower garden (20 percent) are probably inaccurate; the garden is adjacent to the koala enclosure (76 percent used) and many of these visitors walk through the garden therefore use would be expected to be higher; since the garden is not labelled as such, it is probable many respondents were not aware to what garden the survey referred.

The amount of use of facilities may vary over the year, for example use of ovals would be higher in December due to booking for functions. Respondents were asked to give a rating for each facility used, although not all who indicated they had used a facility gave it a rating.

The facilities or attractions that were rated most highly (very good and good) were (in order): the cave tours (95 percent rated it very good or good), koalas (90 percent), swimming pool (87 percent), BBQ/picnic areas (85 percent), nature trails (78 percent), hotel (77 percent) and rowboats (76 percent). The only facility which rated more fair and poor responses than very good and good was the kangaroo/emu enclosure. The

enclosure also scored many unfavourable comments, in questions 11 and 13. Most of the comments related to the lack of animals in the enclosure. Since the survey was conducted on warm to hot summer days, the animals were sheltering in the shady bushland and so, were not visible.

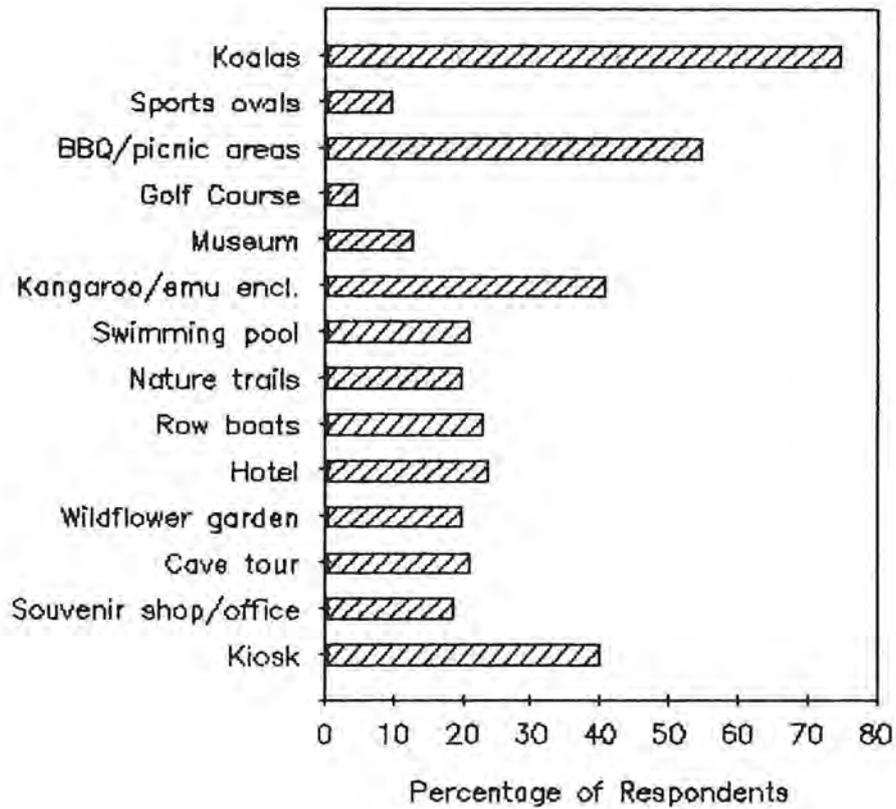
The facilities which were not rated as highly were: souvenir shop/office (48 percent rated it fair or poor), golf course (46 percent), sports ovals (38 percent), wildflower garden (38 percent) and kiosk (37 percent).

#### Implications for Management

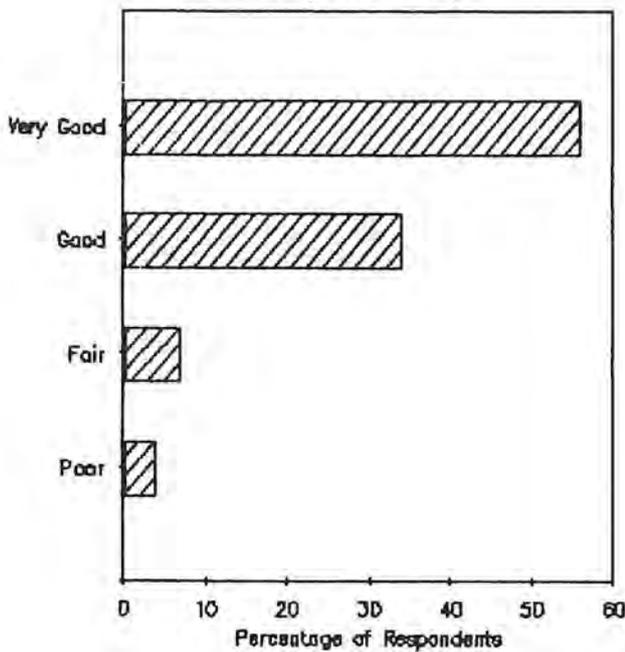
1. The popularity of some of the facilities or attractions needs to be taken into account when their future is being considered.
2. The provision of facilities with low levels of use needs to be examined, either regarding greater promotion or their discontinuation.
3. The facilities or attractions that were not rated as highly need to be examined in regards improvements or changes.

### Question 9

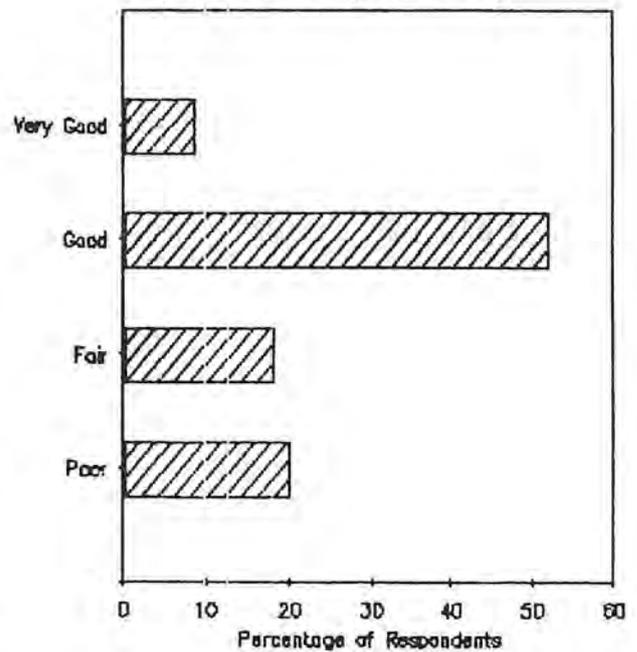
What attractions/facilities did you use?



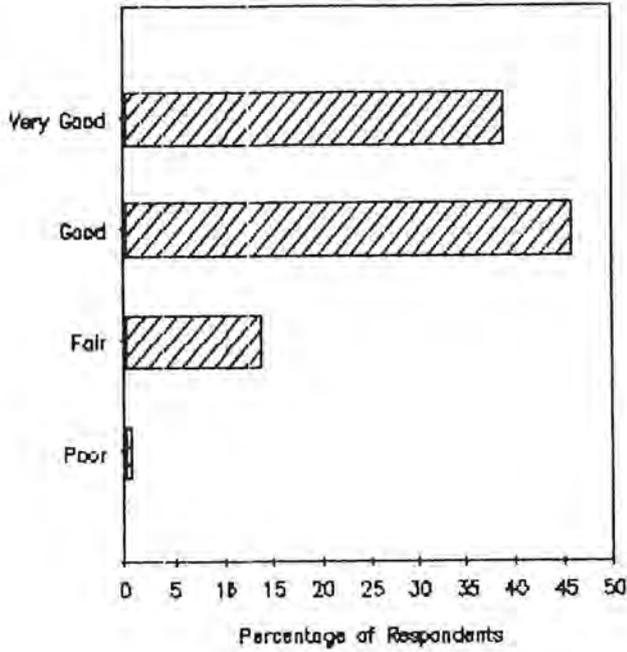
Question 9A  
Koalas (75% used)



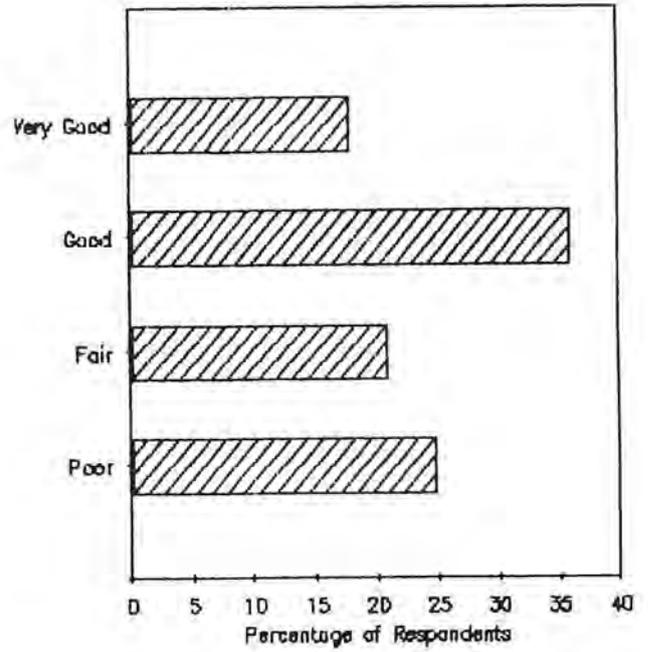
Question 9B  
Sports Ovals (10% used)



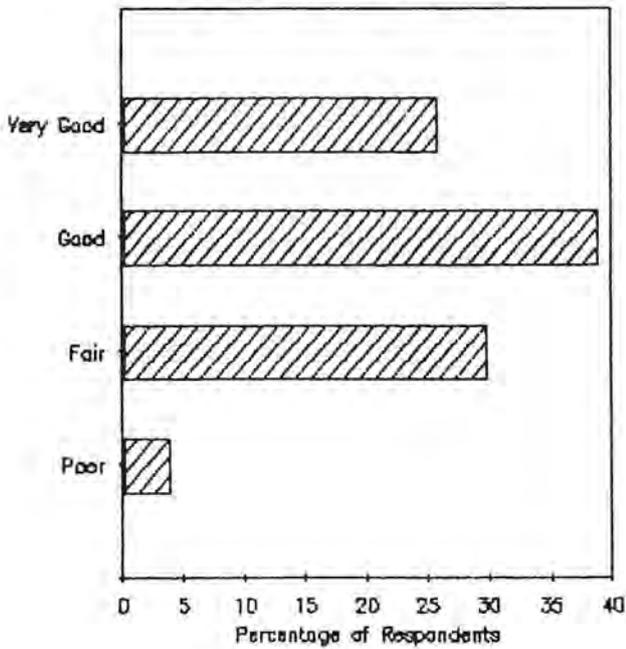
Question 9C  
BEIQ/Picnic Areas (55% used)



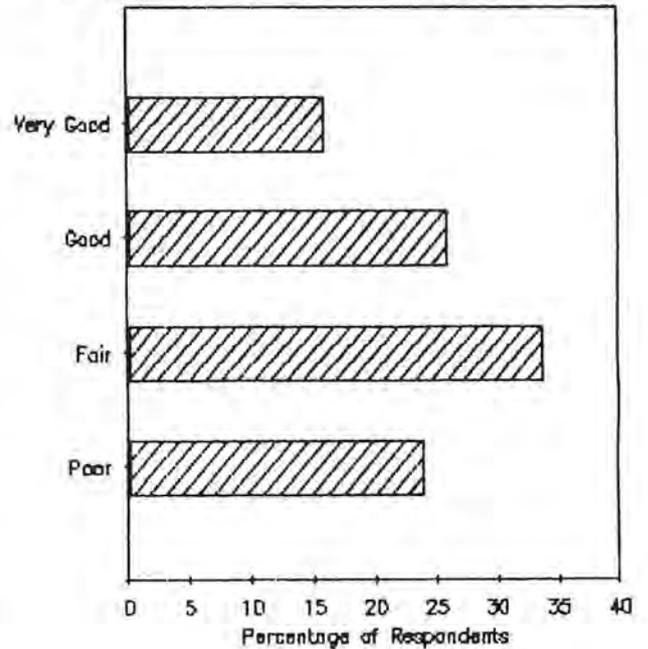
Question 9D  
Golf Course (5% used)



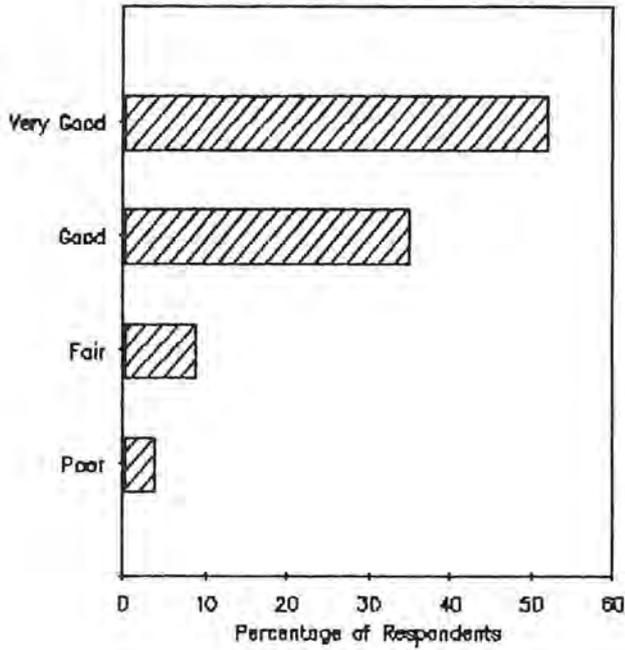
Question 9E  
Museum (13% used)



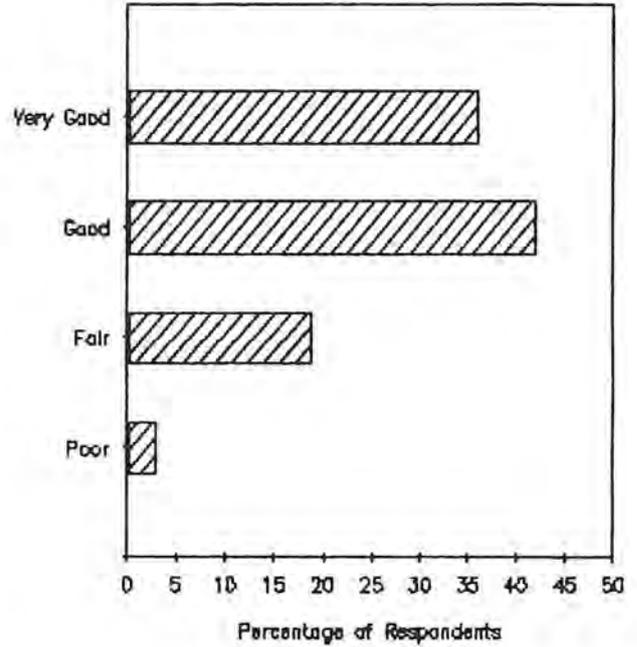
Question 9F  
Kangaroo/Emu Enclosure (41% used)



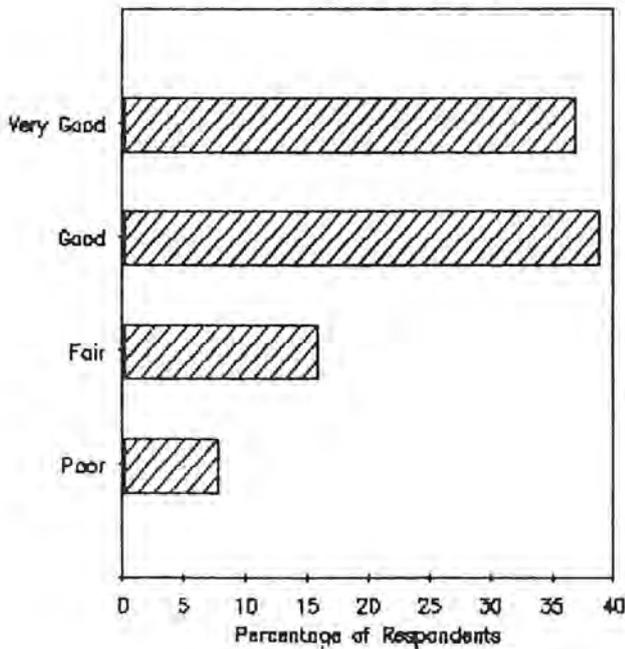
Question 9G  
Swimming Pool (21% used)



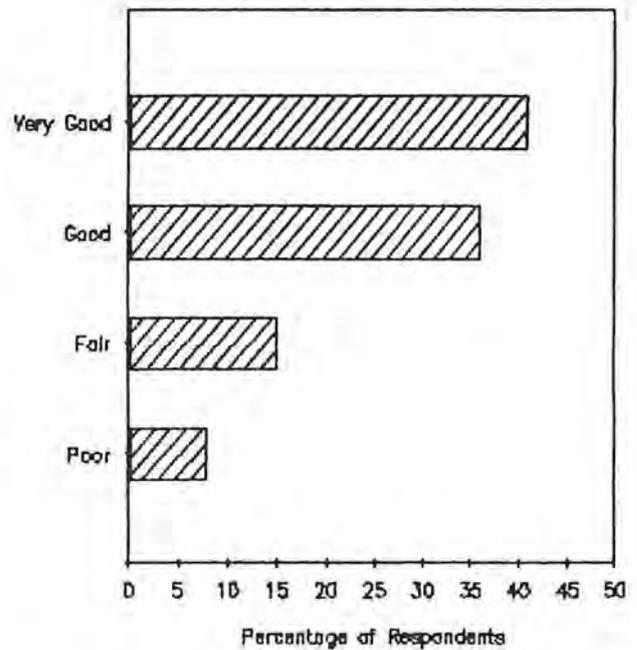
Question 9H  
Nature Trails (20% used)



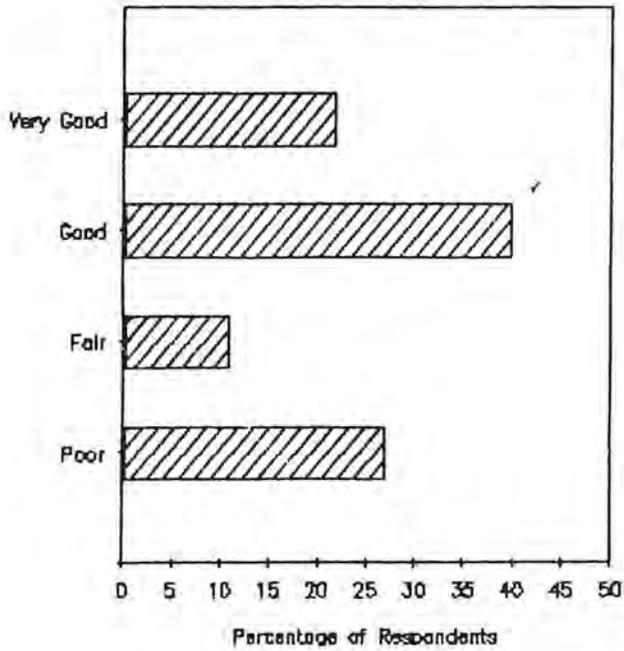
Question 9I  
Row Boats (23% used)



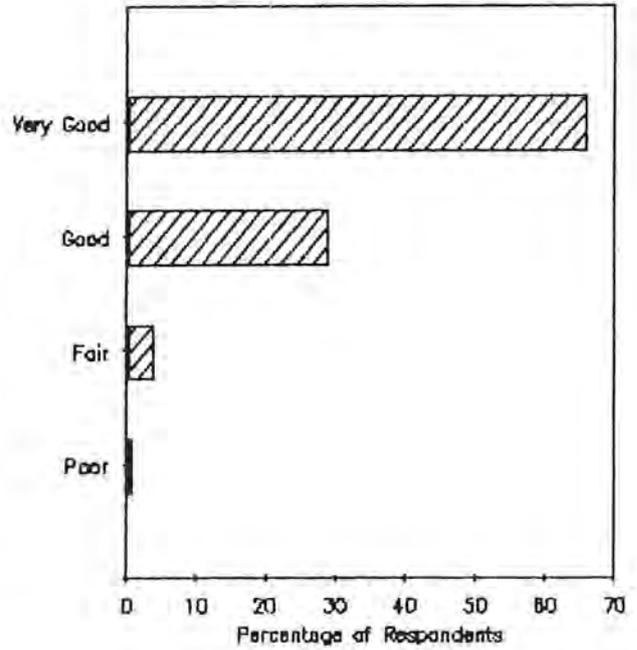
Question 9J  
Hotel (24% used)



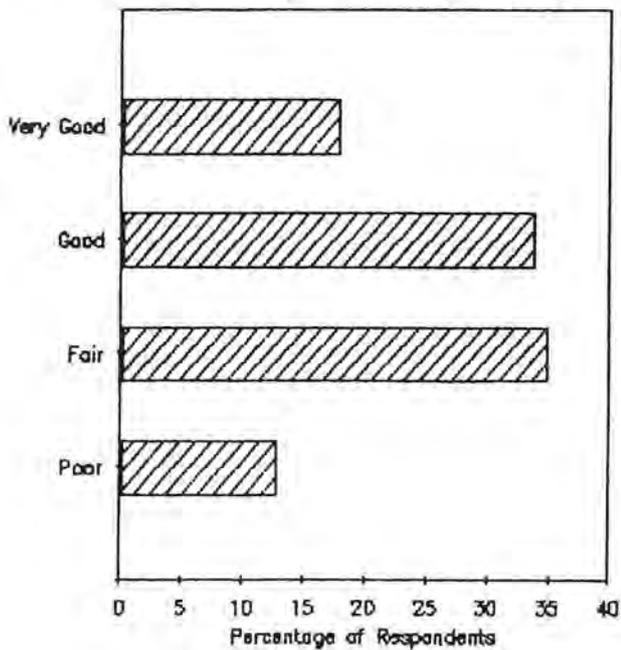
Question 9K  
Wildflower Garden (20% used)



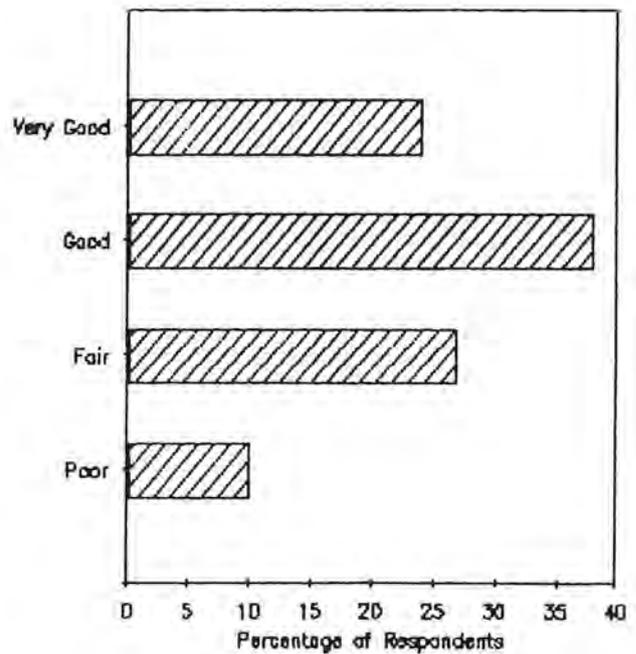
Question 9L  
Cave Tour (21% used)



Question 9M  
Souvenir Shop/Office (19% used)



Question 9N  
Kiosk (40% used)



10. WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE PARK? (Refer to Graph 10)

Overall there were 1060 responses to this question, compared to 265 responses to the next question regarding dislikes about the Park. This probably reflects overall positive feelings and satisfaction towards the Park as it is.

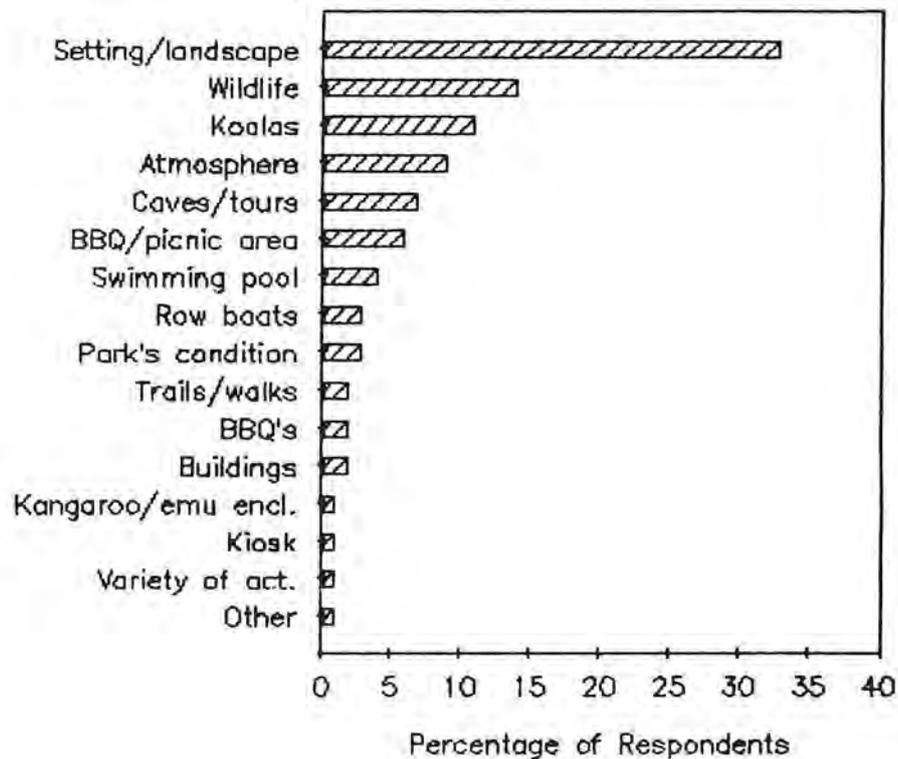
A high proportion of likes related to the Park environment, its landscape/setting (33 percent of the total likes), wildlife (14 percent), and its general atmosphere (9%), totalling 54 percent. Other aspects which were quite highly liked were the koalas (11 percent) and the Crystal Cave and tour (11 percent); these were both given high ratings in question 9 also.

Those responses shown in graph 10 are the most frequent answers; there were a number of other responses which have been taken into account but not shown here.

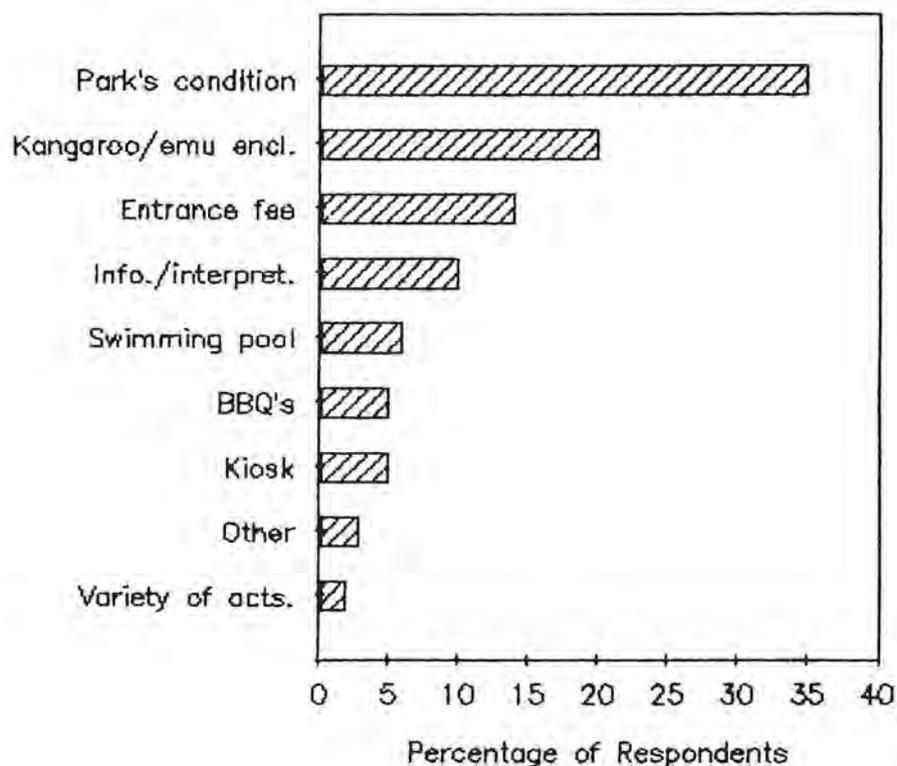
Implications for Management

1. The features of the Park that were most liked by respondents need to be retained if possible.
2. The features most liked in the Park can be grouped together to encompass a 'character' of the Park which needs to be maintained.

Question 10  
 What do you like most about the Park?  
 (1060 Responses)



Question 11  
 What do you dislike about the Park?  
 (265 Responses)



11. WHAT DID YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE PARK? (Refer to Graph 11)

Of the 265 responses to this question, 35 percent disliked the overall condition of the Park, ie. its lack of maintenance, general downgraded condition. Since the survey was conducted, the level of maintenance in the Park has increased. 20 percent of respondents disliked the kangaroo/emu enclosure, for reasons discussed in Question 9, 14 percent disliked the recent (at the time of survey) increase in the entrance fee. It would be interesting to conduct the survey again, because experience has shown that there are negative reactions to price rises initially, but the reactions decrease with time. Other comments included disliking paying at the entrance and again for the use of other facilities.

The provision of information such as signs and pamphlets (regarding what facilities are available and where, hours of opening etc) and interpretive information (regarding names of plants and animals etc) was considered inadequate by 10 percent of respondents.

Other facilities which were also disliked more highly were the swimming pool (regarding the standard of the facility; the fact it was not open on one of the survey days etc), barbecues (regarding having to pay for their use; not enough; inadequate cleaning; the fact they are electric or gas-operated, rather than wood); the kiosk (regarding long queues for service, lack of selection of food, lack of devonshire tea service etc); and a lack of variety of activities.

The results shown on Graph 11 are the most common responses, there were a number of others which have been taken into account but are now shown here.

Implication for Management

Aspects of the Park which were most disliked need to be examined with regards to improvements or changes.

12a. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK SHOULD PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANIMALS, BIRDS, PLANTS ETC IN THE PARK (Refer to Graph 12a)

Agree 72%      Disagree 15%      Undecided 13%

This response gives strong re-inforcement for the need to provide this type of information in the Park (also commented upon in the 'dislikes' and 'further comments').

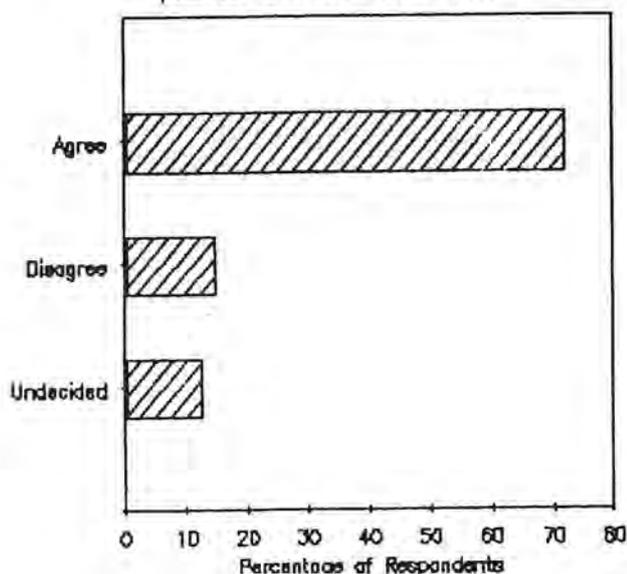
12b. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK NEEDS MORE PLACES WHERE YOU CAN WALK IN THE BUSH (Refer to Graph 12b).

Agree 38%      Disagree 38%      Undecided 24%

Since the Park is traditionally a place for barbecues, rowboats etc in a grassed landscape, it is not surprising that many respondents felt undecided or disagreed with the need for more bushwalking places; what is surprising is the similar proportion agreeing with the statement. Where walk trails are provided, responses to Question 9 showed that 20 percent used nature trails.

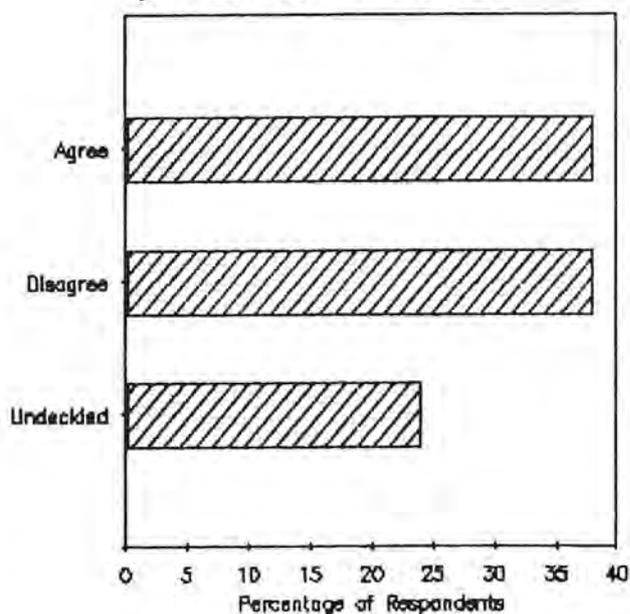
QUESTION 12A

Yanchep National Park should provide more information about the animals, plants etc. in the Park



Question 12B

The Park needs more places where you can walk in the bush



12c. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK IS OVERCROWDED (Refer to Graph 12c)

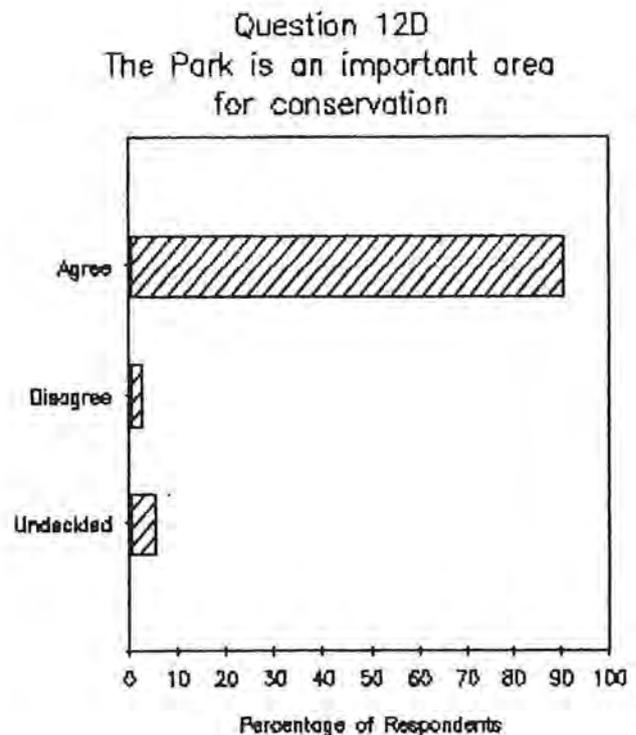
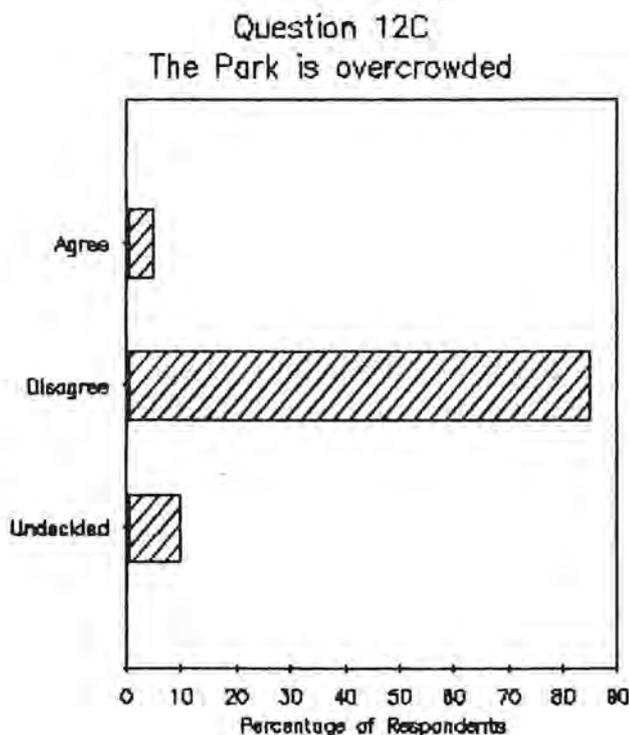
Agree 5%      Disagree 85%      Undecided 10%

On the survey days, very few respondents felt the Park was overcrowded. It would be worthwhile conducting the survey on various peak days to gauge some measure of visitors perceptions of crowdedness.

12d. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK IS AN IMPORTANT AREA FOR CONSERVATION (Refer to Graph 12d).

Agree 91%      Disagree 3%      Undecided 6%

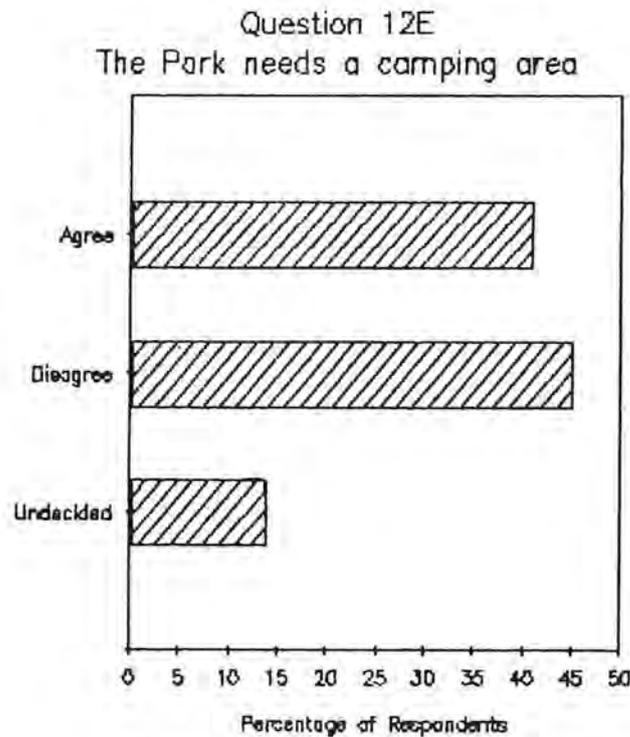
This response shows an overwhelming feeling for the conservation values of the Park, and re-inforces the objectives formulated for the management of the Park.



12e. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK NEEDS A CAMPING AREA

Agree 41%      Disagree 45%      Undecided 14%

This shows a fairly equal response for and against camping. A number of respondents added the style of camping they would prefer, ranging from a caravan park to limited facilities; others added they supported camping provided it was kept separate from the recreation area.



SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER No. 3

A SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK WORKSHOP

A public workshop was held on Sunday, May 17, as part of public participation in the preparation of the draft management plan for Yanchep National Park.

The day was divided into two sections. The morning involved five speakers, giving brief information on conservation, heritage, tourism and recreation values of the Park, and the role of the Park in the City of Wanneroo. The afternoon involved two workshop sessions, in which groups of 5 to 6 looked at two aspects of the Park: Yanchep in the future and management priorities.

The following is a summary of the proceedings. The summary texts of the talks are based on tape recordings; the results of the workshop sessions are based on written worksheets submitted and recordings of presentations of each group.

## WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Alan Burbidge     | CALM   |
| Dennis Cluning    | Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation |
| Bert Crane        | MLA Moore  |
| Oscar Drescher    | City of Wanneroo                                   |
| Rob Faulds        | W.A. Speleologists Group                           |
| Terry Hales       | CALM   |
| John Ham          | W.A. Tourism Commission                            |
| Chris Haynes      | CALM   |
| Micheal Healy     | W.A. Inbound Tour Operators Association            |
| Ian Herford       | CALM   |
| Jenny Hodder      | W.A. Tourism Industry Association                  |
| Noni Keys         | Australian Conservation Foundation                 |
| Arthur McComb     | University of W.A.                                 |
| Neil McGrechan    | Department of Sport and Recreation                 |
| Janet Male        | Yanchep National Park Kiosk                        |
| Terry Male        | Yanchep National Park Kiosk                        |
| Neville Marchant  | W.A. Wildflower Society                            |
| Derek Newton      | Yanchep National Park Golf Club                    |
| Fred Pound        | National Trust of W.A.                             |
| Clive Robertson   | Conservation Council of W.A.                       |
| Geoff Shannon     | Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union            |
| Jim Sharp         | CALM   |
| Vanessa Smith     | CALM   |
| Honor Venning     | W.A. Wildflower Society                            |
| Rita Waters       | City of Wanneroo                                   |
| Jim Williamson    | CALM   |
| Lewis Young       | Yanchep National Park Golf Club                    |
| Marilyn Zakrevsky | Wanneroo Naturalists Club                          |

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK  
WORKSHOP AGENDA

CHAIRMAN: Ian Herford

- 10.00 Introduction  
Chris Haynes (CALM)
- 10.10 Conservation and the Park  
Vanessa Smith (CALM)
- 10.30 Heritage and the Park  
Fred Pound (NATIONAL TRUST)
- 10.50 - 11.10 MORNING TEA
- 11.10 Recreation and the Park  
Jim Sharp (CALM)
- 11.30 The Role of Yanchep National Park in the City of Wanneroo  
Oscar Drescher (WANNEROO CITY COUNCIL)
- 11.50 Tourism and the Park  
Jenny Hodder (WAITA)
- 12.10 - 1.00 LUNCH
- 1.00 Introduction
- 1.10 - 2.00 Discussion "The Future of Yanchep National Park"
- 2.00 - 2.20 AFTERNOON TEA
- 2.20 - 3.30 Discussion "Priorities for Management"
- 3.30 - 3.45 Summary  
Chris Haynes (CALM)

## CONSERVATION AND YANCHEP

A summary of a talk given by Vanessa Smith, CALM.

Yanchep National Park is unlike any other Park in the State. It has a highly developed and modified recreation area with features such as a golf course and swimming pool. Such features and development are not usually associated with national parks. The way the Park is today is a reflection of another era.

The gazetted purpose of the Park is "Protection and Preservation of Caves and Flora and for Health and Pleasure Resort". We are lucky that there happened to be caves and a nice lake in the vicinity, and that the park was developed as a prime recreation area from the 1930s - and later given national park status - because almost incidental to the development of facilities a number of features of high conservation value have been protected.

The area of Yanchep National Park discussed here includes Ridges State Forest (an area managed for conservation by the former Forests Department) which has been recommended for inclusion with Yanchep National Park.

Wetlands - Three wetlands in the Park - Loch McNess, Yonderup and Wilgerup Lakes - each has different features and so complement each other in providing different habitats.

Loch McNess - The Environmental Protection Authority in it's 'Draft Guidelines for Wetland Conservation in the Perth Metropolitan Area' classified the lake as a Category 1 wetland "a wetland of exceptionally high natural and/or human use attributes". Loch McNess scored the highest for natural attributes and third highest for human use attributes.

It is of high value because it is as close to a pristine environment we have left on the Swan Coastal Plain. This is due to almost its whole catchment being intact, whereas most other wetlands have had their catchment modified by housing, agriculture, waste dumps etc. Consequently, the water quality of the lake is very high. The lake is used as a baseline in water quality studies on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Vegetation - A wide range of vegetation provides a wide range of habitats, for example, permanent open water, sedges and rushes.

Fauna - Loch McNess has not been extensively surveyed for fauna, however it is known to host a wide range of birds including the rare freckled duck.

Microfauna - a W.A. Museum study in 1977/78 sampled many wetlands on the northern Swan Coastal Plain and found Loch McNess

- contained the widest range of microhabitats;
- had the highest number of species; and
- contained 2 species, the pea clam and the marron, not found in lakes elsewhere in the region.

Yonderup and Wilgarup Lakes - These lakes are also in good condition but have had little study carried out on them. They are important in providing a wide and different range of habitats and so probably host quite a range of fauna.

#### Management Issues - Wetlands

1. Maintain water quality by
  - a) maintaining the catchment area, being careful with management activities, actions and disease spread;
  - b) maintaining quality of water by careful management activities, controlling input of potential pollutants, control of use of the lake;
  - c) maintaining the vegetation by having a sensitive fire regime, and no clearing; and
  - d) monitor ground water levels.
2. We need to learn more about the wetlands, so that management can be informed; we need to carry out regular monitoring and surveys.

Caves - Yanchep National Park is riddled with caves. Speleologists estimate there are up to 1000 caves, although only about 600 have so far been documented.

One cave, Crystal Cave, is open for viewing. There are a number of scientifically important caves, because of fossils found in them and rare cave fauna, for example, gilgies. The rare fauna are not well documented.

Management Issues - Caves  
People - wear and tear  
erosion  
litter  
vandalism

Recreation - potential to develop adventure cave tours.

Vegetation - The Park has representative types of a variety of vegetation found on the Swan Coastal Plain, which are important to have national park status, as urbanisation gradually degraded or destroys much of the Plain vegetation. For example - Tuart woodland  
Banksia woodland  
Jarrah woodland (it is close to the northern limit)  
Limestone heath  
Quindalup heath.

Rare and restricted flora - There are a number of rare and restricted flora, for example *Eucalyptus salcata* and *Eucalyptus foecunda* have a restricted distribution. There is a rare Chinese brake fern, *Pteris vittata*.

There has not been a detailed vegetation survey of the Park; these species have been found as a result of some work being carried out for the management plan. There may be more rare or restricted species in the Park.

Management Issues - Vegetation  
Fire - we need a variety of regimes to manage a variety of species.  
Dieback Disease - is in the Park, its extent is not known.  
Wood cutters - need patrols by rangers.  
Weeds - found in areas of disturbance, particularly the facilities area.  
Degraded areas - need rehabilitation.

Fauna - The Park is host to a variety of mammal, reptile and amphibian fauna including - Western grey kangaroo, possums, native rat, bats, echidna, brush wallaby.

Management Issues - Feral animals - foxes, rabbits, cats - which compete with native mammals

Kangaroo numbers - can become too high with lawns providing feed.

Kangaroo shooters - need ranger patrols.

General Management Issues.

1. Fire - we need to protect human lives and property values in the recreation area and neighbouring areas, so we need to maintain firebreaks and carry out some fuel reduction burns.
2. Knowledge - there is much we don't know about many important aspects of the Park, we need biological surveys and monitoring.

Future Issues.

1. Increased people pressure, a high demand for variety of recreational activities, more pressures on the natural environment.
2. Spread of dieback disease.

There are a variety of features in the Park that are of high conservation value. There are a number of pressures which are a threat to those values. Management involves protecting those conservation values while allowing people to enjoy and appreciate them.

## HERITAGE AND YANCHEP

Summary of a talk given by Fred Pound of the National Trust of W.A.

The National Trust recently classified the buildings in Yanchep National Park and in doing so did a lot of homework into the historical background of the Park.

When preparing a plan for heritage requirements it is obligatory to state the statutory requirements so that a place of significance can be placed on Commonwealth and State Heritage registers. Yanchep National Park is such a place. Since its inception it has been, and will continue to be, subject to research, recording, restoration and conservation for the benefit of our descendants.

As trustees it should be remembered that our role, all of us, is to help not to hinder this conservation work. I speak on behalf of the National Trust which has a strong educational role in assisting statutory heritage requirements. The main aim is to further public appreciation and enjoyment of State heritage by identifying and providing information on places, buildings and other things which are of significance, and illustrate the history of Western Australia.

William Morris said "Old buildings do not belong to us only, they belong to our forefathers and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false, they are not in a sense our property to do as we like with them, we are only trustees for those who come after us".

(A short history of the Park was given - Ed.).

In general, all the buildings are of interest, as they reflect different periods and different uses of the area during this century. The Lodge and Inn, with the Tram cottages, are examples of efforts to provide tourist accommodation in the 1930s when little finance was available. All the buildings in the central area illustrate early attempts to meet the administrative needs of a national park. The outlying structures - H. White's house now converted for a ranger's residence and the ruins of the Shapcott buildings (called the Ghost House) - provide links with an early settler and a well known public servant.

Buildings are classified according to the following criteria:

- 20 architectural/technical accomplishment
- 21 demonstration of way of life/custom/process or function
- 22 historical significance/of development or cultural phases/ important figure(s)
- 23 environmental importance/townscape or landscape value/high degree of unity (or diversity)/setting
- 24 scarcity value/a particularly fine (or unique) example.

Administration building - 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

This building matches the style of the two lodges and the Yanchep Inn which were built at the same period which adds to its value. It has a prominent gabled roof with Tudor strapwork. The entrance porch is supported on natural limestone columns. Very few examples of structures of this type now remain.

McNess Guest House - 21, 22, 23 and 24.

The building is important as the first accommodation for visitors to the Park and for its connection with Sir Charles McNess. Incorporated in it is the original Cave House. The style of the building is in character with the Inn, Gloucester Lodge and the Administration building and few structures of this type now remain.

Gloucester Lodge and Pool - 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24

Completed in 1933 this building was originally known as the Lodge but was re-named Gloucester Lodge when H.R.H the Duke of Gloucester attended a ball in one of the caves and stayed at the Lodge. It was closed in 1976 and demolition suggested but it was taken over by the Shire of Wanneroo and has been developed as a local Museum, opened in 1979.

With its gabled roof and use of local stone the building is in character with the office, the McNess Lodge and the Inn. With the swimming pool at the rear and the surrounding trees and garden the setting is attractive and as with the other structures examples of this type of building are rare.

Yanchep Inn - 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

The building is interesting for its Tudor type architecture, with limestone walls and piers, leadlight windows and internal wooden panelling - also for the fact that an attempt was made to reproduce the character of an English inn. With the other three stone buildings it completes an homogeneous setting of some rarity. The exterior at the front and the public rooms at the front have a distinct character which should be retained.

Tram Cottages - 21, 22 and 24.

The trams are of interest in themselves as examples of early models used by the Perth Tramways, their form still being visible, and also for the uses to which they have been put. Few examples of this model remain in W.A. The setting is attractive, above the Boomerange Gorge.

Ghost House and Chauffeur's Room with Garage - Ruin - 21, 22 and 23.

The area is of interest in the Park as a historic site, containing as it does relics of the Park's early development. It is also of interest for its association with L. E. Shapcott a well known if somewhat controversial civil servant of the period who used the cottage for entertaining at weekends. The setting, with both native and introduced trees, is most attractive.

Army Bunkers - 21, 22 and 24.

They are of importance as one of the remaining links with activities during the World War when Yanchep National Park was taken over by the armed services. They are well preserved examples of their type, of which few remain.

Other significant features of the Park are Crystal Pool, Boomerange Gorge, the lakes, the ovals, picnic area, tennis, golf course, boating facility the animal compounds, and the birdlife. Historically, use of the Park involves tranquility, memories, honeymoons.

A report by Grant on Preservation and Restoration in 1972 said "Man's understanding of the values of the products of the past is a relatively new expression of his progress in civilisation in comparison with the length of

time the he left the barbaric state behind him. The desire to preserve these products is an inspiration to future generations in a chain of continuity, which every healthy culture requires, is even newer still".

## RECREATION AND YANCHEP

A summary of a talk given by Jim Sharp, CALM.

Definition of recreation: the components of recreation are

- activity or experiences
- choice
- enjoyment, fulfillment, personal development.

Recreational activities encompass a wide range of activities and social and economic benefits.

### National Parks in relation to recreation

When Yanchep National Park was first established the recreational demands were for more active activities such as golf, swimming, sports etc. Now the demand has shifted to more ecological, environment - based activities.

Yanchep was an island of development in a sea of naturalness, and now it is becoming an island of naturalness in a sea of urban development.

Yanchep is different from other national parks in the range of more active recreational activities and opportunities that are provided. This presents a big challenge for management.

### Why is the Park important as a recreational destination?

1. There are a range of recreational opportunities in one location; the Park provides a combination of natural and modified environments.
2. Its close proximity to urban populations. Tourism figures for 1985/86 show that 11% of person-day-trips were to the Yanchep/Two Rocks region.
3. It is so well known; it has historical and cultural significance.

### Planning for recreational use of Yanchep

Planning needs to take into account user needs. Identifying user needs is

achieved by public participation in the planning process. However we should not base our projections for future use solely on existing user needs, incrementally responding to user pressure; we need to make positive decisions, taking in a broader perspective, about what we want to provide in the Park ensuring that the resource is protected.

#### Suggestions for future use of Yanchep National Park

We need to take into account the diversity of recreational opportunities in the Park, and plan for recreational use based on the uniqueness of the Park.

There are three sources of information we have on user needs and aspirations in the Park:

1. 1982/83 survey conducted by the National Parks Authority.
2. 1987 survey carried out in conjunction with the preparation of a management plan for the Park, and which will be ongoing.
3. Ongoing public participation arising from advertisement of the management plan preparation via newspapers, letters sent out, pamphlets, displays and this workshop.

Information gathered has included the following:

- Visitor numbers are about 250,000 per year. There was a steady consistent decline in numbers until 1981, numbers have since remained stable.
- Majority of visitors are from the Perth metropolitan area.
- There is a high degree of interstate and overseas visitors (about 34%) which is a higher proportion than for other national parks in the State.
- Majority of visitors partake in socialising activities such as barbecuing and picnicing.
- Important aspects of the Park are: the relationship of land and water, the attractive landscape, atmosphere, old buildings, its comfortableness and a feeling of security.

- Facility-orientated activities are generally used by local people, such as golf course, swimming pool and hotel.
- Tourists are orientated towards examples of the natural environment such as wildflowers and animals.

#### Future recreational activities

1. The Park to be maintained as complementary to other regional recreational opportunities. Part of the decline in visitor numbers over the last 10 years is probably related to the development of alternative recreational opportunities over that period.
2. We need to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities based on the uniqueness of the Park.
3. Expand the use and appreciation of the Park from the present use of only 10-15% of the Park.
4. We need to focus on the quality of experience of people including programs to see, appreciate and learn about the Park, generally providing more information and education.

#### Questions

Q - Can you clarify the decline in visitor numbers?

A - In 1978 there were 311,000 visitors, in 1985 there were 250,000.

Q - Does the decline coincide with an increase in entrance fees?

A - The figures don't show a big impact of increasing entrance fees; it appears in some monthly figures but spread out annually there is not an obvious impact.

Comment - from 1978 there has been development of a large variety of opportunities in the region including a lion park, Atlantis, botanic golf etc. So visitors to the region are more spread out over a wider range of activities.

Q - Has there been a change in demand for more natural environment-based recreation, as the Park has changed from an island of development in a sea of naturalness to an island of naturalness in a sea of urban development?

A - Yes, the figures indicate this. Thirty years ago the prime attraction of the Park was an away-from-home experience with an overnight stay, orientated towards built facilities such as the hotel, swimming pool and golf course. The built facilities are now mainly used by local people.

Q - With the demand for information, isn't Yanchep a great place to develop an information centre where you can inform a vast amount of people in the ways of national parks?

A - Yes! With the high level of visitation to the Park, there is a large captive audience. There is an opportunity to use Yanchep as the "shop-window" to national parks in the State, a place where they can have a good experience and get good information.

Q - What types of programs did you have in mind?

A - This is an evolving process where the role of the rangers can be expanded to include leading people into the environment. These types of interpretive activities are very popular. This can be carried out within a government organisation, but also the tourism industry has a role to play. This will enable us to lead people beyond the concept of Yanchep as a facility area to an experience of the environment.

Q - Although conserving the natural environment is important, it is also important to maintain the facilities area, that is what makes Yanchep unique. It provides an opportunity for people to "see W.A." in one visit. Features such as the bird cage were important, and maybe it should be put back. There is room for both conservation and the development area.

A - Yes there is room for both. The "shop-window" can provide information that goes beyond the Park; we also have to concentrate on quality; either we do it really well, or we don't do it at all. It is important to recognise Yanchep's role in tourism and to maintain it as a quality tourist destination.

## ROLE OF YANCHEP IN THE CITY OF WANNEROO

Summary of talk given by Oscar Drescher, City Planner, City of Wanneroo.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Wanneroo City Council.

### Yanchep in the Region

Important aspects - the location of urban development; location of other large natural parks such as Walyunga, John Forrest National Parks, and Whiteman Park in the region. Greater use of these parks has probably contributed to a down fall in Yanchep's visitor numbers.

Yanchep will again experience high visitor numbers because of: high regional growth; its location; it is so well known and its uniqueness.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Yanchep National Park to the City of Wanneroo:

ADVANTAGES - introduces tourism and people generally to the area, spending money on the facilities that the City provides.

DISADVANTAGES - higher maintenance of roads, parks etc.

There are a range of recreational facilities in the region, provided by government and private enterprise. Government is represented by bodies such as CALM and local government. The Wanneroo Council provides a variety of passive and active recreational areas. There is a good balance in what is provided by local and State government; CALM is the most qualified to manage conservation areas; the City of Wanneroo provides a range of complementary recreational opportunities.

Yanchep will always have an important role to play, although some facilities may diminish in their importance, such as the golf course - there will eventually be up to 20 golf courses within the City of Wanneroo.

Ultimately urban areas will expand north from Wanneroo to abut Yanchep National Park. It will introduce to the northern corridor about 400,000

people. This will result in a lot of pressure on the City's recreational areas, the coastline and Yanchep National Park. Changes which may result from the review of the Metropolitan Region Scheme could introduce an additional 400,000 people.

Yanchep will be significant in the future as part of a green belt of regional open space, in amongst developed urban areas, extending from Yanchep National Park down to Lake Joondalup. There is potential of this linear regional open space, linking west to coastal areas, for providing access, walkways, wilderness camps, equestrian trails, natural experiences. Wilderness camps have been established at Two Rocks and Caraban.

Provision of short-term accommodation has potential for expansion in the future either in Yanchep National Park or in the vicinity.

Yanchep has a uniqueness in that it is close to the metropolitan region, close to a large population catchment and eventually the population will engulf it. There will need to be very careful controls and management to ensure that the residential development does not affect the environment and breakdown the uniqueness of the Park.

The City of Wanneroo does not wish to see Yanchep National Park reduced in importance, transferred to a body other than CALM or government enterprise; the City is not interested in taking over the Park, it does not have the expertise, or the financial resources; since the Park attracts people not just from the local area but from the region and further afield, it is a State responsibility to manage it; the State has the expertise to manage it.

#### QUESTIONS

Q - The wilderness camps that have been set up - what facilities are provided, and who owns the land - is there long term security for the camps?

A - The Two Rocks camp is on land owned by Yanchep Sun City; the City of Wanneroo contracted a squad from the Army to construct a road to it. There are only basic facilities provided: an ablution block and a windmill. It is privately owned and the City has a lease.

(There was another question, however the batteries ran out on the tape recorder and so it was not recorded).

## TOURISM AND YANCHEP

Summary of a talk given by Jenny Hodder, Executive Director, W.A. Tourism Industry Association.

### What is a tourist?

Anyone who travels from their residence to another place for example going to Yanchep from Mosman Park; it is not simply the international or interstate visitor who is a tourist.

### Relationship between tourism and the natural environment

- In the past there has been a lack of understanding between tourism and the environment, especially in regard to conservation and land management.
- Many of the State's best tourist attractions are in National Parks.
- Some of these are presently denied to the tourism industry because land managers quite rightly do not consider it appropriate that they are exposed to pressure without adequate management.
- There can be a positive relationship between tourism and the environment.
- There is a need for provision of funding to ensure adequate management of and access to tourist attractions.
- Funds can be generated for conservation and land management through tourism development - some ideas: co-operative management agreements, manager-user agreements, corporate sponsorship. Corporate sponsorship ideas - funding of walking trails, picnic facilities, provision of interpretive information.
- There is a need for education and interpretation - on the value, use and enjoyment of natural areas. With education and interpretation, given the right factors and the right mix, I can see the public becoming watchdogs and custodians of our natural features.

## The future

- Yanchep will continue to be a valuable asset for the tourism industry; a combination of factors make it significant: natural attractions, its flora and fauna, its distance from Perth.
- The number of visitors to this State is on the increase. Rather than overload the facilities available, and hence destroy the environments that we have, there is going to be a need to develop many new areas, and with the help of marketing, spread the visitors over a wider range of facilities.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

Yanchep National Park in the Future

Four questions were asked, and each group was to address them. The following are the points raised from each question. The many and varied points have been combined together into similar areas.

In some areas there was a degree of concensus, and these points are marked with an \*. The remaining points have no particular order of emphasis.

TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK TO BE?

- Keep the uniqueness, naturalness, attractiveness, specialness of Yanchep \*
- Maintained and upgrade the facilities area and improve presentation \*
- No more development or clearing of bush areas.
- Conservation of flora and fauna should be a priority by:
  - a) zoning of the Park to cater for low to high impact use;
  - b) creation of buffer zones with restricted access to ease people pressure;
  - c) no burning in some areas.
- Need to have an overall plan to cater for increased demands for such features as carparks.
- Facilities need to cater for increasing and/or changing demands such as parking, food outlets, better information, more access to other parts of the Park, better quality experiences.
- Develop the Park as doorstep/showcase to other Parks in the State.
- Should be devoted more to the philosophy of a 'pure' national park by doing away with some facilities such as the golf course.
- Link the Park with other regional parks.
- Develop educative and interpretive role of the Park; provide quality educational "hands on" facilities; guided walks by specialists.
- Should be a family park similar to Kings Park offering facilities to cater for a wide range of interests.
- Vegetation should show the effects of improved management based on ecological principles.

Some specific comments:

- upgrade wildflower garden, caves and gardens.
- Make more use of the lake, including re-introducing the launch.
- Preserve historical aspects.

WHAT WILL BE THE DEMANDS AND PRESSURES ON THE PARK IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS?

Increased people pressure as a result of increased population, greater tourist traffic, urban spread and commercial development which will cause:

- Greater demand for facilities such as BBQ's, ovals, golf, swimming pool; and for the development of more facilities and roads; and for organised recreation; demand spread over the whole week. \*
- Greater recreational use of the Park by local residents.
- Need to develop a plan for dealing with increased demands.
- Greater environmental impacts such as litter, dieback disease, feral animals, fire danger, the water table will be under pressure, greater pressures on the bushland.
- Separation of the Park from other bushland or adjacent natural or open (farmland) areas; linking the Park with other regional parks is therefore important.
- Growing demand for conservation.

Some qualifiers were made:

- With ever-increasing leisure activities being provided, it is unlikely that visitor numbers will increase.
- There will be an increase in tourism if facilities for seeing the natural environment are maintained and improved.
- There will be overuse of the Park; carrying capacity needs to be assessed.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS ON THE PARK AND ITS ENVIRONMENT OF THESE PRESSURES?

- Impact/deterioration/pollution of the natural environment for example flora, fauna, caves, lake, bushland, generally and other features. (There will be a multiplication of abuse factor). \*
- Resource degradation on all areas.
- Increased usage.
- Increased need for car parking.
- Water table will be affected/lowered.
- There will be more difficulties for management of the Park.
- The Park will become an island, therefore buffer zones are important.
- With greater local population and use of the Park, it will be increasingly difficult to have a pure wilderness experience.

Ways of dealing with these implications are:

- Policing (management) are essential to ensure a balance between leisure and conservation without which there will be no environment worth preserving.
- More staff and money needed to manage and maintain the Park.
- Zoning of the Park for high to low levels of access; to allow for wilderness areas and facility areas.
- Need for site development plans for example design of car parking, better facilities for providing food for visitors.
- Define the carrying capacity of the Park.
- Define management for conservation.
- Better information needed.

WHAT SERVICES AND FACILITIES SHOULD WE BE PROVIDING, AND WHAT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD WE BE IMPLEMENTING (IF ANY), TO DEAL WITH THESE IMPLICATIONS IN 20 YEARS?

- Quality educational and interpretive services, a visitor centre including: programs to cover all of the Park; aim to help and advise users; encourage schools; introduce through the media. \*
- Develop multi-disciplinary/interagency co-ordination in the development of management strategies and the provision of alternative services and facilities to enable Yanchep to survive eg. a management committee consisting of Wanneroo City Council, CALM, Department of Sport and Recreation, Tourism industry, private concerns etc.
- Meet the needs of more people; people-orientated services should be maintained.
- Staff should be supplemented by volunteers.
- Extend the Park as planned.
- Develop connecting regional parks.
- Development walk trails.
- Survey the caves in the Park to find out where they are, their potential and to prevent inadvertant damage.
- Provide simple recreational opportunities.
- Offer long term leases for private concessions (such as the hotel and kiosk); 20 years at least with the option of renewal if supported by performance.
- Commercial businesses should be controlled by the management body.
- Access will be important, requires careful planning of roads etc.

- To reduce pressure of bush areas, develop wildflower garden so that viewing does not have to involve bushwalking.
- Develop Cabaret Cave, possibly by private enterprise; develop Crystal Cave.
- Ongoing funding necessary to support management.

#### Restrictions

- Number of visitors will need to be controlled by either bookings; by limiting number of vehicles and people or facilities quality of experience; based on acceptable levels of abuse.
- Access should be controlled and directed.
- Develop an internal transport system whereby cars park outside the area and use a feeder-bus service.
- With the development of a freeway and the Park becoming an island, feral animals will need control; fencing of the whole Park may be necessary.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

This session was an exercise in ascertaining what the participants saw the priorities of management in the Park should be.

Groups were presented with a Yanchep National Park budget worksheet on which the 1986/87 budget allocation in resource units were included ie. the present management priorities. The total budget equalled 1 000 units. Resource units included cost of labour and materials. Participants were asked to prepare their own budgets for the Park. They had the option of allocating 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , or 2 times the existing unit value for each item. However, the total still had to add up to 1 000 units. So if the allocation was increased on one item, it had to be decreased on another.

Also included were some 'would likes' of the workshop organisers, such as a visitor centre, biological surveys etc. A resource unit value was given to each 'would like'. Participants were encouraged to add any other ideas for the Park, and approximate a value. Any comments or suggestions were also encouraged.

Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 managed to reach a consensus within them, on management priorities, with one individual response from a member of group 5. Group 3 did not reach a consensus and so submitted their budgets individually.

There was not one area in which there was total agreement, although there were some over which it was close to total.

Table 2 is a summary of the priorities assigned by members of each group.

TABLE 2      SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES GIVEN IN THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

| ITEM  | 1986/87 UNIT |          | PRIORITY |          |
|---|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
|   | VALUE        |          | GIVEN*   |          |
|   | EXPENDITURE  | INCREASE | SAME     | DECREASE |
| <u>EXISTING OPERATIONS</u>                                |              |          |          |          |
| <u>SERVICES AND FACILITIES</u>                            |              |          |          |          |
| BUILDINGS<br>(maintenance)                                | 50           | 28%      | 72%      | 0%       |
| BBQs<br>(cleaning; maintenance)                           | 30           | 28%      | 44%      | 28%      |
| ROWBOATS<br>(cleaning; maintenance)                       | 50           | 0%       | 17%      | 83%      |
| CAVES<br>(tours; maintenance)                             | 108          | 5%       | 67%      | 28%      |
| SWIMMING POOL<br>(manager; maintenance)                   | 46           | 0%       | 0%       | 100%     |
| GOLF COURSE<br>(mowing; maintenance)                      | 74           | 0%       | 0%       | 100%     |
| TOILETS<br>(cleaning; maintenance)                        | 40           | 44%      | 56%      | 0%       |
| SIGNS (maintenance)                                       | 12           | 67%      | 28%      | 5%       |
| WATER SUPPLY<br>(repairs; maintenance)                    | 34           | 0%       | 87%      | 11%      |
| ROADS<br>(cleaning; maintenance)                          | 12           | 33%      | 67%      | 0%       |
| KOALAS/KANGAROOS<br>(keeper; plantations;<br>maintenance) | 86           | 0%       | 78%      | 22%      |
| WALK TRAILS<br>(cleaning; maintenance)                    | 8            | 67%      | 28%      | 5%       |
| PAMPHLETS   | 4            | 50%      | 28%      | 22%      |
| <u>PARK PRESENTATION</u>                                  |              |          |          |          |
| RUBBISH REMOVAL   | 42           | 0%       | 94%      | 6%       |

| ITEM   | 1986/87 UNIT |          | PRIORITY |          |                 |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
|  | VALUE        |          | GIVEN*   |          |                 |
|  | EXPENDITURE  | INCREASE | SAME     | DECREASE |                 |
| LAWNS AND OVALS<br>(mowing; cleaning)                    | 30           | 0%       | 87%      | 11%      |                 |
| GARDEN BEDS  | 10           | 11%      | 22%      | 67%      |                 |
| WILDFLOWER GARDEN  | 8            | 72%      | 28%      | 0%       |                 |
| DEAD TREE REMOVALS                                       | 4            | 0%       | 72%      | 28%      |                 |
| PICNIC AREAS<br>(maintenance; cleaning)                  | 4            | 33%      | 67%      | 0%       |                 |
| <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>                                    |              |          |          |          |                 |
| OFFICE AND STAFF   | 124          | 0%       | 67%      | 33%      |                 |
| SEC/TELECOM  | 38           | 0%       | 78%      | 22%      |                 |
| TICKET SELLING   | 28           |          | 44%      | 56%      |                 |
| RANGERS<br>(training; uniforms)                          | 12           | 39%      | 33%      | 28%      |                 |
| <u>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT</u>                          |              |          |          |          |                 |
| FIREBREAKS, CONTROL BURNS                                | 60           | 0%       | 94%      | 6%       |                 |
| PEST AND WEED CONTROL                                    | 10           | 39%      | 55%      | 6%       |                 |
| PATROLS (by Rangers)                                     | 76           | 0%       | 83%      | 17%      |                 |
| <u>WOULD LIKES</u>                                       | ESTIMATED    |          |          |          | NO              |
|  | UNIT VALUE   |          |          |          | <u>PRIORITY</u> |
| VISITOR INFO<br>(operational)                            | 100          | 0%       | 50%      | 33%      | 17%             |
| BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS                                       | 6            | 22%      | 44%      | 22%      | 12%             |
| ENVIRONMENTAL<br>MONITORING                              | 6            | 28%      | 39%      | 28%      | 22%             |
| REHABILITATION   | 8            | 11%      | 39%      | 28%      | 22%             |
| INTERPRETATION<br>(guided walks; 'wilderness'<br>trails) | 18           | 28%      | 22%      | 44%      | 6%              |

\* Percentages are of the 18 workshop participants.

## Specific Comments from Workshop Groups

- Rowboats - lease out to private concession  
- abandon because of impact on ecological balance of lake  
- need to be replaced, for example, by fibreglass boats  
- better management would reduce costs.

### Swimming

- Pool - close  
- lease out to private concession  
- obtain Wanneroo Council contribution  
- obtain Education Department contribution.

### Golf

- Course - close and convert to picnic areas; grasslands: other courses available  
- golf club take over management  
- volunteers assist.

- Signs - including plant labels  
- additional signs required  
- including information

- Roads - improved machinery needs.

### Walk

- Trails - an increase is a 'would like' from one group if funds allowed.

Fire breaks, control burns - fire research needed.

### Wildflower garden

- a number of suggestions to seek sponsorship or volunteers
- work with Kings Park Board/Wildflower Society
- important in the Park
- important for tourism, and as a 'window' for visitors.

### Water

- Supply - needs long term renovation

Kangaroo/

- Koalas - a number of suggestions to seek sponsorship
- private concession

Lawns and

- Ovals - contract out

Dead tree

- removals - only remove where a hazard exists in public use area, not in bushland

Ticket

- Selling - automatic ticket machines (a number of suggestions)
- we should review the charges.

- BBQ's - user cleans

- Caves - commercial tour operators supply their own guides (a number of suggestions)
- lease for private concession
- lease Cabaret Cave for private concession
- improvement necessary
- important and unique to Yanchep, need increased funding

- Pamphlets - an increase is a 'would like' of one group if funds permit

Garden

- beds - convert to native plants
- seek sponsorship
- volunteers to assist

- Rangers - include education and interpretation training.

Would Likes

- Visitor Centre - partially cover by private sector under CALM direction
- definitely needed, essential
- incorporate with good quality tourist features.

Biological Surveys/Environmental Monitoring/Rehabilitation/Interpretation

- increase in surveys lead to increase in knowledge
- large increase given to surveys, monitoring and rehabilitation because it is most important to upgrade and retain the Park as a natural wilderness area.

- Interpretation
- use volunteers
  - include information
  - seek sponsorship
  - include the caves
  - good for tourism.

Other Comments:

- Needs to be an overall increase in funding to the Park, and National Parks generally.
- CALM must keep control of whole Park and any private undertakings and building improvements should be with CALM approval.
- More food outlets.