



Creche of downy Pelican chicks.

WATERFOWL REFUGE BARDON PARK—MAYLANDS

The Stirling City Council has approved of the development of Bardon Park in Maylands, which has a frontage to the Swan River and generally bounded by Riverslea and Fourth Avenues.

This development will be of a passive park type on the land which is presently controlled by the Council.

An area adjacent to the reserve and immediately to the east of St Anne's Hospital, with frontage to the Swan River, is not owned by Council but has been zoned as future foreshore development. When this land is ultimately acquired it will be developed and/or maintained in a natural state in an endeavour to give a unique balance between a natural area and a developed parkland.

Great interest has been shown in this particular development by various groups and they have searched the area and recorded numerous birds, plants and other animals.

Wildlife research officer Mr Jim Lane has recently assisted Mr R. Bell, who owns a substantial portion of this wetland, in the preparation of a plan for the development of the area as a waterbird refuge.

The two most important natural attributes of the area from a birdlife point of view are its large bed of bullrushes and the freshwater springs which emerge from the adjacent hillside. The bullrushes provide breeding habitat for Little Grassbirds and, with improvement, would be suitable for Swampphen, Moorhen, Coot, Grebe and Swans. The freshwater springs provide a year-round flow of potable water and therefore have considerable value as watering points for ducks and swans during the summer months when inland lakes dry up and coastal estuaries turn saline.

The area's value to waterbirds would be greatly enhanced by the provision of one, or perhaps two, freshwater lakes in the centre of the bullrushes, and by the

construction of an island in one of these lakes. Mr Lane envisages an island of two components; a large area of semi-submerged bullrush, and a smaller area of exposed land planted with Paperbarks. The bullrush component would then be free from human interference and therefore an attractive nesting area for water birds. The Paperbark component would be a suitable loafing ground for ducks and swans and, if nest boxes were erected, could be used by ducks for breeding purposes.

The Bardon Park wetland area has a great potential as a water-fowl refuge and when it finally comes to fruition the City of Stirling Council and owners of the riverfront land must be congratulated on their contribution to a better environment.

DR W. D. L. RIDE RESIGNS FROM THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILD LIFE AUTHORITY

In a letter to the chairman of the Western Australian Wild Life Authority on 1 November, 1974, Dr W. D. L. Ride advised of his appointment as Scientific Director of the Australian Biological Resources Study in Canberra.

Because the appointment was to Canberra Dr Ride said it was necessary that he resign from the Authority, but that he very much regretted having to sever this association.

He stated that the long association between the Museum and the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee (now the Wildlife Authority) had been most beneficial. Dr Ride also said that the role of the Wildlife Authority in Western Australia must expand to provide for a close and harmonious working relationship between those who manage the fauna and flora and those who provide information useful in their work (e.g. the Museum, Herbarium and the Botany and Zoology Departments at the University). He said he hoped that the Authority would move towards this end with widened responsibility and a wider membership.

Dr Ride was appointed to the Authority in 1957 and has since made distinguished contributions in the deliberations of the Authority and has been directly responsible for the fruitful co-operation between the Museum and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

An informal luncheon to farewell Dr Ride was held at the Wildlife Research Centre, Wanneroo, following his last Authority meeting on 16th December, 1974.

The present Authority chairman and Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mr B. K. Bowen, spoke of Dr Ride's valued expertise and friendship and wished him every success in his new role. Authority member, Mr Neville Beeck supported Mr Bowen's statement and hoped that the workers for conservation in this State would carry on in the tradition of Dr Ride.