

HISTORY OF DOKI
TAMPA

CASTLE
SUSPENSION FILING

SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED BY
 **TWINLOCK** CRYSTAL FILE

CASTLE 
OFFICE EQUIPMENT



Eric - Test Box
Bayswater

Coot - using the environment
to its advantage
— poly styrene surfers
Bayswater Sanct

Successful Box -
Singleton type
Bayswater
Black Duck

405. 1555

Negatives - for Jim

Ray Mottram.

July-

29th June 11th July.

\$9.00 Weekend

\$6.50 during week.

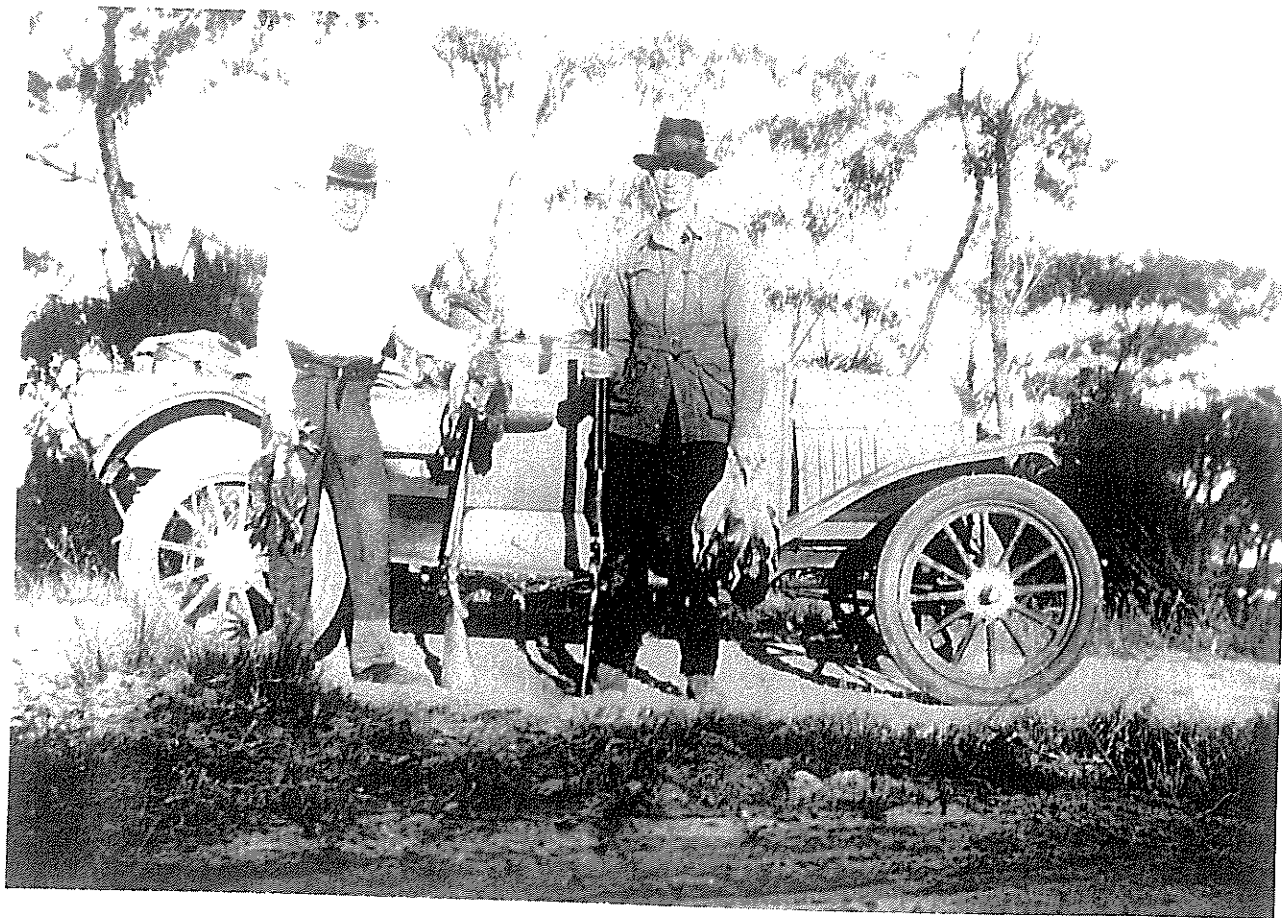
12..

Richard King
Hockridge

REMARKS OF ALL DEPTS. WORK
+ SHARES
EX. IRVING BANK NOTE



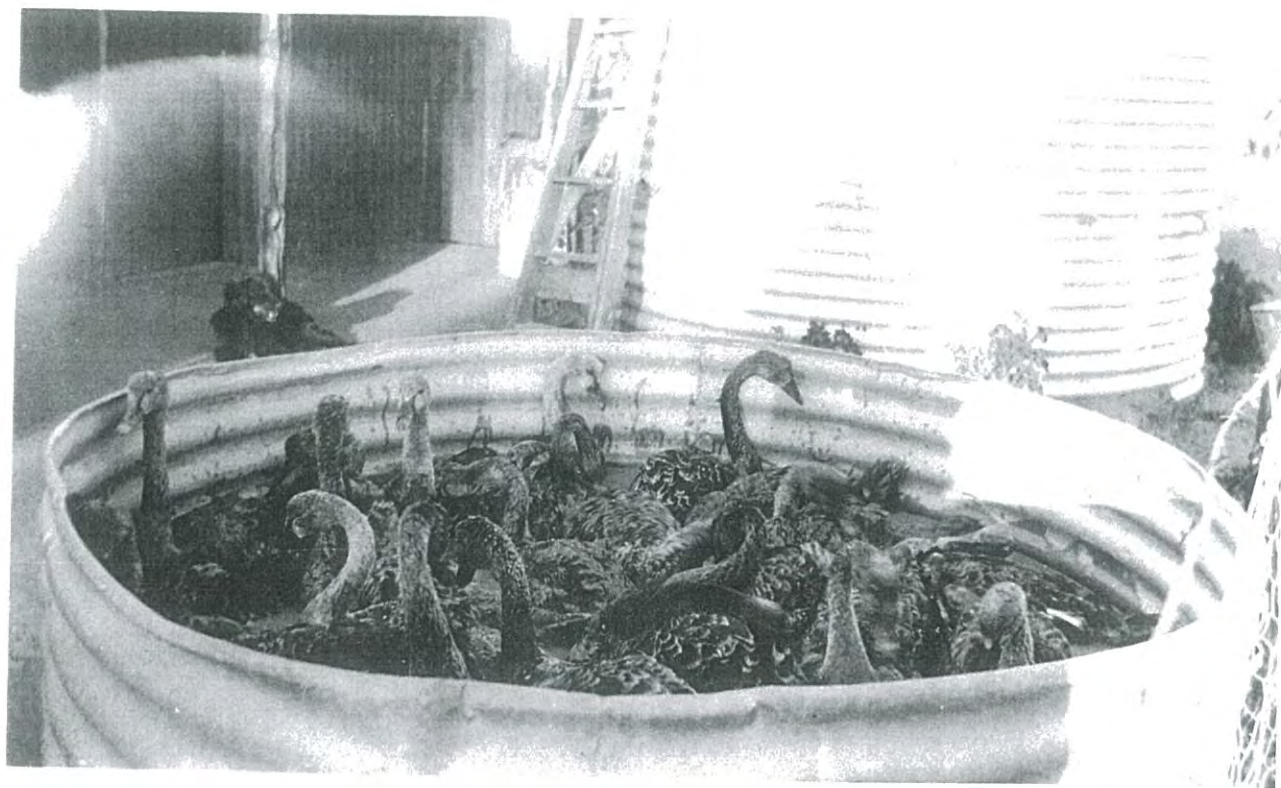




"Brown's" Lake " 1926

Norm Bartlett and Lionel Winthrop.

without the consent of the owner of the copyright
the owner of the copyright



1932 Silver rescue

Young swans in section of 2000 gal. tank half filled
with water. They made no attempt to escape and were
caught on the back of a truck about 12 miles lake
this.

White Lake 1927

Norm Bartlett and Lionel Ginsworth.



1932 Swan ~~Rescue~~ Rescue

Members of Corvair Rifle Club

With captured young swans.

Les Dillon and "Twitzyer Cornet"

Burlington 1932

Photo from Jim Stearns

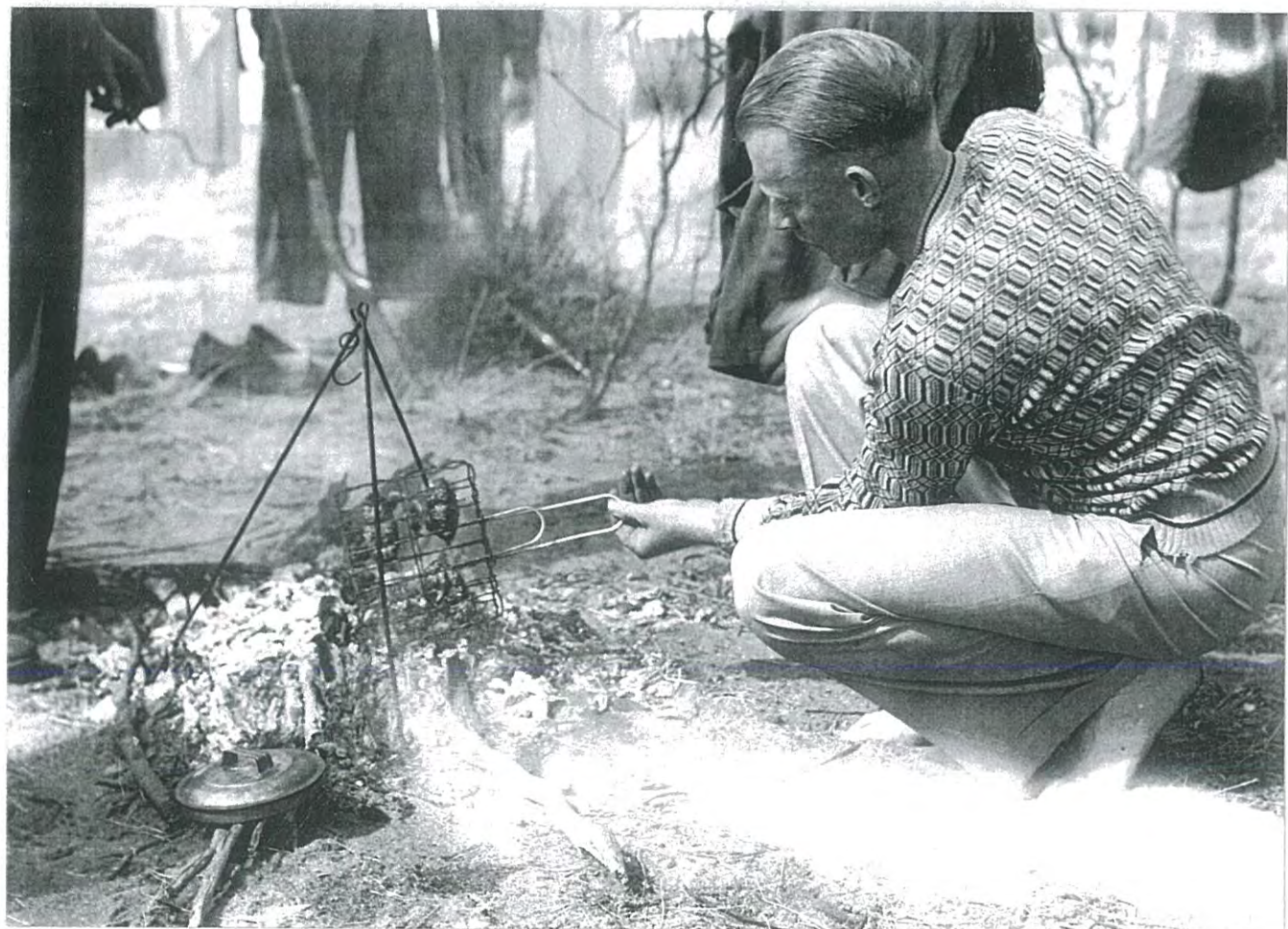


Swanet with pair of young swans
at Scott's Lake 1932

Swanet with pair of young swans

at Scott's Lake

1932





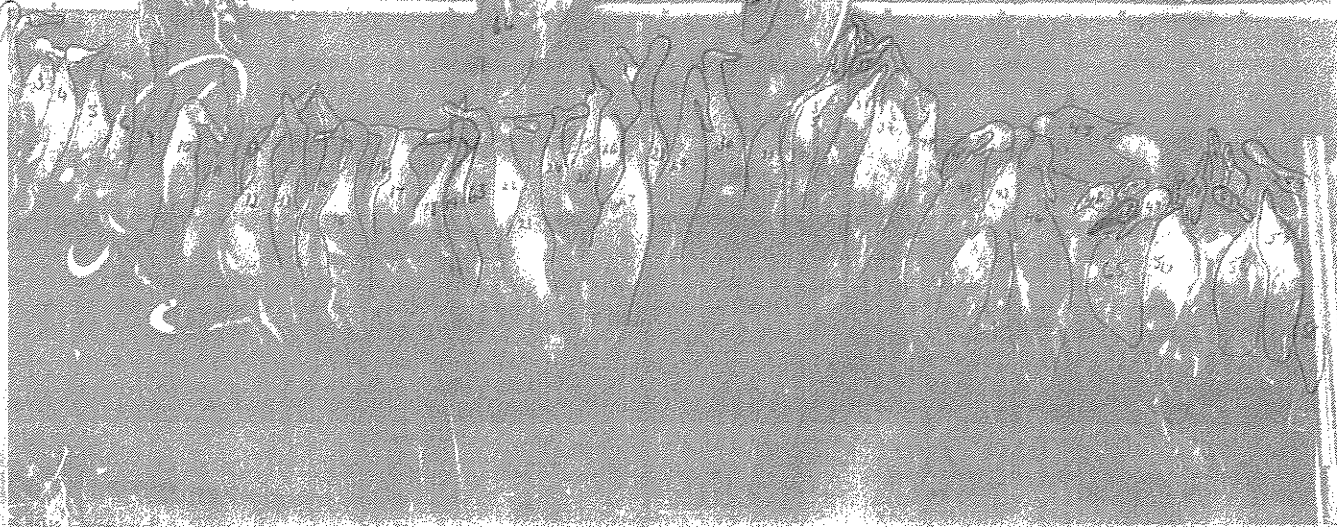
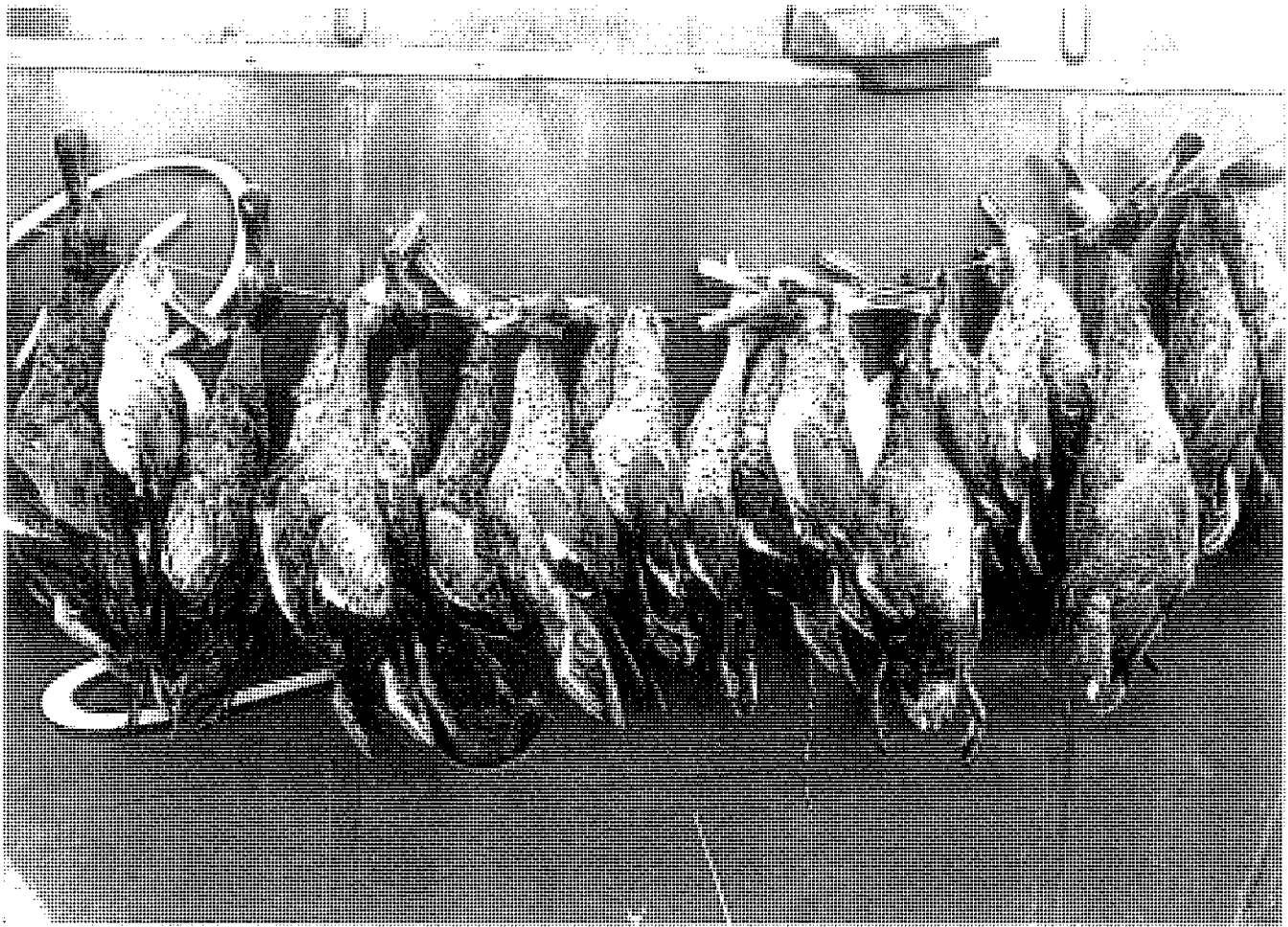
1 Pen

2 Shovel

1 Bench

1 Fred

Photograph of the
shovel
Fred
Bench
Pen



66 Bai

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Shooter
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White Oval
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 ②

Pink-Land
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GT 36

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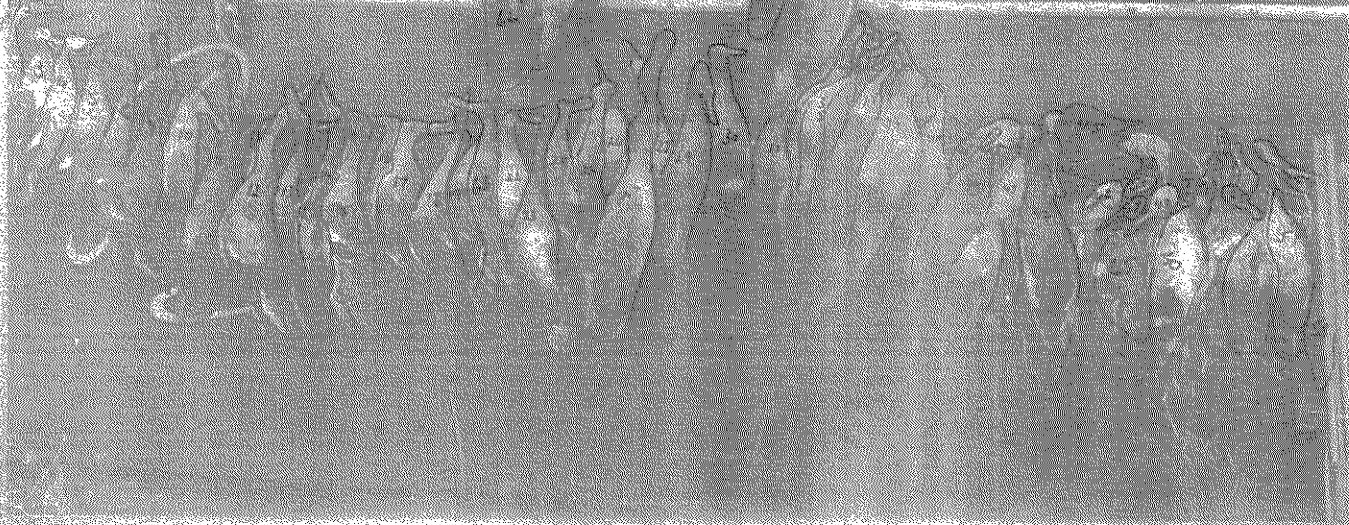
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Ches TL 1

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Searched Babbys dib.

116 West Ave 15 Dec 37 - Jan 38
116 West Main 15 Dec 38 - Jan 39
Daily News



66 Red

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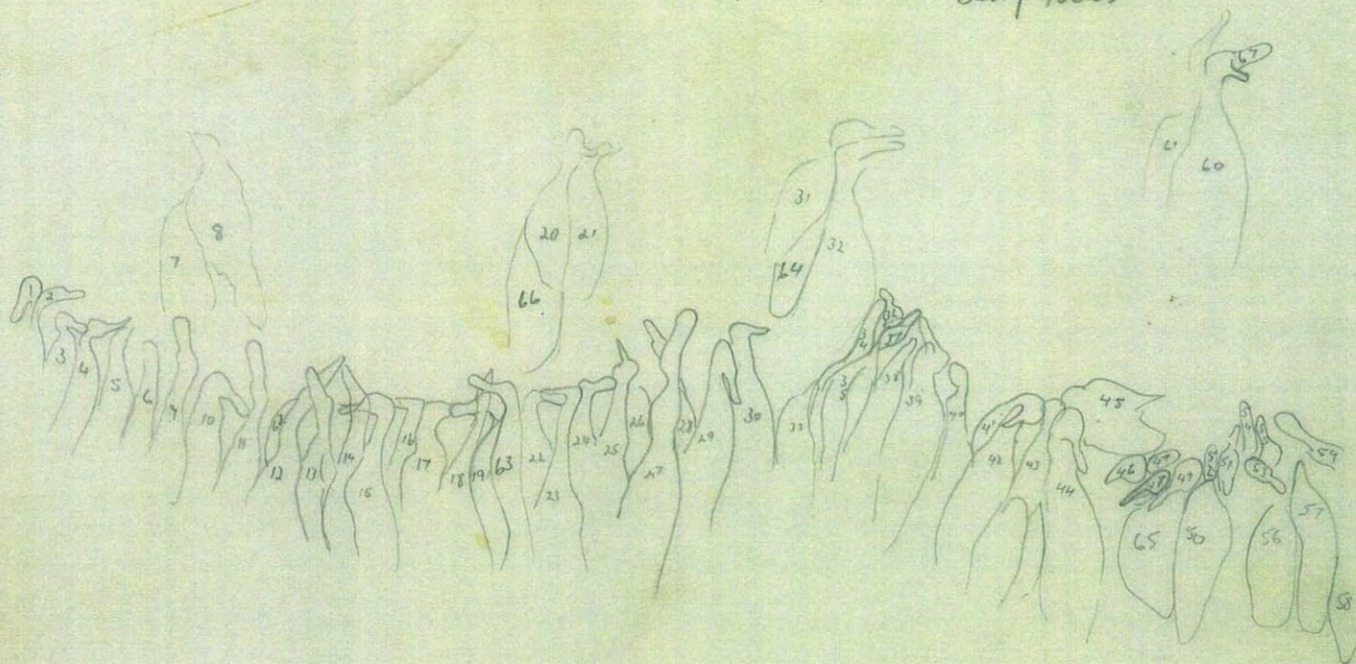


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Searched Battigo Lib.

No West Aust 15 Dec 37 - Jan 38
 West Aust 15 Dec 38 Jan 39
 Daily News



66 Bird

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Shoveler
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White-eyed Duck
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Pink-bellied Duck
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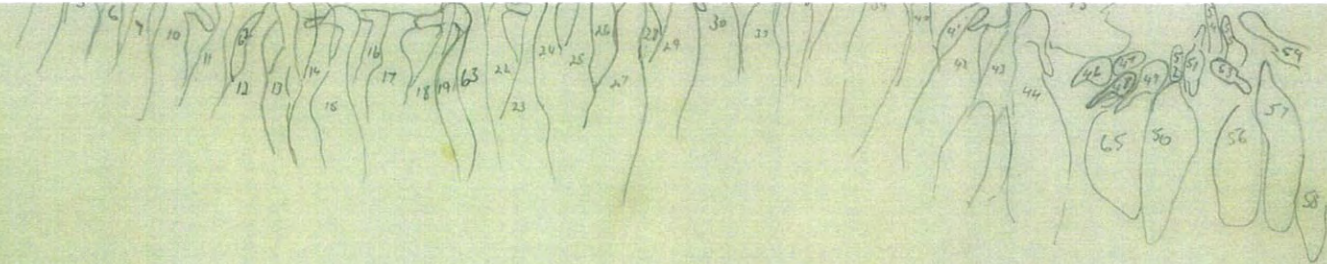
Black Duck
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Chestnut Teal



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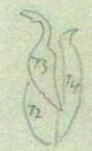
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Pink-eyed Duck
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Chestnut Tail
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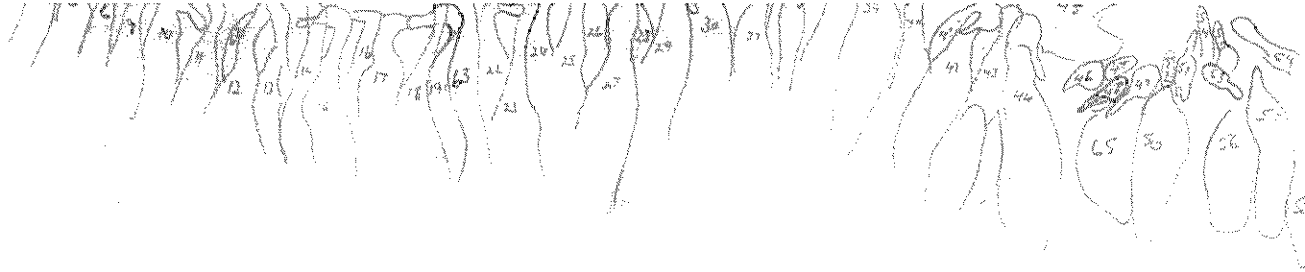
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Grant

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PP 6184

If unclaimed within 14 days return to
Box D162, G.P.O., Perth, W. Aust. 6001



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Dept. Of Fisheries & Wildlife,
P.O. Box 51,
WANNEROO ; 6065.





CHIEF WILDLIFE OFFICER

GILL NETS AS SEABIRD DETERMENTS

Gill nets suspended from the rigging of boats at anchor in Freshwater Bay have been responsible for the deaths of seabirds notably Silver Gulls and Cormorants.

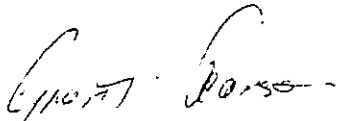
Further losses can be significantly reduced by using more suitable netting material. At present the most commonly used net is a mono filament on fine 4-6 ply large mesh fishing net. These can easily enmesh birds alighting on the decks or rigging or inadvertently flying into the net at night.

Suitable nets will have a mesh size of 15mm or less measured across the bar and be constructed of heavy material such as 10 ply.

Alternatively a Nylex product called Anti-bird Net retailed by Jaylon (see attachment) or A. Richards Pty Ltd 1369 Albany Highway, Cannington should be used. The net is made from rigid resistant polyethylene and is considerably cheaper than similar sized fishing net material and much longer lasting.

(15mm x 9 ply net = 66^C/sqm).

For your information.



Grant Pearson
Technical Officer
Water Bird Research

November 13, 1984.



JAYLON INDUSTRIES PTY. LTD.

28 LEDGAR ROAD, (OFF BALCATT ROAD) BALCATT, W.A. 6021. TELEPHONE (09) 344 3244
P.O. BOX 63, NORTH BEACH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6020.

26th October, 1984.

Mr. G. Pearson,
P.O. Box 51,
Wanneroo. W A 6065.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Anti Bird Nett.

We have Nylex Anti Bird Mesh as a stock item and it is available in rolls 4m wide x 500m long, the price is .26¢ per square metre, that is \$520.00 per roll plus 20% Sales Tax making the total price to you \$624.00 or Sarlon material in rolls 50m long x 4m wide at \$62.46 per roll plus 20% Sales Tax = \$74.95 per roll.

If there is any further information you require, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,
JAYLON INDUSTRIES PTY. LTD.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter B. Blyth", written over a light-colored background.

Peter B. Blyth,
SALES MANAGER.

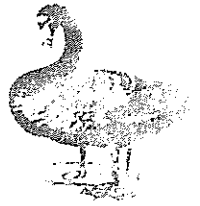
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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre

Corner of Craigie Drive and Ocean Reef Road Woodvale. Western Australia



Postal Address: P.O. Box 51.
Wanneroo, W.A. 6065
Phone (09) 405 1555
Telex: AA 93832

Your Ref
Our Ref

Mrs A. Harris
Newspaper House
St George's Terrace
PERTH
W.A. 6000

Dear Alex,

Please find attached the article on Duck Trapping in the South West as discussed with Jim Lane.

It is most important to avoid providing readers with an account of how to trap ducks as described in the section dealing with wire cage trap construction. It would therefore be appreciated if you could avoid that topic. Also could you ensure that those people mentioned by name in your article are agreeable. If you prefer I will contact them for you.

Many thanks and very best wishes for the new year.

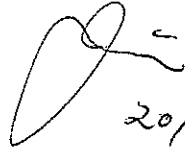
GRANT PEARSON
Technical Officer
Waterbird Research




December 22, 1983.

Grant Please send a copy to Alex
Berni.

Would you please express to
her two concerns

1. We don't want to provide readers with
an account of how to trap ducks (it is
illegal at all times)
2. She (we?) should ensure that
those people mentioned by name in her article
are agreeable to this being done.


20/12/83



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre

Corner of Craigie Drive and Ocean Reef Road, Woodvale, Western Australia
Postal Address: P.D. Box 51, Wanneroo, W.A. 6065 (Phone 405 1555 Area Code 09)

DRAFT

Wild Ducks to Market : A Story of Survival in the 1930's

During the early 1930s two events led to the development of a small industry involving the trapping, local sale and export interstate of wild duck from Western Australia.

The first event was the lack of traditional seasonal work in the south west and the need for farmers to subsidise their incomes during the severe depression years.

The second was the abundance of wild duck, more significantly Black Duck, on local lakes.

Two groups of farmers living near Boyerine Siding just south of Wagin in the Upper Great Southern District were forced to consider trapping wild duck to generate a cash flow in very hard times.

In 1932 it was possible to obtain a permit to take wildfowl for sale during the open season from 23rd December to 31st May each year. An auctioneer at the Perth Markets, Mr A.J. Langsford, established markets in the eastern states and began exporting in March 1933 to Melbourne and Sydney.

The lakes around the Boyerine-Wagin area form part of the Coblinine-Beaufort River system which starts at Coyrecup Lake near Katanning and discharges into the Blackwood River before emptying into the Southern Ocean at Augusta. This system rarely flows down its entire length. However, in most years, lakes along the river course are filled by runoff from winter rains thus creating large expanses of waterbird habitat. From 1931-35 the Wagin-Boyerine area and surrounding districts received heavy winter rainfall. Lakes such as Norring and Flagstaff were full and surrounded by healthy vegetation. Swamp Yate, Paperbarks and Ti tree fringed the shores of the lakes providing nest sites and shelter for many species of waterfowl.

Black Duck and Grey Teal were attracted to the area in large numbers and bred prolifically during the good seasons.

Two farmers John Ramm and Keith Wilmott decided to trap wild duck for local and metropolitan markets and selected Flagstaff Lake as the most likely trapping site. Keith recalls that the water was nearly 2 metres deep and although not fresh it was suitable for sheep to drink.

Norrington Lake upstream from Flagstaff Lake also supported large numbers of Black Duck and Grey Teal. Its gently sloping shores near the entry of the Boyerine Creek made it a particularly good trapping site. Laurie and Gilbert Watson began trapping here in 1932 and continued until about 1934.

Both parties used similar trapping methods. Traps were constructed of wire rabbit netting stretched over brush poles and pegged into the mud with sticks. Usually placed in water 0.5 m deep the traps had a cone-shaped entry facing out into the lake. They were baited with wheat which at the time was barely saleable and in plentiful supply.

The traps were emptied of their catch morning and night usually by one person. Laurie Watson's nephew, Vernon, who still farms at Boyerine, recalls that he would drive the horse and sulky to the trap site before and after school. He would crawl into the trap to catch the ducks which were then placed into chaff bags. Species such as Shelduck, Coot and the occasional Cormorant which were trapped along with the Black Duck and Grey Teal were usually unmarketable and were released immediately. Occasionally orders were taken for Mountain Duck (Tadorna tadornoides) but there was a market preference for Blackies and to a lesser degree Teal.

Having bagged his ducks (20 to a chaff bag) the trapper rebaited the trap and returned to the farm. The ducks were released into a netting pen after having the feathers of one wing clipped. On occasions the birds were fattened for a few weeks before being railed to Perth from Boyerine Siding.

A.J. Langford shipped to Sydney 13 647 frozen wild duck between March 1933 and June 1934. These were 11 414 Black Duck, 2 167 "Teal" and 72 Mountain Duck (Lane, in prep.). Records reveal that birds were purchased from licensed trappers operating around Wagin. The price Langfords paid for the birds, was 18 pence (15 cents) per pair.

The population of Black Duck in particular and possibly other species was considered to be exceptionally high and many may have come from other areas of the State. Vern Watson recalls that many of the Black Duck were in poor condition suggesting that the birds frequenting the Wagin Lakes were present in large numbers because dry conditions reduced the amount of habitat available elsewhere.

The industry flourished for two seasons and provided the trappers with a much needed income. However, the work was difficult and time consuming and no doubt markets were uncertain, fluctuating according to demand. In 1934 employment opportunities for shearers improved, and this associated with new legislation in New South Wales and Victoria banning the sale of wild duck in these States, led to the eventual abandonment of this unusual industry. Some years later the trapping and sale of wild ducks was banned in Western Australia and it remains so to this day.

G. Pearson

G. PEARSON

December 19, 1983.

WRC:36/TRAP

During the early 1930s two events led to the development of an industry involving the trapping and export of wild duck in WESTERN Australia

The first event was the lack of traditional seasonal work in the South-west and the need for farmers to subsidise their incomes during the severe depression years.

Two groups of farmers living near Boyerine siding just south of Wagin in the Upper Great Southern District were forced to consider trapping wild duck to generate a cash flow in very hard times.

The second event was the abundance of wild duck significantly; Black Duck on local lakes.

In 1932 it was possible to obtain a permit to trap wild duck for sale during the open season which was set as June 1 to December 23. An auctioneer at the PERTH Markets, Mr A J Langford set up an export trade to the Eastern States and exported between March 1933 to June 1934, 13,647 wild duck to Melbourne and Sydney.

The industry flourished for two years and provided the trappers with a much needed income. It ceased when in 1934 shearing work became available which was much less demanding and more profitable.

The lakes around the Boyerine Wagin system area form part of the Coblin-Cobline-Beaufort river system. It very rarely flows along its entire length from Kattanning and down to the Beaufort and Blackwood river to the Indian ocean. However periodically the lakes occurring along the river system fill either from winter rains or from cyclones creating large expanses of waterbird habitat. From 1934-1935 Wagin received above average rains (av. 431 av. 31-35 507mm). Lakes such as Norring and Flagstaff were full of relatively fresh water and surrounded by healthy vegetation. Swamp yate (Euc. occidentalis) paper-barks (Mel raphiophylla), and Ti-tree (Melaleuca Sp.) fringed the shores of the lakes providing nest sites and shelter for many species of waterfowl.

Black Duck and Grey Teal were attracted to the area in large numbers and prolifically during good years. When John Ramm and Keith Wilmott decided to trap wild duck for the metropolitan markets they took their traps to Flagstaff lake. Keith Wilmott recalls that the water was about 6 ft deep and although not fresh was suitable for sheep.

Norrington lake, upstream from Flagstaff lake also supported large numbers of Black Duck and Grey Teal. Its gently sloping banks near the entry of the Boyerine creek made it an eminently suitable site for trapping. Laurie and his brother Watson began trapping in 1932 and continued until 1934.

Both parties

During the early 1930's two events led to the development of an industry involving the trapping and export of wild duck in Western Australia.

The first event was the lack of traditional seasonal work in the southwest and the need for farmers to subsidise their incomes during the severe depression years.

Two groups of farmers living near Boyerine siding just south of Wager in the Upper Great Southern District were forced to consider trapping wild duck to generate a cash flow in very hard times.

The second event was the abundance of wild duck, more significantly Black Duck on local lakes.

In 1932 it was possible to obtain a permit to take wildfowl for sale during the open season which was set at June 1st to December 23rd. An auctioneer at the Perth markets Mr A J Langford set up an export trade to the eastern states and exported between March 1933 to June 1934, 13647 wild ducks to Melbourne and Sydney (Lowe 1983).

The industry flourished for two years and provided the trappers with a much needed income. It ceased when in 1934 shearing work became available which was less demanding and more profitable.

The lakes around the Boyerine Wager area form part of the Colburne Braufort river

system. It very rarely flows along its entire length from Kotonung & down the Beaufort and Blackwood rivers to the ocean. However periodically the lakes occurring along the river ~~system~~ fill either from winter rains or the occasional cyclone creating large expanses of waterbird habitat. From 1931-35 Wain received above average winter rainfall (Average: 431. or 31-35 507 mm) lakes such as Norring and Flagstaff were full of relatively fresh water and surrounded by healthy vegetation. Swamp lily (*Lilium occidentale*), paperbarks (*Melaleuca repandophylla*) and T. tree (*Melaleuca sp.*) fringed the shores of the lakes providing nest sites and shelter for many species of waterfowl. Black Duck and Grey teal were attracted to the area in large numbers and bred prolifically during the good seasons.

When John Raman and Keith Wilmoth decided to trap wild duck for the metropolitan markets they selected Flagstaff lake as the most likely trapping site. Keith Wilmoth recalls that the water was about 6 feet deep and although not fresh it was suitable for sheep.

Norrung lake was upstream from Flagstaff lake also supported large numbers of Black Duck and Grey Teal. Its gently sloping bed near the entry of the Boyerine creek made it an eminently suitable trapping site. Some 2 years before they began trapping.

Continued next page

in 1932 and continued until about 1934.

Both parties used similar trapping methods at their respective sites. The traps were constructed of rabbit netting stretched over brush poles and pegged into the mud with sticks. Usually placed in about 15 cm deep water the traps ~~were~~ had a cone shaped entry facing out into the lake. They ~~traps~~ were baited with wheat which at the time was barely available and easily procured.

The traps were emptied morning and night usually by one person. Laurie Watson's nephew "Vernon" who still farms at Boyerine, recalls that he would drive the horse & sulky to the trap site before and after school. He would crawl into the trap to catch the ducks which were then placed into chaff bags.

Species trapped with the Black Duck and Grey Teal such as the Shelduck, Coot and the occasional Cormorant.

... were usually unmarketable and were released immediately. Occasionally orders were taken for Mountain Duck (the Australian Shelduck *Tadorna fadonoides*) but there was definitely a preference for Black Duck and to a lesser degree Grey Teal.

Having bagged his ducks (20 to a chaff bag) the trapper rebaited the trap & returned to the farm. The ducks were released into a netting pen after having one wing clipped. On occasions the birds were fattened for a few weeks before being sold to Perth from Boyerine siding.

A J Longford shipped to Sydney 13647 wild duck between March 1933 and June 1934. They were 1414 Black Duck 2167 "Teal" and 72 Mountain Duck (June 1983). Records reveal that birds were only

purchased from trappers, operating around Wagon The
price longfolds paid for the birds was 15¢ per pair

The period 1930 - 1934 was
one of high rainfall in the Wagon district. The
lakes were high and considerably greater than at present.

The population of Black Duck in particular and possibly
other species was exceptionally high and may have
been the result of good breeding seasons in many
areas across the state.

Recalls that many of the Black Duck were in poor
condition suggesting that the birds frequenting
the Wagon were present in such large numbers
because of diminishing wetlands in other locations.

It is difficult to assess the impact
that the harvesting of 13000 birds from one
area may have had on the population of each
species. However considering the conditions at the
time and the loss of habitat the Black
Duck in particular have suffered since those years,
it is unlikely that the industry had
any adverse effects on the status of any of the waterfowl
species.

It is significant that there are no
records on the South West where Black Duck could
be trapped in those numbers.

WRC | 36 | TRAP

Please find enclosed letter
from a reader in reply
to your request for
information on duck shooting.

With Compliments

from

THE COUNTRYMAN

NEWSPAPER HOUSE,
125 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,
PERTH, 6000
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

when see you .
one of these trips that he gave me
to my Father .
Excepting that I know they were
Duck Shooting quite frequently I also
Kangaroo Hunting etc I can't give you
more details of the Ducks which I think
were plentiful then . I have a friend
who has done a great deal of Duck
Shooting & although

51 Browning St.
Yokine 60060.
Ph. 2762542.
14th Feb. 1983.

Dear Sir,

As I believe you are looking for information of all sorts on Duck Shooting in W. A. perhaps this will help.

My Father was working for the Midland Company Railway - between Midland & Geraldton all his life till retirement.

There were frequent shooting parties when Sir John Forrest took part & it was on one of these trips that he gave this photo to my Father.

Excepting that I know they went Duck Shooting quite frequently & also Kangaroo Hunting etc. I can't give you more details of the Ducks which I think were plentiful then. I have a friend who has done a great deal of Duck Shooting & although

will over 80 yrs. said he would
write & tell you all he could. I will
enclose his name & address & phone no.
I'm sure he'd be glad to have a chat
about it all. He is very knowledgeable!

If you can use the photo or otherwise
please return it to me, also the papers
cutting enclosed. My father died June 1952
aged ~~80~~ 81 yrs. so it's quite a while back.
I don't think I had started school when
the photo was brought home. I am now 79.
Hoping this will perhaps help.

Yours Sincerely,

Rita J. Jackson.

X
Address of
Mr. Fred Davis.
31 Aldgate St.,
Wandsworth 6210.

2h. No. 095.352 625. X

X
Possible areas for shooting along the Murrumbidgee
River would be "Gindim". I think & Dongarra
for "Cray" fish. also our Moore River Murrumbidgee
Kangaroos etc. Rita J. Jackson.

Woodanilling 9th Jan. 1983

Vere,

Mr. Grant Pearson
W. A. Wildlife Research Centre,
Woodvale W. A.

Dear Grant,
In delayed reply to your correspondence regarding the revue
on the trapping of ducks.

I make comments on the points that you have numbered but please bear in mind that they will be mainly from memory source.

1. Around 1930 my uncle L.R. Watson evolved a cone trap and found it suitable for catching wild in quantity. and that such an operation could be licensed. To achieve some much needed cash flow during the depression some sale of ducks was probably made in 31 but I think that catching in significant numbers would have started in 1932.

2. I believe that Laurie Watson, the biggest operator, ceased trapping after about three years due to the low profitability of the time consuming enterprise and I recall later expressing the same point of view to a license issuing officer of the Fisheries department who then remarked that being so they may not license further trapping. We, the Watsons did not apply for another license and I doubt that any others were issued after 35 or 36 and so that any large scale trapping would have ceased about that time.

3. Three or four traps per operator would have been an average figure.

4. The birds were transported to and on rail in crates containing feed and water as was normal for domestic poultry at that time.

5. The South shore of Norring was selected as a trapping site more because it was close to the lake outlet point than being near the Boyering creek. This was thought to place the area on the flight path of ducks bound to or from other lake along the waterway and system. It is still a popular duck shooting site.

Other notes and comment will be included.

Yours faithfully

Verren Watson

Vern,

The following points became apparent after going over our discussion. I would be grateful if you could comment wherever possible.

1. Do you remember when your father or uncle began trapping the birds for market. Obviously the idea would have taken time to crystallize but perhaps you have a recollection as to the time trapping began in earnest. A file search has produced the figures highlighted on the attached photocopy.
2. Do you have any idea when and why trapping ceased other than due to the dredging out of Lake Noring and surrounding lakes in 40-41.⁷
3. How many traps would be used at one time.
4. How were the birds transported to the rail and in what type of containers, i.e. jute bags, cages, etc.
5. Why did you select the SW corner of Noring as a trapping site? Was there a connection with the Boyerine River which made the site more suitable?

A summary of a discussion with Mr Vern Watson of Boyerine on the wild duck trapping which took place in the 1930s.

Species trapped? Almost solely Black Duck - they were the popular eating duck of the time and were, significantly, very plentiful. Grey Teal were taken with other species if Black Duck became difficult to trap.

How many birds were taken? Difficult to remember but a vague figure of 5 000 in one year comes to mind.

Sometimes we would get about 50 in a day of trapping and other times very few.

How were they trapped? A netting trap 12' x 6' x 4' supported by sticks and staked to the ground was used. It had a rather wide funnel entrance which often allowed ducks to escape if the trap was not checked regularly. The trap was free baited for several days with wheat and grain and then closed. Only one person was required to empty the traps in the morning and evening. The ducks were placed into sacks and transported back to the farm on a horse and cart. At the farm they were fattened with wheat for several weeks before consignment. They were held in a large pen of wire mesh and one wing was clipped.

How many people were involved? From the time I left school, which was about 1930 my father had a loose partnership with his brother Laurie. John Paul Ramm had an operation with Keith Wilmott on the other side of Boyerine Creek where it ran into Norring Lake.

Where did the trapping take place? Most of the birds were trapped from Norring Lake. However some trapping took place at Little Norring, Dumbleyung and local pools according to the movements of the birds.

At Norring we set traps on the east side of Boyerine Creek near its mouth and along the south west side of the lake. The creek water was much deeper and persisted longer than the lake water.

It is also important to note that there was an abundance of water in the lakes following unusually good rains of several previous seasons. This led to the profusion of Black Duck in the district which enabled us to trap at the several locations mentioned.

For how many years did the operation continue? The beginning of the business is uncertain perhaps about the late twenties (Query) but it continued ~~until the beginning of the war in 1939.~~ *Watson See notes*

The peak of catching was in 1933-34 (Query) the height of the depression. The trapping ceased ~~before~~ the decline of the Black Duck numbers associated ~~after~~ low rainfall years of 40-41. *Watson See notes*

legislation... to get aside land
duck in recent times the practice has never been
banned by Act or Regulation. It is still possible,
technically at least, to obtain licenses to take wild
ducks for sale and to deal in wild ducks. ³⁸ Note
however that a game licence "does not authorize the
holder to sell any game (ducks) or any other fauna." ³⁹
and that present-day duck-season proclamations
prohibit the sale of ducks.

The extent of trade in wild ducks in the last century
and first half of this century has not been researched
by the author however it is probable that it was
considerable. Some indication is given by the
following.

1. The evidence of Messrs. H.T. Kelsall & J.M. Drummond to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Game Bill (1912), referred to earlier.
2. Departmental records show that from March to June 1933 and February to June 1934, 15 shipments totalling 13 647 wild duck were exported from Fremantle to Melbourne and Sydney. These were 11 414 Black Duck, 2 161 "Teal" and 72 Mountain Duck. All were apparently trapped during the open season for wild duck on lakes near Boyerine by licensed trappers L.R. Watson and J.P. Ramm and were mailed to Perth where they were killed and frozen before shipping to the east. ⁴⁰ (File 23/32). Records also show that in 1932 "five or six persons are licensed during the open season to shoot for sale" (23/32 10110 2)

1-83
Regarding your Summary,

In regard to your discussion with myself and John Ramm on the trapping of wild ducks in the 1930s.

I recall you asking John when the trapping started and he replied that it was in the depression years. You then asked him how long the depression lasted and he stated that until the war started. I have since queried him on this statement and he said that his reply was on the economic context of the depression and that he did not intend to imply that the trapping went to that date.

Therefore I deleted the line beginning "but it continued untill the beginning of the war". Perhaps Departmental records could give a firm date

I would further delete the last sentence of the Summary and have it read "The trapping ceased before the decline of the Black Duck numbers ~~associated~~ after the low rainfall years of 40-41."

Vernon Watson

How were the birds marketed? They were consigned by rail to A.J. Langford at the metropolitan markets. The price obtained was around ninepence each or one shilling and sixpence per pair for Black Duck.

They were then sold to eastern states, possibly to India and to the hotel trade in Perth.

In refering to the aerial photo enclosed I have enlisted comments from Frank Mitchell of Wagin, who lives by Little Norring Lake and is a landowner and good observer of some of the features that interest you.

Although none of the many lagoons are as permanent or as fresh as the one on my property he nominates two that are at times good venues for the breeding of waterfowl being reasonably fresh and deep for a year after a year of good rainfall and have some low but dense vegetation around the shore line as a result of some fresh water seepage.

The salinity level of the line of small lakes which I will indicate on the photo is highly variable from time to time and is interesting. During a year of above average rainfall that causes the big lake system to link up and flow this mainstream water backs up this chain of lagoons and leaves them highly saline. In years of more moderate rain recordings they are fed with through flow of water from a very fresh catchment which flushes much of the salt away.

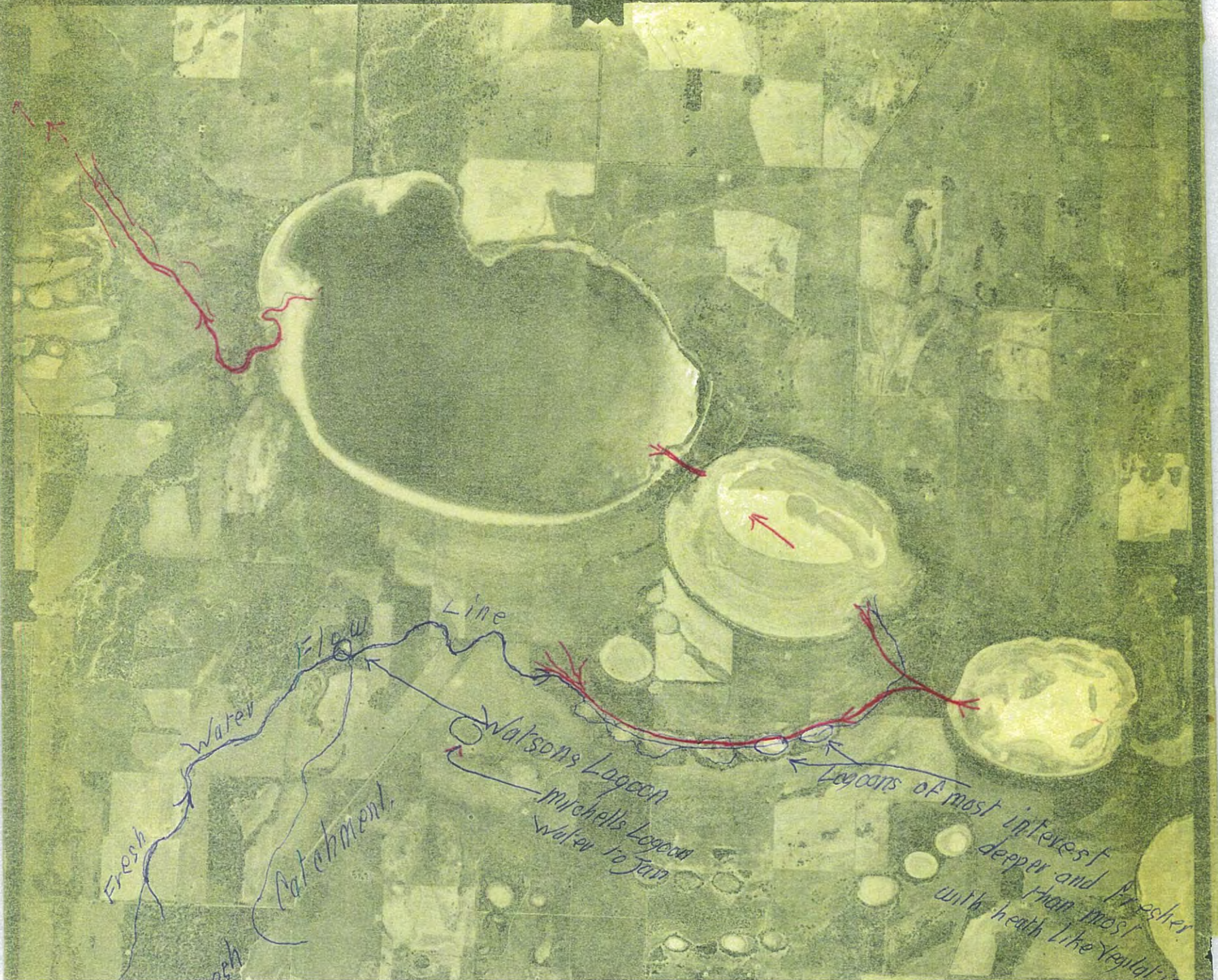
Further to the east the lagoons and basins may have fresh water after a wet winter but are very temporary.

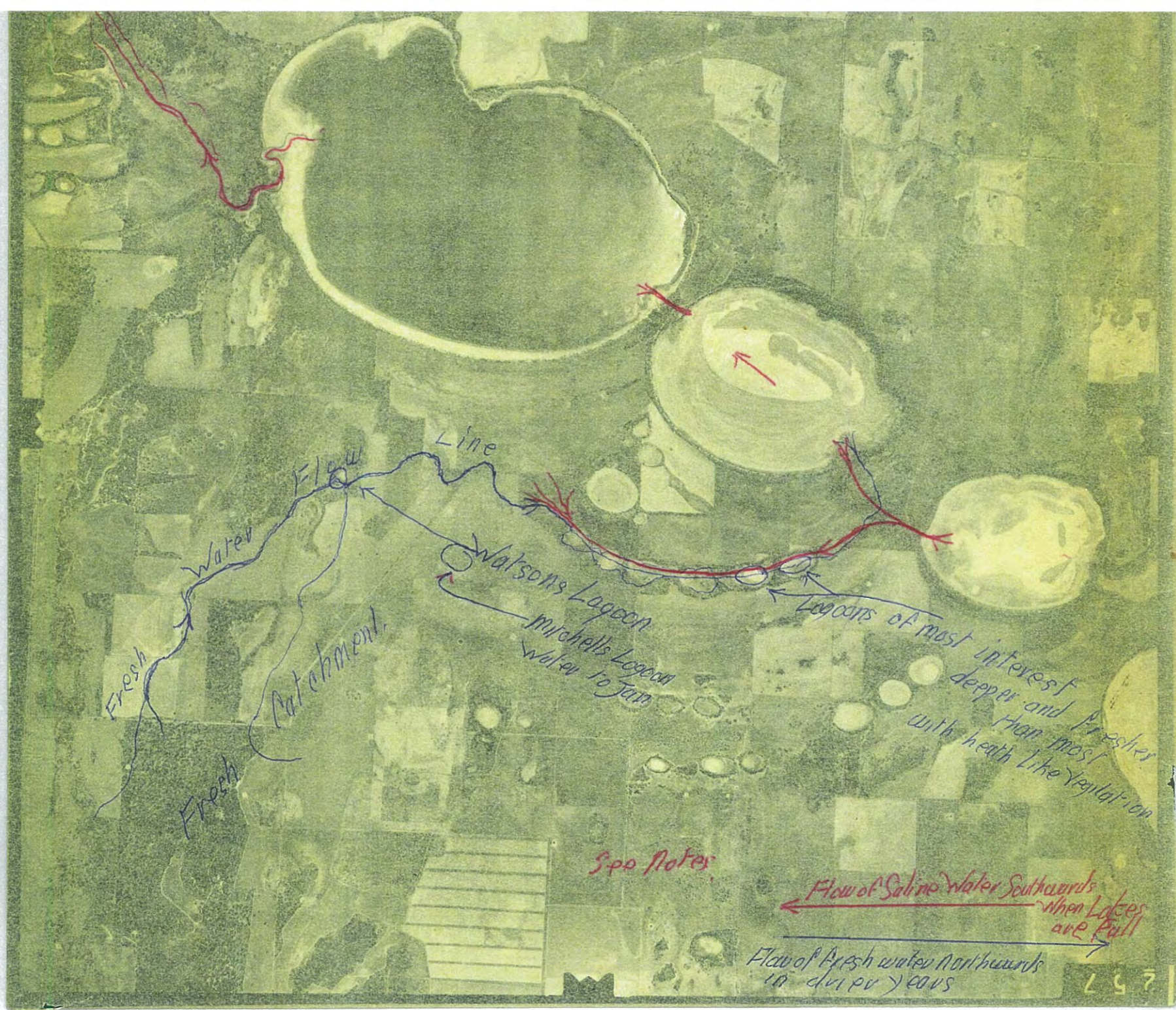
To the south of Norring there is a string of small lakes but they are very salt.

Norman Watson



See Notes





Form Trees Ideal - U

Wild duck has been regarded by many as traditional Christmas dinner for generations. During the 1930's the effects of the economic depression encouraged several farming families to develop methods of trapping ducks in large enough numbers to help subsidize declining incomes. The ducks were usually marketed by a metropolitan market auctioneer mostly to the eastern states.

History of Beek Hunting in IANA

Program

list no of active trappers & periods of activity

list species of interest & areas trapping took place.

list out lots

describe technique of trapping each species
mention hunt guns

list

Watson

J P Remm
Watson

28/80 = 48
28.80

Duck Shooting - trapping for muskrats

There were about 3 main trappers and two men with nets.

John P. Brown was deceased. He lived in Reel Ind. Wilmott at Flogstaff Lake and for the beginning of local muskrats on the farm.

Wm Watson's father & L.R. Watson (dauve) trapped at Norring Lake and in the Bayprine Creek and at Dumblyung Lake.

Very little trapping took place at the time other than isolated occurrences at Mandurah by the Rowe family and by a couple operator at Dumblyung (unknown).

John Paul Rem (died)	Keith Wilmott
Watson	L.R. Watson
	Wm Watson

Norring Lake

Flogstaff Lake

Reel Indet.

Dumblyung Lake

1023.525
1023/10/6

18P

107

6' 7" x 7"

5-00

Transcript of Interview with Mr Keith Wilmot of 20 BOREK
Place KAROINYA ph 337 8989

DATE 8.12.82 by G. Brown.

Mr Wilmot was involved in trapping wild ducks
for market near Waddamilling with John P. Romm. The following
interview took place at Mr Wilmot's sons home where he is
living.

Wilmot: There isn't much I can tell you about really while
the depression was on - that's the only time we
did it.

Q When did you start? about 1932?

A Oh Jesus I'm 81

Q Oh Yes Do you remember anything that may have occurred
to be used as a mistake?

A Well you can say when the depression was on & that
when it was

Q When did you finish?

A Oh we only went the one year. I think it was only
one year might have been two. You know

Q Why didn't you keep going?

A Oh well we worked then you know we were all right.

Q There were a lot of Black Duck then in those days.

A I'll say.

Q Why were there so many B.O. was it a good year for them?

A Oh no it always is there's always more Blacks than
Mourntains or any of them.

Q People liked to eat them because of their size?

A Oh no not as big as a mountain but they tasted better.

Q Did you catch many of the other species of ducks in your traps? Did you get many Grey teal in your traps?

A Christ yes We used to get a lot of different types Little teal & Chest Red Breasted Teal.

Q What would you do with them.

A The zoo knows we were trapping & they wanted some different types. So I sent them down some in my crates & mesh mesh & other & they never acknowledged it. Never even got them back.

Q Do you think they got them?

A They got them alright I seen the buggers there - So I thought that's the point of that

Q I'm interested to know the proportions of ducks at Warring.

A I never trapped at Warring.

Q What did you trap?

A Better blow ho he he

Q Perhaps little lagoon on your property.

A No No Forget it that was a home from home that buggers.

I used to lay & watch them & they would come up & they used to pick one another into the trap the Black duck.

Q Did you set your trap up into a square with nothing & stake it.

A Yes forked stakes around the edge & covered over with netting with only one funnel facing into the lake.

Q Any wing

A No no wing

Q How much wheat would you use as bait

A Oh about two double handfuls. You'd make your trap about 4' wide & 6' long & have it about 18" out of water so that when they get in they'd only have a bit of water otherwise they'd just swim out again.

Q How many ducks per trap?

A well Christ we had a good few traps about a dozen.

Q How high

A about 3 feet - and have a stick up the middle so you weren't cramped down. they'd drowned you the buggers you know.

Q At night time you didn't want belters on it was too damn cold. We y used to go round twice a day go around at night at about 7-8 PM & then spit them in the morning.

Q Was this to fit in with work. That

A No we were on a farm

Q Yes I know but you would have had to combine it with harvesting & other activities. Or was it after the harvest.

A Well there were two of us & I don't know if it was that time I think it was more in the winter time.

Q More birds killed for Christmas?

A Longford would kill them & then put the legs up & put the neck behind the wings put some stuff around them & send them off.

Q How was they cooked.

A We cooked them in a saucepan with fat & a bit of water. Christ they'd melt in your mouth. We never used to stuff them. B. Friday morning we'd get up early

Q & we'd pick a good few. That was a fellow in at the Exchange Hotel at Kotonning & he'd hear of blakes coming down every Friday. Travelling salesman would buy them. One bloke the yardman foot-better for South Fremantle would send word out & take orders from them & tell us how many to bring in. A doctor or two would also go mad on them.

Q They all bought Black Duck?

A We only took the Black in there - we sent some MR to Longford but he didn't want them. We were getting a hell of a lot of Mountain so I said to my brother in law well bugger it will put them in the market see. So we did & we were getting more than did off him. Didn't long & Longford said he'd take the lot of them.

Q were there still more BD than MD at Flagstaff?

A there were a lot of MD on Flagstaff. And then there was Awacarruk lake. But I never trapped on it. ~~was it worth~~

Q Was it worth trapping there?

A No. I don't think there weren't many of us trapping.

Q Watson was the only other trapper?

A He had one uncle further down who used to go to Dumbleyung.

Q Where on Dumbleyung did he trap?

A I don't know anywhere around the river it doesn't matter. I got caught with a sheep one night & the bloody swine, I think his neck is made of Indian rubber, anyhow he grabbed me by the wrist & took a lump clear out.

Q Were there many sheep there?

A No not many.

Q Were they black & white or plain black?

A All black.

Q Did you trap at Narring?

A No never. The farm had a lot of little swamps & we trapped there

Q for a start. You could have

Q Were there more BD than MD & more MD than GT?

A Yes Yes & I think there would be only a few Chestnut teal.

Q What about P.E.D. - Zebra Teal?

A No None - we got the Mount BD Teal mostly grey.

Q But more BD than MD & more BD on the lake than Mount D.

It must have been a good year for them.

A Yes it was.

Q How deep was Flagstaff lake when you trapped?

A. Oh a few depth. There were none really deep. More than 2-3 ft. I suppose had an island across the middle which was covered with ducks. Is

Q. Well about 6 ft deep in the middle?

A. Oh yes easy.

Q. In those days was there much vegetation around the edge?

A. Oh yes & the ducks come out from under it.

Q. Did you look in one place & all around the lake.

A. We looked down at the eastern end. because we came in from the eastern end. Our place was ^{only about} 2 miles from the lake.

Q. Anything else

A. We used to put them in a rabbit netting pen without a roof. Cut one wing (primaries & secondaries completely) just out from the wing so they wouldn't bleed. We kept them in on an oval about 10' x 20' & visited them Mondays Wednesdays & Fridays. The quacks used to get a pair or two so they'd look after them.

Q. Did you have to fatten them?

A. No not at all.

Q. Mostly done in winter?

A. Well I can't think now. I can't remember.

Q. How did you hold the birds in the cart.

A. Chaff bags - twenty in a chaff bag. Pull them out one at a time & clip their wings. To catch them we had a little ~~the~~ chute we'd run them into.

Q. How many birds would you get from each trap.

A. Well it depends how many went in. I used to watch them & they knew when you were coming around.

Q Was there much weed in the lake
 A There was a bit of green stuff.

Q Was the lake fresh or salty.

A Well it wasn't fresh but sheep would drink it.

Q So having trapped them they would go into chaff bags on to the horse & cart & into the pen. Clip their wings & then when Wed & Fri to the Boyerine Rail station riding?

A Yes

Q How much paid.

A 18^s a pair

Q Did you always sell him to Longford?

A Oh yes

Q How would you slash them for?

A Any blades coming down from Pult to Kilmanning.
 Heyward was the fellow at Kilmanning.

Q When did this occur.

A Height of the depression about hibernia & all that.

We got up to a crate on the train. They'd send the crates straight back & leave them at the riding.

Q Why did you stop.

A We finished up when the depression eased & shearing was easier to get. I was a shearer for 25 yrs. The shearing time finished before it got hot & we started end of July before grass seeds come out.

7

Q Was there any significant occurrence that may remind you when you started

A Well the first year of the depression which was the hardest

Q Did you sell any grey fool.

A No. He wouldn't take the mountain duck if we didn't start selling ourselves.

Q Where there ducks of on the fresh water lagoons

A Oh they had a few. — at one stage coming home from Ugeen there was a dam & you couldn't see the water for ducks. And when they went off the water was green. We went out for a shot one night using Ragg & "scare bird" shot & from two shots together we got 27 off the dam. Another time we had a shot in a paddock where there was a lot of wheat flying about. Well by the time we took aim after they landed they full to the neck with wheat & they must blow it at the at some time because there were no carcasses in it.

Q What sort of trees were on the lagoons.

A Yaks & paper barks

Transcript of interview with
Mr Vern Watson of Boyerine on 30 Nov 82
Dialogue G Benson to V Watson

Q So you were involved as a kid in the duck trapping operation

A Yes we caught them but I didn't have anything
to do with the marketing

- Were they actually marketed for local consumption
- They were consigned mostly to Lenth and
dealt with by AJ Langford.

- It was really your father carrying on the
business & his brother

- Yes when my father & uncle found they
could be trapped & that ducks could be
taken for profit. There was a loose
partnership & I was fresh from school.

Duck Trepping

1 INTRODUCTION brief describe nature of trepping activity

1978. 2 ~~W~~ dist opinions from Watson Annworth Dave
Watson & Melnot on the following

a prevalence of Black Duck in 1930's & other times

b other species as above. - Mottled Geese Chest
Teal Mountain Duck Grey teal

c Record useful areas eg Yealoring Moring

d Record vegetation description.

5

2 Record procedures of each activity that is
describe in third person

3 Discussion

Transcript From tape

Interview of Vern Watson of Boyerine 30/11/82

Mr Watson participated with his father & uncle in a duck trapping for market business. G. Pearson to V. Watson

Vern we caught them but I didn't have any thing to do with the marketing of them

Q Actually marketed for local consumption?

A They were consigned mostly to South dealt with by A.J. Longford

Q It was really your father carrying on the business & his brother?

A Yes when my father & uncle found they could be trapped & that ducks could be taken for profit. I had was a loose pointerish & I was fresh from school

Q Set trap & baited?

Yes very similar to the traps that you traps use at Woodanilling

Q You saw the trapping at Woodanilling?

A Yes - they use a netting cage pegged to the ground itself & a cone entry at the end of the rectangle

The trap was baited liberally with grain inside.

The entry was fairly wide & if you did not take them out twice daily you would lose a proportion - They would find this way out. If they were overlooked for a day or two most would get out

Q How big were the traps? About 12' x 6' & high enough to move around in. It was constructed from trees cut nearby which restricted the dimensions

Q Do you remember which species were caught mostly. Moust Duck?

A No. Almost solely those marketed were BD - Pheasant duck at the time - very plentiful & public demand tended to preselect Black Duck

Wagner.

Pearls

2

May 170

Possibly because they were grain eaters & thus attracted.

Q Where were they trapped?

A Biggest population came from Noring. My uncle went out two seasons & ran trap on SW shore.

Q How has very much different to what they are now.

A Here I mention rainfall 1891-75.

NB Rainfall data from:

Amie's Watering Place.

M Pederick Churchlands College.

refers to wagon as the EWL.

Check the rainfall from 1914 & 16 - notice substantial rainfall years followed by average years.

Then there was the point that there was considerable amount grain grown & lot of covering scrub for breeding ducks.

Q What sort of cover

A largely sand plain scrub on vicinity of lakes & rock mounds.

Q Melaleuca in water?

A No not so much but much more cover up to ^{the} water's edge. So many generations of grazing reduced the cover & perhaps also the tiger snake population decreased around early 40's & lot changed then.

The lake dried in 40-41 as response to low rain. Before then it was preceded by literally millions of M.D. Water was shallower which gave them access to the residue.

44-45 was dry & the way 10 was dry.

at that time ⁽¹⁹³⁰⁾ there was a very large flock of Black Ducks & few M.D. No maned Geese - not aware of them until recently (a few years ago.)

Q Why

A Beck said some time ago 50's he saw his first M.G.

Q why

A They are grazing birds & were restricted to south west corner where feed was more plentiful (& water supply)

I'm not a duck shooter - I suppose I am a conservationist. I doubt if I will ever shoot again.

Q Will the lakes regenerate if they were flushed out properly.

A I'm sorry to say that in many cases the fresh water lagoons are more often found in winter & important to wild duck but go salt

Q Like Rushy Swamp at Woodonilling

A Yes - they contain that round pointed reed.

NB: Hollow twig reed. - cladium or bannier.

Perhaps the rainfall distribution is important - we used to get very wet July's but now not so, Moolgwin Gum. & then water short of running water in July.

Neighbour claim that every inch of rain hits a foot into Norring once ground is waterlogged in June.

& normally the 3 or 4" in July would hit 3-4 ft into the lake. Not so now. Happened every year up to 40°.

Q Norring itch

A always there, but is not on east shore of Norring.

Q Catching was mostly at Norring & at Dumblyung?

A Norring & Dumblyung. Yes we had licenses & a group further down the road John Paul Remon had license

Q Were licenses granted to trap ducks.

A Yes if the case for someone making a living from it was good enough a license was granted.

Q Species^{at} Dumblyung was the same at Norring.

A I don't know. My uncle operated it & I was never associated with it.

Q Numbers

V A very vague See sheet

I Laurie Watson my uncle had a son who was not involved in the trapping but may have some details of numbers trapped. He lives at Helena St perhaps 104 No name plate the house is surrounded by trees. Note on phone

Q Your memory is very short.

A Yes I've lived here all my life & so kept in touch

~~I think I recall Laurie saying that this was the best year on something & he remarked we had caught about 5000 ducks in ^{the} one year. I guess if figures done to generate a cash flow in short of depression when alternatives become available we took them.~~

~~Vm- Birds caught in poor condition so to aid market we free fed (feed lot) them for some time. In pens for 2 or 3 weeks at a time & fed on wheat & grain. Wheat at this time was barely saleable.~~

Q How much per duck

A About 9d or 1/6 per pair. Note's most to Longford.

Q Did they wing them out like much duck were done years ago.

A Don't know. But were sent to H.J Longford

Because they were kept in feed lots & sent to rail in a few large consignments it gave rise to rumours that ducks were sent away by the train load & these fellows Watson made thousands & thousands from the venture. Well it was very far from the truth as it was very large in scale & I would be pleased to see the story refuted to a degree as it was unjust to Father's debt becoming at the time. The gun shooter I was keen to see it stopped.

If it gave a living or helped the living of a few the DFW would consider the relicensing of trappers however if it was marginal, then they may not reissue the license

then

I think I recall Laurie Watson saying that one year in particular was better than others & that we had caught something approaching 5000 ducks that year. The next year, I knew this is again fairly vague but I know the numbers fell off and at Dumbleton Lake they didn't seem to be about when he went out there. He at that point onwards lost interest in the trade & bear in mind it was done to generate some sort of cash flow in the heart of the depression that was the main reason for doing it & as soon as alternatives came up he ~~was~~ lost interest. It took a lot of work & a lot of time. Apart which should interest you is that the birds were often caught in fairly poor condition. They were there in large numbers quite often in poor condition so to aid marketing we had found it useful to free feed them for a time. So they would be in pens for two or three weeks. The feathers of one wing ^{were} cut & they were put in holding yards like a feed lot. Fed primarily on wheat & grain which was barely saleable at the time.

Q Why were birds in such poor condition

Q Were there other duck treppers involved?

A To the best of my knowledge it was confined to this territory. If you look at a lake map you find that it is a lake rich area & that seemed to be the significant point as there was a lot of water on those days.

Q Did the lake levels increase soon after clearing?

A At the beginning of my memory lakes were all full. Then with the increased clearing the run off seemed to stay the same.

Q Where were ducks despatched by Longford?

A I + a possible some were sent to India but mostly to Eastern States I think.

Q How many per day were caught

A About 50 sometimes but extremely variable some days very few.

Q Why ^{were} birds in poor condition.

A It often happens to birds as a natural occurrence.

Q Perhaps the industry began because of the large number of ducks available. Yes possibly.

Ver - Some birds were in better condition than others for sure.

Q Any reports of other lake water or refuges available

A No I don't know. Mother Cousins was keen duck shooter (Collins). They have told me that the places where the ducks nest on the places which have been dry & then suddenly filled with water. Perhaps because of the abundance of seed.

Dry seasons affected Black duck more than Moust Duck. Because no one bottom feeders in shallow water.

Last time Noorring died it had an immense amount of weed & is now repeating cycle. Weed is up to my hips in places.

✓ Swans moved in in tremendous numbers 9-12,000
up to 20,000. I expect to see swans again here
feeding on the weed.

~~Doni Wakant !~~ ~~Don~~
~~Father & I~~
~~John Paul Rams~~ ~~reporting~~
~~Keith Wilcox~~ ↙

~~Vorn~~
~~When did they start trapping~~
~~Finch~~
~~why the bottom end of Norving~~

Hitchell St
Esperance 6450.
26-2-82.

Mr Grant Pearson

West Australian Wildlife Research Centre
Manneroo.

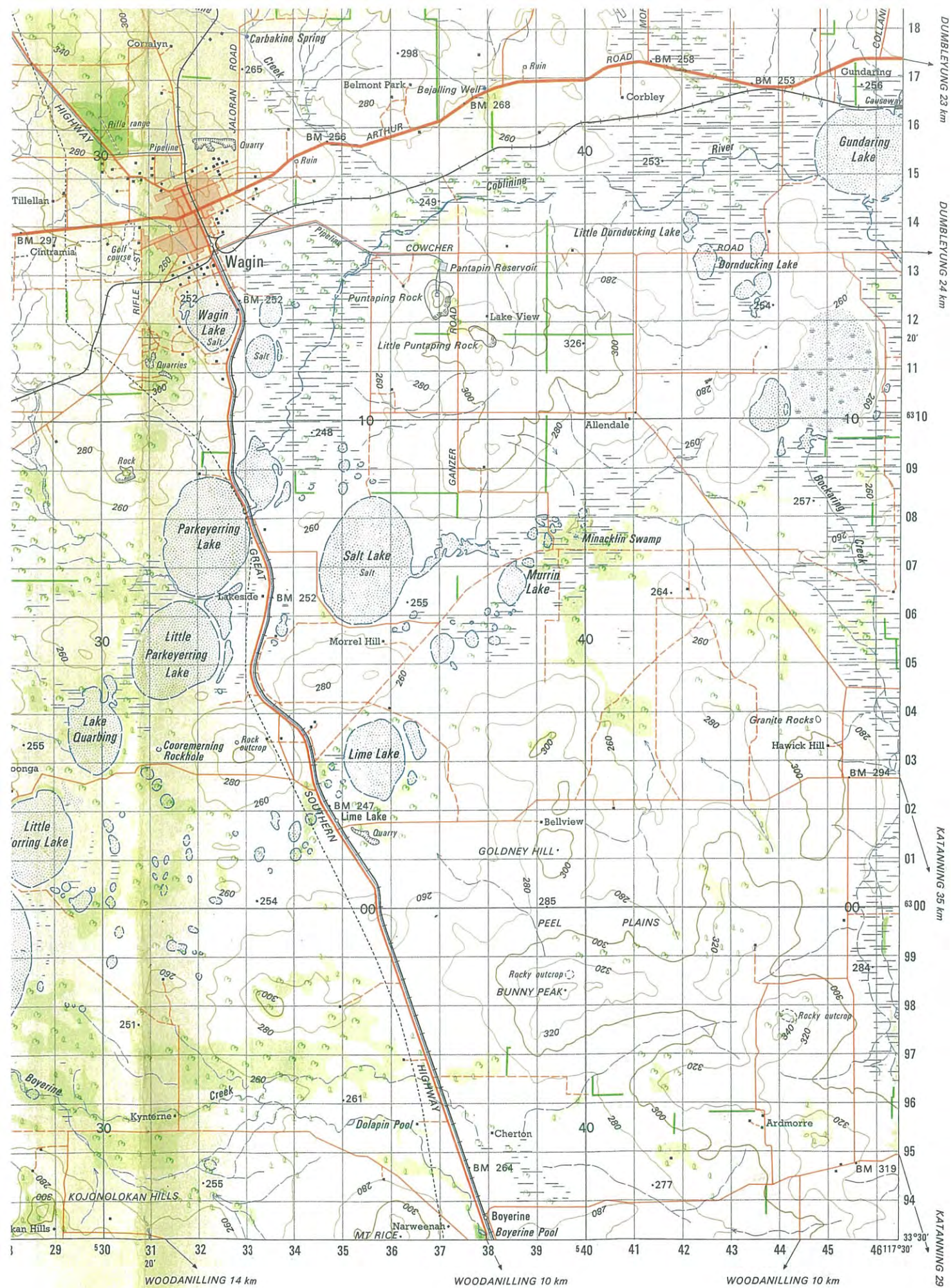
Dear Mr Pearson,

Sorry that I have taken so long to answer your letter of 14th December, but we have had a number of visitors over the holiday period and I have also been engaged in several activities which have kept me busy. I am at present taking part in the waterbird survey of the SW. Reserves and also the nationwide wader count which was completed earlier this month.

In answer to your query regarding the shooting of wild duck to augment a family's income, I think the period would have been the late 20's or early 30's. As far as I know the family concerned relied largely on what they could shoot for the meat content of their diet, and only sold any ducks, shot in excess of their needs. They also shot rabbits and kangaroos for food but I never heard of them selling any of this meat.

I trust that this information is of interest.

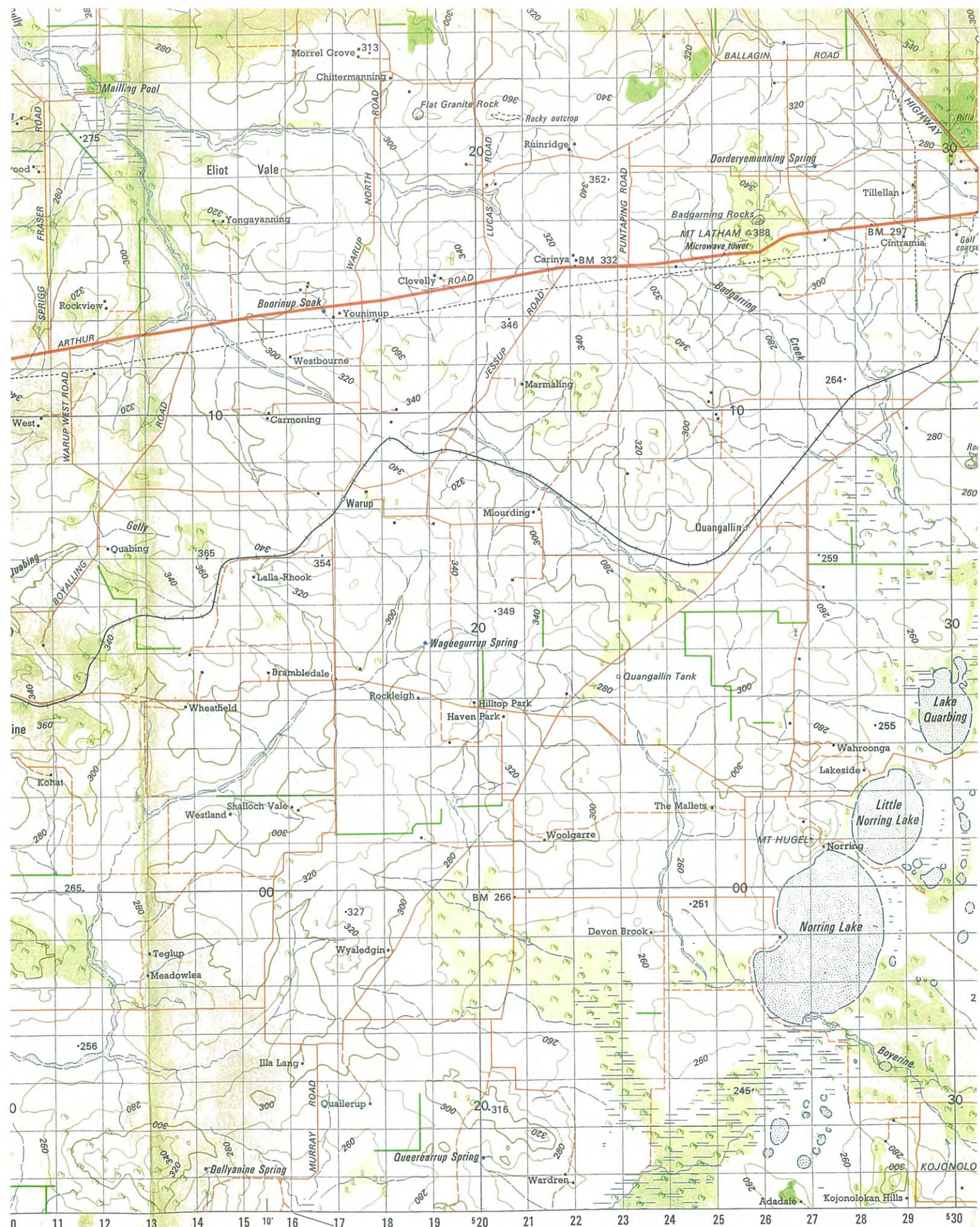
Yours sincerely
ex-Dan



NMP/73/179

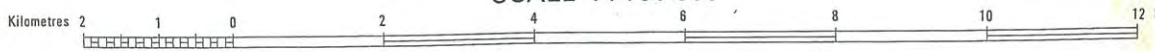
INDEX TO ADJOINING MAPS

CROSSMAN 2332	NARROGIN 2332	YEALERING 2432
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WOODANILLING 29 km

SCALE 1 : 100 000



BLACK NUMBERED GRID LINES ARE 1 000 METRE INTERVALS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MAP GRID, ZONE 50
 GRID VALUES ARE SHOWN IN FULL ONLY AT THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF THE MAP
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: AUSTRALIAN GEODETIC DATUM 1966

Duck History

WESTERN MAIL

DEC 1 - 31 1937

1938

WEST.

1937

1938

WESTERN MAIL

JAN 1 - FEB 1 ~~1937~~

WEST

1938

DAILY

1939

CHAMFORD WALDER

1

WATSON

DICK OLD

NEVILLE BEECK

VEHICLE

FORD?

COUPLE

Not known.

Bus Regos

PRINT IN THE COUNTRY MUSE

EARLY Summer? INET YEAR check Rainfall for 38.

CANOE Shot taken later in the year.

Wearing jumps EARLY morning? late evening? mid year?

Duck TRAPPING History

Spiel. June 83