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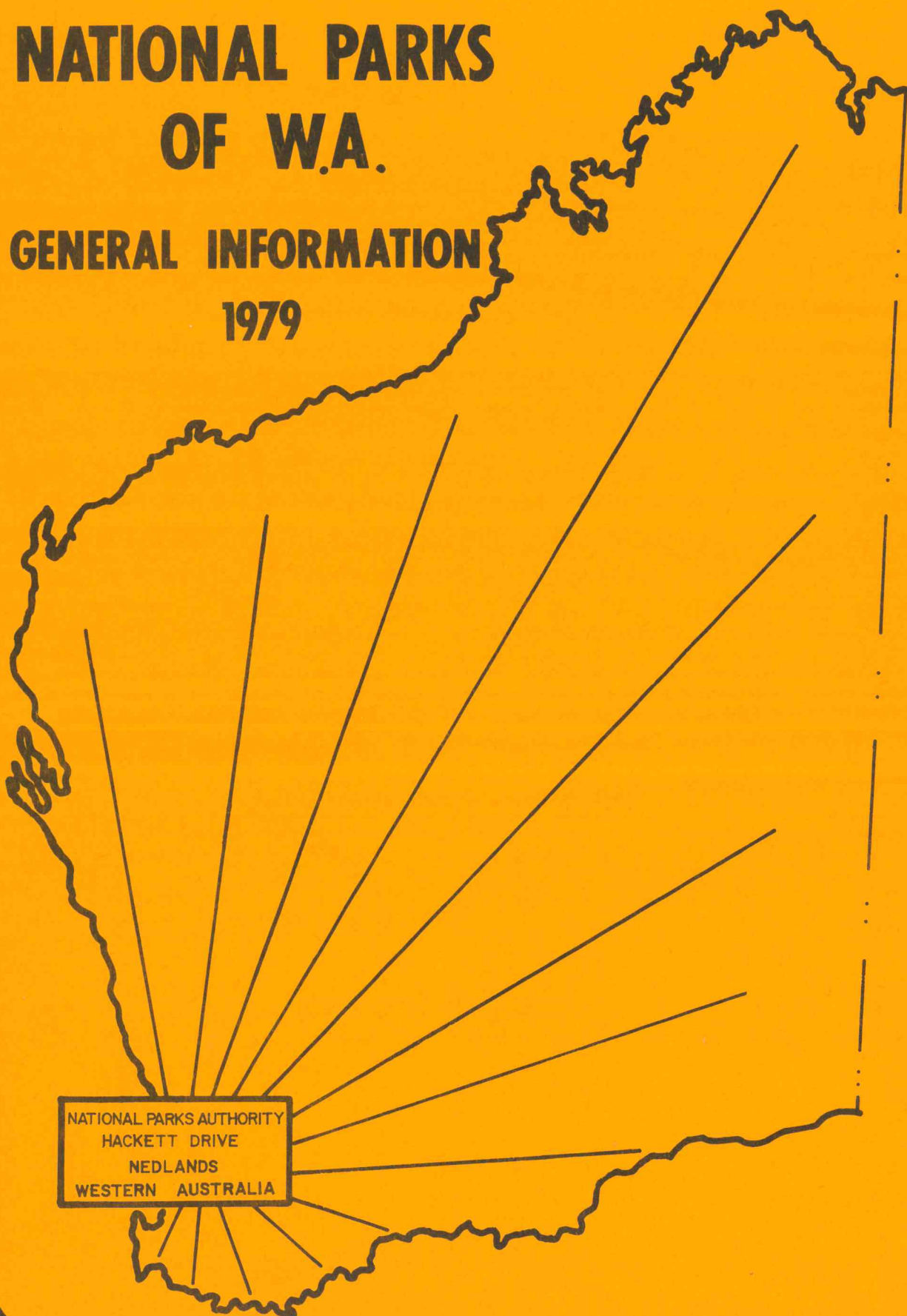
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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NATIONAL PARKS OF W.A.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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This publication has been prepared to give the general public and students an insight into the reasons for having National Parks and the purpose of their management.

Because of ongoing management procedures, the number of Parks, areas of land and various facilities will change from time to time. For up to date information on specific areas, contact should be made with the local Ranger or the National Parks Authority, Perth.

In addition to the National Parks listed in this booklet, the Authority controls some 21 reserves (eg. the Old Mill, South Perth) throughout the state.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE
NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

NATIONAL PARKS

by

Dr Francis G. Smith,
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The United States National Park Service says that National Parks should be spacious land and water areas so outstandingly superior in natural qualities and beauty as to make imperative their preservation by the Government for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of all people.

National Parks are established to preserve for all time, scenic beauty, wilderness, native wildlife, indigenous plant life and areas of scientific importance, and to provide for the appreciation and enjoyment of those things by the public in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the future.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources defines a National Park as meaning an area established for the protection and conservation of ecosystems not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation, containing animal and plant species, geomorphological sites and habitats of special scientific, educational and recreational interest or a natural landscape of great beauty, which is under the control of the highest competent governmental authority and open to visits by the public.

The mere act of conferring the legal status of National Park upon an area of land does not protect its natural features from damage or destruction. As soon as an area becomes easily accessible to man, deterioration of the natural resources begins, unless there is effective control and management.

Some areas when proclaimed, contain roads of a type inappropriate to a National Park, squatters settlements, blocks of privately owned land and even townships. The areas may be fragmented or have very long boundaries. These are all factors which make control of the park more difficult, and in bad cases, make it impossible to prevent serious damage to the vegetation, animal life and scenery, and detract from the enjoyment by the public of the natural environment which should exist in a National Park.

The management of National Parks has to reconcile the concept of use by the people with the conservation of the natural qualities for which the park was reserved. Fundamentally, the management of National Parks consists of -

- (a) safeguarding the vegetation, wildlife, scenery and other natural features against damage or destruction;
- (b) applying ecological techniques to neutralise the unnatural influences of man, or to repair damage already done; and
- (c) planning for the appropriate use of the parks, and development of facilities for management and for the appreciation and appropriate enjoyment by the public of the natural resources.

Areas of land in National Parks are classified according to their qualities or desirable use, and such classifications are an indication of management policies.

The largest portion of all National Parks is classified as a Natural Area. Such an area is to be maintained predominantly in its natural state, but minor roads, tracks, picnic areas, lookout points and where appropriate, discreet camp sites may be provided. In Natural Areas these facilities have to be carefully planned and sited so as not to mar the scenery and other natural features of the park, nor lead to excessive use which would also cause damage.

In some parks, an area may be classified as a Wilderness Area. Such an area has characteristics which are the result of the interplay of purely natural processes, and is large enough and so situated as to be unaffected by what takes place in the areas around it. In order that the enjoyment of a completely natural unspoilt environment may be experienced, access to and within a Wilderness Area is by foot only. The only development in a Wilderness Area would be foot tracks. No vehicles or mechanical devices are permitted in a Wilderness Area except for search and rescue operations or the preservation of the wilderness itself. The Wilderness Area would be surrounded by an adequate buffer Natural Area.

Where there is a unique area of such fragility that any public use of the area would destroy its characteristics, such an area may be classified as a Special or Prohibited Area, and access to such an area is only by permit. The breeding site of some rare animal or bird, or the very localised habitat of a rare plant, or a sacred archaeological site would come under this classification.

A Facilities Area may be provided, with the minimum of interference with the natural environment. A camping and accommodation area with appropriate facilities and quarters for management staff and storage of equipment would be so classified.

Bearing in mind that the purpose of a National Park is to preserve the natural features, for the enjoyment of people, one has to consider very carefully which kind of use is appropriate, so that -

1. the natural features are not damaged or destroyed, and
2. the public can enjoy these features.

Appropriate use of a National Park is any activity which is inspired by and derives its enjoyment from the natural character and features of the Park.

Such park use is of an aesthetic, cultural and educational nature and is dependent upon individual participation and response.

The quality of National Park use depends upon the visitor's sympathetic understanding of the park and its resources. An imaginative and meaningful information and explanatory programme is needed to help this understanding.

A National Park is not a scenic location for a golf course, amusement park or a spectator sports event. Such recreational events have their own built-in values and rewards and need not be enjoyed within a National Park.

What are appropriate are those outdoor recreational activities that can be accommodated without material alteration or disturbance, and without the introduction of undue artificiality into a natural environment.

These activities include, walking, hiking, mountain climbing, nature study, photography, sight-seeing and picnicking. In some parks, where ecological considerations and space permits, camping, horse riding, and some forms of boating are appropriate. Where fish populations can be depleted by fishing, then fishing should be prohibited along with hunting and shooting.

To some, the provision of facilities or development in a National Park consists of making highway type roads, large parking areas and erecting lavatory blocks on the sites with the best views, without regard to the effect on the scenery nor consideration of the impact the resultant visitor use will have on the natural resources of the Park.

Developments must be carefully planned and use controlled to prevent abuse of the Park. Together with the provision of facilities, there must be Ranger staff to protect the park from damage or deterioration.

The construction of a road to or within a National Park, or for that matter to or within any piece of unspoilt countryside, can have the most devastating effect on the scenery, the flora and on the use of the area. Once a mistake has been made it is exceedingly difficult and expensive to rectify, and often the damage done is irreparable.

Roads in National Parks should never be considered a part of the overall highway system. If roads are designed for travel at 110 km/h people will whiz through the Park and not see a thing.

For a visitor to obtain benefit from a National Park he has to slow down from his highway driving attitude to a leisurely contemplative pace which will enable him to absorb the natural atmosphere of the Park.

Roads should be designed for the appropriate speed without the need for restrictive signs.

Within Parks, no roads should be designed simply as a connecting device to link points of interest. Every segment of every park road should relate to the environment through which it passes and should constitute an enjoyable and informative experience in itself. Roads should lie lightly on the land, conform to the topography and not disfigure the landscape. Small parking areas, scenic lookouts and footpath connections should be provided to encourage people to leave their vehicles and more thoroughly appreciate and enjoy the natural features for which the Park was reserved.

Footpaths must be designed so that people can enjoy the Park more intimately. Nature trails guide the visitors to interesting aspects and, where circumstances require and where ecological considerations permit, bridle tracks may also be provided.

Picnic areas may be equipped with tables and seats and fireplaces. Where the remoteness of the Park warrants it, camping areas may be provided, with areas of separation between camp sites to retain as far as possible the natural environment.

In wilderness areas the only facilities appropriate are primitive narrow trails which blend into the landscape for foot travel. Footbridges may be provided where they are essential for the safety of visitors. Vehicles of any sort are totally excluded.

The public needs information about the resources of the parks so they can understand, appreciate and fully enjoy what they see. Brochures can provide information on how the rocks and hills are formed, about the different kinds of vegetation, its ecology and characteristic plants, about the animals and their ecological needs, the philosophy of National Parks, and the facilities available to enable the public to enjoy these things.

Specific aspects can be expanded upon in displays within the parks. There can be information centres for visitors, including park museums, film and slide shows and lectures. However, it has been recognised that this can go too far.

After all, the object is to enable people to get away from the pressures of modern civilisation and to enjoy the beauty of unspoilt nature and the solitude of the wilderness, and not to be doing things which they could do equally well if not better elsewhere.

Nature trails can be of the semi formal type which guide the visitor, on foot or by car, through various areas of interest, or of the formal type in which the visitor goes to marked locations and what can be seen at that place is fully described and illustrated to some extent.

More comprehensive information about individual parks can be provided in booklets based upon the information in the park Working Plan.

It will be appreciated that when the pressure of visitor use threatens the natural resources of the Park and detracts from the enjoyment of the Park, it is necessary to limit the numbers of people and their means of travel.

The capability of the land in National Parks for recreation is low in most land units in Western Australia because of the ease with which the natural vegetation is damaged.

It may be necessary to make alternative points of attraction accessible to relieve the pressure on areas that are suffering from overuse. Access to areas may have to be restricted, or prohibited altogether to enable the vegetation to recover.

Formerly it was only trampling that was of concern in coastal sand dune country. Today those on trail bikes and beach buggies bare the dunes in remarkably short time. These vehicles are of course permitted in National Parks only if they are licensed, and they may be used only on roads and approved tracks.

SUMMARY

National Parks are established to preserve for all time scenic beauty, wilderness, native wildlife, indigenous plant life and areas of scientific importance and to provide for the appreciation and enjoyment of those things by the public in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the future.

The management of National Parks consists of protecting the natural features from damage or destruction, maintaining the ecological balance and preventing unnatural interference with dynamic processes, and providing facilities for appropriate enjoyment and appreciation of the Park.

For management purposes, areas of the parks are zoned according to the types of activity for which they are best suited. They may be the usual natural areas with facilities for access of vehicles, wilderness areas to which access is only on foot, special areas to which there is no access, and facilities areas.

Appropriate use of a National Park is any activity which is inspired by and derives its enjoyment from the natural character and features of the Park. Such are outdoor recreational activities that can be accommodated without material alteration or disturbance and without the introduction of artificiality into the natural environment.

National Parks provide the opportunity for people to get away from the pressures, the crowds, the mechanization, and the artificiality of modern civilization, and to enjoy the beauty of unspoilt nature and the solitude of the wilderness.

National Parks

Alexander Morrison National Park

Class A Reserves of 8 501 hectares comprising Reserves A.29800, A.29803 and A.29804 located north-west of Jurien Bay and controlled by the Ranger-in-Charge of Nambung National Park.

Avon Valley National Park

An A Class Reserve of 4 377 hectares. It is the intention of the Authority to restrict access to this park until full-time supervision of the area can be provided.

Badgingarra National Park

Situated north-east of the Cervantes Townsite and Nambung National Park, this area of 13 121 hectares was reserved mainly for the preservation of Black Kangaroo Paws.

Boorabbin National Park

An A Class Reserve of 26 000 ha on each side of the Great Eastern Highway west of Boorabbin. Typical heathland of the sand plains east of the wheatbelt.

Cape Arid National Park

A Class A Reserve of 259 808 hectares, having magnificent coastal scenery, popular for camping and fishing. A Ranger is resident in the park near the mouth of the Thomas River.

Cape Le Grand National Park

An A Class Reserve consisting of 31 390 hectares on the South Coast about 32 kilometres east of Esperance. It has magnificent coastal scenery with granite peaks and swamps rich in birdlife. The area is popular for summer camping and fishing holidays. The Ranger is resident in the park.

Cape Range National Park

The park was extended to include a part of former Yardie Creek Station and was classified A Class Reserve in 1974. The park consists of 50 581 hectares situated on the North West Coast near Exmouth. It contains rugged mountain scenery with deeply eroded gorges and a coastline well patronised for camping and fishing during the winter months. The park is controlled by a Ranger located in Exmouth.

Chichester Range National Park

This A Class Reserve comprises 150 609 hectares of great scenic beauty, including the well known Python Pool. The area is located south of Roebourne and is serviced by a Ranger appointed to control the Hamersley Range National Park and by a Mobile Ranger based at Millstream during the winter months.

Collier Range National Park

A Class C Reserve of 555 714 hectares consisting of high ground between the upper reaches of the Ashburton and Gascoyne rivers.

D'Entrecasteaux National Park

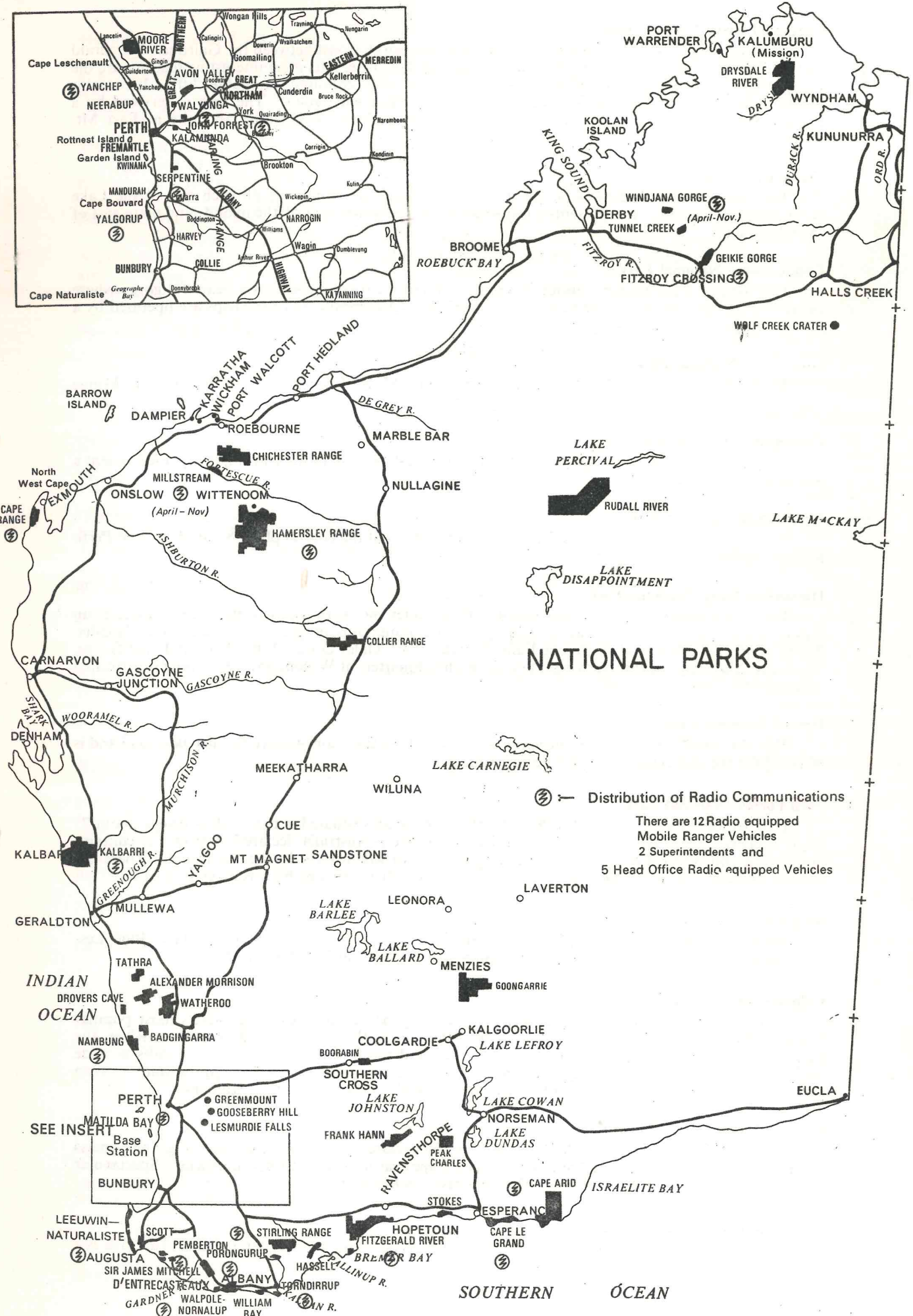
Consisting of A Class Reserves extending along the west-south coast eastwards from Cape Beaufort to join up with the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Will contain extensive areas of sand dune, both primary and secondary. Extensive areas of heathland, scrubland and woodland, with smaller areas of Karri, Marri and Jarrah forest. At present consists of Class A Reserves at the mouth of the Donnelly River and at Lake Jasper, altogether 1 704 hectares.

Drovers Cave National Park

A Class A Reserve of 2 681 hectares located north of Jurien Bay, this area is under the supervision of the Ranger-in-Charge of Nambung National Park.

Drysdale River National Park

This reserve consists of 435 590 hectares of wooded country in the North Kimberley. The Drysdale River flows through the middle of the reserve which includes the Ashton Range and the Carson Escarpment. Owing to the lack of any roads and its isolation, the Authority does not intend to develop this area for the time being.



Fitzgerald River National Park

A major reserve of 242 727 hectares, situated on the South Coast between the Gairdner, Fitzgerald and Phillips River, west of Culham Inlet and Hopetoun Townsite. Its most interesting features are the Fitzgerald and Hamersley River Gorges with spectacular cream coloured spongolite cliffs. It contains magnificent coastal and mountain scenery and unique flora and fauna. The area is serviced by a Ranger based in Jerramungup and an Assistant Ranger resident at Quaalup and one at East Mt. Barren.

Frank Hann National Park

This area of 49 877 hectares comprises a strip of land one mile wide on each side of the Lake King-Norseman Road. It represents a cross section of the heath flora of the inland sand plain east of the wheatbelt.

Geikie Gorge National Park

This area of 3 136 hectares about 16 km from Fitzroy Crossing contains a beautiful gorge where the river cuts through an ancient limestone barrier reef. A campsite and river trips are operated by a Ranger during the dry season.

Goongarrie National Park

An A Class Reserve of 49 878 hectares representing Mulga Country near to the Eucalypt Mulga Line.

Gooseberry Hill National Park

It is a scenic lookout of 33 hectares located on the western edge of the Darling Range escarpment a few miles from Kalamunda.

Greenmount National Park

An area of 56 hectares reserved for its panoramic views of the coastal plain, Swan River and Perth and its suburbs.

Hamersley Range National Park

This is the second largest single National Park under the Authority's control and comprises an area of 590 176 hectares. The area is one of spectacular mountains, gorges, water courses and plateaux. Points of special interest are Fortescue Falls, Circular Pool, Dales Gorge, Joffre Falls and Red Gorge. The Ranger in charge of this National Park has his headquarters at Wittenoom. Camping is permitted in designated areas in this park.

Hassell National Park

This A Class Reserve of 1 281 hectares is situated along the main Albany-Bremer Bay road and is reserved for the protection of its flora and fauna.

John Forrest National Park

This National Park is an A Class Reserve of 1 579 hectares situated in the Darling Range about 27 km from Perth. It is the original National Park in Western Australia declared in 1895. It contains open forest and woodland and has outstanding displays of wildflowers during the Spring. There is a natural swimming pool for the enjoyment of the public. It is serviced by a Ranger staff of 8.

Kalamunda National Park

An A Class Reserve of 375 hectares. This area is rich in wildflowers, particularly Blue Leschenaultia, and it has been the Authority's policy to leave it mainly undeveloped.

Kalbarri National Park

This A Class Reserve of 186 096 hectares is quickly becoming one of the State's most popular National Parks. Located some 644 km north of Perth near the mouth of the Murchison River, the park has outstanding gorge scenery along the river, and the limestone and sandstone cliffs provide magnificent coastal scenery. Good accommodation including hotel/motel, camping and caravan parks, swimming, surfing and fishing facilities are available at the Townsite at Kalbarri.

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park

Consists of a series of Class A Reserves of 9 776 hectares, mainly on the ridge of granite gneiss and limestone which runs along the coast between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. Spectacular coastal scenery, heathland and forest with many caves in limestone.

Lesmurdie Falls National Park

A small A Class Reserve of 56 hectares which gives good views of the coastal plain. This area is a popular picnic spot situated 24 km from Perth.

Millstream National Park

Part of the area recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority to be a National Park at Millstream on the Fortescue River was vested in the National Parks Authority *Government Gazette* April 1, 1977. This was Class A Reserve 24392, about 441 hectares, formerly vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee.

Moore River National Park

This area of 17 543 hectares, located about 113 km north of Perth, is outstanding for its wildflowers. It is the Authority's intention to leave this area undeveloped.

Nambung National Park

A National Park of 17 487 hectares situated south of Jurien Bay, this area is becoming increasingly popular for its wildflowers and strange natural formations, the Pinnacles. A number of caves in the area are being kept sealed to protect them from vandalism. Two Rangers are resident in Cervantes Townsite.

Neerabup National Park

Class A Reserve of 1 195 hectares. This area located on the Perth-Yanchep Road a few kilometres north of Wanneroo, is being maintained in its natural state.

Peak Charles National Park

An A Class Reserve of 39 959 ha. Centred on spectacular granite outcrops representing flora of the south-west portion of the goldfields.

Pemberton National Parks

Areas collectively known as the Pemberton National Parks, consisting of Class A Reserves 7691 (Warren National Park) 1 356 hectares, 7692 (Beedelup National Park) 1 531 hectares, 19424 (Brockman National Park) 48 hectares, 17519 (Miscellaneous reserves alongside alignment of Old Vasse Road) 206 hectares, and Class C Reserve 19857 at Pemberton 122 hectares. A delightful caravan park is situated in the Pemberton reserve. A ranger is based on the Old Vasse Road between the Warren and Beedelup National Parks.

Porongurup National Park

An A Class Reserve of 2 359 hectares between the Stirling Range National Park and Albany. It incorporates the granite peaks of the Porongurup Ranges, the slopes of which are heavily forested with Karri *Eucalyptus diversicolor*. Accommodation is available at the nearby Karribank Motel/Guest House. A ranger is stationed in the park.

Rudall River

Class A Reserve 34607, about 1 569 459 hectares around Rudall River, east from Roy Hill and Nullagine.

Scott National Park

An A Class Reserve of 3 273 hectares situated 6.4 km north-east of Augusta townsite originally created in 1959 to protect the waterways at the junction of the Scott and Blackwood Rivers and the Jarrah, Marri, and Karri forests existing in the area. Named after Robert Scott who first selected land in the southern portion of the Reserve in 1871.

Serpentine National Park

A Class A Reserve of 635 hectares. This park is popular for picnicking and is noted for its waterfall. There is an area designated for camping and has a resident Ranger.

Sir James Mitchell National Park

An A Class Reserve consisting of an area of 1 087 hectares stretching along the South West Highway, for a length of 64 km. As its width is 100 metres on each side of the road it ensures that this stretch of road will remain a drive displaying natural flora.

Stirling Range National Park

An A Class Reserve of 115 671 hectares. This is a major National Park under the Authority's control and is situated 322 km south-east of Perth. This park is noted for its wildflowers and mountain peaks, the highest of which, Bluff Knoll, rises 1 073 metres above sea level. In order that the surrounding farmland be protected from bush fires escaping from this rugged park, an extensive system of fire breaks has had to be cut. There is a commercial caravan park on the northern boundary of the park opposite the Bluff Knoll turn-off, and overnight camping is permitted at Moingup Springs. Two Rangers are resident in the park.

Stokes National Park

An area of 10 668 hectares adjoining Stokes Inlet and Lake Cobinup reserve, to preserve the shores of these waterways. Maintained by a Mobile Ranger during the summer months.

Tathra National Park

An A Class Reserve of 4 323 hectares. The area is noted for its wildflowers and for the present is being maintained in its natural state.

Torndirrup National Park

This Reserve with an area of 9 313 hectares, is located south-west of the town of Albany. It is noted for its flora and fauna and rugged coastline, particular tourist attractions being known as The Gap and the Natural Bridge. The area is maintained by a Ranger situated in the Park.

Tunnel Creek National Park

This Reserve has an area of 91 hectares. Situated about 184 km east of Derby and 29 km south-east of Windjana Gorge National Park, Tunnel Creek is a stream which flows through the Napier Range and through a large natural tunnel eroded through the limestone by the creek itself.

Walpole-Nornalup National Park

This reserve of 18 063 hectares is located on the South Coast of Western Australia some 418 km south-east of Perth. It is an area of great scenic beauty, noted for its flora, fauna, fine stands of Karri and Tingle forest, coastal views and enclosed inlets. The establishment of a camping and caravan park at Coalmine Beach, controlled by the Authority, has resulted in the area becoming a popular resort and noted for its swimming, fishing and yachting. There are four resident Rangers.

Walyunga National Park

A further instalment of \$4 262.58 was paid through the year in respect of the purchase of the Walyunga National Park, which consists of an area of 1 790 hectares, located approximately 37 km north-east of Perth. It is noted for its scenic views and flora and for the fact that it was a large camping area formerly used by Aborigines. The establishment of picnic facilities at Walyunga and Long Pools and the rapids that occur during the winter have resulted in its becoming one of the most popular picnic spots adjacent to Perth. There is a Ranger resident in the park.

Watheroo National Park

This A Class Reserve of 44 204 hectares is controlled by the Ranger stationed in Cervantes and is considered valuable for the preservation of native flora and fauna.

William Bay National Park

An A Class Reserve consisting of 1 869 hectares. This area is noted for its flora, fauna and coastal scenery.

Windjana Gorge National Park

This A Class Reserve of 2 134 hectares situated in the Kimberleys, contains a remarkable gorge where the Lennard River cuts through an ancient limestone reef. The gorge is 4 km long and has nearly vertical walls up to 76 metres high.

Wolf Creek Crater National Park

A Reserve of 1 460 hectares situated 104 km south of Halls Creek. Reserved for the protection of a meteorite crater. This crater is 800 metres wide, 49 metres deep, with an area of 1 296 hectares.

Yalgorup National Park

The land portion of this A Class Reserve of 11 545 hectares was placed under the National Parks Authority's control in January, 1968. The lakes were added to the park in September, 1971. The park is located on the coastal plain south of Mandurah and contains a system of parallel lakes which are noted for their birdlife. It possesses delightful heath and woodland scenery, interesting geological features and also is noted for its flora and animal life. The Ranger resides in the park.

Yanchep National Park

This A Class Reserve of 2 799 hectares, located 51 km north of Perth, was established as a park in 1905. It is a noted tourist attraction containing caves, a swimming pool, golf course, boating, ovals and picnic grounds (barbecues, picnic tables provided, etc.) together with fauna exhibits of koalas, kangaroos, emus and bird aviaries. Accommodation is provided by the Yanchep Inn (Licensed) and McNess Guest House.

Development around the entrance to this park may suggest that large areas have been given over to tourist facilities, but in fact 90 per cent of the Reserve is still maintained in its natural state. Loch McNess provides a haven for a large assortment of water fowl and other birdlife while the surrounding bushland is rich in native flora and fauna. This park with its many facilities for the public is maintained by 20 Ranger staff.