

# ANNUAL REPORT



FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1962



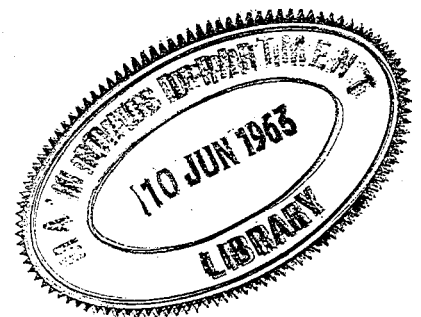
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1962



# National Parks Board of Western Australia



## ANNUAL REPORT



For Year Ended 30th June, 1962

To The Honourable W. S. Bovell, M.L.A., Minister for Lands.

Sir,

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1962.

### 1. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

In June, 1962, the Board Membership was increased by the appointment of Mr. R. D. Royce, B.Sc. (Agric.), Officer in Charge, Botany Branch, Department of Agriculture, and Curator State Herbarium.

### 2. RESERVES

The Board has control of the following Reserves :—

Yanchep Park and Beach  
John Forrest National Park  
Serpentine Falls  
Lesmurdie  
Crawley  
Hamelin Bay  
Nornalup  
Porongorups  
Stirling Ranges.

The Board is desirous of having all its Reserves classified as "A" Class and action is taken from time to time, towards this end.

During the year Reserves A20745, A12439, A15997 and A24436, all in the vicinity of Yanchep, were so classified. Three small Reserves 650, 809 and 810, previously reserved for water purposes in the Stirling Ranges, were vested in the Board.

It is understood that land in the vicinity of The Knoll, Gooseberry Hill amounting to approximately 100 acres, recently acquired as a scenic reserve, will be vested in the Board once arrangements have been finalised with the Department of Civil Aviation for access to the Beacon.

An area of 6-8 acres near Rest Point was excised from Nornalup National Park and leased by the Lands Department to private enterprise for the purpose of establishing beach cottages, motel and camping facilities.

### 3. FINANCE

A comparison of consolidated Receipts and Payments with those of the previous year, together with Government Subsidies, is as follows :—

1960-61	Receipts	1961-62
£		£
51,965	General Receipts	63,465
38,300	Treasury Subsidy	44,500
<hr/> 90,265		<hr/> 107,965
1,950	Plus Opening Credit Balance	743
<hr/> £92,215		<hr/> £108,708
	Payments	
70,904	General Payments	85,274
20,568	Improvements	23,386
<hr/> 91,472		<hr/> 108,660
743	Plus Closing Credit Balance	48
<hr/> £92,215		<hr/> £108,708

The increases are due mainly to Government Subsidy and Tourist Development Authority payments.

#### 4. GARDENING AND MOWING SERVICE

- (1) These services continue to expand as shown hereunder :—  
Garden Services.—Remain approximately the same at 35.  
Mowing Services for Government Establishments.—Increased from 63 to 73 during the year.  
Mowing Services for Schools.—Showed a rise from 133 to 153 during the year.
- (2) The Curator's services are also utilised in an advisory capacity and in supervision of gardening at Government House and Parliament House grounds.

#### 5. CRAWLEY RESERVE

- (1) With the provision of an additional pumping plant, it has been possible to reticulate the main section of this very popular River resort.
- (2) *Algae Removal*.—The Board has employed two workmen on Algae clearance from portions of the Swan River foreshore. This work is carried out economically on behalf of, and under the supervision of, the Swan River Conservation Board, which recoups the cost.

#### 6. HAMELIN BAY

- (1) *Change Rooms and Toilets*.—With financial assistance from Tourist Development Authority, a block of change rooms and toilets, together with the necessary water supply, has been erected adjacent to the Hamelin Bay foreshore.
- (2) The Local Shire Council has been requested to take over the Reserve, which is of purely local interest.

#### 7. JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

- (1) *Improvements effected include*—
  - (a) Change rooms and toilets near Swimming Pool, with Tourist Development Authority assistance.
  - (b) Petrol and Oil Store.
- (2) *Maintenance* of buildings, pathways, stonework, bridges, etc., has occupied much of the staff's time.
- (3) *Wildflower Gardens and Springtime Wildflower Walks*.—Some planting of wildflowers has been undertaken, but is limited, because of water shortages.  
Conducted tours are a regular feature of the tourist visits to this Centre.
- (4) *Water Supply*.—Improved water supplies are essential before the cultivation of wildflowers can be made a feature of the developed portion of this Reserve. To this end, steps have been taken to increase the capacity of the small dam on Mahogany Creek and to have a dam constructed on Glen Brook with a capacity of up to 10,000,000 gallons. Public Works Department are preparing specifications and an estimate of cost and Tourist Development Authority has promised financial assistance.

#### 8. NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK

- (1) The Local Advisory Committee continues to act with the Board in any proposed development of this Park.
- (2) *Staff*.—Our Honorary Ranger, Mr. J. H. Rate, who is also Secretary of the Advisory Committee, has tendered valuable assistance in the way of advice and supervision on matters affecting the control and development within the Park.  
A part-time caretaker will be replaced by a full time officer on completion of the residence under construction at Coalmine Beach.
- (3) *Improvements*.—A caravan park, with change rooms, toilets and laundry, has been established at Coalmine Beach with financial assistance provided by Tourist Development Authority.  
A contract has been let and construction work commenced on a residence for a resident full time caretaker. Facilities for tea room service have been incorporated in the building.
- (4) *Roads and Firelines*.—The Main Roads Department provided £3,500 for roads and firelines within the Park and the work was carried out by the Manjimup Shire Council and Forests Department, on behalf of the Board.
- (5) *Fire Control*.—The Forests Department has accepted the responsibility for controlled burning and fire supervision within the Park, which was free of uncontrolled fires during the past Summer.

#### 9. PORONGORUPS NATIONAL PARK

- (1) *Honorary Ranger*.—Mr. K. G. Hicks of Karri Bank, Porongorups, has been appointed Honorary Ranger of this Park.
- (2) *Fire Control*.—The Porongorups Bush Fire Brigade, which was assisted financially by the Board in the purchase of fire fighting equipment, has agreed to carry out voluntary fire control of this Park, including controlled burning of dangerous hazards, much of which has already been accomplished.

## 10. STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK

(1) *Honorary Ranger*.—Mr. J. Lyons of Mt. Barker, the Honorary Ranger of this Park, has proved very helpful in sign posting of the Park, besides giving advice on condition of roads to important high points and recommending desirable improvements. However, the appointment of a full time Ranger or a small mobile gang for this and the Porongorups is considered necessary if the illegal picking of wildflowers is to be prevented.

(2) *Roads*.—With Main Roads Department and Tourist Development Authority assistance, road construction and improvements are proceeding. A traverse track from Red Gum Pass to Chester Pass along the foothills has been reconnoitred.

## 11. SERPENTINE FALLS RESERVE

(1) *Fire Control*.—This Reserve was burnt out last summer by an uncontrolled fire, which destroyed the bridge below the Falls. In order to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster, action has been taken towards the preparation of a fire control plan, including progressive construction of the necessary firelines.

The appointment of a full or part time Caretaker will also become a necessity within the next few years, as the only person at present employed in this Reserve is a parking attendant, who is an invalid.

(2) *Discharge of Irrigation Water*.—With the completion of the Serpentine Dam, the Serpentine River ceases to flow in summer, which means the Reserve loses much of its attraction and, in addition, the swimming pool becomes stagnant and cannot be used. Our request to have the irrigation water discharged above the Falls, instead of below, has so far been refused.

(3) Consideration should be given by Tourist Development Authority to the development of a scenic drive from the Serpentine Dam along the Serpentine River to the Falls Reserve and to the release of some water above the Falls during the summer months.

## 12. YANCHEP PARK

(1) *Improvements*.—Permanent improvements include the following :—

- (a) *No. 5 Staff Cottage* (three bedroom, timber framed, asbestos walls and tiled roof).
- (b) *Parrot Flight Cage* 30 ft. x 20 ft.
- (c) *Black Swan Enclosure* on ornamental lake.
- (d) *Gloucester Lodge*.—With the construction of new swimming pool change rooms, provision has been made in the main building for additional accommodation and storage room.
- (e) *Change Rooms* at East Oval constructed of brick.
- (f) *Water Supply*.—Two new concrete water tanks erected.

(2) *Maintenance*.—Work has been carried out on general maintenance of amenities such as caves, sports grounds and picnic areas and of buildings by way of painting, reconstruction of toilet facilities at Gloucester Lodge, Staff Quarters at the Inn, with additional toilet and bathroom facilities, resurfacing of tennis courts, etc.

(3) *New Launch*.—A new launch "Miss Yanchep" designed and built by the Harbour and Light Department, was completed at the end of the year and was ready for launching.

(4) *Golf Course*.—Further progress was made in the construction of the grassed Golf Course which should be ready for play when the official opening takes place on 15th July, 1962.

(5) *Power House*.—By arrangement with the S.E.C., the Board is hiring one of their engines and generating plant in the hope that the service can be kept running until the power line is extended to Yanchep. As the secondhand plant, owing to breakdowns, has caused considerable trouble and inconvenience, a further approach has been made to the S.E.C. for extension of the Mains.

(6) *Equipment*.—Equipment has been kept serviceable and a new truck purchased.

(7) *Wildflower Gardens and Walks*.—The extensive planting of wildflower gardens and the inauguration of conducted springtime walks has proved popular, both with tourists and local visitors.

(8) *Arbor Day (5th July, 1961)*.—A gathering of over 300 people, comprising members of Parliament, Government Officers, Local Dignitaries, school children and members of the public participated in a tree planting ceremony when 1,000 trees were planted along the Yanchep Beach Road.

## 13. YANCHEP BEACH RESERVE

(1) *Road to Yanchep Beach*.—This road, including a by-pass to the Park, has now been completed by the Main Roads Department, which has agreed to complete the internal roads within the Park.

(2) Replanning of the Reserve to provide for caravans and day parking, is awaiting Main Roads decision with respect to a two way ring road at the Beach to link up eventually with the proposed Coastal Highway.

(3) *Crayfishing*.—Commercial crayfishing boats which continue to use the adjacent reef protected water as an anchorage cause some inconvenience to visitors to the Reserve.

#### **14. HEIRISSON ISLAND**

The question of control and development of this Island reserve received the serious consideration of this Board during the year and a decision is awaited on certain recommendations put forward.

#### **15. STAFF UNIFORMS**

A standard staff uniform (shirt, trousers and dustcoat) has been adopted at John Forrest National Park and Yanchep Park, thus making members of the staff more readily recognisable by visitors to these Parks.

#### **16. SUPERANNUATION**

During the year arrangements were finalised for the establishment of a Staff Contributing Endowment Fund for the benefit of workers and contributions commenced on the first pay in July, 1962.

#### **17. COLOURED FOLDER AND POSTCARDS**

Arrangements were finalised for the printing of a new coloured folder and postcards of National Parks and Reserves, and these were available on sale in July, 1962.

#### **18. HISTORICAL PLAQUES**

Financial assistance was rendered to the W.A. Historical Society (Inc.) and its branches in providing historical plaques at Golden Ridge in the Eastern Goldfields, Bunbury, Roebourne, Perth Boys' High School, Pt. Belches and the Round House at Fremantle.

#### **19. WILDFLOWER PROTECTION**

The Board was represented by myself (as chairman) on a Committee appointed to enquire into and report on means for protecting and preserving our W.A. wildflowers.

#### **20. PUBLICITY**

Increased free press, radio and television publicity has been given to National Parks and Reserves controlled by this Board, including an article in the Journal of Agriculture of Western Australia and some paid press advertisements.

#### **21. GENERAL**

(1) The Board is grateful for the assistance and advice tendered by various Government Departments, including Treasury, Main Roads, Town Planning, Public Works, Metropolitan Water Supply, Lands and Surveys, Agriculture, Forests, Child Welfare, Government Stores, Harbour and Light Departments, as well as Tourist Development Authority and Government Printing Office.

(2) With the emphasis being placed on the value of wildflowers in attracting tourists to this State, the National Parks, where all fauna and flora are protected, must eventually assume greater importance. There is urgent need for all major Reserves to be created "A" Class Reserves and vested in the National Parks Board in order that they can be controlled and administered according to the policy already laid down by the Board. This can only be done if increased finance is made available to provide for the employment of resident and/or mobile caretakers, the construction of a limited access system and some development works of a minor nature. The small increase in Government Subsidies over the past few years cannot even provide for the maintenance and necessary improvement of existing Reserves, under the control of the Board.

(3) The inclusion by Treasury of expenditure on National Parks under "Social Services" is surely wrong when Reserves are now being looked upon as a Tourist attraction with a definite value in the Tourist trade. A different approach might enable the Hon. Treasurer to provide adequate finance for the Board's operations.

(4) Members join with me in recording their appreciation of the assistance and co-operation received from its Officers, including the Curator, Superintendents and other outside staff.

A. C. SHEDLEY,  
*Chairman, National Parks Board of Western Australia.*