

**NATIONAL PARKS BOARD
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

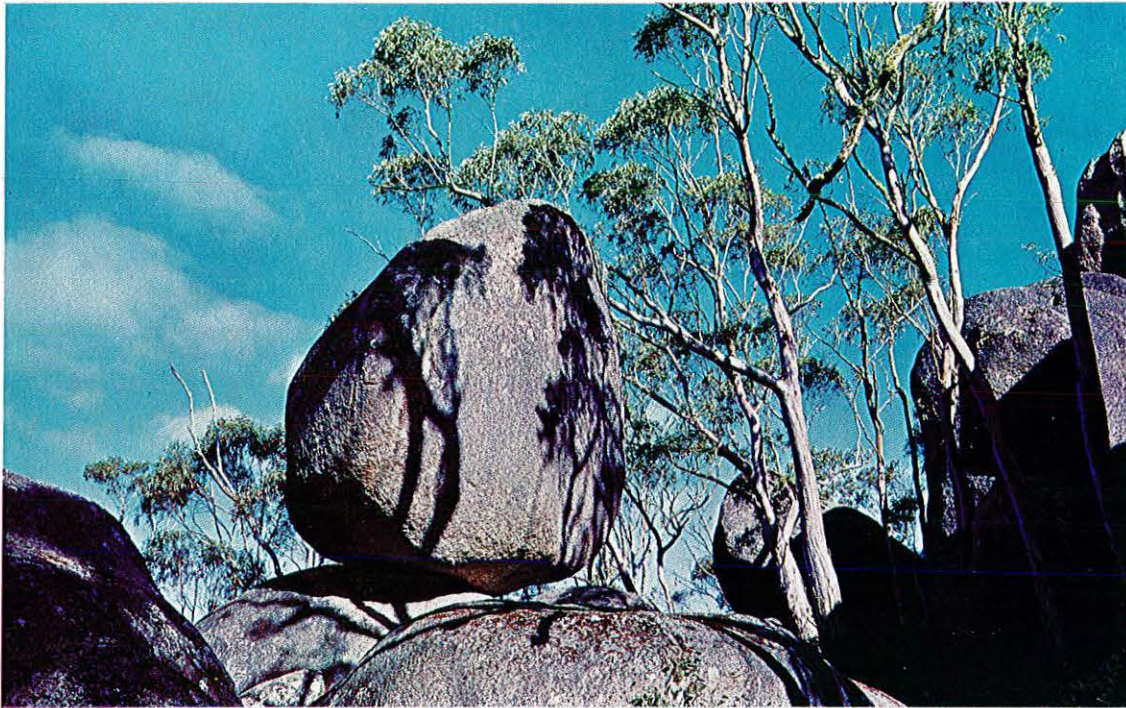
Annual Report 1969



*Cover: Murchison River Gorge, Kalbarri National Park
(By courtesy of Mr. J. M. Hodges, Mosman Park).*

**NATIONAL PARKS BOARD
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Annual Report 1969



The Balancing Rock, Porongurup National Park

(Report by the President, Mr. R. J. Bond, I.S.O., A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S.)

I am pleased to present on behalf of the National Parks Board of Western Australia, this annual report covering its main activities over the past year ended the 30th June, 1969.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Membership remained unaltered up until the 30th June, 1969, when Mr. F. C. Smith retired and the Under Secretary for Lands, Mr. C. R. L. Gibson, A.A.S.A., J.P., joined the Board in his place.

The membership at the 30th June, 1969 was:—

R. J. Bond, I.S.O., A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S., President.
C. F. H. Jenkins, M.A., Deputy President.
C. R. Bunning, C.B.E., B.C.E., A.M.I.E.
J. E. Lloyd, M.T.P.I., F.A.P.I.
J. F. Morgan, L.S., F.I.S. (Aust.), M.I.C.W.A.
R. D. Royce, B.Sc. (Agric.).
F. C. Smith, J.P.

Members of the Board would like to place on record their very sincere appreciation of the help and advice given to the Board by Mr. Smith over a period of nine years, since he joined the Board in 1960.

It was very pleasing to learn of the award to Mr. C. R. Bunning of the C.B.E. in the 1969 New Year Honour's List issued by Her Majesty the Queen. I join with the other members in offering our very sincere congratulations to Mr. Bunning on deserving recognition.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

These remain unaltered and comprise:—

Managing Secretary—H. E. Bancroft, A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S.

Administrative Assistant—H. R. Gorringe.

RESERVES

New Vestings

Torndirrup National Park of 8,911 acres, located along the South Coast, south-west of Albany was vested in the Board during the year. The name is a native one for the area and the Board is awaiting official approval of this name.

Change in Name of Reserve

Official approval was given to the change in name of Yanchep Park to Yanchep National Park.

Amendments to Existing Reserves

John Forrest National Park was increased in size by 266 acres by the inclusion in it of a portion of a former railway reserve including the Swan View tunnel area.

Nambung National Park also was enlarged by the inclusion of Class "A" Reserve No. 24522 of about 9,286 acres.

Walpole-Nornalup National Park was reduced in size by the excision of 136 acres adjacent to the Walpole Townsite for industrial purposes. There were reasons supporting this proposal, which were agreed to by the Board.

Stirling Range National Park has had 1,334 acres added to it by the inclusion of the Hamilla Hill area and part of Plantagenet Location 4521, which are rich in flora—Cranbrook Bells principally.

Following the vesting of the Yalgorup National Park further areas—mostly in the south—have been either included in the park or vested in the Board. Action is in course to have the reserves concerned consolidated.

Yanchep National Park had its area increased by 446 acres, which was taken from an adjoining State Forest in exchange for an area excised from the park in the previous year for "Forestry Headquarter's Site".

Reduction in Vestings

During the year this Board voluntarily relinquished control over the Yanchep Beach Reserve of 44 acres, so that it could pass to the local Shire which was considered a more appropriate authority to administer this area which was reserved for "camping" purposes and which is used extensively by day visitors.

Reserves Vested in the Board

National Parks and other reserves totalling 843,449 acres are vested in the Board and comprise the following:—

<i>National Parks</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Cape Le Grand	39,500
Cape Range	33,171
Geikie Gorge	7,750
Greenmount	127
John Forrest	3,914
Kalamunda	919
Kalbarri	358,000
Lesmurdie Falls	81
Nambung	39,991
Neerabup	2,785
Porongurup	5,531
Serpentine	1,571
Stirling Range	285,874
Torndirrup	8,911
Walpole-Nornalup	33,012
Walyunga	4,000
Yalgorup	9,850
Yanchep	6,840
	841,827

<i>Other Reserves</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Albany Boronia Reserve	112
Araluen-Canning Dam Reserve	50
East Perth Cemetary	12
Hamelin Bay Reserve	366
Kalbarri Ranger's Residential Reserve	¼
Keane's Point Reserve	6
Matilda Bay Reserve	51
Nowergup Lake Fauna Sanctuary	288
Old Mill Reserve, South Perth	¼
Penguin Island Reserve	31
Walpole Flora Reserve	228
Walpole Golf Course Reserve	35
Walpole Ranger's Residential Reserve	¼
Walpole Yacht Club Reserve	2
Yanchep Flora Reserves	439
Small part of King's Park Reserve (Bernies Kiosk)	1
	1,622
	843,449

The area shown for the Walpole-Nornalup National Park includes a portion of Class "A" Reserve No. 13045 (Park Lands) which for all practical purposes forms part of the national park. Also Yalgorup National Park includes Class "A" Reserve Nos. 997 (Camping and Recreation) and 22057 (Conservation of Flora and Fauna) which it is hoped will be amalgamated with the main reserve in due course.

General Vesting of Reserves

All national parks within this State are not vested in this Board and many of them are of insufficient size to justify giving them "national park" status.

Many are classified "national parks" under the broad heading of Lands Department Reserves.

It is felt that eventually, all important national parks should be vested in this Board, in order to facilitate the adoption of a common policy of control and management with resultant economy in administration and general protection of these areas.

The recently appointed Reserves Advisory Council is expected to play an important part in the early finalisation of applications already made for specific areas listed in the Board's previous annual report and further applications since made for other areas. Decisions have already been reached by the Council and implemented in regard to certain of these areas and investigation of others is in progress.

The Council has not only investigated areas sought by this Board, but has also listed for consideration many of the invested Reserves referred to in the Academy of Science Report published in 1965. It has served as a very valuable link be-

tween the three conservation authorities in W.A.—each operating under a separate Statute—and its deliberations have encompassed a full and frank discussion on the problems and requirements of each individual area and agreement as to in which authority it should be vested.

Negotiations are in progress to acquire an area of private property about 25 miles north of Albany for preservation of Boronia and another small area at Geekabee Hill for preservation of Lambstails. Also negotiations are in progress relating to taking over control of coastal reserves east of Nornalup.

Hill River Caves Area

Vandals have again been active in breaking into Drover's Cave and notwithstanding the area is not yet under the control of the Board, action was taken to co-operate with the Department of Lands and Surveys and have the damage repaired in an effort to preserve this most attractive cave for posterity.

Classification of Reserves

All national Parks and other reserves vested in this Board have not yet been classified "A" Class and it is still the Board's hope that eventually all of them will be so classified.

Reserves Advisory Council

Following the appointment in 1965-66 of a Special Interdepartmental Committee to consider and report on management generally for national

parks and flora and fauna reserves, including the co-ordination of activities where possible, it is pleasing to learn of the appointment by the Government during the year of a Reserves Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of the Under Secretary for Lands and on which this Board is represented by the President. It is felt that the appointment of this Council will help in no small way towards having adequate areas set aside for national parks, wildlife and conservation purposes generally.

GENERAL POLICY AND PLANNING

The Board's general policy in relation to areas placed under its control is:—

"To so administer the reserves and other lands under its control, as to ensure the preservation of their natural beauty, the conservation of native flora and fauna, and the protection of geological, physiographical and other features of special interest; and

"To develop and improve certain areas for the purpose of promoting the use and enjoyment of them by the public."

Action is in course towards progressively preparing over-all plans for each of the major national parks and reserves under the control of the Board, with a view to assisting in their orderly development without undue interference with nature. Certain preliminary work is in progress and regular Board visits to the areas concerned have been carried out with a view to Members familiarising

Walyunga Pool Rapids, Walyunga National Park



tion and improvements within national parks and reserves under the control of the Board, sometimes in conjunction with the local authority of the district concerned from finance supplied by the Department. The more important road construction works carried out for the year under review have been in providing improved access to Walyunga and Long Pools within the Walyunga National Park.

However a "T" shaped access road for four-wheel drive vehicles was constructed into the Kalbarri National Park by a Departmental gang in order to provide access to the outstanding scenic points at "The Loop" and in the "Z Bend" area. It is anticipated that this road will be upgraded within the next few months, when further funds become available.

Also an access road was constructed by the Main Roads Department along the coastal gorge area south of Red Bluff in order to give access to Pot Alley Gorge, Rainbow Gorge and Mushroom Rock Gorge. The Shire of Exmouth has carried out annual maintenance on the Charles Knife Road and Shothole Canyon Road, which lie partly inside and partly outside the park. The Main Roads Department co-operates in making funds available for the purpose.

FIRE CONTROL

Fire-breaks and Associated Access Roads

The Board continued with its policy of providing fire-breaks and access tracks (principally for fire control purposes) in national parks, with particular emphasis on the Stirling Range, Walpole-Nornalup and Kalbarri National Parks.

A fire-break was constructed during the year along the northern boundary of the Cape Le Grand National Park and another one was constructed linking this fire-break with the South Coast as a means of dividing the park up into compartments for fire control purposes.

Widening of perimeter fire-breaks was carried out in the Greenmount National Park.

A new fire-break was constructed in the Rocky Pool section of the John Forrest National Park and another one in the south western section of the park.

The fire-break along the western boundary of the Neerabup National Park was widened with the kind help of the adjoining land owner.

Some improvements were effected to the fire-break system in the Yanchep National Park, Nowergup Lake Fauna Sanctuary and Walyunga National Park, whilst additional fire-breaks (about 25 miles in length) were constructed along the upper eastern and north-eastern boundaries of the Kalbarri National Park. Further fire-break construction work is planned for the Kalbarri National Park next year.

In past years the Stirling Range National Park had been progressively ringed with fire-breaks and

during this year many miles (in the region of 54 miles) of new fire-breaks were constructed within the park south of the Stirling Range and extending between the park's east and west boundaries. A specialist in fire-control matters was employed to give advice on planning a fire-break system for this large park, which embraces mainly rugged terrain. Planning is already well advanced towards enlarging on this fire-break system during the ensuing year. It may take 3-5 years to implement the fire-break plan because of the nature of the terrain in the park.

Culvert construction, gravelling and maintenance grading of substantial proportions were carried out on access roads (main purpose is for fire control) in that section of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park north of the South Coast Highway. Also culverts were provided where necessary and sandy sections in hilly country near Mt. Clare were gravelled. A fairly heavy rainfall of over 50 inches per annum coupled with the soil texture and hilly nature of heavily timbered sections of this park render it necessary to have more than just rough fire-breaks in many parts of this park. Even the heavy undergrowth requires consistent attention in order to avoid encroachment on the access roads constructed.

A fire-break plan for the Yalgorup National Park is in the course of preparation.

Fire-break maintenance was carried out on existing breaks within Board controlled national parks and reserves, utilising where possible our own staff and equipment. However it became necessary to hire plant in some cases, including ploughing of some 30 miles of fire-breaks within the Kalbarri National Park.

Controlled Burning

Some controlled burning was carried out in sections of the John Forrest, Neerabup, Serpentine, Stirling Range (about 24,000 acres), Walpole-Nornalup, Walyunga and Yanchep National Parks.

Autumn controlled burning is carried out where practicable in the interests of native flora regeneration. However this is not always possible bearing in mind park location, climatic conditions, terrain, type of timber and vegetation and any special circumstances or hazards.

Bush Fires

This year has probably been the worst—as far as is known—for bush fires in our national parks and reserves.

Major Bush Fires, occurred within or entered the following parks from external sources, viz. John Forrest, Kalbarri and Stirling Range National Parks over the January-May, 1969 period and burnt out many acres of parklands, as reported in the Appendices to this report. The fire in John Forrest National Park originated from a burnt

out motor car, which was suspected of having been deliberately set alight.

The one in Kalbarri National Park originated from the Kalbarri Townsite rubbish tip. Preliminary inquiries have given rise to a strong suspicion that those in the Stirling Range National Park were lit deliberately by some person or persons unknown at this stage. Inquiries were still in progress at the time this report was prepared.

Other bush fires of a more minor nature burnt out small areas of parklands in the Walpole-Nornalup, Walyunga and Yanchep National Parks and there was a small fire in the Nowergup Lake Fauna Reserve.

Fire reports

A standard form of fire report is submitted to Head Office by the Superintendent or Ranger in Charge when a bush fire occurs in a national park or reserve under the control of the Board, and further inquiries into any particular fire are initiated where circumstances warrant such action.

Fire Plans

Fire-breaks as constructed are plotted on office fire control plans for individual parks, where areas of controlled burns and actual bush fires are also recorded, as an aid to future fire control planning.

Assistance on Fire Control

In the past the Forests Department has been most helpful in advising on and rendering practical aid in the planning and construction of fire-break systems within the parks, but unfortunately other commitments look like interfering with this convenient arrangement and the Board would like to place on record its appreciation of past help. However the W.A. Bush Fires Board has indicated that it will co-operate on such matters in the future. Local Shire Councils have been helpful on fire control matters when assistance has been sought and certain local Bush Fire Brigades have assisted materially with controlled burning and fighting of bush fires in individual parks, which has been sincerely appreciated. However there seems to be a general feeling of apathy regarding fire fighting within a national park, as long as the fire is not endangering private property. Conservation of flora and fauna demands that every effort be made to protect the parks and avoid bush fires where possible but once a fire occurs it is necessary for outside help to be given towards bringing it under control. Co-ordination of activity is obtained by arranging for Rangers to become members of local Bush Fire Brigades or to be appointed as Fire Control Officers.

Bush Fire Control School

Nine of the field staff from various parks attended a Bush Fire Control School conducted by the Forests Department at Yanchep National Park in September, 1968.

CONSERVATION OF NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

All native flora is protected in national parks under Board control, which precludes picking of wildflowers, removal or interference with plants and the gathering of seed, without written authority.

Similarly all fauna is protected in these areas, in consequence of which shooting is not permitted within them.

Botanical and Zoological Projects undertaken within national parks include:—

Biological Survey of the Kalbarri National Park

Continuing its policy of conducting a biological survey of all parks under its control, the Board arranged with the Director of the Western Australian Museum for a party of Zoologists to work in the Kalbarri National Park.

Botanists of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture also co-operated and the resultant reports will have a considerable influence on any future development in the park.

Regeneration of Vegetation after Bush Fires

Observations are being made in a number of national parks on the regeneration of native plants following various types of burning, particularly in the Kalbarri and Yanchep National Parks.

The University of Western Australia Botany Field Camp at Porongurup National Park in August, 1968

It is pleasing to acknowledge the receipt from the Department of Botany at the University of Western Australia of a report on a botanical re-survey of the Porongurup National Park carried out in August, 1968, following an earlier survey in 1964, which was the subject of an earlier report. As a matter of interest, Senior Lecturer G. G. Smith of the University Department of Botany, issued a paper in 1962 on "The Flora of Granite Rocks of the Porongurup Range, South-Western Australia".

Karri Research Project in Porongurup National Park

Permission was granted to the Forests Department for the conduct of a research project on Karri within this park.

Native Flora Collection Permits

Application procedure and permit forms have been revised in connection with the issue of permits to collect native flora specimens and or seed for scientific research purposes.

Cultivation and Conservation of Wildflowers (including Shrubs and Trees)

Replanting and extension of wildflower beds have been carried out at John Forrest and Yanchep National Parks, where planting adjacent to scenic roads has been augmented. In the vicinity of



Verticordia nitens



Pileanthus peduncularis

200 Marri seedlings have been reared and planted out to replace die-back trees in a section of John Forrest National Park near the Great Eastern Highway.

The tree planting programme carried out at Walyunga National Park has been very successful and further planting will be undertaken this winter. A garden bed of native flora has been established in this park adjacent to a scenic lookout vehicle parking area alongside the access road to Walyunga Pool.

Generally, the young trees planted in the Lesmurdie Falls National Park south of the Lesmurdie Brook are progressing satisfactorily, but some replacements will be required and this is being arranged.

A major replanting programme is in course for the shrubbery beds and nearby areas at the Matilda Bay Reserve, where many shrubs and trees have outlived their useful life.

Some further replanting will be necessary in established wildflower garden beds at Moingup Spring in the Stirling Range National Park and Coalmine Beach in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Native plants are acquired from private nurseries and other sources where practicable. Enlargement of the nursery facilities at Yanchep National Park has not yet been undertaken, pending a Botanist taking up duties shortly when it is hoped to establish improved propagation facilities for raising native plants which commercial or private nurseries cannot or are not permitted to propagate, such as plants endemic to a particular national park.

It is interesting to record that many hundreds of native plants—Kangaroo Paws predominating—are “rescued” from areas about to be developed for pastures and replanted in the national parks. The Board appreciates the co-operation of owners of these farming properties which has enabled the preservation of plants which would otherwise be ploughed in.

Springtime Wildflower Walks

Conducted wildflower walks are provided at Yanchep and John Forrest National Parks in the Springtime, for visitors wishing to tour the centrally located name plated garden beds.

Native Fauna

Kangaroos, wallabies, emus, parrots, rosellas, budgerigars and finches are on display at Yanchep National Park, where black swans and ducks frequent Loch McNess and the other ornamental lakes in large numbers.

New fauna enclosures have been established in a more private section of the park with a view to utilising the present site between Yanchep Inn and McNess Guest House for a car park, at the same time retaining as many of the native trees as possible.

Koalas also are on exhibit at Yanchep National Park and the little colony has grown to a total of 30 at the end of June, 1969, including the six young koalas that emerged from their mothers' pouches over the past year. Another four are expected to make an appearance very shortly.

Testing of eucalypt leaves fed to koalas is still being carried out regularly for cyanide content, with a view to minimising illnesses and deaths from this source.

One of the koalas developed an eye condition which necessitated prolonged treatment and we appreciate the free help and advice rendered by Veterinary Pathologist Mr. G. de Chaneet of the Animals Health Laboratories, South Perth, and later by Dr. A. F. Smits, Veterinary Surgeon of Cottesloe, who gave advice and treated the eye condition in an honorary capacity.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Follow up spraying of *Watsonia* was carried out at John Forrest, Lesmurdie Falls, Serpentine and Walyunga National Parks. In addition some spraying of Cape Tulip was undertaken at Walyunga and Yanchep National Parks. Also spraying of Blackberry received attention in the Serpentine National Park adjacent to the Serpentine River.

Wild Geranium is becoming a problem at Yanchep National Park and advice has been sought on ways and means of controlling it before it alters the character of the park by choking the *Hibbertia* and other small native flora growing in the vicinity of scenic drives.

SIGNPOSTING ON NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

An attractive concrete entrance sign depicting the name of the park has been erected alongside the western access road to Walyunga National Park as an experiment, but the cost and associated difficulties of erection in isolated or semi-isolated areas may preclude the general use of such a sign.

Timber entrance signs of a pleasing design depicting the name of the park only have been erected in the Geikie Gorge (one sign), Kalbarri (two signs), Stirling Range (two signs) and Walpole-Nornalup (three signs) National Parks. Others are on order for the John Forrest, Porongurup and Yanchep National Parks, and others will be ordered once present orders are fulfilled.

More pleasing type of directional signs and others relating to the protection of flora and fauna, etc. are now in use.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

The more important improvement works undertaken during the year and either completed or nearing completion were the erection of a ranger's residence and garage along with electricity and a

water supply in the Walyunga National Park ; fencing and slabbing surrounds of Swimming Pool at Gloucester Lodge, erection of Staff house No. 10 and fencing of new enclosures for emus and kangaroos at Yanchep National Park; construction of a residence and garage at Kalbarri for the park ranger; and extensive renovations to and painting of the John Forrest National Park tearoom and adjoining residence.

Construction of a H.T. voltage electricity line from Walpole to Coalmine Beach, along with step-down transformer was completed early in the year and a fairly substantial sum was spent on access roads (including the installation of many culverts) in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Fire-break construction received substantial attention in a number of national parks, of which the Stirling Range National Park incurred the heaviest expenditure as part of a comprehensive plan adopted for dividing this large park up for fire control purposes over a period of 3-5 years.

Kalbarri National Park of some 358,000 acres received the next priority in fire-break construction.

Water investigations and boring was carried out in the Red Gum Spring area within the Stirling Range National Park, in which park the location of adequate potable water presents problems. Also the telephone line extension was financed in order to facilitate contact with the ranger staff.

Included under improvements was the cost of safety measures taken in the caves at Yanchep National Park following earth tremors experienced in October, 1968.

Temporary toilets have been purchased and erected adjacent to the Murchison River Gorge near the "Z bend" in the Kalbarri National Park.

NEW VEHICLES, PLANT

A four wheel drive fire-fighting unit, a tip truck and a new utility were purchased for use at Yanchep National Park and a diesel tractor and attachments are on order for John Forrest National Park. A new engine was installed in the launch "Miss Yanchep" and patrol boats were acquired for Walpole-Nornalup and Yanchep National Parks.

Also a two-way radio was installed in the Assistant Ranger's vehicle at Walpole-Nornalup National Park for fire control purposes.

PURCHASE OF PARKLANDS

A further instalment of \$5,343 was met during the year in connection with the purchase of the land acquired for the establishment of the Walyunga National Park.

DREDGING OF LOCH MCNESS AT YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

This Board acknowledges with thanks the advice and practical assistance rendered by the De-

partment of Public Works in having partial dredging of Loch McNess carried out during the year at no cost to the Board.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK CAVES

Certain safety measures were taken in the Cabaret, Crystal and Yonderup Caves on the advice of the Mines Department following earth tremors experienced in October, 1968 and which necessitated temporary closure of these caves for short periods.

MINERAL CLAIMS

This Board is opposed to the granting of mineral claims or miners rights over national parks or reserves under its control and it will resist the granting of such where possible. In one recent case the Board successfully opposed the granting of two such claims for limestone quarrying within a national park. However, there are problems in connection with certain mineral claims granted before control was gained over the reserves concerned.

The Board is quite concerned at the number of mining claims for activities in national parks. Many sections of many parks are the subject of mining claims. It seems quite incongruous that whilst Parliament creates the Reserves "A" class and the instrument of vesting declares that they shall be held for the protection of flora and fauna, the natural scenic beauty and the use and enjoyment by the people, the National Parks Board has to attend a public hearing before a Mining Warden to establish why the Reserve should not be subject to destructive mining activity. It all seems so contrary to the concept of conservation. Western Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth where this system applies.

SQUATTERS

Since taking over control of the Nambung National Park, it has been found out that a problem exists in regard to squatters who have erected houses or shacks near the coast in this park and a survey is in progress with a view to their removal.

ALGAE CONTROL

Clerical assistance is still being given to the Swan River Conservation Board in connection with its employment of workmen on algae clearance and desnagging along the Swan River, including algae clearance along the foreshore fronting the Matilda Bay Reserve. This arrangement has yielded very good results in keeping the river beaches free of algae and the Swan River Conservation Board has recouped expenditure incurred on its behalf. The Swan River Conservation Board has recently established its field staff headquarters elsewhere and this will permit the demolition of certain old buildings at the Matilda Bay Reserve in the near future.

STANDARD BARBECUE FIREPLACES AND PICNIC TABLES

Additional standard concrete barbecue fireplaces have been acquired and distributed among the various national parks. The cost of these is subsidised by the Tourist Development Authority. Vandalism and a weakness in the cast iron top and grate has prompted the Board to experiment with another type of barbecue fireplace built of steel plate and which is easier to handle.

Picnic tables of a standard design are still being pre-cut and manufactured at Yanchep National Park for distribution. These are proving economical in maintenance.

LANDSCAPE AND CONSULTANT ARCHITECTS, ETC.

The services of the Public Works Landscape Section, headed by Mr. John Oldham, A.R.A.I.A., M.A.P.I., F.I.L.A., have been utilised on several projects during the year, including planning for Yanchep National Park. Also Mr. R. J. Ferguson, A.R.A.I.A., has assisted in the planning of individual buildings, whilst Mr. J. S. Sinclair has helped in the supervision of building construction. Their help is acknowledged with thanks.

RANGER TRAINING

Regular monthly conferences of Field Staff in charge of national parks have been instituted and the staff unable to attend are supplied with minutes of the proceedings.

Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley attended a Ranger's Training School conducted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales in October, 1968, at a venue near Sydney. He derived great benefit from the instruction and the Board's appreciation is extended to the New South Wales National Parks and Wild Life Service for the opportunity to participate.

STAFF UNIFORMS

A neatly designed uniform has been issued to the field staff, who are also issued with name badges for wearing when on guide and patrol duties.

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

A standard vehicle colour of "off-white" has been adopted for the future, along with an identification symbol which is being affixed to the doors of the vehicles.

PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS

Press, radio and television coverage have been given over the year on events and items of interest within Board controlled national parks and reserves.

Lectures were given on national park matters, with emphasis on conservation.

New folding leaflets were issued in connection with the John Forrest and Walpole-Nornalup National Parks and single sheet leaflets for the Stirling Range and Yanchep National Parks were revised and reprinted. A new folding leaflet of the Stirling Range National Park should be on issue during the coming year.

Exhibits were provided at the Wild Life Exhibition held in the Perth Town Hall in September, 1968, and also at the Fifth Annual Wildflower Exhibition held at King's Park in early October, 1968, and also for a conservation project held at the Waroona Junior High School during the year.

HISTORICAL PLAQUES

Financial assistance towards the cost of historical plaques is limited in each case to a maximum of \$40 or the cost of the plaque if this is lower. Grants approved of during the year were in relation to:—

- (a) Memorial plaque fixed to a cairn at Castle Rock Bay near Dunsborough, where the old Whaling Company used to bring the whales ashore and boil down the blubber;
- (b) Matthew Flinders memorial plaque at Groper Bay near Cape Leeuwin; and
- (c) A memorial plaque near Boddington to commemorate "Dilyan" an Aboriginal who accompanied the late Lord Forrest on an expedition to the Cambridge Gulf area in the 1880's.

VANDALISM

Successful legal action has been taken over the past year in respect of wilful damage to formations in the Crystal Cave at Yanchep National Park and unauthorised cutting of timber in the Neerabup National Park.

Unknown people have broken into Drover's Cave and caves in the Nambung National Park after these had been sealed off with strong entrance gates, in the interests of protection of the formations for posterity. There is a strong suspicion that explosives were used to break into these caves.

Many headstones in the historical East Perth Cemetery have been damaged or broken and ornamental windows broken in the historic St. Batholomew's Church located within these grounds. Motorists have been driving across and parking vehicles on grassed areas within this reserve. Police help has been sought and it is hoped to restore the damage progressively.

The Birdwatching Knoll at the Matilda Bay Reserve was extensively damaged recently by knocking about 40 bricks off the wall.

In another case a vehicle was driven across and damaged a golf course green at Yanchep National Park. Legal action has been taken against the offender.

Removal, shooting up or damaging of signs in parks is fairly commonplace and also damage to barbecue fireplaces. Carving names on trees and writing or drawing on walls of buildings are fairly common occurrences.

It is difficult to fathom the reasons prompting this type of useless damage, i.e. vandalism, and the culprits are invariably difficult to catch in the act.

It is thought that the public generally can help in lessening the damage caused by vandals if they will only report such acts promptly and their co-operation is sought in this regard. Perhaps education of the young on the futility of vandalism and this unnecessary cost to the community could be a starting point towards overcoming this vexed problem.

BOARD INSPECTIONS

The President, Members and the Managing Secretary make periodical inspections of Board controlled national parks and reserves, sometimes together and at times individually according to circumstances.

Visits were paid to most of the national parks and reserves concerned except Geikie Gorge and Cape Range National Parks and the Hamelin Bay Reserve. Cape Range National Park will be visited shortly.

REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCES

The Board was represented at a Conference of W.A. Tourist Bureaux held in Pemberton in October, 1968; the Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation held in Perth in late September and early October, 1968; and by the President who accompanied the Hon. Minister for Lands and his Under Secretary to a Ministerial Conference on national parks held in Brisbane in June, 1969.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

The Hon. Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Tourists accompanied the Commissioner for Main Roads and the Board on an inspection of the Kalbarri National Park in September, 1968.

In July, 1968, The Hon. T. L. Lewis, Minister for Lands in N.S.W., his Private Secretary (Mr. J. Bordman) and Mr. C. Donohoe, Chairman of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board in N.S.W., paid a visit to Yanchep National Park.

Later in March, 1969, two parties of Delegates, one proceeding to and one returning from the 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Ports and Harbours held at Melbourne called and visited Yanchep National Park, along with their wives.

GENERAL

The financial assistance given by the State Treasury is acknowledged with thanks, along with the professional advice and practical help kindly supplied by Officers of various Government Departments and Organisations.

Also the Board appreciates the assistance rendered by Shire Councils and Bush Fire Brigades of the districts in which the national parks and reserves concerned are located.

It is acknowledged that the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Advisory Committee is playing its part in relation to the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. It meets the Board regularly in discussion on suggestions for park improvements.

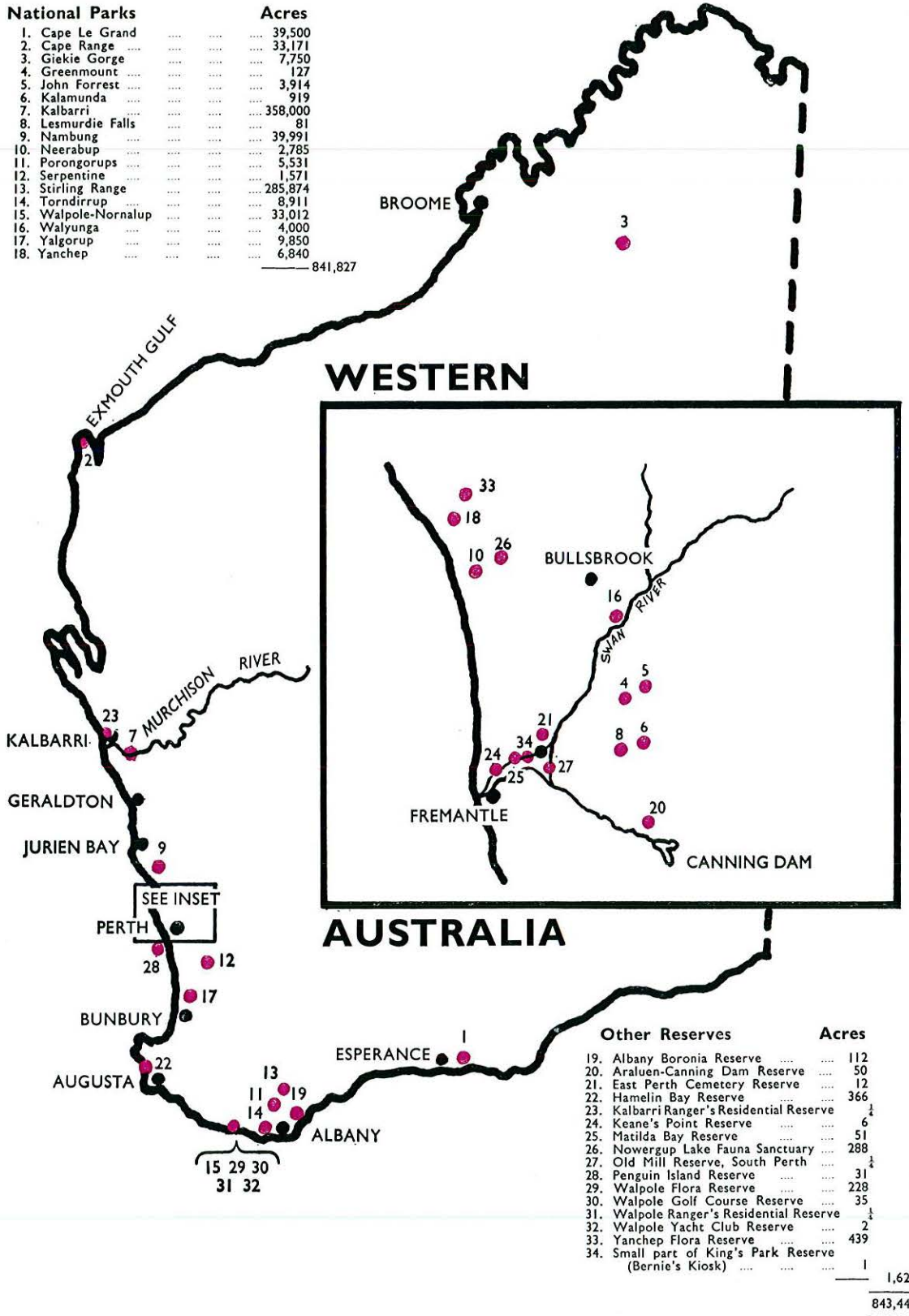
Members join with me in expressing appreciation of the assistance rendered throughout the year by the Managing Secretary, his Head Office staff the Superintendents and other Field staff; also the help given by the Landscape Architect, Consultant Architect and the Honorary Building Supervisor.

More detailed information on activities within the individual national parks and reserves is given in the Appendices to this report.

R. J. BOND,

President National Parks Board of W.A.

National Parks	Acres
1. Cape Le Grand	39,500
2. Cape Range	33,171
3. Giekie Gorge	7,750
4. Greenmount	127
5. John Forrest	3,914
6. Kalamunda	919
7. Kalbarri	358,000
8. Lesmurdie Falls	81
9. Nambung	39,991
10. Neerabup	2,785
11. Porongorups	5,531
12. Serpentine	1,571
13. Stirling Range	285,874
14. Torndirrup	8,911
15. Walpole-Nornalup	33,012
16. Walyunga	4,000
17. Yalgorup	9,850
18. Yanchep	6,840
Total	841,827



APPENDICES

NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER RESERVES

This section of the report contained further detailed information on individual national parks and other reserves, which are listed in alphabetical order with national parks listed first and followed by the other reserves.

APPENDIX A

NATIONAL PARKS

CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK

Control

Mr. W. Kirwan of Mt. Merrivale via Esperance carries out honorary ranger duties in this park, which is located on the South Coast a few miles east of Esperance. Mobile Ranger, Mr. N. Walmsley visits this park periodically in order to carry out duties connected with fire break construction and maintenance of picnic areas and facilities.

Fire Control

A fire break was constructed this year along and as near as possible to the Northern boundary of the park bearing in mind obstacles; whilst another one was constructed linking this fire break with the South Coast at Mississippi Bay, thus dividing the park up into compartments for better fire control. In the vicinity of 20 swamps and many granite outcrops had to be avoided when constructing the northern fire break and sandy ridges were encountered near the Coast when constructing the other one.

Access Roads

Access to the more popular ocean beach areas is over fairly rough tracks, which it is hoped to have improved progressively. The one to Cape Le Grand is a public road and consequently of a higher standard.

Public Amenities

Temporary public toilets are located at Cape Le Grand and Lucky Bay.

CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

Control

Civil Commissioner Col. J. K. Murdoch of Exmouth has been most helpful in arranging rubbish removals and improvements within this park, including public toilets (at present under construction), road improvements and the erection of safety posts alongside the Charles Knife Road. Honorary Rangers Messrs. V. J. Buchanan and D. Bathgate have carried out patrol duties and helped in keeping the park clean. Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley paid a short visit to this park in late September, 1968, and rendered some assistance in cleaning up the picnic areas, etc.

Boundaries

The Board feels that the perimeter boundary of this park does not embrace an adequate cover of the territory in the Cape. The park area is at present confined to the Cape Range and it is considered that some coastal plain and sea coast should be included. A submission accordingly has been made to the Hon. Minister for Lands.

Fire Control

The fact that the foothills of Cape Range are outside the park, renders the construction of firebreaks around the perimeter of the park impracticable at this stage, but it is hoped that this problem can be overcome eventually by the addition of further territory to the park.

Access Roads

Each year the Charles Knife and Shothole Canyon Roads require attention after the rainy season and the Shire of Exmouth has made them trafficable again this year, the former for conventional type vehicles and the latter for four-wheel drive vehicles only, due to the presence of stony creek crossings.

Picnic Areas and Public Toilets

It has been reported that picnic areas established adjacent to the Charles Knife and Shothole Canyon Roads are well patronised. Picnic tables, fireplaces and rubbish bins have been provided and construction of public toilets is in progress at two of these picnic areas, one block each in the Charles Knife and Shothole Canyon areas respectively.

Guide Posts

Action is in course to replace a large number of timber guide posts with tubular steel ones alongside the Charles Knife Road which provides access to the range proper.

GEIKIE GORGE NATIONAL PARK

Control

Senior Constable Mr. T. Carlson has been of considerable help in carrying out honorary ranger duties in this park for the Board, including removal of picnic facilities immediately prior to the rainy season and their re-establishment afterwards.

Fauna Warden Mr. V. T. Nelson of Wyndham and Messrs. Rab, Douglas and Cameron Bell of Brooking Springs Station are also honorary rangers for this park. Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley paid a visit to the park in mid-August, 1968, and helped in the original establishment of improvements, including picnic facilities and signs.

Fire Control

The adjoining Cattle Station owners have co-operated in providing fire breaks adjacent to the park boundaries.

Access Roads

These require grading each year after the rainy season and action was initiated accordingly this year.

Signs

An attractive standard timber entrance sign has been adopted for national parks generally and the first of these was erected alongside the access road to Geikie Gorge near the park boundary. Other timber direction and picnic signs were also erected in position during the year.

Picnic Areas and Public Toilets

Six picnic tables and barbecue fireplaces have been provided and distributed in three picnic areas adjacent to Geikie Gorge. Also two ladies' and two gent's temporary type toilets have been established at Nos. 1 and 2 picnic areas respectively. Unfortunately these facilities have to be moved each year just before the rainy season and re-established afterwards. This situation precludes the establishment of more permanent facilities.

GREENMOUNT NATIONAL PARK

Control

This small national park is located on the western edge of the Darling Range escarpment and supervision is exercised from John Forrest National Park.

Fire Control

Widening of the boundary fire breaks was carried out during the year.

General

This small park is being left in its natural state except for access via a good sealed road, and limited sign posting.

JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

Control

Superintendent Mr. G. R. Edwards is in charge of this park which is located in the Darling Range and he has under his control a small staff of seven workmen. He also exercises control over nearby national parks at Greenmount, Kalamunda, Lesmurdie Falls, Serpentine and Walyunga.

Territory

A further 266 acres were added to the park during the year by the inclusion therein of a portion of a former railway reserve and tunnel area at Swan View.

Fire Control

Firebreaks and Controlled Burning.—A new firebreak was constructed during the year in the Rocky Pool section of the park and another one in the South-west section. The usual firebreak maintenance and controlled burning were carried out by park employees. The park is divided up by firebreaks into a number of compartments which are controlled burnt in rotation over a 4-5 year cycle.

Bush Fire.—In early February, 1969, a bush fire in this national park originated from a burnt out motor car near No. 1 Lookout alongside the scenic drive, and which was suspected of having been set alight deliberately, and burnt out about 1,000 acres of parkland in the western section of the park south of the former east-west railway reserve. Trouble was experienced in extinguishing this fire properly, as it kept breaking out afresh.

Road Access and Car Parks

Negotiations are still progressing in regard to arranging improved road access to the tearoom area and for the provision of additional vehicle parking area. It is now expected that road access improvements will be started within the next month or two.

Native Flora

Wildflowers in this park bloom profusely in the Spring-time and are probably at their best during the August-October period, dependent upon weather conditions.

Further planting out and nameplating of wildflower plants have been carried out in the centrally located garden beds and also at selected points alongside the main scenic drive. Conducted Spring-time wildflower walks are available for those desirous of participation.

In the vicinity of 200 Marri seedlings were reared and planted out to replace die-back trees in a section of the park near the Great Eastern Highway.

Garden beds have been reticulated for use of water from the Glen Brook water storage dam.

Noxious Weed Control

Further follow-up spraying of *Watsonia* was carried out alongside the banks of Jane Brook in an effort to control its spread through corms and seeds being washed down the brook from upstream properties.

Also some spraying of bamboos was carried out near the eastern boundary of the park north of the former Hovea railway siding.

Rustic Bridge and Playground Equipment

A log cubby-house and rustic playground equipment have been located in a childrens' playground area on the west side of Glen Brook and they may be reached after crossing the brook via a rustic footbridge of recent construction.

Glen Brook Dam

Drains were cleaned out, washouts filled with stone and the valves cleaned and repainted. The dam will be flushed out this winter.

Swimming Pool in Jane Brook

This pool was cleaned out during the year.

Park Tearoom (Lessees—Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Douglas)

The lease of these premises changed hands during the year, and the new lessees are providing an excellent service. The Tearoom building and adjoining residence were renovated and painted at the time of takeover.

Improvements, Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

Noxious weed spray equipment was acquired and a new diesel tractor with attachments is on order for use on fire-break construction and maintenance. The garden area was reticulated and existing cisterns in the public toilets were replaced with low level ones.

By-laws

The Board's by-laws are exhibited near the Tearoom.

Signposting

Three standard timber entrance signs are on order for this national park.

KALAMUNDA NATIONAL PARK

Control

This park comes under the control of the John Forrest National Park Superintendent and it is patrolled at weekends.

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—A comprehensive firebreak system was constructed with difficulty within this very undulating park in 1967-68 and firebreaks have been signposted.

Controlled Burning.—Some controlled burning was carried out alongside the west boundary of the park, with help from the Forests Department.

Noxious Weed Control

Some spraying of Blackberry was undertaken alongside Piesse Brook.

General

The attractiveness of this relatively small national park is accentuated by the fairly rugged terrain and lovely areas of Blue Leschenaultia and other wildflowers.

Negotiations are still in progress towards acquiring two small properties centrally placed within the park.

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

Control

Ranger Mr. R. E. H. Gliddon is in charge of this park, which is located around the Murchison River east of Kalbarri. Messrs. E. Grinham and R. Glass were appointed honorary rangers before Mr. Gliddon took up duties there in a permanent capacity and their services have been retained because it is felt that they can still be of service in patrol work within this very large national park. Mr. E. Pederick kindly helped out as a ranger in a temporary capacity, whilst Mr. Gliddon was recently ill.

Extra Territory

Negotiations are progressing satisfactorily in relation to the acquisition of additional territory along the scenic coastline south of Red Bluff in the west and also adjoining the northern boundary of the park in the vicinity of "The Loop".

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—Further firebreaks totalling about 25 miles in length were constructed along the upper eastern and north-eastern boundaries of the park over the past 12 months and about 30 miles of other firebreaks were ploughed. Further firebreak construction work is planned for 1969-70.

Bush Fires.—A major bush fire arose from a fire which originated in the rubbish tip near the Kalbarri Townsite on the 3rd January, 1969, and burnt out about 60,000 acres of parkland in the South-West and Central sections of the



Pimelea ferruginea

park in the vicinity of the main Ajana-Kalbarri Road. A second bush fire broke out on the 26th February, 1969, in the north-eastern section of the park and it was started by a spark, which was carried from a controlled burn in adjoining private property by a willy-willy, burning out about 5,000 acres of parkland.

Access Roads

During the year the Main Roads Department carried out the construction of a new "T"-shaped access road giving access to "The Loop" and "Z Bend" areas. Initially this road is of four-wheel drive standard only, but an early start is expected on up-grading it during the winter months.

The Board favoured the "T" head road approach to the gorge rather than a round drive so that the ranger can exercise greater supervision over tourists. It also serves to confine tourists to regular picnic areas rather than unscheduled stops at any little nook and cranny which would be attractive in a round drive.

Some maintenance work was carried out on the roads into Hawk's Head and Ross Graham Lookouts, whilst an access road was constructed by the Main Roads Department along the Coastal gorge area south of Red Bluff in order to give access to Pot Alley Gorge, Rainbow Gorge and Mushroom Rock Gorge.

Arrangements are in hand for gravel pits alongside roads in this park to be filled in gradually. These were in existence prior to the park being placed under the control of the Board.

Signposting

New standard timber entrance signs have been erected adjacent to the eastern and western boundaries of the park along side the main Ajana-Kalbarri Road.

Signs indicating "No Entry—Firebreak only" have been erected at the entrance to firebreaks and other signs regarding damage to natural formations have been placed in position at appropriate locations. Also action is in course to have direction signs erected alongside the access road to the Coastal gorges south of Red Bluff.

Ranger's Residence and Garage-Workshop

Construction was completed ready for the Ranger to take up residence on Monday the 23rd December, 1968. The telephone and water have been connected to the property and also a small electricity generating plant provided.

Temporary Public Toilets

The earlier provision of these facilities near the picnic areas at Ross Graham, Hawk's Head and The Loop Lookouts, has been followed by the more recent establishment of such facilities near the "Z Bend" area.

Picnic Facilities

Limited picnic facilities have been provided at the Ross Graham, Hawk's Head and The Loop Lookouts.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

A Suzuki farm bike for patrol purposes, a lighting plant and a concrete mixer were supplied to the Ranger during the year.

Botanical and Zoological Surveys

These activities are referred to in the main body of this report.

Native Flora

This large national park is rich in native flora, particularly verticordias.

Native Fauna

Shooting of native fauna was fairly prevalent before a permanent ranger was stationed in the area and there are indications that his presence is resulting in a build up of their numbers again and this relates particularly to the kangaroos.

Wild Goats and Wild Pigs

Arrangements were made for a professional hunter to round up and catch these semi-wild animals, but unfortunately he never fulfilled his obligations.

Canoeing and Hiking Trips down the Murchison River

An interim policy has been framed for observance by parties given permission to make canoe or hiking trips down the Murchison River gorge, when this involves overnight camping. Permission has so far been granted to a limited number of parties, including recognised school and youth groups.

LESMURDIE FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Control

Supervision generally of this small national park located on the western edge of the Darling Range escarpment, comes under the control of the John Forrest National Park Superintendent; although Mr. B. J. McCarthy carries out part-time Caretaking duties including clean up of picnic areas and public toilets.

Fire Control

The rugged nature of the terrain has so far delayed fire-break construction.

Shrub and Tree Planting Programme

Replacement of a few of the shrubs and trees planted in June, 1968 has become necessary and action is in progress accordingly.

Noxious Weed Control

Further follow-up spraying of *Watsonia* was carried out during the year.

Restaurant-Tearoom Facilities

Negotiations are proceeding for the establishment of these facilities in the vicinity of the Lesmurdie Falls.

NAMBUNG NATIONAL PARK

Control

With the addition of further territory to this national park, including cave country, it has become necessary to exercise more control over the activities of those visiting the area.

Supervision has been exercised from Yanchep National Park through the Superintendent, who has paid several visits to the area and members of his staff have made regular patrol trips, principally at weekends. However a full-time Ranger (Mr. A. J. Passfield) was stationed in the park from the 18th August to 18th November, 1968.

Messrs. J. H. Turner of Bassendean and W. J. Bradley of Cervantes have been appointed honorary rangers for this park, as also have Messrs. P. J. Bridge, B. Muir, R. Littman, M. Thomas, J. Bywater, P. Henley and A. Saar of the W.A. Speleological Group.

The appointment in the near future of a permanent full-time ranger for this park is envisaged.

Territory

The area of this park was increased to 39,991 acres by the addition of Class "A" Reserve No. 24522 of about 9,286 acres. Negotiations are progressing favourably for the inclusion of another area adjacent to the east boundary of the park in the vicinity of Flourbag Flat.

Natural Features

Protection of the natural formations, including the caves, pinnacles and so called fossilised roots is important and every effort is being made towards this end.

Caves

The entrances to the Cadda, Pretty and Quondong Caves have been sealed off with locked gates in an effort towards avoiding unnecessary damage to the formations. These seem to be the most spectacular of the caves and worthy of protection. The W.A. Speleological Group is co-operating in the investigation of other known caves and the desirability of giving them similar protection.

Squatters

Upon taking over control of this national park, it was found that a problem existed in relating to certain squatters having erected houses or shacks on parklands near the Coast and a survey is in progress with a view to their removal.

Vandalism

Vandals broke into Cadda Cave within months of the entrance having been sealed off with a locked gate. There are indications that explosives were used for this purpose.

Also some signs have been damaged.

Signposting

Entrance signs have been erected alongside access roads near park boundaries and other signs have been placed in position, indicating that flora, fauna and natural features are protected.

Access Roads

Generally these are only tracks; although the local Shire has carried out a lot of work on Strathmore Road which gives access to the park on the east side. However the Nambung River flows across this road during the winter months, thus making it impassable at times.

NEERABUP NATIONAL PARK

Control

The Superintendent of Yanchep National Park exercises supervisory control over this national park.

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—An adjoining land-owner kindly co-operated in carrying out widening of the firebreak along the western boundary of this park.

Controlled Burning.—It was not considered necessary to carry out any controlled burning in the park this year following earlier controlled burns and fairly recent bush fires.

Unauthorised Cutting of Timber

Successful Court action was taken in respect of unauthorised cutting of timber in this park.

Mineral Claims

The Board recently opposed successfully the granting of two applications for mineral claims in this park in connection with limestone quarrying, but a problem exists in relation to claims granted earlier before the Board gained control of the reserve.

General

This national park is fairly rich in wildflowers and consequently it has been maintained as far as possible in its natural state since the Board took over control.

PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK

Control

The Stirling Range National Park Ranger and his assistant exercise supervision over this nearby national park.

Fire Control

Maintenance of firebreaks received attention during the year.

Access Roads and Walking Tracks

Repairs were effected to the Pass road and the scenic road along the northern section of the park, and also walking tracks were maintained including reconditioning of those to Devil's Slide and Nancy's Peak. The local Shire co-operated in the road repairs.

Signposting

Two standard timber entrance signs are on order and there has been some replacement of flora, fauna and directional signs.

Botany Field Work and Research Projects

The Botany Department of the University of Western Australia conducted a Botany Field Camp in this national park during August, 1968, as referred to in the main body of this report, along with mention of other similar earlier botanical surveys.

Permission was granted to the Forests Department to carry out a research project on Karri within this park.

SERPENTINE NATIONAL PARK

Control, etc.

All reserves making up this park have now been amalgamated to form one Class "A" Reserve No. 28862, for national park purposes.

It is with regret that we report the death of our part-time Caretaker Mr. W. G. Baldwin who passed away during the year. His son Mr. R. A. Baldwin kindly agreed to take over the position, which involves principally the collection of vehicle entrance fees and keeping the change rooms, toilets and picnic areas clean.

Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley has been helpful in the maintenance of picnic facilities etc. and erection of signs from time to time as his services can be spared from other duties.

Fire Control

The Forest Department has worked in close liaison with Superintendent of John Forrest National Park in connection with firebreak maintenance and controlled burning in the northern section of the park. Firebreaks in this section of the park were regaded with the co-operation of the Forests Department and some maintenance of firebreaks was carried out in the southern section, utilising Board equipment, but it will be necessary to hire heavier equipment next year for this purpose due to the rugged terrain involved. Some controlled burning was also carried out in this area.

Access Roads and Bridge

Further improvements to the access road to Serpentine Falls are envisaged and it is expected these will eventuate shortly in conjunction with a start by the Main Roads Department on a new bridge across the Serpentine River in this area.

Noxious Weed Control

Further spraying of Blackberry and Watsonia was carried out near the Serpentine Falls, but spraying of patches of Blackberry in the northern section of the park has been delayed because of the difficulty of access to the areas concerned.

STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK

Control

Ranger Mr. J. Andrews is responsible for supervision of this large national park in conjunction with his Assistant. The Ranger is located at Moingup Spring and the Assistant Ranger is living in a caravan at the turn-off to Bluff Knoll, pending the erection of a permanent home within the next few months.

Territory

Hamilla Hill area and part of Plantagenet Location No. 4521 were added to this national park during the year and this tract of land (about 1,334 acres) is rich in flora—Cranbrook Bells (*Darwinia meeboldii*) principally.

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—A specialist in such matters was engaged to help in planning and construction of further firebreaks in this large national park, where the rugged terrain raises certain associated problems. Boundary firebreaks have previously been provided, and this year, action has been concentrated initially on giving more protection in the area,

south of the Stirling Range, extending between the eastern and western boundaries of the park. This has involved the construction (bulldozing and grading) of about 54 miles of firebreaks.

Planning of new firebreaks for construction during the ensuing year is well advanced and some of these new breaks will of necessity have to be constructed over fairly rugged terrain, if the peaks concerned are to be afforded reasonable fire protection.

Maintenance of existing firebreaks received attention, by utilisation of Board equipment generally and hire of a contractor and grader to grade those along the north-west boundary of the park.

Controlled Burning.—Following recent firebreak construction south of the Stirling Range, the local Bush Fire Brigades co-operated in the controlled burning of an area of some 24,000 acres in this area east of the Chester Pass Road. This burn was carried out on the 21st April, 1969, but unfortunately the burn was a hotter one than envisaged.

Bush Fires.—This has probably been the worst known year for bush fires in this park; although it is reported that many years ago there was a serious bush fire, that burned for days in the park. Preliminary inquiries have given rise to a strong suspicion that all or most of these latest bush fires were lit deliberately by some person or persons unknown. The help of the Criminal Investigation Branch is being sought in establishing whether this is so or not, with a view to further action if necessary.

The fires concerned were—

The first fire on 20th April, 1969, which is believed to have been started alongside the Stirling Range Drive near Mondurup and burnt out about 36,000 acres of parklands before it was finally extinguished by rain during the early hours of the 23rd April. Lack of access to the seat of the fire and the nature of the terrain, coupled with the lack of outside assistance made it difficult for our limited staff of two to bring this fire under control.

A second fire on the 6th May, 1969, which is believed to have originated near the western boundary of the park a few miles south of the Salt River Road and burnt out about 17,000 acres of parklands before it was extinguished.

A third fire on the 7th May, 1969, which was started near the south boundary of the park about six miles east of the Red Gum Pass Road and burnt out in the region of 2,600 acres of parklands before it was finally extinguished.

A fourth fire on the 6th June, 1969, which was started alongside the Salt River Road approximately seven miles west of the intersection of Warrungup Road and it burnt out about 200 acres of parklands in patches for about four miles eastwards alongside this road, principally between it and the firebreak 10 chains further southwards.

Access Roads

A further section of the Bluff Knoll access road has been bitumenised, with beneficial results and it is hoped a further section will receive similar treatment in the near future. Stirling Range Drive is in need of improvement in one or two sections and it is hoped that this road can be surfaced with black top progressively. The local Shire has recently upgraded Salt River Road which passes alongside the northern boundary of the park west of Chester Pass and Warrungup Roads.

Small car parks and picnic facilities have been established at appropriate points alongside the Stirling Range Drive, including those near Mondurup, Talyuberlup and Mt. Hassell.

Walking Tracks

Walking tracks have been provided to Bluff Knoll, Toolbrunup, Mt. Trio and Mondurup, whilst the more venturesome climbers have made their own track to Ellen

Peak. Other walking tracks are being constructed to give access to Talyuberlup Peak and Mt. Magog.

Native Flora

Selected wildflower plants were planted out during the year in garden beds near Moingup Spring.

Second Staff House

A second staff house with garage, water supply and electricity is being built shortly near the Bluff Knoll turn-off from the Chester Pass Road.

Extra Garage Space at First Staff House

Extension of garage space has become necessary for storage of Board vehicles and equipment and construction should be started shortly.

Improvements to Picnic Shelter near Bluff Knoll

Partial enclosure of the south end of this picnic shelter is being carried out in conjunction with other projected works in this area.

Water Supply near Red Gum Spring

The Mines Department has co-operated in carrying out exploratory water boring in this area in an effort towards establishing a new water supply and thus overcome water pollution problems associated with an existing source of water in the picnic area.

Telephone

The Board has financed the extension of the telephone line from a point south of Amelup to the region of the Bluff Knoll turn-off and this has facilitated contact between Head Office and the field staff.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

A noxious weed spray unit and attachments were acquired and a new shed was constructed for housing of lighting plant near the Ranger's Cottage.

Barbecue Fireplaces and Picnic Tables

Additional standard units have been supplied and located at picnic sites. Picnic sites have been established near Mondurup, White Gum Flat, Talyuberlup and Mt. Hassell alongside the Stirling Range Drive, following the earlier establishment of these facilities at the Gold Holes, Moingup Spring, near the turn-off to Bluff Knoll, near Mt. Trio and Redgum Spring. A fireplace only has been provided near Toolbrunup so far.

Signposting

Two new standard timber entrance signs have been erected at the north and south boundaries of the park, alongside the Chester Pass Road. Also there have been some replacements of signs and other new ones erected—principally relating to bush fire precautions.

Directional Indicator at Bluff Knoll Parking Area

The necessary information is now to hand and action is in course towards having the necessary indicator made up.

Outline Plan of the Stirling Range

Peaks visible from the south side of the Stirling Range have now been identified and their heights re-established so that progress may now be made towards locating an outline plan of the range alongside the Albany-Borden Road near the South boundary of the park.

TORNDIRRUP NATIONAL PARK

Vesting and Naming

This national park of about 8,911 acres is located along the South Coast a few miles South-west of Albany and it was only placed under the control of the Board in late November, 1968.

The name adopted is a native one for the area and the Board is awaiting official approval of the name.

Control

Temporary control is being exercised through the Ranger at Walpole-Nornalup National Park; although Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley has visited the reserve to carry out essential work on clean up of litter and provision of rubbish bins.

Fire Control

A serious bush fire in late March, 1969 burnt out a very large part of this park.

Planning of firebreaks will receive attention during the next few months.

Road Access

Access roads through this park to scenic points, including The Gap, Natural Bridge, Blowholes and Jimmy Newhill's Harbour have recently been resurfaced.

Signposting

The local Shire has agreed to arrange re-painting of roadside directional signs to scenic points, following an approach made in this regard through the Albany Tourist Bureau.

Other signs are on order relating to flora, fauna and removal of limestone, etc.

Rubbish and Rubbish Bins

A clean up of roadside litter, empty bottles and cans, etc. has been commenced, as there has been a heavy build up of this litter over a number of years.

Rubbish bins have been supplied and located at the Blowholes (5), Salmon Holes (3) and Jimmy Newhill's Harbour (4). The strong winds in this area have necessitated securing the bins and lids to piping cemented into the ground.

WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK

Control

Ranger Mr. L. G. Gunson and his Assistant are responsible for looking after this most attractive national park and they both reside in staff cottages at Coalmine Beach, where camping and caravanning facilities are available for visitors. Mr. J. Rate, who is a member and also secretary of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Advisory Committee, is an honorary ranger for the park and takes an active interest in matters associated with it.

Territory

The area of the park was reduced slightly in size by the excision of 136 acres adjacent to the Walpole Townsite for industrial purposes. The Board was consulted first and there were reasons justifying this action.

Walpole-Nornalup National Park Advisory Committee

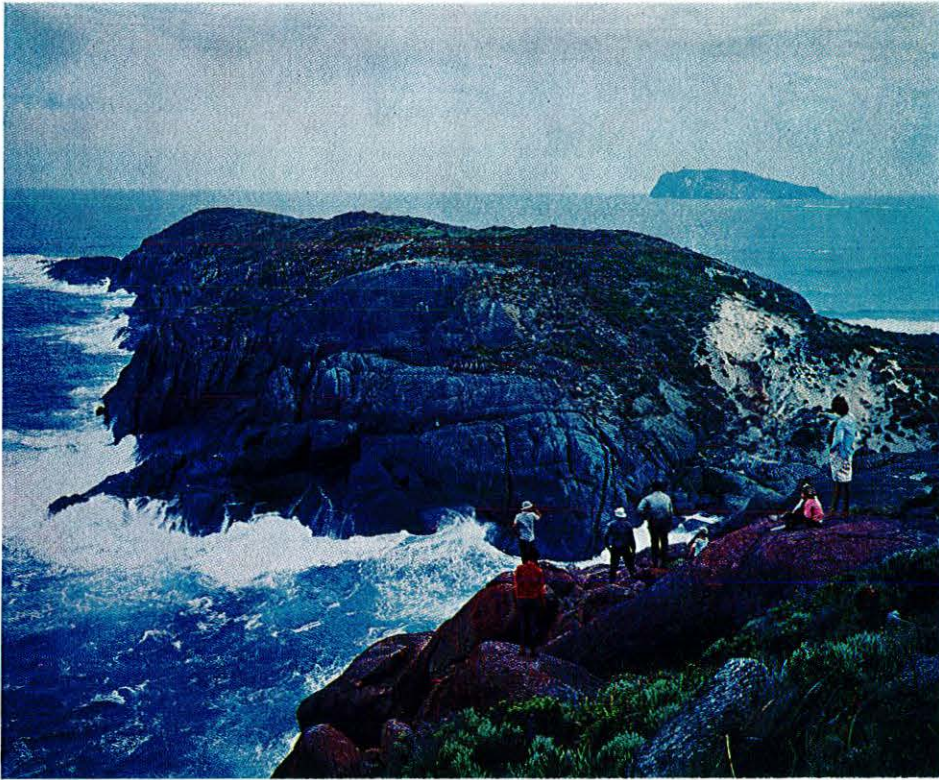
Councillor Mr. Cyril Richardson replaced former Councillor Mr. J. Burton on this Committee and Committee Member Mr. P. Harbin has been overseas on leave of absence. The Board would like to place on record its appreciation of Mr. Burton's service as a Committee Member.

Present Membership of this Committee is Messrs. J. D. Hull (Chairman), C. Richardson (Denmark Shire Councillor), T. C. Cooper, P. Harbin, J. H. Rate (who also carries out secretarial duties for the Committee) and E. S. Thompson (Manjimup Shire Councillor).

The Board usually meets the Committee in Walpole once or twice a year and thus gives the Committee Members an opportunity of presenting their viewpoint personally and making recommendations on local park matters, as distinct from those referred to the Board following normal meetings.

By-laws

The Board's by-laws are posted in the park at Coalmine Beach.



*Long Point,
Walpole-Nornalup
National Park*

Fire Control

Controlled Burning.—As in the past, the Walpole Bush Fire Brigade continues to give help in fire control, including assistance with the planning and actual controlled burning.

A large area north of Creek and Spike Roads was control burnt and also some patch burning was carried out south of the Deep River east of Tinglewood Lodge and also in the Coalmine Beach and The Knoll areas.

Bush Fires.—Two small bush fires broke out on the 4th and 26th February, 1969, respectively and these were caused through burning logs within a controlled burn carried out in the northern section of the park. Small areas of 2 acres and 2½ acres of Karri country were burnt out in each case.

A third small fire burnt out about 15-20 acres adjacent to a north boundary of the park on the 21st March, 1969, it being caused through a change in wind carrying a spark into the park from a windrow burn in private property adjoining the park.

Two-Way Radio

One of these units was installed in the Assistant Ranger's four-wheel drive vehicle for fire control purposes, following the installation of such a unit in the Ranger's vehicle the year before.

Access Roads and Track Construction (including Firelines)

Additional construction and improvement works were carried out to access roads and vehicle tracks in the park during the year. These roads and tracks are of great value from a fire control point of view, because of the type of terrain they pass through, including clay soil in the hilly forest areas and sandy soil in other parts of the park near the coast.

Improvements to access roads north of the South Coast Highway included the construction of a large number of culverts.

Access roads in the Mt. Clare-Deep River area were gravelled and culverts constructed where necessary in each case. Other access roads and tracks were graded.

Access Road to Coalmine Beach and around The Knoll Scenic Drive

A further section of this roadway was sealed with black top.

Scenic Road past Rest Point

Some thinning out of vegetation along the inlet side of this road has improved the views considerably.

Native Flora

Further planting of wildflowers, including Kangaroo Paws, Verticordia and Blue Leschenaultia, was carried out.

Logging

It is against Board policy generally to allow logging in national parks, but felling of die-back timber has been allowed in this park by arrangement through the Forests Department and the return from timber royalties has helped finance construction of access roads and firelines for fire protection purposes within this heavily timbered park, with its nice stands of Karri, Jarrah, Marri and Tingle. A further area of die-back timber was due for thinning out during the year under review, but force of circumstances caused a temporary deferment.

Electricity

The construction of high tension electricity line, installation of step-down transformer and reticulation of the Coalmine Beach area were completed in late August, 1968. This has resulted in the Walpole Town supply being connected to the Caravan Park, amenities block, public toilets, workshop and staff houses and also street lighting in the Coalmine Beach area.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

A patrol boat and trailer was purchased to replace the unserviceable launch "Miss Walpole" and it is used for patrol work on unauthorised camping in areas inaccessible by road, and also for control of power boats endangering Black Swan, Pelicans and other water birds and in connection with the Ranger's duties as an Honorary Fisheries Inspector.

The Ranger staff was supplied with a set of disc harrows for use with the tractor, a power drill and a second two-way radio for fire control purposes.

Improvements

Kerbing and waste gully traps were installed at the caravan park bays and improvements were effected to the amenities block.

The back verandah was enclosed at the Assistant Ranger's cottage, repairs (in the form of concrete bottom and sides) were effected to one of the 5,000 gallon overhead tanks and boom gates erected at the entrances to the vehicle parking area at Coalmine Beach.

Also a boatshed was constructed adjacent to the workshop and garage.

Signposting

Three standard timber entrance signs have been erected in the park, viz., one each alongside the South Coast Highway at the eastern and western boundaries of the park and another one at the northern boundary alongside the North Walpole road.

Access roads north of the South Coast Highway have been officially named and signposted. Other timber directional signs have been erected in position.

Picnic Facilities

Additional standard barbecue fireplaces and picnic tables have been obtained and sited at suitable places near access roads in the park.

Camp and Caravan Sites

The fees charged for camp and caravan sites have been increased following improvements to facilities and the provision of electricity.

Improvements have been effected to the amenities block and waste water gullies provided alongside caravan sites.

WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK

Control and Vesting

A further instalment of \$5,343 was paid during the year on the purchase of the land for establishment of this park and the survey of the Standard Gauge Railway section of this area is now in progress, which among other things has delayed reservation and vesting of the area in this Board.

Negotiations have been finalised with the local Shire for control of some land in this area to pass to the Board, however, control is being exercised over this immensely popular area pending finality being reached in regard to vesting.

Ranger Mr. J. H. Rose, exercises control of this area in conjunction with assistance rendered by the John Forrest National Park Superintendent and staff. The unauthorised removal of artifacts from the former Aborigine workshop area, the taking of river-washed stones and soil and shooting in the park all require close supervision.

Some temporary assistance has been supplied to the Ranger from time to time along with the assistance rendered from John Forrest National Park.

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—Those in the eastern section of the park were regraded.

Controlled Burning.—Some controlled burning was carried out in the northern, north-western and southern sections of the park.

Bush Fires.—Two small bush fires broke out on the 16th and 21st March, 1969, respectively from unknown causes, but were promptly extinguished after burning out only about 1 acre of parkland in each case.

Access Roads and Vehicle Parking Areas

Some further bitumen surfacing work was carried out to the Walyunga Pool access road and further work is expected to commence shortly on construction of an improved parking area adjacent to Walyunga Pool.

Board staff has been utilised to clean up and burn logs along the road verge.

Lookout Car Park West of Walyunga Pool

A garden bed has been established on the roadside of this small parking area and planted with trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Shrub and Tree Planting

In addition to the planting referred to above, it is pleasing to report that there have been very few losses from shrub and tree plantings carried out in the previous year, due no doubt to the regular attention given to them over the summer months by the Ranger, by way of watering.

Picnic Shelter

A rustic picnic shelter has been erected alongside Walyunga Pool, but the erection of more of these shelters has been delayed pending the completion of an adjoining car park area.

Walyunga Pool

Advice and practical assistance have been rendered by the Public Works Department in overcoming a problem in the upstream rapids section of Walyunga Pool, which has caused washing away of a large quantity of soil along the northern bank. This has involved some rock blasting and rock repositioning. In addition action has been taken towards binding this northern bank, including drainage and grass planting.

Water Supplies

Potable water is difficult to obtain in this park and the present bore water is only suitable for toilet block purposes. Consequently an approach has been made to the Department of Public Works for assistance in investigation of other possible sources of supply.

Ranger's Residence and Workshop—Garage

Construction work is nearly complete and the Ranger should be able to move into the house in the very near future, following a fairly lengthy period of living in a caravan. A rain water supply has been provided for and negotiations completed for the connection of electricity to these buildings.

Signposting

An attractive concrete entrance sign depicting the name of the park has been erected near the park western boundary alongside the access road to Walyunga and Long Pools as an experiment, but the fairly high cost and associated difficulties experienced in construction of base, etc. will possibly debar the general use of this type of sign.

Firebreaks have been signposted regarding no access to them and directional signs erected where necessary.

Picnic Facilities and Other Improvements

A tubular steel fence was erected near Walyunga Pool as a means of keeping vehicles out of picnic areas. The fence will be removed once recently planted trees have provided a necessary barrier. Some more standard barbecue fireplaces and picnic tables were supplied for siting near Long Pool and Walyunga Pool.

Noxious Weed Spraying

Follow up spraying of Cape Tulip and Watsonia was carried out this year.

YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

Control and Vesting

Since vesting of this national park in the Board in January, 1968, further areas—mostly in the South—have been either included in the park or vested in this Board. Action is in course to have the reserves concerned consolidated.

Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley's services have been utilised from time to time during the year on patrol work and the erection of signs in the park.

Mr. L. A. Carrol of Collie has kindly volunteered to act as an honorary ranger for this park and he was only recently appointed.

Fire Control

Planning of a firebreak system is in progress with a view to construction work commencing in the reasonably near future.

Signposting

An entrance sign and other signs regarding fauna and flora, etc. have been erected in position.

Mineral Claims

An application was not opposed for private enterprise to quarry limestone on a limited scale in an existing quarry, providing the ground is rehabilitated afterwards. However, a further application in relation to the park is being opposed, as are applications for mineral claims in Lakes Clifton and Preston.

Unauthorised Buildings

Two unauthorised buildings were erected on parklands before the Board gained control of this area and negotiations are in progress concerning their future.

Ranger (in uniform), Board Utility and Timber Sign, Yanchep National Park.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

Control

Superintendent Mr. J. Dale exercises control over this park and also Yanchep Flora Reserves, Neerabup National Park, Nowergup Lake Fauna Sanctuary and temporarily over Nambung National Park.

Name and Amendment of Territory

Official approval was given to change the name of Yanchep Park to Yanchep National Park and the area was increased by the addition of 446 acres from the adjoining State Forest in exchange for a small area excised from the park during the previous year for "Forestry Headquarters Site".

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—Some firebreak construction work was carried out along the west boundary of the park, south of the road to Yanchep Beach, whilst Board workmen, plant and equipment have been utilised on the usual firebreak maintenance.

Controlled Burning.—Sections of the park in the north, central, south-east and south alongside the Perth-Yanchep Road were control burnt during the year.

Four-inch Water Mains and Fire Hydrants.—Four-inch water mains have been laid along the south side of Yanchep Inn, the eastern side of Gloucester Lodge and the rear of Mc Ness Guest House, and fire hydrants installed at each of these establishments.

Bush Fires.—Several relatively small bush fires occurred during the year as follows:—

The first on the 10th November, 1968, when about 20 acres of parklands were burnt out in the southern part of the park west of the Perth-Yanchep Road from an unknown cause—possibly a picnic party. Again on the 24th November, 1968, a further 100 acres were burnt in the region of the Crystal and Yonderup Caves as well as around Staff House Nos. 9 and 10, the suspected cause being a picnic party's carelessness.



About 25 acres were burnt out on the 26th January, 1969, from a bush fire along the north side of Boomerang Gorge—cause unknown. Then on the 4th March, 1969, in the region of 80 acres were burnt out near the north boundary of the park from a cause unknown.

Finally another fire on the 26th March, 1969, burnt out approximately 170 acres in the southern sector of the park, caused through a fire entering the park from a controlled burn on adjoining private property on the opposite side of the road. Official notice was not given by the property owner of his intention to burn and this matter has been referred to the local Shire for investigation.

Roads and Car Parking areas

The fauna enclosures previously located between Yanchep Inn and McNess Guest House have been re-located and it is anticipated that a start will be made in early July, 1969, on road improvements and construction of a car parking area on this vacated site.

Master Plan of Yanchep National Park

As pointed out in the main body of this report, the basic information for a master plan for this park has been prepared and considered but finality has been delayed pending the preparation of certain landscaping and associated development proposals.

Some specific aspects of the layout of this park at present receiving consideration are improved road approach to the developed section of the park, resiting of garage and workshop facilities, laying of H.T. electricity line underground in the vicinity of the park information centre, etc.

Dredging of Loch McNess

Partial dredging of this lake has been carried out by the Department of Public Works as referred to in the main body of this report. The completion of this work has certainly eased the passage of the launch around the deepened perimeter channel.

Regeneration of Vegetation after Bush Fires

Observations of the plots at Yanchep National Park were continued during the year. These plots were established in areas of burnt country following the fires which swept through the Park during the summer of 1964-65, the object being to observe the regeneration of the vegetation over a number of years.

In the first winter after the fire all plots showed a heavy growth of seedlings and sucker shoots, many of which were grazed by kangaroos. In subsequent years the numbers of plants per plot showed a general decline, coupled with an increase in size of the remaining plants and a greater overall ground cover. Observations made in 1969, the fifth year of growth, showed that some of the plants have already reached maturity and are dying out. It is unfortunate that the plots in the Coastal Blackbutt Association were burnt during the 1968/69 summer.

In the Banksia woodland the general plant cover has altered little since last observed in 1968. *Acacia*, Buttercup and *Hakea* still predominate with scrub-sheoak, bottle-brush and *Jacksonia* present also but not as plentiful. The naturalised *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus* is becoming common.

The plots in the Jarrah Association are still dominated by *Jacksonia* and *Stirlingia* with fewer associated shrubs. However, it is mainly in the plots in the Tuart Association and in the limestone soils where some of the species have reached maturity. The numbers of specimens of *Acacia pulchella*, *Senecio ramosissimus* and the coastal *Leschenaultia* have been very much reduced, while many of the shrubs of *Scaevola* are dying back. It is probable that the 1970 observations will demonstrate a continuing decline in numbers of some of the species.

Native Flora

Further work has been carried out on bordering of wildflower beds and gravelling of dividing pathways. Additional wildflower plants have been purchased from nurseries

or acquired from private properties with permission and planted out in these beds and also alongside the internal scenic roads.

A new type of wildflower nameplate will be used to gradually replace the existing ones in garden beds.

Conducted wildflower walks are available to visitors during the Springtime.

There has been additional planting of eucalypts suitable for Koala feed purposes.

Wild Geranium is rather prevalent in this park and advice has been sought on means of controlling its spread in an effort to avoid the choking of *Hibbertia* and other wildflowers lining the scenic drives.

Native Fauna

Koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, emus, black swans, parrots, budgerigars, finches, etc. are on exhibit for the benefit of visitors. The kangaroo, wallaby and emu enclosures have been resited and rebuilt on more pleasing lines. Some of the captive kangaroos were released in the park in April, 1969.

Six young koalas emerged from their mother's pouch during the year and four more are expected to make their appearance very shortly. One of the koalas has suffered from fairly severe eye disease, which has necessitated regular treatment.

Noxious Weed Control

Further spraying of Cape Tulip has been carried out. Although not a noxious weed the control of roadside lupins is causing concern. Similarly means of controlling the growth of Wild Geranium is being investigated.

Caves

Improvements were effected to the doorway of Cabaret Cave and a protective fence was erected around the top of this cave. It became necessary to close the Cabaret, Crystal and Yonderup Caves temporarily following earth tremors in October, 1968, whilst certain safety precautionary measures were taken on the advice of the Mines Department. However this has not affected the cave patronage, which continues to rise.

Successful Court action was taken under the Board's by-laws against an offender for wilful damage to formations in the Crystal Cave.

Launches and Rowing Boats

A new diesel engine was acquired and installed in the motor launch "Miss Yanchep".

In addition to five rowing boats built at Riverbank from materials supplied, two fibre glass dinghies were purchased and the latter are proving very popular. In addition their sturdy construction renders them less likely to damage.

A small patrol boat was purchased for use in the control of hirers of rowing boats.

New Ticket Kiosk

Plans are in hand to build a small ticket kiosk on the lake front near the launch landing for easier handling of launch ride ticket sales and hiring out of rowing boats, including handling of oars.

Golf Course

The grassed fairways and greens of this attractive nine hole public golf course have been well maintained and further filling placed on a section of No. 3 fairway which becomes water-logged in the winter.

An honour box system was established in December, 1968, for use by green fee players using the golf course outside normal staff working hours and it has so far proved successful.

Playing Fields

There are three playing fields, of which the north one is now showing considerable improvement following filling, reticulation and re-grassing.

Tennis Courts

The four colas surfaced tennis courts have been maintained in good condition.

Picnic Areas

Plans are in operation to use a new type of metal barbecue fireplace and gradually replace all of the concrete ones as they deteriorate, which is fairly quickly. Also replanning of picnic areas is in course with a view to discreet planting of shrubs and trees in an endeavour to give picnic parties as much privacy as possible. This will mean resiting of many standard barbecue fireplaces and picnic tables.

Small rustic timber rubbish bins and firewood enclosures or containers are being provided gradually.

Public Toilets

Arrangements are in hand for an early start to be made on the erection of a new public toilet block near a picnic site between Yanchep Inn and Loch McNess.

Park Information Centre

It is hoped to resite and build a new park information centre once replanning of the road approach system has been completed and finance is available for rebuilding.

Yanchep Inn (Lessees—Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Blight)

These licensed premises are leased out and are proving very popular for conventions, etc.

The roofs of the dining annexe and sun room have been waterproofed, retiled, railings renewed and ceilings replaced. Also power points have been installed in bedrooms previously without them.

Garden beds in front of and at the sides of the Inn have been kerbed with concrete.

Gloucester Lodge and Swimming Pool (Lessees Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Anderson)

There were changes in Lessees during the year when Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Anderson took over from Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Buswell.

Granolithic topping of the back steps, re-concreting of back verandah and shop area, improvements to bathrooms, fencing of staff quarters and renewal of guttering, etc. were carried out to these leased premises. Also kerbing was placed around the lawn fronting the main building.

The swimming pool was reconstructed, a filtration plant installed, surrounds fenced, filled and a portion slabbed.

Rebuilding of associated change rooms and toilets is planned for 1969-70.

McNess Guest House (Lessees Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Gibbs)

Some minor renovations were carried out to these leased premises.

Staff Houses

Staff house No. 10 was built in brick veneer during the year. Negotiations have been initiated with the Forests Department towards taking over four staff houses as they are vacated by Forestry workers.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

A four wheel drive fire fighting unit, a tip truck, a utility, two mowers, a bench grinder and a machine vice were purchased during the year for use in this park.

Signposting

Attractive timber entrance and direction signs are in use where possible and three new timber entrance signs are on order.

By-laws

The Board's by-laws are on exhibit near the park information centre.

General

As mentioned earlier official approval has been given to a change in name of this park from Yanchep Park to Yanchep National Park. Years ago this park was established as a tourist resort and improved for the enjoyment of the people because of the presence of caves, lakes, its flora and the attractive setting.

Facilities established there include Yanchep Inn, Gloucester Lodge, McNess Guest House, picnic and barbecue areas, golf course, tennis courts, playing fields, launch rides and boating on Loch McNess; cave inspections and picturesque walks.

In addition colourful birds, black swans, emus, kangaroos, wallabies and last but not least koalas are on display. Wildflower beds are a springtime feature; although some species are in flower over a longer period.

The proceeds from the wishing well in the Crystal Cave have been all paid over to approved worthy charitable organisations.

APPENDIX B

OTHER RESERVES

ALBANY BORONIA RESERVE

This small reserve at Emu Point east of Albany, is being maintained in its natural state for the protection of boronia, which does not seem as plentiful as first envisaged. It seems to have been fairly well picked out before the Board gained control of the area.

ARALUEN-CANNING DAM RESERVE

A comparatively small strip of land lying between the Canning River and McNess Drive and extending from the vicinity of Araluen to the boundary of the water reserve at Canning Dam. It remains undeveloped. However the Board arranged a few years ago for log entrance signs to be placed at each end of McNess Drive.

EAST PERTH CEMETERY

This historical cemetery and grounds are being well maintained and plans are in hand for further beautification including the replacement of certain trees and pruning of others.

Vandalism has been a problem over the years and the earth tremors in October, 1968, affected the St. Bartholomew's Church which is located in these grounds. Negotiations have been initiated towards having repairs effected to this historical church and also damaged headstones on graves.

Action has been taken in an effort to overcome the problem of unauthorised parking and driving of vehicles on grassed areas in these grounds.

HAMELIN BAY RESERVE

Control

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wood lease a small portion of this reserve for holiday resort purposes and Mr. Wood carries out the duties of honorary ranger in this reserve.

Public Amenities

These include a car parking area, public change rooms, public toilets and a boat launching ramp.

KALBARRI RANGER'S RESIDENTIAL RESERVE

The Kalbarri National Park Ranger occupies a residence erected on this reserve during the year.

KEANE'S POINT RESERVE

A small reserve leased to the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Inc. and where excellent facilities have been established for aquatic purposes. The grounds are being well maintained and many improvements have been effected on this outstanding site.

MATILDA BAY RESERVE

Control

Caretaker Mr. D. R. Hill is in charge of this small attractive river beach reserve and he resides in a residence located on the reserve. He has a small staff of two workmen.

National Parks Board of W.A. Head Office

Plans are in hand to establish the Board's Head Office at the Matilda Bay Reserve during the ensuing year.

Restaurant-Tearoom and Kiosk

Matilda Restaurant and The Pancake Grove kiosk were built on this reserve in 1967-68 and they are operated by private enterprise. The grounds adjoining the restaurant have been beautified and action is in course to beautify the kiosk surrounds.

Re-alignment of Electricity Line to Pelican Point

Completed during the year.

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment

A heavy duty drill and mechanical sweeper with spare broom were purchased this year.

Beautification of Grounds

It is proposed demolishing the existing garage and workshop once improved facilities have been provided in conjunction with the head office building. Also action is in course to improve and replant shrubbery beds in the vicinity of The Pancake Grove kiosk and the Caretaker's residence.

Aquatic Clubs

The Royal Perth Yacht Club (Inc.), Mounts Bay Sailing Club (Inc.), Perth 14ft Dinghy Sailing Club, The Governors of Hale School and The 1st Pelican Point (Sea Scouts) Group lease sites at Matilda Bay from the Board. Also the University of W.A. Rowing Club occupies a boat shed on the foreshore of this picturesque reserve.

Recently the Royal Perth Yacht Club has carried out a rebuilding programme involving the demolition of old buildings in order to provide improved Junior Club facilities. Certain improvements have been effected to the Mounts Bay Sailing Club facilities. Also the Sea Scouts Group has enlarged its headquarter's buildings.

The Sea Scouts Group is playing an important part in the community by training of members (Scouts) and the Clubs concerned are making a worthwhile contribution towards the provision of facilities for aquatic sports on the Swan River.

NOWERGUP LAKE FAUNA SANCTUARY

Control and General

This reserve comes under the supervision of the Yanchep National Park Superintendent and it is being maintained in its natural state, except for the provision of firebreaks and the exercise of fire control for its protection.

Fire Control

Firebreaks.—A firebreak along the northern boundary of the reserve adjacent to private property was widened during the year and the breaks ploughed.

Bush Fire.—A small bush fire burnt out about 30 acres in this park on the 8th February, 1969—cause unknown.

OLD MILL RESERVE AT SOUTH PERTH

Control and General

A small reserve at the South Perth end of The Narrows bridge. This area is leased to the firm H. L. Brisbane and Wunderlich Ltd., which restored the old mill and cottage and at the same time established a small historical museum on the site a few years ago.

PENGUIN ISLAND RESERVE

Control

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Carlberg lease a portion of this reserve for holiday resort purposes and Mr. Carlberg carries out honorary ranger duties in the reserve. His principal duties are associated with the protection of penguins and the prohibition of dogs on the island. An assignment of lease is at present being negotiated following a break down in earlier negotiations.

Penguins

The island is signposted regarding the protection of penguins and nesting facilities were provided for them near the settlement in 1965-66.

Public Toilets

The facilities are serviced by the lessees on behalf of the Board. Some maintenance work is due to be carried out on this building once this can be arranged conveniently.

Signposting

Signs erected on the island and the adjacent mainland draw attention to the danger of crossing to and from the island via the sand bar and also in relation to the protection of penguins and prohibition of dogs on the island.

Mersey Point Jetty, Shoalwater Bay

The Penguin Island lessors are experiencing difficulty with providing adequate launch service between the island and the mainland, due to certain shortcomings associated with the jetty and efforts to overcome the problems have so far been unsuccessful.

WALPOLE FLORA RESERVE

Control and General

Adjoins the Walpole-Nornalup National Park adjacent to the north side of the South Coast Highway and for practical purposes it is treated as part of the park, thus coming under Ranger Mr. Gunson's control.

WALPOLE GOLF COURSE RESERVE

Originally excised from the Walpole-Nornalup National Park for the establishment of a golf course, but at present being held in its natural state, pending leasing for the purpose reserved.

WALPOLE RANGER'S RESIDENTIAL RESERVE

At present vacant.

WALPOLE YACHT CLUB RESERVE

Also excised from the Walpole-Nornalup National Park and leased to the Walpole Yacht Club.

YANCHEP FLORA RESERVES

Control and General

These two reserves are located a few miles north of Yanchep National Park and come under the control of the superintendent of that park. They have been left in their natural state and have provided a source of eucalyptus leaves for koala feed.

SMALL PART OF RESERVE

A. 1720 (KING'S PARK)

Control and General

A small area adjoining Mounts Bay Road and under the control of this Board. Mr. B. S. Hardwick holds a tenancy of the land, on which he operates a kiosk known as "Bernies".

THE KNOLL, GOOSEBERRY HILL

Control and General

Latest information reveals that control over this area is expected to pass to the Board in the near future. In the meantime a car parking area has been established at the foot of The Knoll and a walking path cleared to the summit. These improvements were arranged by the Main Roads Department in 1965-66 in anticipation of the Board gaining control of the area. Earlier a sealed road was constructed along the steep route of the old Zig Zag railway track, the resultant road being officially named the "Zig Zag Scenic Drive".

A very severe bush fire on the 23rd January, 1969 burnt out a large portion of The Knoll area.

Mobile Rangers

Mobile Ranger Mr. N. Walmsley carried out relief duties in charge at the Stirling Range, Walpole-Nornalup and Walyunga National Parks for lengthy periods during the year. He also visited Cape Le Grand (twice), Cape Range, Geikie Gorge, Kalbarri (several times), Nambung, Serpentine (a number of times), Torndirrup and Yalgorup (at weekends).

The other Mobile Ranger Mr. J. H. Rose has been fully occupied at Walyunga National Park where he was recently appointed permanently as Ranger-in-Charge.

The appointment of two more mobile rangers is envisaged for the near future.



Beaufortia heterophylla