



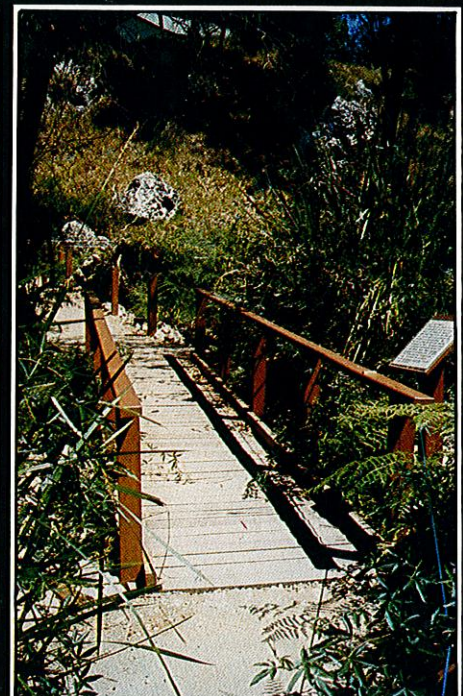
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA


NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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ANNUAL REPORT 1982



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Cover:
OPENING OF THE BOOMERANG
GORGE DISABLED PERSONS
NATURE TRAIL, YANCHEP
NATIONAL PARK.
(Photos B. Muir and J. Hunter)

**HON. I.J. LAURANCE, M.L.A.
MINISTER FOR
CONSERVATION AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL PARKS
AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, I
HEREWITH PRESENT THE REPORT FOR
THE YEAR 1981-1982.

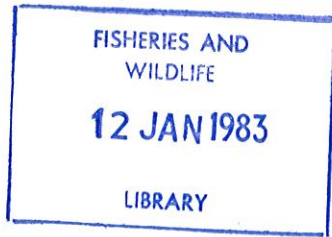
PROF. A.R. MAIN
PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY OF W.A.

**JEWELL BEETLE ON LEPTOSP-
ERMUM ROEI PEAK CHARLES
NATIONAL PARK.**
(Photo B. Muir)



**NATIONAL PARKS
AUTHORITY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT
1981 — 1982**



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THE NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The National Parks Authority Act, 1976 foreshadows the maintenance and management of national parks to preserve and enhance natural beauty, and to allow for facilities to be developed for the enjoyment of that beauty by the community. This is a principal objective to which the Authority has aimed during the year.

There are other objectives, such as the provision of information services which have recently been strengthened but still there is a need to improve and enlarge on the work that has been done. Detailed information is now available on the attractions and on the public facilities that have been developed in various national parks.

So far there are descriptive brochures for ten of the most visited national parks, and in addition for this year, we saw the completion of a booklet on Yanchep National Park to celebrate its 50th Year Jubilee.

One of the brochures in demand by the public includes information on four of the Kimberley National Parks, Geikie Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge and Wolf Creek Crater. Moreover, during the year, material on Cape Range, Hamersley Range and Cape Le Grand National Parks was published.

The Authority will continue its aim to research and survey the landscape and ecosystems represented in national parks, so as to manage them appropriately and to define their attractions for the community's benefit.

THE AUTHORITY

The State Gardens Board was formed on 15 December, 1920 under the Parks and Reserves Act 1895. This Board was replaced in 1956 by the National Parks Board, also under the Parks' and Reserves Act, to control and manage National Parks and some other reserves.

The National Parks Authority Act came into operation on 1 August, 1976. With the proclamation of the Act, the National Parks Authority assumed the functions of the National Parks Board. Authority meetings were held monthly and meetings of the Works and Finance Committee were convened as necessary. Membership at 30 June, 1982 was as follows:—

Prof. A.R. Main, Ph.D., F.A.A., C.B.E., President

B.M.J. Hussey, B.Sc., (Hons), (Bot.), Cert.Ed.

H.W. Sorensen, A.A.S.A., F.B.S. (Aust).

D.W.G. Treloar, MSc, (Agric.)

Y.G. Young

The Conservator of Forests, B.J. Beggs, B.Sc. (For.),
Dip. For.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, B.K. Bowen,
B.Sc.

The Surveyor General, J.F. Morgan, L.S., F.I.S.
(Aust), M.A.I.C.

The Director of the Department of Tourism, N.J.
Semmens, F.A.I.M.

each of whom serve ex officio on the Authority.

DEPUTIES:

For the Conservator of Forests — P.J. McNamara,
M.A., F.A.I.M.

For the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife — A.
Burbidge, B.Sc. (Hons) Ph.D.

For the Director of the Department of Tourism, L.Y.
Hitchen

For the Surveyor General — P.Van Noort, L.S.,
M.I.S. (Aust).

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Following recommendations of the Conservation Through Reserves Committee, Environmental Protection Authority and the Endorsement of the State Cabinet, the following Advisory Committees were active during 1981-82.

LEEWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

National Parks Authority —

H.W. Sorensen — Chairman

H.R. Gorringer — Secretary

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River —

Councillor A.P. Hillier

Councillor E.G. Stephensen

Shire of Busselton —

Councillor C.A. Guthrie

Councillor A.V.C. Miles

Forests Department —

D. Spriggins — Inspector, Forests Department,
Bunbury

Department of Agriculture —

J.H.R. Riches — Adviser, Soil Conservation
Service

W.A. Wildlife Authority —

R. Aitken — Member of the W.A. Wildlife
Authority

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

National Parks Authority —

W.G. Young — Chairman

H.R. Gorringer — Secretary

Shire of Manjimup —

Councillor C.S. Crombie

Mr. G. Gardner

Shire of Nannup —

Councillor L.F. Dickson

Forests Department

F.J. Bradshaw — Senior Divisional Forest
Officer

Department of Agriculture —

K. Hawley — Officer in Charge — Agriculture
Dept. Manjimup

Department of Lands and Surveys —

C.P. Hutchinson — Divisional Surveyor

ESPERANCE NATIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

National Parks Authority —
B.K. Bowen — Chairman
H.R. Gorringe — Secretary

Esperance Shire Council —
Councillor D.F. March
Councillor B.E. Stearne

Esperance Fishermen's Association —
J. Cahill

Esperance Wildflower Society —
P. Daniell

Department of Lands and Surveys —
R.K. Morland — District Surveyor

Department of Agriculture —
A. Kubicki — Agriculture Adviser

AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS

Members of the National Parks Authority endeavour to visit a number of national parks each year to familiarise themselves with the areas and of their management requirements. Additionally, on these inspections meetings are held with councillors and officers of local shires. From these occasions, over the reporting year, some valuable contacts have been made and it is noteworthy that good working relationships have developed.

The National Parks Authority's main visit for 1981/82 was to Nambung National Park and some of the adjacent wildflower national parks between Badgingarra and Jurien Bay. At this time, the Authority met with Councillors of the Shire of Dandaragan to discuss matters of mutual interest which included talks concerning the condition of the Nambung National Park access road and of fire and vermin control for adjacent landholders.

The President of the Authority Professor A.R. Main and the Director Mr. C. Sanders also attended Advisory Committee meetings as observers at Busselton, Manjimup and Esperance. On these occasions, members also had the opportunity to inspect various national parks prior to the meetings.

Familiarisation visits have now been made by representatives of the Authority to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, D'Entrecasteaux National Park and Stokes National Park (west of Esperance).

The National Parks Authority sees considerable merit in Authority members visiting national parks throughout the State and holding discussions on management implications with Shire representatives. The Authority's effort in this regard over the last year has been most fruitful as avenues for better communication and understanding have been established. It is the Authority's intention to continue to promote these most useful contacts.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

PLANNING

With the advent of increasing public pressure on facilities and natural areas in parks, the demand for planning and management services from field and regional staff has increased significantly during the year. This has led to an almost total management role at the expense of broad level management planning.

The only planning project undertaken this year has been the continuation of the aquatic reserve proposal for the Ningaloo Marine Park, with the anticipation of completion in the latter half of 1982.



*Ningaloo Reef.
(Photo: R. May)*

Numerous planning issues, mostly of a minor nature have been undertaken throughout the year, particularly in direct relation to management projects. These included specific projects and planning advice both in national parks and on Garden Island, and with various local authorities in response to requests for advice and assistance.

Management operations by the planning officer have concentrated primarily on project work in the design, organisation and supervision of developments in parks. Projects undertaken through the year included development of water storages and reticulation, picnic areas, housing, roads and carparks, beach accessways, information bay and information services. Aerial evaluation was used for some coastal parks in the south in the planning of road alignments and facilities which from a cost benefit aspect alone, was more efficient than the use of vehicles.

A considerable amount of time was spent in an advisory capacity on management for other government agencies, local government and private interest groups.

The operation by professional and technical staff as a team to co-ordinate operations again proved to be the only possible way to cope with the majority of demands for services.

MANAGEMENT

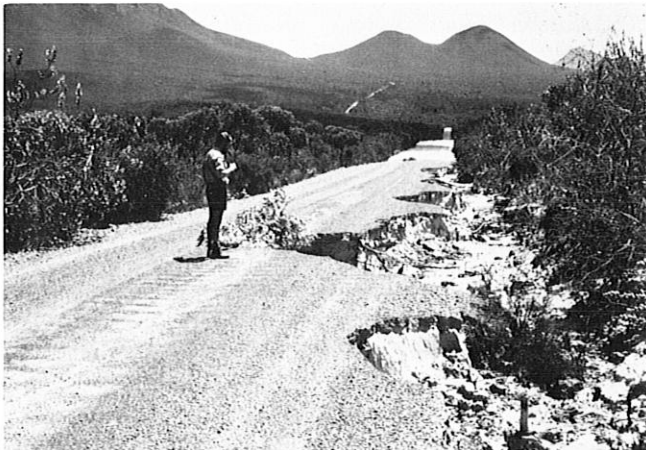
Again during 1981/82, the successful management of the State's national parks has been due to careful deployment of staff, materials and the use of funds.

Management of national parks in the northern region has generally been directed towards the provision, maintenance and upgrading of visitor facilities including camping and picnic areas, walking trails, signboard information and access roads.

Wherever practical, ongoing programmes to control feral animals (particularly goats, pigs and cats) and exotic weeds have continued. Cattle have been fenced out of a substantial proportion of Geikie Gorge National Park, including the camping area and out of the camping area at Windjana Gorge National Park. The benefits to the environment and to visitor security have been notable. The programme will continue.

In the southern region rains following cyclone Errol caused severe damage to the Stirling Range Scenic Drive in the Stirling Range National Park, and also washed away Sapper Bridge across the Frankland River in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The flood damage was repaired with the assistance of National Disaster Relief funds.

A system of log books and traffic counters has been established throughout the region. Some visitor surveys have also been undertaken. Initial analysis of the data so far accumulated indicates that the use of foot access areas, such as the Nuyts Wilderness at Walpole, is increasing. Use of such areas by schools and other organised groups also appears to be rising.



*Cyclone damage to Stirling Range National Park.
(Photo: J. Watson)*

EROSION CONTROL

During 1981/82 funds have been available specifically for the purpose of erosion control.

The Authority is most appreciative of the help provided to it, as a great deal of the work in erosion control has been carried out by volunteer helpers who have carted material, planted marram grass and assisted generally.



*Volunteers at work Mandalay Beach, Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
(Photo: J. Watson)*

Approximatley 1000 trees have been planted in various national parks throughout the State to beautify picnic areas and at the same time control erosion.

Erosion mitigation projects included fencing to exclude cattle from Windjana Gorge, improvement of pathways to the Gap and Natural Bridge at Torndirrup National Park near Albany, and repair of serious erosion on the path to the Blowholes in this area.

Several coastal dune blowouts have been controlled at Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Stokes, and William Bay National Parks. At Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National park, an extensive area of active sand blows was stabilised using marram grass, hay mulch and protective brushing. This project was undertaken with the assistance of the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Albany office of the Department of Agriculture.

Extensive erosion caused by horses in John Forrest National Park was repaired and erosion on firebreaks, caused by foot traffic was corrected at Kalamunda and Lesmurdie National Parks.

At Yalgorup National park near Mandurah, an old limestone quarry has been rehabilitated and will be turned into a picnic site in future park developments.

Rehabilitation work at Twertup Quarry in the Fitzgerald River National Park is well underway with the generous assistance of members of the Fitzgerald River National Park Association.

An exceptionally large project has been the redirection of foot traffic and dune stabilisation measures at Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The sand dune erosion resulted from careless use of four-wheel drive vehicles about five years ago. As the only convenient foot access to Mandalay Beach is through the dunes at this point, erosion continued as a result of walking tracks and constant disturbance of the sand surface.

The National Parks Authority began monitoring the erosion in November 1979. Wind directions, speed, rate of shift of sand, amount of usage and other figures were obtained. It was found that in some parts of the blowout, erosion was occuring at the rate of up to 5m per year.



Local school children helping to plant Marram Grass to halt erosion —
Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
(Photo: B. Muir)

It was decided that as the National Parks Authority had the responsibility to maintain access to a popular beach, and try to retain a stable environment, that dune stabilisation would be undertaken. Work was to comprise three initial phases:

1. place steps down the foredune to the beach
2. monitor the effects of these steps on the dune and public usage
3. undertake a large scale stabilisation programme if needed.

It was determined after twelve months monitoring that full stabilisation was required.

Slopes and sand surfaces which are fairly stable and could revegetate if they were not continually eroded, were identified. Cut scrub, mostly local Peppermint tree *Agonis flexuosa* was laid over these surfaces. A great deal of this scrub-laying was carried out by students of Walpole Primary School and their contribution is much appreciated. This scrub will reduce wind speed at the sand surface, help to trap sand and windblown seeds, and drop its own seeds onto the soil. Eventually it is hoped to seed the areas with native species or plant marram grass.

With careful management and assistance from the caring public in keeping to pathways, not littering and by being aware of their environment, the National Parks Authority hopes to retain the Mandalay Beach area at Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

WEED AND VERMIN CONTROL

Weed and vermin control have been less intensive this year, partly due to success in eradication of some pest species, and partly due to limited manpower.

Arum Lily, Blackberry and Apple of Sodam control have been in the forefront, together with rabbit, fox and cat control.

A project to remove non-native Date Palms from competition with Millstream Palms at Millstream National

Park has been partly successful thanks to the co-operation of prisoners "on loan" from Roebourne Jail, who removed the young exotic palms using mattocks and shovels.

A particular effort has been made to provide ranger field staff with better vermin control equipment, and fifteen parks now have cat traps and the majority of rangers have a suitable firearm.

RESEARCH

Applications for research permits in National Parks dropped markedly in 1981 down to a total of 56 from 107 permits in 1980. The decline is believed to be a result of lack of funds within Tertiary Institutions.

TABLE 1 — Number of research permits issued each calendar year since 1974.

YEAR	FLORA	FAUNA	GEOLOGICAL	ANTHROPOLOGICAL
1974	12	10	0	0
1975	34	1	0	0
1976	23	8	1	0
1977	27	19	0	0
1978	22	10	1	0
1979	13	26	1	0
1980	56	34	11	6
1981	31	21	4	0

The following is research carried out in national parks during the year and is categorised under its relevant three main headings.

RESEARCH BY OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

Newly initiated botanical studies include:

- * Taxonomy and biology of *Calandrinia*, *Calytrix*, *Compositae*, *Eremae*, *Kunzea*, *Liliaceae* and *Melaleuca*.
- * Nitrogen fixation in *Casuarina*.
- * Salt tolerance of *Eucalyptus*
- * Branching systems of *Hakea*.
- * Studies in pollination ecology.
- * Surveys of distribution of gazetted rare plants.

Fauna studies included:

- * Surveys of terrestrial molluscs, salt lake invertebrates, fresh water fish and cave fauna.
- * Studies on the biology of bats, terrestrial amphipods, tettigoniid grasshoppers and Crested Terns.
- * Physiology of the Bobtail Lizard.
- * Predation on Green Sea Turtle eggs and hatchlings.

No new projects on geology or anthropology were initiated. Several school groups obtained permits to allow collecting of flora for educational purposes.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH

Co-operative research involving other government departments is currently limited to an ongoing survey of System 11 (Goldfields). The participants are the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Western Australian Museum and the National Parks Authority.

The National Parks Authority contribution included biological surveys of Frank Hann, Peak Charles and

Boorabbin National Parks. Additionally, the National Parks Authority contributed \$7,000 last year towards the salary of a botanist undertaking the vegetation surveys. The research programme is drawing to a close with only one short term field survey remaining to be completed by National Parks Authority staff, before data collation can be finalised.

RESEARCH BY STAFF

As a consequence of other management demands primary research initiated by National Parks Authority officers has temporarily ceased. There is however, a monitoring programme in conjunction with the Mandalay Beach rehabilitation project at Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The past year has seen a continuing expansion and upgrading of the fireline system and protective burning programmes within individual Parks.

There were approximately 210 km of new firelines installed in 20 Parks this year, plus 2032 km (approx) of maintenance work carried out in 26 parks, bringing the total length of fireline within National Parks to 5,286 km.

The above figure is derived from reports received and in some cases by measurements taken from maps and therefore should only be viewed as approximate.

Contractors were employed maintaining and constructing firelines, and Ranger staff carried out the remainder of the work, where equipment was available.

Prescribed burning as a fire prevention aspect was also carried out by staff, with assistance in some cases, covering a total area of 10,149 hectares, from 119 separate control burns. This burning was designed to offer protection to our neighbours and break-up large areas of national parks internally.

Lightning strikes at Cape Arid and Hamersley Range National Parks were responsible for the majority of land affected by wildfires this year. However, it is interesting to note that the number of fires reported as being deliberately lit, have nearly doubled from those reported in the preceding season.

Ranger staff, being an integral part of fire control within their district, reported that they attended wildfires and control burns outside Park boundaries on 84 occasions. Acknowledgement has been made to Brigade members and

REPORTED WILDFIRES ON EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY LAND FOR 1981/82 FIRE SEASON

PARK	CAUSE	NO. OF FIRES	APPROX. AREA BURNT (HECTARE)
Avon Valley	1 fire from stolen car set alight, 1 escape from control burn on railway reserve	2	4.50
Cape Arid	2 lightning strikes	2	45010
Cape Le Grand	Lightning strike	1	50
Chichester Range	2 deliberate, 1 escape from railway gang burning sleepers	3	6001
D'Entrecasteaux	1 deliberate, 1 escape from control burn on private property	2	550
Fitzgerald	2 lightning strikes, 2 deliberate	4	1670
Gooseberry Hill	1 escape from barbecue, 1 suspected cigarette	2	5.50
Greenmount	Unknown	1	.1
Hamersley Range	2 lightning strikes, 1 deliberate	3	6500
Kalamunda	Children smoking	1	3
Leeuwin-Naturaliste	4 deliberate, 2 escape from control burns on private property	6	995
Millstream	Deliberate	1	4
Nambung	Deliberate	1	2
Nerrabup	Deliberate		.3
Noweragup Reserve	Unknown	1	3
Pemberton	Escape from burning logs on adjoining property	1	6
Scott River	2 by persons unknown, 1 escape from windrows on adjoining property	3	60
Serpentine	Escape from control burn on Water Supply land	1	120
Stirling Range	Lightning on adjoining property	1	2
Torndirrup	Deliberate	1	260
Walpole-Nornalup	1 deliberate, 1 escape from camp fire	2	370
Walyunga	Escape from control burn on adjoining property	1	20
William Bay	Deliberate	1	100
Yalgorup	Deliberate (vandalism, burnt NPA tables, signs etc.)	1	—
Yanchep	4 deliberate (heaped bbq wood, burnt stolen trailer, rubbish tip & bush), 1 lightning	5	.7
		<u>48</u>	<u>61,737.1 ha</u>

Of the above 48 fire occurrences, 1 from lighting of stolen vehicle, 3 from burns on other government controlled land, 8 lightning strikes on NPA land, 1 lightning strike on adjoining property, 21 deliberate, 6 from burns lit on adjoining property, 1 escape from bbq, 1 escape from camp fire, 1 cigarette (suspected), 4 unknown, 1 from children smoking.

neighbours who assisted with fire control in various national parks.

Many rangers are financial members of brigades and have in a number of instances been appointed Fire Control Officers, some are represented on local bush fire advisory committees.

The establishment of a resident ranger at William Bay National Park has afforded greater management effort and enhanced our fire fighting force on the South-West Coast. It has also increased our back-up capabilities with the other Parks in the Denmark-Manjimup area, allowing more flexibility in a fire situation.

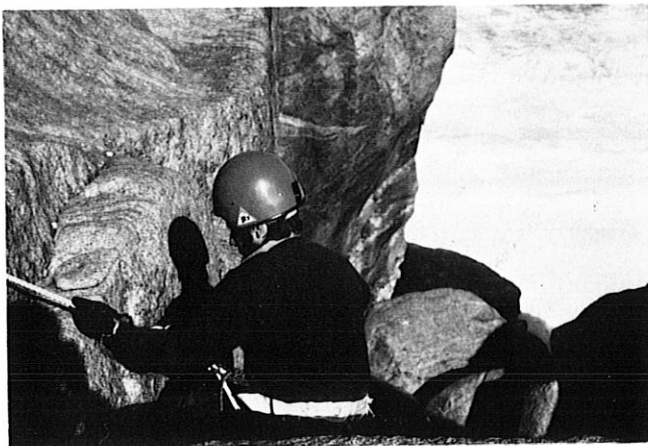
Further upgrading of existing equipment was carried out throughout the year, including the purchase of six pumps and engines, plus seven tanks as individual replacements. New light-duty fire fighting units were delivered to William Bay, Millstream, Windjana Gorge and Walpole-Nornalup National Parks.

Ranger staff involved in operating the Authority's fire fighting equipment over the past few seasons have been supplied with a highly concentrated wetting agent, which, when added to water, increases its effectiveness in a fire fighting or mop-up situation. Its testing to date has not been extensive, however, reports received so far are encouraging, indicating that further experimentation is worthwhile.

Fire management plans for the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks previously submitted to Local Authorities and the Bush Fires Board under subsection (1) of section 34 of the Bush Fires Act, were approved, appearing in Government Gazettes on the 13th November, 1981 and the 26th February, 1982, respectively. Assistance received throughout the year from Government Departments and instrumentalities is gratefully acknowledged, with special mention made of the Forest Department and Bush Fires Board. Appreciation is also expressed to all honorary rangers, especially the four who have diligently controlled the Haddleton Flora Reserve.

VISITOR SAFETY

Rangers in all parks constantly advise visitors about safety precautions, particularly when visitors intend hiking in remote or precipitous country.



Ranger Martin Lloyd in cliff scaling exercise.
(Photo: J. Watson)

The Wittenoorn Volunteer Cliff Rescue Group continues to practice on a regular basis. The ranger in charge, Cape Range National Park (who is a member of the Exmouth Volunteer State Emergency Service) attended one practice and a return visit by the ranger in charge, Hamersley Range National Park is planned.

Steps and safety rails have been installed to provide more secure public access to a number of gorges in Hamersley Range National Park. An emergency airstrip to Royal Flying Doctor standard has also been constructed in that national park.

Authority staff in the southern region of the State continue to participate in various emergency training exercises organised by voluntary groups, the Army and the State Emergency Service.

Popular national parks of concern continue to be Stirling Range, Hamersley Range, Cape Range, Kalbarri and Serpentine.

VISITOR DEMAND

Visitor demand and use of the state's national parks continues to vary from region to region with a general increase throughout the State.

With tourism campaigns at an ever increasing intensity, the National Parks Authority continues to labour in some areas where visitation is being experienced beyond the level of management capacity. This could also be said of areas with no resident staff.

The south west of the State continues to attract the majority of visitors during the summer months while central regional areas, Perth-Kalbarri, attract local people and state visitors at all times of the year.

The increase in visitor numbers to most areas in the northern region particularly during May-June 1982, has stretched facilities to their limit and placed a considerable maintenance burden on all rangers. The increase has been most dramatic at Geikie Gorge National Park where visitors for June 1982 (2508 campers) were more than double the number for June 1980 (1241 campers). It is anticipated that this trend will continue.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The National Parks Authority saw the need at the beginning of 1980 to install traffic counters in most of the more heavily visited national parks and these have now been in operation for a little over one year. The data however, are not yet adequate to statistically relate with confidence, traffic increase throughout 1981/1982 over that of 1980/81.

However, based on available vehicle counts and ticket sales at various national parks, it is estimated that 1.1 million people visited Western Australian National Parks during 1981, with the numbers rising during the first half of 1982. For 1981, an average of 757.4 vehicles, per day, visited eleven national parks where counters are installed.

It is notable that 350,000 people visited Yanchep and 150,000 to Walyunga National Park in the metropolitan region (a \$2 charge is placed on all vehicles entering these Parks and it is estimated that each vehicle contains 2.5 persons).

Reliable vehicle counts comparing January to June 1982 against the same period for 1981, show a rise in visitation to Walyunga National Park of 62.5%. For the same period for Cape Range National Park near Exmouth, the increase is 86%.

There are other areas receiving a substantial rise in visitor numbers, particularly Hamersley Range National Park, and Geikie Gorge National Park, in the Kimberleys. In regard to Hamersley, the data are not yet reliable to suggest any real conclusions except that a count of campers in the Dales Gorge camping areas during the May holidays for 1982, versus the same time 1981, suggests an increase of about 50%.

For Geikie Gorge, the information on campers given above, demonstrates a dramatic rise in visitation over the period June 1980 to June 1982 of greater than 100%. The comparable figures for June 1981 was 1600 campers. The boat tour through Geikie Gorge is very popular, and it attracted 1650 patrons in June 1981, whilst for June 1982 the figure was 2347 persons — a rise of 42%.

The National Parks Authority is preparing vehicle count statistics and revenue statistics as they become available for 1982 against 1981. That information should be available for the next reporting period.

RADIO NETWORK

The Authority has continued active maintenance to the radio system installed in all ranger vehicles throughout the state. During the year, additional sets were placed in the residences of rangers in charge at Cape Arid, and Fitzgerald River National Parks, and this enhanced communications within and to these remote and popular parks.

A significant development has been the establishment of a base transceiver in the regional superintendent's office in Karratha. This provides an improved backup for rangers in emergency situations as well as improved communications between rangers and the regional superintendent in this large, remote area.

PROMOTION

Public awareness, interest and appreciation of the state's national parks and reserves and the environment generally was promoted where possible in all the Authority's communications and work programmes during the year.

On December 20, 1981, fifty-years had passed since the official Yanchep National Park Opening Day Ceremony. Because it was also the "International Year of Disabled Persons" it was thought a fitting gesture to facilitate the beautiful Boomerang Gorge in the Park, with a handicapped persons "touch and see" nature trail and on Jubilee Celebration Day, officially dedicate the trail.

The Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Sir Charles Court officially opened the nature trail at 3.00 pm on Sunday 20th December, 1981. The day was an "Open Day"

at Yanchep National Park and various displays, films and nature talks were given. Mr. Harry Butler, patron of the Western Australian Parks and Reserves Association gave an open air lecture in the Park. Also representatives of the Association conducted guided talks on the park environment.

All in all, the day was a success dedication to handicapped people and to fifty-years of development at Yanchep National Park.

AWARENESS

A variety of information and education services promoting public awareness within respective areas of expertise was given by professional, technical, field and administrative staff. Government Departments, institutions, business houses and the public generally, were kept informed during the year of the policies and regulations pertaining to national parks.



Ranger Taffy Davies lecturing school children at the East Perth Cemetery.
(Photo: J. Hunter)

As in other years, the owners of dogs continued to seek amnesty for their pets in national parks and a great deal of time was spent by the administration and rangers in writing or personally explaining the international and long standing regulation which prohibits exotic animals in all national parks generally, throughout Australia.

Publication of interpretive material continued with both new and reprints being made available on request to all park visitors and tourist agencies both state and interstate.

It was again noticed that some requests from out of state showed dismay at not being able to obtain Western Australian literature at their own State Tourism Centres. Furthermore, other departments and agencies' information documents on tourism, sometimes lacked specific references to the national parks whilst promoting the same geographical location.

Many business, educational and social groups were again given directions and approvals after requesting permission to use various national parks for events or as venues.

Commercial film companies and television stations were active again in national parks and approvals were issued for legitimate educational or tourism topic requests. Evidence

suggested however, that a few large advertising companies had breached regulations by promoting products without approval in fragile and inappropriate areas of national parks. Various companies were subsequently made aware of their responsibilities in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

As a result of requests, staff continued to present illustrated talks on national parks and related topics to various schools, tourist organisations, service and conservation groups.

At the Yanchep National Park's Jubilee Celebration on December 20, 1981, Mr. Harry Butler, C.B.E., graciously agreed to give a lecture entitled "National Parks and the People". The text of his speech has been printed in brochure form for free distribution.

During the year, the Authority has been able to accept school students on "Work Experience" programmes at several of the state's national parks. This has further helped in the environmental education of students and general understanding of Western Australia's national park management procedures.

MEDIA AND GENERAL LIAISON

Media and general public liaison continued to increase during the year, especially with events such as the Yanchep Park Jubilee Celebrations, Boomerang Gorge Disabled Persons Nature Trail opening and the annual Avon Descent which passes through Avon and Walyunga National Parks.

All local media forms in the northern, southern and central regional centres have provided valuable assistance in publishing information on developments and activities in various national parks.

Head office staff, regional superintendents and rangers have maintained close liaison with local authorities and government departments. These include the Departments of Fisheries and Wildlife, Conservation and Environment, Lands and Surveys, Agriculture (including Agriculture Protection Board), Regional Administration, Public Works and Main Roads.

An oil well is currently being drilled from a site near the coast in Cape Range National Park. Throughout the programme, close liaison has been maintained between the Authority and the company concerned. Co-operation throughout the project has been excellent. It is anticipated that the site works installed by the company will be rehabilitated after drilling and testing has ceased.

PUBLICATIONS

A general update and reprint of current national park publications was carried out when necessary. Several new productions were added to the list of material already published. New releases were:—

CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK — A full colour brochure incorporating maps, pictures and information on facilities, wildlife, features and history.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK — A full colour booklet on the history, features and wildlife.

CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK — A brochure on the Len Otte Nature Trail.

HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK — A brochure and map on the features, facilities and wildlife.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK JUBILEE — A short history and programme of the day events.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK — Boomerang Gorge Handicapped Persons Nature Trail — a short history, map and programme of the opening proceedings.

WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK — A leaflet on the dune restoration works at Mandalay Beach.

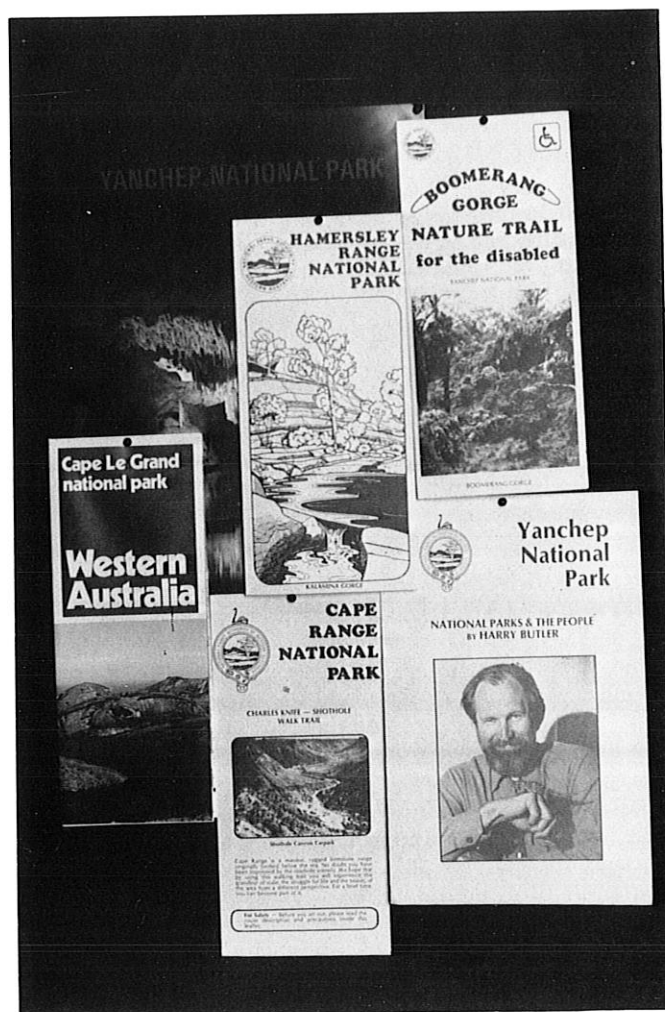
WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK — Salmon Fishing.

THE NATIONAL PARKS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — A map.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK — Boomerang Gorge Handicapped Persons Nature Trail — A brochure describing all the point stops on the trail.

PUBLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN PRINT

HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK — A key to the Eucalypts.



Some new publications.

NATIONAL PARKS AND PEOPLE — By Harry Butler, CBE — A brochure containing a speech given at the Yanchep National Park Jubilee Celebration.

CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK — Charles Knife — Shot Hole Walk Trail brochure.

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK — A modified monotone brochure of the colour series.

ARTICLES FEATURED IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

WATSON, J.R. 1982 Role of the visitor in National Park Management. Natural Area Management Workshop. R.A.I.P.R., Hobart, April 1982.

HAMILTON-SMITH, E., and WATSON, J.R. 1982. Monitoring of wildland recreation: Issues, methods and potential, Natural Area Management Workshop, R.A.I.P.R., Hobart, April, 1982.

HARRIS, R., OTTE, L.E. and WATSON, J.R. 1981. Low key trail marking in National Parks of South Western Australia. Australian Ranger Bulletin, 1, (3) 52-3.

WATSON, J.R. 1982. Water based recreation in National Parks on the south coast of Western Australia, Recreation Australia, 1 (in press).

KITCHENER, D.J., DELL, J., MUIR, B.G., and PALMER, M. (1982) Birds in Western Australian Wheatbelt Reserves — Implications for Conservation. *Biol. Conserv.* 22: 127-163.

DISPLAYS

Three photographic displays were constructed during the year and shown at various institutions and national parks when requested.

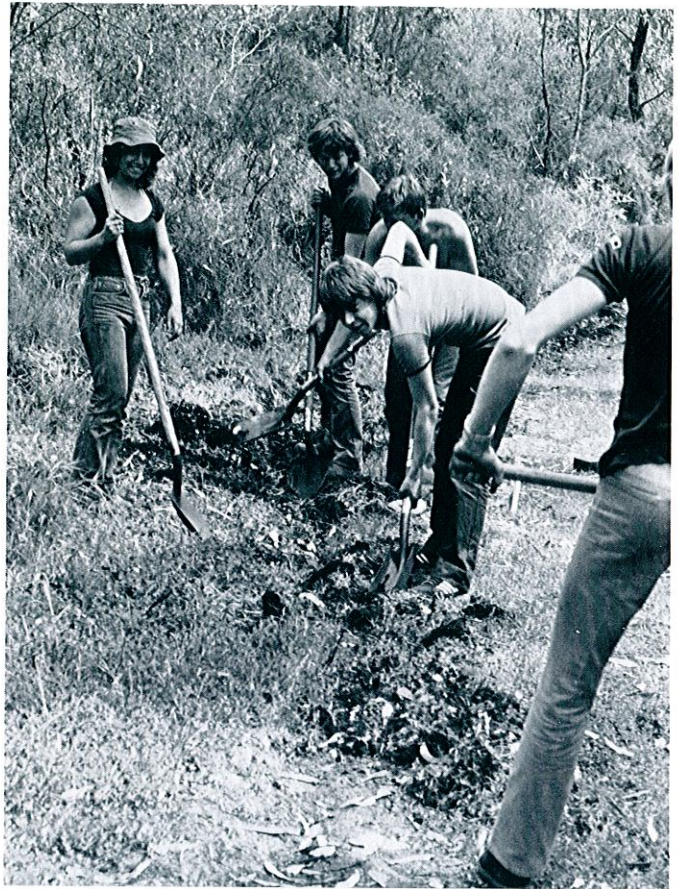
One display depicted some of the spectacular natural features found in Western Australian national parks whilst another in duplicate and titled "National Parks and Flora Conservation" was shown specifically at the "Wildlife Show" in Fremantle and Rockingham and the Cranbrook Wildflower show.

A most successful four-day exhibition in Karratha for the 1981 Fe Na CL festival was mounted jointly by the National Parks Authority and other Government Departments concerned with the environment. About 3,000 people attended.

VISITOR FACILITIES

The Authority continued to maintain, enlarge and provide new visitor facilities as funds permitted and with the help of donor companies, student work groups and the Youth Conservation Corps, a work experience group for young people.

In December 1981, a "touch and see" nature trail in Boomerang Gorge Yanchep National Park was completed. The 400 metre long trail consists of a pathway and cable fence designed to accommodate both wheel-chaired and blind persons. It meanders through the Gorge, occasionally stopping at objects which are able to be touched, smelt and observed with the aid of brailled and



The Youth Conservation Corps laying water pipe in Boomerang Gorge, Yanchep National Park.
(Photo: J. Hunter)

lettered documents. The path extends two-thirds of the way along Boomerang Gorge and the "Amphitheatre" where it follows a loop and returns along the same route.

The National Parks Authority sincerely appreciates the help of the Rotary Club of Perth, the Youth Conservation Corps and The Naturalists' Club of Western Australia, as donors toward the establishment of the trail and various facilities at the entrance to Boomerang Gorge. Thanks are also extended to Bond Resources and Bunnings Ltd. who supplied various building materials for the project.

Besides general maintenance and improvements to existing facilities, a number of new facilities have been, or are in the course of being provided in the northern region. These include:

Supply of water at Windjana Gorge (fresh water will be available to Park visitors and to cattle).

Relocation of the Charles Knife picnic area and the construction of a new car park site and lookout point named in honour of an early pioneer — Thomas Carter, in Cape Range National Park.

Walking trail across Cape Range linking the Thomas Carter Lookout and Shot Hole Canyon.

New walking trails and development of an old asbestos mining area as an historic site in Hamersley Range National Park.

Construction of a walking trail along part of the original road by which camel-drawn wagons negotiated the Chichester Range in Chichester Range National Park. This project was carried out with assistance from officers and prisoners of the Roebourne gaol.

In the Southern Region National Parks (Cape Arid, Cape Le Grand, Stokes) improved visitor access has been made through the upgrading of selected roads and access tracks. A small camping area with day visitor facilities has been established on the shores of Stokes Inlet.



Beach walkway down a blow out at Salmon Holes, Torndirrup National Park.
(Photo: J. Watson)



Steps such as these make beach access easier as well as protecting the dune from further erosion. Salmon Holes after new steps project.
(Photo: J. Watson)

In the Fitzgerald River National Park, a visitor information bay has been constructed near East Mount Barren. This park continues to be very popular with bushwalkers and educational groups. With the approval and encouragement of the Authority, a disused cottage at Twertup Quarry has been modified for use as a Field Studies Centre by the Fitzgerald River National Park Association (Inc.).

At Porongurup National Park a special coach parking area has been provided at the Tree in the Rock Picnic Area. This area continues to be the main focal point of the park, being the starting point for walks to the main peaks of the range. Major improvements in visitor access have been made at Torndirrup National Park through the provision of walkways at Salmon Holes, a new lookout at Jimmy Newell's Harbour and upgraded access to the Blowholes.

With the establishment of a resident ranger at William Bay National Park in May 1981, progress has been made to provide improved vehicle access to Mad Fish Bay with reinstatement of now obsolete 4 WD tracks.

In the Warren National Park, maintenance has been carried out on the Maidenbush and Heartbreak Trails which form a scenic one-way drive along the banks of the Warren River. Several picnic areas along the drive have also been improved.

Road programmes have been the major improvements in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, ranging from the sealing of car parks at the Waterwheel near Augusta, through to re-sheeting Canal Rocks carpark and providing new access tracks in the Cape Naturaliste area. A new walkway to the beach has been constructed at Cosy Corner.

CO-OPERATION AND COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

Authority staff attended numerous committee meetings, working groups and seminars on wide ranging topics and issues relating to national parks and environmental matters during the year.

The National Parks Authority is represented on the Agriculture Protection Board's Manjimup and Busselton regional advisory groups, as well as the Board's Blackberry Control Committee and Feral Cat Committee. It is also represented on the joint Museum, University of Western Australia, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Biological Survey Committee. In addition, Authority officers are involved in the South-Coast Working Groups, Cave Management Working Group and the Apiary Sites Committee.

Co-operative studies into identification, distribution and control of dieback are ongoing with the Forests Department and the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Forest Research.

Authority members chaired meetings of the Esperance, D'Entrecasteaux and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Parks Advisory Committee during the year, and reported to the full National Parks Authority on the advice received.

The Marine Park Working Group convened by an officer of the National Parks Authority continued towards finalising draft management proposals for an aquatic reserve for the Ningaloo Reef tract and offshore from North-West Cape.

The Director of National Parks represents the Authority on the Bush Fires Board and four meetings were attended.

In August 1981, the Southern Regional Superintendent attended a Counter Disaster Planning Course at the Australian Counter Disaster College in Macedon, Victoria, and a Tasmanian Police Search and Rescue Symposium held near Hobart. Inspections were also made of several Tasmanian national parks to assess search and rescue planning and operations, and visitor safety provisions. The outdoor adventure activities pursued in Tasmania are very similar to those which are rapidly increasing in popularity in national parks of south-western Australia.

Some staff in the Southern Region attended the 4th Australasian Conference on Cave Tourism and Management held at Yallingup in September 1981 and also a Coastal Management Seminar held at Albany during December 1981.

The Director represented the Authority at three meetings of the Standing Committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers, during the reporting period. Additionally, the Minister for Conservation and the Environment Mr. I. Laurance and the Director attended the June 1982 ministerial meeting of CONCOM, in Hobart. The gathering was arranged on a date close to June 5th — World Environment Day, and also to mark ten years since the historic United Nations' Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm (June 5th, 1972).

CONCOM Ministers also met for the first time in joint session with members of the Australian Environmental Council, to present a far-reaching Declaration on Environment and Conservation. The Ministers noted that significant achievement in these fields had been reached in Australia over the last decade, and they jointly declared that protection and improvement of the quality of the environment will be an on-going objective of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

Moreover, there will be a continuing effort made in such areas as:—

- * Controlling all forms of pollution of the environment in order to avoid adverse effects on human health and to enhance the beneficial uses of the environment.
- * Applying the "Polluter Pays" principle to encourage environment protection.
- * Improving arrangements for monitoring and reporting on major indicators of the state of the Australian environment.
- * Preventing extinction of Australian species of flora and fauna, and to protect their habitats.
- * Incorporating at an early stage environment and nature conservation considerations in government decision-making.
- * Encouraging and providing opportunities for constructive public participation in decisions with potentially significant environmental consequences.
- * Supporting environmental education and promoting community awareness of environment and nature conservation issues.
- * Contributing to international activities directed toward safe-guarding and improving the global environment.

In formal session CONCOM Ministers among other matters, decided to support Australia-wide programmes for increasing the number of Aborigines engaged as park rangers. The National Parks Authority hopes to move progressively toward implementing this objective.

The Director, as a member of the Garden Island Environmental Advisory Committee, attended four meetings during the year. An Authority ranger is seconded

to the Island to assist in maintenance of its unique environment, and to aid public access to recreation areas away from the defence facilities.

The Island was also visited by the Authority's Ecologist and Fire Management Officer, who provided specialist advice on weed control and fire management.

HISTORY OF PARKS

SERPENTINE NATIONAL PARK

Serpentine National Park is situated some 50 kilometres south-east of Perth and on the Darling Scarp. The Park is important as it includes open forests of Jarrah and Marri and has also two rare trees, the Butter Gum *Eucalyptus laeliae* on the slopes, and the Salmon White Gum *Eucalyptus lane-poolei* at the foot of the Scarp. It is in an area which is extensively mined and is logged for Jarrah, a tree which is susceptible to dieback. The Serpentine Falls, within the Park, have been set aside as part of the National Estate.

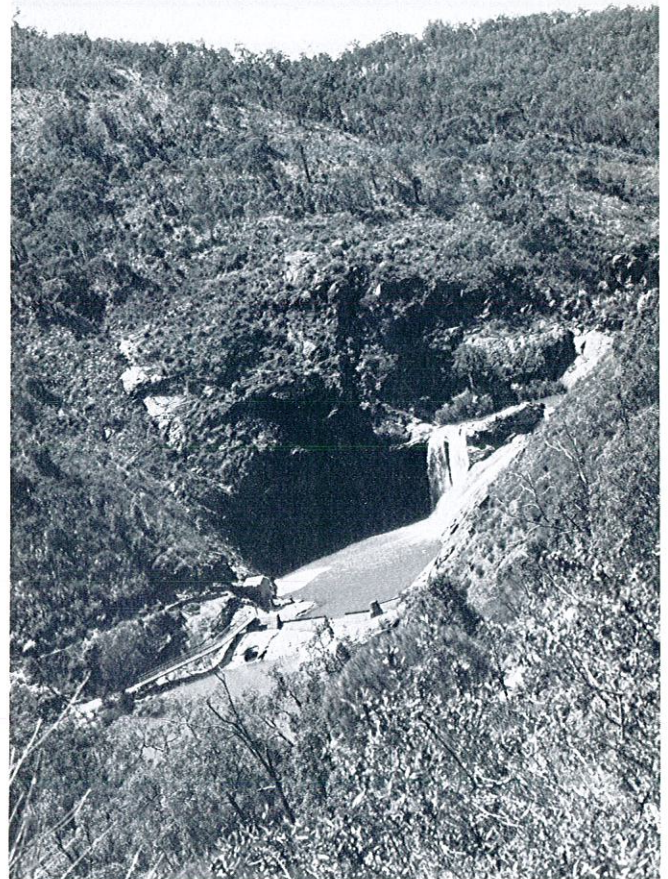
The first people to tread the ground in the Serpentine area were the Aborigines who, undoubtedly, hunted and camped in the woodlands and raised their families there, perhaps as long ago as 30,000 years before European settlement. The Serpentine River would have provided them with their water and some of their food, such as fish, mussels, etc.

Europeans, however, had for some time been aware of the existence of Western Australia and were interested in the possibility of annexing it as part of their home country. This was due to visits by Dutch, British and French ships from as early as the seventeenth century. These expeditions generally only visited and charted the coast, but in 1801, a major French expedition ordered by Napoleon arrived off the Western Australian coast, and J.F.E. Hamelin, commander of the ship "Naturaliste" went about 19 miles inland in June 1801. He referred in his Journal to a river he thought to be the Swan River. However, some historians suggest this river was the Serpentine River and not the Swan. Therefore Hamelin may well have been the first European to set foot in the vicinity of the present National Park.

In response to the French exploration party, the British established a permanent settlement at Albany in 1826. This prevented further occupation by other interested countries.

In 1829, the Swan River Colony was also established and by the 1890's much land had been cleared and people began to realise that the natural vegetation of the land was disappearing, and with it, the animals.

So it was in January 1894, that a newly formed group of concerned people (The Natural History Society of West Australia) petitioned the then State Government "to set apart a specified reserve for protection and preservation of the indigenous fauna and flora." Thus the first reserve for fauna and flora in Western Australia, the Murray Reserve No. 2461, of 160,000 acres, "between Pinjarra, North Dandalup and Bannister" was proclaimed in February, 1894.



*Serpentine National Park falls area 1982.
(Photo: J. Hunter)*

However, the Reserve was reduced in 1897 for timber cutting and there were soon more such demands. In March 1901, Surveyor Absalon wrote to the Surveyor General asking that the Reserve be cancelled and thrown open for selection. In 1902 he was sent out to inspect the Reserve. In his report to the Surveyor General, he said he had "no hesitation" in stating the Reserve was entirely unsuitable and recommended it be cancelled and part of it be opened up for orchard blocks and the rest for timber leases. The Reserve was cancelled in April, 1911 despite protests from interested persons.

During that same trip, however, Surveyor Absalon visited the Serpentine Falls area. He commented on the wide variety of flowers and said these could be protected in some natural beauty spot such as the Falls. He said the area was rapidly being denuded of flora such as "Everlastings and Flannel Flowers, even the Maidenhair Ferns along the banks of the river are being dug up and carried away." He

recommended a "permanent caretaker" be placed at the Serpentine Falls, to preserve the flora and protect it from the "trainloads of excursionists who visit the Serpentine Falls every flower season".

It appears the Serpentine Falls were already within a Reserve (No. 3355, Class "A" — Public Recreation" August, 1900) but it is not known if a caretaker was placed at the Falls or not. Records indicate, however, that the reserved area around the Falls was enlarged, as three other blocks of land were set aside as parklands in 1903.

Around the turn of the century, part of the area now within the present-day Serpentine National Park was mined for gold and silver by men who worked the Darling Range ridges as far south as the Donnybrook and Greenbushes gold and tin fields. In 1981, several of these open mine shafts were filled in as they were considered dangerous.

About 1911, the Public Works Department installed a gauging station and weir to measure the amount of water flowing through the Falls. To date (1982) the Station still stands and the wall of the weir forms the now very popular swimming pool at the base of the Falls.

In November 1914, control and management of the Falls area itself, (Reserve No. A3355) was handed to the State Hotels' Department, a small department administered from the Colonial Secretary's office, and headed by a general manager.

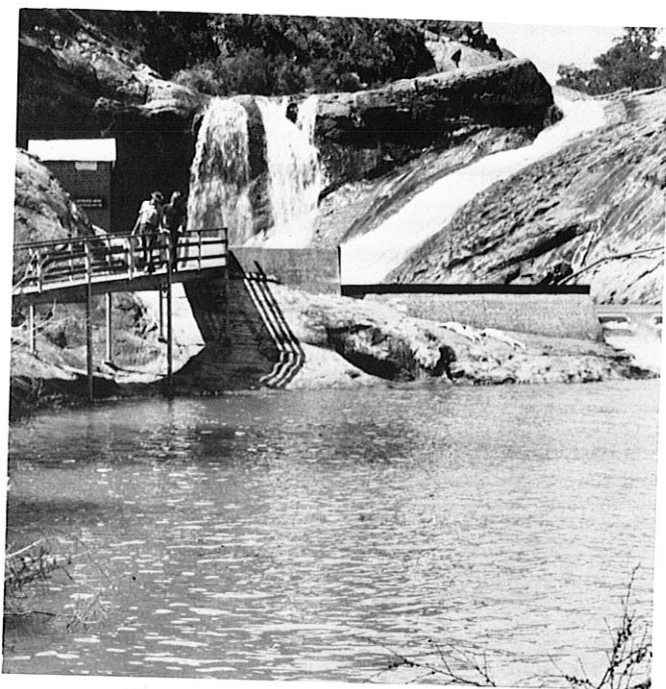
Several years later, in 1922, the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Road Board took control.

About 1927, certain areas in the vicinity were again thrown open for selection. Because it was considered that the scenic beauty of the Falls area constituted a national asset,



Serpentine National Park from the top of the falls, early 1900's.

Courtesy Batty Library



*Swimming hole and walkway below the falls.
(Photo: J. Hunter)*

protests were made to the Government. This resulted in withdrawal of the areas from selection in 1928.

The chairman of the newly formed (December 1920) State Gardens Board inspected these blocks and recommended a reserve for park and recreation. Thus in February, 1930, four more blocks were added to the Serpentine Falls area. These four blocks, collectively numbered 20357, were handed to the State Gardens Board under Mr. L.E. Shapcott and Mr. C.G. Morris. Later, two more blocks including the Falls were handed to the Board and by 1931, most of the individual Reserves, which today comprise the Serpentine National Park, were under the control of the State Gardens Board. In the 1930's, the area was sometimes known as Campion Park.

The Falls were a very popular picnic spot partly due to their scenic qualities, their proximity to Perth and the fact that there are few waterfalls in the south-west of Western Australia. They often appeared in tourist booklets as popular tourist sites and were often considered one of the main attractions of the Darling Range.

On 13 April, 1956, the State Gardens Board became the National Parks Board, resulting in a strengthening of conservation policy and a general review of all management procedures. In the following year, all the Serpentine Reserves collectively were vested in the National Parks Board and another large block (Reserve 23894) added.

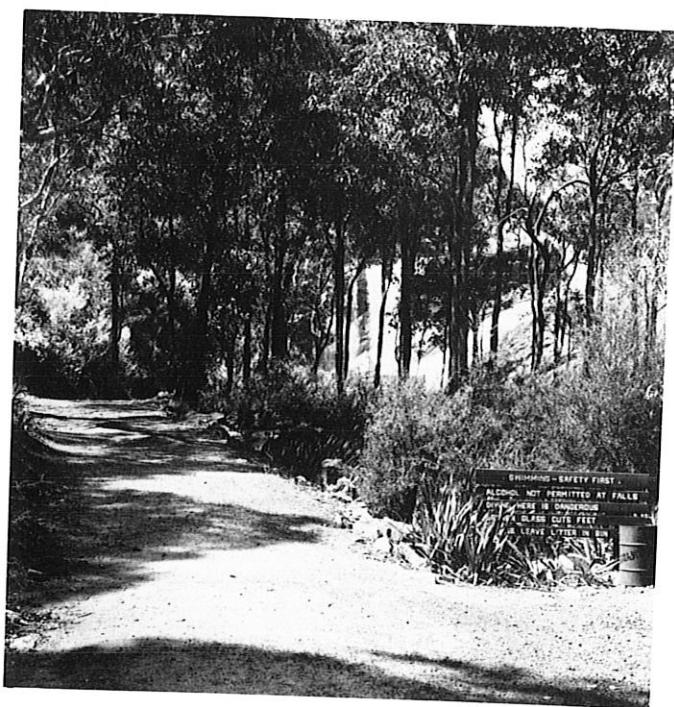
In the 1950's, the Metropolitan Water Supply commenced the task of damming the Serpentine River and the Pipe Head Dam, 4½ miles upstream from the Falls, and was completed in 1957. This stopped the River flowing during the dry season and hence the Falls. By then the gauging weir

was used as a swimming pool, so to keep the pool water fresh, water from the dam was, and still is, piped from the dam directly into the pool. Over the years since then, the National Parks Board requested this water be piped to a spot above the Falls instead of below them, as the Falls would then run most of the year. Even today, however, the Falls still only run in winter.

By October, 1961, some development in the Reserves had taken place. This included a road into the Falls area, construction of change rooms and toilets and the provision of a picnic area with tables, seats and fireplaces for barbecues. Mr. Wilfred E. Baldwin had been installed as Caretaker before February, 1957 and lived close to the site. The toilets had been installed even earlier — in 1954, at a cost of £1604. A ticket collector's box had been built in August 1958 by the Public Works Department. It cost £69. And there was a timber bridge just below the Falls (which needed repair) in August 1958. (This was burnt down during summer of 1962/63.)

In 1964, a mobile Ranger with 4-wheel drive vehicle and caravan (Mr. N. Walmsley) was appointed to maintain the reserves during the week. Mr. Baldwin continued as part-time caretaker, and ticket collector on Sundays and public holidays. Mr. Baldwin died in 1968 and his son took over from him.

Further development of roads improving access into the Falls area, and parking facilities, was completed by August 1968 by the Main Roads Department in co-operation with the National Parks Board.



*Pathway from the picnic area to the falls.
(Photo: J. Hunter)*

A one-lane vehicle bridge, originally planned for in 1966 but delayed due to lack of funds, was completed early in 1971, giving access to the picnic area on the other side (north) of the river. The Main Roads Department did the work then too.

In March 1968, all the then Reserves were officially amalgamated into one Class "A" Reserve (No. 28862) for the purpose of a National Park and were vested in the National Parks Board in July 1968. However, it was not until 15 October, 1971 that the name "Serpentine National Park" was made official.

During 1975, the Park had an honorary ranger who lived in the Serpentine township. Camping within the Park was permitted and there was a fifty cent admission fee charged.

In 1976, administrative changes resulted in the National Parks Board becoming the National Parks Authority as it is today, with further developments in policies and procedures. In the same year, a full-time resident ranger (Mr. R. Elston) was installed in the Park.

Today (1982) the 635 ha Serpentine National Park is looked after by Resident Ranger Mr. P. Jeffs and it is more popular than ever, as one of Perth's scenic observation reserves and picnic areas.

NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES DESCRIPTION

STATISTICS

As at the 30th June, 1982 the total of reserves vested in or under the control and management of the National Parks Authority was:—

NATIONAL PARKS	RESERVES	TOTAL AREA
50	13	4,366,255 ha

AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL PARKS

The following additions and amendments to National Parks occurred during the year:—

LEEUWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK — Addition of 2254 ha Class "A" Reserve 8434 "For the Protection and Preservation of Caves, Flora and for Health and Pleasure Resort".

WILLIAM BAY NATIONAL PARK — Area increased by 33 ha with the addition of Reserve C 12046, this reserve being changed from "Water" to "national parks and water".

NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES VESTED IN OR UNDER THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY AS AT 30 JUNE, 1982.

NATIONAL PARKS

ALEXANDER MORRISON NATIONAL PARK — Class A Reserve of 8501 hectares comprising Reserves A.29800, A.29803 and A.29804 located north-west of Jurien Bay and controlled by the Ranger in charge of Nambung National Park. A representation of plant and wildflower habitat in the northern sandplain.

AVON VALLEY NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 4377 hectares having a resident Ranger in charge and being a limited access Park. It is an area of magnificent scenery in the river valleys of the Darling Scarp and is an excellent representative area of the transition zone between the forest block and wheat belt country. Ranger in Charge C. Barrow.

BADGINGARRA NATIONAL PARK — Situated north-east of the Cervantes townsite and Nambung National Park, this area of 13 121 hectares was reserved mainly for the preservation of Black Kangaroo Paws. It is also known to contain many other rare and restricted plant species.

BOORABBIN NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 26 000 hectares situated on each side of the Great Eastern Highway, west of Boorabbin. Typical shrubland of the sand plains east of the wheatbelt.

CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 279 415 hectares having magnificent coastal scenery, popular for camping and fishing. A Ranger is resident in the park near the mouth of the Thomas River. Ranger in Charge C. Hart.

CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve consisting of 31 390 hectares on the south coast about 32 kilometres east of Esperance. It has magnificent coastal scenery with granite peaks and swamps rich in birdlife. The area is popular for summer camping and fishing holidays. The Ranger is resident in the park. Ranger in Charge T. Passmore.

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

CHICHESTER RANGE NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve comprises 150 609 hectares of great scenic beauty including the well known Python Pool. The area is located south of Roebourne and is serviced by a Ranger appointed to control the Hamersley Range National Park and by a mobile Ranger based at Millstream during the winter months. This park has panoramic views of Pilbara landscape.

COLLIER RANGE NATIONAL PARK — This Class C Reserve of 277 841 hectares consists of high ground between the upper reaches of the Ashburton and Gascoyne Rivers. The park contains large areas of ungrazed spinifex and soft grass country.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK — A series of irregular A Class reserves totalling 36599 hectares. a complex area of wetlands, forests and coastal dunes rich in plant species and containing many unusual habitats. The Park is situated between Black Point and Marlinup on the south coast of the state.

DROVERS CAVE NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 2 681 hectares located north of Jurien Bay, this area is under the supervision of the Ranger in charge of Nambung National Park, situated in coastal sand plain area where wildflowers and karst feature.

DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK — This Reserve consists of 435 591 hectares of wooded country in the North Kimberley. The Drysdale River flows through the middle of the reserve which includes the Ashton Range and the Carson escarpment. A large isolated wilderness area requiring National Parks Authority permission to enter.

EUCLA NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 3 342 hectares situated on the south coast at the Western Australia/South Australian border. An arid to semi-arid area of sand hills and mallee country with coastal limestone cliffs.

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK — A major Reserve of 242 739 hectares, situated on the South Coast between the Gairdner, Fitzgerald and Phillips River, west of Culham Inlet and Hopetoun townsite. Its most interesting features are the Fitzgerald and Hamersley River Gorges and spectacular cream coloured spongolite cliffs. It contains magnificent coastal and mountain scenery and unique flora and fauna. The area is serviced by a Ranger based at Jerramungup and an assistant Ranger resident at Quaalup and one at East Mt. Barren. Ranger in Charge G. Duxbury.



*Fitzgerald River National Park.
(Photo: J. Watson)*

FRANK HANN NATIONAL PARK — This is an area of 49 877 hectares, the majority of this comprises land 1.5 km wide on each side of the Lake King — Norseman Road. The park represents a cross section of the heath flora of the inland sand plain east of the wheatbelt.

GEIKIE GORGE NATIONAL PARK — This area of 3 136 hectares about 16 km from Fitzroy Crossing contains a beautiful gorge where the river cuts through an ancient limestone barrier reef. A campsite and river trips are operated by a ranger during the dry season. Ranger in Charge N. Nannup.

GOONGARRIE NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 49 878 hectares representing Mulga Country near to the Eucalypt Mulga line. This is the only National Park containing a large area of Mulga dominated vegetation at the southern end of the range of that species.

GOOSEBERRY HILL NATIONAL PARK — A scenic lookout of 33 hectares located on the western edge of the Darling Range escarpment a few kilometres from Kalamunda.

GREENMOUNT NATIONAL PARK — An area of 56 hectares reserved for its panoramic views of the coastal plain, Swan River and Perth City and its suburbs. Contains a fine representation of Jarrah trees.

HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK — This is the second largest single National Park under the Authority's control and comprises an area of 617 606 hectares. The area is one of spectacular mountains, gorges, water course and plateaux. Points of special interest are Fortescue Falls, Circular Pool, Dales Gorge, Joffre Falls and Red Gorge. The Ranger in charge of this National Park has his headquarters in the Park and camping is permitted in designated areas. Ranger in Charge I. Solomon.

HASSELL NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve of 1 281 hectares is situated along the main Albany — Bremer Bay Road and is reserved for the protection of its flora and fauna.

JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK — This National Park is an A Class Reserve of 1 578 hectares situated in the Darling Range about 27 km from Perth. It is Western Australia's first National Park being declared in 1895 and contains open forest and woodland and has outstanding displays of wildflowers during the spring. There is a natural swimming pool for the enjoyment of the public and the Park is serviced by a Ranger staff of 8. Superintendent R. Waterhouse.

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

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve of 186 076 hectares is quickly becoming one of the State's most popular National Parks. Located some 644 km north of Perth near the mouth of the Murchison River, the park has outstanding gorge scenery along the river, and the limestone and sandstone cliffs provide magnificent coastal scenery. Good accommodation including hotel/motel, camping and caravan parks, swimming, surfing and fishing facilities are available at the townsite at Kalbarri. Ranger in Charge R. Harris.

LEEWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK — Consists of a series of Class A Reserves of 15 493 hectares, mainly on the ridge of granite gneiss and limestone which runs along the coast between Cape Naturalise and Cape Leeuwin. Spectacular caves, coastal scenery, heathland and forest occur in this Park. Ranger in Charge M. Batchelor.

LESMURDIE FALLS NATIONAL PARK — A small A Class Reserve of 56 hectares which gives good views of the coastal plain and the suburban Perth metropolitan area. The area is a popular picnic spot situated 24 km from Perth.

MILLSTREAM NATIONAL PARK — Class A Reserve 24 392 is about 441 hectares and was vested in the National Parks Authority in April, 1977. This park represents a number of endemic plant and animal species and is one of the only areas in the Pilbara featuring permanent fresh water.

MOORE RIVER NATIONAL PARK — This area of 17 543 hectares located about 113 km north of Perth, is outstanding for its wildflowers. It is the Authority's intention at present, to leave this area undeveloped as it is a good representative area of undisturbed Swan coastal plain.

NAMBUNG NATIONAL PARK — A National Park of 17 491 hectares situated south of Jurien Bay, this area is becoming increasingly popular for its wildflowers and strange natural formations, the Pinnacles. A number of caves in the area are being kept sealed to protect them from vandalism. Two Rangers are resident in Cervantes townsite. Ranger in Charge W. Taylor.

NEERABUP NATIONAL PARK — This Class A Reserve of 1 078 hectares is located on the Perth — Yanchep Road a few kilometres north of Wanneroo and is being maintained in its natural state. It is a good representative sample of Spearwood formation limestone.

PEAK CHARLES NATIONAL PARK — Centred on spectacular granite outcrops representing flora of the south-west portion of the goldfields this C Class Reserve of 39 959 hectares has excellent scenic panoramas of surrounding areas.

PEMBERTON NATIONAL PARKS — Areas collectively known as the Pemberton National Parks, consisting of Class A Reserves 7691 (Warren National Park) 1 356 hectares, 7692 (Beedelup National Park) 1 531 hectares, 19 424 (Brockman National Park) 48 hectares, 17 519 (Miscellaneous Reserves alongside alignment of Old Vasse Road) 206 hectares, and Class C Reserve 19 857 at Pemberton 122 hectares. A delightful caravan park is situated in the Pemberton reserve. A Ranger is based on the Old Vasse Road between the Warren and Beedelup National Parks. All the Parks are situated in outstanding Karri forest. Rangers in Charge K. Cunningham and W. Treacy.

PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK — An A Class reserve of 2 401 hectares between the Stirling Range National Park and Albany. It incorporates the granite peaks of the Porongurup Ranges, the slopes of which are heavily forested with Karri *Eucalyptus diversicolor*. Accommodation is available at the nearby Karribank Motel/Guest House. A Ranger is stationed in the park. Ranger in Charge K. Mucjanko.

RUDALL RIVER — Class A reserve 34 607, about 1 569 459 hectares around Rudall River, east from Roy Hill and Nullagine. An excellent presentation of sand dune and salt lake system of the North-East Pilbara.

SCOTT NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 3 273 hectares situated 6.5 km north-east of Augusta townsite originally created in 1959 to protect the waterways at the junction of the Scott and Blackwood Rivers and the Jarrah, Marri and Karri forests existing in the area. Named after Robert Scott who first selected land in the southern portion of the Reserve in 1871.



Rudall River National Park.
(Photo B. Muir)

SERPENTINE NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve of 635 hectares on the Serpentine River, is popular for picnicking and is noted for its waterfall. The Park has a resident Ranger. Ranger in Charge P. Jeffs.

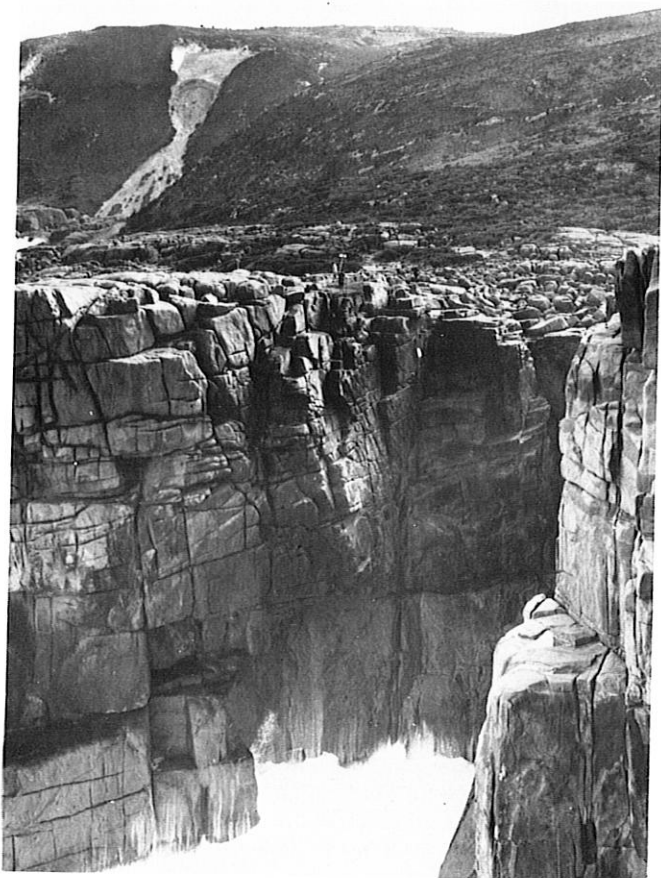
SIR JAMES MITCHELL NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve consisting of an area of 1 087 hectares stretching along the South West Highway, for a length of 64 km. As its width is 100 metres on each side of the road, it ensures that this stretch of road will remain a drive displaying natural flora.

STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK — An A Class Reserve of 115 671 hectares. This is a major National Park and is situated 322 kilometres south-east of Perth. It is noted for its wildflowers and mountain peaks, the highest of which, Bluff Knoll rises 1073 metres above sea level. In order that the surrounding farmland be protected from bush fires escaping from this rugged park, an extensive system of fire breaks has had to be cut. There is a commercial caravan park on the northern boundary of the park opposite the Bluff Knoll turn-off, and overnight camping is permitted at Moingup Springs. Two Rangers are resident in the Park. Ranger in Charge M. Lloyd.

STOKES NATIONAL PARK — An area of 9 493 hectares on the south coast of Western Australia adjoining Stokes Inlet and Lake Cobinup Reserve, to preserve the foreshores of these waterways. A Ranger in charge is in residence in the Park. Ranger in Charge S. Strachan.

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

TORNDIRRUP NATIONAL PARK — This Reserve with an area of 3 868 hectares is located south-west of the town of Albany. It is noted for its flora and fauna and rugged coastline with particular tourist attractions being the Gap and the Natural Bridge. The area is maintained by a Ranger situated in the Park. Ranger in Charge J. Andrews.



The Gap, Torndirrup National Park.

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

WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK — This Reserve of 18 116 hectares is located on the South Coast of Western Australia some 418 km south-east of Perth. It is an area of great scenic beauty, noted for its flora, fauna, fine stands of Karri and Tingle forest, coastal views and enclosed inlets. The establishment of a camping and caravan park at Coalmine Beach, controlled by the Authority, has resulted in the area becoming a popular resort and noted for its swimming, fishing and yachting. There are four resident Rangers. Rangers in Charge L. Gunson.

WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK — Walyunga National Park consists of an area of 1790 hectares, located approximately 37 km north-east of Perth. It is noted for its scenic views and flora and for the fact that it was a large camping area formerly used by Aborigines. The establishment of facilities at Walyunga and Long Pools together with the rapids that occur during the winter, have resulted in the Park becoming one of the most popular picnic spots adjacent to Perth. There is a Ranger in residence. Ranger in Charge B. Cockman.

WATHEROO NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve of 44 324 hectares is controlled by the Ranger stationed in Cervantes and is considered valuable for the preservation of native flora and fauna.

WILLIAM BAY NATIONAL PARK — An A Class reserve consisting of 1900 hectares and noted for its flora and fauna and coastal scenery. A Ranger is in residence. Ranger in Charge L. Rogers.

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

WOLF CREEK CRATER NATIONAL PARK — An area of 1 460 hectares situated 104 km south of Halls Creek and set aside for the protection of a meteorite crater 800 metres wide, 49 metres deep and an area of 1 296 hectares.

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

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK — This A Class Reserve of 2 799 hectares, located 51 km north of Perth was established as a Park in 1905. It is a noted tourist attraction containing caves, a swimming pool, golf course, boating, ovals and picnic grounds together with a fauna exhibit of koalas. Accommodation is provided by the Yanchep Inn (licenced). Development around the entrance to this Park may suggest that large areas have been given over to tourist facilities, but in fact 90% of the Reserve is still maintained in its natural state. Loch McNess provides a haven for a large assortment of water fowl and other birdlife while the surrounding bushland is rich in native flora and fauna. This Park with its many facilities for the public is maintained by 18 Ranger staff. Superintendent J. Hill.

RESERVES

ARALUEN-CANNING RESERVE — A small strip of land of 20 hectares. The area lies between the Canning River and McNess Drive and extends from the vicinity of Araluen to the boundary of Canning Dam Water Reserve.

CHARLES GAIRDNER FLORA — An A Class Reserve of 792 hectares. It is an area of outstanding botanical interest and is located south of Tammin.

EAST PERTH CEMETERY — An A Class Reserve of about 5 hectares. This area is situated on high ground at the eastern end of the City of Perth and is the last resting place of many of the State's early pioneers. Ranger in Charge D. Davies.

GEEKABEE HILL FLORA — A small area of 4 hectares reserved for the protection of flora (Lambstails).

HADDLETON FLORA — An area comprising 1 325 hectares, reserved for protection of Boronia and other flora. It is located south of the Wellington Dam catchment area in the south-west of the State.

KEANE'S POINT — A Reserve of about 2 hectares, leased to the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Inc., which has established excellent aquatic facilities there.

KINGS PARK — SMALL PORTION — An area of 0.4 hectares, this site is leased for the purpose of a refreshment kiosk, Bernies.

MATILDA BAY — Class A Reserve of about 25 hectares situated about 5 km from Perth. This Reserve now contains the Administration Headquarters of the National Parks Authority. Improvements to access road, parking area and public boat launching ramps in recent years have enhanced the appearance and utilisation of this Reserve by the public. The Royal Perth Yacht Club Inc., Mounts Bay Sailing Club Inc., Perth Dinghy Sailing Club Inc., The Governors of Hale School and the 1st Pelican Point Sea Scouts Group lease sites on this Reserve whilst the University of Western Australia Rowing Club occupies a boatshed on the foreshore. These Clubs and the Sea Scouts are making worthwhile contributions towards providing facilities for the enjoyment of aquatic sports on the Swan River.

OLD MILL RESERVE, SOUTH PERTH — A small Reserve of about 0.2 hectares located at the South Perth end of the Narrows Bridge. The area is leased to the firm of Bristle Limited, who arranged restoration of the Old Mill and cottage and established a historical museum on the site.

RESERVE EAST OF PORONOGURUP RANGES — An A Class reserve comprising 61 hectares located 40 km north of Albany. Reserved for flora protection.

PENGUIN ISLAND — An A Class Reserve of 13 hectares which is situated about 48 km south of Perth and 1.6 km offshore near Safety Bay. It is a sanctuary for penguins and a portion of this island is leased as a holiday centre.

STOCKYARD GULLY — An A Class reserve of 1406 hectares, reserved for its conservation of flora, water and protection of caves.

Stockyard Gully is a small stream that drains low sand plain country south west of Eneabba. The stream, which is intermittent, flows westward to its north-trending belt of coastal limestone, and disappears into a series of subterranean caverns. The gully lies mainly in rough karst country with limestone outcrop lightly clothed in low heath.

YANCHEP FLORA — Comprises Class A Reserve of 113 hectares, situated 48 km north of Perth and reserved for the protection of flora and has been left in its natural state.

ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

The reporting year 1981/82 was the first full year with Professor A.R. Main as President of the National Parks Authority. Professor Main's considerable knowledge of the fauna and flora of Western Australia has been of real advantage to the Authority. Moreover, as a member of a sub-committee of the Australian Academy of Science, which in the late 1950's and early 1960's compiled ecological data for proposed conservation reserves, he has provided the administration with a wealth of information on the State's national parks and reserves system.

The number of staff of the Authority has remained at 100, comprising 18 Public Service positions and 81 Rangers (plus

one on secondment to Garden Island). The Fire Management Officer Mr. Rod Anderson has transferred to the position of Training and Projects Officer, and his former position is now occupied by Mr. Brian Cornell who came to the Authority from the Bush Fires Board.

The holding of the Ranger establishment at 81 continues to pose difficulties to the Authority, in that it is able to man only 23 of the State's 50 national parks. Tourist demands are high particularly through wide public acceptance of 4-wheel drive adventure tours, and as ownership of 4-wheel drive vehicles is increasing, there is an expectation by visitors that the Authority should exert some management of its more remote but presently unmanned parks.

In this regard, the National Parks Authority retains as its priorities the establishment of Ranger Stations at Millstream, Watheroo, Boranup Block in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, a second Ranger for Walyunga National Park, and at D'Entrecasteaux on the South Coast.

Additionally, Cabinet acting on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority resolved in December 1981, to establish a national park at Hidden Valley, Kununurra. It is likely that when this park is dedicated, an appropriate Aboriginal Ranger will be appointed.

The Ranger in charge of the Cowaramup Block of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park has been designated as the Acting Caves Ranger for the whole of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. He has established good rapport with speleologists, local tourist bureaux, and emergency services, and will play an important role by increasing the protection and management of caves in the region.

The tragic loss of Ranger Len Otte at Cape Arid National Park was a great blow to the Authority. As the first resident National Parks Authority Ranger at Cape Arid, he was accidentally killed whilst on duty on 30th July, 1981. Len was a dedicated Ranger fully committed to developing visitor facilities within this magnificent National Park, and among other duties he also pioneered several walks, and had nearly completed development on the coastal trail from Yokinup Bay to Tagon Bay.

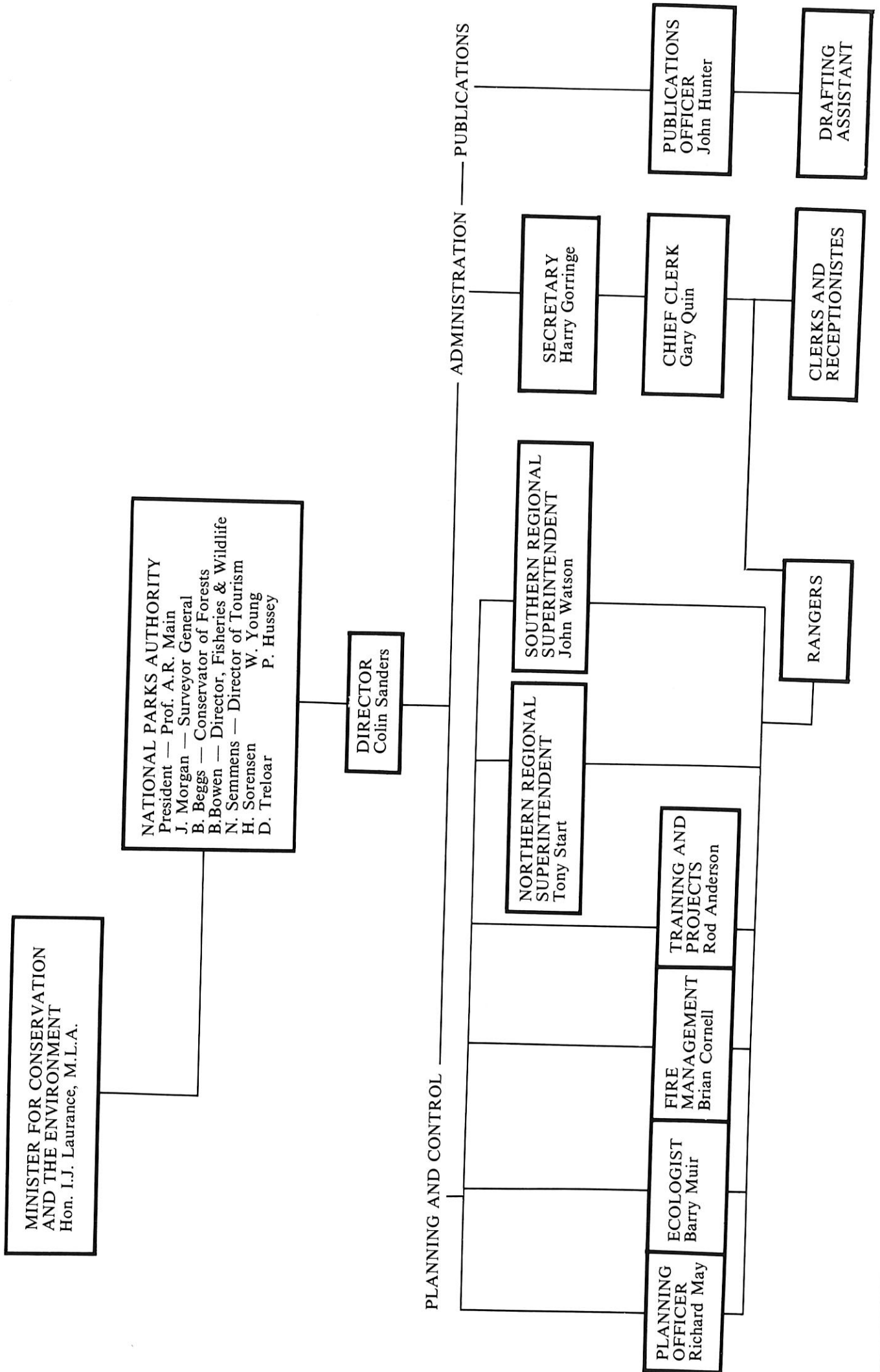
The Len Otte Nature Trail has been dedicated as a fitting memorial to Len's achievements and life at Cape Arid National Park.

The National Parks Authority administration, professional and technical staff comprises:

- Director — C.C. Sanders, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc.
- Secretary — H.R. Gorringer
- Senior Clerk — G. Quin
- Regional Superintendents —
 - Southern Region — J.R. Watson, B.Sc., Ph.D., Grad. Dip. Rec.
 - Northern Region — A.N. Start, B.Sc., Ph.D.
- Ecologist — B.G. Muir, B.Sc., (Hons)
- Biologist — (Planning Officer) R.F. May, B.App.Sc., Dip. Agri. Sc.
- Training and Projects Officer — R.A. Anderson
- Fire Management Officer — B. Cornell
- Publications Officer, J.L. Hunter, M.P.R.I. (Aust).

The disposition of senior Ranger staff is given in the list of National Parks and Reserves vested in the Authority.

ORGANIZATION



FINANCE

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1982

PREVIOUS YEAR 1980/81		RECEIPTS	1981/82	
\$	\$		\$	\$
		Opening balance		
		National Parks & Other Reserves		
42 104		Rents — General	54 004	
23 697		John Forrest	34 900	
37 661		Geikie Gorge	46 334	
9 804		Kalbarri	10 199	
8 469		Serpentine	17 016	
17 907		Walpole-Nornalup	19 745	
38 580		Pemberton	38 718	
13 617		Walyunga	22 956	
144 696		Yanchep	206 429	
11 581	348 116	Other Parks & Res.	18 430	468 731
		 OTHER RECEIPTS		
36 657		Sundry Receipts	52 996	
16 289		Sale of Surplus Assets	20 571	
116 397		Refunds & Suspense	227 789	
2 300	171 643	Wishing Well	2 045	303 401
		 GRANTS		
2 196 000	2 196 000	Treasury	2 270 000	2 270 000
	46	Closing overdrawn		262
	<u>2 715 805</u>			<u>3 042 394</u>

PREVIOUS YEAR 1980/81		PAYMENTS		1981/82	
\$	\$		\$	\$	
	76	Opening Overdrawn Balance			46
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
81 728		Head Office Expenses	91 858		
294 838		Head Office Salaries	339 908		
16 383		Workers Compensation & Public Liability Insurance	11 802		
		Contributions to			
37 141		Staff Endowment Fund	38 531		
65 215	495 305	Payroll Tax	73 829		555 928
NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER RESERVES					
1 068 956		Wages	1 198 154		
777 469		Operating & Maint. costs incl.			
		bush fire control & equipment.	861 619		
206 953		Improvements incl. buildings new vehicles, plant	112 500		
4 047	2 057 425	Walyunga — Purchase Instalment	9 500		2 181 773
OTHER PAYMENTS					
57 033		Sundry payments	55 688		
103 666		Refunds & suspense	246 914		
2 300	162 999	Wishing well	2 045		
	<u>2 715 805</u>				<u>304 647</u>
					<u>3 042 394</u>

SECRETARY NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

I certify that this statement is in accordance with the accounts and records produced.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Subject to Audit:

PERSONNEL

STAFF ESTABLISHMENT

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL

Director	1
Regional Superintendents	2
Ecologist	1
Biologist (Planning)	1
Fire Management Officer	1
Project & Training Officer	1
Drafting Assistant	1
	<hr/> 8

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL

Secretary	1
Publications Officer	1
Senior Clerk	1
Clerks	4
Typists	3
	<hr/> 10

SUPERINTENDENTS, RANGERS AND ANCILLARY STAFF

Superintendents	2
Rangers	64
Mobile Rangers	13
Female office assistants	2
Mechanic	1
	<hr/> 82

HONORARY RANGERS

The following honorary rangers have been appointed under the National Parks Authority Act. Their help in assisting the patrol and supervision of the National Parks concerned is greatly appreciated.

J. Boyd	Walpole-Nornalup
E. Chapman	Haddleton
P. Congreve	Eyre
A. Handy	Eucla
C.F.H. Jenkins	—
C.W. Russell	Donnelly River
Dr. D.L. Serventy	Gooseberry Hill
Dr. F.G. Smith	—
C.G. Somner	Haddleton
A.R. Trigwell	Haddleton
V.F. Trigwell	Haddleton
N. Walmsley	—
A.M. Walters	Wolf Creek
T.R. Walters	Wolf Creek

TRAINING

The initial investigations on the proposed Ranger training programme has entailed discussions with education authorities and other interested parties including national park services in the Eastern States. This information is to be compiled so as to develop the best method and subject matter for formulating an instructional programme aligned to Western Australian ranger staff.

Hopefully, given time, training will develop from this point, so as to provide rangers the opportunity to develop required skills in excess of what is the present general standard. Rangers will also be given the chance to develop skills for which they have a particular inclination.

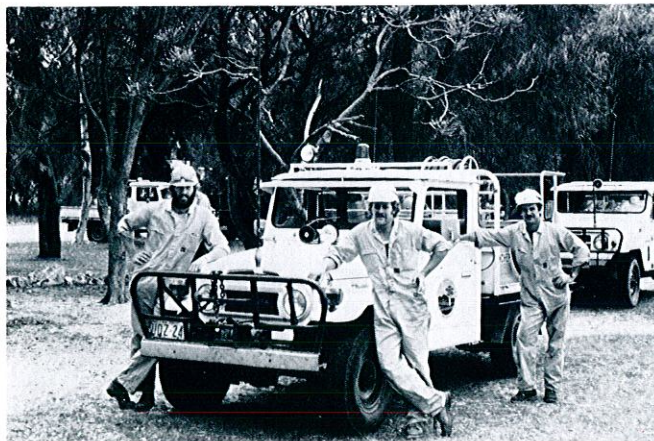
Basic training equipment has been purchased that will ensure a minimum of delay after a programme format has been established.

During the year, a three-day seminar was conducted at Yanchep for thirty-one rangers covering such subjects as feral animals, public relations, litter campaign, accident prevention and search and rescue techniques.

Additionally, seven rangers attended a "Basic" fire protection course conducted by the Bush Fires Board. Two attended an "Intermediate" course and seven an "Advanced" course, while eight rangers participated in a Fire Weather Officers course.

The third annual Fire Competition Day was held on the West Oval at Yanchep National Park on the 7th of October, 1981. Teams were drawn from metropolitan parks including Nambung, Serpentine and Yalgorup, with a team being fielded by the Youth Conservation Group. Designed to evaluate the preparedness of men and equipment for the forthcoming fire season. The light-hearted competition as usual, proved to be of value and was enjoyed by all.

A two-day stretcher training exercise for selected rangers was held in Albany during Winter 1981. This was organised by officers of the Special Air Service, the Regional Superintendent and local rock climbers. Authority staff have also taken part in various emergency training exercises organised by the State Emergency or by voluntary groups.



*Fire competition day Yanchep National Park.
(Photo: R. Anderson)*

LIBRARY

The National Parks Authority Library continued to function as a professional library during the year and was used constantly by staff, visitors, students and outside institutions.

To satisfy the needs of the professional and field staff, the purchase of publications increased during 1981/82 to complement relevant research and management programmes in hand.

At the commencement of the financial year, the National Parks Authority Library was registered as a source willing and able to supply information on request to users of "INFOTERRA", the International Referral System of the United Nations Environment Programme.

During the year, the Authority Library registered as a member of the State Library "Register of Photographic Collections in Western Australia" system.

A total of 588 new publications were accessed during the year including some 12 specially requested articles purchased.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

In September 1980, the Legislative Council resolved to appoint a Select Committee "to consider the management, finance, allocation of land, inter-governmental and inter-departmental liaison, image of the service of, and if necessary, recommend amending legislation for, national parks and to make such other recommendations as are considered desirable."

The Committee of five members was chaired by the Hon. A.A. Lewis, M.L.C. Member for Lower Central Province. Their Report was tabled in the Legislative Council on 30th September, 1981.

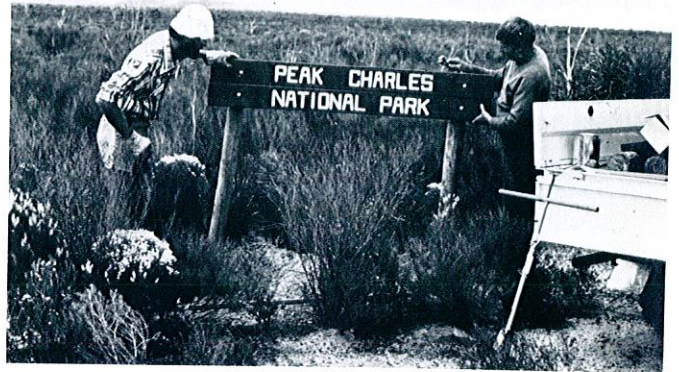
The Committee received written submissions and correspondence from 82 organisations and individuals and 150 witnesses appeared before it. Evidence was taken both within Western Australia and elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

The Report sets out 30 recommendations dealing with the management, staffing and funding of national parks and some other reserves, and develops the conclusion that a National Parks and Wildlife Service should be established comprising the present National Parks Authority, Wildlife Authority, Kings Park Board, Rottnest Island Board, Western Australian Herbarium and Zoological Gardens Board.

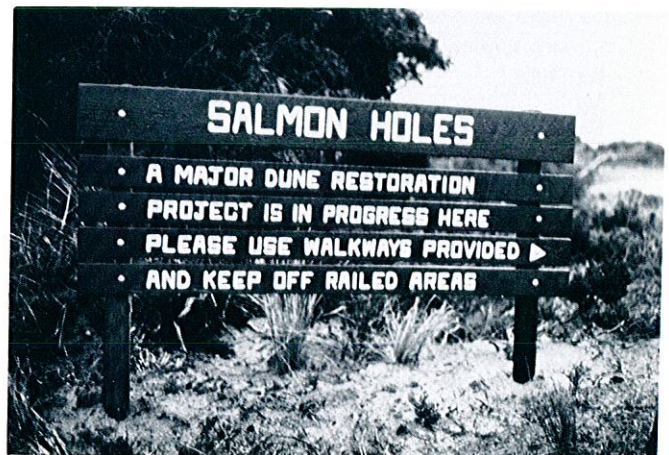
The National Parks Authority has reviewed the report and has moved to implement fully, ten of the recommendations and has endorsed as policy aspects of another nine. In this regard, many of the conclusions presently being followed or endorsed were the Authority's policy but the speed of implementation depended on funds available. A key observation of the Select Committee is the need to match the funding of national parks at a reasonable level commensurate with public expectation. Western Australia in respect of services provided is disadvantaged by distance and size and this shortcoming has not been met by a comparable level of Treasury allocation.

The National Parks Authority is not of the view that an amalgamated department comprised of rather different organisations with different objectives, will overcome management matters related to funding constraints.

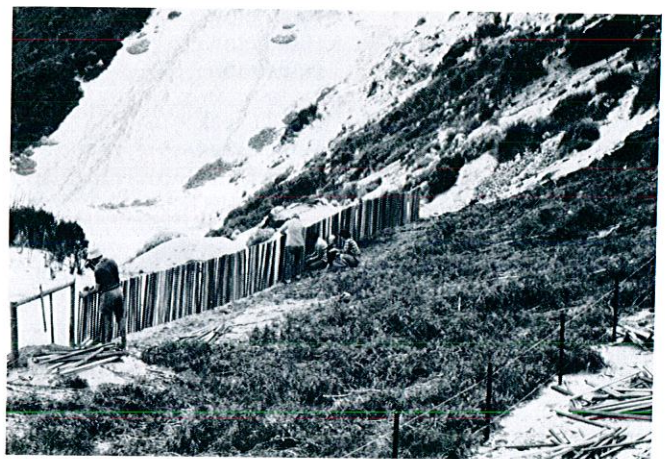
In the light of the Select Committee's Report, the Authority will continue with its commitment toward the conservation of land resources and the establishment of facilities to allow public use and enjoyment of national parks.



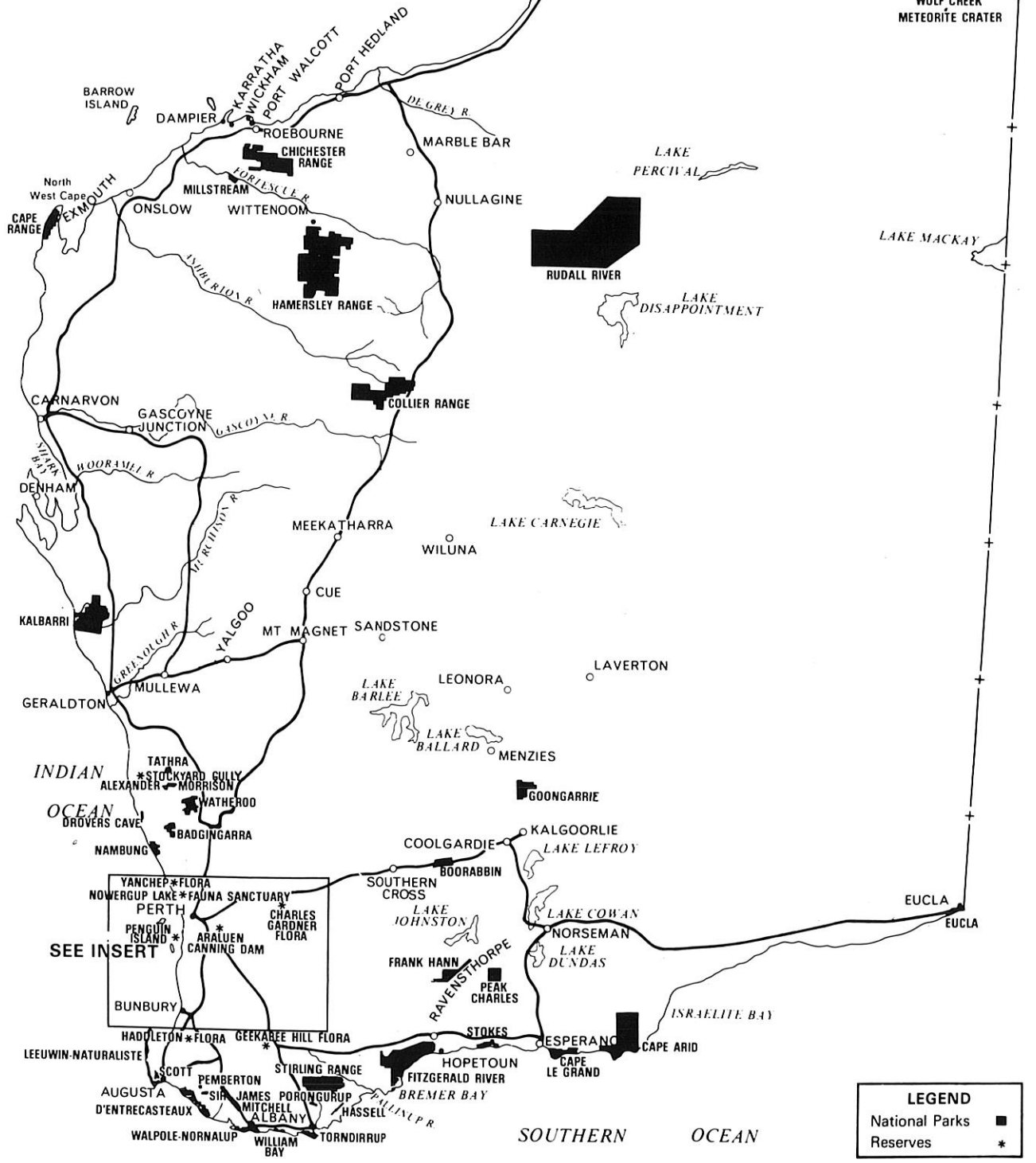
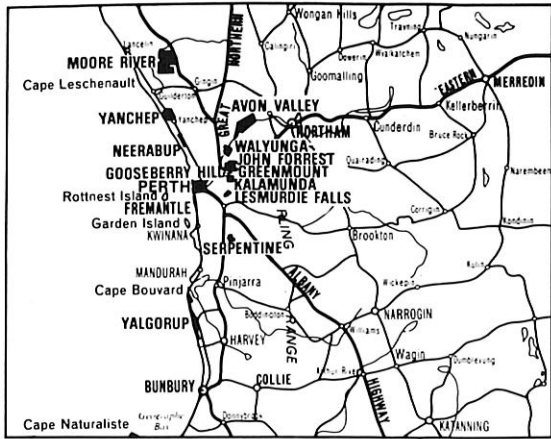
*Southern Regional Superintendent Dr John Watson assisting ranger Terry Passmore in erecting boundary sign.
(Photo: B. Watson)*



*A project in which other government departments are assisting the National Parks Authority.
(Photo: J. Watson)*



*Mandalay Beach, dune restoration work which involved the help of volunteer community groups.
(Photo: J. Watson)*



LEGEND	
National Parks	■
Reserves	*

Map made by the Dept. of Land and Survey, W.A. 1984