

We have set down here what is considered to be the ideal. Whether, if an appointment is approved, we shall be able to achieve the ideal is not yet known. But the Director has indicated that he would not be prepared to appoint any person unless he were satisfied that the appointee would "deliver the goods".

NEW RESEARCH STATION OPENING

Approximately 80 people attended the official opening of the new departmental research station on the Tuttanning Fauna Reserve east of Pingelly, on November 6.

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. Ross Hutchinson) officially opened the station and in his opening address said that the occasion was indeed unique as well as history making. The Tuttanning reserve heralded a new era of reserve management. Much progress had been achieved since the area was first proclaimed a reserve in 1960.

The Minister also paid tribute to the local shire council and those farmers whose properties adjoined the reserve. Despite associated problems, he said, they had been generous in their views and although much had been achieved some problems remained. He had no doubt, however, these would be overcome.

The Director, Mr. A.J. Fraser, said that the purpose of the research station was to provide for the study of both fauna and flora. There had been a general upsurge of national interest in conservation. Throughout Western Australia alone, 150 reserves had been proclaimed. The people of today had an obligation to preserve the State's fauna and flora for enjoyment by future generations.

One of the persons closely associated with the research station and fauna reserve is Dr. A.R. Main, who will direct much of the future research to be carried out there. Dr. Main is Reader in Zoology at the University of W.A. and a deputy member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. In the course of an address at the opening, Dr. Main spoke on research and the importance of the reserve. He said the Tuttanning reserve was a very important one. Seven or eight species of marsupials were common there and there was an incredible diversity of flora. As well as food and living space, natural cover was also very important to the existence of wild life and here existed a problem. Preventive burning against fire in the area was not as simple as some perhaps thought.

Controlled strip burning had to be carefully carried out having in mind the different ages and associations of plants required by the animals, and realizing full well that a mistake could be calamitous because another area such as the Tuttanning reserve was not available.

The President of the Pingelly Shire, Mr. I.A.C. Stewart, thanked the Minister for his attendance and for opening the research station. He also expressed pleasure over the construction of the research station and development of the reserve, and thanked those associated with the project. He said the undertaking had already provided favourable publicity for the area.

Among others present at the opening were Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Higham, Dr. and Mrs. D.L. Serventy, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Milesi, Dr. and Mrs. W.D.L. Ride, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Robinson (members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and their wives); Mr. W.A. Manning, M.L.A., Mr. R.D. Royce (Curator, State Herbarium) and Mrs. Royce, Dr. N.H. Brittan (Acting Head, Department of Botany, University of W.A.), Mr. B. Clay (Zoology Department, University of W.A.), Mr. T.L. Riggert (Wildlife Research Officer, Department of Fisheries and Fauna), Mr. H.B. Shugg (Fauna Officer, Department of Fisheries and Fauna) and Mrs. Shugg.

OPEN SEASONS

Wild Ducks -

The 1964/65 season will open at 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday December 19 in the south-west corner of the State from Harvey to Manjimup, and at 5 a.m. in the morning of Sunday, December 20, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

Full details of the open season, of the restrictions which apply, and of the areas closed to shooting are set out in the duck shooter's guide, a copy of which is attached to this issue.

Quail -

A four months' open season for Stubble Quail commences each year, on December 1, in all that part of the State north of the 31st parallel - that is north of a line drawn from Lancelin Island through Coolgardie. South of that line the season is from March 1 to June 30 in each year. There is no bag limit for the species.