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Western Australia.

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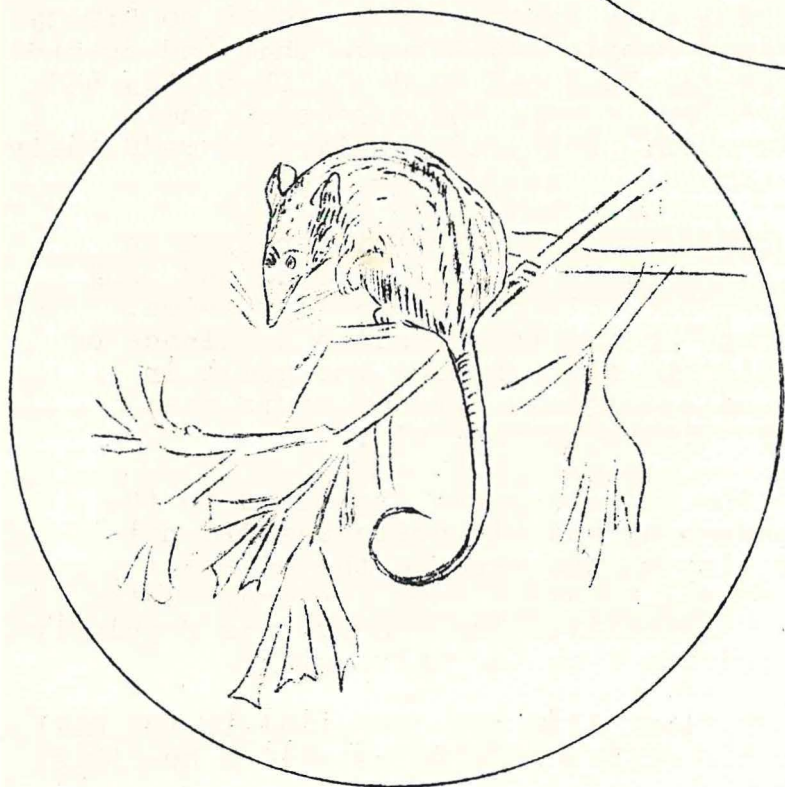
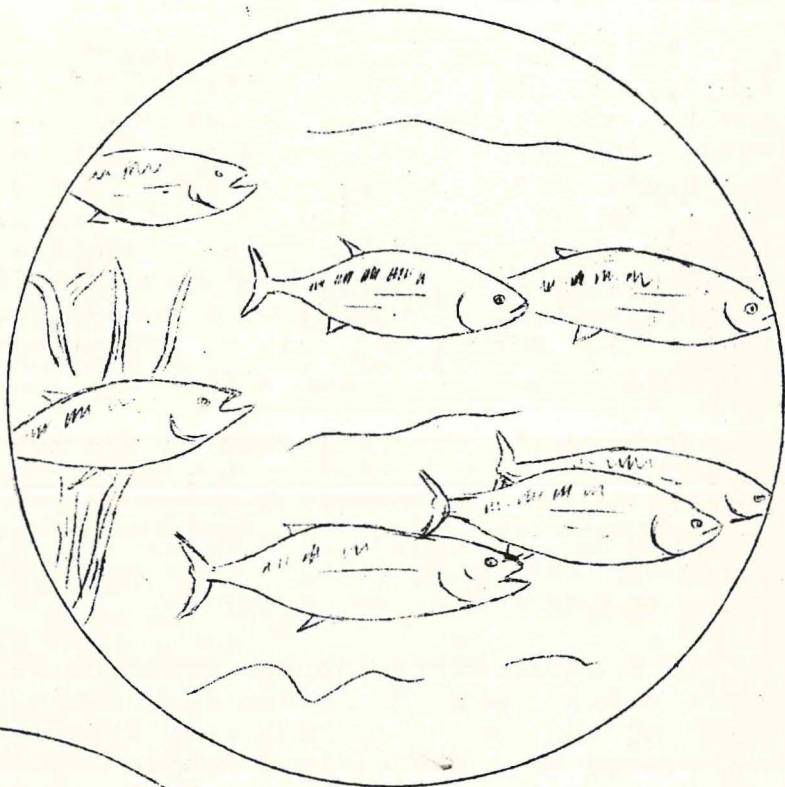
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



NOVEMBER 1966.
Vol. XV No. 11

TUTTANNING FIELD DAY

On Friday 28th October, a large number of local residents attended the Field Day on the Tuttanning Fauna Reserve, east of Pingelly.

The Minister to Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. G. C. MacKinnon, M.L.A., attended together with the Director, Mr. A. J. Fraser, and the other members of the staff. Dr. A. R. Main, of the University of Western Australia, who has been conducting experiments on the reserve, attended and outlined the work being done. He was accompanied by Professor H. Waring and Dr. E. Hodgkin and a number of senior students. Dr. S. S. Davies of the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O. and Mr. E. Runceman M.L.A. attended. The head-master of the Pingelly Junior High School was able to accept our invitation and 15 students from that school attended.

The guests were welcomed to the Reserve by Mr. Fraser and he introduced the Minister, Mr. MacKinnon. Mr. MacKinnon paid tribute to the scientists present and to the growing ranks of amateurs present, who, he stated, were virtually experts in their own particular fields and contributed valuable information on our fauna and flora.

He referred to two men from the Eastern States whom he had recently met. These two men, business men, were on holidays and had made a special trip across the Nullabor to Albany especially to visit the Two People Bay Reserve that had created such World Wide interest. They had told him that they had not seen the Noisy Scrub-bird itself, the object of their visit, but had heard its call. This, they said, had made their trip worth while.

Fauna Conservationists were not just interested in preventing local animals and Birds being destroyed and many people, including farmers, had gained a wrong impression. The aim of conservation was to try to establish a balance of fauna, he said, and should the fauna become too great in number, then the conservationists did not object to them being cropped. A proper balance was the aim.

Dr. Main addressed the gathering and explained to the people present that although he and his colleagues did not spend a great amount of time on the reserve the material they collected, whilst there, provided work for many months in the laboratories at the University. The reserve was regularly visited by parties of students from the University.

A correct balance of plant life was essential to the diet of fauna and it was the aim of his work to establish how this

could best be done. He told the group that a section of the reserve had been burnt in November 1961 and that only now after five years, some of the plants were showing flowers. These plants would not seed until next year. He pointed that if this area were to be burnt now these plants would not be present and lost as a source of food for the animals and birds.

The regenerated plants, which later in the afternoon were inspected by the visitors, were only 15"-18" high and did not provide sufficient shelter and protection to the animals on the reserve. There was a 14 degree farenheit temperature difference between the regenerating area and the untouched sections. The animals would be too hot in summer and have no protection from the South East Winds in winter. Consequently they only feed on this particular area on rare occasions. This illustrated, he said, how unplanned burning of a reserve could render the area completely useless to animal life and could lead to the animals being forced to migrate across farm land to other bushed areas. If the reserves contained sufficient diversity in flora, the animals would not likely stray onto farmlands.

The visitors travelled in four-wheel drive vehicles to a Mallee Hen's nest and Dr. Main explained how the Mallee Fowls used the nest. A number of people including the Minister Mr. MacKinnon were very interested and Dr. Main answered questions for them.

A number of microscopes were on hand to enable the visitors to inspect slides made from material collected from the reserve. Mr. G.R. Pearman of the Botany Department of the University of Western Australia was on hand to explain them. Following afternoon tea, the President of the Pingelly Shire Council, Mr. I.A.C. Stewart, said how pleased he was that this reserve was proving to be so valuable to the scientists because of its diversity of plant life. He said that it was helping to put the town of Pingelly on the map and drawing attention to the district - something that was appreciated and was of value to the local people.

NEEDLESS SLAUGHTER

It has been reported to the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee that a number of docile Mallee hens had been slaughtered on a reserve near Marrogin.

The Committee is considering the appointment of an honorary warden for the district and it is hoped that further killing of protected birds will not take place.

NOISY SCRUB BIRD AGAIN

Western Australia is receiving worldwide recognition for its protection of the Noisy scrub bird. The August issue of Oryx, the Journal of the Fauna Protection Society of Great Britain, carries as its first article reference to the Two People Bay reserve.

Letters of appreciation have been received from numerous overseas organisations including the World Wildlife Fund which refers to a State, recognised for its progressive-ness in material development, able to appreciate the value of conservation.

SKIN DIVERS

Local craymen are apparently not the only ones claiming that skindiving fishermen are depleting cray grounds. A paragraph in "Fishing News" for September 2, 1966, reported that the Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee had abandoned the idea of introducing laws to prevent crayfishing by skindivers. The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had refused to sanction such moves as they could not, it claimed, be justified on conservation grounds.

GERALDTON

The Geraldton (W.A.) Crayfishing Industry received a mention in the Fishing News International for August when it was described as one of Australia's most prominent crayfishing towns.

LOCAL BREEDING OF BIRDS

Some very interesting observations of Red-winged Wren and of the Scarlet Robin were made by Mr. Alwyn Pepper of Perth in his successful attempts to breed these birds in captivity. Mr. Pepper and his wife were honoured by the South Australian Avicultural Society for their achievements, receiving Bronze medals for First Breeding Achievements for these species.

Mr. Pepper expressed the opinion that these birds were more difficult to care for in aviaries than the Red-eared Firetail (see September issue).

STRAY POSSUM

A small ring tailed possum became the centre of attention in the Department's main office recently. It was brought in by a kindly lady who had come into possession of it and did not know what to do with it.

The possum spent most of the afternoon snuggled up inside of the clerks' jackets and protested loudly when disturbed.

Telephonist Miss Dale Patrick who is caring for it at her home has been hand feeding it and the possum now has the run of the house being treated and acting like a family pet.

Just what Miss Pa'rick's attitude would be if the possum brings home a friend and sets up camp in the roof remains to be seen.

A SALMON 12 MILES FROM THE SEA

A report has been received that Mr. N. Gratwick of High Road, Brentwood caught a $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salmon in the Canning River near Clontarf Boys Home. The salmon measured $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Clontarf is approximately 12 miles from the ocean at Fremantle. During the summer, when the fresh water flow from the upper reaches of the river diminishes, salt water usually encroaches up-stream as far as a weir at Cannington, several miles beyond Clontarf.

RESERVES FOR THE SHORT-NECKED TORTOISE

The Government Gazette of September 30, 1966, gave notice that Reserves 27620 and 27621 covering Swan Locations 7715 and 7897 had been vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. (See map opposite).

The story behind the creation of these two reserves has been well publicised and has received recognition in all parts of the world. A public appeal was set up and this, together with money donated by the Government, enabled the area to be acquired and preserved. The Short-necked tortoise is now able to live in peace, saved by the progressive civilisation which threatened to destroy its existence.

Unlike some creatures - such as dogs, cats, rabbits and so on - which can adapt themselves to varied conditions, the Short-necked tortoise is able to survive only in its present surroundings; the "crabhole" country of Bullsbrook. It is limited to three small swamps.

THYLACINE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

It has been widely published by news sources in W.A. that a geologist of the Geological Surveys section of the Mines Department had found the remains of a Thylacine. However, at the time this bulletin is being printed the remains have not been received in Perth and we do not know whether the remains are that of a Thylacine or not.

119

RESERVE
27621
349031.33p.

LOC 7897

SHORT NECKED
TORTOISE
RESERVES.
BULLS BROOK

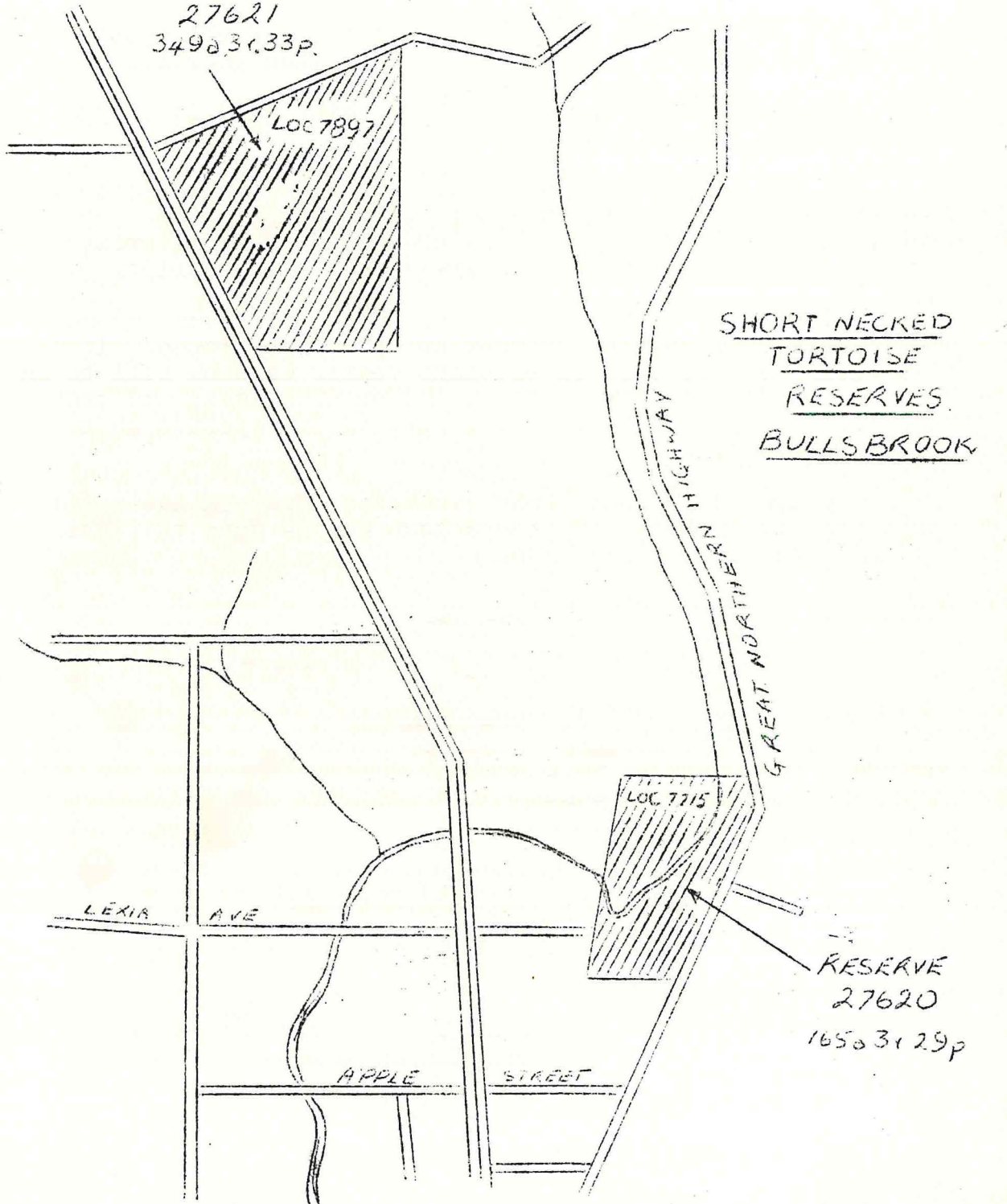
GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY

LOC 7715

RESERVE
27620
165031.29p

LEXIA AVE

APPLE STREET



1966-67 DUCK SEASON

It is expected that an announcement of the opening date for the 1966-67 Duck Season will be made shortly.

Shooting ducks prior to the opening date is illegal and offenders may be prosecuted.

A set of guidance notes will be made available to shooters and in this, the areas in which shooting is prohibited are listed. Shooters are asked to familiarise themselves with the restricted areas in their district.

A list of ducks that may be hunted is given and no other ducks or birds may be shot except those listed. It is anticipated that, as in previous years, wardens will be on hand to police the main areas on the opening days; and that bags will be checked so that a record of the species shot can be obtained.

Compared to some other countries, Western Australia has a relatively accident free season and we hope that this year will not be an exception.

SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE OPEN SEASON:

The only birds that can be hunted are:-

Whistling Tree-Duck (Dendrocygna arcuata)
 Plumed Tree-Duck (Dendrocygna eytoni)
 Mountain Duck (Tadorna tadornoides)
 Black Duck (Anas superciliosa)
 Chestnut Teal (Anas castanea)
 Grey Teal (Anas gibberifrons)
 Blue-winged Shoveler (Anas rhynchotis)
 Pink-eared Duck (Malacorhynchus membranaceus)
 Freckled Duck (Stictonetta naevosa)
 White-eyed Duck (Aythya australis)
 Blue-billed Duck (Oxyura australis)
 Musk Duck (Biziura lobata)
 White-headed Shelduck (Tadorna radjah)
 Wood Duck or Maned Goose (Chenonetta jubata)
 Pied or Magpie Goose (Anseranas semipalmata)
 Green Pygmy Goose (Nettapus pulchellus)

All other birds are protected.

THE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION

A Western Australian Branch of the Australian Animal Technicians Association has been formed.

The Officers, Patron, and Vice-Presidents duly elected are as follows -

- Patron - Mr. A. Tufferey. M.Sc. (Birm) M.I. (Biol).
Lecturer in Microbiology, University of W.A.
- President - Mr. A. Softly I.A.T. (U.K.)
(Royal Perth Hospital)
- Vice Presidents - Professor N.F. Stanley D.Sc. (Adel.)
Professor W.J. Simmons M.B.B.S. - D.
Phil - (Oxon)
Mr. A.F. Drummond A.I.M.L.T. (Aust.)
- Hon. Secretary-Treasurer - Mr. L. Pridmore A.A.T.A. (Q)
Public Health Labs.
- Ass. Sec. Treasurer - Mr. J. Sanders A.A.T.A. (Q) W.A.
University.
- General Committee - Miss M. Leahy (Dept. of Pharm.) W.A.
University.
Mr. E. Cockett (A.A.T.A. (Q) Royal Perth
Hospital.
Mr. G. Bowers. Dept. of Agriculture.
Mr. T. Carey. Dept. of Agriculture.

The Association's requests that any person requiring information from the Association should contact the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. L. Pridmore at Animal House, 5th Floor, C/o Public Health Laboratories, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Verdun Street, Hollywood, W.A.

STUBBLE QUAIL AT COTTESLOE

Cadet Inspector Earle found a Stubble Quail at Cottesloe Beach recently.

The bird was killed when it flew into power lines near the beach.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR TIME AND MINE.

'Madam,

'We are in receipt of your favour of the 9th inst. with regard to the estimate required for the removal of your furniture and effects from the above address to Burbleton, and will arrange for a representative to call to make an inspection on Tuesday next, the 14th inst., before 12 noon, which we trust will be convenient, after which our quotation will at once issue.'

I will not comment on that and will let you draw your own conclusions. If you think it is O.K. don't read any further.

The following table will show you how it can be dissected and re-assembled.

<u>Business Man</u>	Words	<u>Alternative</u>	Words
We are in receipt of	5	We have	2
your favour of the 9th		your letter of May 9th.	5
inst.	6		
with regard to the esti-		requesting an estimate	3
mate required	6		
for the removal of your		for the removal of your	
furniture and effects	8	furniture and effects	8
from the above address			
to Burbleton	6	to Burbleton	2
and will arrange for a		and a man will call	5
representative to call	8		
to make an inspection	4	to see them	3
on Tuesday next the 14th		next Tuesday	2
inst.	6		
before 12 noon	3	forenoon	1
which we trust will be			
convenient	6	if convenient	2
after which our		after which	2
quotation	4		
will at once	3	we will send the estimate	5
ISSUE;	1	without delay	2
	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>
TOTAL 66 words		TOTAL 42 words	
294 letters		191 letters	

I have no doubt that the alternative shown would be varied to suit the style of the individual writer but the desired result still gives a saving of 50 per cent which is very attractive.

You, we agree, are the one who writes the report, or letter, but think of the poor devil who has to sift it through to be able to read it.

CONVICTIONS RESULTING FROM PROSECUTIONS
DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 30.9.66.

Fisheries

Date	Defendant	Court	Charge	Result
18.7.66.	R.T. Smith	Albany	Breach of proc.	\$10
4.7.66.	F. Vinci	Fremantle	Section 17(5)	\$200
11.7.66.	C. Migliore	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays.	\$127
4.7.66.	C. Rometo	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays.	\$280
4.7.66.	F. Pittorino	Fremantle	Section 17(5)	\$200
4.7.66.	A. Merendino	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays.	\$136
11.7.66.	R. Parker	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays.	\$690
11.7.66.	L.E. Siggins	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays.	\$410
		All licenses cancelled		
21.7.66.	A. Manganaro	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$916
		License cancelled		
21.7.66.	C. Breglia	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$365
		License suspended to 15/8/66.		
18.7.66.	N. Frenis	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$232
18.7.66.	G. Monastro	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$100
8.8.66.	J. Barwick	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$295
8.8.66.	J. Barwick	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$500
		All licenses suspended to 15/8/66.		
8.8.66.	G. Merlino	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$508
27.7.66.	A. Manganaro	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$726
		All licenses cancelled		
15.6.66.	S. Merendino	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$74
15.3.66.	T. Meaghen	Fremantle	Consig.U/S Crays	\$230
8.7.66.	M. Francisco	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$528
8.7.66.	M. Francisco	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$534
8.7.66.	Bass Ind.	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$230
9.7.66.	N. Money	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$312

Fisheries (Cont.)

Date	Defendant	Court	Charge	Result
16.8.66.	D. Rowe	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$130
16.8.66.	P. Tipping	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$434
Cancellation of all licenses except boat license.				
16.8.66.	A. Magarelli	Geraldton	U/S Crayfish	\$240
19.7.66.	H. Scott	Mandurah	Breach of pro.	\$10
3.2.66.	D. McGowan	Perth	U/S Craytails	\$22.50
1.8.66.	K. Burton	Perth	Attempted to take crays in pro- hibited waters.	\$300
21.7.66.	G. Wilson	Perth	Possession of U/S Crays.	\$61.50
21.7.66.	G. Wilson	Perth	Closed waters	\$75.00
<u>Fauna</u>				
29.5.66.	K.J. Bone		Selling fauna no license.	\$10
19.6.66.	Gajich P.		Selling fauna no license.	\$10
19.6.66.	W. Huisman		Selling fauna no license.	\$10
22.5.66.	C. Paini		Selling fauna no license.	\$10
9.2.66.	H. Woods		Selling fauna no license.	Caution
15.6.66.	J. Tait		Taking prot. fauna.	\$20
7.7.66.	G. Reynolds		Trapping ducks	\$20
24.6.66.	J. Princi		Taking prot. fauna.	Caution
12.7.66.	N. Warr		Taking prot. fauna.	\$10
26.7.66.	J. Bugajenski		Keeping Fauna no license.	\$6
26.7.66.	N. Tardini		Keeping fauna no license.	\$10
16.8.66.	L. Pearce		Keeping fauna no license.	\$2
30.9.66.	R. Fowler & E. Mondello		Taking Grey Kangaroo	\$15

STAFF NOTES

John White, Master of the Research Vessel "Peron" suffered in a fall on board on 17th October. He slipped on the steps to the wheelhouse and severely injured his back. It is expected he will be off work for about 2 months.

* * * * *

Mr. R.E. Baker commenced duty with this Department during October. His principal duties are Secretary to the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and to be responsible for the Monthly Service Bulletin and the Quarterly Fauna Bulletin. His previous service was with the Mines Department and the Agriculture Department.

* * * * *

Typist Miss Helen Ryan ceased duty with the Department on Friday November 4. She is replaced by Miss Julie Daniel who commenced duty on November 7.

* * * * *

Officers from all district offices are expected to arrive in Perth on Monday, November 7 to attend the annual staff conference which is being held in the new government offices building during that week.

Approximately 50 officers will attend arriving from centres as widespread as Broome in the north and Albany in the South.

There have been a number of changes since the conference last year and 21 new faces will be seen this year.

Several new appointees will be commencing duty on the day of the opening of the conference, so they will have an excellent opportunity to meet their fellow workers.

* * * * *

FROM CRAYFISH TO PRAWNS

On the books 1965-66 will show as a record year for Western Australian crayfish, which will have earned \$17.3 million - nearly all of it in Yankee dollars. But for the men aboard the 750 crayboats along the West coast, it will be remembered more as the end of an era. For the record is written by Americans' willingness to lift prices 30%, and not by the size of the catch - the worst in six seasons, down ~~ten~~ million lb., or 37%, from the 27.5 million lb. of the 1962-63 boom season.

The reason is basic. When things were good, too many people tried to get in. And when the crays started to thin out, the trend was exaggerated by trafficking in under-sized crays. A Royal Commission in 1964 started the remedies moving; now only the hardened racketeers remain in a trade that was so widespread and thinly policed it was a joke. Heavy fines, snap raids, aerial sweeps, de-registrations, road-blocks - all were used to counter the old tricks of the smuggling business. While the racket is still there, held up by inflated prices, it is now extremely limited.

Coinciding with the relative decline in crayfishing have come two extremely important new developments up the coast at Exmouth, near the U.S. Navy radio base, and at Shark Bay. Here prawns are being caught in big quantities for export to Japan and America, earning boats \$400 and more for a night's work. By day the same boats are bringing in tuna by the ton. Britain's Ross Group, which bought out the Kailis family's International Fisheries six years ago, are right in this, with a 300-ton mother ship up there and a boat specifically equipped for tuna fishing leaving Fremantle this week.

If all goes well, and Ross Fisheries managing director Theo Kailis believes it will, and has persuaded the group to double their \$A1 million Australian investment on the strength of it, prawns will be bigger than crayfish as an export earner within five years. Eventually tuna could outstrip them both.

FROM GIBBS STATION TO THE TIMOR SEA

The Kimberleys, were visited last year by a party from the Monash University in Victoria and as a result of his observations A.J. Marshall in his article in Australian Natural History suggests that the area visited would be ideal as a reserve to preserve the natural wonders which exist there.

The party saw no other sign of human life at all in the area; even the aborigines had abandoned it, preferring the easier life on the cattle stations.

Aboriginal paintings were found in caves overlooking a natural stream which supported cajeput trees and pandanus palms. It is believed that the native population of the area was wiped out by the World Wide Spanish Influenza epidemic which was rampant just after the first World War.

Rivers in the area held abundant barramundi and "trout"; and bustards watched the trucks as they moved through the area, standing only a few yards away. Numerous wallabies were sighted and big walleroos crashed through the scrub. Very few small mammals were seen and this was attributed to the many wild cats in the area.

In flights over the area in a helicopter brilliant honey parrots and butcher birds burst from the trees. A small area of surviving rain forest jungle was investigated and in this, one member of the party was attacked by a dingo. This was unusual as these animals will not attack humans and it was offered as an explanation that the animals of the area having not seen humans had not developed any fear of them.

In concluding his article the author pointed out that Western Australia had a good conservation record and suggested that the area be preserved as a national park.

Footnote:

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has a number of reserves in the northern section of the State. One in particular being the Prince Regent River Reserve of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. A further large reserve is being considered in the Drysdale River area and investigations are being made into the area referred to by Mr. Marshall.

FROM VERMIN TO VANQUISHED

The value of conservation is clearly illustrated in the case of the Thylacine of Tasmania and was discussed in the August issue of Oryx.

This animal was once widespread in Southern Australia but in recent times became extinct on the mainland and confined to Tasmania. Once they were widespread in Tasmania but by 1863 it was noted that they were then restricted to the mountain tops and in-accessable areas.

Despite their rapidly thinning numbers they still represented a menance to sheep breeders and the bounty of \$2 per head for them resulted in over 2,100 being killed in the 21 years up to 1909. Generally after this period their numbers decreased and over the following years a few isolated sightings and killings were recorded. The last confirmed contact was the accidental killing of one in 1961.

BUT expeditions in 1937, 1938, 1945 and 1963 found nothing more than a few footprints.

From being a nuisance and treated as vermin this animal has now become regarded as a rare and very valuable animal to zoologists. This has and could happen to many other species of wildlife.

AUSTRALIA -1966 SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA
CATCH RISES TO A NEW RECORD

Australia had a record catch of ~~1964 short tons of~~ tuna in the recently-ended 1966 season. Most of the fish will go to the United States. Of the total catch 6,688 tons were landed in South Australia, bettering the 1964 record by 625 tons.

Tuna fishing is a vital segment of the Australian fishing industry although it was not widely practiced until the early 1950's.

An aerial survey of tuna schools off the New South Wales south coast in 1936 heightened interest in tuna fishing and it was practiced in New South Wales waters in 1937, but catches were not significant.

In 1950-51 the Australian Federal Government sponsored the visit of the 53 Ft. American-Fijian tuna clipper, the SEN-IBUA, and a trained crew to instruct Australian Fishermen in the pole-and-live-bait method of tuna fishing.

Australian fishermen rapidly became expert at the new technique and from this point the Australian tuna catch was destined to rise dramatically.

Australian tuna fishermen concentrate generally on the southern Bluefin tuna which ranges in prime weight between 20-80 lb. The young tuna swim in schools and afford fishermen the opportunity to pole-catch them in large numbers in a short time.

As the tuna grow larger they move into deeper waters and are exploited by fishermen using the long-line method.

The adult tuna, together with other fully grown species of Australian fish, live in wide areas of the Indian Ocean and the southwest Pacific.

Australia, with more than 13,000 miles of coastline and about 42 principal fishing ports, could be expected to develop into a great fishing nation. This trend has been established during the last 15 years.

Through these years the Australian fisherman has enjoyed an increasing prosperity, largely due to his own ingenuity and ability to apply modern techniques to his ancient craft. He uses such devices as the echo sounder, sophisticated systems of refrigeration, automatic pilots and aircraft to help locate schools of fish.

Some of the aircraft are owned by canneries, others by fishing vessel owners. Spotter planes have carried infra-red radiation thermometers to map the position of thermal currents in the ocean. When these are plotted from the air, trawlers can move into the areas most likely to contain fish.

Administration of the Australian fishing industry is the responsibility of the various State departments of agriculture, territory administrations and the Fisheries Branch of the Federal Department of Primary Industry. Fishermen have representation through their co-operatives.

Research is conducted by bodies and individuals, but the most vital fish research institutions are the division of Food Preservation, both attached to the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, (C.S.I.R.O.).

There are approximately 8,637 persons engaged in fishing in Australia, representing only 1.6 per cent of the available national work force. They own 8,413 boats valued at \$35,000,000.

Ocean Fisheries

October 1966.



