

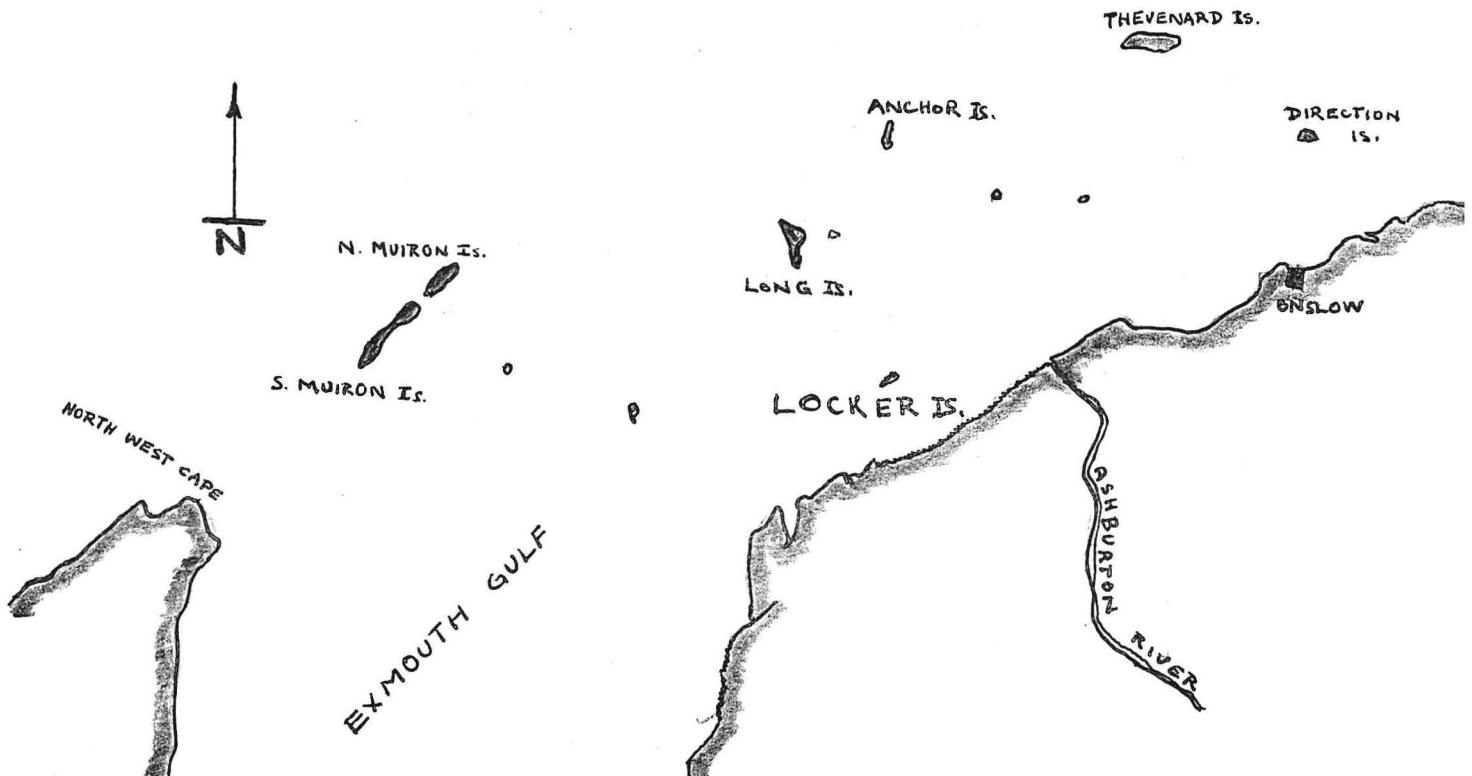
LOCKER ISLAND BECOMES A RESERVE FOR
CONSERVATION OF FLORA AND FAUNA

The Governor in Executive Council has approved the recommendation that Lyndon Location 64 (Locker Island) be set apart as a Class "A" reserve (No. 29011) for the purpose of "Conservation of Flora and Fauna". Locker Island has an area of 75 acres and is located some 24 miles south-west of Onslow. It is one of a very interesting group of islands off the north west coast of Western Australia.

This proposal originally emanated from a report received from the Government Entomologist, Mr. C.F.H. Jenkins, in his capacity as chairman of the Royal Society's Standing Committee on Conservation. This report suggested that it should be declared a sanctuary as it is one of the nesting islands of several sea birds and together with the other islands in the area, offers refuge to various types of flora and fauna which are disappearing from the mainland.

Quite frequently it is asked; Why are islands and their fauna so

Map showing Locker and other islands off Onslow.



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important for scientists and their research programmes? The reason is that each island is a far more homogeneous universe than a rich continental mainland fauna. An island may demonstrate certain biological phenomena almost with the clarity of a test tube experiment; indeed, every island biota is an experiment of its own. Each island is characterized by a different set of physical characteristics (e.g. size, altitude,) and by a different composition of fauna and flora elements. It is as if nature had made a whole series of experiments and it was merely the scientists' task to analyse the results of such experiments.