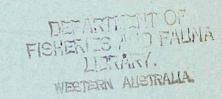
JOURNAL

CONSERVATION LIERARY, KENSINGTON

MONTHLY STAFF BULLETIN

18(12) Dec 1969 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

BULLETIN



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DECEMBER, 1969 VOL. XVIII, No. 12

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FAUNA 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia



Mr. B.R. Saville Administrative Officer

The Department's Administrative Officer, Mr. B.R. Saville, is to retire from the Department of Fisheries and Fauna and the State Public Service on January 4, 1970.

Mr. Saville has been an officer of the State Public Service for the past 47 years, the last 26 of them with the Department of Fisheries and Fauna.

On the eve of his retirement Mr. Saville, more affectionately known as "Uncle Ben", extends to all members of the staff his sincere thanks and appreciation for their co-operation and assistance during the years.

Appreciations!

Officers of the Department have expressed their appreciation of Mr. Saville, both as an administrator and as a friend, some of these have been reproduced in our tribute.

R.J. Baird, Pearling Superintendent, Broome:

"I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Ben Saville, our Administrative Officer.

Ben has reached the eve of his retirement and I feel that all Departmental Officers are very sorry to see him have to retire. His advice and guidance have been of great help to all of us. I personally have always regarded Ben as a true friend and thank him for the assistance he has given me during my service with the Department.

I wish Ben and his wife a long and happy retirement and hope that we meet again throughout the years."

E.R. Hammond, President, Departmental Social Club:

"On wishing Mr. Ben Saville, whom we have had the pleasure of knowing over a long period, a happy and long retirement, it is hardly necessary to dwell on the many factors that have made his career with the Department so distinguished.

However, we cannot by-pass the opportunity of saying to Ben just how much he will be missed by the officers of this Department. On many occasions he was given a new "nickname", most of which were applied affectionately. He took these in the spirit intended and gave plenty in return.

Maybe our sympathy should be extended to Mrs. Saville until such time as Ben adjusts himself to taking orders instead of giving them.

It gives me pleasure to endorse the appreciations extended to Ben at our Annual Staff Social by all members of the Social Club and once again wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement."

Dave Wright, Technical Officer:

"The thought of having to confront Mr. Ben Saville either at his request or accidently in the corridors of the Department has chilled the marrow in many bones especially mine.

However, behind this brusque mask, as I later learned, was a man who took great pains to help young officers open cheque accounts, catch their first bus to Pemberton, buy a scooter and a hundred other small things that to a fellow of 16 seemed to be a major issue. His praise often came on the back of outdated desk calendar pages as far as Post Office, Onslow.

It is my privilege to be able to offer my respects to Mr. Ben Saville and wish him all the best in his retirement."

Charles Casselton, Clerk, Head Office:

"I have pleasure in paying a tribute to a man who is on the eve of his retirement.

In 1962 when I first commenced with this Department, I, like many others, was always in need of guidance and this man never was too busy and always offered assistance with utmost co-operation and understanding. One thing he was always sure of was his facts and, therefore, his advice was always valued. I wish to express my sincere thanks to this gentleman - who is none other than our Administrative Officer, Mr. Ben Saville. Thanks mate - I wish you and your wife the very best in your retirement."

Miss V. Woods, Librarian:

"Mr. Saville, please." How many people have come to the Department with those words of request! - this is what I did - way back in March, 1964. And so it was that I first met our "A.O.", whose rather awe-inspiring look of appraisal was quickly belied by his kindly and encouraging words and manner. This is, I think, the essential "B.S." - a stickler for work well done, but withal, kindhearted and understanding. It has been a great pleasure working with him and I most sincerely thank him for his many kindnesses. May he enjoy the long and happy retirement that he so truly deserves."

1969 FISHERIES OFFICERS COURSE

Congratulations are extended to the three officers who attended this course at Cronulla during October, on their fine standard of performance. Of the 25 students attending from all the States, Mr. N.E. McLaughlan was the only one who was awarded a High Distinction. Messrs. D. Gordon and J. Williams were awarded a credit Pass.

The whole praise of virtue lies in action

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS

AND THE NEW YEAR

ARE EXTENDED

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF !

APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT

DEPARTMENTAL

Mr. W.M. Mahoney and Mr. B.B. Phillips were appointed as Inspectors under the provisions of this Act. Their appointment was published in the Government Gazette dated October 31, 1969.

HONORARY

Mr. R.G. Hull and Mr. H. Hicks, both of Waroona, have been appointed as Honorary Inspectors under the provisions of this Act. Their appointment, which was recommended by the Waroona Shire Council, was published in the Government Gazette dated October 31, 1969.

ROCK LOBSTER

All members of the staff are reminded to amend all their records to read "rock lobster" in lieu of "crayfish". Rock Lobster is now the official name of <u>Panulirus cygnus</u>.

TROUT FISHING SEASON

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. G.C. MacKinnon, has issued pursuant to the powers conferred by section 9 of the Fisheries Act, 1905-1969, a Notice whereby a closure to the trout fishing season comes into force. The Notice published in the Government Gazette on October 31, 1969 does prohibit all persons from taking trout by any means of capture whatsoever in the whole of the Western Australian waters lying within the South-West Land Division from May 1 to August 31 of every year.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON THE 1969 STAFF SOCIAL

The Editor, Monthly Staff Bulletin.

Dear Mr. Ammerer,

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the Department's Social Club Committee on the excellence of the Staff Social held at Venezia House at the conclusion of the Annual Staff Conference. My wife and I enjoyed a thoroughly delightful evening.

I was particularly pleased to see the manner in which all officers co-operated to ensure that the evening was enjoyed by all. The Social Club has been successful in setting a high standard and I am sure that this will be continued in the future.

Yours sincerely,

(B.K. Bowen)
DIRECTOR

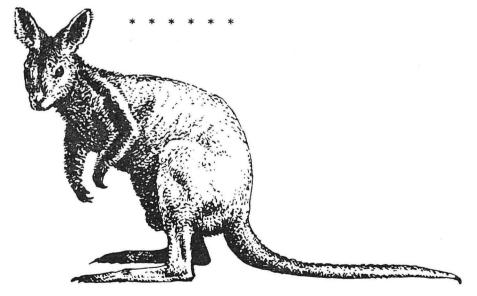
THE ROACH BROTHERS FAUNA RESERVE

In January 1967 it came to the notice of this Department that a Mr. W.A.J. Roach, of Narembeen, wished to donate an area of land for the specific purpose of a sanctuary for fauna and flora. The Department commenced negotiations with the owner and made inspections of the area to be relinquished.

Subsequently, the Governor in Executive Council approved that Avon Location 28317 be set aside as Class "A" Reserve No. 29885 for the purpose of "Conservation of Flora and Fauna" and vested in The Western Australian Wild Life Authority. Notice to this effect was published in the Government Gazette on August 22, 1969. The area vested comprises a total of 637 acres and is located about 6 miles north-west of Narembeen. It will be known as the "Roach Brothers' Fauna Reserve".

Reserve 29885 could be described as "break-away country" and contains a number of different species of fauna, including the Echidna, Mallee-Fowl, Port Lincoln Parrot, Crested Pigeon, Mulga Parrot, Pipit, Red-tipped Pardalote and a good variety of plant species. It is comprised mainly of sand plain areas, gravel laterites and timbered bushland areas containing Mallee, Morrel and Dryandra.

The Department is most appreciative of the generosity extended by Mr. W.A.J. Roach in having this land set aside in perpetuity. This gesture is greatly appreciated now and will be by many conservationists and biologists in future years.



RESEARCH OFFICER SPEAKS ON THE DROUGHT AND SOME OF ITS EFFECTS

Dr. A.A. Burbidge, Research Officer in charge of reserves management, gave the following talk on A.B.C. Radio on November 12, 1969:

"We all know that there is a drought at the moment and I would like to comment on two aspects of the Department's policy which are a direct result of the drought.

The first is the decision that there will be no duck shooting season this summer. The reason for this is easy to understand when you realise that most waterfowl in the south west did not breed during the past winter. Ducks utilise temporarily flooded areas for breeding and this type of flooding did not take place last winter.

Many types of wildlife appear to be able to forecast weather a lot better than can man and apparently our ducks are among them. This is shown by the fact that they did not begin to breed at the beginning of winter apparently knowing that the rains would fail and there would be no food for the young. Even the ducks in the South Perth Zoo reacted to this instinct since they also did not breed even though they were supplied with plenty of water and food.

Any good game management programme is designed to allow only the surplus produced by annual breeding to be taken and ensures that there are always enough birds left at the end of the season to breed up to the same numbers. If the number of breeding birds diminishes from one year to the next it follows that fewer young will be produced and in time the species will be so reduced in numbers that total protection will be necessary. If we were to allow duck shooting this summer the duck populations would be reduced so much that the effect would be felt for several years. ducks we see today are the ones left at the end of last season's shooting and under normal circumstances they would have bred up last winter. If shooting takes place as normal there will be a much smaller breeding stock next winter, and consequently less ducks to see and shoot the following summer. The shooting pressure this summer would be even greater than normal because the ducks are highly concentrated on the little available water and there would be few areas to which they could escape. To sum up, by not having a duck shooting season this summer we are ensuring that future seasons are as good as those in the past.

One aspect of this which will worry some farmers is the problem of maned geese (or wood duck) on farm dams. Occasionally these ducks become so concentrated that they foul up the water. If this happens the farmer should contact the local fauna warden who may give him permission to disperse the birds.

The second problem I want to discuss is the policy of not allowing stock to be grazed on fauna sanctuaries. This policy was laid down by the Western Australian Wild Life Authority and was recently confirmed by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. MacKinnon. A similar policy is held by the National Parks Board and the Forests Department. The Wildlife Authority has among its members three farmers and they all supported the policy.

The reason is that grazing is not compatible with the conservation of our flora and fauna. Grazing by sheep or cattle can cause damage to natural bushland in a variety of ways, notably by direct damage to plants and the trampling of the soil as well as the fact that the stock would be competing with the native animals. Nature is always in a state of balance and the introduction of foreign species into a system always produces violent changes. These changes are likely to be more pronounced in a time of drought when the native flora and fauna are already having a hard time.

Anyway, most reserves are not suitable for grazing stock. Native plants provide poor quality food for ruminants and grasses are usually absent. Most natural bush contains a high percentage of poisonous plants and there is usually no natural water.

Fauna sanctuaries are owned by all the people and the decision not to allow grazing on them is the result of weighing up the vast damage that would be caused to these public owned lands against the possible short term advantage to a few people."



Staff Notes

Mr. Arthur Jenkins, who assisted at Head Office for the greater part of 1969, has been promoted to Technical Assistant, Fisheries Branch, and is now stationed at Waterman.

A warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Joy Daly, who has been appointed at Head Office until Christmas. Mrs. Daly filled the vacancy which resulted consequent to the transfer of Miss J. Huggins to the Crown Law Department.

Another happy new face at Head Office during October and November was that of Miss Lisa Hunt, who joined us while Miss Beverly Forsyth, Telephonist, and Miss Pamela van den Dries, General Assistant, enjoyed their 1969 Annual Recreation Leave.



"Wait around 'till low tide and I'll show ya the engine."

Staff Notes

"The Smiths' have it!" Congratulations are extended to Mr. Peter Smith, of Head Office, and to Mr. Dennis Smith, of Mandurah, whose wives recently presented them with a daughter and a son respectively.

All members will be pleased to note that Mr. Jim Munro and Mr. Brian Carmichael resumed duty after a long period of absence on sick leave. Mr. Carmichael commenced on November 20, while Mr. Munro on November 24 - both arriving on the scene just in time for the 1969/1970 rock lobster season.

The Director, Mr. B.K. Bowen, made a working visit to Barrow Island during the week commencing November 17. He looked very tanned and refreshed.

HOW DEEP IN THE OCEAN CAN ONE SEE WITH NATURAL SUNLIGHT?

Even when perfectly clear, water is at least a thousand times more opaque than air, because of the density difference. The depth to which one can see in the ocean is dependent on the amount of suspended matter and the angle of sunlight. Underwater visibility is best at noon when the sun is directly overhead; at that time about 98 percent of the light penetrates the sea surface. When the sun is at an angle of 10 degrees above the horizon, only 65 percent of the light penetrates; the rest is reflected.

Tropical waters usually have high transparency; the Mediterranean Sea, particularly the eastern section, is also noted for its good transparency characteristics.

As a diver descends into the ocean, the first change he notices is that everything appears to be blue-green; when he approaches the 100-foot level, it becomes impossible to distinguish colors. Light appears to come from all directions and there are no shadows. Cousteau reports that at 300 meters the pale blue lighting is hardly sufficient to define the shapes of objects a short distance away.

Sometimes horizontal visibility is better at greater depths because of the higher amounts of suspended materials in surface waters. Italian divers working on the liner 'Egypt' southwest of Brest, France, reported that visibility diminished as they went to a depth of 66 feet, then improved. Light faded as they reached the wreck at 396 feet; at that depth, visibility was 6 feet. ("Questions About the Oceans," U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office.)

Staff Notes

Memo to Field Officers: If you wonder why the majority of the more junior officers at Head Office seem to be a little more active at this time of the year - here is your answerAnnual Examinations!

Mr. Terry Mill, previously of the Inspection Branch, has been appointed to the clerical position at Head Office vacated by Mr. Arthur Jenkins.

Mr. Wally Gibb, also of the Inspection Branch, has been promoted to Technical Assistant, Fauna Research Branch.

During the absence of Mr. Alan MacKenzie on Long Service Leave, Mr. Albert Willis has been engaged as relieving Engineer on the R.V. "Flinders".

A welcome back is also extended to Mr. Michael Mahoney, who resumed duties with the inspection staff after a three years' absence in private enterprise.

A note of interest: At the end of November, 1969, the Department's staff totalled 110 officers. Of these, 8 were females.



PLEASE NOTE:

(Extract from Government Gazette (No. 100) of 10th October, 1969)

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna,
Perth, 3rd October, 1969.

F.D. 703/69.

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, pursuant to the powers conferred by section 9 of the Fisheries Act 1905-1969 doth hereby prohibit all persons from taking any scallops whatsoever by means of a dredge in all that portion of Western Australian waters defined in the schedule hereto.

G. C. MacKINNON, Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

Schedule.

The waters of the Indian Ocean and Shark Bay lying between the parallels of 24 deg. 30 min. and 27 deg. 0 min. of south latitude and east of 112 deg. 50 min. of east longitude.

(Extract from Government Gazette (No. 100) of 10th October, 1969)

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna,
Perth, 3rd October, 1969.

F.D. 703/69.

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, pursuant to the powers conferred by section 19 of the Fisheries Act 1905-1969 doth hereby declare that with respect to a net known as or called a "trawl net", a net having meshes throughout of not less than 4 inches shall, when used or intended to be used for catching scallops in any Western Australian waters, be a lawful net.

G. C. MacKINNON, Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. (Extract from Government Gazette (No. 105) of 24th October, 1969)

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna, Perth, 21st October, 1969.

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna in pursuance of the powers conferred by section 9 of the Fisheries Act, 1905-1969, does hereby prohibit all persons from taking the fish known as or called "rock lobster" by any means of capture whatsoever in all that portion of Western Australian waters specified in the Schedule hereto from January 1 to November 14, inclusive, in every year.

G. C. MacKINNON, Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

Schedule.

All that portion of the Indian Ocean lying within eighty chains from the foreshore of the mainland, starting from an east-west line situate 5 miles north of Green Head and extending generally south-southeasterly and southerly to an east-west line situate 22 miles south of Cape Bouvard.

The Proclamation dated 26th day of November 1958 and published in the Government Gazette No. 101 of 5th December, 1958, is hereby revoked.

(Extract from Government Gazette (No. 105) of 24th October, 1969)

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna,
Perth, 21st October, 1969.

F.D. 8/22

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, pursuant to the powers conferred by section 25 (1) of the Fisheries Act, 1905-1969, has been pleased to amend the Second Schedule of the said Act by altering the length set against the name of Crabs, Manna, contained in the said schedule from five and one-half inches to five inches.

B. K. BOWEN, Director of Fisheries.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

RESTRICTION

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969. Department of Fisheries and Fauna, Perth, 28th October, 1969.

F.D. 744/69.

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna in pursuance of the powers conferred by section 9 of the Pisheries Act, 1905-1969, does hereby prohibit all persons from taking any fish whatsoever by means of spearguns, harpoons, hawalian slings and all other pointed instruments, with the exclusion of gidgies, in the Western Australian waters surrounding Rottnest Island described in the schedule hereto:—

Bchedule A.

All that portion of the Indian Ocean bounded by lines starting from a point on the high water mark of Rottnest Island situate south of the west-ernmost rock of Celia Rocks and extending north 10 chains along a line passing through that rock; thence generally easterly parallel to and 10 chains from that high water mark to a point situate 10 chains north of Point Clune; thence south to Point Clune aforesaid; and thence generally westerly along the high water mark aforesaid, to the starting point.

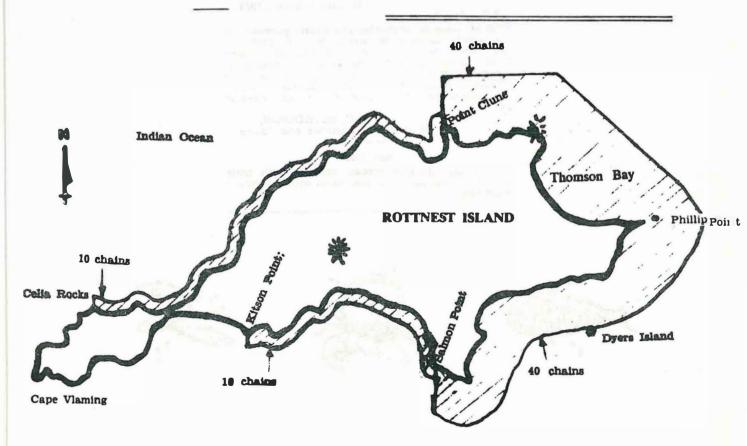
Schedule B.

All that portion of the Indian Ocean bounded by lines starting from Point Clune, on the high water mark of Rottnest Island, and extending north 40 chains; thence generally easterly, southeasterly, southerly and south-westerly, parallel to and 40 chains from, that high water mark to a point situate 40 chains south of Salmon Point thence north to Salmon Point aforesaid; and thence generally northeasterly, northerly, northwesterly and westerly along the high water mark aforesaid to the starting point.

Schedule C.

All that portion of the Indian Ocean bounded by lines starting from Salmon Point, on the high water mark of Rottnest Island, and extending south 10 chains; thence generally westerly, parallel to and 10 chains from that high water mark to a point situate 10 chains south of Kitson Point; thence north to Kitson Point aforesaid; and thence generally easterly along the high water mark aforesaid to the starting point.

G. C. MacKINNON, Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.



MICHAELMAS ISLAND - KING GEORGE SOUND

Executive Council has approved of Plantagenet Location 7130 (Michaelmas Island) being excised from Reserve No. 1034 ("Defence"), and to be set aside as Reserve No. 30049 for the purpose of "Conservation of Flora and Fauna" and fot it to be vested in the W.A. Wild Life Authority. Notice to this effect was published in the Government Gazette on October 17, 1969.

Michaelmas Island which is located in King George Sound and comprises an area of about 224 acres, is regarded as an important sea-bird nesting area.

NEW FISHERIES RESTRICTION

FISHERIES ACT, 1905-1969.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna, Perth, 28th October, 1969.

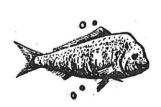
F.D. 744/69.

THE Minister for Fisheries and Fauna pursuant to the powers conferred by section 9 of the Fisheries Act, 1905-1969, does hereby prohibit all persons from taking any fish whatsoever by means of spearguns, harpoons, hawain slings and all other pointed instruments in all that portion of Western Australian waters specified in the schedule hereto.

G. C. MacKINNON, Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

Schedule.

All rivers, streams, brooks, together with their tributaries and affluents, and dams within Western Australia.







OFFENCES UNDER FISHERIES ACT

NAN	AE	D.O.O.	D.O.H.	COURT	NATURE	FINE
		24.4.69	27.10.69	Perth	Closed Wtrs.	\$200
Fremant Fish S	tle Supply	1.5.69	10.11.69	Ftle	Underweight Craytails	\$100 + \$324
Fremant Fish S		1.5.69	10.11.69	Ftle	Undersize Crayfish	\$100 + \$1340
HARRIS	Н.	9.6.69	10.11.69	Ftle	Closed Wtrs.	\$40
HELLIWI	ELL A.	20.3.69	10.11.69	Ftle	Closed Wtrs.	\$200
MONEY	N.T.	26.3.69	4.11.69	G/ton	Excess Craypots (C/wlth Act)	\$200
RIDLEY	К.	14.5.69	10.11.69	Ftle	No escape gaps	\$210
	OFFE	ENCE UNDE	R THE FAU	NA CONS	SERVATION ACT	
NAME	E I).0.0.	D.O.H.	COUR	P NATU	RE FIN
PINKER	M. 1	1.2.69	23.9.69	Katann		auna d Season \$50

HOW THICK IS THE ICE IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN?

The average thickness of the Arctic ice pack is about 9 to 10 feet, although in some areas it is as thick as 65 feet, with pressure ridges extending downward into the ocean as much as 125 feet.

The atomic submarine NAUTILUS passing beneath the North Pole on August 3, 1968; measured a pressure ridge extending 25 feet down. The depth of the ocean at the North Pole was recorded as 13,410 feet; depths as great as 13,776 feet have been recorded near the Pole.

Ice floes ranging from 7 to 13 feet in thickness have been reported in the Arctic. Icebergs, which are pieces of glacial ice floating in the sea, are many times thicker than sea floes. ("Questions About the Oceans," U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office.)

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	Notice to Field Staff	Jan.	8
	Staff News	Mar.	9
	и и	Apr.	4,11
	н н	May	11
	п п	June	15
	п п	Sep.	8,14
	и и	Nov.	6, 8
	Social Club	Nov.	15
П	Praining		
	Be a Defensive Driver	Nov.	16
	Car Breakdown courses	Jan.	5
	Departmental School	Aug.	5
	tr tr	Sep.	9
850	Field Officers Course - Cronulla	Sep.	9
	How to remove a Fish Hook	Feb.	5
	Improve your Report Writing	Sep.	15
*	The Telephone and You	Aug.	13
	Written communications	Jan.	10
V	Vehicles		
	New	Mar.	11
V	<u>'essels</u>		
	Indonesian vessels at Cape Bossut	May	8
	New boat shed for Mandurah	Mar.	12
	New patrol boats	Apr.	8
	New radios	Mar.	11
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New Tuna Vessel	Jan.	5
Patrol Boats news	June	13
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Report on "Sea Beauty" incident	July	2
Visits		
Director in Rome	July	1
Dr. Morrissy visits Kimberley area	July	7
Noted Conservationist in W.A.	Oct.	12
Senior Warden in Pilbara	July	8



"Sure . . . Sure . . . She'll float at high tide . . . "