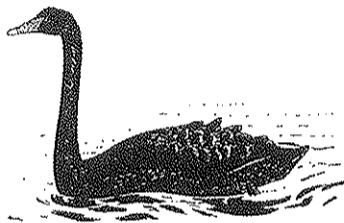


# THE WAY WE WERE - SWANS ON THE SWAN

An early quote from Charles Fraser, Colonial Botanist, a member of Captain James Stirling's expedition to explore the Swan River on 8th – 16th March 1827, to determine if it would be a suitable site for a settlement:

*“The river abounds in fish and Black Swans, Ducks, teal, pelicans and Shags are seen in myriads – so much so that our party while on the river lived on roast Swans – but*



*from the shyness of those birds, I doubt not that at no distant period should the country be settled, there*

*will not be a Swan to be seen, when no doubt the original discoverers will be laughed at for so apparently preposterous a name.”*

It seems Fraser was right! Although there have been, over the years, many schemes proposed ‘to bring the swans back to the Swan’, none has been very successful. It is not easy to reverse a change in ecology.