

JUN '89

CONSERVATION LIBRARY KENSINGTON

JOURNAL

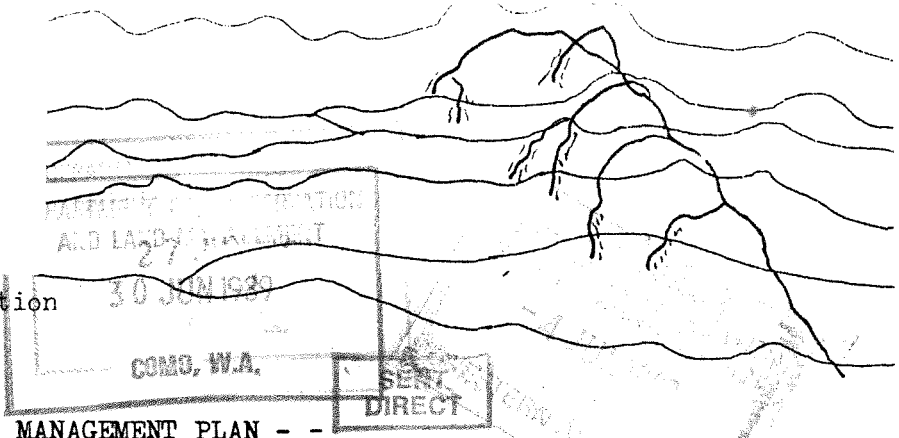
930240-08

NARPULUNGUP NEWS

6, Jun 89

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

National Park Association
Newsletter
June 1989



- - DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN - -

You may have seen on the news, that the Draft Management Plan for the FRNP was launched on Weds June 7. Everyone concerned has put a tremendous amount of work into this document - now it's your turn. You have till SEPTEMBER 7 to go through it and let CALM know what you think.

The Association will also be sending in a submission so you can either send your comments to our Hon. Sec. Ron Richards, Box 199, Ravensthorpe 6346, or directly to Matt Cavana, Planning Section, CALM, Box 104, Como.

Remember, this is your LAST OPPORTUNITY. CALM cannot know what you think unless you tell them. so don't put it off - DO IT NOW

Ron would like your ideas by July 30, so if you'd prefer to ring, the number is 098 381129.

LOST MAIL

Our treasurer, Joan Bathgate, collected her mail from Jerramungup on February 15, but unfortunately this went astray. If you think you sent mail to her at this time, especially a cheque, could you cancel it and send a replacement. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

A TREE-MENDOUS IDEA

Although the brief of the Assn. is the study of the FRNP, we cannot help but be aware of other conservation issues, and recently we received a communication from Conservation Council about the production of unbleached recycled paper.

It appears that the only 100% recycled printing and writing paper available is imported from West Germany by Ecopaper Collective in Sydney. This firm has negotiated with Associated Pulp and Paper Mills in Nowra who have agreed to do a test run of 100% recycled paper.

Cons. Council asks for our support by purchasing unbleached paper from Ecopaper Collective Box 451, Leichhardt 2040, or by writing to Senator Richardson, Minister for the Environment suggesting that the Govt. also purchases this paper.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The delays have been many and varied, but at last we are able to offer you 'A Park in Perspective'.

The Assn managed to acquire a grant from the Heritage Committee to employ an environmental consultant to help with this, when data was being collected to justify adding the North Fitzgerald to the Park. As this has now been gazzetted some of the comments in the book

*Manager, Manning Branch
1, Our Parks Rec & Planning*

are out of date. It is however, a most comprehensive history of the Park including Aboriginal and European sites, and details of geomorphology.

Keith Bradby is the author and he is to be commended for the obvious amount of research that went into it. The sort of reference book that one turns to again and again.

Copies are \$9.00, but by the time we've bought a 40c envelope and spent \$1.65 on postage, the least we can charge is \$11.00 for sending it out. If you would like one, write to me, Helen Taylor, Post Office, Hopetoun 6348.

.

Another book we have for sale is 'The Bush comes to the City'. This was published by the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project and consists of papers given at a seminar held at Murdoch University in late 1987.

Almost all the speakers were members of the Assn. Kaye Vaux spoke about her life in the changing countryside at Ongerup, and Bob Twiggs speech was about how he cleared the land; Ian Peacock told how he and his neighbours are working as a group to attack a salinity problem, and Rex Edmondson talked about community efforts in Jerramungup; Bill Moir pointed out that city researchers could glean much valuable information from locals, and Keith Bradby's talk was entitled New Challenges in the Bush.

This book highlights the fact that people are beginning to realise what they have done to the land, and with this realisation comes a change in attitude and a wish to do something about it.

This one costs \$10.00 - \$12.00 posted.

OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES POLICY FOR THE ASSN

As you know, I have changed my position on the committee to that of President, and our new, very efficient secretary, Ron Richards is being very businesslike by trying to bring some sort of future order to our rather informal past!

He is in the process of preparing a plan for the next two years and has produced a tentative document on which he would like you to comment. He begins:-

'This document attempts to set out the structure of the Assn, its policies and its objectives as seen by the current committee.

It is intended as a guide to the committee in its administration of the Assn, as an outline of objectives and programs for the members, and as an overview and introduction for those with whom the Assn might deal in relation to FRNP'

Under the next heading he sets out the values of the Park as the Assn sees it and the major objectives of the Assn. He then goes on to talk about Walks and Courses; School camps and Membership; Twertup and Research; Library and Management policy, ending up with the implementation of the above.

If you would like to influence this process, contact Ron by writing to Box 199, Ravensthorpe 6346 or phone 098 381129 for a copy. He hopes to have this finalised by the end of June.

ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS

A few times in recent years, Rockhopper penguins have been sighted at the eastern end of the Park.

They breed on sub antarctic islands and are visitors only to the shores of southern Australia.

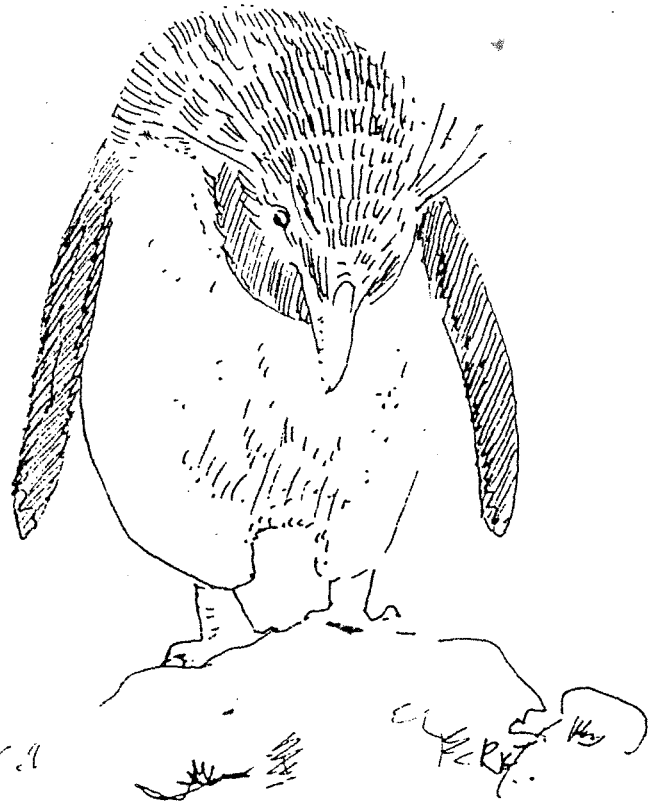
One was found injured this year. It was moulting and was quite fat. Whilst they are moulting they lose buoyancy in the water and, of course, warmth so they haul themselves onto the beach during this period. They eat well beforehand, so do not feed much.

This is a particularly vulnerable time for them as they become prey for foxes and domestic dogs.

As with most penguins they are black on the back and white underneath. They stand between 450 and 600mm high and have pink feet with black soles and nails. It's strong bill is orangy-brown and it has tufts of yellow feathers like eyebrows which, when in full plumage, extend to the back of the head. When it is moulting these are hardly visible.

If you happen to come across one do not interfere with it, but if it is absolutely necessary, approach it from the front where it can see you. Wild things suffer from great stress by being handled which retards recovery. A sudden pounce on a Rockhopper from the back, could result in a startled bray and maybe a sharp peck.

The injured one found this year was handed over to Ranger Nathan McQuoid who passed it on to a vet in Albany for expert attention.



ESTUARINE STUDIES

Because of the recreational value of the estuaries along the south coast, the Environmental Protection Authority is currently employing Dr Ernest Hodgekin to do a study of them.

The results of these studies are being published in a series of 6 booklets. The first covers the Wellstead estuary at Bremer Bay, the second Nornalup and Walpole estuaries, the third Wilson, Irwin and Parry Inlets, the fourth is devoted to the Beaufort and Gordon Inlets, the fifth to those in the Esperance Shire and the one on which he is working at the moment, the Hamersley, Culham and Jerdacuttup lakes to the east of the Park.

Assn members have been involved with the gathering of material on the latter recently, and have had a most interesting time, both on the water and taking part in the interviewing of local people.

Dr Hodgekin was keen to find out how often these Inlets had broken through to the sea. It appears Culham Inlet last did so naturally in 1849, and with the help of man in about 1920. Jerdacuttup on the other hand is not thought to have broken through for perhaps 6,000 years. This conclusion is based on the fact that there are no visible shell beds.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Due to the recent heavy rain and subsequent road damage within the Park, our most immediate function has had to be cancelled. Twertup Track has had to be closed, so if you plan a visit of any sort to the Park in the near future, we strongly recommend you ring the Head Ranger first 098 355043.

On the supposition that things will have dried out a bit by then we are planning a walk and over night camp on the weekend of August 26/27. Participants are asked to be at Twertup at 10.o.a.m. on the Sat. morning for a pre-walk briefing. We plan to walk the 12 kms to Caipercoolellup Spring on the Suzetta River and you will have to carry everything with you. For details ring Mary Hart 098 355043.

A bird-watching weekend has been arranged for the long weekend at the end of September. This will be at the eastern end of the Park with camping at the 4 Mile Beach. It will begin on the morning of September 30. For details ring Brenda Newbey 09 3375673.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's that time of year again. If you have a red ^{cross} ~~dot~~ on your address label, it means that your subs are overdue. Could you please send a cheque off to Joan Bathgate, Box77 Jerramungup 6337. \$10.00 family membership. \$6.00 individual membership and \$3.00 for pensioners.

Name

Address

Membership category

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 199, RAVENSTHORPE, W.A. 6346
REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST
PUBLICATION NUMBER WBH 1755

Postage Paid
ALBANY
W.A. 6330

PUBLICITY OFFICER CALM
BOX 104
COMO 6152