

AR/NSWNPWS

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1985-86 ANNUAL REPORT



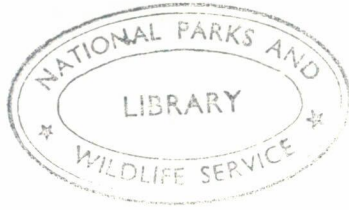
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NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



COVER: **Young darters (*Anhinga melanogaster*) in their nest over Emu Lake, Kinchega National Park.**

Photograph: Graham Robertson



**NATIONAL PARKS AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**ANNUAL REPORT
1985-86**

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Annual report

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Editor Gary Bridle
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**The Hon. Bob Carr,
M.P., Minister for
Planning and
Environment and
Minister for Heritage**

The past year represents one of the most exciting periods in the short history of the N.S.W. Service. Further additions to the Service estate include five new nature reserves, a new historic site near Eden, extensions to several national parks, including the doubling in size of Mungo National Park, and the announcement of the creation of the Budderoo National Park near Kiama.

The commitment to the first stage of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park near Armidale was a further major achievement. When established, the national park will protect this superb wilderness area and thus ensure the natural beauty and recreational value of the Apsley Gorge region of the State are conserved for the future.

In a recent move to 'take the parks to the people' the Premier announced the Government's commitment to add a further 30,000 hectares to the Blue Mountains National Park. The proposed new additions will enable the Service to not only protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area, but also further expand its tourist potential through the establishment of additional lookouts, walking tracks and other tourist facilities.

Local residents and visitors alike welcomed the addition of the Christmas Bell Plain near Port Macquarie to the coastal Lake Innes Nature Reserve during the year. Thousands of visitors are attracted to witness the annual flowering of the famous Christmas Bells and the area has now become a major tourist attraction on the mid north coast.

In January this year I accompanied Dr James Thorsell, a representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) on a tour of our rainforest parks and reserves. This gave him

an opportunity to assess the areas we have nominated for the World Heritage List. I hope to announce that the nomination has been successful later this year.

In January this year I also announced that all remaining littoral rainforests in the State will be given special protection. Littoral rainforests are beautiful though vulnerable areas; it is important they be conserved for the benefit of this and future generations.

The conservation of the remaining wetland areas in N.S.W. is now ensured, following the release of the Government's major report on their status. These highly productive areas, which are utilised by thousands of waterbirds and other animals, are now protected under the newly introduced State Environmental Planning Policy.

Additional coastal protection has been ensured with the establishment of the Glenrock State Recreation Area south of Newcastle and the announcement of a major conservation package for the Byron Coast. The centrepiece of this initiative is the new Tyagarah Nature Reserve of 750 hectares. A second nature reserve, and additions to two other important local nature reserves now means that 42 per cent of the total coastline in Byron Shire is to be permanently protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Even though there is a great deal of work ahead—I have already foreshadowed new legislation to protect our fast vanishing wilderness areas—I'm confident the officers of the Service will meet their commitment with enthusiasm and dedication and thus ensure the Service maintains its place as the number one conservation organisation in Australia; responsible for a park system that is already recognised by the IUCN as one of the five best in the world.

Bob Carr
Minister for Planning and
Environment and Minister for
Heritage

National Parks and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box N189
Grosvenor Street
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Dear Minister,

I have pleasure in presenting the 18th Annual Report of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales under Section 8 of the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act, 1984 for the year ended 30 June 1986

Yours sincerely,



J. F. Whitehouse
Director

The Hon. R. J. Carr, M.P.
Minister for Planning and Environment
and Minister for Heritage
10th Floor
139 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

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Mr John Whitehouse
Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

The year 1985-86 provided a period of sustained achievement for the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In terms of the Service's management, a process of review and change was initiated during the year to ensure that the Service is best placed to meet the challenges of the future.

In July 1985 a review of the organisation and structure of the Service was commenced by Mr S. J. Day, then Executive Director (Administration) in the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, as principal consultant. The consultant's terms of reference were to review and make recommendations on the organisation and operation of the Service in the light of the following principles:

- * the development of a comprehensive system to establish corporate priorities and programs and a system of project control to provide the basis for allocation of staff and finance and the monitoring of program implementation

- * the establishment of a central policy and planning function to strengthen policy development and planning activities
- * the development of an organisation structure offering greater flexibility and interchange together with a program of staff rotation to assist in career development
- * development of an effective reporting and monitoring system along project lines
- * establishment of a program budgeting system as a basis for the allocation of financial resources
- * the establishment of a senior management committee as a basis for corporate decision making
- * the integration of the staff support for state recreation area trusts within the regional management framework of the Service
- * the development of a more responsive and active information function.

Mr Day completed his review in November 1985 and in the following month his report was issued to staff for perusal.

The key recommendations in the Day Report are as follows:

- * the establishment of an Executive Management Group as the corporate decision making body for the Service
- * the rationalisation of head office functions with the establishment of four functional divisions at head office
- * the enhancement of the role of regions and the inclusion of Regional Managers in the Executive Management Group
- * the establishment of a position of Deputy Director of the Service
- * the need for greater emphasis on policy development and corporate strategy.

Additionally the Day Report provided numerous recommendations on detailed matters.

The Day Report pointed to directions for change within the Service. The Service's objectives, as a field-based organisation, are

the conservation of the natural and cultural resources of N.S.W. and the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities for the community to appreciate and enjoy those resources. The Service also provides advice to the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Government on natural and cultural resource management and public recreation. Our role is to produce the organisation's outputs, namely service delivery in the field, consistent with the organisation's objectives.

The new organisational structure flowing from the Day Report is designed to enable achievement of that role. Approved by the Public Service Board in May 1986, the new structure provides for a position of Deputy Director and two Assistant Directors, plus managers to head the following regions and divisions:

- * Central Region
- * South Eastern Region
- * Northern Region
- * Western Region
- * Policy and Planning Division
- * Natural Resource Management Division
- * Cultural Resources and Information Services Division
- * Administrative Services Division

In May 1986 these new positions were publicly advertised; at June 1986 the selection process had not been completed.

Following the appointment of the new executive management positions, the other recommendations in the Day Report will be progressively addressed by the Service.

Key highlights for the year for the Service were as follows:

- * the announcement by the Government of major extensions to the Blue Mountains National Park and the establishment of Budderoo National Park.
- * redirection of the Service's budget to emphasise 'on the ground' field management achievements.
- * an increase in the Government contribution to the Service's General Fund Allocations of 6.4% and an increase in the Service's Capital Works Allocation of 32.5% in a year when many public authorities faced reductions in funding.
- * the commencement of a program of heavy plant purchases, including graders, to improve the Service's capacity to maintain and improve existing access roads.

Very special thanks are due to the staff of the Service for their dedication and diligence in meeting their responsibilities. Much valued assistance provided by members of advisory committees and state recreation area trusts, the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, as well as the community of N.S.W. is also very much appreciated. Our parks and reserves are an irreplaceable heritage, held by us in stewardship for future generations.



J. F. Whitehouse
Director

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 provides the legal basis for exercise of the powers, duties and functions of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Act is a consolidation of three earlier Acts, namely:

- * National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1967
- * Fauna Protection Act, 1948
- * Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act, 1927

Under the 1974 Act, the Director of National Parks and Wildlife is responsible for the care, control and management of all areas reserved and dedicated as national parks, historic sites, nature reserves, Aboriginal areas and state game reserves. Care, control and management of state recreation areas, which are also reserved and administered under the 1974 Act, is vested in trusts. The trusts are appointed by and responsible to the Minister for Planning and Environment.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife is also responsible for the protection and care of native fauna and flora, and Aboriginal sites and relics throughout New South Wales (N.S.W.).

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ORGANISATION

The National Parks and Wildlife Service falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Planning and Environment and Minister for Heritage the Hon. R.J.Carr, M.P.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Mr J.F. Whitehouse, is responsible to the Minister for Planning and Environment for the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and carries out the functions prescribed by the Act.

The Service's administration is carried out from head office, four regional offices and 27 district offices. The Director is assisted by three Assistant Directors who have responsibility for the functions under their control. Each Assistant Director supervises a number of head office sections as outlined on the organisation chart. The Service's head

office is responsible for policy establishment and coordination, the determination of the Services priorities, the monitoring of Service standards and the provision of specialist support services.

For field management, the State is divided into four administrative regions, each under the control of a Regional Director who is responsible for field management activities within each geographic area. In turn, the Service has 27 district offices and the District Officers-in-Charge are responsible to their respective Regional Directors for implementing Service policies and programs.

ADVISORY BODIES

The Minister and the Director receive advice on the care, control and management of national parks, historic sites and nature reserves and the conservation of wildlife from the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

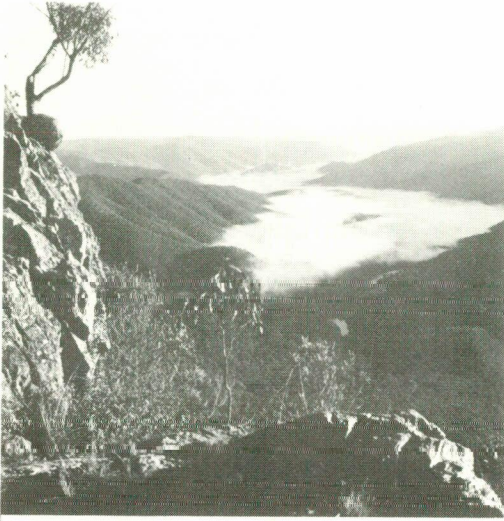
There are 26 advisory committees which provide advice to the Advisory Council, the Director or the Superintendent of the Service areas involved.

State recreation areas are managed by trusts with day-to-day management of the areas being undertaken by park managers appointed by the Service and seconded to the trusts

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE

The functions of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife are specified in the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974. These functions, carried out by the Director and Service officers, can be summarised as:

- * to investigate and acquire land as national parks and nature reserves to conserve a complete range of the State's natural environments
- * to acquire and preserve as historic sites, buildings, objects, monuments and sites of historical significance
- * to preserve and protect Aboriginal sites, buildings, objects of special significance throughout the State



Our national parks provide visitors with spectacular scenery: Guy Fawkes River National Park.

Photograph: Wayne Lawler

- * to investigate and acquire land as state recreation areas
- * to manage these resources so that they can be enjoyed by present generations and conserved for future generations
- * to develop facilities for visitors without impairing the values of the area
- * to protect, manage and research native flora and fauna throughout the State
- * to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of wildlife, national parks and conservation.

SERVICE AREAS

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 four categories of land—national parks, nature reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal areas—are vested in the Director and managed by the Service. The 1983 National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act provided for the dedication of a fifth category of land, state game reserves.

State recreation areas are managed by trusts within the framework of the amended 1983 legislation. The Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913 no longer applies to state recreation areas.

National parks are relatively large areas set aside for their predominantly unspoiled natural landscape, flora and fauna. They are permanently dedicated for public education, recreation and inspiration and are protected from interference, other than essential management, so that their natural state is preserved. At 30 June 1986 there were 66 national parks with a total area of 2 872 012 hectares

Nature reserves are areas of special scientific interest containing wildlife or natural phenomena and where management practices aim at maximising the value of the area for scientific investigation and education purposes. There are 173 nature reserves totalling 508 251 hectares.

Historic sites are areas preserved as the sites of buildings, objects, monuments or landscapes of national importance. There are 14 historic sites covering 2 882 hectares.

Aboriginal areas are places of significance to Aborigines or sites containing relics of Aboriginal culture. There are 9 Aboriginal sites with a total area of over 11 000 hectares.

State recreation areas are permanently reserved large regional parks for outdoor recreation. There are 20 state recreation areas totalling 20 532 hectares.

State game reserves are wetlands managed primarily for waterfowl propagation under which sporting shooters holding game licences under Section 122 of the Act may cull designated species of protected fauna.

National parks and historic sites are managed in a way that will preserve their natural or cultural features while still allowing for their use and enjoyment by visitors. State recreation areas are managed to maximise their recreation potential while preserving and protecting features of the natural environment. Because nature reserves and Aboriginal sites are preserved for their scientific and cultural value and are usually small in area, public access to them is generally limited.



Royal National Park.

Photograph: Gary Steer 5



Guy Fawkes River National Park.

Photographs: Wayne Lawler

6 National Parks provide opportunities for a variety of recreational experiences.

The Service is responsible for four other types of areas, which are not vested in the Director.

Aboriginal places are areas of significance to Aboriginal culture, which after gazettal, have the full protection of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Protected archaeological areas contain significant Aboriginal relics and are declared with the consent of the owner or occupier of the land on which they occur. They may be opened for public inspection with the owner's consent, under conditions designed to protect any Aboriginal relics they contain.

Wildlife refuges are declared over privately owned rural land with the owner's consent to preserve, conserve, propagate and study wildlife and to conserve, study and simulate natural environments.

Wildlife management areas (formerly game reserves) are declared over private or Crown land for game conservation in its broadest sense including game hunting for recreation.

Fulfilling the Service's functions requires a diverse range of skills which is provided by Service staff, advisory bodies and trusts.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND PROPOSALS

A consolidated reprint of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 was issued as of 28 February, 1985.

Since that date, the 1974 Act has been amended by legislation of general application which sets out new procedures for dealing with search warrants.

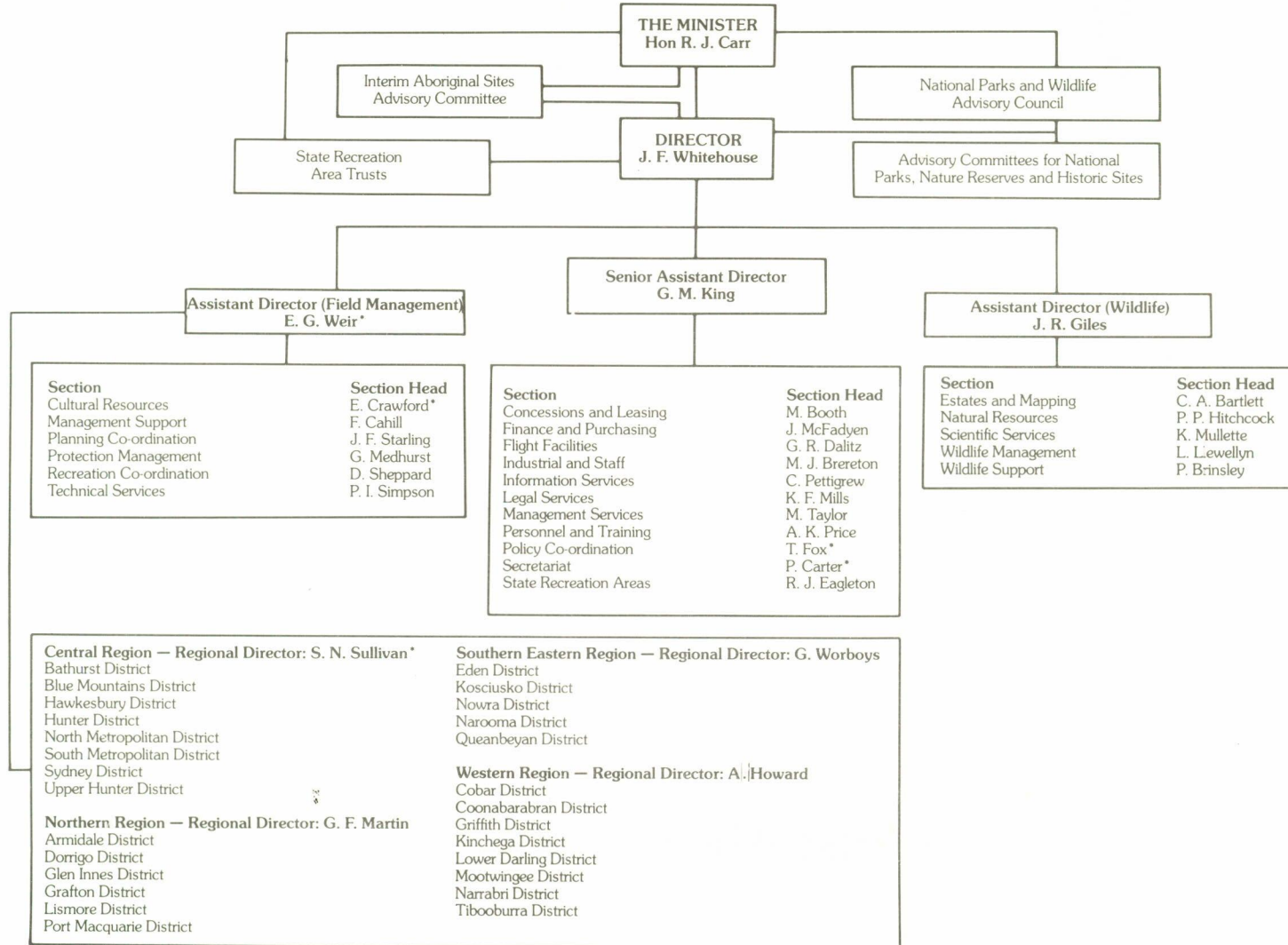
In addition, the 1974 Act was amended by the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 1985, which commenced on 25 November 1985 and which aimed to ensure that the Commonwealth Government would be in a position to ratify the Convention for the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific. To this end, the 1985 Act empowered the Director of National Parks and Wildlife to exercise greater control over

the activities of Water Boards in catchments within reserved and dedicated lands, and generally to ensure that certain activities which impinge upon parks and reserves will only be approved by the Minister or Director after the fullest examination as required by the Convention. The Government has also approved of the preparation of legislation for the better protection of marine mammals.

Various additions and amendments were made to the delegated legislation administered by the Service in the period under review. Notably, the National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting and Gathering) Regulation 1985, which was published on 3 January 1986, enables Aborigines and their dependants to take certain fauna and native plants for their own domestic purposes on land to which they have access rights for hunting and gathering. This exemption to the Regulation does not apply to raptors, parrots or endangered fauna or to hunting and gathering on land reserved or dedicated under the 1974 Act. Further, certain amendments to the Fauna Protection Regulations 1949 dealing with the kangaroo industry, fee and royalty increases, forms and returns and other sundry matters were published on 27 December, 1985. Further amendments relating to fauna dealers are expected.

Various orders have also been made under the Act in relation to unprotected and exempt fauna.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ORGANISATION



Mr John Frederick Whitehouse B.A., LL.B.,
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Mr Whitehouse was appointed as Director of National Parks and Wildlife by the Governor of N.S.W. for a period of seven years from 4 March 1985. As Director, he is the Department Head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Whitehouse held the position of Assistant Director of the N.S.W. Department of Planning and Environment from 1984-85, Head Environment Protection Division, Department of Planning and Environment 1980-1984 and Assistant Chief Planner (Heritage and Conservation) in the N.S.W. Planning and Environment Commission. He was a Commissioner of the Water Resources Commission of N.S.W. from 1982-1985.

From August 1976 until January 1980, Mr Whitehouse was Special Advisor to the then Minister for Planning and Environment, the late Hon. D.P.Landa.

Mr Whitehouse was Chairman of the Wollemi National Park Advisory Committee from 1980 until 1985 and was a member of the Davidson Park State Recreation Area Trust from 1977 until 1983.

As Director, Mr Whitehouse is Chairman of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, a member of the N.S.W. Heritage Council and a member of the Lord Howe Island Board.

Mr George Mervyn King, F.A.S.A., F.A.I.M.,
Senior Assistant Director

Mr King joined the office of Auditor-General in 1948 and served as an auditor in that office from 1956 until being appointed as Assistant Chief Accountant in the N.S.W. Treasury in 1969. He joined the Service in 1971 as Assistant Director (Administration) and became Senior Assistant Director in 1978.

Mr King is Honorary Secretary of the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, providing a link between the Service and the Foundation.

Dr John Rex Giles, M.Sc., Ph.D. Assistant
Director (Wildlife)

Dr Giles joined the Public Service as a cadet in 1960 and was appointed as a research officer in the Department of Agriculture in 1965. He joined the Service in 1976 as Chief of Scientific Services and was appointed as Assistant Director (Wildlife) in 1979.

Dr Giles is a councillor of the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), a member of the N.S.W. Water Utilisation Council and of the Technical Advisory Committee of the State Pollution Control Commission and a Councillor of the Royal Zoological Society of N.S.W.

Mr Edward George Weir, B.Sc. (For.) Dip.
Forestry, Acting Assistant Director (Field
Management)

Mr Weir occupied the position during the year pending finalisation of the review of the organisational structure.

Mr Weir joined the Public Service in 1953 as a trainee with the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. He joined the Service in 1969 as Operations Officer (Protection) and occupied a number of positions before being appointed to his present position of Regional Director, Central Region in 1979.

Mr Weir is a member of the Bush Fire Council of N.S.W. and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Bush Fire Council as the nominee of the Director.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council was constituted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, to advise the Minister on matters relating to the care, control and management of national parks and historic sites and the conservation of wildlife in N.S.W.

The Advisory Council also has three sub-committees which deal with matters concerning national park management, wildlife conservation, and historic and cultural conservation.

Membership of the Council is as follows:

Mr J. F. Whitehouse (Chairman)
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Professor K. J. Cable
Throsby Park Historic Site Advisory
Committee

Mr F. T. Dennis
National Parks Association

Mr S. J. Day
Commissioner of Soil Conservation

Miss M. Mason
Barrington Tops National Park Advisory
Committee

Dr P. Myerscough
University of Sydney

Dr A. E. Newsome
CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research

Mr M. Overton
Livestock and Grain Producers'
Association of N.S.W.

Mr C. H. Pratten
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

Mrs H. Proudfoot
Australian International Council on
Monuments and Sites

Dr H. Recher
The Australian Museum

Mr R. W. Robertson
Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced
Education

Mr J. Yarwood
Wollemi National Park Advisory
Committee

Mr S. J. Day replaced Mr L. D. Longworth who retired on 13 February 1986. Dr D. A. Adamson also stood down as a member during the year; action is in train to fill the vacancy.

The Council met four times during 1985-86. Matters considered at these meetings included the Nature Conservation Review, the current framework for Plans of Management for national parks and nature reserves, the Lord Howe Island Permanent Park Preserve Plan of Management, feral animal control and kangaroo management.

The Council also made recommendations on the future of the Kalkari Visitor Centre and Bobbin Head in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory committees, provided for by the Act, make recommendations to the Advisory Council, the Director or any Service area superintendent on measures to improve the care, control and management of national parks, historic sites, nature reserves or any combination thereof.

At 30 June 1986, there were 26 advisory committees to advise on a total of 48 national parks, 7 historic sites and 21 nature reserves. A full list of advisory committees appears in Appendix B.

One of the fundamental statutory responsibilities of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife is the conservation of wildlife and the remaining natural environments in N.S.W.

This increasingly complex and difficult task relies upon accurate supporting information and streamlined procedures. The Natural Resources Section evaluates information to determine conservation priorities and selects and applies effective, efficient and appropriate plans to protect significant natural resources. The Section is also involved in statutory land-use planning and development control. Regional and district office staff contribute to these activities.

Areas proposed as state recreation areas are also investigated by the Section.

NATURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

To ensure that the system of national parks and reserves is comprehensive and representative, a major review of nature conservation programs has been undertaken. As a consequence, deficiencies in the Service's conservation strategy have been identified and serve as the basis for a new program being progressively implemented.

A series of projects has been developed over the past year. Highest priority projects have already commenced. These include:

- * rare species surveys and protection
- * surveys of rare and threatened plant communities including remnant communities in the wheatbelt and on the Cumberland Plain west of Sydney
- * identification and conservation of important wetlands
- * rainforest conservation

Important conservation areas, identified under the new program will be acquired as funds become available.

RAINFOREST CONSERVATION

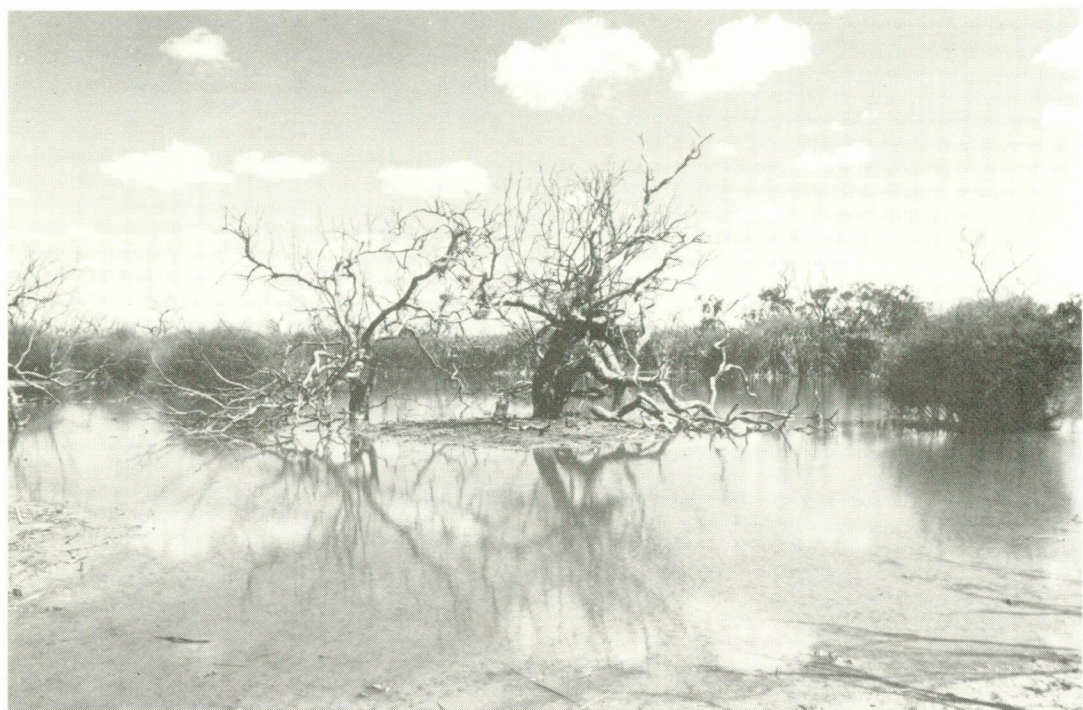
The Service's rainforest conservation program has maintained the momentum established in earlier years. Many of the

smaller but important remnant areas of rainforest have been given more appropriate levels of protection. Priorities within the program include:

- * protection and rehabilitation of littoral rainforest (coastal strip, mainly North Coast)
- * conservation of rare rainforest plants (mainly Tweed and Richmond Valleys)
- * conservation of poorly conserved rainforest types, particularly remnants in agricultural areas (especially lowland sub-tropical rainforest on rich volcanic soils)
- * conservation of rainforests which are close to population centres and important for educational purposes
- * provision of improved access and visitor facilities to rainforest parks and reserves

During the year the Service, in consultation with research scientist Alex Floyd, prepared a report outlining the conservation status of all littoral rainforest in N.S.W. The report highlighted the significant depletion of this rainforest type in recent years with the remaining areas being under increasing pressure from intensive urbanisation and recreational land use. The Service was able to present the Government with a package of conservation measures aimed at protecting the remaining stands of littoral rainforest, and as a result, the Minister announced special protection measures for 41 small coastal rainforest areas from Tweed Heads to Mimosa Rocks, comprising a total of 1300 hectares. The most important rainforests, 9 in all, will be transferred from Crown Lands Office administration to the Service, while other areas in freehold ownership will be acquired by the Service as opportunities and funds permit. Those rainforest areas remaining the responsibility of local councils will be protected under a State Environmental Planning Policy, with the Service guiding their management.

The main constraint to the implementation of the rainforest program is funding. The Commonwealth Government recently announced its agreement in principle to adopt a Commonwealth Rainforest



above: Berangerine wetland, Griffith,
N.S.W. below: River red gum wetland,
Murrumbidgee, N.S.W.

Photographs: Wayne Lawler

The Service has made a major
commitment to conserve the remaining
wetlands in N.S.W.

Conservation Program over the next two financial years, subject to the conclusion of appropriate agreements with the States. The allocation of Commonwealth funds follows recommendations put forward by the Working Group on Rainforest Conservation of which the Director and the Chief Resources Officer were members.

The Service has also been involved in several Interim Conservation Orders invoked under the Heritage Act to protect rare or threatened plant species and communities. Interim Conservation Orders presently in force include the Tweed Valley (2), Brunswick Valley (2), Richmond Valley (1) and the Clarence Valley (1).

World heritage nomination

During the year the nomination for the inclusion of N.S.W rainforests on the World Heritage List went to UNESCO. The Nomination, prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning in collaboration with the Service, is the embodiment of the N.S.W. Government's recognition of the State's rainforests as a vital part of the world's natural heritage. Following evaluation by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) the nomination covered the following rainforest sites:

- * the Tweed Volcano Group of Border Ranges, Mount Warning and Nightcap National parks, Numinbah and Limpinwood Nature Reserves and Mount Nothofagus Flora Reserve
- * the Washpool/Gibraltar Range Group comprising the contiguous Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks
- * the Coastal Group of Iluka Nature Reserve
- * the New England Group of New England and Dorrigo National Parks, and Mount Hyland Nature Reserve
- * the Hastings Group of Werrikimbe National Park, Mount Seaview Nature Reserve and Banda Banda Flora Reserve
- * the Barrington Group comprising part of Barrington Tops National park

The nomination will be considered by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO late in 1986.

WETLANDS CONSERVATION

The Service has made a major commitment to conserve the remaining wetlands throughout N.S.W. Such a commitment is recognition of the immense contribution which the relatively scarce and depleted wetland systems make to the life support system of so many plants and animals.

Acquisition proposals by the Service, amendments to legislation to provide for conservation agreements to be entered into with private landholders and special funding for wetlands are some of the options being addressed in order to achieve this objective. The Government has demonstrated its concern for wetlands conservation by the introduction of a State Environmental Planning Policy for Coastal Wetlands (S.E.P.P. No. 14 Coastal Wetlands).

The coastal wetlands management policy is intended to protect identified wetlands from damage or destruction by incompatible developments. The policy requires consent by the local council and the concurrence of the Director of Environment and Planning for any clearing, draining, filling or levee construction on any of the 1400-odd wetlands along the coastal strip mapped for the S.E.P.P. Any representation made by the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be considered before deciding whether to grant development concurrences. Because the number of coastal wetlands have been drastically depleted in the past 200 years, the Service, although viewing each development proposal on its merits, will generally take the view that as far as is practicable, all remaining wetlands should be protected.

RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECTS

During the year, Service specialist staff and external consultants undertook a number of resource inventory projects. These included:

- * the first stage of a National Estate funded study of mulga lands. These lands are a fragile part of the semi-arid

and arid lands of N.S.W. and once occupied about 12% of the State. Mulga lands have been subjected to extensive pressure in recent times from clearing and grazing by domestic feral animals. The primary objectives of the study are to identify priority areas for reservation and to determine and assess suitable land use strategies in order to maintain the on-going survival of wildlife throughout their natural distributions

- * the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service sponsored rainforest fauna programs involving the study of butterflies, birds of the 'big scrub' remnants and rainforest bats
- * the study of the possible rediscovery of a species of hairy-nosed wombat in cooperation with the Australian Museum. Hairy-nosed wombats have not been recorded in the Jerilderie-Deniliquin area since 1885. However, there is recent evidence of the species in the Deniliquin area. The Service has inspected the site where fresh burrowing activity has been recorded and is assisting the Museum in establishing automatic photographic monitoring of the burrow sites
- * the survey of the flora and fauna of the Cudmirrah sand dunes near Sussex Inlet. These sand dunes are the largest on the South Coast of N.S.W. and form part of a Service proposal for a national park which centres on the shallow semi-estuarine Swan Lake
- * the survey to examine the extent, species composition and biogeographic relationships of the remaining natural lands in the wheatbelt of N.S.W. Stage one of this program, a pilot study to establish costs and refine field techniques, has been undertaken. An area of 6 100 sq.kms at the northern extremity of the wheatbelt was surveyed. The wheatbelt contains some of the most extensively altered landscapes in the State. The pilot study has demonstrated the need for some areas to be managed for wildlife

conservation and for more conservative land management practices to be fostered in the northern wheatbelt.

- * the revision of the N.S.W. component of the 1981 Leigh, Briggs and Hartley list of rare and threatened Australian plants. The revised list for Australia will be published by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Some species have been added and others deleted and the information provided for each species expanded in the revision.

LAND USE ASSESSMENT

The Natural Resources Section is involved in the assessment of a number of different types of development and land use changes in respect of land which is administered by other Government departments. For example, clearing and cropping applications (Western Lands Commission), Crown Land Disposal cases and Aboriginal Land Claims (Crown Lands Office), are assessed by the Service.

Clearing and cropping in western N.S.W.

The review of the Service's Nature Conservation Program lead to the recognition that many plant communities in the wheatbelt of N.S.W are either not conserved, poorly conserved or threatened. A number of plant associations have been all but eliminated from freehold lands in the Central Division and now survive only in the immediately adjoining leasehold Crown lands of the Western Division.

The last remaining chance to conserve examples of some of the very extensive plant communities is in the eastern part of the Western Division. These lands are now also seriously threatened by the clearing now permitted on Western Lands leasehold.

Since the lifting of the embargo on clearing and cropping in the Western Division in late 1984, the Service has been very active in reviewing its interests in the west. Over 380 applications each covering up to 6 000 hectares were received during the 1985-86 year. A more systematic and environmentally

oriented approach to clearing and cropping is urgently needed if the conservation tragedy of the Central Division is not to be repeated in the west.

Crown land disposal cases

The conservation of flora and fauna requires more than just establishing a system of reserves. Often unreserved natural lands of various tenures are just as important as reserves particularly when taking wildlife corridors, habitat size requirements and population sizes of species into account. Land disposal cases are forwarded by the various Land Offices throughout the state for comment. During the year, approximately 220 cases were processed. The Service objected to those cases where nature conservation values were threatened by alienation or development of Crown land.

Aboriginal land claims

Claims of Crown lands made by Aboriginal Land Councils under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and referred to the Service are processed by the Section. Investigations are made into the nature conservation values of the land claimed. The Service is obliged to agree to the claims unless the land has been identified for future reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act or contains important nature conservation values. Where conflicts arise as in the situation of land possessing both significant natural resources and values of significance to the Aboriginal community, policies are being developed so that nature conservation values can be permanently protected under the N.S.W. Act and Aboriginal Land Councils can enter cooperative management agreements. Recent amendments to the Land Rights Act allow for covenants over land granted to Land Councils. This option, as well as lease-back arrangements are methods being examined to protect natural conservation values.

ADDITIONS TO THE SERVICE ESTATE

The past year saw the reservation of 46 770 hectares as national parks, nature reserves, historic sites, Aboriginal areas and state



Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

Photograph: Howard Creamer

recreation areas. Among the most significant reservations was a 6 354 hectare addition to Sturt National Park, a 13 800 hectare addition to Mungo National Park within the Willandra Lakes World Heritage area and the reservation of the 5 640 hectare Mann River Nature Reserve. Other reservations included Ironbark, Deer Vale, Eagles Claw and Richmond River Nature Reserves.

During the year a number of announcements of significant new parks and additions to existing areas were also made. These included:

*** Mount Werong and Katoomba additions to Blue Mountains National Park**

In September 1985 the Premier announced the addition of certain Crown lands in the Mt. Werong area together with the escarpment land from Wentworth Falls to Katoomba and the Narrow Neck Plateau, totalling 30 000

hectares, to the Blue Mountains National Park

* **Oxley Wild Rivers National Park**

Following the Premier's announcement last year concerning a proposal to establish a national park in the Macleay-Apsley Gorge area, incorporating existing national parks and nature reserves in the New England area (approx. 32 000 hectares), action is now in hand to reserve all available Crown land as national park. Several leasehold areas have been offered for sale to the Service and valuations and negotiations have commenced

* **Budderoo National Park**

The Premier formally announced the establishment of Budderoo National park incorporating Minnamurra Falls Reserve and a major portion of the Budderoo Plateau on 17 January 1986. The Premier also announced two reservations in the Nowra District, namely Comerong Island and Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserves.

* **Coastal conservation package for Byron Coast**

Earlier this year the Minister announced a major conservation package for the Byron Coast on the far north coast of N.S.W. The areas involved are the new 750 hectare Tyagarah Nature Reserve, the Cape Byron Nature Reserve at Byron Bay and additions to Brunswick Heads and Broken Head Nature Reserves south of Byron Bay.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

As in previous years, the Service has continued to devote substantial effort to statutory land use planning, development control and environmental impact assessment in an endeavour to protect native flora and fauna and significant natural habitats. This input has been in accordance with the provisions of the 1979 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Some 230 planning and assessment projects were considered by the Service this year. Three-

quarters of the projects originate from agencies such as local councils, developers and other state government departments. Local environmental plans and studies account for over half of all planning projects. Development proposals relating to transmission lines, water resources, urban and recreation developments and roads represent 50% of environmental assessment matters.

Many Service officers from districts, regions and head office have supplied information and professional advice for this work which has contributed to formulating Service programs and policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Proper land use management is an integral part of nature conservation. To assist in meeting its conservation objectives, the Service provides information and assistance in the preparation of environmental studies and plans by local government.

The Service provided input to the local government plans in the areas around Ballina, Kiama, Bega Valley, Kempsey, Lachlan, Wentworth and Wellington. The degree of Service involvement depends on several factors; namely, the area in question, the type of environmental planning strategy, its stage of preparation and its relevance to the conservation of natural or cultural resources. Many Service submissions represent joint efforts involving district, regional and head office staff. Unfortunately some councils have yet to fully accept the challenge of planning for the control of unsympathetic and incompatible land uses in areas of significant conservation value.

The Service also assisted the Department of Environment and Planning on draft regional environmental studies and plans including Kosciusko, Macarthur, Jamberoo Valley, Botany Bay, Hawkesbury/Nepean Valley and Sydney Region Extractive Industries. It was also involved in the preparation of State environmental planning policies for wetlands and littoral rainforest.

The Service continues to be represented on the Advisory Coordinating Committee

(A.C.C.) which reports to the Minister for Planning and Environment, the Rural Planning Policy Subcommittee of the A.C.C., the Interdepartmental Committee on Total Catchment Management, the Catchment Areas Protection Board and the Heritage Council.

These bodies provide valuable forums for the Service to put its views and influence environmental policy decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, as well as under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the Service is obliged to assess its own activities for any likely effects on the environment. Any Service development proposals, such as walking tracks, camping areas and fire trails are internally assessed for both potential environmental impact and ways to mitigate that impact. The Service does not pursue projects it finds to have unacceptable impact.

Where a proposed activity is likely to significantly affect the environment, an environmental impact statement must be

prepared and exhibited before any decision can be made. This year the Service approved of the Thredbo sewerage scheme augmentation which had been the subject of an earlier impact statement.

The Service has reviewed its procedures for considering development proposals from other organisations which might be located on lands reserved and dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Any proposal is now first considered in terms of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. No activity may proceed if it does not conform with the purpose for an area's dedication or reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, irrespective of whether or not planning instruments would permit the proposal.

The Service is also involved in the environmental appraisal of development proposals outside its area of jurisdiction but which are likely to significantly impinge upon natural and cultural resources. Typical proposals have included Mt. Piper to Marulan transmission line, Sussex Inlet Sewerage Scheme, State Highway No. 3 at Lake George and continuation of woodchipping at Eden to the year 2010.



Budderoo National Park, established during the year, contains a variety of vegetation types including treeless sedge areas, eucalypt forest and rainforest.

Photograph: Courtesy Dept Environment and Planning

Successful wildlife conservation develops from a sound knowledge and understanding of the State's native plants and animals. Within the Service, the Scientific Services Section, which is primarily responsible for wildlife research, aims to provide that knowledge and understanding.

The section consists of 24 permanent officers in four major research groups and an administrative support unit. Some Service Officers are currently based with Sydney University, New England University, and CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research where they are able to use facilities and resources not presently available within the Service.

PROJECT SELECTION AND REVIEW

Research activities are determined by the Service's management and conservation needs and available resources. Research proposals and projects in progress are reviewed by the Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee of the National parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. The subcommittee includes representatives from CSIRO, the Australian Museum, universities and non-government conservation and farming groups. It consults and advises the Assistant Director (Wildlife) and the Chief Scientist and makes recommendations through the Council to the Director on the desirability, feasibility, direction and funding of research projects.

RANGELANDS RESEARCH GROUP

Kinchega Project

During the year under review, the Service and CSIRO completed the joint study of the dynamics of a semi-arid grazing system. The main results indicate that:

- * rainfall is the principal determinant of the amount of pasture available
- * grazing by mammals exerts a significant feedback effect on pasture availability
- * kangaroos, sheep and rabbits eat similar foods; sheep, however, are able to use the perennial shrubs containing high salt levels (bluebush and saltbush) far more than kangaroos.

These results indicate that in the area studied, kangaroos and sheep would compete for pasture even when pasture is moderately abundant. The extent of the competition would be dependent on the relative densities of the two herbivores. The results to 1984 have been published under the title 'Kangaroos: their ecology and management in the sheep rangelands.'

Effect of fire on legume germination

This project aims to quantify the germination response of a range of legumes to two components of the fire regime, temperature and duration. This will hopefully enable predictions to be made of the likely response of different legume species to fires of various intensities. The study is being conducted in the Sydney region.

The collection of ripe fruits for this work also allows an investigation into the distribution of predispersal seed predators across the various legume groups. This not only permits collection of data on the biology of many previously unknown or poorly described insects but as seed predators may have a profound effect on the build-up of seeds in the soil seed bank of a legume, such data are vital to an understanding of the biology and long-term survival of the legumes.

FOREST RESEARCH GROUP

Forest ecosystem research

This study aims to investigate processes within a forest ecosystem by examining the relationships between mammalian herbivores and carnivores in their habitats. Staff and postgraduate students based at the University of New England are involved in the study which is located in moist forests on the escarpment east of Armidale.

The research component on dingoes is complete except for routine monitoring of their diet. Recent research indicates that macropods continue to be the major item in the dingoes' diet.

Methods for estimating the abundance and distribution of macropods in forests were compared by analyses of data collected from



This yellow-footed antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) was captured during the north coast ecosystems project. After checking the animal's sex, weight and condition it is marked with a durable ink so that researchers will recognise it if recaptured.

Photograph: Dan Lunney

transect counts and pellet counts. The habitat preferences of the swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) and the parma wallaby (*Macropus parma*) were also examined.

A study to compare the ecology of the tiger cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and the northern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon macrourus*) with existing data on other carnivores in the area was begun during the year. Techniques for estimating distribution, abundance, diet and food availability are also being assessed.

Five forest study

The primary finding from the extensive studies of the effect of woodchip logging on fauna in the coastal forests near Bega is that logging has an adverse effect on many species. Further, logging compounds the stress of fire and drought, which are regular occurrences in the forest of south-eastern N.S.W. The current logging plan is to log small, alternate coupes, or cutting areas at 20-year intervals. The major impact of the

logging will not occur until the currently-unlogged coupes are logged 20 years after the first set of alternate coupes were logged. At that stage, most of the forest will consist of 20-year sapling re-growth adjacent to freshly logged coupes. For those animals dependent upon mature trees, their refuge habitat will be the remaining, unlogged areas. A primary recommendation from the study for the conservation of fauna in woodchip forests is that sufficient, suitable habitat be set aside prior to logging commencing, and if logging has commenced, prior to the logging of the alternate coupes. Much of the writing up of the study has been completed.

Arboreal carnivores

A project in north coast forests focussing on tree dwelling carnivores/insectivores, particularly the brush-tailed phascogale, has commenced. This study is linked, by the combined use of resources, with an externally funded survey of the distribution and status of koalas in N.S.W.

WETLANDS RESEARCH GROUP

Waterfowl research

The study of maned duck (*Chenonetta jubata*) condition has continued. The aim is to determine how, when and where maned duck acquire the fat resources necessary for breeding. So far, fat levels have been monitored in captured ducks for over twelve months and in a small number of duck carcasses taken over a period of 15 months. The duck carcasses have provided predictive equations for fat in live captured ducks which are measured, colour-banded and released. Maned ducks are trapped for the study in north-western N.S.W. and on the southern tablelands. Time budget studies were commenced in March 1986 to determine whether maned duck feeding patterns change during the year.

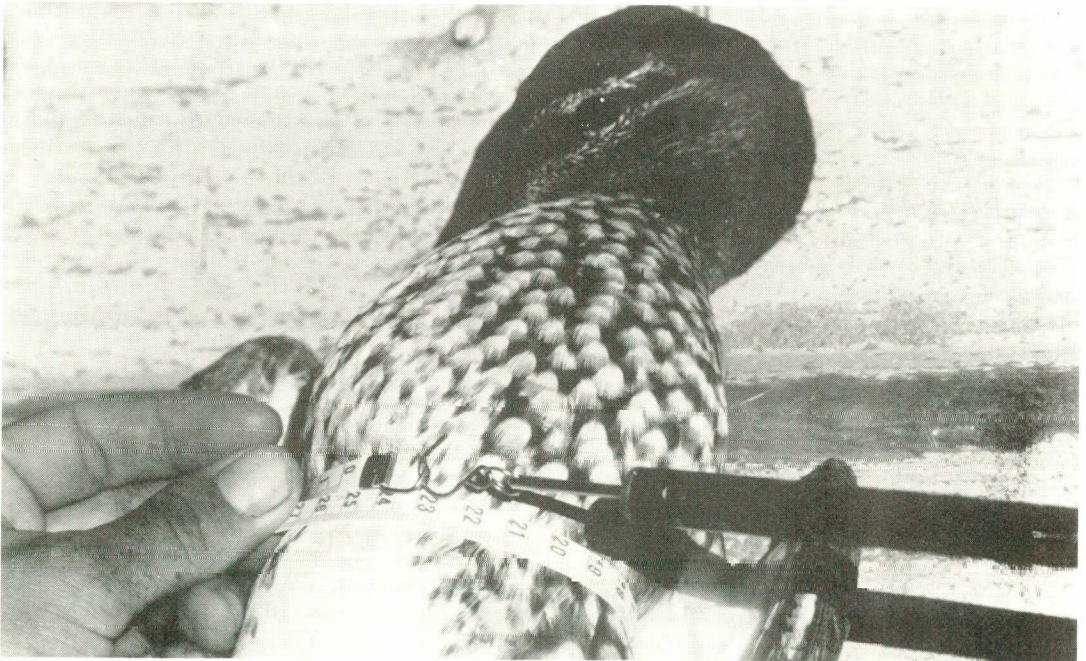
A \$5 research levy on game licences resulted in an income of \$65 602 during the year. These funds assisted in the financing of hunter mailcard surveys, work associated

with determining waterfowl productivity in the inland areas of the State and the third annual aerial survey of waterbirds.

The hunter mailcard survey is part of a 10-year project investigating the relative effects of hunting and habitat changes on waterfowl numbers.

The study of wetland heterogeneity and waterbird productivity, which involved six trips to the north-west of N.S.W., aims to identify and understand the use waterbirds make of various wetlands. It appears that each wetland system is used in different ways by different species of birds. It is the wetland type and the immediate needs of individual birds which determine both their distribution and abundance.

The third of 10 annual aerial surveys of the waterbird fauna of eastern Australia was carried out in October 1985. Preliminary results indicate that all waterfowl species showed a decline relative to the 1984 survey results and for some species, results were also lower than those for the 1983 survey.



The study of maned duck (*Chenonetta jubata*) continued throughout the year. Live captured ducks are measured, colour-banded and released.

Photograph: Wayne Lawler



The Service is currently undertaking a research project on N.S.W. wetlands. The aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the way waterbirds utilise various wetland habitats.

Photograph: Wayne Lawler

Wetlands water management

During the year a draft water management plan for the Macquarie Marshes prepared jointly by the Service and the Water Resources Commission was released for public comment for an extended period. Submissions received from some fifty persons and organisations were assessed and the definitive plan was produced in June. The plan provides for the management and control of water resources in the Macquarie River Valley so as to ensure maintenance of the wetland habitat of the Macquarie Marshes while meeting the requirements of

other users. The objectives of the plan emphasise maintenance of wetland habitat and the control of erosion in the Marshes. The management of surplus water flows allows the regulation of water levels to the Marshes.

In October the 50 000 megalitre annual wildlife allocation of water was released from Burrendong Dam at the request of the Service. This was the first release of the increased allocation and combined with significant surplus flows in August, October and December, resulted in extensive flooding of wetland habitat in the Marshes.

The Service has also been involved in the development of a wetlands water management strategy for the Lachlan River Valley being prepared by the Water Resources Commission. The strategy, still in preparation, will determine the most effective water management for wetlands of the Lachlan Valley.

MALLEE GROUP

Studies of the major perennial understorey species in the mallee vegetation at Yathong and Round Hill Nature Reserves have proceeded. Field and laboratory observations and experiments hope to determine:

- * the effects of herbivores on the survival of seedlings after a fire
- * the role of factors such as plant density, soil and topographic gradients and their relationship to the overstorey in seedling emergence and survival
- * the effects of fire intensity on seedling emergence
- * the combined effect of fire intensity and burning season on the survival of *Melaleuca uncinata* (broombush) a species which rapidly resprouts after burning
- * survival, growth and reproduction output in established populations of varied age in the species under study. Further sampling in progress aims to describe and relate the existing patterns of species' distributions on sand dunes in the mallee to various physical factors

The aim of the project is to develop demographic models which may predict trends in species numbers across time and space, particularly under differing regimes of fire and grazing.

Mallee fauna

The study on the effect of fire on mallee fauna has recently focused on the recolonising of burnt areas by reptiles. After the wildfires of 1984-85, surveys were run to determine what species survived. In another area, relative abundance of different species has been related to distance from unburnt

habitat. A third component of the study has investigated the timing of reproduction and how it related to fire season. This study is now concluded and is being written up for publication.

Malleefowl

In 1984 the Service began a research program to prepare an effective management plan for the conservation of the endangered malleefowl. Captive populations have been established at Taronga Park and Western Plains Zoo.

Experiments to assess the major causes of chick mortality are underway on Yathong Nature Reserve. The work has already highlighted the importance of bird predators.

Financial assistance from the Estate of the late L.F.T Lough and the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation has facilitated the acquisition of a fully-automated computer-controlled radiotracking system to monitor the activities of the malleefowl. For the first time researchers will be able to track the elusive malleefowl as it moves about its mallee environment. The tracking program will enable Service scientists to determine the habitats used by these birds and identify the resources essential to their survival.

SUPERB PARROT RESEARCH

The superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) which is endemic to N.S.W. and Victoria has not been investigated other than in a study by Frith and Calaby (1953) which provided a description of the general biology and habits of the species. The authors concluded that as agricultural development had reached its peak, the superb parrot population would remain stable. However, during the last ten to 15 years, increased and changing agricultural practices and forestry operations have had significant impact on the superb parrots' breeding and wintering habitats. Due to the increased pressure on the habitat and continuing illegal trapping, a study to investigate the breeding requirements of the superb parrot has been initiated with financial assistance from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service through State Assistance Grants.

A breeding survey located 49 nests of which 34 were along the Murrumbidgee River, 9 on the Edward River and 6 along the Murray River.

The superb parrot was found to be nesting in the largest trees in river red gum forest. They were large, mature, healthy trees located close to water. Nests were located no farther than 9 kilometres from box woodland which consisted of black box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) along the Murrumbidgee River and black box and yellow box (*E.meliodora*) along the Murray River. These box woodlands were exploited as foraging areas by nesting pairs during the breeding season.

After the breeding season, there was a movement away from the river red gum into the box woodland.

MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUM

The study of the mountain pygmy possum (*Burrarnys parvus*) also funded through the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service aims to assess the impact of ski resort development on the *Burrarnys* populations of Blue Cow Mountain.

Field work commenced in January with Victorian researchers trapping possums at Mt.Hotham and becoming familiar with the management problems of the Hotham/Higgenbotham *Burrarnys* populations.

Trapping and radiotelemetry techniques are being developed concurrently with obtaining baseline data on *Burrarnys* numbers and movements on Blue Cow Mountain. The trapping effort up until early May resulted in 89 captures of 26 individuals during 4 535 trap nights. Trapping is being used in conjunction with radiotracking to study the activities, movements and habitat use of known individuals. Monitoring will be continued as the area is developed to ascertain any detectable changes in numbers or movement patterns.

KOALA SURVEY

American Express and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service have funded a national koala project in which the

N.S.W. Service is participating by surveying koala distribution and identifying koala habitats in N.S.W.

LORD HOWE ISLAND WOODHEN CENSUS

The National Parks and Wildlife Foundation funded the census which aims to monitor the woodhen population on Lord Howe Island. The census will help to evaluate the success of the recent rehabilitation program in the long term and provide a basis for the need for further management intervention to assist the survival of the woodhen.

A total of 147 birds was recorded during the survey. The majority were concentrated in three small areas (Mt. Gower, Little Slope and Far Flats - Kings Beach), with the rest scattered in small groups. Although there were 68 birds in the populated areas, birds remain absent from the majority of the island. This may be related to habitat suitability as preliminary results suggest that the *Howea* palm tree associations provide the most favourable habitat. As this is the first census, trends in the population are not yet evident, although the number of birds is greater than before the rehabilitation program.

WILLANDRA LAKES WORLD HERITAGE REGION

The Willandra Lakes World Heritage Region was nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List and registered in 1981. This nomination was based on the finding of archeological material including some of the earliest remains of modern man in the world, in a fundamentally unmodified environment.

As a world heritage property, the Willandra Lakes Region falls under the provision of the International Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972. Under the terms of this Convention the contracting parties recognise that the cultural and natural properties within their jurisdiction constitute part of the world heritage for which they have a responsibility at the international level.

To fulfill the Convention's stated obligations the Director of the Department of Environment and Planning approved the commencement of a Regional Environmental Study in 1984 as the first step in the development of a Regional Environmental Plan.

Ten specialist studies have been contracted and are being supervised by the Service. These are the archaeological resource survey; geomorphology, sediments and soils; vegetation; mammals; birds; herpetofauna; LANDSAT monitoring the region; feral grazers; the significance of the Region to the Aboriginal community and a history of European settlement. The archaeological study is being undertaken by formal agreement between the Department of Environment and Planning, the Western Lands Commission and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Studies of the socio-economic factors affecting the regions and analysis of soils will be commissioned in the near future. The environmental studies are comprised of three parts: first, they are required to identify and describe the components and features of the region which are of world heritage value; second, they are to identify the impacts of present day land-use on the short and long-term preservation of significant components or features; and third, they are to recommend management prescription aimed at protecting the heritage values of the region.

ANIMAL WELFARE

In response to the increase in community interest, the Service is taking an active role in improving standards of care and consideration afforded to native animals. It is now represented on six major committees and several associated subcommittees.

Recently the Service was involved in the initiation and establishment of the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES) through the issue of necessary licences and input to the proposed legislation to control the use and conditions of exhibited animals, including cetaceans (whales, dolphins etc.).

The Service has also had substantial involvement in redrafting the Animal Research Bill and in the preparation of draft codes of practice concerning the use of animals for research purposes.

LICENSING

Licensing provisions of the Act and the Fauna Protection Regulations, 1949 are designed to control commercial exploitation of protected native flora and fauna. The Service monitors the taking, keeping and trading of native plants and animals to ensure that harvesting does not threaten the viability of native populations in the wild.

The Service issues licences under its kangaroo management program and oversees the activities of aviculturists and bird traders. The Service has recently completed the computerisation of avicultural and bird trading licensing and records systems. Other licensing systems are being progressively added to the automated system.

Review of licensing regulations and policies continued during the year. Most wildlife licensing fees were increased in December 1985 to adjust for increases in administration costs.

AVIARY REGISTRATION

In October 1985, sulphur-crested cockatoos, galahs, little and long-billed corellas, cockatiels, peaceful doves, stubble and brown quail were exempted from the mandatory registration requirement for fauna dealers, commercial breeders and owners of more than 19 protected native birds.

The Service currently licences about 7 500 aviculturists. It can now process new licence and renewal applications with the computerised system. Bird holding and trading records have also been computerised and data are being used to monitor and analyse bird holding and trading trends and to detect the laundering of illegally trapped wild birds.

The extent of illegal trapping of many species of native birds remains a matter of concern to the Service. The heavy predation of wild stocks of endangered species such as the superb parrot and the major mitchell cockatoo and the more frequent discovery of captive wild trapped gang gang and other black cockatoos are major problems. There is also concern over excessive predation of

common species such as rosellas. The eastern and crimson rosellas, for example, are poor breeders in captivity and it is a reasonable assumption that the major proportion of these species which pass through pet shops are wild trapped. Most transactions are covered by fictitious paper transactions which are difficult to detect, let alone prove. To complement the computerisation of bird records the Service is examining options for more effective administration and law enforcement oversight of activities in aviculture and the bird trade which will more successfully address these problems.

LICENSED EXHIBITORS

Persons who display native fauna are required to hold an exhibitor's licence under Section 120 of the Act. New policies were adopted last year which set specific criteria for licensing exhibits and specific standards for housing and husbandry of native animals. A scrutiny committee, comprising representatives of the Service, Taronga Zoo and private exhibitors, is examining all licensed exhibits to determine what work needs to be done for exhibits to meet necessary Service requirements.

Eighteen establishments were inspected during 1985-86. Two have closed because they were not able to meet the new standards. There has been a considerable improvement in housing and, more particularly, husbandry standards as a result of the implementation of the new requirements. All other licensed exhibits will be inspected during the early part of 1986-87.

The Service policies and the scrutiny process have the full support of the N.S.W. Association of Fauna and Marine Parks.

KANGAROO MANAGEMENT

Much of the Service's wildlife management program focuses on the supervision of the legal harvest of red and grey kangaroos. The program aims to conserve kangaroos throughout their known ranges while helping landholders who are adversely affected by

large kangaroo populations. The Service oversees commercial harvesting to ensure the best possible use is made of harvested kangaroos.

Head office determines policy issues in the management program, while regional and district officers, who have closer field contact, direct the day-to-day operations.

The Kangaroo Management Review Committee advises the Director on key management issues. The committee consists of the Service's Assistant Director (Wildlife), the Western Lands Commissioner and representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Council of Advice to the Pastures Protection Board of N.S.W., and two representatives of non-government conservation bodies.

The Service annually determines the maximum legal harvest of red and grey kangaroos from the results of winter aerial surveys which enable population trends to be determined. Aerial surveys of the western plains in June and July 1985, using a new 'plains wide' long line survey showed a 43% increase in red kangaroo numbers and a 54% increase in grey kangaroo numbers when compared with the 1984 survey. Using the old 'monitor block' survey method, which is less representative of the survey area, the population increases were not as marked. Taking a conservative view of these population estimates the Service set the 1986 harvest quota at 313 000 red kangaroos and 264 000 grey kangaroos. This resulted in an overall increase in quota of 276 000 (ie. 301 000 in 1985 to 577 000 in 1986). No quota was set for wallaroos in 1986. Some areas were closed to harvesting of one or more species because their densities were considered low.

In 1985 there was an overrun of the quota by 11.4%. In order to prevent such an overrun occurring in future years each fauna dealer has been set a maximum quota. The number of royalty tags issued in any one year will not exceed the total annual quota and the tags will be colour-coded each year. Trappers in N.S.W. must also lodge returns at an earlier date so that the harvest can be more closely monitored.

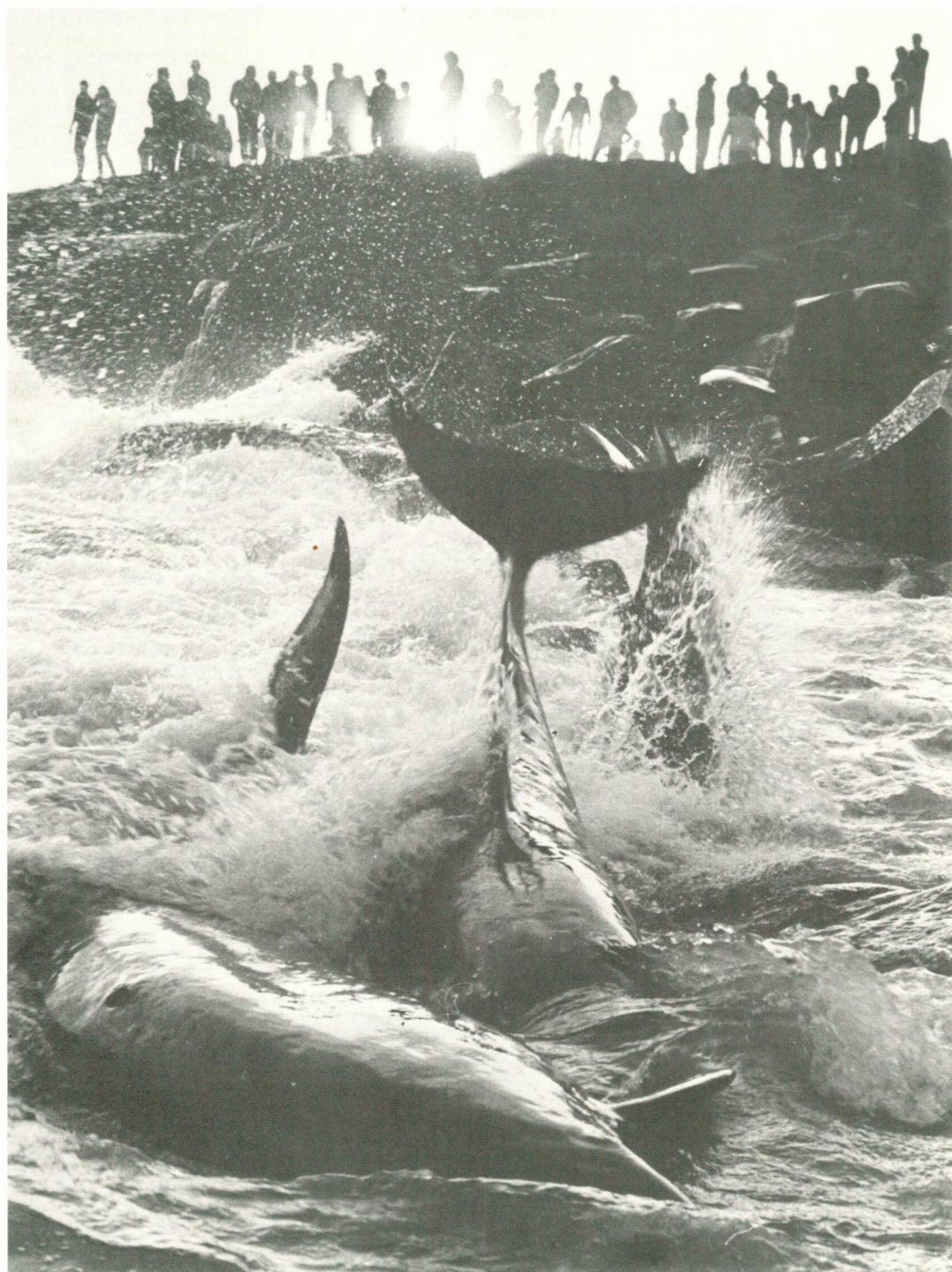
During the year, the Service licensed 281 trappers, 88 skin dealers, 19 wholesale fauna dealers selling skins only, 12 wholesale kangaroo fauna dealers dealing in meat and skins, 73 chillers dealing with carcasses and 149 retail fauna kangaroo dealers. Each Service district allocates up to a maximum number of trappers' licences, new ones being issued only if there is a clear need or when there is a vacancy. The Commonwealth Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act, 1982 necessitates the Service submitting an annual N.S.W. kangaroo management program for consideration by the Commonwealth Minister. This year's program which was approved to take effect from 1 January 1986 permits meat and skins from red (*Macropus rufus*), eastern grey (*Macropus giganteus*), and western grey kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) to be exported.

The study on socio-economic aspects of kangaroo management in N.S.W. carried out by CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangeland Research for the Service is nearing completion. Separate reports on kangaroo trappers and chiller operators, fauna dealers and the final report are now complete. A draft of the report on marketing and kangaroo products is currently being revised. The Service is considering the recommendations furnished in the completed reports. The majority of these recommendations should be implemented during 1986-87.

CETACEANS

The Service's draft contingency plan for dolphins and whale stranding, although still needing further development, continues to assist district officers in stranding incidents.

In addition to the existing stranding kits the Service has purchased a number of additional carrying sheets which have been strengthened and modified following experience with them at the Crowdy Head stranding. These modified rescue kits, to be located at additional coastal district offices, will supplement those already located at Narooma, Sydney Harbour National Park, Grafton and Raymond Terrace.



Scientific analysis of the material collected from the dead false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) at the Crowdy Bay stranding (above) in June 1985 has revealed the presence of pesticides and high levels of mercury.

Photograph: Courtesy Robert McKell, News Limited, Newcastle

Fifteen strandings were reported this year. In most cases the animals were dead when found; only one bottle-nose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and one pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*) were returned to the sea alive. One stranding involved two animals, a mother and calf striped dolphin (*Stenella caeruleoabla*). In all, 6 pygmy sperm whales, 4 bottlenose dolphins, 2 striped dolphins, 1 humpback whale, (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), 1 pygmy right whale (*Caperea marginata*), 1 mink whale, (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) and 1 unidentified baleen whale were reported. In all cases where appropriate, the dead whales were used for museum material and for scientific investigation. Most of the above strandings attracted a response from local media.

Scientific investigations on the material collected from the dead false killer whales (*Pseudoica crassidens*) at the Crowdy Head stranding in June 1985 is continuing. Completed studies to date have shown the presence of pesticides and high levels of mercury in most of the whales.

The Service is currently developing a training program and associated manual for Service staff, in collaboration with public support organisations such as the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA), to deal with strandings of cetaceans. The Service has also decided to establish a \$10 000 contingency fund to assist district offices to cope with costs associated with strandings. The fund will be administered from head office.

SURVEY OF PESTICIDES IN FAUNA

Preliminary studies on pesticides in the northern rivers region of the state, particularly the Clarence and Tweed Rivers, have now been completed. Fauna were analysed for lindane, heptachlor epoxide, dieldrin and DDT. The results showed high levels of dieldrin and fairly high levels of DDT. The use of DDT, dieldrin and in fact all organochlorines in the environment is being further restricted, with the hope that such problems will diminish.

DUCK AND QUAIL MANAGEMENT

Aerial surveys of waterfowl, sponsored by CSIRO, Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research and wildlife authorities from the south-eastern states were completed for the third consecutive year in 1985. The surveys showed waterfowl numbers were slightly down on 1984. However, at a meeting of the sponsors in November 1985, it was considered that populations were still healthy and all states agreed to duck and quail game seasons in 1986. Consequently there was an open season for ducks from 22 February to 4 May 1986 and for quail from 3 May to 27 July 1986. Approximately 9000 licences were issued.

CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Service controls weeds and vertebrate pests to protect land under its stewardship and to assist its neighbours who may be adversely affected by pest species which may emanate from reserved lands.

As the extent of land under Service management is extensive, weed control programs have been examined over recent years to identify priority weed management problems, evaluate the cost of weed control programs and examine the cost-effectiveness of these programs over time. Bitou bush, a coastal weed and broom, a noxious weed prevalent in Barrington Tops National Park were identified as the most serious weed problems faced by the Service. During 1985-86, the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers reached an agreement for the States to share the cost of developing biological control methods for bitou bush using CSIRO specialist staff based in South Africa. At this time, no significant progress on control of broom has been achieved.

In addition to its work on broom and bitou bush, the Service continued its control program on blackberry and other weeds where they were a significant local problem.

FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL

Control of wild dogs remains a highly sensitive issue particularly with landholders in the central and southern tablelands. The Service continues to develop and test electric fencing as an aid to wild dog control in conjunction with a policy of perimeter baiting using 1080 impregnated meat bait where dog problems are evident.

Feral pig control on Service land also continues to be a high priority task, particularly in the Western Region. This is proving to be effective, particularly in the Macquarie Marshes where a collaborative program with landholders and Pastures Protection Boards over several years has reduced the pig population to a very low level.

A major rabbit control program at Kinchega National Park continued in 1985-86 with individual treatment of active burrows in areas that had been previously subject to exclusion fencing, poisoning and ripping. The program has now been in progress for 8 years and has demonstrated that rabbits on Kinchega are manageable, but at considerable cost in money and labour.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the period July 1985 to June 1986, the Law Enforcement Section conducted some 600 enquiries related mainly to wildlife offences against the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act and Regulations (see Appendix F). These investigations were conducted by law enforcement officers from head office and the Northern and Western Regions.

The Section has maintained close cooperation with Service rangers, the Australian Customs Service, the N.S.W. Police Force and officers of interstate and Commonwealth fauna agencies. The Service continues to assist these authorities through the exchange of information and participation in joint enforcement activities.

Law enforcement procedures are continually revised and a manual comprising service enforcement policy and procedures is being prepared for issue to Service officers in 1987.

FIELD MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Service's administration is based at head office, while its field management is performed by four regional offices and 27 district offices. Regions provide a coordinating role among districts to which they provide specialist technical services. Districts are geographically based units responsible for undertaking the complete range of Service responsibilities within district boundaries. Districts implement approved programs in accordance with organisational policies and priorities.

PLANNING COORDINATION

The planning coordination function changed direction slightly during 1985-86 whereby greater emphasis was placed on further developing district planning systems and basic area management documentation. The format of plans of management has been reviewed and simplified.

The plan of management for the Lord Howe Island Permanent Park Preserve was on public exhibition for three months until 18 October 1985. Twenty responses to the plan were received and the plan and the representations were considered by the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council at its meeting in May 1986. The Council's report and the plan have been submitted to the Premier for adoption. This program was funded by a National Estate Program Grant.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in March 1986 made available a total of \$68 000 over two years (1985-86 and 1986-87) to the N.S.W. Service for the preparation of a plan of management for Border Ranges National Park, Nightcap National Park, Limpinwood Nature Reserve and Numinbah Nature Reserve. The grant was part of a cooperative program between the two Services which concern national parks and reserves of outstanding national and/or international significance. \$24 000 was made available for 1985-86 and the balance will be made available during 1986-87.

The major project consists of three sub-programs:

- * preparation of a computer database for the four areas concerned
- * a public awareness campaign and
- * preparation of a plan of management for the four areas.

Initial draft resources documents and plans of management have been completed for Mootwingee National Park, Coturaundee Nature Reserve and Mootwingee Historic Site. These areas are important desert environments and contain several species which are rare or threatened. Of particular interest is the management of the yellow footed rock wallaby in Coturaundee Nature Reserve.

The management of these areas is also of particular interest to the Aboriginal community. During the preparation of these plans the Western Region of the Service worked in close cooperation with the Aboriginal community to ensure that the features of these areas of value to the Aboriginal community will be adequately protected.

ALPINE NATIONAL PARKS COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

A framework for cooperation in the management of national parks and other protected areas in the alpine regions of N.S.W., the A.C.T. and Victoria was developed during the year. The Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands the Hon. Joan Kirner M.L.A., the Commonwealth Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment the Hon. Barry Cohen M.P., the Commonwealth Minister for Territories the Hon. Gordon Scholes M.P., and the N.S.W. Minister for Planning and Environment, the Hon. Bob Carr M.P., agreed to prepare a memorandum of understanding about the management of alpine national parks which adjoin across the A.C.T., N.S.W. and Victorian borders. In N.S.W., the areas most directly involved in the cooperative management program are Kosciusko National Park, Bimberi Nature Reserve and Scabby Range Nature Reserve.

Discussions were held between officers of the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Victorian Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands, the A.C.T. Parks and Conservation Service and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service on a number of issues which affect management of alpine areas in the A.C.T., N.S.W. and Victoria. The Services are working together to develop complementary policies for catchment management and recreation use. As part of the cooperative management program, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has given assistance to the Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands to apply the PREPLAN fire management programs to Victorian alpine areas. Preparation of a poster highlighting the important values of the Australian alpine area and of information about recreation opportunities in the area commenced during the year.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

The Service was represented on a working group of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers which finalised a report 'Guidelines for the Reservation and Management of Wilderness Areas in Australia' which was presented to the Council at its meeting in June 1986. The Council agreed to the public release of the document after minor amendment.

Similarly the Service was represented on a working group established by the Minister for Planning and Environment. The working group included representatives of non-government organisations and the Minister's Office and was required to report to the Minister on:

- * the current status of wilderness in N.S.W. and make recommendations on any action it considers necessary for the protection and management of such areas
- * the need for special legislation dealing with wilderness protection and management in N.S.W.

- * any other matters it considered relevant to wilderness management in N.S.W. and
- * to offer advice on the implementation of its recommendations.

The working group submitted its report to the Minister on 30 May 1986.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The Service developed policy on a number of key issues during the year.

Volunteers

A draft policy setting out a number of guidelines that will apply in relation to volunteer workers has been circulated to Service staff and relevant union organisations.

The policy recognises that although the vast majority of the Service's work will be undertaken by Service staff, there is room for voluntary work to be undertaken to complement the Service's work. The policy also recognises that the involvement of volunteers in Service activities provides an opportunity for fostering community involvement and support for national parks.

Camping

Camping is an important recreation activity in national parks and state recreation areas. The Service has developed a policy which will provide for camping in areas under its control. This policy recommends that such camping opportunities should be complementary to, but different from, those provided elsewhere in any given region. These will generally involve low key camping facilities rather than sophisticated commercial developments. Major facilities for overnight accommodation such as hotels and motels will not be permitted in national parks or state recreation areas. A number of guidelines for the management of camping are also outlined in the policy.

Professional fishing

A policy on professional fishing has also been prepared in recognition of the significance of this form of activity and the undesirability of unrestricted access to coastal areas controlled by the Service, by professional fishers. There will be liaison with all relevant fishing groups, both in the development and implementation of this policy.

Horse riding

The Service is also resolving its position in relation to horse riding in national parks. It is anticipated the policy will involve the following principles:

- * horse riding will be permitted on designated track systems within national parks and state recreation areas
- * horse riding will not be permitted in certain areas identified on the basis of environmental sensitivity and/or incompatibility with other recreation activities
- * horse riding will be subject to a number of specific conditions which will be specified by the Service
- * where possible there will be liaison between the Service and horse riding groups

RECREATION DATA COLLECTION

Visitor surveys

Major visitor surveys were completed during the year at Yuraygir and Blue Mountains National Parks. These surveys are part of an approach to find out more about the 'market' the Service is catering for, and aim to find out:

- * who visits?
- * why do they visit?
- * what do they do?
- * what are their preferences for possible management actions?

Such information will provide important input to planning decisions made in national parks and state recreation areas. The visitor survey approach used will be progressively modified in the light of experience.

Some of the main findings that arose are:

- * parks are becoming more popular. Many survey participants were visiting the parks for the first time
- * parks are perceived as offering special values. Visitors feel the major attractions to all parks are their 'scenic qualities', their 'quiet and restful atmosphere' and their 'relaxation' value.
- * visitors appear to have an appreciation of parks as offering quiet and peaceful recreational experiences.
- * visitor preferences for possible management actions indicate strong support for maintaining the low key nature of the recreation setting; for example, they show strong support for low key basic camping rather than caravan parks; support for the provision of firewood rather than gas barbecues, and pit toilets rather than septic toilet systems. There is also strong support for the development of walking tracks and the provision of information to visitors.

A pleasing feature of these surveys is that visitors see parks as offering special recreational experiences, thereby reinforcing the role of the Service in providing for a low key, nature oriented recreational experience.

Involvement with academic institutions

The Service has maintained close liaison with a number of academic institutions to encourage student involvement on relevant Service recreation management projects. The major liaison has been with the Canberra and Ku-ring-gai Colleges of Advanced Education.

Specific project work with the Canberra CAE has been guided by the preparation of specific project briefs. These project briefs have been developed by Service staff (district, regional and head office), and staff from the Canberra CAE to meet the following criteria:

- * relevance to park management issues
- * relevance to academic requirements. The academic institutions have indicated particular interest in involving students in 'real world' exercises

- * practicality in terms of Service staff and budgetary constraints.

The Service considers there is major potential for joint projects with academic institutions in recreation planning projects. Arrangements with the Canberra CAE will be used as a trial, with a view to application on a wider basis if successful.

MARKETING

The Service is aware of the need to get out in the community and 'sell' the value of national parks and their integral role within the community. A lack of understanding by certain community groups can be seen at a statewide level where there are numerous examples of a hostile local community or interest group which has a limited understanding of the role of the Service specifically and national parks in general.

The Service hopes to close the gap in the lack of awareness and understanding of its role through:

- * more active promotion of Service management policies public forums
- * clear definition of what the Service has to offer to visitors
- * more active promotion and development of key visitor areas, such as Ku-ring-gai and Royal National Parks
- * closer liaison with the tourist industry and promotion of parks as tourist destinations

A marketing case study was completed during the year which examined the role of the Service in tourism and the opportunities for promoting bus tours to Service areas.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USE

The Recreation Vehicles Act, 1983 came into force during the year. Among the principal features of the Act are:

- * the exclusion of motor vehicles, including recreation vehicles, from areas designated as restricted ('restricted land') and



Uncontrolled vehicle use severely degrades natural areas. As one track becomes impassable another is established alongside: Ben Boyd National Park.

Photograph: Kay Margus

- * the appointment of authorised officers with powers to control motor vehicle use on recreation vehicle areas and restricted land.

All areas reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act are 'restricted land' except public roads as defined in Section 4 of the Local Government Act, 1919.

The Service is currently reviewing its policy in relation to motorised vehicles, to incorporate aspects arising from the Recreation Vehicles Act. A key element of this policy will be a review of the vehicular use of beaches adjacent to Service areas and Service control of the intertidal zone.

PROVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED VISITORS

The Service is seeking to make its parks and state recreation areas more accessible to disabled visitors. To facilitate this, specific walking tracks for disabled persons have been initiated in the Blue Mountains, Ku-ring-gai Chase and Warrumbungle National Parks. Tracks at the Blue Mountains and Ku-ring-gai Chase are being constructed with the assistance of corporate sponsorship.

A guide to recreation opportunities for disabled visitors to national parks was also prepared during the year.

One of the functions of the Service is the encouragement of, and provision for, appropriate use of national parks, historic sites and nature reserves. The Service devotes a significant proportion of its funds and staff skills to the provision of suitable visitor facilities and other facilities essential for effective management of Service areas. In a few parks some visitor facilities and services are provided and operated by private enterprise.

Each year, the Service submits to the N.S.W. Treasury estimates for proposed expenditure on development and maintenance works in Service-managed areas. On the basis of these estimates Treasury allocates moneys from Loan Funds and the Consolidated Revenue Fund (as a supplement to the National Parks and Wildlife Fund) to the Service's Development Works Program and Maintenance Works Program respectively.

The Service's Loan Fund and Consolidated Revenue Fund programs are submitted to the Minister for his approval before the funds are disseminated to the four regions and some head office sections for implementation.

The Service employs a full-time staff of technical officers, including architects and engineers, who are based in head office, regional offices, and occasionally district offices. Works projects are initiated by district staff and implemented according to established priorities and available funds. Projects are co-ordinated in head office or regions, depending on the availability of specialist staff.

Over the years the Service has accumulated a substantial capital investment in roads, management and visitor facilities and other improvements. The Service has a responsibility to maintain this investment but this task has presented a considerable challenge in recent years because of the economic climate which has resulted in restraints being placed on public sector spending.

A full schedule of works undertaken by the Service in 1985-86 is given in Appendix D.



Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

**Photograph:
Bob Crombie**

Extensive visitor surveys completed during the year reveal that the major attractions to all parks are their 'scenic qualities', 'quiet and restful atmosphere' and relaxation value.

Morton National Park

Photograph:
Carolyn Pettigrew



Guy Fawkes River National Park

Photograph:
Wayne Lawler



Bushfire conditions in N.S.W. during 1985-86 were generally mild. However, dry conditions and lightning activity in the north-west of the State caused fire outbreaks which had a significant impact on parks and reserves in the area.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Bushfire conditions in N.S.W. during 1985-86 were generally mild. Nevertheless dry conditions in the north-west of the State from January 1986 and lightning activity caused fire outbreaks which had a significant impact on parks and reserves in the area.

One fire in Mount Kaputar National Park burnt for 60 days and demanded a large commitment of resources. The Service commitment alone amounted to 4 000 man hours. The Forestry Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Narrabri Shire Council and volunteer bushfire fighters also made substantial contributions. This fire was relatively mild, being more like a hazard reduction burn than a bushfire, but due to the very dry conditions and the difficult terrain it burnt over 18 200 hectares before being contained.

Another fire in the Pilliga Nature Reserve was more severe. However, this fire was contained to a much smaller area than the Mount Kaputar fire due to the easier terrain. Unfortunately, while fighting this fire a dozer overturned and killed the operator/owner Mr. Harry Eastburn.

Despite the mild fire season a large number of fires burnt on Service areas. Table 1 shows the number of fire occurrences and the area burnt in 1985-86. Table 2 shows the variation in the number of fires and area burnt over the last ten years.

Many fires had their origin outside Service areas (32%). On the other hand very few fires escaped from Service areas (2%). Again the majority of fires were due to arson (42%) and illegal burning off (15%).

TABLE 1: Number of fires and area burnt (1985-86)

Region	No. of Fires	Area Burnt (ha)
Central	78	8 788
South Eastern	11	958
Northern	42	4 535
Western	8	24 083
TOTAL	139	38 364

TABLE 2: Variation in fire occurrence in Service areas during past 10 years

Year	No. of Fires	Area Burnt (ha)
1976-1977	90	57 913
1977-1978	138	143 567
1978-1979	51	69 567
1979-1980	119	101 944
1980-1981	162	298 027
1981-1982	53	5 449
1982-1983	181	135 863
1983-1984	35	1 914
1984-1985	267	196 684
1985-1986	139	38 364

The mild fire season enabled the Service to make a greater commitment to fire prevention works such as fire trail maintenance and hazard (fuel) reduction.

Hazard reduction was concentrated in areas where the hazards placed life and property at risk. Table 3 shows the number of operations and the area (in hectares) treated.

TABLE 3: Fire hazard reduction operations

Region	No. of Operations	Area Treated (ha) (Effective area)
Central	57	8 301 (6 516)
South Eastern	17	16 800 (10 100)
Northern	5	531 (531)
Western	1	300 (300)
TOTAL	80	25 932 (17 447)

Further progress was made during the year with the Service's computerised fire prediction system. The system became operational in Yuraygir National Park in 1985-86 and assisted in the management of fires in that park during the year.

Developmental work on this system continued in Nadgee Nature Reserve, Morton, Budawang, Kosciusko, Royal, Ku-ring-gai Chase, Brisbane Water, the proposed Oxley Wild Rivers, Bundjalung, Broadwater, Crowdy Bay, Hat Head and Mount Kaputar National Parks.

The purchase of specialised fire management equipment slowed during the year. However, this was more than offset by a large purchase of general maintenance equipment in 1985-86. This equipment will make a significant impact on the Service's capacity to maintain fire trails and to suppress fires. The equipment includes dozers, graders, trucks and a low loader.

The expenditure on fire management in 1985-86 is shown in table 4. This table does not include staff salaries. The table does include work staff wages and employment scheme expenditure. Employment schemes make up \$166 034 of the expenditure shown.

TABLE 4: Fire management expenditure

Region	Suppression	Prevention	Planning	Equipment	Miscellaneous	Total
Central	28 958	125 517	145 942	23 753	12 980	337 150
South Eastern	65 486	97 052	83 690	61 214	6 100	313 542
Northern	15 815	11 000	25 000	24 000	1 874	267 977
Head Office	2 917					2 917
TOTALS	\$169 977	\$266 821	\$260 432	\$279 217	\$20 954	\$997 401

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Effort aimed at improving the Service's mobile radio system continued in 1985-86. Planning for the redevelopment of the Central Region system continued and work is expected to commence in the Blue Mountains and Upper Hunter Districts in 1986-87.

Radio purchases during the year mainly involved the acquisition of portable radio sets

for use in the field when away from fixed radios in vehicles. This type of equipment is particularly valuable for co-ordinating fire fighting operations on the fire ground.

A selective calling facility has been installed in the Western Region's high frequency radios to provide quiet operation and more efficient use of the system. Expenditure on radio equity is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5: Expenditure on radio equity

Region	\$
Central	10 228
South Eastern	11 000
Northern	14 000
Western	32 677
TOTAL	67 905

Although the Service provides and operates most visitor facilities in the areas under its jurisdiction some are established and run by private enterprise. The Service controls their development and operation through leases and licences. These privately operated facilities range from small refreshment kiosks to major accommodation and recreation centres such as those in Kosciusko National Park.

Where new developments are allowed under a plan of management or by Ministerial consent, the Service selects operators through competitive tendering. Successful tenderers must meet most, if not all, of the development costs.

The Service aims to ensure that high quality visitor facilities are provided at reasonable establishment costs and are available to the public at charges consistent with those elsewhere. At the same time it aims for an equitable financial return from the commercial opportunities which have been provided.

With adequate controls and safeguards now in place for many concession arrangements and tighter financial constraints now being placed on the public sector, the Service is looking at the feasibility of leasing additional visitor facilities to suitable private operators.

SAWPIT CREEK ACCOMMODATION COMPLEX

In September 1985 the Minister approved a call for tenders for the commercial operation of the Sawpit Creek Accommodation Complex in Kosciusko National Park, a facility comprising cabins, a caravan park and a camping area. A lease was signed in May 1986 with the successful tenderer, Mr R.F. Saunders.

The transfer of the day-to-day management of the complex to a private operator enables the Service to redeploy its resources to other areas within the Park. Furthermore, the

arrangement has realised a significant financial contribution from the operator towards much needed capital improvement works at the complex, which to date, the Service has not been able to fully fund.

PERISHER SKITUBE

Although the Skitube project has been delayed due to tunnelling difficulties, most of the Perisher Skitube terminal has been completed and its concourse level is operational for the 1986 ski season. The concourse incorporates modern facilities for medical treatment, freight handling and oversnow transport coordination. These three services previously occupied the Service's transport interchange building at Perisher Valley. They have now been transferred to the Skitube terminal, the centre of coordination for all Perisher Range resorts, including the new Blue Cow resort. The transfer of these services has involved a lease-back arrangement from the Skitube Joint Venture to the Service over the floor space required for the three functions. The Service has negotiated leases and licences with the operators of these various facilities in the new terminal. The costs of this arrangement are being recouped from rentals paid to the Service by the operators and annual community service charges paid by other leasees in Perisher Valley who will also benefit from the improved facilities.

The Skitube terminal arrangement has enabled the Service to relocate the Smiggin Holes Ranger Station to the transport interchange at Perisher Valley. The Service has made the Smiggins Ranger Station available to Murray Publishers Pty. Ltd.,—the Perisher/Smiggins resort operator, for its much needed workshop and storage requirements. In return, Murray Publishers will undertake the full responsibility for the maintenance and snowclearing of the Smiggins carpark—previously carried out by the Service. This arrangement is expected to save the Service about \$100 000 each year.

Action continued within Kosciusko National Park on the issue of new leases to many of the ski clubs which provide much of the in-snow visitor accommodation. To date, 52 new leases have been finalised with a further 16 on offer.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Other visitor facilities currently under consideration for leasing include the camping and picnic area at The Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and several camping and caravan areas which form additions to certain national parks.

In some of these cases the Service has engaged or proposes to engage consultants to conduct commercial concession feasibility studies.

There are many other visitor facilities in a range of Service areas which have been successfully operated as concession arrangements for some years. The Service is increasing its control over such concession arrangements through control mechanisms in Service leases and park Plans of Management are designed to safeguard the interests of the Service, the public and the park environment. Other lease arrangements conducted during the year have realised significant savings in Service resources as well as providing improved public facilities and visitor services.

STATE RECREATION AREAS

To assist the trustees of state recreation areas with the management of their respective areas, the Service commenced negotiations with the Water Resources

Commission to place all lands abutting the foreshores of the Commission's water storage areas adjacent to Wyangala, Grabine, Lake Keepit, Copeton, Burrendong, Burrinjuck and Glenbawn State Recreation Areas under Trust/Service control by way of formal leasing agreement.

The Service has reduced the number of privately owned cabins in Royal National Park as part of the policy of phasing out such occupancies.

Consistent with the objectives of maintaining the village atmosphere of the Hill End Historic Site, the Service granted further residential and commercial leases of the site during the year, including the Royal Hotel.

Other concessions and leasing activities during the year included:

- * tendering for the concession operation of the South Durras Caravan/Camping Area in Murramarang National Park
- * finalisation of the lease for the Audley boatshed in Royal National Park
- * the assignment or sub-letting of various commercial premises at Kosciusko National Park, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and a number of other Service areas including state recreation areas
- * granting several licences and easements covering approved public utility installations in Service areas and state recreation areas.

The Service's concessions and leasing activities have resulted in dramatic increases in lease rental revenues over recent years (see Table 6).

Table: 6 — Concession and leasing activities

	1983-84	1985-86	% Increase
Rents from concessions	\$752 822	\$1 384 857	94
Lease site rentals	\$188 630	\$732 305	334
Total revenue	\$941 452	\$2 117 162	142

The increases are attributable to three main initiatives:

- * renegotiation of major commercial leases in various parks
- * negotiation of new ski club leases
- * packaging and tendering of new concessions

Where a lease agreement involves a significant rental, the Service has engaged independent auditors to monitor financial arrangements. The CONCOM Working Group on National Park Concession Management, after close collaboration with the Service, submitted its final report to CONCOM during the year. Implementation of the working group guidelines, ratified by CONCOM, will facilitate a common approach to concessions management. A new computerised lease register, almost complete, will provide a ready-reference to all leases granted in Service areas. The register, when fully implemented, will greatly assist the Service's day-to-day administration.

The Service has also arranged a number of new leases for its office and workshop accommodation centres, including the lease of shop premises in the A.D.C building at the Kent Street level for the operation of a new major sales outlet and information centre.

ABORIGINAL RESOURCES

The National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 legally protects all Aboriginal sites and relics in N.S.W. and vests responsibility for the care, protection and management of sites with the Director.

The Service has an active management program covering Aboriginal, historical and archaeological resources. It is responsible for site investigation and recording and maintains a central register which is available to researchers and those carrying out environmental impact assessments. It assesses development proposals which might affect Aboriginal sites and arranges emergency survey and salvage work to record and obtain information from sites which might be destroyed. Destruction can only take place after the Director issues his consent in writing. There are specialist archaeological, anthropological and Aboriginal staff in head office and regional offices, supported by district field staff who carry out most of the initial site inspections and the actual management and physical protection of sites.

The Service acquires representative or important Aboriginal sites and areas and ensures the management and protection of them throughout the State. This involves physical protection, the use of conservation techniques and the development of site interpretation programs for visitors. There is also continuing research into the nature, occurrence and significance of Aboriginal sites. The protection of sites which are significant to Aboriginal communities has a high priority and the Service regularly consults Aborigines and other experts about its site management and protection programs.

ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT

Aboriginal staff make an important contribution to the Service's work. Their numbers and their professional expertise have increased, along with the Service's expanded responsibilities in cultural resources management and growing Aboriginal aspirations for a meaningful role in site protection. Throughout the year a senior

member of the Aboriginal staff occupied the position of Acting Head of the Cultural Resources Section.

Aboriginal site officers have become increasingly important in communicating between the Service and Aboriginal people, particularly since the 1983 Aboriginal Lands Rights Act came into force, with the subsequent registration of more than 100 Local and Regional Aboriginal Land Councils. The Service has consulted Aboriginal opinion on all aspects of work, including training for Land Council officers, research and site recording, site protection needs, development proposals and policy formulation.

Site management procedures involving Aboriginal people have improved communication with Land Councils and communities. Service officers routinely attend Land Council meetings and they are able to contribute their expertise in land management at discussions of site problems. Representatives from various Land Councils regularly visit Service offices. This contact has developed genuine understanding of all points of view.

Site protection committees which have already been established by some Local Land Councils have led to more consultation with Aboriginal communities and better advice from them on site management.

A management plan for Mootwingee National Park and Historic Site and the Coturaundee Nature Reserve is in the process of development with assistance from the Western Regional Aboriginal Land Council. The Service has also been involved with Local Aboriginal Land Councils in producing similar plans for the management of sites in the Nowra, Evans Head and Kempsey areas.

The Service is providing continuing support for the Aboriginal site curator's course at Tranby College in Glebe, as well as assisting with field studies in the Associate Diploma of Aboriginal Studies at Armidale College of Advanced Education. During the year, the last of a series of three Aboriginal site schools which started in 1985, was held at Kioloa on the south coast. The schools teach Aboriginal people some of the technical skills in site recording and management.



Pindera Downs Stone Arrangement, gazetted as an Aboriginal Area during the year, forms a cleared track which may have served as a pathway during aboriginal initiation ceremonies. There are several stone arrangements of this kind, especially in north-western N.S.W.

Photograph: Howard Creamer

SITE RESERVATION PROGRAM

Service staff have maintained a program of liaison with landowners and Local Aboriginal Land Councils about the future management of significant Aboriginal sites. The Service is seriously hampered in its aim to ensure the long-term survival of important and representative sites by the effects of the 1983 Land Rights Act. This Act aroused unjustified fears in the general community of Aboriginal land-grabs and polarised the community about the issue of site preservation. There is currently much less support than there was in the past for the identification and conservation of Aboriginal sites on private land in rural areas.

Nevertheless the Service has been successful

in explaining to individual landowners that the Service's role in site protection has nothing to do with the provisions of the Land Rights Act, and in securing agreement to the declaration of sites on their land as specially protected sites under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

The long-term conservation of representative collections of sites is at present accomplished by the acquisition under the National Parks and Wildlife Act of large areas of land containing a range of environmental zones. The declaration of national parks and nature reserves during the past year has furthered this conservation effort. Service archaeologists have also identified those parts of the State where no major areas have been reserved for conservation purposes, and have considered alternative ways of achieving long-term site conservation, such as the adoption of cooperative management strategies with landholders. Negotiations with the Forestry Commission have led to the nomination of specific sites and areas of state forest where such cooperative management should ensure the long-term conservation of sites.

Liaison with local government authorities with a view to the identification of the high cultural conservation values of particular sites and areas of land have resulted in the adoption of appropriate planning controls for these areas.

The Service has implemented a review of its own management strategies for the protection of Aboriginal sites reserved under its Act.

POLICY AND RESEARCH

The manual of policy and procedures for Aboriginal site management has progressed from the preliminary and generalised stage. Service officers have prepared detailed guidelines for assessment of emergency survey and salvage projects, preparation of applications for consent to destroy sites, and processing of excavation permits. Aboriginal consultation is a central theme in each procedure, and the recognition of the right of relevant Aboriginal communities to have an input into the management of their sites is a major Service policy. All archaeological

research in N.S.W. is channelled through the Service as a result of the permit system and the formalisation of procedures for processing research applications is a major achievement in reducing delays and frustration in research bureaucracy.

Negotiations are continuing with the Jerringah Local Aboriginal Land Council over the proposed Naval Base at Jervis Bay. Although the area is now part of the Commonwealth, the Service has over 200 sites recorded, many of which are of traditional significance to Aboriginal people. A liaison has been established among the Service, the Aboriginal community and the Department of Defence, which will ensure that sites are appropriately managed.

NEW PROJECTS

Several new research projects have been initiated and supervised by the Service over the past year. One of the most important of these is the National Estate funded management study of Aboriginal burial sites in south-west N.S.W. The need for the project grew out of the growing level of conflict arising from disturbance of Aboriginal burials by sand quarrying. By researching the geomorphology and known distribution of burials in the area, the study will attempt to develop an appropriate methodology for predicting the location of burials so that proper management of this significant resource can be implemented before conflict arises.



Consultation involving archaeologists and aboriginal people is an important facet in managing Aboriginal sites, such as this 'canoe tree', east of Armidale. Such trees provided Aborigines with the bark for traditional canoes, tools and implements essential to their hunting and gathering activities.

The Service has also initiated a project in conjunction with the Department of Education. With the planned introduction of Aboriginal studies in primary and secondary school syllabuses in 1987, sites in the Sydney area in particular are in considerable demand for school excursions. The Aboriginal education project is designed to prepare a management program for selected sites to be the focus of school activities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Two Service initiated projects have been brought to their final stages in the year. An archaeological survey of the Winbar property was undertaken by Service officers in order to test predictive models of site location and to make management recommendations for the protection of significant sites and representative site complexes. Most sites found were campsites of recent age, probably dating to the last 2000 years. However two older sites were located, one dating to the period of microblade manufacture (c4500 years ago), and the other to the period preceding this. A number of technological differences were manifested at the sites, due to variation in proximity to stone sources. This information will form the basis for management planning.

PROCEDURES MANUAL

A procedures manual for dealing with Aboriginal burial finds is nearing completion. This document was prepared by a specialist physical anthropologist and Service officers at the request of the Police Department. Concern has grown in recent years that ancient Aboriginal burials are being disturbed by police procedures for the investigation of skeletal finds under the Crimes Act. The manual sets out how to distinguish between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal remains, and provides procedures for managing the burial. The Police Department has been more than co-operative in this venture, and now official

policy procedures based on those set out in the manual have been implemented. The Service hopes to publish the manual during the 1986-87 financial year.

Among the continuing programs within the Central Region, the Sydney Basin Rock Art Study, funded by the National Estate, has entered its second stage after the very satisfactory completion of Stage I. Stage II will aim to test some of the predictions of style and motif variation which resulted from the earlier work.

The final report of the Hunter Valley Project has been recently completed and provides the Service with an overview of the prehistory of the Hunter Valley and a predictive statement on the occurrence of Aboriginal sites in this region. The Central Region was also involved in the completion of two Aboriginal studies planning studies for Blacktown City Council and Wyong Shire Council. Liaison with several other councils was undertaken over the management of Aboriginal sites and it is expected that further planning studies will be undertaken in 1986-87. The Region has given a high priority to consultation with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Sites Officers have been involved in site recording projects in the Hunter Valley and south-west Sydney.

PROTECTION WORKS

Under CEP II, protection works were undertaken at over 40 Aboriginal sites in the Sydney region and in the Hunter Valley. The work included signposting, track construction, erosion control, fencing and graffiti removal. A total of 15 Aboriginal people were employed in the program.

District staff from the South Eastern Region also undertook site protection works at several important sites within the Region. An innovative dune stabilisation project at Buttmaroo, near Lake George has successfully protected a deeply stratified, possibly Pleistocene deposit from further wind erosion.



Service ranger and Aboriginal Site Officer carrying out protective measures including placement of sign and vegetation removal at a cave painting site in the Warialda area, N.S.W.

At Bigga, near Cowra, a rockshelter with a rare art style is under considerable threat from increased visitor use. A fence was erected around the site at the request of the Cowra local Aboriginal community. This will keep people away from the paintings, but photographs can be taken through the wire mesh and explanatory notes and diagrams will be provided. As a baseline for monitoring the effects of weathering, the paintings were traced on to acetate film. This acetated work revealed more superimpositions than in the original records indicating that the site has considerable research potential.

Minor stabilisation works were also carried out on the depleted dune surfaces at Murrumurung Aboriginal Area and on an in situ artifact assemblage in a road cutting at Dead Horse Gap in Kosciusko National Park.

The North Central Rivers project, funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies is drawing to a close. The study has provided the Service with a valuable analysis of geomorphic, ethnographic and archaeological data from this area and will be the basis for management discussions in this part of the State.

The study of sites in the Apsley Macleay River Valleys has been completed with the assistance of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of New England.

The Carved Tree Conservation project is also complete. Considerable research was undertaken into the main causes of damage to this rare site type, and detailed procedures for minimising or even reversing these damaging processes have been prepared.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES

Over the past two to three years the Service has initiated a program of negotiating procedures for Aboriginal site management with other government departments, local councils and private companies. Many developers now employ consultants to undertake archaeological surveys prior to development as a matter of course. This has meant the recording and assessment of many sites and areas which would have otherwise remained archaeologically unknown. Consequently the Service has a better understanding of the State's archaeological resources and can define areas which do not need surveying.

This year the Service has concentrated on developing procedures with the Water Resources Commission, Crown Lands Office and Telecom. In addition the Service ran a two-day seminar on Planning for Aboriginal Site Management for Local Government Planners. The seminar was funded by a National Estate Grant and was highly successful. Over fifty Local Government employees attended. A book of the proceedings has been in high demand, and a second edition will be available for distribution early in 1986-87.

As more developers become aware of their responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, they are contracting archaeological survey reports which are assessed by the Service. Most proposals either did not affect sites or could be amended to avoid impact on Aboriginal relics. Where site destruction was unavoidable, there was further archaeological research before permission to proceed could be considered.

The Service is fully committed to consulting Aboriginal communities where development proposals could threaten sites. Some communities now produce their own reports on development proposals.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SITE INTERPRETATION

Aboriginal site management is often confused with land rights, although in both traditional cultural and contemporary legal terms the two are distinct. Equating sites with land rights misrepresents the intention of the land rights legislation and overlooks the fact that sites are an intrinsically valuable non-renewable national resource. Sites are neither specified nor even mentioned in the Land Rights Act as a basis for land rights claims. In fact private property, even though it may contain sites, cannot be claimed under the Act.

Service staff gave talks on Aboriginal sites throughout the year, to schools, historical societies, Aboriginal and other community groups, as well as presenting papers on aspects of the Service's role in site management at university seminars and conferences. In February, the Service anthropologist began a series of weekly programs about Aboriginal sites on ABC radio, scheduled to run all year.

A number of information sheets on types of Aboriginal sites were written for inclusion in the popular Aboriginal Heritage Teacher's Kits. Production of a regular newsletter on sites, renamed the Koori Sites Newsletter in recognition of the increasing acceptance of this alternative word for Aboriginal continued during the year. Service staff assisted in the production of videotapes featuring the life of Cecil 'Ngaka' Ebsworth, from the north-west of N.S.W.

After consultation with appropriate Aboriginal Land Councils, planning commenced to heighten public awareness of Aboriginal culture through allowing access to selected sites. These include the Tweed Heads Historic Site where a visitor centre has already been built, the Tooloom Falls Aboriginal Place, where a sign and an information leaflet will explain the site to visitors, and the Queens Head beach where sites were used as the focus for a seasonal ranger program.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

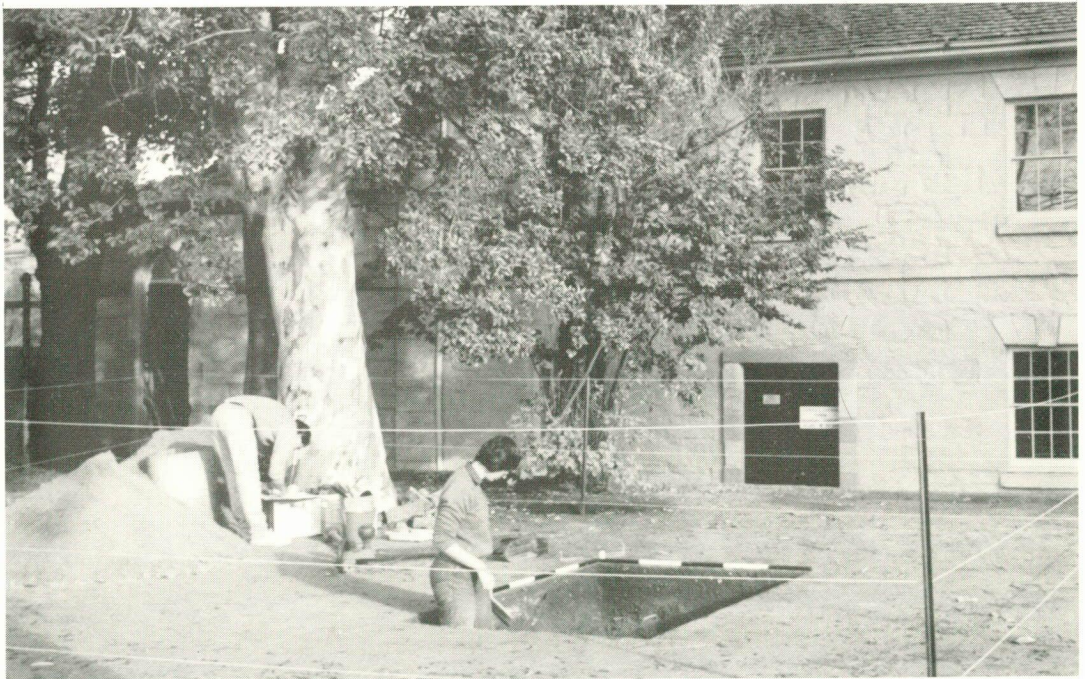
The Service has continued its involvement in the management of historic resources at all levels of the organisation. The regional review program, which has been conducted over the past two years, has identified a large and varied resource within Service managed areas. In the Western Region alone some 180 Historic Places have now been listed in the Service's Historic Place Register, compared with only 20 recorded prior to the review. The review of the Northern Region has identified a further 242 Historic Places and made recommendations concerning future management. A total of 915 Historic Places, primarily in Central and South Eastern Regions, have now been entered into the Service's database.

The Historic Resources Unit has conducted training schools in South Eastern, Western and Central Regions, and addressed a regional staff meeting in the Northern Region.

This training function is seen as an essential vehicle for utilising the potential of field staff in a more informed and active approach to historic resource management.

The unit continued to provide conservation advice to field managers and participated in liaison with a variety of Government and private organisations.

In response to proposals for the redevelopment of West Circular Quay the Service liaised with Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority and the Public Works Department concerning landscaping plans for the forecourt of Cadman's Cottage Historic Site. The land on which this cottage stands has been continuously occupied since 1797. Documentary sources have been unable to tell the full story of this site. Consequently, the Service funded an archaeological excavation to provide information on changes to the site. The excavation demonstrated the dramatic changes in the landscape of the site. The



The Service funded an archaeological excavation of Cadman's Cottage Historic Site during the year. The excavation demonstrated the dramatic changes which have taken place to the landscape of this site during its continuous occupation since 1797.

beach was originally about two metres below the level of the cottage door. Reclamation works, probably in the 1860s or 1870s, raised the level to approximately that of the door and by the 1970s landscaping works had raised the level by a further metre.

Conservation works on one of the most fragile buildings at Hartley Historic Site, the Shamrock Inn, have been completed. The stabilisation of this building in its final moment of decay was difficult and is an innovative project in the field of building conservation. Works are nearing completion on the former Post Office and Old Trahlee, and leasing arrangements are currently being pursued. A basic program of planning, documentation and stabilisation is also a high priority at Hill End Historic Site intended to hasten the leasing of a variety of its buildings.

A group of huts in Wollemi National Park, primarily related to former pastoral activity, were recorded and assessed by district staff. Conservation advice provided for the stabilisation and repair of two slab sheds at Cattai State Recreation Area (SRA). Preliminary historic resource surveys have been carried out for Bungonia, Lane Cove and Bass Point SRA's and research compiled for the Cable Station at La Perouse.

At Willandra National Park, formerly a large pastoral station, a works program, funded by the Boral Foundation, is underway. The ramshed has been rethatched and carpentry repairs completed. Tenders have been called for repairs to and adaptation of the homestead for use as a visitor centre.

Eden District has been the focus of considerable activity with the appointment of consultants for the Ben Boyd National Park Bicentennial Project. As part of this project conservation planning is being carried out for Davidson Whaling Station (recently gazetted as an Historic Site), Boyd's Tower and the Bittangabee Ruins. A program of conservation works, archaeological investigation and interpretative proposals will follow the initial research and analysis phase of this project.

ABORIGINAL SITE REGISTER

The primary registry functions proceeded smoothly throughout the year, with the accessioning of a further approximately 1000 Aboriginal sites and 65 reports of archaeological consultancies. The growth rate of the Sites Register was down from 10% to 6% p.a. this year, and that of the Report Catalogue stable at 6.5% p.a.

The Community Employment Program and the Youth Employment Scheme provided valuable labour assistance during the year, totalling some 50 person weeks. This additional labour offset the difficulties experienced when the computerisation program was suspended at the beginning of the year. Nonetheless, the access demands on the Register and Report Catalogue have continued at high levels (30 per month); most of these being serviced with the existing computer facilities. However, changes in the scope of demands, from one-off job-specific requests for information, to on-line electronic access to the system as a whole, by a number of Government land-managing agencies, has required re-specification of the computer and system requirements of the Section. This work was carried out during the year, for implementation in next year's head office computer program.

The Section processed some 230 Aboriginal Land Claims referred to the Service for comment. This work involved a high degree of interpretative resource modelling, a function likely to be placed on a more secure footing with the Section's projected computer developments.

The Section has supported a Commonwealth funded project to provide nominations of Aboriginal sites to the Register of the National Estate in Canberra. This largely documentary work will be completed early next year with the gazettal of about 120 sites.

State recreation areas were first established in 1974 following the 1973 commitment by the Government to an involvement in recreation and leisure. They were created as large parks of regional and state significance to provide our predominantly urbanised society with space for outdoor recreation and to relieve recreation pressure on the State's national parks.

CLASSIFICATION

The four categories of state recreation areas are determined by the natural resources in each area. These categories which cover 20 areas are:

* **Coastline**

The six areas are Bournda, Minnamurra, Munmorah, Glenrock, Booti Booti and Arakoon, covering the coastline from Merimbula to Kempsey

* **Water Storage**

The seven areas are Burrendong, Burrinjuck, Copeton, Glenbawn, Grabine, Lake Keepit and Wyangala, all in central N.S.W.

* **River Valley**

The five areas are Lane Cove River, Georges River, Davidson Park, Bents Basin and Cattai all in the Sydney Region

* **Special Interest**

The two areas are Bungonia in the southern tablelands near Goulburn and Illawarra Escarpment above Wollongong.

NEW STATE RECREATION - GLENROCK

During the year, Glenrock State Recreation Area was established by the notification of the first 150 hectares. This area, the first to be created in the Newcastle District, will be expanded to eventually stretch from Merewether Heights to Dudley and encompass attractive beaches, headlands and wet forest as well as Glenrock Lagoon after which this state recreation area is named.

An advisory committee chaired by the Local Member of Parliament, Mr J. R. Face, M.P., has been appointed to assist in the management and development of Glenrock State Recreation Area.

MANAGEMENT

State recreation areas are managed by trusts comprised primarily of representatives of local communities. Each trust is responsible for the care, control and management of its park and is a corporate body controlling its own finances. With the Minister's consent it is able to enter into leasing arrangements within its area of responsibility. The trusts make day-to-day management decisions including engaging and directing staff.

All trust vacancies are advertised in the local press to give the whole community the opportunity of applying for appointment.

During the year the terms of nine trusts expired. Eight of these were reconstituted and one whose term expired on 30 June 1986 was still under the consideration by the Minister at the end of the year. To those new members who volunteered their services over the years, the Service extends its thanks and appreciation.

A list of trust membership is given in Appendix A of this report.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Grabine and Wyangala State Recreation Area Trusts, jointly hosted the 12th Annual Conference which was attended by the Minister, 44 delegates representing the 18 trusts, guest speakers and Service officers.

The Minister presented certificates of service to 10 long serving trustees and addressed delegates on a number of matters including funding and how State Environmental Planning Policy No. 4 affects trusts in the areas of their planning and environmental



Trial Bay Prison, part of Arakoon State Recreation Area near Kempsey, celebrated its first 100 years in 1986.

considerations. The following trustees were re-elected as executive members of the Association of State Recreation Area Trustees for 1985-1986.

Mr Ben Nurse—Chair (Bungonia, representing specific interest areas)

Mr Nick Heagney—Deputy Chair (Copeton, representing water storage areas)

Mrs Vera Butler—Secretary (Munmorah, representing coastal areas)

Dr Brian Crabbe—Treasurer (Lane Cove River, representing river valley areas)

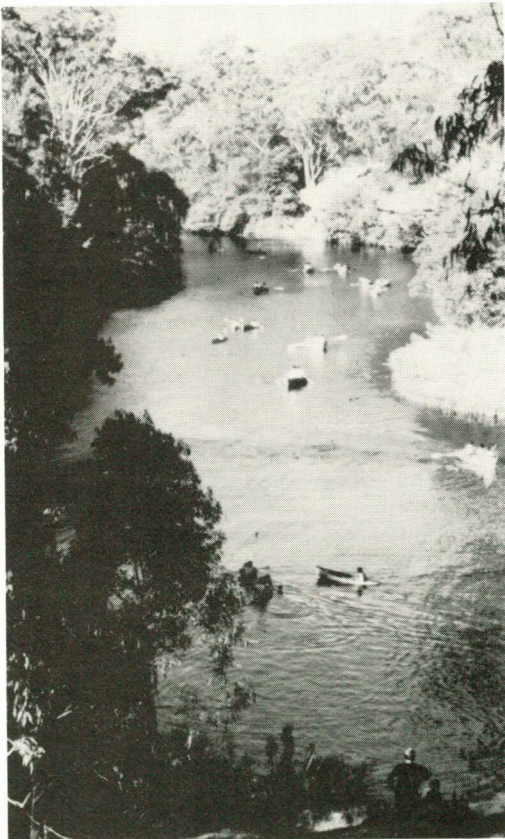
MANAGERS CONFERENCE

State recreation area managers attended a conference at North Head Quarantine Station between 19 and 22 November 1985. Topics covered included communication skills, training, prosecutions, law enforcement, financial management and project assessment.

Speakers included the Director of the Service, Mr John Whitehouse and Mr Charles Burford, Ph.D., who delivered the address on communication.



Water sports are the favourite activity at Georges River State Recreation Area.



Lane Cove River State Recreation Area offers excellent canoeing and rowing opportunities.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

The State Government allocation for state recreation area purposes during 1985-86 was \$2 721 800. This included arrears of payroll-tax amounting to \$462 763 payable by trusts under the grouping provisions of the Pay-Roll Tax Act 1971 dating back to 1976.

A further sum totalling \$1 750 258 has been approved by the State and Commonwealth Governments by way of unemployment relief funds and under a Commonwealth Government Natural Areas Enhancement Scheme (Bents Basin State Recreation Area). This amount includes actual expenditure during the year of \$387 635 in respect of which approvals had been given under Community Employment Program No. 2 during 1984-85.

Individual trusts have supplemented these funds by revenue raised directly from park entry fees, concession operations and camping and caravan fees etc. The total amount from these sources during 1985-86 was again in excess of \$2 million.

A special project involving a major development within Davidson Park Estate Recreation Area (Roseville Bridge -boat ramps and parking areas etc.) commenced during the year. This scheme is being financed jointly by the Public Works Department and the Trust is being undertaken as part of the Government's current Waterways Improvement Program.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The various employment programs funded are grouped as follows:

(1) **Youth Employment Schemes**

Stage 4— fifteen workers employed at 8 parks for periods ranging from 17 to 39 weeks. Total sum \$109 867.

Stage 5— twenty workers for 17 weeks at 7 parks. Total sum \$126 682.

Stage 6— fourteen workers for 17 weeks at 3 parks. Total sum \$73 464.

Stage 8— twenty-seven workers between 17 and 21 weeks at 13 parks. Total sum \$180 758.

(2) Community Employment Programs

Program No 2— Thirty-three persons were employed at 7 parks for periods ranging from 13 to 41 weeks. The total funds provided were \$439 948 and include an advance payment of \$45 757 made during the previous year to Georges River State Recreation Area.

Program No 3— Seventy-two persons were employed at 11 parks for periods from 13 to 44 weeks. The total funds amount to \$872 658.

The projects undertaken as part of the above programs included improvements to walking tracks, landscaping and picnic facilities.

PLANNING AND MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

(1) Planning

The major planning projects undertaken included the preparation of a conservation plan for Cattai State Recreation Area and action towards the completion of plans of management for a number of state recreation areas.

(2) Major Improvements

This year was mainly one of consolidation. Major improvement projects included:

- * the Natural Areas Enhancement Scheme at Bents Basin State Recreation Area
- * a major water supply project at Booti Booti State Recreation Area
- * boat ramps and parking area development at Davidson Park State Recreation Area (Roseville Bridge)
- * an effluent disposal system at Copeton State Recreation Area
- * the completion of a main entry point to Munmorah State Recreation Area and cottages at Cattai and Lake Keepit State Recreation Areas.

NATURAL AREAS ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

At Bents Basin State Recreation Area a program to improve access and picnic parking facilities was carried out with the aid of a special allocation provided by the Commonwealth Government. In February 1986, the Hon. Tom Uren M.P., the Commonwealth Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services officially opened the newly developed 'eastern paddock' sector.

Over recent years, widespread media coverage of conservation issues has raised the level of environmental awareness of many Australians. Consequently, the care, control and management of national parks is a matter of increasing interest to a variety of community groups.

The Service has statutory responsibilities to promote public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage. The Information Services Section, created to help meet these responsibilities, received close to 2000 telephone enquiries from the media, conservation groups, film companies and the public during the last year. A similar number of written enquiries was also answered. The increasing demand for information clearly indicates a strong community interest in the area of conservation.

In response to such enquiries the Information Services Section develops information and education programs to meet the perceived needs of the community; it also works closely with field managers, planners and recreation coordinators to develop the strategies and skills to communicate Service operations more effectively. During 1985-86, for example, the Section developed the public information program for the proposed draft of the Caldera National Park Plan of Management. Section staff also liaised closely with several districts in developing community information plans to precede the release of draft plans of management.

MEDIA LIAISON

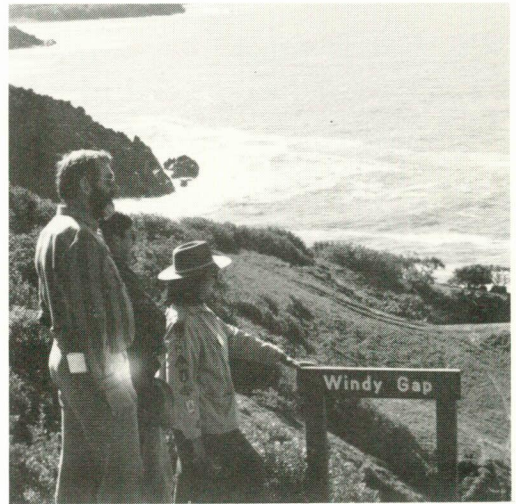
The media has given a high profile to Service initiated stories featuring the Minister, Director and Service officers. Rural newspapers, radio and television stations have been exceptionally responsive throughout the year in highlighting Service initiatives and news.

More than 300 Ministerial and local releases and specialised features were distributed to selected media outlets. Over 12 000 press clippings dealing with issues affecting the

Service were collected. The Service's first regional publicity officer was appointed to carry out media liaison in the Northern Region. Two media days for Service officers in the Narooma and Nowra Districts were held to train officers to use media outlets more efficiently.

Media highlights for 1985-86 include:

- * the Minister's attendance at the premiere of the film 'A Singular Woman' based on the life of Marie Byles, one of the founders of Bouddi National Park
- * the opening of a new headland walking track and visitor facilities by the Director in Hat Head National Park



New walking track and visitor facilities were opened at Windy Gap, Hat Head National Park during the year.

Photograph: Berkeley Wiles

- * the Premier's and the Minister's August on site announcement concerning the Katoomba additions to Blue Mountains National Park
- * the Premier's October announcement of the important Christmas Bell Plain addition to Lake Innes Nature Reserve
- * a one month promotion of N.S.W. national parks by radio 2CH



The then Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran Q.C., and the Minister announced the new Budderoo National Park near Kiama in January. Pictured at Minnamurra Falls within the park are Mr. Wran, chief ranger Annette Prehn and Shellharbour Mayor Ald. Bob Harrison.

- * the Premier's presentation to Ambassador Gough Whitlam of a copy of the N.S.W. rainforest world heritage nomination
- * Dr. James Thorsell's fact gathering tour of the rainforests of N.S.W. in response to their nomination for world heritage listing
- * the Director's announcement on important new CEP funded works in northern Yuraygir National Park
- * the Premier's and the Minister's announcement on the new Budderoo National Park near Kiama
- * the Minister's announcement on the acquisition of Zanci station, which now makes Mungo National Park twice its original size
- * the Minister's announcement on the protection of remnant littoral rainforest along the N.S.W. coastline
- * the Minister's inauguration of WIRES (Wildlife Rescue and Information Service)
- * the Minister's announcement on a large conservation package focusing on the new Tyagarah Nature Reserve between Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads

RURAL EXTENSION

Mobile Wildlife Unit

The Service is aware of the importance in reaching the rural community with relevant conservation and land-use practice information. Agricultural shows and field days provide a forum for Service extension officers to meet landowners and managers and discuss issues of mutual interest. The Service's Mobile Wildlife Unit provided a focus for displays on national park management, state recreation areas and conservation of wildlife on farms at the Orange National Field Days, Mudgee Small Farms Field Days and Ag-Quip in the past year. In addition, the Service's mobile unit attended many schools, fairs, and regional agricultural shows. A Bicentennial grant to produce several new mobile exhibits has been approved. The exhibits will be used in rural areas to promote a better awareness of wildlife conservation issues and the role the Service plays in this area.

Duck season publicity

Duck hunters, rural landowners and regional media were advised about the requirements for the 1985 duck season through personal addresses to hunting clubs, visits to radio, television and newspaper offices in the Riverina and in northern Victoria, and through the distribution of media releases and articles. Liaison with research and law enforcement officers and district staff ensured a coordinated approach to the campaign.

Trees on farms

The intergovernmental farm tree program, designed to encourage rural landowners to realise the benefits of retaining natural vegetation, both for themselves and for wildlife, continued throughout the year. Extension officers from the Service addressed advisory officers of the Forestry, Agriculture and Soil Conservation Departments at seminars held in Armidale, Goulburn, Orange and Coffs Harbour and at two field days held near Bungendore.

Rural issues

'Rural Issues', a booklet informing the rural community on important conservation issues, is undergoing revision. The new issue, which will address such topics as Service control of feral animals and noxious weeds, the management of dingoes and kangaroos, fire suppression guidelines and public contribution to plans of management, will be available in early 1987.

Fruit bat policy publicity

A public relations program was implemented immediately following the protection of fruit bats earlier this year. The campaign, aimed primarily at orchard growers, publicised the reasons for the protection of the fruit bat and the methods of protecting fruit crops. The program will continue in 1986-87.

Wildlife refuges

Properties on which landholders and the Service cooperate to conserve native wildlife may be designated as wildlife refuges. Such refuges complement national parks and nature reserves, some forming wildlife corridors between these areas. Other refuges may provide educational resources for a local community. This year 37 new refuges, with a total area of 93 352 hectares, were proclaimed; only four refuges were revoked. Additions to three refuges totalled 1 827 hectares. There are now 492 wildlife refuges in N.S.W., covering 1.7 million hectares.

ANIMAL RESCUE

The Wildlife Rescue and Information Service (WIREs) was launched by the Minister for Planning and Environment in March. This volunteer group rescues and cares for sick, injured and orphaned native animals in the Sydney metropolitan area. On recovery the animals are released in the general locality where they were found. A network of veterinarians is on call to treat animals in need of medical attention. Several workshops to train potential rescuers on animal first-aid have been held and 60 volunteer rescuers

have been authorised by WIRES. The Wildlife Rescue and Information Service fulfils a valuable need to provide an animal rescue service within metropolitan Sydney which cannot be catered for by Service resources.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Articles

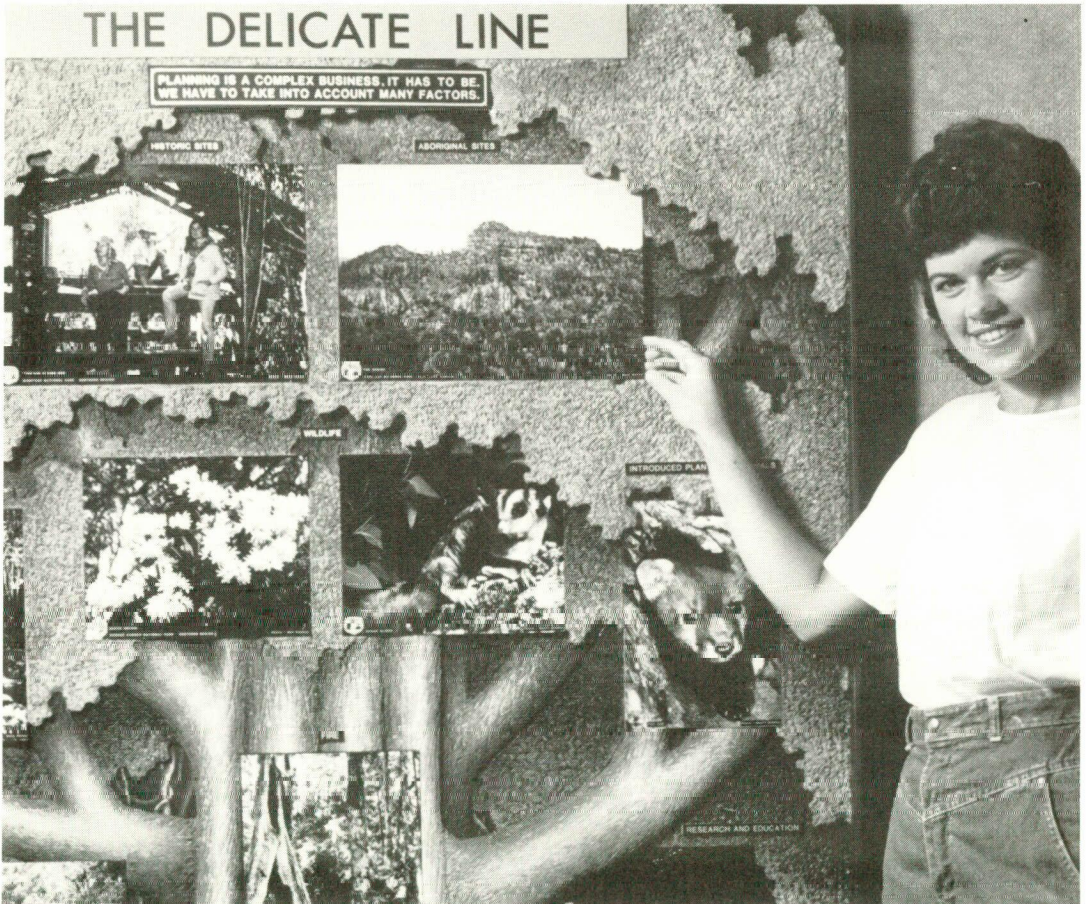
The Information Services Section makes extensive use of newspapers, specialist journals and magazines to publicise relevant information. During the year Information and Education staff contributed rural orientated articles to 'Town and Country Farmer', 'Field and Game News', 'Agricultural Digest', 'Australian Ranger Bulletin' and 'Farm'.

Radio and television

The Service continues to use radio and television to inform and educate the public on a range of important issues. During the year Service officers used local radio in Grafton, Lismore, Port Macquarie, Nowra and Bega to address a variety of subjects including park management, seasonal holiday programs and care of native animals.

Information staff also initiated a wildlife talkback program on ABC rural radio. This supplements the existing weekly segment which is restricted to a 150km range around Sydney.

'Wildlife Talkback', the Service's rural newsletter aimed to complement the radio



Public information dissemination on the planning for northern rainforest parks was greatly enhanced by exhibitions, such as the one pictured, which toured local shopping centres and clubs.

programs, continues to keep refuge owners in touch with wildlife conservation activities in country areas.

Extension staff also make a fortnightly appearance on Channel 9's 'Today Show'. Each program reaches over 1 million people.

Bird trading policy

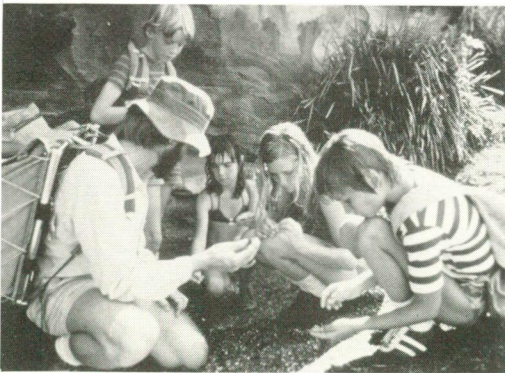
A publicity campaign on a new policy for bird traders was also implemented during the year. The publicity, which involved a planned combination of press releases, media interviews, face-to-face meetings with interest groups and articles for relevant newsletters, aimed to ensure the smooth introduction of new regulations for the trade of native birds.

PUBLICATIONS

The popular 'Aussie Trees Please' teacher's kit was revised during the year. It will complement other kits designed to assist teachers in environmental education activities. All kits are proving extremely popular.

An addition to the series titled 'Why National Parks?' is currently being illustrated. It will be on sale in early 1987.

Two new activities posters have been produced under the sponsorship of the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation. The posters, titled 'Endangered Animals' and



The Service has produced a number of teachers' kits designed to assist educators in helping children understand man's relationship with the environment.

Photograph: Gary Steer

'Small Animals of N.S.W.' are accompanied by a guide to assist teachers working with children.

The Section also produced two issues of 'Parks and Wildlife News', the Service's free public information newspaper giving a guide to the national parks and reserves of N.S.W., the quarterly staff newsletter 'Napawi' and two issues of 'Wildlife Talkback'.

Three national park photo posters depicting scenes from Blue Mountains, Kosciusko, and Border Ranges National Parks were also released during the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Staff from the Information Services Section have actively promoted environmental education throughout the year. Liaison and cooperation with educational and environmental organisations included:

- * addresses to trainee teachers on environmental education
- * liaison with the N.S.W. Association of Fauna and Marine Parks in the production of suitable educational material
- * assisting in the planning of the Towra Point Education Centre and Maroota Bicentennial project
- * presentation of papers at the International Wetlands Symposium, the Service Historic Sites Schools and the orientation school for rangers and other new staff
- * presentation of papers at the Second National Environmental Education Seminar and associated workshops.

Service officers also presented the 1986 National Parks Association lecture series. The lectures, which featured Mootwingee, Blue Mountains, Morton/Budawang National Parks and the Caldera rainforest parks, covered their natural and cultural history and particular management issues relevant to each park. Field trips which followed each set of lectures were well patronised. The series has been well received by National Parks Association members.

SEASONAL RANGER PROGRAM

Since 1968 the Service has provided specially trained seasonal rangers to conduct environmental awareness programs at selected national parks and nature reserves during school holidays.

Originally funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the Service contributed \$40 000 this year to the \$175 000 program.

The 1985 program was very successful. Press coverage has never been greater. There was also considerable radio and television coverage especially in rural areas. Many 'magazine' programs are now promoting the holiday program as a regular feature. Radio and shopping centre based competitions also highlighted the program and pre-holiday publicity in local schools involved many people who live adjacent to national parks.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

Two temporary staff employed in the Information Services Section under the Youth Employment Scheme have made a valued contribution to the Section's work. Much of their time has been spent dispatching information materials to the public in response to written and telephone enquiries.

WILDLIFE ILLUSTRATION SCHOLARSHIP

The annual Wildlife Illustration Scholarship was awarded to Lee Hewitt to develop her skills in printmaking using marine motifs. The \$1 500 grant has been awarded since 1984 to assist postgraduate students at Newcastle College of Advanced Education.

INFORMATION AND SALES CENTRE

The fit-out of the Service's proposed new information centre is nearing completion. The new centre, readily accessible from the street level at 189 Kent Street, will open in September 1986. It will cater to a variety of needs through the sale of a wide range of

'environmentally orientated' goods. A full range of national park maps, walking track information, books, posters, stationery and toys will be available at this 'one stop nature shop'.

LIBRARY

The Service's library at head office not only provides a centralised information resource to all staff, but also services outside organisations, students and other members of the public.

The library collection is broad, reflecting both the diverse requirements and the specialist needs of the Service. There is particular emphasis on the natural sciences, ecology, resource management, conservation, recreation, Aboriginal culture and Australian history.

As well as providing information services the library issues a monthly library information bulletin which advises staff on library acquisitions and news of events and conferences. Its current awareness bulletin 'Current Contents in the Library' is also widely used, especially by country-based staff.

During the year the library acquired more than 1000 books and added 24 periodicals to its subscriptions list; in addition, almost 5000 loans were recorded.

The library's participation in the current Youth Employment Scheme has resulted in an extra staff member for part of the year. This has made it possible to maintain the library's opening hours, and to produce a complete list of its journal holdings.

THE FUTURE

The success that the Service has already attained in promoting public awareness of the N.S.W. national park system specifically, and conservation issues in general, is increasingly reflected in requests for further information from diverse and geographically dispersed individuals and groups. The Section will continue to meet this expanding demand with the most imaginative yet efficient and effective means available.

The Personnel Section undertook the review and redrafting of a number of policies and procedures during the year. Material provided to new employees at induction has been extensively revised and will be available for issue later in 1986.

Draft policies on both ranger transfer and repetition strain injury management were forwarded and evaluated by trade unions.

The Ranger Transfer Policy requires all staff employed as Rangers to be prepared to accept relocation at least on a seven year basis. Applications for voluntary transfer will be called for in August each year and those staff will be able to nominate their preferred locations.

The Repetition Strain Injury Policy was formulated after a meeting of head office keyboard staff with management and union officials. Effective preventative measures were implemented and affected employees were assisted to return to normal duties gradually. From a 53% injury rate for keyboard staff early in 1985 there were no persons affected at 30 June 1986. The Public Service Association has been supplied with a copy of the draft policy and its comments will be included in the final draft. The Service is most appreciative of the assistance given by the PSA's Occupational Health and Safety Officer Mr Terry Hannan as well as local officials in solving this most vexing problem.

Provisions relating to maternity and adoption leave have been changed to coincide with revised Public Service Board instructions, and brochures detailing these provisions have been prepared.

The Personnel Section reinstated a program of visits to district and regional offices as part of the commitment to provide personal service to all staff employed in the Service.

The Aboriginal Trainee Ranger Scheme is a unique program devised by the Service in 1982 as an affirmative action strategy to enhance and accelerate the employment of Aboriginals as rangers. Of the original intake, two trainees have graduated one year ahead of schedule and they will be offered permanent appointment as rangers.

Negotiations have been successfully concluded with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations to provide funding assistance under the NESAs scheme to allow the Service to expand this program. Another seven trainees will commence in July, 1986.

STAFF

The Service's approved staff ceiling for Public Service Act positions was 633 as at 30 June 1986. The figure as at 1 July 1985 was 606.

The approved staff ceiling for Section 8 positions as at 30 June 1986 was 120, compared with 103 at 1 July 1985.

The actual number of positions filled by the Service as of 30 June 1986 is as follows:

Director	1
Head office staff	190
Regional staff	55
District staff	328
State recreation area staff	28

Total: 602

Section 8 positions filled = 119

STAFF TRAINING

The Service now operates its residential training centre at the Quarantine Station within Sydney Harbour National Park.

Courses conducted at the centre through 1985-86 included orientation, ranger induction, situational leadership, fire management reviews and a fire research seminar. Other courses conducted were air photo interpretation at Mt. Seaview and natural areas resource documentation at Burrinjuck State Recreation Area.

The appointment of two training officers during the year facilitated the establishment of the regional staff development committee system. Elections for vocational representatives for four of the staff

development committees were held in May 1986. Other projects due for completion early in the next financial year include the Staff Training and Development Survey (STAD) and a draft state wide policy and procedures handbook on staff training and development. In March 1986 the Director issued a policy and procedure statement for attendance at external conferences, seminars and workshops, thus providing guidelines on another avenue for training and development.

The Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education has proposed the introduction of a Degree of Applied Science which contains park management and cultural resource strands. The Service is represented on the evaluation committee established under the auspices of the Higher Education Board. If the degree is offered, Service officers who have gained the Associate Diploma of Park Management will be able to attain degree status after a further program of study.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Service has continued to take initiative in developing and implementing policy on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). The appointment of a permanent EEO Coordinator and the establishment of regional and head office staff development committees will facilitate a coordinated approach to identifying priorities in the area of EEO.

A first step in implementing EEO initiatives is the identification of disadvantaged groups. Such groups include women, aborigines, people of ethnic origin and the disabled.

The Service, through its staff development committees has implemented the following initiatives concerning such groups:

- * the identification of 42 positions suitable for Aboriginal people including 20 park worker positions and 9 support staff
- * the employment of 7 trainee Aboriginal rangers

- * an increase in hands-on training for park workers including 4-wheel drive vehicle courses and chainsaw operation instruction
- * a strategy for overcoming the isolation problems of Service personnel working in remote areas. The plan involves regular liaison through regional networking and training course attendance
- * the organisation of a four-day conference last October for the state recreation area managers. The conference not only acted as a forum for discussion on a range of issues covering isolation, management training and organisational lines of control, but also provided an opportunity for attendees to undergo negotiation skills training
- * the appointment of a disabled person to assess and evaluate the needs of disabled persons with respect to wheelchair access to park facilities and amenities such as visitor centres, picnic areas, park features and accommodation complexes. The statewide survey will be complete by June 1987
- * the organisation of a seminar planned for October 1986 designed to make senior management and supervisors more aware of the issue of homosexuality and accompanying concern with Acquired-Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- * the recruitment of female staff into supervisory and management positions; for example 16% of promotions in the past year have gone to women; 44% new staff appointments are women; 50% ranger intake are women; 17 women were appointed to non-traditional areas.

Future initiatives in the area of EEO will include the establishment of a grievance counselling service, job-rotation schemes and further identification of positions within the Service suitable for disabled staff and people of ethnic background.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The Service has maintained its heavy commitment to Community Employment Programs (CEP), funded jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments and Youth Employment Schemes (YES), fully-funded by the State Government. In the 1985-86 financial year, a further \$4.25 million was approved to fund 61 projects

under CEP while a further \$1.75 million was made available to engage persons under YES. These grants provided employment opportunities for 345 and 285 people respectively.

These allocations bring the total funds approved for employment programs since February 1984 to almost \$16 million as may be seen from table 7.

TABLE 7

INTAKE	NO. OF POSITIONS	FUNDS
CEP		
February 1984	406	5 519 829
February 1985	143	2 260 612
February 1986	345	4 188 845
	894	12 069 286
YES		
March 1984	198	1 144 250
September 1984	131	770 507
February 1984	40	223 555
July 1985	75	498 157
October 1985	68	398 898
February 1986	61	344 571
May 1986	81	510 182
	654	3 890 120
TOTAL:	1 548	15 959 406

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has now become one of the leading consumers of employment programs in N.S.W. and has gained an excellent reputation in the manner in which the programs have been administered. Both CEP and YES programs have been extremely successful in that they have enabled large numbers of previously unskilled and unemployed people to gain work experience and training in a vocational area. At the same time the public of the State has been a beneficiary in that the Service has been able to complete projects and pursue initiatives that otherwise would not have been possible.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Service has continued to pursue effective industrial policies and practices. This approach has been reflected by a total absence of lost days through industrial stoppages related to Service issues.

The Public Service Association of N.S.W. and the Australian Workers' Union cover the majority of Service personnel although there are 15 unions involved in the representations of Service staff. Regular contact has been maintained between the Service and the unions and meetings have been convened as



Service aircraft play an important role not only in aerial survey work, but also in the efficient transportation of staff to remote Service areas.

Photograph: Wayne Lawler

necessary either to discuss the planning of matters of mutual interest or to resolve contentious issues.

FLIGHT SECTION

The Service's Gazelle 341G helicopter crashed in Kosciusko National Park on 13 December 1985. Although the aircraft was damaged beyond repair, the pilot escaped unhurt and the crewman sustained only a minor injury. Aircraft replacement has been delayed pending a comprehensive review of the respective merits of buying versus hiring a helicopter.

The Partenavia P68 has been sold and replaced by a Rockwell Aerocommander 690. This high-speed, twin-turbo prop, fixed-wing aircraft became operational in August 1985 and its value for the effective transportation of staff soon became apparent.

Total flying hours for Service aircraft during 1985-86 were:

Gazelle Helicopter	462
Partenavia P68	79
Cessna 206U	812
Aerocommander	457

Total: 1 810 hours

STRUCTURE OF WORKFORCE

Division	Classification	Number	% Total	
A & C	Executive	1	0.1	
	Section Head	8	1.0	
	Clerk	84	11.8	
	Clerical Assistant	42	5.8	
	Stenographer	15	2.1	
	Typist	29	4.0	
	Other	2	0.3	
			181	25.1
Professional (Scientific) (Law Enforcement)	Executive	2	0.3	
	Ranger	92	12.8	
	Senior Ranger	35	4.9	
	Chief Ranger	6	0.8	
	Superintendent	12	1.7	
	Regional Director	4	0.5	
	Section Head	11	1.5	
	Scientific Officer	60	8.2	
	Technical Officer	16	2.2	
	Investigator	7	1.0	
	Draftsperson	15	2.1	
	Architects	8	1.1	
	Other	17	2.4	
			285	39.5
	General	Managers etc. SRA	25	3.5
Tradesmen		20	2.7	
Wages field staff		71	9.8	
Stores Officer		4	0.6	
Aboriginal Sites Officer		7	1.0	
Technical Assistant		2	0.3	
Maintenance staff		7	1.0	
		136	18.9	
Persons employed under Section 8 (a) of National Parks and Wildlife Act	(Mainly Park workers)	119	16.5	
		721	100	



The Foundation provided \$150 000 towards funding the 1985-86 Seasonal Ranger Program which provides staff for special interpretation programs that introduce thousands of park visitors to the many aspects of our natural and cultural heritage.

Photograph: Bini Malcolm

The National Parks and Wildlife Foundation of N.S.W. is a private fundraising organisation formed in 1969 to further the interests of conservation by providing financial support to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Funds raised by the Foundation are used to finance projects decided upon jointly by the Foundation and the Service. The Trustees of the Foundation comprise a representative cross-section of the community dedicated to the support of our natural and cultural heritage. The Foundation is incorporated under the Companies Act and is registered as a charity.

Foundation funds have helped to buy land for reservation as national parks and reserves, support scientific research programs for the conservation of endangered flora and fauna species and preserve important historic sites.

During 1985-86, the Foundation again supported the Service in its public awareness program and funded the Seasonal Ranger program. The National Parks and Wildlife Mobile Unit, also funded by the Foundation, travelled extensively throughout N.S.W. bringing the conservation message to country shows, remote schools and civic centres throughout N.S.W. Funds have also been allocated to the production of posters, brochures and teaching kits.

Some of the specific projects funded by the Foundation out of more than \$5.5 million raised since 1970 have been:

- * the purchase of land to establish Kinchega National Park and the Mootwingee Historic Site (\$302 000)
- * the restoration program for Hill End Historic Site (\$225 000)
- * the Lord Howe Island woodhen captive breeding project (\$260 000)
- * the purchase of land for the establishment of Willandra National Park and the restoration of the shearer's quarters (\$122 840)
- * the purchase of land for addition to Myall Lakes National Park (\$150 000)
- * the acquisition of land for the creation of Mungo National Park (\$101 000)

- * the yellow-footed rock wallaby study project (\$98 000)
- * the purchase of land for addition to Bouddi National Park (\$401 505)
- * the Seasonal Ranger Program 1986 (\$150 000)

The Foundation's primary aim is to create public awareness of the importance of our natural and cultural heritage; to this end it needs the continuing support of the community.

More and more people are expressing their support by joining the Foundation.

For more details on Foundation activities and membership and how you can become involved, write to:

The Chief Executive
National Parks and Wildlife Foundation of
N.S.W.

G P O Box 2666
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2001

Telephone: (02) 27-7971

STATE RECREATION AREA TRUSTEES

Trustees of State Recreation Areas who held office as at 30 June 1986.

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Mr D.W.K. McKay
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Mr G.D. Bowe
Mr G.D. Cordery
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Mr B.H. Jefferies
Mr R.N. Johnson
Mr W.A. Newman
Mr D.C. Scott
Mr D.H. Tibbett

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Mr W.N.R. Brisbane
Mrs A.H. Clarke
Mr G.D. Miller
Mr W. Mowbray
Mr N.H. Robinson

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Dr B.D. Crabbe
Dr P.W. Donovan
Mr A.G. Johnston
Ms N.M. Monaghan
Mr P.J. Murray
Ms H.M. Petersen
Mr R. V. Yeates

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AREA

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Mr B.S. Collier
Mrs L.A. Fellows
Mr K.C. Graham
Mr R.F. Kady
Mr G.W. O'Dell

WYANGALA STATE RECREATION
AREA

Mr W.G. Spink, President
Mr B.A. Cass
Mr G.P. Gorham
Mrs M.E. Hall
Mr W.D. Kibbler
Mr J.N. Mallon
Mr C.J. Reid
Mr V.T. Roworth
Mr W.D. Warden

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Armidale District

The Minister has approved a new committee to advise on various national parks and nature reserves in the Service's Armidale District including Apsley Gorge, Yarrowitch Gorge, Warrabah and Werrikimbe National Parks. The committee will also advise on the proposed Oxley Wild Rivers National Park when this area has been reserved.

Barrington Tops National Park

Mrs B. Adams (Chairperson)
Mr G. Armstrong
Mr J. Brown
Mr M. Fallding
Mr G. King
Miss M. Mason
Mr D. Pearson
Dr J. Turner
Mrs S. Vernon

Botany Bay

The Minister has approved the expansion of the former Botany Bay Historic Sites Advisory Committee to include Towra Point Nature Reserve and Botany Bay National Park. Membership is currently under consideration by the Minister.

Broadwater/Bundjalung National Parks

Mr M. Kaveney, (Chairperson)
Dr M. Greenway
Mrs M. Henderson
Mr G. Henderson
Mr J. McMahon
Mr G. Oliver
Mr D. Parkinson
Mr R. Watts
Ms I. Wingfield

Budawang/Morton National Parks

Mr C. Watson (Chairperson)
Mr M. Atkins Ms D. Black
Mr R. Doughton
Mr P. Hancock
Mr C. Nicholson
Mr A. Robinson
Mr R. Snedden
Mr B. Temple

Crowdy Bay/Hat Head National Parks

Mr J. Mills (Chairperson)
Mrs L. Allen
Mr P. Booker
Mr W. Davidson
Mr R. Garven
Mrs D. Johnston
Mr D. O'Sullivan
Mr M. Ralph
Mr R. Stanley
Mr W. Woodgate

Deua/Wadbilliga National Parks *

Mr A. Black (Chairperson)
Mr M. Austin
Mr J. Brush
Mr M. Donoghoe
Mr R. Fryer
Mr D. McDonald
Mr V. Pickering
Mr L. Shaw
Mr K. Traise

Dorrigo District

Mr P. Metcalfe (Chairperson)
Mr M. Barrett
Mr K. Bowie
Mrs P. Christiansen
Mr G. Edwards
Mr W. Iggulden
Mr A. Johnston
Dr A. McClure
Mr T. Pike
Mr W. Sheather
Mr J. Williams

Eden District

Mr A. Armstrong (Chairperson)
Mr M. Andren
Mrs M. Cocks
Mr R. Elliott
Mr M. Harewood
Mr J. Herrick
Mrs H. Meek
Mr T. Stephen
Mr E. Taylor
Mr K. Turnbull

* The term of appointment of all members of the committee expired before 30 June 1986. Membership is currently being examined.

Glenn Innes District

Mr B. Brooks (Chairperson)
Mr P. Andrew
Mrs B. Crofts
Dr H. Ford
Mrs W. Kent
Mr H. McCowen
Mr S. Mussared
Ms L. Post
Mr G. Robinson
Ms C. Smith

Greater Blue Mountains

Mr P. Barnes, A.M. (Chairperson)
Mr W. Armstrong
Dr S. Cardale
Mr L. Davis
Mr M. Dunphy, A.O.
Mr R. Jones
Dr K. King
Mr P. Mears
Mr R. Nimmo
Mr J. Wrigley

Hartley Historic Site

Mr R. Morris (Chairperson)
Mr A. Butta
Ms L. Casey
Mr R. Fragar
Mr J. Lesslie
Mr J. Luchetti
Mr A. Ryan

Hawkesbury District

Mr J. Tasker (Chairperson)
Dr P. Armstrong
Mr P. Conacher
Mr J. Fulton
Mrs M. Gerke
Mr N. Hewitt
Mr R. Howard
Mr E. Moore
Mr J. Sharpe
Mrs B. Strom

Hill End Historic Site

Mr P. Johnson (Chairperson)
Mrs A. Abbott
Mr E. Abbott
Mrs J. Gilmore
Dr R. McLachlan
Mr B. Montgomery
Cr J. Stuart
Mr J. Watson

Kosciusko National Park

Mr A. Gardner, A.M., M.B.E., (Chairperson)
The Hon J. E. Akister, M.P.
Mr R. Allen
Miss C. Arrogante
Dr A. Costin, A.M.
Mrs Z. Doon
Dr R. Galloway
Mr H. Hamilton
Mr C. Mackay
Mr A. Martin
Mr D. Wimbush

Mount Kaputar National Park

Mr S. Lumsden (Chairperson)
Mr C. Cotton
Mr R. Gleeson
Mrs M. Harris
Mr D. Johns
Mr J. Michell
Mr D. Park
Mrs W. Patrick
Mr S. Smith

Mungo/Mallee Cliffs National Parks

Mr J. Malcolm (Chairperson)
Mr B. Ablett
Dr J. Bowler
Mr J. Hobbs
Mr T. Johns
Mrs A. Kelly
Mr R. Street

Myall Lakes/Tomaree National Parks

Mr H. Dorman (Chairperson)
Mr W. Alldritt
Cr J. Bartlett
Mr S. Bishop
Mrs E. Hughes
Mrs G. King
Mrs M. Martin
Mr J. McNaughton
Mr J. Quinn
Mr M. Rowe

Northern Rainforest National Parks

Mr P. Thew (Chairperson)
Mr I. Dixon
Mr M. Dougherty
Mr J. Hurley, O.A.M.
Mr S. King
Mr R. Kooyman
Mrs L. Mafi-Williams
Ms N. Nicholson

North Metropolitan District

Mr A. Terrey (Chairperson)
Mrs H. Cleland
Dr P. Coote
Mr K. Eggins
Dr H. Harding
Mrs E. Hartnell
Mr D. Pontin
Dr A. Rundle
Mr R. Sendt
Mr G. Williams

South Metropolitan District

Assoc. Prof. F. Thorvaldson (Chairperson)
Mr E. Bramble
Mr J. Callaway
Mrs J. Durbin
Mr A. Huggett
Mr M. Keane, M.P.
Mr B. Lee
Mr R. Michie
Mr M. Scott
Ms J. Sheppard
Cr K. Skinner

Sturt/Kinchega National Parks

Mr J. Caskey (Chairperson)
Mr I. Crossing
Mr D. Eldridge
Mrs N. Hoben
Mr E. Lowe
Mr F. Nicholls
Mr A. O'Brien
Mr G. Rawson

Throsby Park Historic Site

Mr K. Wilder (Chairperson)
Mrs E. Ashley
Prof K. Cable
Mrs K. Lampert
Mrs J. Ralph
Mrs D. Sears
Mrs M. Vanderschaar

Warrumbungle National Park

Mr J. Whitehead (Chairperson)
Mr H. Cay
Dr J. Dawe
Mr P. Flynn
Mr G. Frend
Mrs J. Judd
Mr T. Korn
Mr W. Parsons

Wollemi National Park

Mr P. Prineas (Chairperson)
Dr P. Adam
Mr W. Bean
Mr R. Hordern
Mr A. McNamara
Mr D. Noble
Mr I. Sim
Mrs R. Vermeulen
Mr K. Wilkinson
Mr J. Yarwood

Yuraygir National Park

Dr A. Lloyd (Chairperson)
Mr J. Adams Ms G. Caldwell
Mr W. Collingburn
Mr J. Garven
Mr W. Day
Mr P. Morgan Ms K. Joynes
Mr G. Slattery
Mr T. Want

DEVELOPMENT WORKS PROGRAM EXPENDITURE 1985-86

DEVELOPMENT	EXPENDITURE \$
NORTHERN REGION	
Armidale District	
Visitor facilities — Werrikimbe National Park	21 551
Lismore District	
Improvements — Woody Head Camping Area — Bundjalung National Park	21 273
Purchase computer equipment — Caldera Rainforest National Parks	7 025
Port Macquarie District	
Coastal rehabilitation — Kattang Nature Reserve and Hat Head National Park	9 665
General	
Planning and design	10 245
Fire and safety equipment	37 073
Aboriginal relics protection	9 272
Draft plan of management preparation — Caldera Rainforest National Parks	27 544
Crawler loader	20 000
Interpretation displays	11 565
Walking track maintenance — various areas	9 084
Dual bogie drive truck	47 128
Minor works program	15 687
	247 112
CENTRAL REGION	
Bathurst District	
Building restoration — Hill End Historic Site	17 270
District workshop construction	29 646
Blue Mountains District	
Plan of management preparation — Blue Mountains National Park	10 103
Building restoration — Hartley Historic Site	13 354
Completion Glenbrook workshop amenities block — Blue Mountains National Park	7 950
Hawkesbury District	
Fire trail reconstruction — various areas	14 603
Old Great North Road restoration — Dharug National Park	8 051
Hunter District	
Road reconstruction — Myall Lakes National Park	22 119
Broom control — Barrington Tops National Park	10 404
Bombah Point Ferry repairs — Myall Lakes National Park	68 381
North Metropolitan District	
Towlers Bay Cottage renovations — Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	16 002
Restoration of residences — Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	12 072
Bobbin Head Wharf restoration — Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	11 276
Fire modelling (PREPLAN)	8 344
South Metropolitan District	
Fire modelling (PREPLAN)	7 111
Sydney District	
Bare Island bridge repairs — Bare Island Historic Site	125 514
General	
Minor works program	70 970
	453 170

DEVELOPMENT**EXPENDITURE**

\$

WESTERN REGION

Cobar District

Building renovations — staff house 7 705

Coonabarabran District

Firebreak construction — Warrumbungle National Park 8 000

Boundary fencing — Warrumbungle National Park 7 000

Visitors Centre — Warrumbungle National Park 50 648

Griffith District

Boundary fencing — various areas 8 173

Upgrading of power supply — Willandra National Park 9 718

Kinchega District

Boundary fencing — various areas 7 995

Mootwingee District

Boundary fencing — Mootwingee National Park 7 982

Narrabri District

Boundary fencing — various areas 7 998

Tibooburra District

Upgrading of power supply 8 732

General

Radio communication and fire equipment — various areas 74 479

Aboriginal and historic site protection — various areas 14 101

Visitors centres and interpretation — various areas 12 874

Minor works program 111 576

336 981

DEVELOPMENT**EXPENDITURE**
\$

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Eden District

Ben Boyd Road maintenance — Ben Boyd National Park 19 451

Kosciusko District

Summit area restoration — Kosciusko National Park 57 049

Pest plant and animal control — Kosciusko National Park 17 542

Visitor facilities — Coolamine Mountain Rest Area - Kosciusko National Park 10 204

Nowra District

Conservation works — Throsby Park Historic Site 28 480

Pest plant and animal control — various areas 7 313

Plan of management preparation — Morton National Park 10 515

Construction of Ulladulla workshop 10 131

Visitor facilities — Murramarang National Park 29 827

Narooma District

Pest plant and animal control — Deua and Wadbilliga National Parks 9 019

Queanbeyan District

Pest plant and animal control — various areas 9 975

General

Preparation of fire management plans 68 718

Fire equipment 73 460

Pest plant and animal control — various areas 8 600

Fire suppression — Kosciusko National Park 30 000

Resource inventory — Eden woodchip concession area 26 231

Minor works program 20 614

437 129

HEAD OFFICE

Kalkari signs 21 932

Plant for radio tracking 34 572

Kangaroo survey contract 40 000

Tracktech radio tracking equipment 15 600

Cane toad research 20 000

Plant and equipment purchases 15 549

Fees — law enforcement consultancy 21 612

Computerisation of accounts and other records 364 775

Proposed sales information centre 27 307

Guthega development — legal costs 62 947

Purchase of aircraft and associated costs 679 264

Minor works program 26 461

1 330 019

DEVELOPMENT WORKS EXPENDITURE 1985-86 (BY CATEGORY)

	NORTHERN		CENTRAL		SOUTH EAST		WESTERN		HEAD OFFICE		TOTAL	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
A	14 267	5.8	4 147	0.9	6 262	1.4	14 101	4.2	1 001	0.1	39 778	1.5
B	14 740	5.9	—	—	84 736	19.4	4 500	1.4	—	—	103 976	3.8
C	27 554	11.2	31 403	6.9	84 759	19.4	—	—	—	—	143 716	5.2
D	—	—	14 783	3.3	56 242	12.9	69 411	20.6	20 000	1.6	160 436	5.9
E	—	—	42 081	9.3	28 480	6.5	4 988	1.5	3 000	0.2	78 549	2.9
F	121 470	49.2	98 687	21.8	114 319	26.1	158 348	46.9	1 176 844	94.0	1 669 668	61.2
G	69 091	27.9	262 069	57.8	62 331	14.3	85 633	25.4	51 090	4.1	530 214	19.5
H	247 122	100.0	453 170	100.0	437 129	100.0	336 981	100.0	1 251 935	100.0	2 726 337	100.0

A Aboriginal Site Protection

B Habitat Restoration and Environment Protection

C Management Planning

D Pest Plant and Animal Control

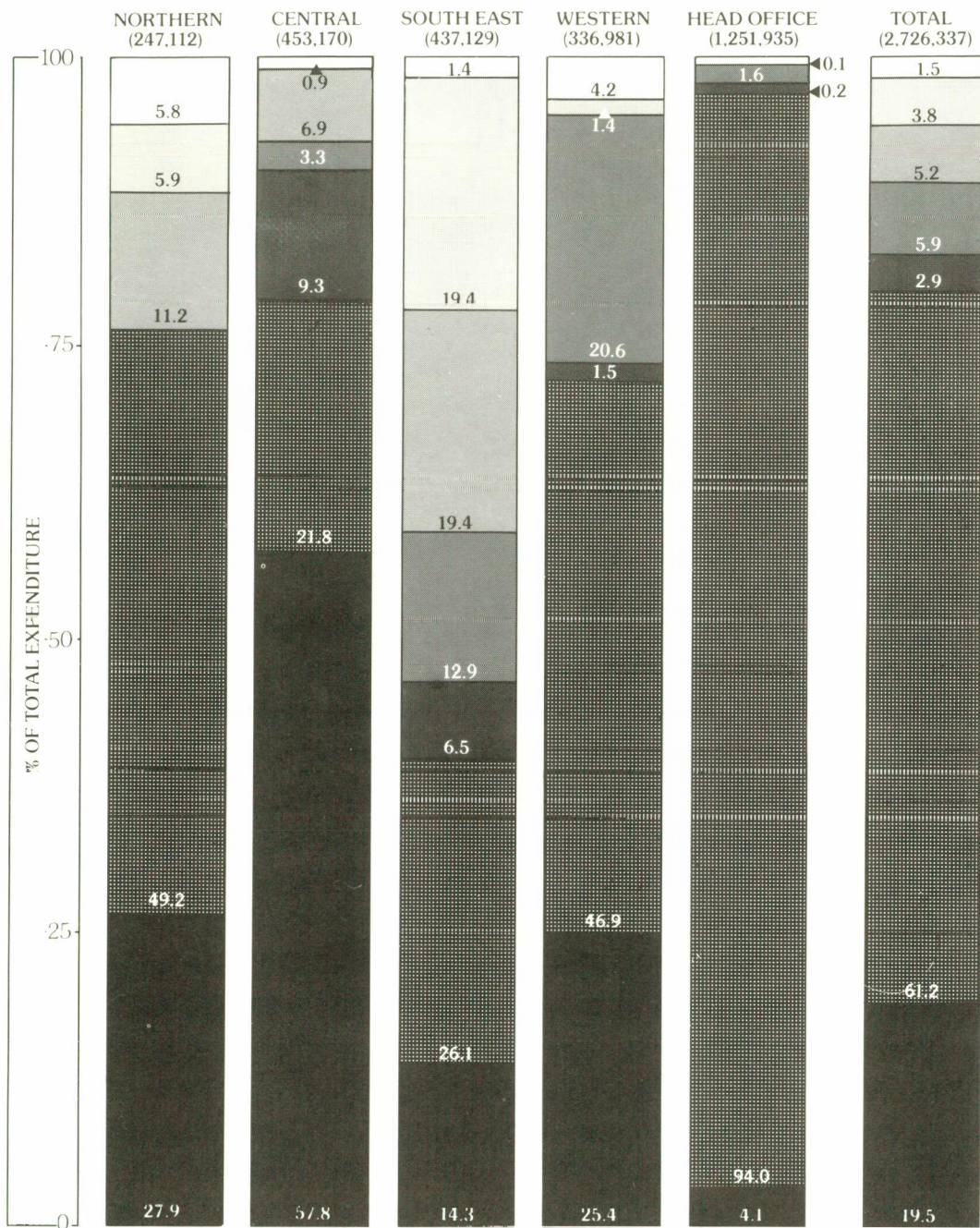
E Historic Restoration

F Management Facilities and Services

G Visitor Facilities

H Total

DEVELOPMENT WORKS PROGRAM EXPENDITURE 1985-86



EY

- Aboriginal site protection
- Management planning
- Management facilities and services
- Habitat restoration and environment protection
- Pest, animal and plant control
- Visitor facilities
- Historic restoration

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1986

Pursuant to Clause 8 of the Public Finance and Audit (Departments) Regulation 1986, I state that:

- (a) The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, its regulations and the Treasurer's directions.
- (b) The statements present fairly the receipts and payments of that part of the Consolidated Fund, and those accounts in the Special Deposits Account, operated by the Department; and
- (c) There are not any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



J. F. Whitehouse,
Director.
11 December, 1986

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1986

	NOTES	NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE FUND			TAXATION ACCOUNT			SUSPENSE			TOTAL	
		1984/85	1985/86		1984/85	1985/86		1984/85	1985/86		1984/85	1985/86
		ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	
RECURRENT SERVICES												
RECEIPTS												
Consolidated Fund	4	22,383	22,433	23,220				22,383	22,433	23,220		
Fees and Licences	5	3,344	3,717	3,421				3,344	3,717	3,421		
Rentals	6	1,968	1,741	2,399				1,968	1,741	2,399		
Royalties and Fines	7	126	150	229				126	150	229		
Sale of Government Property	8	637	628	814				637	628	814		
Miscellaneous and Recoveries	9(a)	344	591	258				344	591	258		
Total Recurrent Service's Receipts:		28,802	29,260	30,341				28,802	29,260	30,341		
PAYMENTS												
Salaries and Wages	11(a)	15,412	15,254	15,408				15,412	15,254	15,408		
Plant and Equipment	11(b)	1,615	1,705	2,071				1,615	1,705	2,071		
Maintenance of Park Facilities Roads Services etc.	11(c)	2,530	2,874	2,851				2,530	2,874	2,851		
Administrative and Working Expenses	11(d)	8,946	10,199	10,203				8,946	10,199	10,203		
Contribution to the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation	11(e)	50	50	50				50	50	50		
Total Recurrent Service's Payments:		28,553	30,082	30,583				28,553	30,082	30,583		

	NOTES	NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE FUND			TAXATION SUSPENSE ACCOUNT			TOTAL		
		1984/85	1985/86		1984/85	1985/86		1984/85	1985/86	
		ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES										
RECEIPTS										
Consolidated Fund	4	3,700	5,630	5,630				3,700	5,630	5,630
Miscellaneous	9(b)	—	363	455				—	363	455
<u>Total Capital Works & Service's</u>		<u>3,700</u>	<u>5,993</u>	<u>6,085</u>				<u>3,700</u>	<u>5,993</u>	<u>6,085</u>
Receipts:										
PAYMENTS										
Land Acquisition	12(a)	1,927	2,500	2,606				1,927	2,500	2,606
Development and Restoration Works and Services	12(b)	2,159	3,493	2,804				2,159	3,493	2,804
<u>Total Capital Works & Service's:</u>		<u>4,086</u>	<u>5,993</u>	<u>5,410</u>				<u>4,086</u>	<u>5,993</u>	<u>5,410</u>
Payments:										
SPECIAL PURPOSES										
RECEIPTS										
Consolidated Fund	4	3,187	2,451	2,452				3,187	2,451	2,452
Other Contributions, Grants, Donations etc.	10	8,402	—	11,412				8,402	—	11,412
<u>Total Special Purposes Receipts:</u>		<u>11,589</u>	<u>2,451</u>	<u>13,864</u>				<u>11,589</u>	<u>2,451</u>	<u>13,864</u>
PAYMENTS										
Other Programmes, Activities & Operations	10	10,426	2,451	13,090				10,426	2,451	13,090
<u>Total Special Purposes Payments:</u>		<u>10,426</u>	<u>2,451</u>	<u>13,090</u>				<u>10,426</u>	<u>2,451</u>	<u>13,090</u>
TAXATION SUSPENSE ACCOUNT										
RECEIPTS										
					125	—	31	125	—	31
PAYMENTS										
					—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL FUNDS TOTAL RECEIPTS										
		44,091	37,704	50,290	125	—	31	44,216	37,704	50,321
TOTAL PAYMENTS										
		43,065	38,526	49,084	—	—	—	43,065	38,526	49,084

PREVIOUS YEAR			ACCOUNT	CURRENT YEAR		
CASH	SECURITIES NOTE 3	TOTAL		CASH	SECURITIES NOTE 3	TOTAL
\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000	\$000	\$000
			1431 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE FUND 1431			
249		249	— Recurrent Services	7		7
36		36	— Capital Works and Services	639		639
(overdrawn) 2,166	12	(overdrawn) 2,178	— Specific Purposes	2,940	12	2,952
2,379	12	2,391	TOTAL Special Deposits Account 1431	3,586	12	3,598
			1178 PAYE TAXATION SUSPENSE ACCOUNT 1178			
254	—	254		285	—	285
254	—	254	TOTAL PAYE Taxation Suspense Account 1178	285	—	285
2,633	12	2,645		3,871	12	3,883

**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1986**

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND METHODS

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and do not include amounts owed to or by the Service at the close of the year.
- (b) All financial statements are based on conventional historical cost principles and do not take into account changing money values.
- (c) The cost of employee superannuation contributions is met directly by the Treasurer and are not included in the accounts.
- (d) The Service provides each year sufficient funds in its budget to meet benefits on a pay as you go basis for employee's annual and long service leave entitlements.
- (e) No allowance has been made within the accounts for depreciation of buildings or any other assets.
- (f) The cost of values of the following assets are not reflected in the accounts:
 - land;
 - buildings, fixtures, fittings and furniture;
 - plant, equipment and motor vehicles; and
 - the Service's collection of exhibits etc.

All outlays on these assets are 'expensed' in the year of acquisition.

- (i) The lands dedicated as national parks, nature reserves, historical sites, Aboriginal areas and state recreation areas are vested in the Crown. The care, control and management of national parks, nature reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal areas is the responsibility of the Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service, whilst appointed trustees are responsible for state recreation areas. At 30th June dedicated lands vested in the Crown comprised:

CATEGORY	1985	HECTARES	1986	HECTARES
	NUMBER		NUMBER	
National parks	66	2,845,146	66	2,872,012
Historic sites	13	2,873	14	2,882
Nature reserves	168	499,957	173	508,251
Aboriginal areas	8	86	9	11,519
State recreation areas	19	20,385	20	20,532
	274	3,368,447	282	3,415,196

It is considered inappropriate to attempt to value the land given the statutory limitations of the purpose of the holding and their disposition.

- (ii) For insurance purposes buildings including internal fixtures, fittings and furniture were valued at \$27,698,350.00 at 30th June, 1986. It should be noted that the Service does not insure its historic properties for total reinstatement for the reason that the buildings have an intrinsic historical value which would be lost if the buildings were entirely destroyed. In addition, the insurance valuation does not include the value of buildings in national parks occupied by lease.
- (iii) The insured values of the Service's aircraft and marine hulls at 30th June, 1986, were \$550,000.00 and \$171,975.00 respectively. Motor vehicles are comprehensively insured and have been internally valued by the Service at \$4,666,500.00. The value of the Service's other plant and equipment is not known nor can it be readily established. All practical endeavours will be made to obtain and/or calculate the value of these assets and disclose it in the 1986/87 financial statements.
- (iv) The valuation of exhibits and antiques for insurance purposes is \$538,657.00.

- (g) The Service has kept proper accounts and records for all of its operations under section 45C of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983.
- (h) Current accounting standards and industry practices (where applicable) have been adhered to in preparing the accounts. Policies adopted are consistent with those applied in the previous year.
- (i) Any budget figures included in the financial statements have not been audited, their correctness therefore, has not been certified by the Auditor-General. It should be noted that the budgeted receipts and payments for Special Purpose fund only take into account the consolidated funds appropriations. The reason for this is that the Service is unable to forecast the funds to be contributed/granted from external sources in respect of such programmes, activities and operations as State/ Commonwealth unemployment relief programmes, scientific research, maintenance of park roads, etc.
- (j) An extension of 3 months to the period within which the financial statements are required to be submitted, was granted by the Treasurer in terms of section 45H(1) of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983. Additionally exemption has been granted by the Treasurer for the Service's financial statements for 1985/86 only, not including Table B as required by Treasurer's Directions 362.02 in accordance with regulation 3.3 of the Public Finance and Audit (Departments) Regulation, 1986. This exemption was granted because the information that would be included in this table is already detailed in Table A.
- (k) Exemption has been granted by the Treasurer to not include as required by regulation 5(H) of the Public Finance and Audit (Departments) Regulation, 1986, details of the previous year's commitments, because these records are not available.

2. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

The financial activities of the Service are recorded in the National Parks and Wildlife Fund within the Special Deposits Account at the State Treasury. Within the fund moneys received and disbursed fall into three broad categories, namely:

(a) RECURRENT SERVICES

This classification records the State Consolidated Fund Allocation and Service generated revenues which are expended on the day to day conservation of natural and cultural resources functions of the Service.

(b) CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES

Transactions relative to amounts made available from the State Consolidated Fund for expenditure on land acquisition and development and restoration of national parks, nature reserves, Aboriginal areas and historic sites are recorded within this category.

(c) SPECIAL PURPOSES

Receipts and disbursements classified under this heading relate to funds provided by the State and Federal Government or bodies, business and other private organisations and individuals for specific programmes, activities and operations. In addition, the purchase and sale of publications is recorded in this classification.

3. INVESTMENTS

Investments held by the Service as at 30th June, 1986, are shown below. Valuation is "at cost".

Special Purposes Fund	1985 \$	1986 \$
Conditional Donations, Bequests and Grants -		
Interest Bearing Deposits	<u>\$12,000</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>

4. CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATIONS

The Consolidated Fund Appropriations from the Minister for Planning and Environment for 1985/86 amounted to \$31,301,700 and comprised \$25,301,700 contribution to the National Parks and Wildlife Fund and \$6,000,000 for Capital Works and Services. The allocation of the Consolidated Fund Appropriations is identified below.

	1984/85 \$	1985/86 \$
Recurrent Services	<u>22,383,270</u>	<u>23,220,264</u>
Capital Works and Services (excluding State Recreation Areas) —		
Land Acquisition	1,341,000	2,426,494
Development Restoration	<u>2,359,000</u>	<u>3,203,506</u>
	<u>3,700,000</u>	<u>5,630,000</u>
Special Purposes —		
State Recreation Areas Grants —		
General Operating Costs	1,600,000	1,889,037
Development and Restoration	<u>800,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>
	<u>2,400,000</u>	<u>2,259,037</u>
Research	125,000	40,089
Coronial Enquiry	561,730	50,310
Environment Restoration	50,000	102,000
Other — Aboriginal Land Claims	<u>50,000</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>786,730</u>	<u>192,399</u>
	<u>\$29,270,000</u>	<u>\$31,301,700</u>

5. FEES AND LICENCES

Receipts comprised:

	1984/85 \$	1985/86 \$
Day Entry to National Parks and Historic Sites	1,819,852	2,003,417
Annual Entry Permits	742,835	530,554
Camping	355,833	387,159
General Licences, Mooring, Site and Other Park Use Fees	204,172	208,235
Game Licences	127,591	140,465
Trappers' and Dealers' Licences	60,123	96,400
Growers' Permits	3,888	3,358
Import/Export Permits	6,686	9,303
Aviary and Apiary Fees	17,001	26,959
Exhibitors' Licences	<u>6,300</u>	<u>15,500</u>
	<u>\$3,344,281</u>	<u>\$3,421,350</u>

6. RENTALS

Receipts comprised:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Rents —		
Commercial	1,189,482	1,384,857
Site	469,656	732,305
Rents — Head Office Working A/C	38,462	—
Cabin	152,090	136,079
Staff and Miscellaneous	118,454	145,390
	<u>\$1,968,144</u>	<u>\$2,398,631</u>

7. ROYALTIES AND FINES

Receipts comprised:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Royalties —		
Kangaroos	48,997	118,750
Other	2,637	7,526
Fines and Costs —		
Parking	72,368	98,868
Other	1,814	4,281
	<u>\$125,816</u>	<u>\$229,425</u>

8. SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Comprises sums realised from the:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Sale of —		
Motor Vehicles	612,680	771,744
Plant and Equipment	24,077	42,146
	<u>\$636,757</u>	<u>\$813,890</u>

9. MISCELLANEOUS AND RECOVERIES

(a) RECURRENT SERVICES

The amount received comprises:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Aircraft Hire	66,182	20,011
Private Phone Calls	9,240	16,742
Donations	1,493	1,653
Insurance Recoveries —		
Motor Vehicles	54,819	47,345
Workers Compensation	15,500	16,680
Other	12,123	22,285
Administrative Costs Recovered	121,363	84,241
Reimbursement Lord Howe Island Ranger — Premier's Department	11,546	
Sundry	<u>51,410</u>	<u>48,624</u>
	<u>\$343,676</u>	<u>\$257,581</u>

(b) CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES

The amount received comprises:

	1985/86
	\$
Sale Proceeds Fixed Wing Aircraft	78,000
Insurance Proceeds Helicopter	285,000
Development Fees Kosciusko	6,609
Disposal Proceeds Unreserved Crown Land	84,865
Refund of Council Rates	<u>1,211</u>
	<u>\$455,685</u>

10. SPECIAL PURPOSES

Operations on these accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1986 were:—

	BALANCE 1/7/85 \$	RECEIPTS \$	PAYMENTS \$	BALANCE 30/6/86 \$
State Recreation Areas Grants — General Operating Expenses, Development and Restoration Works and Services	95,585	2,260,706	2,250,383	105,908
Coronial Enquiry	127,875	50,310	178,185	—
Publications Working Account	124,354	328,669	278,935	174,088
Security Deposits	338,315	112,934	302,821	148,428
Environment Restoration Works	27,806	190,136	69,104	148,838
Construction and Maintenance of Park Roads, Facilities and Services etc.	606,138	3,088,309	3,386,659	307,788
Conditional Donations, Bequests and Grants Dr	209,959	562,384	365,896	13,471 Dr
Employment Programmes	1,002,053	6,858,577	5,880,112	1,980,518
Research, Consulting and Contracting Projects	29,526	379,995	314,489	95,032
Other	36,564	31,477	63,831	4,210
	\$2,178,257	\$13,863,497	\$13,090,415	\$2,951,339

* Consolidated Fund allocations of \$2,451,436 are included in receipts.

11. RECURRENT SERVICES

(a) SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND ASSOCIATED STAFF COSTS

This item includes payments for salaries, wages, allowances, penalty rates, annual leave loadings and overtime for all of the Service's operations other than development and restoration works and the labour costs of non-permanent maintenance staff.

(b) PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Costs of each category of plant and equipment were:

	1984/85 \$	1985/86 \$
Motor Vehicles	1,240,010	1,421,733
Radio Equipment	33,456	18,204
Fire Fighting Equipment	133,359	8,756
Operating Plant	<u>208,251</u>	<u>622,237</u>
	<u>\$1,615,076</u>	<u>\$2,070,930</u>

(c) MAINTENANCE OF PARK ROADS, FACILITIES, SERVICES, ETC.

The day labour wages of non permanent staff engaged in maintenance works and services amounted to \$2,026,735 (\$1,837,509 in 1984/85). The balance of payments was for the purchase of materials, plant operating expenses and other expenses associated with the maintenance works and services undertaken.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE AND WORKING EXPENSES

Payments under this category comprise:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Payroll Tax	1,066,062	1,649,323
Workers Compensation Insurance	322,115	310,465
Removal, Disturbance, Travel and Subsistence Costs	725,409	712,412
Rent and Rates	1,252,008	1,698,441
Postage and Telephone	641,519	687,246
Gas, Electricity and Fuel Oil	317,791	338,564
Aircraft Hire, Plant and Motor Vehicle Operating Expenses	2,114,017	1,638,493
Stores, Stationery, Uniforms, Freight and Cartage	810,246	709,548
Information Services	201,849	117,473
Fees for Services Rendered	228,105	338,055
Other Insurances	758,898	1,501,277
Printing and Advertising	206,750	228,756
Books and Periodicals	57,755	58,194
Cleaning	34,412	53,022
Sundry	209,410	161,506
	<u>\$8,946,346</u>	<u>\$10,202,775</u>

(e) CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

In recognition of the grants made available to the Service for numerous scientific and environmental projects, this contribution (as well as a similar amount made available by the Department of Environment and Planning), is provided to help offset the operating costs of the Foundation.

12. CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES

(a) LAND ACQUISITION

Payments comprised:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Purchases of Land	1,906,438	2,530,142
Legal Fees	11,082	58,835
Survey Fees	8,230	16,465
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000	316
	<u>\$1,926,750</u>	<u>\$2,605,758</u>

For details of lands dedicated as national parks, nature reserves, historic sites, Aboriginal areas and state recreation areas vested in the Crown refer Note 1(f)(i).

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND RESTORATION WORKS AND SERVICE

Payments under functional headings comprised:

	1984/85	1985/86
	\$	\$
Aboriginal Relics and Site Protection	87,913	39,778
Habitat Restoration and Environment Protection	165,014	103,976
Management Planning	318,967	143,716
Pest, Animal and Weed Control	209,670	160,436
Historic Restoration	168,073	78,549
Management Facilities and Services	726,327	1,747,752
Visitor Facilities	483,119	530,214
	<u>\$2,159,083</u>	<u>\$2,804,421</u>

13. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Values shown below represent material amounts owing or payable by the Service at 30th June, 1986, which are not included in the accounts.

ITEM	1984/85 INVOICES RECEIVED	*INVOICES NOT RECEIVED	1985/86 †INVOICES RECEIVED	TOTAL
Salaries and Wages	106,194	—	209,207	209,207
Payroll Tax	204,109	—	122,444	122,444
Plant and Equipment —				
Aircraft	481,927	—	—	—
Motor Vehicles	143,824	8,669	68,448	77,117
Operating Costs	10,984	4,105	13,505	17,610
Computing	56,316	—	—	—
Stores, Freight	29,150	22,586	37,221	59,807
Travelling	7,038	—	5,811	5,811
Maintenance of Park Roads etc.	33,010	3,664	3,656	7,320
Motor Vehicle Operating Expenses	16,938	9,378	30,818	40,196
Gas, Electricity and Fuel Oil	8,928	319	5,574	5,893
Cleaning	2,900	452	52	504
Postage and Telephone	34,331	—	19,176	19,176
Books and Periodicals	3,149	2,478	1,508	3,986
Fees for Services Rendered	4,139	120	200	320
Coronial Inquest — Legal Fees	40,285	—	—	—
Development and Restoration Works	3,246	7,025	15,010	22,035
Acquisition of Land	17,474	1,225,000	—	1,225,000
	<u>1,203,942</u>	<u>1,283,796</u>	<u>532,630</u>	<u>1,816,426</u>

* Invoices not received cover commitments where goods and services have not been received.

† Invoices received cover commitments where goods and services have been received.

In addition, the Service was holding security deposits totalling \$148,428 at 30th June, 1986.

14. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Values shown below represent material amounts due or receivable to the Service at 30th June, 1986 which are not reflected in the accounts comprised:

Local Office Collections June	1984/85	1985/86
received Head office July	\$	\$
Fees, Rentals etc.	206,171	394,074
Sale of Government Property		527
Construction and Maintenance Contributions	22,465	132,230
Sale of Publications	3,778	14,018
	<u>232,414</u>	<u>540,849</u>
Sale of Motor Vehicles	40,250	60,065
Head Office Debtors — Publications, Aircraft Hire etc.	68,915	27,132
National Parks Debtors — Site Rentals, Community Service, Entry Fees	647,906	551,129
Donations, Bequests and Grants	119,833	—
Perisher Valley Sewerage Contribution	—	564,932
	<u>\$1,109,318</u>	<u>\$1,744,107</u>

15. MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AT NO COST TO DEPARTMENT

Many instances exist of material services having been provided to the Department for which no actual payment is made. Such services would include:-

- * recruitment services provided by the Public Service Board;
- * Public Service Board scholarships;
- * representations by Public Service Board in industrial matters, and
- * payment by Treasury of employers contributions to superannuation/retirement funds on behalf of the Department.

16. SALARIES AND WAGES

Salaries and wages are not accrued in the accounts but shown in the note on accounts payable (see note 13.).

17. DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

(a) Unpaid game licence fees	\$556
(b) Unpaid telephone accounts	26
(c) Unpaid postage charges	3
(d) Unpaid petrol account	18
	<u>\$603</u>

18. LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 30th June, 1986 the Service was contracted to expend a total of \$2.07 million on leased office accommodation. Details of the commitments on a year to year basis are given below. The largest single lease will continue until January, 1991.

	1986/87	1987/88	1988/91	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office	82,086	1,522,628	469,375	2,074,089
Accommodation				

In addition the Service is committed to expenditure of \$88,985 during 1986/87 in respect to occupancies in Government Office Blocks. This accommodation is under the control of the Office Accommodation Bureau of the Public Service Board.

19. MONEYS HELD FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1986

The Security Deposits Account within the National Parks and Wildlife Fund includes \$87,254 being moneys held for more than two years prior to 30th June, 1986. This amount relates to deposits received in respect to various applications for leases, licences and other matters. They have been categorised as follows:-

	\$
Deposits re Apiary Licence Applications	640
Deposits re access to Travelling Stock Routes	725
Deposits re Film Permit Applications	5,240
Deposits re Attendance at Training Workshops	2,025
Bonds re Building and Licence Applications	54,228
Environmental Statements Access	380
Deposits on Contract Specifications	5,928
Moneys Held for Settlement of Land Acquisition	9,813
Claims Moneys Held Pending Result of Court Proceedings	1,464
Miscellaneous	6,811
	<u>\$87,254</u>

20. CAPITAL CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

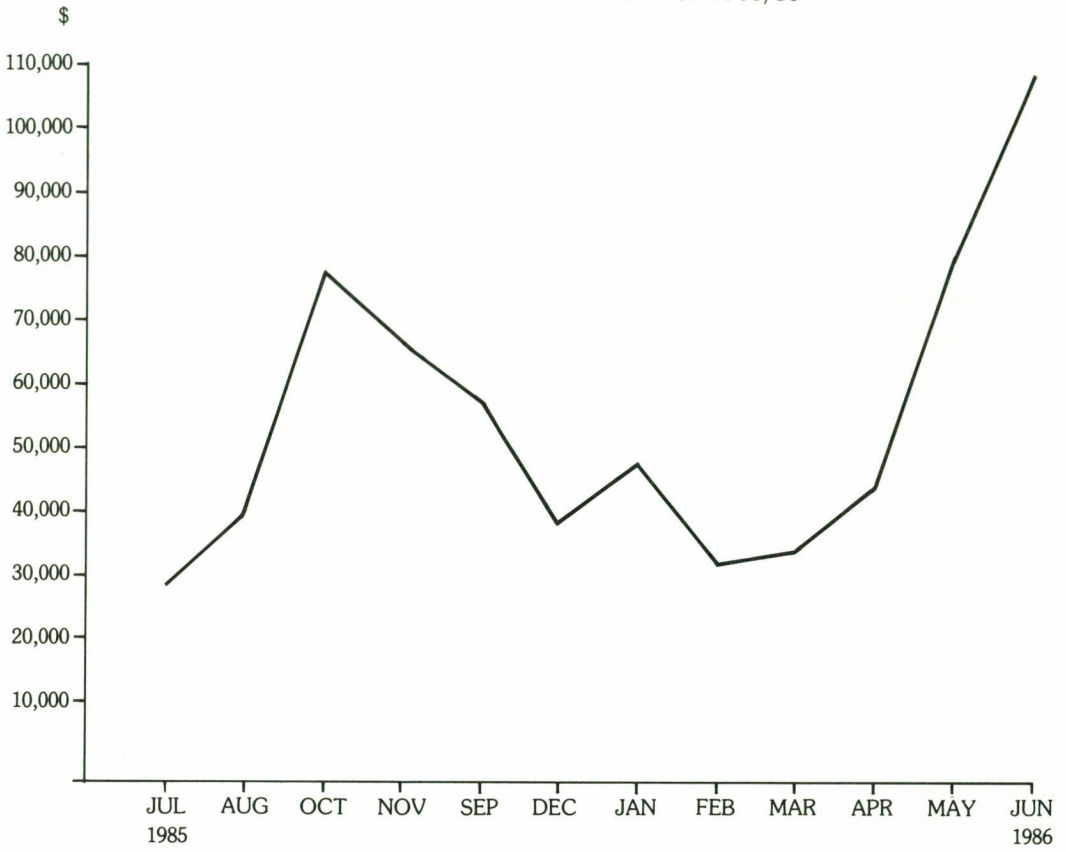
At 30th June, 1986 the Service had outstanding capital contract commitments totalling \$59,627.

21. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A number of legal proceedings have been commenced against the Service for injuries sustained by members of the public. The Service has denied liability.

Other than the aforementioned the Service is not aware of any significant or material contingent liability in existence at 30th June, 1986 or which has emerged subsequent to this date which would materially impact on the financial position of the Service as shown in the Accounts.

STORES AND STATIONERY PURCHASE 1985/86



OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. STORES AND STATIONERY PURCHASES 1985/86

The major portion of the increase in expenditure in the Stores vote during May/June, 1986 was caused by Treasury Transfers from Government Supply Department, payments to Government Printing Office and a major restocking at Kosciusko National Park for the winter season.

2. HEAVY PLANT PURCHASES 1985/86

During the year the following major plant items were acquired:-

- * 12 Tonne Volvo Tipper
- * 3 Tonne Daihatsu Tipper
- * 2 Trucks
- * 3 Graders
- * 2 Bulldozers
- * 2 Tracked Loaders
- * 1 Case 4 x 4 Tractor
- * 5 Kubota 4 x 4 Tractors
- * 1 Caterpillar 4 x 4 Tractor
- * 1 Backhoe
- * 1 Low Loader
- * 1 Fixed Winged Aircraft (Rockwell Aerocommander 690)

3. SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS BETWEEN ESTIMATE AND ACTUAL FOR 1985/86

ITEMS	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	REASON
RECEIPTS			
Royalties and Fines	150	229	Increased wildlife licence fees for 6 months of the financial year
Sale of Government Property	628	814	Expanded programme of disposal of unserviceable and obsolete items
Miscellaneous and Recoveries	591	258	Estimate includes payroll tax and workers compensation costs taken from employment schemes and correctly shown in end of year accounts against relevant expenditure codes
Rentals	1,741	2,399	Renewal of ski club leases at Kosciusko N.P. at increased fee rate. Receipt of outstanding payments from 1984/85
Government Contribution	24,515,000	25,301,700	Supplementation to cover increased premium for public liability insurance (\$750,000) and retrospective rental payments for Grafton Office Block (\$36,000)
PAYMENTS			
Plant and Equipment	1,705	2,071	Expanded plant purchase programme using funds realised from sale of items
Development and Restoration Works and Services	3,493	2,804	Funds for purchase of replacement helicopter not spent and carried over to 1986/87

4. MATERIAL VARIATIONS BETWEEN 1984/85 AND 1985/86 FINANCIAL YEARS

ITEM	ACTUAL 1984/85	ACTUAL 1985/86	REASON
RECEIPTS			
Royalties and Fines	126	229	Increased wildlife licence fees for 6 months of financial year
Sale of Government Property	637	814	Expanded programme of disposal of unserviceable and obsolete items
Rentals	1,968	2,399	Renewal of ski club leases at Kosciusko N.P. at increased fee rate. Receipt of outstanding payments from 1984/85
PAYMENTS			
Plant and Equipment	1,615	2,071	Expanded plant purchase programme using funds realised from sale of items
Development and Restoration Works and Services	2,159	2,804	Reflects increase in Government Contribution



BOX 12, G.P.O.
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S CERTIFICATE

The books and accounts of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales for the year ended 30 June 1986 have been audited in accordance with Section 34 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983.

In my opinion, the accompanying receipts and payments statement and statement of special deposits account balances, read in conjunction with the notes thereto, comply with Section 45E of the Act and are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K J Robson'.

K J ROBSON, FASA CPA
AUDITOR-GENERAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

SYDNEY
23 December 1986

INFRINGEMENTS, PROSECUTIONS AND FINES

National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974	Prosecutions commenced	Cautions	Fines
	1985-86	1985-86	1985-86
Park Matters	958	58	70 326
Fauna Matters	223	20	31 942
Native Plants	11	—	800
Local Litter	—	—	
TOTAL	1 192	78	\$103 068

INFRINGEMENTS NOTICES

Penalties paid other than by Court Action	Notices issued	Notices paid	Amount Received
	1985-86	1985-86	1985-86
Litter Penalty Notices	2	2	40
Parking Infringements	1 761	600	26 665
TOTAL	1 763	602	\$26 705

Parks/Reserves etc	Prosecutions commenced	Cautions	Fines \$
	1985-86	1985-86	1985-86
Vehicle Use	876	14	64 274
Firearms	8	1	650
Litter	2	—	
Domestic Animals	57	6	1 210
Fires	2	1	200
Remove/Damage Soil, Rocks, Trees	7	13	350
Camping	7	13	350

Fauna—take/kill/possess etc	Prosecutions commenced	Cautions	Fines \$
	1985–86	1985–86	1985–86
Kangaroos	29	4	3 250
Ducks	29	—	5 900
Birds	86	8	20 092
Reptiles	1	—	400
Other Animals	1	—	—
Records, Caging Premises etc	70	8	2 000

SERVICE ESTATE AS AT 30 JUNE 1986

NATIONAL PARKS		AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE
1	Apsley Gorge	6 718
2	Bald Rock	3 891
3	Barrington Tops	39 114
4	Ben Boyd	9 438
5	Blue Mountains	215 970
6	Boonoo Boonoo	2 442
7	Border Ranges	31 229
8	Botany Bay	73
9	Bouddi	1 161
10	Brisbane Water	11 334
11	Broadwater	3 709
12	Budawang	16 102
13	Bundjalung	17 545
14	Cathedral Rock	6 529
15	Cocoparra	8 358
16	Conimbla	7 590
17	Crowdy Bay	7 391
18	Deua	81 460
19	Dharug	14 785
20	Dorrigo	7 869
21	Gibraltar Range	17 273
22	Goulburn River	57 183
23	Guy Fawkes River	35 326
24	Hat Head	6 355
25	Heathcote	2 251
26	Kanangra-Boyd	68 276
27	Kinchega	44 182
28	Kosciusko	646 893
29	Ku-ring-gai Chase	14 591
30	Macquarie Pass	1 064
31	Mallee Cliffs	57 969
32	Marramarra	11 576
33	Mimosa Rocks	5 181
34	Mootwingee	68 912
35	Morton	152 949
36	Mount Imlay	3 764
37	Mount Kaputar	36 817
38	Mount Warning	2 210
39	Mungo	27 847
40	Murramarang	1 609
41	Myall Lakes	31 190
42	Nalbaugh	3 764
43	Nangar	1 550
44	New England	29 881
45	Nightcap	4 945
46	Nungatta	6 100
47	Nymboida	1 368
48	Royal	15 014
49	Seven Mile Beach	730
50	Sturt	310 634
51	Sydney Harbour	388
52	Tarlo River	5 890
53	Thirlmere Lakes	630

	NATIONAL PARKS	AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE
54	Tomaree	809
55	Wadbilliga	75 767
56	Wallaga Lake	1 237
57	Warrabah	2 635
58	Warrumbungle	19 651
59	Washpool	27 715
60	Weddin Mountains	8 296
61	Werrikimbe	34 753
62	Willandra	19 386
63	Woko	8 274
64	Wollemi	486 411
65	Yarrowitch Gorge	3 468
66	Yuraygir	16 590
		<hr/>
		2 872 012
		<hr/>
	HISTORIC SITES	
1	Bare Island	1.386
2	Cadmans Cottage	.093
3	Captain Cook's Landing Place	353.748
4	Clybucca	416.000
6	Hartley	9.776
7	Hill End	127.904
8	La Perouse Monuments	7.689
9	Maroota	32.620
10	Mootwingee	485.622
11	Mount Grenfell	1 357.000
12	Throsby Park	74.311
13	Tweed Heads	8.000
14	Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave	.764
15	Davidson Whaling Station	6.832
		<hr/>
		2 881.745
		<hr/>
	NATURE RESERVES	
	Agnes Banks	64.000
	Big Bush	109.770
	Bimberi	7 100.000
	Binnaway	3 699.000
	Bird Island	7.284
	Black Ash	88.561
	Boginderra Hills	553.700
	Boomi	155.800
	Boomi West	149.000
	Boondelbah	9.308
	Boorganna	390.027
	Boronga	195.100
	Bournda	5 831.080
	Bowraville	60.908
	Broken Head	85.635
	Broulee Island	42.492
	Brunswick Heads	74.000
	Brush Island	46.539
	Buddigower	326.593
	Bungawalbin	467.200
	Burning Mountain	14.570
	Burrinjuck	1 300.000

NATURE RESERVES

AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE

Camels Hump	545.000
Careunga	469.435
Cecil Hoskins	46.973
Cedar Bush	190.000
Cocoparra	4 646.998
Coocumbac Island	5.058
Cook Island	4.654
Coolbaggie	1 793.188
Coolongolook	198.300
Copperhanna	3 494.281
Coramba	8.000
Coturaundee	6 688.000
Cudmirrah	125.564
Curumbenya	9 380.164
Dalrymple Hay	10.768
Dananbilla	1 855.000
Dapper	820.000
Davis Scrub	13.860
Deer Vale	181.200
Devils Glen	40.469
Eagles Claw	1.000
Egan Peaks	2 145.000
Eugowra	120.343
Evans Crown	424.674
Five Islands	26.709
Flagstaff Memorial	17.917
Freemantle	361.000
Georges Creek	1 189.774
Goonawarra	437.060
Goorooyarroo	216.300
Goura	519.536
Gubbata	161.874
Gurumbi	151.757
Guy Fawkes River	1 533.756
Hattons Corner	3.976
Illawong	50.586
Iluka	135.920
Ingalba	4 012.003
Ironbark	1 230.000
Jasper	354.500
John Gould	26.305
Julian Rocks	0.405
Kajuligah	13 660.000
Kattang	58.000
Kooragang	2 209.723
Kororo	10.926
Lake Innes	3 510.000
Limeburners Creek	8 654.876
Limpinwood	2 442.679
Linton	640.000
Lion Island	8.094
Little Broughton Island	36.422
Little Llangothlin	257.600
Long Island	72.843
Loughnan	384.900
Macquarie	12.174

NATURE RESERVES

AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE

Macquarie Marshes	18 210.825
Mann River	5 640.000
Manobalai	3 732.958
Midkin	358.900
Mills Island	60.700
Moffats Swamp	151.000
Moon Island	1.012
Moonee Beach	240.000
Morrison's Lake	312.000
Mother of Ducks Lagoon	97.000
Mount Hyland	1 636.200
Mount Seaview	1 703.749
Mount Yarrowyck	170.200
Muldiva	10.420
Mundoonen	1 374.240
Munghorn Gap	5 860.701
Muogamarra	2 273.579
Muttonbird Island	8.094
Nadgee	17 085.438
Narrandera	71.023
Nearie Lake	4 347.000
Nocoleche	74 000.000
North Rock	4.047
North Solitary Island	20.234
North-West Solitary Island	4.047
Numinbah	800.000
Pantoneys Crown	3 230.000
Pilliga	69 594.531
Pitt Town	46.440
Pulbah Island	68.796
Pulletop	145.080
Quanda	853.885
Red Rocks	668.836
Regatta Island	102.000
Richmond River	100.000
Robertson	5.300
Rodway	83.365
Round Hill	13 629.791
Rowleys Creek Gulf	1 659.209
Scabby Range	3 400.000
Seaham Swamp	10.478
Seal Rocks	.304
Serpentine	723.000
Severn River	1 946.535
Sherwood	2 444.297
South-West Solitary Island	3.237
Snapper Island	13.000
Spectacle Island	36.422
Split Solitary Island	3.642
Stormpetrel	8.000
Stotts Island	141.640
Susan Island	23.000
Tabletop	103.559
The Basin	2 272.711
The Charcoal Tank	86.400
The Hole Creek	5 586.527
The Rock	345.042
Tinderry	11 444.000

NATURE RESERVES

AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE

Tollgate Islands	12.141
Towra Point	281.700
Tuckean	550.500
Tucki Tucki	4.002
Ukerabagh	150.000
Ulandra	3 930.700
Uralba	288.000
Victoria Park	17.500
Wallabadah	1 132.309
Wallis Island	132.800
Wamberal Lagoon	102.000
Warrabah	835.675
Watsons Creek	1 260.000
Wee Jasper	631.000
Weelah	37.474
Weetalibah	612.794
Willi Willi Caves	8.094
Winburndale	9 396.215
Wingen Maid	1 077.000
Woggoon	6 565.000
Wongarbon	99.148
Yahoo Island	46.500
Yanga	1 772.520
Yarravel	28.328
Yathong	107 240.831
	<hr/>
	508 251.022
	<hr/>

ABORIGINAL AREAS

1.	Appletree	4.046
2.	Lennox Head	0.259
3.	Murramarang	60.000
4.	Finchely	4.047
5.	Howe	6.963
6.	Nambucca	.404
7.	Mooney Mooney	8.415
8.	Pindera Downs	11 433.000
9.	Stonewoman	1.770
		<hr/>
		11 518.904
		<hr/>

STATE RECREATION AREAS

1	Arakoon	472.055
2	Bents Basin	397.830
3	Booti Booti	1 487.981
4	Bournda	2 245.180
5	Bungonia	3 835.560
6	Burrendong	1 235.000
7	Burrinjuck	1 713.900
8	Cattai	223.500
9	Copeton	939.000
10	Davidson Park	1 197.542
11	Georges River	319.827
12	Glenbawn	204.300
13	Glenrock	150.000

	STATE RECREATION AREAS	AREAS TO NEAREST HECTARE
14	Grabine	681.041
15	Illawarra Escarpment	1 259.116
16	Lake Keepit	707.830
17	Lane Cove River	326.554
18	Munmorah	1 007.814
19	Wyangala	2033.955
20	Unnamed (at Minnamurra Beach)	94.330
	Total:	<u>20 532.315</u>

SUMMARY as at 30 June 1986

66	National Parks	2 872 012
14	Historic Sites	2 882
173	Nature Reserves	508 251
9	Aboriginal Areas	11 519
20	State Recreation Areas	20 532
		<u>3 415 196</u>

hectares = about 4.27% of N.S.W.

**Lands Acquired Under the Provisions of N.P.W. Act, 1974
— Pending Reservation/Dedication as at 30 June 1986**

PARK/LOCALITY	AREA
Tambaroora	733 m ²
Tambaroora	3642 m ²
Tambaroora	2.166 ha
Warrumbungle N.P.	1430.00 ha
Bald Rock N.P.	1172.00 ha
Bald Rock N.P.	1235.00 ha
Narrawalee Creek	34.803 ha
Budderoo	682.30 ha
Sturt	35050.27 ha
Morton	265.07 ha
Hill End	1.416 ha
Sturt	12318.21 ha
Blue Mountains	8.094 ha
Brigalow Park	202.300 ha
Wollemi	16.19 ha
Hartley	2738 m ²
Morton	60.70 ha
Goulburn River N.P.	953.6 ha
Crowdy Bay N.P.	20.70 ha
Nombinnie	11190.00 ha
Brisbane Water N.P.	8.09 ha
Yuraygir N.P.	446.90 ha
Kooragang Island	716.61 ha
Wisemans Ferry	15.99 ha
Mt. Neville	2615.6 ha
Dharug	15.27 ha
Myall Lakes	113.2 ha
Broadwater	11.23 ha
Total:	<u>68 586.4203 ha</u>

**Crown Land Occupied by N.P.W.S. under Reserves
for Various Management Purposes as at 30 June 1986**

Locality	Reserve	Area	Purpose
Eden (Wirriga St)	R91136	1145m ²	Workshop
Tibooburra	R91376	2023m ²	Workshop
Gol Gol	R91509	2023m ²	Workshop
Coonabarabran	R94862	3302m ²	Workshop/Depot
Cobar	R92637	748.7m ²	Staff Accommodation
Narooma	R95616	1992m ²	Workshop
Tibooburra	R96931	1012m ²	Workshop
Armidale	R89685	1256m ²	Workshop
Walcha	R98162	3862m ²	Workshop/Depot
	Total:	17 363.7m ²	

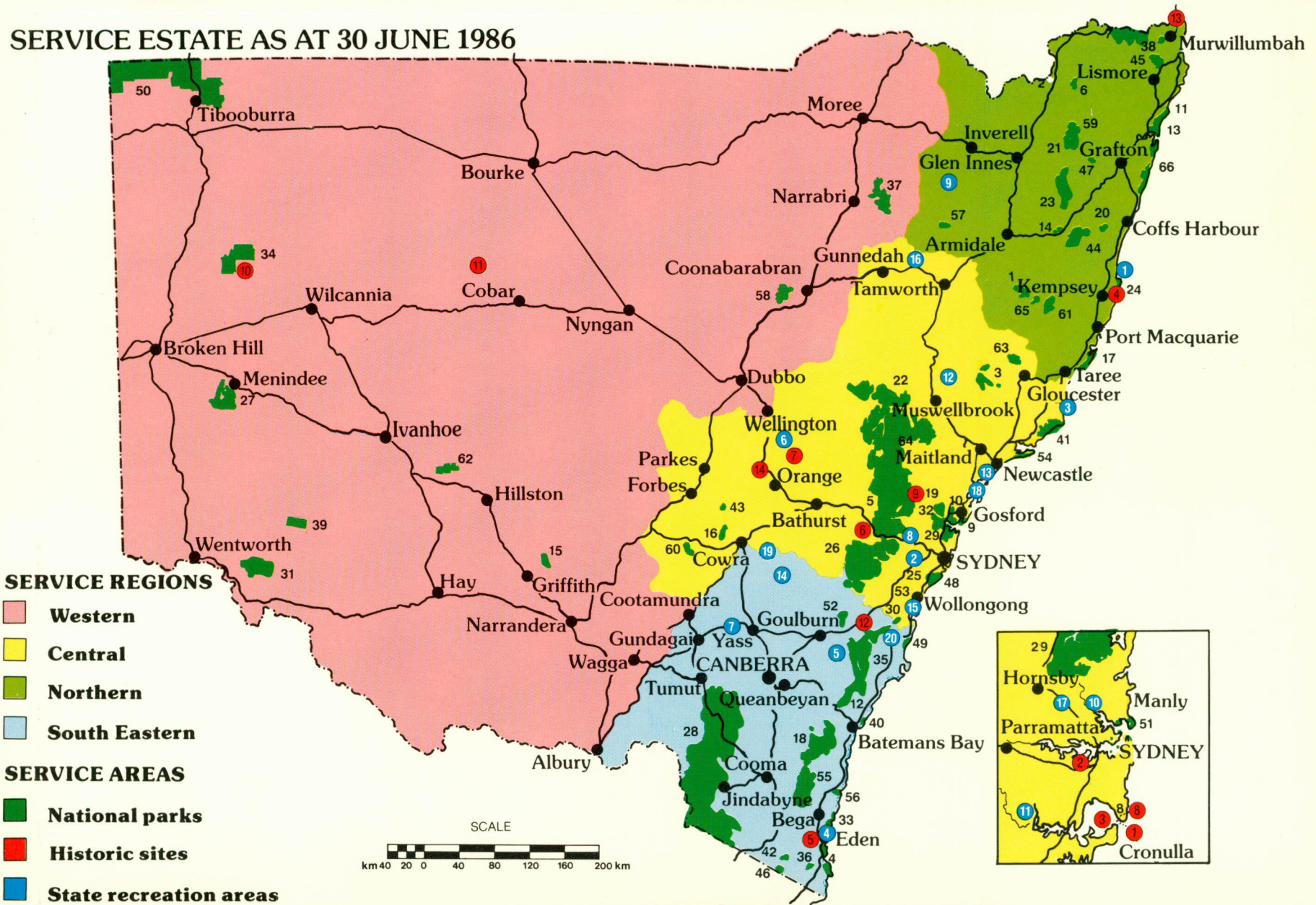
**Lands Acquired under the Provisions of the
N.P.W. Act, 1974, and Held for Management Purposes
(not Reserved) as at 30 June 1986**

Locality	Area	Purpose
Talbingo	Approx. 3540m ²	Staff Accommodation
35,44 and 55 Groves St		
21 Bowman St		
16 Day St		
Griffith	1808m ²	Workshop/Depot
Tibooburra	11.7m ²	Staff Accommodation
(Sturt Street)		
Tibooburra	505.9m ²	Visitors Centre
Bungwahl	948m ²	Staff Accommodation
Nowra	54.9m ²	Staff Accommodation
(13 Hyam St)		
Dorrigo	210.4m ²	Workshop/Depot
Menindee	2023m ²	Staff Accommodation
Broken Hill	1012m ²	Staff Accommodation
Broken Hill	1011.7m ²	Staff Accommodation
Jindabyen	3054.1m ²	Staff Accommodation
(Munyang and Cobbon Sts.)		
Khancoban		
Gray St 1,5 & 13 Douglas St	1.4056ha	Staff Accommodation
1,3 Blackburn St		
8 Whitehead St		
Scammel St		
19 Read St		
24 Sheather St		
	Total:	3.4826 hectares



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SERVICE ESTATE AS AT 30 JUNE 1986





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NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
189 Kent Street, SYDNEY 2000

