National parks of Western Australia

Clee Francis Howard Jenkins

1-1-1961

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4

Part of the Animal Sciences Commons, Entomology Commons, and the Forest Management Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4/vol2/iss10/4

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au, paul.orange@dpird.wa.gov.au.
IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This document has been obtained from DAFWA's research library website (researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au) which hosts DAFWA's archival research publications. Although reasonable care was taken to make the information in the document accurate at the time it was first published, DAFWA does not make any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, currency, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose. It may be out of date, inaccurate or misleading or conflict with current laws, polices or practices. DAFWA has not reviewed or revised the information before making the document available from its research library website. Before using the information, you should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for your purposes. We recommend you also search for more recent information on DAFWA's research library website, DAFWA's main website (https://www.agric.wa.gov.au) and other appropriate websites and sources.

Information in, or referred to in, documents on DAFWA's research library website is not tailored to the circumstances of individual farms, people or businesses, and does not constitute legal, business, scientific, agricultural or farm management advice. We recommend before making any significant decisions, you obtain advice from appropriate professionals who have taken into account your individual circumstances and objectives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the State of Western Australia and their employees and agents (collectively and individually referred to below as DAFWA) accept no liability whatsoever, by reason of negligence or otherwise, arising from any use or release of information in, or referred to in, this document, or any error, inaccuracy or omission in the information.
NATIONAL PARKS
of Western Australia

By C. F. H. JENKINS, M.A., Government Entomologist*

"NATIONAL PARKS," says the Encyclopaedia Britannica, "are spacious land areas, essentially of primitive or wilderness character, that contain scenery and natural wonder so outstanding in quality that their preservation intact for the benefit, enjoyment and inspiration of the people, is a national concern."

Although all the so called national parks do not comply with the above conditions, there are few people who will argue with the terms of the definition, or the desirability of striving to fulfil them.

The necessity for reserving large areas of land as national parks and nature reserves has long been recognised in many parts of the world, and some enormous tracts of country have been set aside for these purposes.

Amongst the best known of such reserves are the Yellowstone National Park in the United States of America, and the Kruger and Serengeti National Parks in Africa, but many of the lesser known areas are serving equally important functions.

* Member, National Parks Board.

Preserving the National Heritage

National park and kindred authorities in all parts of the world (such as the "Nature Conservancy" of Great Britain, U.S. National Parks Service and the U.S. National Wild Life Federation) are faced with the ever-increasing problem of maintaining national parks and nature reserves in view of the rate of population growth, the expansion of agriculture, improved transport facilities and the consequent pressure for increased land use. They draw attention to the need to act quickly where suitable areas for reservation still exist, and the importance of resisting claims for the over development or "improvement" of certain areas.

"It is necessary," says the Annual Report of the Nature Conservancy of Great
Britain (1959), "to reconcile the use by the present generation of the national heritage with the need to safeguard its irreplaceable features for future generations . . . Use alone may be sufficient to threaten the scientific interest—to trample out of existence a rare plant, to drive away a rare bird or other animal, or destroy the character of a unique habitat."

The same report states—"National bodies are being compelled to admit that their earlier policy of encouraging public access to building sites can turn out to be a Frankenstein Monster."

Bearing all these difficulties in mind "The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949" of Great Britain has set down a policy for its National Parks Board which could well serve as a guide for other authorities: "To so administer the lands under its control as to ensure the preservation of their natural beauty, the conservation of native flora and fauna and the protection of geological and physiographical and other features of special interest."

**Danger of Over-development**

Referring to the Australian scene, the Australian Academy of Science has recently been forthright in its criticism of engineering development proposed for the

---

**Figure:**

The principal Parks and Reserves under the control of the National Parks Board. Areas shown thus.

1. Yanchep
2. John Forrest Nat.Park
3. Lesmurdie Falls
4. Penguin Island
5. Serpentine Falls
6. Hamelin Bay
7. Stirling Range
8. Porongorups
9. Naturalup

---

summit of Mount Kosciusko and utters the following warning about the tendency to over-develop many parks and reserves (Anon 1961):

"But any national park, in addition to catering for the tourist and certain types of recreational sport, must also comprise areas in which conservation is the prime object. This is particularly important in Australia, a continent whose endemic flora and fauna attract world-wide attention. All local and visiting biologists are impressed by the fact that, after only a short period of settlement, very few virgin areas of native vegetation survive in Australia. Native plants, birds and animals are rapidly disappearing from the scene, even in districts in which there is no settlement as yet. A number of primitive areas will be essential if we wish to preserve for posterity characteristic examples of the Australian biota still existing in their natural environment, so that they can be studied by the scientist, and at the same time, provide a living museum for the naturalist and layman. Such primitive areas must be large enough to ensure that hydrological features, soil, and local climate are undisturbed by man's activities; large enough also to ensure that the ecological balance of the plant and animal communities is maintained. It follows that grazing, forestry, roadmaking and all engineering activities are out of place in a primitive area."

The Western Australian reserves fall into the following categories: A class reserves under the control of the National Parks Board (commonly known as National Parks) and A, B and C class reserves vested in various other bodies. It is only the "national parks" which will be dealt with in this series of articles, which are designed to give some general information about the location of such parks and their principal features.

The major national parks in Western Australia, in order of size, are as follows:

1. The Stirling Ranges (269,155 acres).
3. Yanchep Park (6,660 acres).
4. The Porongorups (5,384 acres).
6. The Serpentine Falls (1,440 acres).

Small reservations of under 1,000 acres are also held at Greenmount, The Knoll—Gooseberry Hill, Lesmurdie Falls, Hamelin Bay, Yanchep Beach, Penguin Island and Araluen.

The area devoted to agriculture in South Western Australia is approximately 24 million acres, and about half of this has been developed during the past 20 years. It is obvious therefore that without a very progressive policy on national parks and
wild life reserves many natural features as well as animals and birds and plants will soon be lost for ever.

In addition to the 320,000 acres of national parks there are of course many thousands of acres of special fauna and flora reserves, State forests and water catchment areas. These offer valuable protection to many forms of wild life and compensate in some degree for the rather meagre acreage covered by the true national parks.

It must be conceded that wild life conservation depends to a great extent upon the acreage of parks and reserves which are set aside for this special purpose, and that such areas should be rigorously protected from any attempts at encroachment, including the depredations of grazing stock. However, the passing of conservation laws and the gazettal of reserves are not sufficient in themselves to protect anything, and unless parks can be patrolled and regulations can be enforced the most enlightened legislation can be nullified.

For instance, as a result of the recent unrest in Africa some of the most famous game reserves have been ruthlessly violated by trappers and poachers with disastrous results to many rare and unique forms of wild life. It is clear therefore, that one of the most important factors in flora and fauna conservation is a sympathetic public.

Great emphasis is now being placed upon the tourist potential of Western Australia and amongst the chief attractions listed are the natural scenery and unusual plants and animals. As already mentioned "Use alone may be sufficient to . . . trample out of existence a rare plant, to drive away a rare bird . . . or destroy the character of a unique habitat."

Every citizen therefore should be a self-appointed guardian of our much boasted natural assets and not only refrain from destroying plants and animals in declared parks and sanctuaries, but protect them wherever possible in all parts of the State.

REFERENCES
THE NEW LYSAGHT
500 BUSHEL GRAIN SILO

Easier and cheaper to erect!

* Patent pending No. 55007/59.

EACH FEATURE PLANNED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- Vertically Rigidised Walls and 6-Ply Horizontal Ribs for added strength.
- Two bagging outlets — complete with steel covers.
- Improved Centre and Side-Filling Hole Assemblies — complete with hinged lids and positive fastenings.
- Combined Roof Step and Ladder support.
- Wider Turned-Down Eaves on Roof Panels.
- Segmented Steel Floor.
- Fully Rodent-Proof Construction.
- Optional Extra — Steel Earth Ring.

LYSAGHT SILOS
Prices Ex Fremantle Store

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity (Bushels)</th>
<th>Steel Silo</th>
<th>Steel Earth Ring</th>
<th>Optional Extra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 (Carrugated)</td>
<td>£58</td>
<td>£7.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 (Carr.) Elev.</td>
<td>£137</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 New Type</td>
<td>£172</td>
<td>£11.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>£240</td>
<td>£22.00</td>
<td>£31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>£316</td>
<td>£21.10</td>
<td>£47.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>£346</td>
<td>£31.10</td>
<td>£51.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prices include Steel Floor.
Silos from 1,200 bushels capacity upwards are fitted with full-size "walk-in" door.

Write for further information to:
John Lysaght (Australia) Limited
8 Pakenham Street, Fremantle.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A.", when writing to advertisers.
For Pest Control

THE ORIGINAL PARATHION
of Farbenfabriken BAYER A.G. Leverkusen.

The most potent insecticide known to science. Destroys Aphids, Red Spiders, Codling Moth and all Orchard Pests. A highly-concentrated, economy insecticide. The special and exclusive emulsifier ensures adequate wetting and spreading on the foliage. The protective nature of the emulsifier reduces the risk of skin penetration. Can be mixed with either hard or soft water.

DISTRIBUTED BY
HENRY H. YORK & CO. PTY. LTD.
Sydney • Melbourne • Brisbane • Adelaide • Perth
(R) Registered Trademark of Farbenfabriken Bayer A.G., Germany.