

Romeo Watkins Lahey Memorial Lecture

2nd June, 1972

Sponsored by the National Parks Association of Queensland

"DOWN THE YEARS WITH NATIONAL PARKS IN QUEENSLAND"

by W. Wilkes



Romeo Lahey finishes his breakfast while Arthur Groom finishes his dressing.  
Outing to Mt. Castle, October 1938.



Mr. Wm. Wilkes

Officer of the Department of Forestry  
from 24.5.1921 to 31.12.1970.

(Secretary from 1.1.1954 until 31.12.1970.)

The title of this address to you to-night is based on my associations and dealings with National Park Administration in this State, as an officer of the Department of Forestry for almost 50 years, the last 17 as Secretary of the Department. At the end of the address I propose to show you a few selected slides.

At the outset I should like to say that I am deeply appreciative of the invitation extended to me to give this address before such a distinguished audience to honour the memory of the Late Romeo Watkins Lahey. The occasion has an added pleasure for me, because I feel I can claim the late Mr. Lahey as a close personal friend in his lifetime, a friend from whom I learnt much and a friend who assisted me greatly in the carrying out of my official duties in connection with the administration of National Parks. I am glad of this occasion to acknowledge publicly to Mrs. Lahey, and to the other members of Romeo's family, my indebtedness to him.

My mind goes back quite vividly to 24th May, 1921, when as a shy young lad from a little village called Hampton on the Darling Downs, I stood under the awning of Anne Hathaway Cafe looking in awe at the big stone building housing the Lands Department of which Forestry was a part. I was trying to gather sufficient courage to report to the Secretary of the Department, whom my mind had envisaged as some crusty old gentleman who would have little time for a young recruit. I need have had no such fears because the person whom I interviewed was none other than the youthful Clarrie Trist, who immediately put me at ease, and so began an official and personal association which was to last down the years until Clarrie was called to his Heavenly Reward, an association which was to have a profound affect on my whole life, an association which was to mould my mind for an intensive love of the things of nature. It was in such an environment in which my official career commenced, and it was in such an environment in which my official career ended.



In such a position I came in contact with many of the noble-minded men and women, who served your organisation, and this association only strengthened my desire to serve as best I could in protecting and preserving in the things of nature for all time "untarnished by invasion and depletion other than that of invincible time".

In May, 1878, Robert Martin Collins of Tamrookum, with his brother William left Sydney for San Francisco on a world tour. While in America Mr. Collins learnt of the National Park Movement and became interested in it, an interest which he continued to cultivate on his return to Queensland. When he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in this State in 1896 one of the matters which was uppermost in his mind was the possibility of a National Park for Queensland.

Brought up in the shadows of the McPherson Range, it was but natural that his thoughts should centre on this area. But there were objections to a National Park of this region—the area was very fertile, and the forests carried valuable timber, and try as he may he could not convince the Government Authorities of the wisdom of setting this area aside as a Nature Reserve.

However, the introduction on 7.11.1906 by the Honourable J.T. Bell as Minister for Lands of an act "to provide for the reservation, management and protection of State Forests and National Parks" which was assented to on 14.12.1906, afforded the first legal opportunity for a National Park Reservation, and this gave Collins fresh heart to pursue his proposal. Nevertheless opposition to the National Park of the McPherson Ranges area still persisted. Collins arranged for a survey track to be made through the region to bolster up his arguments but all to no avail.

However, a lead for a National Park for Queensland was to come from some public-minded citizens at Tamborine Mountain when at a meeting of the Tamborine Shire Council on 15.6.1907 Councillors S. Curtis and J.H. Delpratt, having in mind the 1906 act just mentioned, put and seconded a motion for reservation in respect of an area of the western slope of Tamborine Mountain. The request was sent on the Minister for Lands, was recommended by the Land Commissioner, supported by Philip MacMahon the Director of Forests, and as a result the first National Park in Queensland, known as Witches Falls, was set aside on 28th March, 1908 by the Honourable Joshua T. Bell. Amongst other things the report at the time said "It is unfit for any other purpose". Nevertheless despite this comment and the smallness of the area it was a beginning for the National Park Movement in this State.

However, Collins was disappointed and discouraged by the opposition which continued to come against his McPherson Range proposal. The Authorities view point was that this plateau should be settled with 30 to 50 families. With sickness upon him, at 70 years of age, he died on 18.8.1913 at his beautiful home "Tamrookum" with his National Park proposal still unresolved. Nevertheless Robert Collins must be credited with playing a major role in the commencement of the National Park Movement in Queensland.

However, Collins' dream of a National Park of the McPherson Ranges did not die with him. In 1911, two years before Collins' death, a young man in his early twenties in the person of Romeo Watkins Lahey had taken up the torch for Lamington. Like Collins, Romeo Lahey had grown to manhood within sight of the McPhersons. He had in mind a much larger National Park than Collins had envisaged. But opposition to the proposal was still there. An opportunity presented itself however when the district member, the Honourable J.G. Appel, offered Mr. Lahey a challenge that, if it could be proved that the people in the Shires of Tamborine and Beaudesert wanted a National Park, they could have it.



It is history now how Romeo accepted and won that challenge. With a door to door campaign, illustrated lectures, dances and public meetings he was able to present a petition signed by 521 people to Mr. Appel:—

“Praying you to approach the Secretary for Lands to secure the immediate reservation as National Park of all the contiguous unalienated land along the McPherson Range.”

In the face of this local public support the proposal could no longer be resisted, and on 31.7.1915 an area of 47,000 acres was proclaimed and named Lamington National Park.

It might be pertinent to comment that between the time of Collins' original proposal, and the gazettal of the Park, there had been a change of Government.

In subsequent years Mr. Lahey was to donate areas of considerable value from his own estate to enhance the reservation to 48,870 acres.

Lamington is still regarded by most people as Queensland's number one National Park. I have personally visited National Parks in all the Australian States, and also in the U.S.A. and Canada, and in my opinion Lamington is a great National Park judged on any standards. It has a place apart in the minds of both beauty lovers and scientists.

This magnificent reservation of mountain peaks, cliffs and gorges with dense rain forest covers a wide range of plant life. Flowering trees bring a variety of colour to the dark green slopes. Beautiful orchids adorn the trees, the October display of the golden king orchids being a particular feature. The ancient forests of Antarctic Beeches, these gnarled and mossy giants of tremendous age, are of unique interest.

Bird life is numerous and varied as visitors to the two Guest Houses—O'Reillys and Binna Burra would well know. The Poet, but not an Australian, who once wrote of Australia as

“A land where blossoms are scentless  
and songless bright birds”

could surely not have visited Lamington. Here the forests are filled with delicious bird music and fragrant with flowering trees shrubs and wildflowers.

Here I must pay tribute to the two Guest Houses which serve this National Park.

The O'Reilly Family of Green Mountains, in their pioneering and homely courtesy, have played host to thousands of nature lovers. Through untold hardships they have built a special niche for themselves in the hearts of thousands of Australians.

Eight O'Reilly boys (in two families) selected 8 blocks in 1911. They had come from the Blue Mountains country of New South Wales, already land pioneers in that part of Australia. About this same time Romeo Lahey had commenced his campaign for the National Park Reservation. When scrubfalling commenced Romeo approached the O'Reilly boys to stay their hand, hoping to arrange an exchange for them on some other land. This they did for a period of 2 months, but when no positive result was forthcoming they resumed their scrubfalling. Mrs. O'Reilly, and the rest of the family, joined the boys in 1917 after the death of her husband at Sandgate. They lived first in a small two roomed hut on Moran's Creek, where they learnt to love and tame the wildlife about them. They moved to the present Guest House in 1926.



Mick and his wife, Bernard and his wife, Molly, Rose and the younger generation Peter and Vince have made cherished friendships with people who have a mutual appreciation and love of the wildlife. Many guests return year after year to enjoy "the peace of the hills" of beautiful Lamington.

The finding by Bernard O'Reilly and the subsequent rescue by him and others of the survivors of the Stinson plane crash are epics of outstanding Australian bushmanship, courage and endurance.

The other Guest House is of course Binna Burra, founded in 1934 mainly through the efforts of Arthur Groom, Romeo Lahey and T.R. Groom who saw the need for such a place to widen the scope and field of the visitors to the Park. They wanted a Guest House which would cater for visitors having in mind the aims of the National Parks Association. These Gentlemen, and others, deprived themselves of much to get this venture established. The slab huts are from timber dressed by Arthur Groom himself. Those who have seen it will never forget the flying fox operated by "Old Bill" with "Dick the Horse" walking around a pull wheel windlass and "Kemp" the dog ever in attendance. To-day this Guest House is flourishing under the management of Mrs. Groom and her sons Tony and Donn. Incidentally I understand the name Binna Burra was suggested by W.M. LeStrange and means "The Place of the Beech Trees".

Both these Guest Houses are doing a wonderful job for Lamington and I thank them for the courtesies they always extended to me down the years.

I have dealt at some length with Lamington, and obviously cannot cover all National Parks. But I will deal briefly with another 3 or 4 which have some special circumstances surrounding them.

Mr. Lahey was also most intimately connected with the reservation in 1962 of 133,000 acres of the Daintree River Gorge and Windsor Tableland country an expanse of rugged mountainous scenery and luxurious rain forest, which may well become the Lamington of the North. Such was his enthusiasm for the area, that at his own personal expense he chartered a plane for aerial reconnaissance and from this he prepared a relief map to strengthen his argument for National Park Reservation.

I think our second National Park proclaimed in 1908 was over 22,500 acres at the Bunya Mountains, to embrace Aboriginal feasting grounds and the glorious forests of giant Bunya Pine trees. Since then, following on specific representations by the Premier the Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen, a further 4,430 acres were recently added.

I propose to mention the Simpson Desert National Park, because I give special credit to your Secretary, Keith Jarrott for initiating in its entirety action on this Reservation. The area which rarely receives rain had been flooded by extensive falls in August, 1966, and Mr. Jarrott telephoned me and suggested this would be an appropriate time to inspect, but that action was urgent. When rains fall in this Region the Desert comes into bloom almost overnight, and there is a tremendous influx of fauna to its lush plant growth. The department acted promptly on Mr. Jarrott's suggestion, and in a matter of 3 weeks an expedition under Peter Ogilvie, the Zoologist attached to the Department, was in the area making a reconnaissance. Quick work indeed for any organisation, particularly in view of the preparation necessary for a visit to such desert country. An officer from the Government Botanist's Department was in the party. Mr. Ogilvie is to be complimented on the comprehensive report of approximately 50 pages which he furnished. As a consequence a National Park over 1,248,000 acres of Simpson Desert was proclaimed on 20th May, 1967. As an Occupation Licence was held over the area this was a problem,



but acknowledgement is made of the co-operation received from the Land Administration Commission in resolving this matter. The main interest in this area is scientific. It represents an environment totally different to anything yet reserved.

I would like to make mention of the Palmerston National Park in order to especially commend the foresight of the late Mr. J.R. Dawson, who as District Forester, Atherton initiated action for the reservation of this magnificent strip of North Queensland rain forest. The Palmerston Highway, tunnelling through lush green rain forest, must surely be unsurpassed in Australia. The luxuriant vegetation and the beautiful Henrietta Creek, with its cascades and waterfalls, served by graded walking tracks from the highway, must be seen to be fully appreciated.

In my last few years in the Department there were many representations for reservation as a National Park of some of our brigalow lands before it was too late. Some areas have since been reserved but I purposely mention this point to pay tribute to Mr. Gordon McDowell the present Chairman of the Land Administration Commission for the part he played in the Dipperu Reservation of 27,220 acres. It gives me pleasure to publicly acknowledge this as an instance of co-operation which exists between the Land Administration Commission and the Forestry Department.

I could go on at length dealing with the many and varied reservations made during my official career but time does not permit. There are the Carnarvons, the Springbrook areas, the many islands of the Barrier Reef, Eungella, The Crater Lakes of the Atherton Tableland, Chillagoe Caves, Bellenden Ker with Mt. Bartle Frere Queensland's highest Mountain, Hinchinbrook the largest Island National Park of 97,000 acres and many others.

No comment by me in regard to National Park Reservations within this State would be complete without reference to Dr. Len Webb a Scientist attached to the C.S.I.R.O.

Dr. Webb, is one of the foremost authorities on rain forest ecology, and is a person with a deep feeling for conservation. He has been particularly interested in nature conservation in the wet tropical lowlands of North Queensland and presented a report recommending preservation of representative habitat types in 20 areas. I understand a considerable part of the areas recommended has now been reserved as National Park.

The 1906 Act already referred to was followed by a comprehensive Forestry Act of 102 clauses in 1958 in which special sections were set aside to deal with National Parks. In a 1968 amendment, provision was made for the classification of National Parks or parts thereof in 5 categories—Primitive, Primitive and Recreation, Recreation, Scientific and Historic. This classification is one which Mr. A.R. Trist required to be done before he retired. It will take place when sufficient information is available concerning the flora, fauna and natural features of the Park in relation to the uses to which it may be applied.

At this stage I should like to comment on the administration of National Parks by the Department of Forestry in this State. It is a question which often arises. I would like to say that, in my opinion, Foresters by the very nature of their training are in the forefront of the most competent conservationists available to administer such areas and generally speaking, are most dedicated persons in the cause of nature preservation.



As I have already indicated my baptism into National Park administration was in association with and under the watchful eye of Clarrie Trist. He was an idealist in the true sense of the word. In support of my viewpoint, let me quote an incident which occurred many years ago. With one of the field officers I had gone on a day visit to Palm Grove National Park on Tamborine Mountain. I was enthralled with the scenery and the beauty of the area, but I was somewhat appalled by the mode of entry into the Park. To gain access to the Park one had to crawl through a barb wire fence and encroach on a fowl run and cowyard. On my return to the office next day, I related my impressions of the day's visit to Clarrie Trist, and, when describing my feelings on the mode of entry to the Park he turned to me and said rather brusquely and I thought somewhat tartly "Is that important Bill". He went on to state that true lovers of a National Park had little regard for such matters and that he himself visited a Park to enjoy the tranquil atmosphere, to hear the birds sing and to see and enjoy wildlife in its natural habitat. He was quite oblivious of the things I have just mentioned. This gave me food for thought and made me realise I was working with a man apart from the commonplace. This was the character of the man who, in a large measure, framed the sound management policies for National Parks in this State, policies which have been applauded by other Australian States and by overseas countries. In the framing of these early policies he was strongly aided and supported by Mr. Swain and Mr. Grenning.

In the very early days, funds were not available for work on Parks, but the early administrators insisted on putting total preservation before all other considerations.

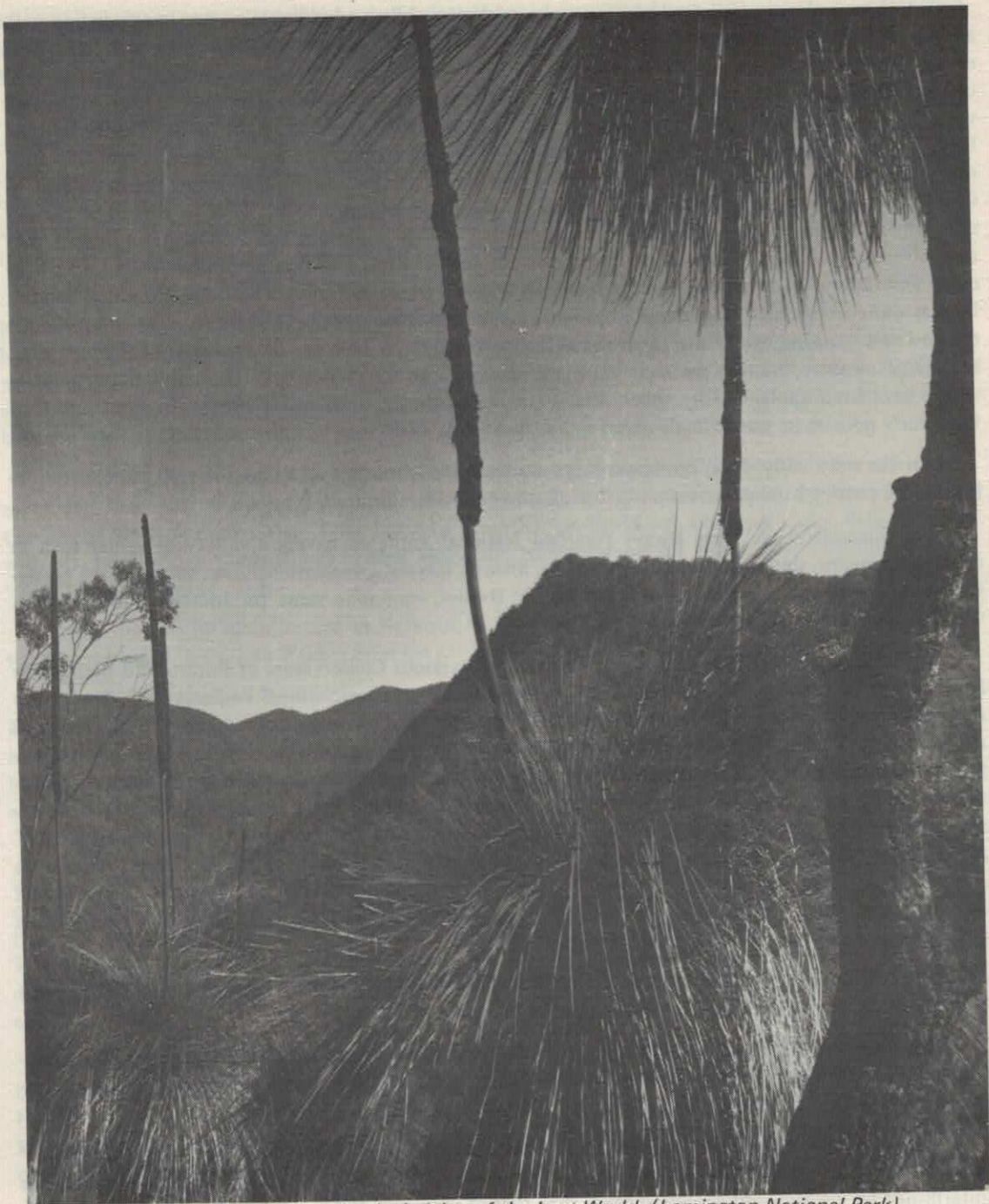
In Queensland we have always regarded National Parks as having a variety of values such as attractive scenery, unusual plant or animal life, historic interests, recreational uses, value for the preservation of plants and animals, value for scientific studies, economic value for tourists and protection value in preventing erosion and stream siltation.

I feel I must state here that down the years the various Conservators of Forests and their staffs have been very conscious of the need for reserving further areas as National Parks. At the time of my retirement many areas were being investigated, or listed for investigation, totalling in all over one million acres. I want to make reference to the technical specialist staff which has been built up to handle National Park matters. Under Mr. H.S. Curtis, a graduate Forester reared by dedicated conservation-minded parents in the environment of Tamborine Mountain, there are now five full time scientific officers, who can give their attention to field inspection and direction and to technical matters of management. They are an enthusiastic body of conservationists. One of them, Mr. Peter Stanton, is engaged exclusively on investigating new National Park proposals. Some time ago the Department's Zoologist Mr. Peter Ogilvie made an inventory of Lamington National Park and as a result he is compiling a publication which should be of great value.

A classified clerk, in the person of Bill Tyson, is engaged full time on National Parks, and I can confidently refer you to him for routine enquiries in regard to Parks.

On the management of our Parks it has been the Department's proud boast that right from inception our Parks in Queensland have been managed to the concept of preserving them as closely as possible in their natural condition.

Freeman Tilden of America in his book "The National Parks—What They Mean to You and Me" said "It is management of the land for the perpetuation of the country's natural and historic heritage untarnished by invasion and depletion other than that of invincible time".



*Beyond the grass trees rise the heights of the Lost World. (Lamington National Park).*





*Photo by courtesy of Department of Forestry.*



There is a prohibition on the introduction of exotic plant species and animals to the National Parks, although there are difficulties in enforcing this.

Most of the people here present know the high esteem in which the management policy in Queensland is held by Overseas visitors and the National Park Authorities from the other States. We have been fanatical in preserving our Parks in their natural condition.

We want to keep them primeval so that people may hike, camp, picnic, research, gaining inspiration, relaxation and enjoyment from natural beauty untampered by the hand of man.

In earlier days when the National Park concept was not so fully understood and appreciated as it is now, there was pressure by commercial interests to be allowed to market merchantable timber from these areas. However, this was strenuously resisted by Mr. Grenning and fortunately his advices were accepted by the Government.

The Department's first National Parks Ranger was Ted McKeown appointed by Percy Pease on 29.7.1935 for North Queensland, this was followed shortly afterwards by the appointment of George Gentry for South Queensland. Under these officers a commencement was made in 1937 on track construction on National Parks to be followed by the provision of other facilities well known to you people.

The actual yearly expenditure on National Parks, as shown in the Department's annual reports, does not by any means portray the full picture. This figure represents mainly the actual amount expended in the field on the Parks, in the main the wages of the employees engaged on track construction and facility improvements, Salaries of permanent officers, drafting, literature, stationery, postage etc. are carried in one or other of the various forestry votes and are not costed against National Parks. So don't be misled when some person caustically criticises Government expenditure on the basis of this figure.

The Department has not hesitated to recommend prosecution of persons who breach the regulations if circumstances permit and in this it has had the support of its Ministers.

Queensland's approach to the use of National Parks for research is soundly based and commended by research authorities. All applications are thoroughly examined, and much care is taken in seeing that due consideration is given both to the preservation of the Park and the importance of research. Where possible collection is referred to state forests instead of permitting it on a National Park.

In an endeavour to perpetuate Aboriginal affiliations the Department has followed a practice of using Aboriginal words in naming features within Parks of particular interest.

You of course are familiar with our distinctive colours of chestnut brown with lemon lettering for our signs.

So much for the administration of National Parks in the long period in which I was associated with it.

I am sure in this address you would want me to make some brief reference to some of the personalities associated with National Parks in my time.



Naturally in my 50 years of duty in the Public Service I have worked under many Ministers of the Crown. The first I can recall was the late Bill McCormack and the last the present Minister for Lands, the Honourable V.B. Sullivan. In between there would have been possibly 8 other Ministers. I propose to make some reference to the last two Ministers under whom I served—Sir Harold Richter and the Honourable V.B. Sullivan whose positions have been made more onerous by the upsurge of public interest in the preservation of the natural environment.

Sir Harold Richter, who had considerable experience in Local Government activities before entering Parliament was a most conscientious man in the discharge of his duties. Always courteous, and always approachable, it was a delight to have dealings with him, I was favoured to be with him on several field journeys, into the Parks, and I was impressed by his enquiring mind and his desire to be fully informed on all activities associated with his Portfolio. He had a wonderful sense of humour, and his warm companionship had to be experienced to be fully appreciated. In the exacting position of Minister for Forests and National Parks he fought with an honest earnestness in the cause of conservation. To me he was the "Gentleman Politician" and he will always have my warmest friendship. On his recent retirement from politics I am sure you all join with me in wishing him improved health and much happiness for Lady Richter and himself in the years ahead. I am honoured by their presence here to-night.

In Mr. Sullivan, who followed Sir Harold Richter as Minister for Lands and Forestry, the Department was fortunate in securing such an energetic and informed person to plead its cause in Cabinet and in Government.

Being reared in the environment of the bush he has an innate appreciation of the need to conserve the things of nature. By intimate discussion with a wide circle of officers, and by first hand knowledge, secured from frequent and at times exacting field inspections, he has become a most informed Minister who has secured a sound grasp of the intricacies of the science of Forestry. I well recall, that a fortnight after taking over as our Minister he was called upon to chair the Australian wide Ministerial conference on National Parks held in Queensland and he did this with a dignity and shrewdness which won not only his own officers' admiration but also that of the other Ministers and visiting top officials from other States. I feel sure you may rest assured that the cause of conservation will receive every possible consideration from him.

I am glad of this opportunity of addressing you, if for no other reason than to bring to notice the outstanding calibre of the permanent heads which have served Forestry down the years and who have played a dominant role in the conservation of our environment. I have been intimately associated with everyone of them and in this field I can speak with authority.

E.H.F. Swain, the first in my experience, is known to many of you as a really unrelenting fighter in the cause of conservation. He never gave up. Can I say more.

He was followed by that outstanding Queenslander, Peter Grenning, I say outstanding deliberately because he has been one of Queensland's most outstanding scholars—first in State in the scholarship examination from the old Normal school, first in Junior and first in Senior from Brisbane Boys Grammar School, represented his school in all major sports, chosen Rhodes Scholar and awarded Master of Science in Forestry.



He was awarded the first N.W. Jolly Memorial Medal for outstanding contributions to the cause of Forestry in Australia.

Unassuming, tolerant and understanding, this Gentleman of nature served the cause of Forestry and National Parks as Conservator for 33 years, and it was a sheer delight to work for him. Forestry in Queensland made great strides under his leadership and the whole State is indebted to him. On National Parks issues he always remained calm but steadfastly resolute.

All Ministers valued and respected his advices. I value very much his continued esteemed friendship and I thank him and Mrs. Grenning for their attendance here to-night.

Mr. Grenning was followed by Mr. Alan Trist as Conservator. Alan who I am delighted to see here to-night, had served a lifetime in Forestry in Queensland. At Yale University he won his Master of Forestry Degree topping the University from 600 students. He is recognised in Australia, and Overseas, as one of the leading world Foresters of our time. A most courageous and forthright man, you might describe him as a torchbearer, for the causes he espoused. He was an inspiration to work with, and like his brother Clarrie, was dedicated to the cause of National Parks. Whenever I had a really difficult problem to handle I could always get guidance and inspiration from Alan and I am indebted to him for the kindness, consideration and courtesy extended to me down the years. As I have already indicated, the name Trist has had a tremendous influence on the National Park movement in this State.

Alan Trist was followed by the present Conservator, Cecil Haley, a distinguished Forester and a cultured gentlemanly scholar. A close associate of Mr. Trist down the years in Silviculture and Silvicultural Research, Mr. Haley is admirably qualified to occupy the top position in the Department. He is a most humane and sympathetic person, interested in the welfare of all officers and of all peoples.

He has already shown his worth and his merit as the officer at the helm of Forestry and National Park Administration in this State. Whenever you have a cause to plead do not hesitate to approach him. I am sure you will receive an attentive and considerate hearing.

When one casts one's mind back over the names in the Pioneers of the National Park Movement in Queensland two names readily come to mind. One was a Government Official—the other a private citizen. I refer to the Late C.J. Trist and the Late Romeo Lahey.

Clarrie Trist was the first Secretary of the Forestry Department, a position he held until his death on 1.1.1954. In the 35 years of his official career, he played a dominant role in the development of the Forestry and National Park Administration of this State. His deep and abiding love for the things of nature focussed his attention on National Parks very early in his career. In these Reservations he saw an outlet from the cares of everyday life, and he made an early resolve that such areas should be dedicated to the people and kept for all time in their natural condition. He thought of them as areas to which people might retreat, to enjoy at first hand the beauties of nature and in the words of the Psalmist as areas:—

“Where silence hushes discontent  
and petty fears are lost in space”



Clarrie Trist was an idealist—a man with a sensitive soul for the things of nature. He handed on to me, and I feel sure to others who trained under him, a heritage to be proud of and a heritage to be lived up to and maintained.

No account of the development of the National Parks Movement in Queensland would be complete without paying special tribute to the outstanding role played by the Late Romeo Lahey. Reference has already been made to the part he played in securing the reservation of Lamington and Windsor Tableland National Parks. Since he first took up the cause of Lamington he never ceased to fight for the cause of National Parks. As foundation President of your own Association his work is so well known to you all. He so faithfully lived up to its aims. Down the years he appeared often at my door with a savage glint in his eye. Invariably he had a scratch across the bald patch on his head from pushing through the scrub. How many have seen him thus. To me it is so descriptive of him. I would always endeavour to disarm him by saying "Well what have we done wrong now". I must say he was a man who had complete faith in Forestry Administration of National Parks. Mr. Lahey was a great man. I think I coined the phrase "He fought for a cause he loved and we loved him for the cause he fought for".

I believe it was Arthur Groom who said of him "Many people may be likened to some other persons but Romeo Lahey is the only one of his pattern"; how true.

This resume, incomplete as it must be, would fall very much short if I did not record the part played in the cause of National Parks by your illustrious, painstaking secretary, Keith Jarrott. You people know better than I what he has done and continues to do. He is favourably known throughout the length and breadth of Australia, and might I add Overseas, for his work on National Parks. To me he has been an adviser and a friend and I publicly acknowledge my personal debt to Keith Jarrott during the years I was in Forestry. Thank you Keith.

Other names fleet through my mind, the Late George Gentry, the Late Ted McKeown, the Late Herb Hausknecht, John Gresty, our beloved Gus Kouskos of Lamington fame, a most dedicated person. Arthur Groom, who had an intimate knowledge of Lamington and who conceived the idea of the Scenic Rim Reservation from the McPherson Ranges to Cunningham's Gap, Edgar Kemp, Lionel Simpson, (Past Presidents of your Association), your evergreen Treasurer, Doug Jolly, and your present President and Chairman here tonight, Clif Bell, who is maintaining so well the high standard set by his predecessors.

I am sure Romeo Lahey if he were here would join with me in making special reference to the National Park workmen in the field. In the early days of National Parks these men had little to guide them but good Australian bushmanship and adaptability, but what a great job they have done, with so few mistakes in a field in which there could have been so many. Their work, and their friendships, shall always remain amongst my fondest memories of Forestry.



Before showing you a few slides I would like to conclude this address by quoting from a poem by Emily A. Bulcock.

"The City streets were stifling—dull and spent.  
The folk went by, with no fresh word to say,  
No happily laughter with life's babel blent  
Spite the gay tinsel and bizarre display.

Here life runs fever high—a frenzied rush!  
But I have found a clean, cool world apart.  
The forest's soothing voices whisper "Hush!"  
Stilling the clamour of my restless heart.

Come here for healing mid the resinous pines!  
Both soul and body braced for life anew,  
Here in the silence—where his splendour shines,  
God has some special things to say to you."

Yes Ladies and Gentlemen in our National Parks "God has some special things to say to you".

Thank you for your patience.





BUNYA MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL PARK

KOONAWARRA

(SPRING WATER)

PICNIC GROUND

PLEASE ASSIST THE  
QUEENSLAND FOREST SERVICE  
TO PRESERVE INTACT  
THESE PLACES OF  
BEAUTY AND INTEREST

*Photo by courtesy of Department of Forestry.*





#### AIMS AND OBJECTS

- (1) To preserve intact in their natural condition the existing National Parks of Queensland; and to secure the reservation of all suitable areas.
- (2) To educate public opinion to a fuller appreciation of the necessity and value of National Parks.
- (3) To form a link between the public and the administration dealing with the National Parks.
- (4) To co-operate with other organisations having the same or similar objects.
- (5) To assist in the enforcement of protective regulations concerning National Parks.

#### POSTAL ADDRESS:—

Box 1752 G.P.O., Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 4001.