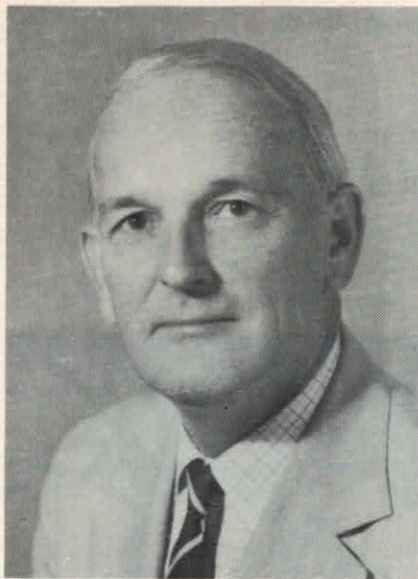


Fourth Romeo Watkins Lahey Memorial Lecture
18th May, 1973.

Sponsored by the National Parks Association of Queensland
"A NATIONAL PARKS MANIFESTO FOR QUEENSLAND?"
by David D. Lahey



Captain G. Flewell-Smith, W. C. Clelland and Romeo W. Lahey at a farewell
to N.P.A.Q. office bearers when the association went into recess
in June 1940.



David D. Lahey

President of Victorian NPA, 1964-66,
Member of National Parks Commission of South
Australia, 1969-72, life member of
NPAQ since 1956. Finance Manager for NSW
in the Shell Group of Companies in Australia.

I am honoured by your invitation to give this memorial address and propose to speak about the Cause, the Association, and the Founder. My comments will be illustrated from my knowledge of or experience in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales and I apologise in advance for any errors in detail which, however, I trust will not affect the main points I want to make. I also hope I will avoid appearing critical or patronising. At the conclusion I want to include a few anecdotes about my father because although they may not be directly relevant to his labours for the National Parks Association they certainly throw some light on his character and hopefully they will interest those of you who were his friends.

The Association exists as a vehicle for a cause — Romeo Lahey never forgot this, and although a sentimental person who greatly enjoyed looking back, his drive and imagination were concentrated on the future and in this address I too will look to the future. Earlier speakers in this series left a vivid impression of comradeship and devotion to the cause of conservation in Queensland in general and this was often epitomised by the N.P.A.Q. membership. In those earlier days the community was very largely composed of Philistines, conservation successes were rare and very notable. In this sort of climate devotees are inevitably staunch. Today I want to make the point that if this staunchness amongst N.P.A.Q. members is not already waning, there are two very good reasons to assume that it soon might be.

Firstly, victories/successes, in some degree at least, are becoming commonplace, so that members can get the impression that we are doing very well, yet quite likely do not understand the distinction between battles and wars. All old soldiers know how effort can easily taper off when victory is at hand and the situation will be worse still if one of the generals says that victory is at hand — which is a fairly rough interpretation of a recent comment by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Secondly, with changes in the state of human affairs — wider conservation education, wider experience both personal and historical, new threats, new enemies — doubts are raised in members' minds as to what the Cause now is for them and therefore whether the National Parks Association is the right bus for them to their uncertain destination.

I, like you, have a vested interest in this bus. If we are determined to maintain a useful bus service including effective support, we must occasionally review the route and other details of the service. Hopefully the consequence will be customers who are loyal, satisfied, quite prepared to pay higher fares. Ardent supporters of any cause never expect to contribute only the cost of the postage/printing of circulars. Financially at any rate, our Life Members now contribute less than that cost.

Whether or not you think there is any substance in my proposition about waning support (interest in the outings may not be a reliable indicator of the intensity of interest), it is beyond argument that causes have their ups and downs, and when on the down, leaders must make plans to hasten the up-turn, and if on the up, plans to head off any possible downturn.

I am proud of what N.P.A.Q. has achieved in forty years by good judgement in defining objectives, setting priorities, and adopting tactics — in fact I got to be president of the Victorian N.P.A. by advocating the self-same ideas, coupled with the unexpected departure of the then president, Dr. Specht, to become Professor of Botany at St. Lucia — but I do not forget that in those forty years there has been much review of its objectives, priorities, etc. and there have been occasional changes. As nothing will stand still, there will be further reviews and indeed further changes, so I want to offer some suggestions for consideration at the earliest opportunity. Ideas usually lead to work and if anyone is already wondering who will do the work before even hearing what my suggestions are, this will underline the validity of some of the things I am about to say.

Some Ideas about "The Cause"

I believe members may feel that their particular vague ideas about the cause are not fully reflected by the Association's written objectives. If there is a wholesale feeling that the objectives are wrong/out of date/too narrow, then I hope someone with ardour will state a case for altering them, but first let me say I think there is little reason to do anything very radical.

There can be many causes within a wider cause like blocks in a row or layers within a cube of blocks. The cause of N.P.A.Q. as at present constituted is the particular block labelled "national parks" — not the whole row labelled "wildlife preservation", not the whole layer labelled "landscape", not the whole row labelled "quality of life" (although our block is in all these rows). The virtue of picking a block instead of a row or a layer of rows is that objectives can be more concentrated and similarly, effort — without doing anything inimical to the interests of other organisations or causes with whom we may well be in sympathy. I also want to emphasise that our block is a key block — it is a block that demands urgent attention — it is a block that allows active participation by members of this Association. In short, I think there is no special reason why N.P.A.Q. should embrace the wider, vaguer cause; there is much work to be done on its own block. The members may well belong to and support numerous other organisations and they may well be able to make a greater contribution to the existing objectives of N.P.A.Q.

On the subject of each doing his own thing. I remember that when I lived in Victoria many hotels exhibited a notice:

"Agreement with Banks: - They won't sell beer - we won't cash cheques."

With greater contribution by members in mind, I think only benefit could accrue from members' having a much fuller guide to Association policies, issued in the form of a manifesto to supplement the existing brief objectives (I have avoided using the word "platform" or "articles of association" which have other connotations!). This manifesto would provide useful guidelines to members, enabling them to speak out in whatever circles they move in without quite such a feeling of helplessness and without waiting for specific guides from the Association which would probably be late and conceivably too late. Although statements of policy are published over the years in newsletters, these are often in the context of a particular issue in a particular location and may easily not be remembered anyway.

If the idea of a manifesto is acceptable then the very first detail to be dealt with is a definition of "National Parks". The problems that arise due to the absence of this are:

- * Does reference in the objectives refer to parks as defined by the Association?
- * Does it refer to all such areas as are administered under the Forestry Act?
- * Is it meant to embrace "Fauna Reserves" established under the Fauna Conservation Act and administered by the Department of Primary Industries? (There are two over ten thousand acres, Swan's Lagoon and Lake Cooloola.) Similarly, will it in the future embrace the newly proposed "Environment Parks"?

For my money, I would include in the manifesto the fact that "national parks" as mentioned in the objectives embrace kindred reserves, as is the case with the N.P.A. of New South Wales. In considering this point it is important to remember that this problem overflows into the area of policy on roads, horses, recreation areas, facilities, etc. Getting names right saves confusion and therefore frustration. (Some members of my mother's family are not very good at names. I am told this goes back to my grandfather who had seven sons and had difficulty remembering who was who. Tired of being constantly corrected by them he hit on the idea of calling them all "Jack". This relieved his embarrassment temporarily until one of them decided he preferred Jack to his own name. I am not sure what the lesson of that story is.) However, to get back to national parks, you may be surprised to know that in South Australia in 1972 there were more than ninety national parks, whereas by 1973 there are only eight. This is not because they have sold the others, it is because they have taken the trouble to define what they really mean by "national park". It was a brave action and it will take a long time to educate the South Australian people because the eight national parks do not now include Belair, which to them epitomised national parks and was the only one in South Australia between 1891 and 1956.

While still on the subject of getting things clear, I would suggest a minor amendment to Objective No. 3 which reads "to form a link between the people and the administration dealing with National Parks". By the political standards of the seventies I suggest this wording is both insipid and presumptuous - it would be more honest to say "exert influence on governments".

Some Ideas for the Manifesto (perhaps in the form of supposed questions)

- (a) What legislation relates to national parks in Queensland?

- * Name the law that covers national parks and list its main provisions.
- * Briefly cover how other types of nature reserves in Queensland are administered and the legislation that covers them.
- * Make some reference to the fact that the arrangements in Queensland are of course not the same as arrangements in other states or other countries, and that anyone interested in this subject should study Australian Conservation Foundation Special Publication No. 2, *National Parks and Equivalent Reserves in Australia : Guide to Legislation, Administration and Areas*, by J.G. Mosley, and/or other relevant material, which could be listed.

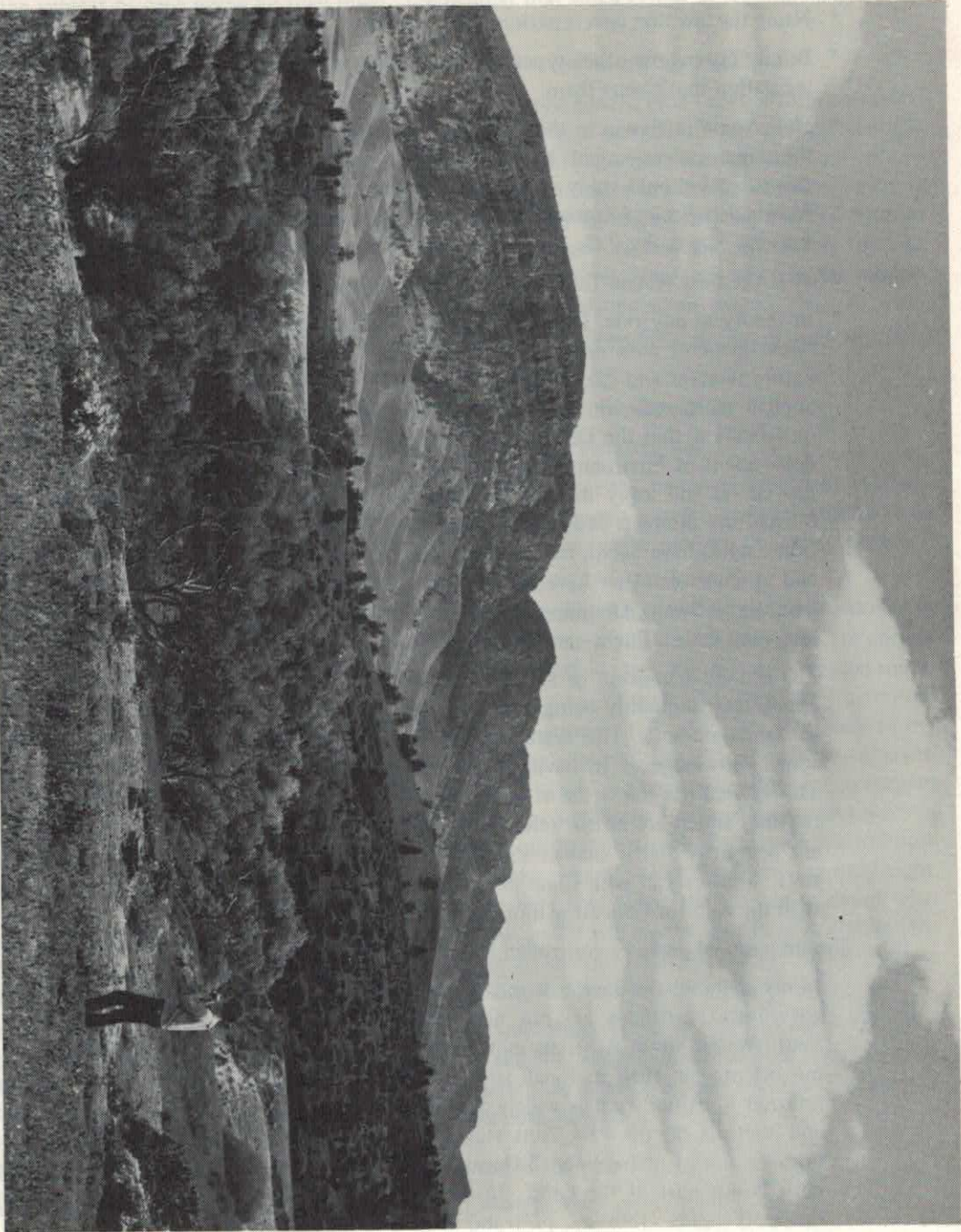
(b) What is the best system for national parks administration?

- * In theory at any rate, I suggest the ideal pattern is for administration by an independent department of government reporting direct to a minister whose responsibilities include nature reserves and fauna conservation but do not include mining. This arrangement has been applied in New South Wales since 1967, and in South Australia since 1972 (with the qualification that the Director, National Parks and Wildlife Services reports through the department of Environment and Conservation). In practice, the Queensland system has proved far and away the best but it is paradoxical that this should have been the case. Silviculture interests and nature conservation interests can so easily be in conflict (and in other states have been), but people are the most important element in any administration and in Queensland we have been extremely fortunate in having such enlightened administrators as Swain, Grenning, Clarrie Trist, Alan Trist, Bill Wilkes and no doubt others — long may their influence and example last!

The attractive concept of an independent authority/commission is eroded in practice by appointees frequently being public servants whose other interests are, or may be thought to be, paramount. This system has been tried in South Australia and Victoria and I have some knowledge of it, having been a member of the Commission in South Australia. This system has the virtue of being economical due to freedom from detailed government routines which are not so relevant to smaller administrative units. A particularly important benefit is that it enables simplicity of enlistment, classification, and remuneration of staff. I also recall with some pleasure the South Australian Commission's ability to deal with the Auditor General without genuflection.

(c) Should national parks be controlled by the national government?

In my opinion, the answer is most definitely no at this stage. In many ways public and government attitudes are not nearly as enlightened as Queensland is already. New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia people are very much more recreation oriented in their national parks thinking. In addition, Mosley's A.C.F. publication, referred to earlier, reveals widely varying attitudes to roads in parks. Only in Queensland and Victoria do the Park Acts state "that the preservation of natural conditions is the primary aim of management" (Mosley, p.7). Also, in most cases a public road within a park is not part of the park. In South Australia, parks are dedicated "subject to all necessary roads" (Mosley, p.9). and also in New South Wales, Northern Territory, and



South Australia entrance fees are charged to some parks. I also point out the very significant differences in legislation covering national parks, etc. as between the states, and the related problem of whose definition would determine what the Commonwealth control would embrace. A Commonwealth takeover may not leave Queensland with Queensland's standards of park integrity and it would leave all manner of loose ends in the category of kindred reserves. I would also speculate that if it occurred in the near future the control of Queensland's national parks is very much more likely to be in the hands of people in other states than the reverse. The only real potential benefit that occurs to me is in those areas where some reserves or potential reserves are divided by artificial state boundaries, e.g. Nadgee fauna reserve and Mallacoota National Park, also Simpson desert where, however, there has already been good co-operation between three governments. A current case in point is the Tweed Range which adjoins Lamington National Park. However, my most useful contribution here is to point out that we must have our clear ideas and not be or appear to be simply reactionary. Wherever one supports the status quo one must be ready to say so clearly and promptly to prevent competing ideas acquiring momentum. If the Commonwealth wishes to be seen to be involved in nature conservation, pressure groups like ours should be endeavouring to influence the direction of their involvement and here we could be recommending biological surveys which we want them to undertake, facilitate, or finance, and professional training courses for park rangers and administrators.

(d) Is there any conflict between aboriginal reserves/land rights and national parks?

Perhaps this does not emerge as a problem in Queensland — yet. However, if it does the Association might consider adopting the view that little objection be raised provided areas are dedicated for aborigines to practise a nomadic hunter life, but without benefit of firearms, conveyances, bricks and mortar, etc. Under these conditions we could be confident that there would no longer be any aborigines in state reserves after a short time. I mention this matter because a large area in the northwest corner of South Australia, which was on the point of being dedicated as a national park, was made an aboriginal reserve instead.

(e) Do we favour controlled burning in National Parks?

I suggest this management practice be not endorsed. This may be a more vital issue in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia because of the more devastating intensity of some of their wild fires. It seems to bear the hallmarks of a current fad, and had its genesis in the protection of large forest trees or personal property. Reference is often made to comparative economics of different forms of fire protection/fighting. Many things in life should not be settled by arithmetic or comparative cost analysis, e.g. no price can be put on frequent blighting of scenery as against prospective occasional worse blighting. National parks are not placed for laboratory experiments. Controlled burning would seem to be completely irrelevant in rain forest areas. The N.P.A. of New South Wales has published a comprehensive policy statement in January 1973, which would be a good starting point.

(f) What political party do we favour?

I suggest the Association decide not to take sides. I believe this is largely counter-productive in that threats can lead to reprisals and the practice can be divisive within the organisation because people's political persuasions are rarely negotiable nor dependent on single issues.

The politics of protest is a very tricky issue and worthy of study by all people promoting causes. I commend a public lecture on this subject ("The Politics of Protest" by C.S. Reid, Professor of Politics at University of Western Australia, published in *Man and His Environment*, the Octagon Lectures, 1969). I notice that both parties in Victoria have offered effectively more national parks and conservation areas in their policy speeches for the state election tomorrow. However neither is prepared to be explicit as to what or where or when.

(g) Has the Association a view on the naming of parks after people?

I suggest we strongly oppose this. The practice appeals to the worst instincts of people, particularly ignoble people. I am aware of cases where suggestions for national parks in South Australia involving financial consideration were coupled with desires for the donor's name to be perpetuated. I can say that R.W. Lahey would not consider the naming of a park after him and there is none named after the great Cornelius Hedges, the originator of the national parks idea at Yellowstone. On the other hand, Lord Lamington thought it was a great bore having to visit Lamington National Park when it was dedicated.

(h) Do we favour charging for access to national parks?

I recommend no charge, and I draw to your attention that museums and art galleries usually do not charge for admittance, but zoos invariably do. I do not accept the argument that people don't value what they get for nothing. On the other hand, many people who pay want improvements. A large part of the funds collected is consumed by staffing costs. Also, the inevitable improvements themselves become an attraction and human traffic will become enough of a problem without this sort of aggravation.

(i) What is our attitude to fishing in national parks?

This may not appear to be a problem in Queensland since it is not currently allowed and national parks only extend to high water mark. However, there are soon to be marine parks and I mention that fishing is rife in or from Mallacoota (Victoria), Royal (N.S.W.), and Coorong (South Australia) and no doubt many others. There is no logical reason why fish should be any less protected than birds.

(j) Improvements/Developments — where do we draw the line?

(or to put it another way, our views on park integrity).

I believe our views should be something like this. Roads, resorts, recreation grounds, and conveyances have no place in national parks except where these were there before dedication, and in some cases even these should be phased out. Conveyances here include chair lifts, speedboats, trail bikes, beach buggies, horses, and hovercraft. The only exceptions should be the dictates of safety and fire control. This is our interpretation of the provision in the Act that "the cardinal principle . . . in the management of national parks and

scenic areas shall be the permanent preservation to the greatest possible extent of their natural condition . . . ” One only needs some examples of this attitude not being adopted to appreciate its desirability:

- * Royal National Park, Sydney has the lot (not to mention dogs in constant evidence and probably cats, secreted in boots of cars at the entrance)
- * Mt. Buffalo Ski Resort and proposed extensions
- * Ayers Rock
- * Kosciusko National Park
- * Various national parks in South Australia and New South Wales are traversed with power lines for which, in New South Wales, a rental is paid to the administering authority — a sordid arrangement.

Another potential problem area is the use of national parks as a background for T.V. etc. advertising. This may or may not be harmful in present conditions, depending on supervision. Just to add a note on the brighter side, in 1971 a bitumen through road in Belair (Adelaide Hills) was permanently closed.

- (k) What attributes determine the selection of national parks? (If members are to assist in locating potential parks, they need guidelines as to prospects and Association support.)

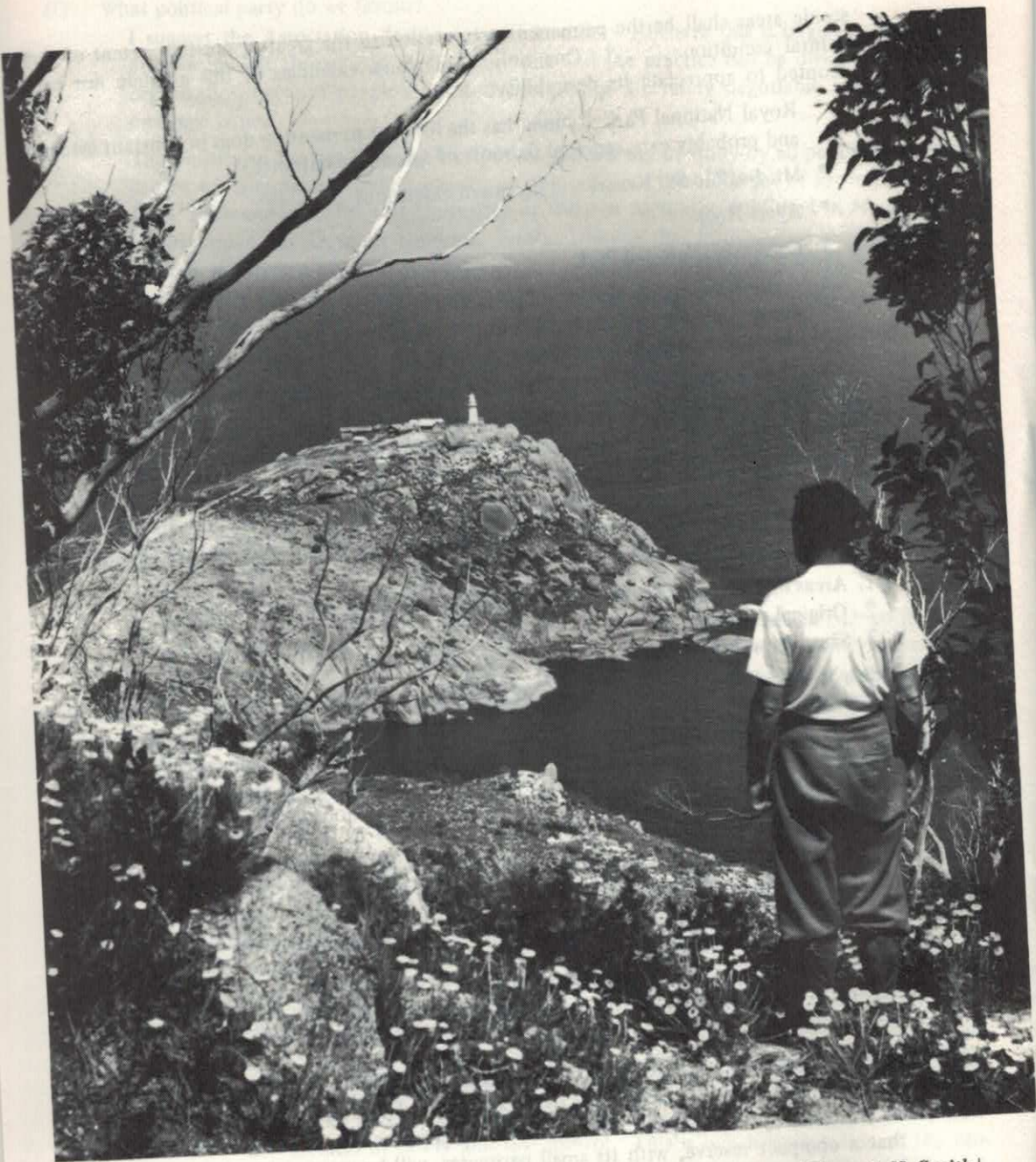
Here are my views:

1. **Areas of “scenic, scientific or historical interest”** (Forestry Act, 1959).
2. **Original condition.**
3. **Size, shape, and topography.**

Size is the most important single factor affecting the viability of a reserve, because size determines its susceptibility to the influence of surrounding areas and of its human visitors. As already stated, buffer strips should separate the reserves proper from all land which is now or is likely to be intensively farmed; such buffer areas could be used for forestry, for forest parks, for park services (rangers’ houses, motels, camps), for fire breaks, road access, etc.

A reserve should also be large on the scale of the environmental variation so that ideally a mosaic of different environments can exist, with each type recurring interspersed with others; for example, a recurring pattern of gully and ridge, of dune and swale. A large reserve of this type will tend to maintain species populations which include genetic pools of some heterogeneity; it will also make some allowance for the territorial characteristics and to some extent for the nomadic or migratory instincts of some animals.

The boundaries of a reserve should be as natural as possible and related to the topography — placed along ridges, watersheds, rivers, or lakes. The shape of a reserve is, therefore, conditioned by topography and by other ecological factors, but in general it is obvious that a compact reserve, with its small perimeter, will be more viable than one which is long and narrow.



Wilson's Promontory National Park. South-East Cape in late December. (Photo L.H. Smith)

For most Victorian plant communities some ten thousand acres could be taken as the absolute minimum required to secure adequate conservation. Smaller reserves for special purposes, properly managed and provided with adequate buffers, may also be viable, as has been demonstrated by the British Nature Conservancy (*Nature Conservation in Victoria: A Survey*, by Judith Frankenberg, published by Victorian National Parks Association, 1971, p.9).

4. Provision of wilderness and tranquility.

In this connection I quote an extract from N.S.W. National Parks Journal, May 1973, from submission to State Pollution Control Commission enquiry — Moomba to Sydney natural gas pipeline — Wollongambe, on the value of wilderness.

"It is impossible to put a monetary value on wilderness and difficult to describe its value without raising issues of philosophy with which the inquiry would not be concerned. Wilderness, however, must be recognised as having from Biblical times a special value and appeal to certain people or people generally at certain times. Its special significance is not so much that it is there to be used, but that it is there. George Eliot expressed the view a hundred years ago that 'there should be some unknown regions preserved as hunting grounds for the poetic imagination' and an American wrote more recently: 'Save a piece of country like that intact and it does not matter in the slightest that only a few people every year will go into it. That is precisely its value . . . We need to put into effect, for its preservation, some principle other than the principles of exploitation or usefulness or even recreation. We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.'"

5. We should not however regard pieces of bushland like children regard toys — as taking on value when another child approaches it.

(1) How many national parks are wanted?

1. We want an adequate representation of every major vegetational alliance in the state. If these occur in widely separated parts of the state then one in each. This must be determined primarily by botanists. (You will be pleased to know that Professor Specht, who conceived the Frankenberg study in Victoria, has nearly completed assessing the conservation status of major plant communities in Queensland and the results will be published in the *Australian Journal of Botany* in August/September this year. The N.P.A.Q. made some submissions.)
2. There must be a comprehensive range of marine national parks. This will require a biological survey too but we don't need an exhaustive survey to make a start (Frankenberg, p.130).
3. On the aesthetic side we want a widespread network of parks, beyond what the biological survey may demand, for acceptable human recreation and for various degrees of

wilderness. On the aspect of scenery, we are not repelled by aridity or the profusion of such areas (before long they will be much in demand for the generation of solar energy). We note with great concern the past and present rate of alienation of land in its natural condition — we note the rate of population increase — we note the accelerating rate of human consumption of natural resources — we note that an act of parliament by future generations can revoke a national park — we note that the means are not in prospect of recreating nature. We vote by proxy for future generations to the limit of our imagination. We do not think in terms of an arithmetic proportion of the area of the state. (I do not share the reported opinion of the Duke of Edinburgh that we are doing very nicely in Australia, unless he meant to say "in terms of last year's needs" or compared with countries who do not have our opportunities.)

The matters mentioned above illustrate what could be in the manifesto and are certainly not an exhaustive list; for example, it might be relevant to refer to the wood chip industry, mining in general and sand mining in particular, planting exotic pines, in all of which the point would have to be made of their limited relevance to the Association's published objectives. A directly relevant item, however, would be the elimination of feral animals from national parks, and without developing this point, may I mention that my son Richard feels that the bounty on dingoes should be diverted to feral cats.

Other Suggestions — Not Related to the Manifesto

- (a) Whilst I am sure the circulation of a manifesto would increase members' usefulness to the cause, there would be benefit in further education in the form of talks from relevant politicians, public servants, and learned speakers, say every three months, even if payment of some travelling expenses were involved.
- (b) Perhaps we could be doing more towards the recruitment of members, not in the direction of quantity so much as quality. We need people who will be particularly useful to the cause (scientists, writers, and ex-officers of the Lands Department and Forestry Department). It is however desirable to ensure that all potential members are sympathetic generally to the objectives and to the manifesto — professional agitators may be more disruptive than useful.
- (c) I believe it is desirable for greater use to be made of the media, particularly T.V. I suggest this would be facilitated by the existence of an endorsed, comprehensive manifesto.
- (d) Endeavour to get members more actively involved in the cause by arranging expeditions, for example, which combine enjoyment with work in the field. I would expect that the Forestry Department and the Botany School could make some useful suggestions here (as a matter of interest, in South Australia prisoners from the Adelaide gaol are regularly used in an attempt to eradicate exotic plants in one of the parks). Members who cannot for various reasons contribute in this way hopefully can provide financial support to engage the services of experts for such projects as, for example, the Frankenberg survey in Victoria.

In concluding my remarks on the Association and the cause, I do urge you to support the idea of a manifesto. National parks associations in other parts of Australia do not have such a thing but this would be the first time that Queensland has been out in front.



Camels, Elliot Price Wilderness National Park, August 1970. South Australia.
With acknowledgement to the Director, South Australian National Parks Service.

Now I want to conclude with some anecdotes about my father. Those of you who knew him will remember him as an old man and probably only in the context of National Parks. I hope these snippets may illustrate his character, his effectiveness — the sort of things that unconsciously caused you to inaugurate these memorial lectures.

1. Until about twenty years ago there were two enormous Moreton Bay fig trees in the grounds of the Pimpama primary school. Guess which pupils planted them about 1896? Romeo Lahey and his brother Bert — probably at the instigation of their father, a very fine man.
2. When he attended the Sydney University (there wasn't always one at St. Lucia!) from which he graduated M.E. (Civil), his greatest joy was geology because Professor (later Sir) Edgeworth David took the students on expeditions of discovery — particularly looking for coal in the Hunter Valley. Edgeworth David was a great naturalist and a thoroughly exciting person. Another disciple was the great Douglas Mawson of Antarctic fame and later Professor of Geology at Adelaide.
3. During his student days he regularly visited Canungra where the family had established Queensland's biggest sawmill. In a group of the locals observing the Canungra Creek in flood one day, one young man concerned for a date he had in Brisbane was speculating about how long it would take to walk there. Romeo suggested the quickest way would be down the flooded creek by canoe. This brought forth hoots of laughter — the local lads probably didn't know where the Canungra went but at least knew it wasn't a tributary of the Brisbane. Father promptly made a bet of £5 that he and his brother Eric (Shirley's father) could reach Toowong by canoe faster than the others could get there overland. (The bet was subsequently changed to "within 72 hours" when the competitor's eagerness to get to Brisbane wore off.) The rest of that day was spent building the canoe. Although only 48 miles by road it's 100 miles by water down the Canungra, into the Albert, into the Logan, across Moreton Bay and up the Brisbane River, but they made it in 72 hours. They only came to grief once — at the bridge over the Albert (which still stands) between Tamborine Village and Camp Cable, the water was seen to be barely covering the bridge, but too late.
4. Father served as a lieutenant in the Australian Army Engineers in the First World War in France (and also in the Second World War for that matter) and when waiting his turn in England for repatriation he enrolled in 1919 for an abbreviated (post-graduate?) course in Town Planning at London University. The culmination of this course was an exercise for the redesign of that part of London between Euston and Waterloo stations for the Lever prize of £15. You've probably guessed—the only Australian doing the course won the prize. He walked over every inch of the area — the locals mostly knew the area fairly well or they relied on maps. He was a lifelong believer that you see things better on foot.
5. The next episode demonstrates both his foresight and his belief in leading by example. In the 1920s when he had become the manager of the timber mill in Canungra he believed that millable timber was not inexhaustible and was a great proponent of afforestation. His deeds

were as good as his words and to this day you can see at Canungra a forest of hundreds of hoop pines on the lower slopes of Mt. Misery opposite the Canungra sports ground and an extensive planting of southern silky oak along the western bank of Canungra Creek in the same area. These forests are now nearly fifty years old. (The company sold this area in a liquidity crisis in 1929 when Father was temporarily absent in Fiji.)

6. In the same depression era there was little work for the outside staff normally employed by the mill who were then taking timber in reduced quantities from the upper reaches of the Coomera Valley. To keep them usefully occupied Father set them to building a graded walking track in Lamington National Park between Illinbah clearing and Darlington Range (what the Forestry Department didn't know wouldn't hurt them!).
7. In the Second World War the Australian Army decided to establish a jungle training centre in Queensland and a number of sites adjacent to Lamington National Park were mooted. Whether or not Father originally suggested the chosen location on the Coomera River near Canungra, he certainly supported it, and immediately set about discouraging the Army from using or at least abusing Lamington National Park. He pointed out all the remnants of rain forest on the lower slopes of Beechmont, Springbrook, etc. and offered them every facility on his own property at Mt. Cainbale — everything within his power to divert the pressure from Lamington.
8. Romeo Lahey was an original member of the Save the Trees Campaign to which some of you may also belong. The executive received an impassioned plea for help from a person whose nextdoor neighbour, a woman, was intending to cut down an outstanding specimen of a beautiful exotic but rare tree in Brisbane. (Leaves in the gutters and so on.) The lady's potential soft spots were reviewed. Her approval was obtained for the holding of a small informal tea party in her garden which the then Governor's wife wished to attend for the purpose of identifying/admiring the tree. Whether my father conceived the strategy I don't know, but he did go to school with the then Governor. (Yes, the tree thrives.)

The last two points show the virtue of not just being reactionary — a peril we face in the conservation cause today.



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.

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