

ELEVENTH ROMEO W LAHEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

TO THE

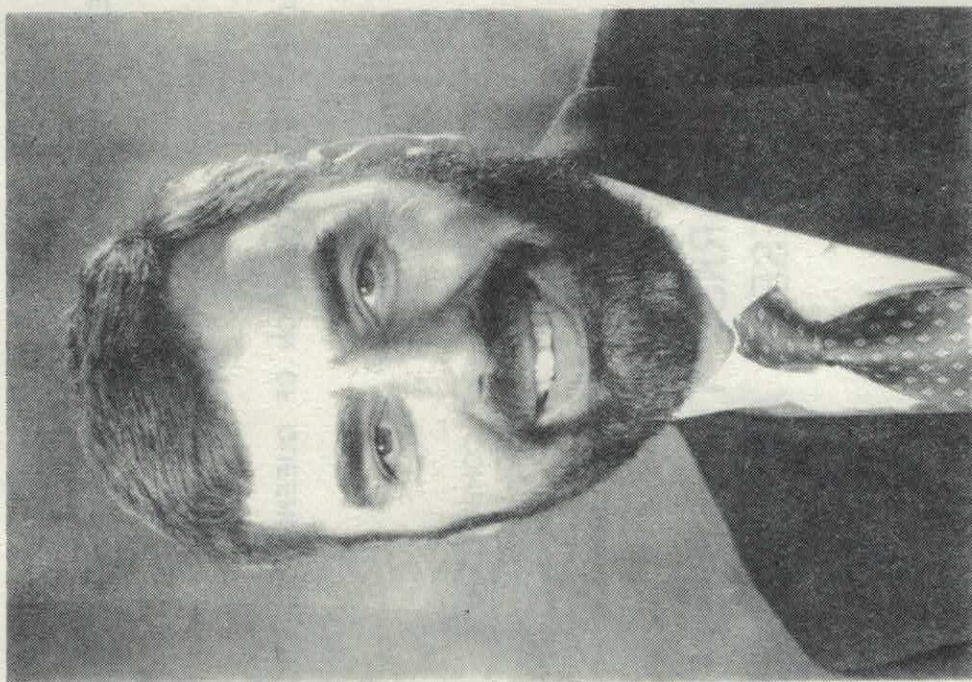
NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

by

THE HONOURABLE PAT COMBEN, MLA
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 1993

"NATIONAL PARKS, THE CHALLENGES,
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"



Pat Comben was born in England and migrated to Australia, on his own, as a lad in 1966. His story is quite remarkable. He supported himself in a variety of jobs in various parts of Australia, put himself through night school and then attended the University of Queensland, graduating Bachelor of Arts, majoring in government and law, in 1981.

In 1983 he was elected Member for the State seat of Windsor and in 1986 became a Shadow Minister.

When his party came to power in 1989, he became Minister for Environment and Heritage. He was the first Minister in this portfolio, at least in the last couple of decades, who really appreciated the nature and importance of National Parks, due to his passion for the natural environment. His enthusiasm and his drive, and presumably his ability to influence the remainder of Cabinet, led to a new Golden Age of National Parks in Queensland. He filled this portfolio for three years until 1992 when he was promoted in the Cabinet hierarchy to the position of Minister for Education - undoubtedly an important role.

He is well informed and well qualified to speak on the subject of -

National Parks, The Challenges, Past, Present
and Future.

Romeo Watkins Lahey, MBE, ME was described by Arthur Groom as "a small man, lightly built of sinew and bone, with a broad forehead and bald; with a mottled complexion that was often red with the heat of arguments, often white in cold anger against those who would destroy any of nature's handiwork".

Born in the Canungra district to a long established pioneer family, he trained as an engineer, fought in the First World War and worked for the family's timber mill. But firstly he was a fighter for Queensland's national parks. No other person has since, or can in the future, have the influence that Lahey had on our national parks.

If Lahey were with us tonight he would be immensely proud of the growth, strength and influence of the infant he spawned - The National Parks Association of Queensland. He would be fascinated by the methods used to select national parks today. He would frown at the compulsory acquisition and purchase of land for national parks, the vastly changed role of recreation and visitor numbers, and the legislative changes presently being debated. But he would smile wryly at the thought of the challenges past, present and future for few involved with the national parks have faced the challenges that he did, and met them so decisively.

I suspect that if he could speak to a modern Environment Minister about challenges he would say "our earliest challenge was getting the concept even accepted!" Although Yellowstone National Park had been declared in 1872 it was not until 1906 that Queensland passed national park legislation. This was only after years of battling by Lahey's neighbour, R.M. Collins of Tamrookum, who had seen the national park concept in the United States during an 1878 visit. Collins raised the possibility of the Lamington Plateau becoming "a health resort, sanatorium and national park" at a Royal Geographical Society meeting in 1896. But Collin's concept was far away from today's ideal. Thirty years later Lord Lamington would remember his visit to the proposed Lamington National Park with Robert Collins, "I was taken up a mountain, and when we were coming down I shot a native bear. Its dying cries were terrible. They haunted me for years afterwards".

Lahey would recall that cynicism abounded. A visit by the Secretary for Public Lands, the Honourable Digby Denham in June 1910 did not assist the Lamington campaign within government. For Denham reported to the Parliament his appreciation for "the thought of a national park, but for anyone to regard Lamington Plateau as a national park, is under the circumstances, an extreme view. One cannot get away from the track cut, the vegetation is so dense, and I think public interest would be served much more by having some 30 to 50 families located on the plateau and the altitudes retained, especially those spots where tree ferns luxuriate, than by having a nominal national park which is

practically inaccessible except to those who will undergo great hardship, and which is yielding no results".

Lahey's early challenges were not only against those lacking vision, but also duplicity when the local Member of Parliament, John Appel agreed to support the proposal but appears not to have forwarded a substantial local petition. But on 31st July 1915 Lahey had his first victory with the declaration of Lamington National Park. The challenge of short-sighted public opposition, government and bureaucratic inertia as well as misrepresentation would be found throughout the ensuing years. If Lahey were here today he could ask whether things have changed and I would reply, "I know of no major park that has been declared without opposition of some form whether it be local desire for alternative land use, state-wide opposition to loss of grazing land (and it is always quote "the best grazing land in the state"), or opposition from alternative industries such as tourism or opposition from individuals who perceive their rights or interests to be threatened. In the darkest days of the Riversleigh resumption the memory of Lahey and his challenges buoyed me, for Lamington, the Bunyas, Carnarvon Gorge, Girraween and Eungella all had their detractors. Some things remain timeless.

The United States environmental writer Freeman Tilder enshrined the aim of national parks as places "for the perpetuation of the country's natural and historic heritage untarnished by invasion and depletion other than that of invincible time". Although early politicians saw the parks as health resorts, few other jurisdictions would take to heart the same belief in pure preservation of national parks as the Forestry Board did in the first decades of this century.

An example of the purity of approach was shown by Bill Wilkes, a Secretary of the Forestry Department.

"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 cow yard. On my return to the office next day, I related my impressions of the day's visit to the then Forestry Secretary, 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 habitats. It was a good example of the preservation ethic. 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."

Lahey challenged this notion of total preservation when he started putting graded walking tracks, the best in the world, into Lamington National Park. Use of the parks for popular recreation was also commenced in the early 1930s following agitation by Lahey and this Association. The ten years from 1931 to 1941 were to see huge changes for the national park estate. A period of change unsurpassed until the present, but supported by this Association, indeed driven by this Association.

But the change would not come without controversy, none of it without challenge. Lahey sought simply to progress the national parks movement, this required a change to the "ideal". To achieve success and change Lahey knew that he required substantial support and public opinion behind him. It was insufficient if he and an occasional friend lobbied. He needed a public association. He called a public meeting on the 15 April 1930 in the Brisbane City Hall, 90 people, including the Queensland Governor, Sir John Goodwin, agreed to the formation of the National Parks Association. Lahey was elected President, with Archbishop James Duhig, and Professor Ernest Goddard as Vice-Presidents. There was no shortage of practical challenges for the newly formed Association. On the first field trip by a group from the Management Council, Lahey drove a Studebaker car up Spicers Gap and round to Cunningham's Gap for an investigation which quickly resulted in the doubling of Cunningham's Gap National Park. A 1931 outing to Mount Ernest required a pre-outing visit to select a campsite as a large attendance was expected. Groom did this by walking from O'Reilly's (at Lamington National Park) - "leaving at midnight, passing through old Lamington village, across country, pausing for breakfast at Masen's on the New England Highway, inspecting the campsite at Mt Ernest and then lunching with Ernest Hardgrave - Arthur Groom headed back in a north-easterly direction (avoiding some of the high ridges he had crossed earlier) to Rathdowney, and with moonlight, headed direct for O'Reilly's, reaching there at midnight - 70 miles (112km) in 24 hours". Not a bad preparation trip.

Under Lahey's leadership the Association was a catalyst for change, national parks ceased being inaccessible areas as intended by forestry officers, or health resorts and pleasuring grounds as sought by politicians. A golden era of change, challenge and advancement was present.

Due in large measure to the work of Lahey the park estate covered 142 parks covering 270 501 ha by 30 June 1941, a fourfold increase in 11

years. Walking tracks within national parks unheard of in 1930 covered 170 kilometres by 1941, administratively the first financial allocations to the parks were made, the first national parks regulations were gazetted, the first park rangers were appointed and the first official policy statement on national park policy was made. A period of inertia then followed caused by the demands of war and post-war reconstruction.

Lahey's contribution is manifold but a key element was that he took people to the parks and made the parks people friendly. If Tilders concept of preservation had been accepted the parks would have been put aside and locked up. They have not been. We have accepted human change and intervention, because of the work of Lahey.

The period of quiescence ended in the early 1960s. In 1961 Lahey retired from the Presidency of NPAQ. He had served for 31 years. He could perhaps see that times again required change and fresh blood was needed. He attended council meetings to see the support given to Bill Wilkes to attend the First World Conference on National Parks in Seattle which marked a turning point - the challenge at that time was increased visitation brought about by the Holden motor car and recreation use. At that Conference, which Keith Jarrott also attended, information brochures, interpretive centres, camping grounds and biological staff were suggested for the first time. Little enough change by today's perception but in fact huge changes by the standards of the day. The Queensland Minister was approached to support the changes. Undertakings were given by the Minister that park naturalists would be appointed, with better weekend and holiday patrolling of frequently visited national parks, self-guiding nature trails with explanatory leaflets and visitor centres or "Park Museums" as they were then referred to would also be provided. Park management was also highlighted with the call for forward planning and detailed surveys of flora and fauna in the parks. A request from the NPAQ "for full uniforms for Rangers, Overseers and Park Naturalists", was refused by the Minister, but he stated "a modified system for interpretative and weekend staffs would be considered." Later requests for implementation of the undertakings were met by the bureaucratic reply that they were "dependent on finance". It is a salutary reminder for us today who often believe nothing has changed, that less than thirty years ago there was no park planning, few camping areas, no professional park staff, no interpretive centres, no centralised National Parks and Wildlife Service, not even uniforms!

Frustrations that the demands for change were not being met were evident in the 1962 Annual Report which stated "... not for nothing has the Association earned the title in Parliament of The Watchdog of the National Parks. For the best part of thirty years, Queensland governments had been aware of the invaluable work of this association, had listened to its views and had respected its great experience and

knowledge of National Parks systems, not only in Australia but abroad as well. Yet in the last three years a change has occurred. No longer does the government of the day acknowledge our public status nor does it use our experience and our knowledge of the National Park systems of Queensland and the rest of the world. This association has been forced to battle the Queensland government on several issues in the last two years." They were black days for the Association.

A changing style of environmental activism became evident and new organisations with high media profiles and a protest ethic would come to the forefront. None would ever achieve the same gains for the national parks as the Association. But as governments dealt with these protest groups, often in situations of conflict, in place of the Association, the vast information and expertise of the Association was lost and the parks suffered. Professional officers undertook surveys to find appropriate park sites, using modern soil, vegetation and land form techniques in place of the Association's recommendations. When individuals like Jim Gasteen were no longer heard a great deal was lost. Sadly this second oldest, and largest environmental organisation in Queensland has never regained its rightful place as a close expert adviser to Government even though the Association's expertise has never diminished. Today the need for this role to be re-grasped has never been greater.

What is it that we can learn from the challenges that faced Lahey and the Association in the past sixty-two years that are relevant to the challenges of today and the future?

Firstly that change and challenge has always been with us. Secondly that change per se is not harmful. Thirdly that with each new challenge we must move with the times and seek the best solution for the national parks.

Today the parks are under challenge to change as never before. Firstly in terms of the need for greater management. Ever increasing visitors are impacting on the parks, feral animals and weeds are present, wildlife numbers and diversity is decreasing. Park management is becoming increasingly sophisticated but also highly interventionist. This means that we can not be honest to the first aim of the Association - to preserve intact in their natural condition the existing national parks of Queensland - unless we are interventionist. The days of protection by passive management are gone.

Secondly, in the debate and challenge over aboriginal hunting and gathering in national parks. It appears to me to be logical that we do need some intervention in some areas of the parks for the protection of the parks. This applies primarily to areas with pigs, feral cattle and weed invasions. But whatever the need, it is a rare park indeed that is

able to attract all the money it needs for management purposes, particularly for wildlife management as opposed to visitor management and interpretation. When a park such as Iron Range is considered, there is a large feral pig and cattle population within the park which cannot be culled or controlled by the sole ranger. If we accept that this control should occur why can it not be undertaken by the local aboriginal population? If we allow feral animal control why can we not formalise it, undertaken by a local group, in a management plan for the benefit of the park? On Lakefield National Park the local Anggnara people are controlling pigs by trapping without guns, why can this not be part of a management plan? It is one of the most successful feral animal control measures presently being undertaken. I raise the question of hunting and gathering in this form as I believe it demonstrates that there are circumstances where hunting (perhaps by another name - feral animal control) is appropriate. I have some difficulty with the simplistic notion that hunting and gathering is intrinsically wrong. If it can be shown that a case such as Lakefield or Iron Range is appropriate we should then be arguing the individual case by case examples, not the simplistic overall question which is presently in the public domain.

Some individuals seem to have forgotten that aboriginals, in far greater number and in far greater need of intensive hunting than would occur today, have inhabited this land for 100,000 years without harm. I have visited Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, the world's largest national park, where hunting of wildlife has continued not only without harm, but under strict management by the local Inuit Indians for many decades in a total sustainable situation, repeating the situation which had been there for millenniums. The same is true of Uluru and Kakadu. Other reasons for allowing aboriginal involvement include the argument of co-operation, particularly in areas such as Cape York where large areas are already under control of aboriginal people. As with other areas if we wish to secure extra areas for conservation from these aboriginal controlled areas we have to be prepared to negotiate. My experiences at Wood Buffalo National Park showed me the enhancement and enrichment that can come from indigenous involvement. In that area the Inuit Indians are major allies with the Canadian Park Service. If some involvement is accepted how can the involvement be contained reasonably? Firstly by legislation and management plans. We have totally reasonable and appropriate mechanisms to control aboriginal involvement under the Nature Conservation Act. The Act allows us to control traditional use. Sustainable use would be the test. Secondly by the normal constraints upon all of us that aboriginals do not want to shoot each other or offend against the normal conservation standards which we all accept. Bazookas, AK47s and sub-machine guns will not be on the parks. I have met many wise aboriginals who seek only the culturally important continuation of their traditional rights. In many cases the right is more important than the practice. Additionally the

interest is often in practical matters such as pigs for protein than any indigenous species. I know of no genuinely rare or threatened species to which access is being sought in a manner that could threaten the species.

Dr Hamish McCallum, Senior Lecturer, University of Qld's Dept of Zoology and Centre for Conservation Biology, in a recent newspaper article stated,

"There are reasons why Aboriginal use could perhaps be good for conservation. Small-scale fires were frequently used by Aborigines to increase growth of new grass, and the suggestion has been made that the catastrophic loss of medium-sized mammals from the arid zone was caused by the cessation of such burning. It is well-known that removal of predators can cause problems in many ecosystems. Aboriginal people could possibly be considered as "natural predators".

"There are equally strong arguments that any increased pressure on wildlife in national parks could be disastrous. Although it is the fault of Europeans, not Aborigines, available wildlife habitat is only a fraction of what existed 200 years ago, and wildlife must contend with introduced predators such as foxes and cats. Aboriginal hunting pressures which were formerly sustainable could easily tip the balance and condemn many of the remaining species to extinction.

"Such conflicts are common to most problems of ecological management. The most sensible conclusion is first to be cautious, and second to use what is called "active adaptive management". Active adaptive management means that the management process itself is deliberately used to gain more information about the problem, and this information is used to feed back into improved management."

From this, Dr McCallum drew a belief that there is a need for proper surveillance with information gathering, and restrictions on who could exercise what traditional rights, where. This is the system proposed. This is achieved through the Aboriginal Land Act and the Conservation Act. Additionally the Minister for Environment and Heritage has stated that the precautionary principle should be used in all cases, thus complying with Dr McCallum's call for caution. Announcements and statements have already been made stating that small vulnerable parks will not be subject to hunting. We are talking about limited numbers of major parks in generally isolated areas, totally controlled by management plans. When organisations as diverse as the Centre for Conservation Biology, Queensland Conservation Council and Cairns And Far North Environment Centre support the concept we should perhaps be discussing the matter further. The Centre for Conservation Biology in

its submission to Molly Robson outlines a regime that I believe could work. They state:-

"It is urged that the following be given serious consideration prior to the allocation of harvesting rights.

- * A management plan should be in place which incorporates both traditional or customary and current scientific knowledge of species and populations.
- * Each Park on which harvesting is permitted should be managed in accordance with the management plan as directed in the Aboriginal Land Act Section 5.20.
- * The size of the target population of a particular species, its sex, age and social structure, and its genetic composition should be such that its long term viability is not compromised. Harvesting of endangered, vulnerable and rare species and species listed as "insufficiently known" should be avoided.
- * Harvesting must be compatible with maintenance of the diversity and long term viability of supporting ecosystems.
- * Harvesting of the target population must not compromise the viability of populations of other species in the area where harvesting would take place.
- * Management procedures should be followed that will enable information to be collected about the target population using the principals of adaptive management. Thus:
 - Initial harvest levels should be conservative, taking into account the realisation that the ability to manage a population will improve as information about it becomes available.
 - Levels of the population should be monitored regularly.
 - Numbers of individuals of each species harvested should be recorded.
 - Harvest levels should be modified as necessary to ensure a sustainable yield."

When such practices are combined with the enrichment of a park by the aboriginal people and the limited likely use which I have detailed, it is my belief that together, environmentalists, scientists, park administrators and aboriginal people can produce a system which respects traditional owners, wildlife and enhances the appreciation of the park for the visitor. It is a new challenge that marks a new era that Lahey would find interesting.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The challenges of the future will be in a number of directions. Firstly, continued acquisition for parks, secondly management of the park estate, for conservation and recreation, thirdly general conservation "off-park" on private land and land held by other government agencies or levels of government, fourthly species specific management and protection, and

finally greater attention to urban wildlife issues. Noel Dawson as Regional Director (Southern) in a 1988 address to the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects said "Regional, park and site planning is the way to achieve balance between conservation and development. Perhaps the single most important planning issue is the co-ordination of groups who have an interest in the area and the maintenance of communication channels." This remains true today and applies in any situation whether it be a half million hectare national park or a single mature tree in an urban setting.

The immediate need for the national park estate is completion of an acquisition programme which will ensure a 100 per cent representation of the State's 218 state-wide vegetation types over 13 biogeographic regions as defined by Specht. The greatest difficulties which will be experienced in this regard will be land acquisition in highly productive areas such as the Mitchell Grass Downs. The vagaries of park acquisition in such areas are well shown by the trauma surrounding Welford National Park and no acquisition of part of Davenport Downs as compared with the acquisition of Diamantina Lakes. - Theoretically when full representation is reached there will be no further need for an expanded national park estate on biogeographic grounds. However, many of the parks are small, and may not guarantee the continuance of their internal integrity and survival of all species and eco-systems. This Association must remain loyal to Lahey's ideals and support publicly appropriate acquisitions. Scientific evidence across the world shows that small reserves can isolate a species and lead to extinction. Large animals, and those requiring substantial areas, disappear first due to external pressures such as road kills or predation, or a reduction in diversity of the gene pool. Then follow other species under a variety of pressures. Consequently, some parks will need to be enlarged or enhance "off-park" conservation measures supplementing the park in the form of a surrounding buffer zone or a protected corridor between habitat areas.

Recreational needs also must not be ignored in the acquisition programme. National parks may have a wider role than that of wildlife management and protection of nature as envisaged in 1906, but this does not limit the huge international, Australian and local tourism and recreation potential and usage which the parks have. South-east Queensland is still deficient in the number of parks within easy access of Brisbane and substantial acquisitions or additions are needed at Flinders Peak, White-Rock, Daisy Hill State Forest and the Redlands Koala area. The Scenic Rim proposal, long dreamt of by the National Parks Association of Queensland and former Ministers like Tony Elliott needs to be re-examined, perhaps reactivated. With a huge influx of people expected in south-east Queensland over the next decade both conservation and recreation space will be at a premium. Multiple-use management of the Scenic Rim would be of great benefit. Similarly the Conondale Forestry area and recently increased national park should be managed for forest production, recreational and conservation purposes.

Adequate park staff numbers and consequent management will only come with increases in funding, and the moves towards charging for entry to national parks is to be applauded. Currently tourist operators and campers pay fees but not day users. Whatever the final outcome of the debate, which is hotting up, it is essential that more money is allocated to park management. It is my own belief that the majority of park users would not object to park fees if the money is seen to be being returned to the parks for management, acquisition and research. This should be a prerequisite of any agreement to charge for park entry. Often the cost of collecting park entry fees would be exorbitant, and will be a deciding factor in where fees are collected. In NSW only the high usage parks such as Kosciusko and Lane Cove National Parks have entry charges due to the difficulties of collection. Variations on collection possibilities include fees being collected only during high visitation periods, or the use of volunteers for collection of fees in isolated areas, and even an honour system.

With a number of "super parks" or park conglomerates developing in areas with high visitation, both management structures and management levels need to be re-examined. Most obvious of the developing high usage parks are the central Queensland sandstone parks, Lamington and the Scenic Rim, Fraser Island and Cooloola, the Highland Plains/Lawn Hill/Riversleigh complex, the wet tropics rainforest parks and Cape York national parks. Lamington already has a visitation of 500 000 annually; others will one day have a potential visitation of hundreds of thousands a year. In these areas we need to be moving into double figured staffing with greater independence for the managers.

It is in these large park conglomerations that interpretive centres need to be placed, and their role in the state's tourism strategy established. Interpretive centres have had a limited use in Queensland, and almost always they have been of a static type. Mon Repos beach and Mt Etina with their turtles and bats respectively, Cape York and the Central Highland Sandstone Parks need good interpretive facilities utilising modern interactive systems and videos. Production of the Channel 7 documentaries on the coast and new national parks provided film footage which can be utilised in a way untried in Queensland. Emphasis has to be placed on explaining wildlife management, biodiversity, other conservation measures and their relationship to the park estate and private land.

Other organisations experienced in park maintenance, usage of parks and natural values, should be invited to participate and assist in park management. There is a need to expand the Universities' use of parks as research centres similar to the Arid Land Research Centre at Idalia, looking at land use and ecological issues. Organisations such as the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union with experience in running bird observatories may have a niche in parks where accommodation is available. In the United Kingdom the national park concept is of a landscape multiple use system whilst conservation and recreation areas

are largely acquired by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The RSPB is able to maintain and enhance a large number of reserves through entry fees and sale of merchandise. Factors such as distance, number of visitors and seasonal staffing ensure success for the RSPB which may not be able to be copied in total in Queensland but they should be examined for future benefits.

Essential to national park conservation is the need to develop a proper regional conservation and recreation plan across a range of areas including national, marine and environmental parks, forestry and local authority lands, beaches, rivers and other waterbodies, roadsides, stockroutes and other government reserves and tenures as well as private land. Co-ordination of such diverse pieces of land would need both the co-operation of landholders and a strong co-ordinating group. Properly undertaken, such action would guarantee retention of conservation in a region. Once a park has been placed in a regional context there is a need to develop a park management plan to ensure that appropriate guidelines outline the conservation purposes of the park, proposed uses and opportunities for recreation and interpretation which do not compromise the conservation fundamentals.

In Queensland, only the Queensland Naturalists have a longer history of involvement in voluntary conservation than the N.P.A.Q. But only the N.P.A.Q. can point to such tangible successes for conservation and such continued potential.

The 63 years of service have been marked by great office bearers and long periods of stability.

Personally I am proud to have been advised by those who have spent their life in the Association.

I know of no other Queensland organisation that owes so much to one person, a person with courage and conviction, described as a "true gentleman of nature" - Romeo Watkins Lahey.

Eleven Romeo Watkins Lahey Memorial lectures sponsored by the National Parks Association of Queensland Incorporated have been delivered to honour the memory of one of the founders of the National Parks Association of Queensland and its President from 1930 to 1961. On his retirement as President, Mr Lahey MBE, was elected Life Councillor. He died on 26 October 1968 at the age of 82. After a tremendous effort from 1911 to 1915 his plan for reservation of Lamington National Park was approved in 1915. A civil engineer by profession, he served in the first AIF and in the Australian Army in World War II.

Under his guidance, the NPAQ was successful in many submissions to the Queensland Government for National Parks in widely spread parts of Queensland. In his late 70s, he completed field work on the Association's proposal for a large National Park based on Windsor Tableland and the eastern escarpment including Daintree catchment and Mossman Gorge. Most of his plan for this large National Park in North Queensland was accepted by the Government.

In his lifetime he had the satisfaction of seeing the National Parks of Queensland grow to an area of 2.3 million acres, much of which was due to proposals submitted by NPAQ.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

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.

MEMBERSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO ANY PERSON WHO IS IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE AIMS AND OBJECTS.

Previous Romeo Watkins Lahey Memorial Lectures have been -

National Parks Association of Queensland - R Allen Clelland, Previous Councillor National Parks Assoc of Qld

The Great National Parks Movement - Alec Chisholm, Editor, Australian Encyclopedia

Down the Years With National Parks in Queensland - William Wilkes, Officer of Department of Forestry 1921-1970. Secretary 1954-1970

A National Parks Manifesto for Queensland - David D Lahey, President of Victorian NPA 1964-66

History in Queensland National Parks - J Keith Jarrott, Honorary Secretary, National Parks Assoc of Qld 1946-1988

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World - Professor Raymond L Specht, Botany Department, University of Queensland

The First Fifty Years - J Keith Jarrott, Honorary Secretary, National Parks Assoc of Qld 1946-1988

The Reservation of Rainforest in Queensland - G Horwood Cossins, Past President National Parks Assoc of Qld

The Conservation Movement and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service - Dr Graham Saunders, Dr Ross Hynes and Mr Don Marshall of Qld National Parks and Wildlife Service

The Next Sixty Years - W A (Tony) Groom, Director, interNATIONAL PARKtours.

POSTAL ADDRESS:- P O Box 1040 Milton Centre Q 4064