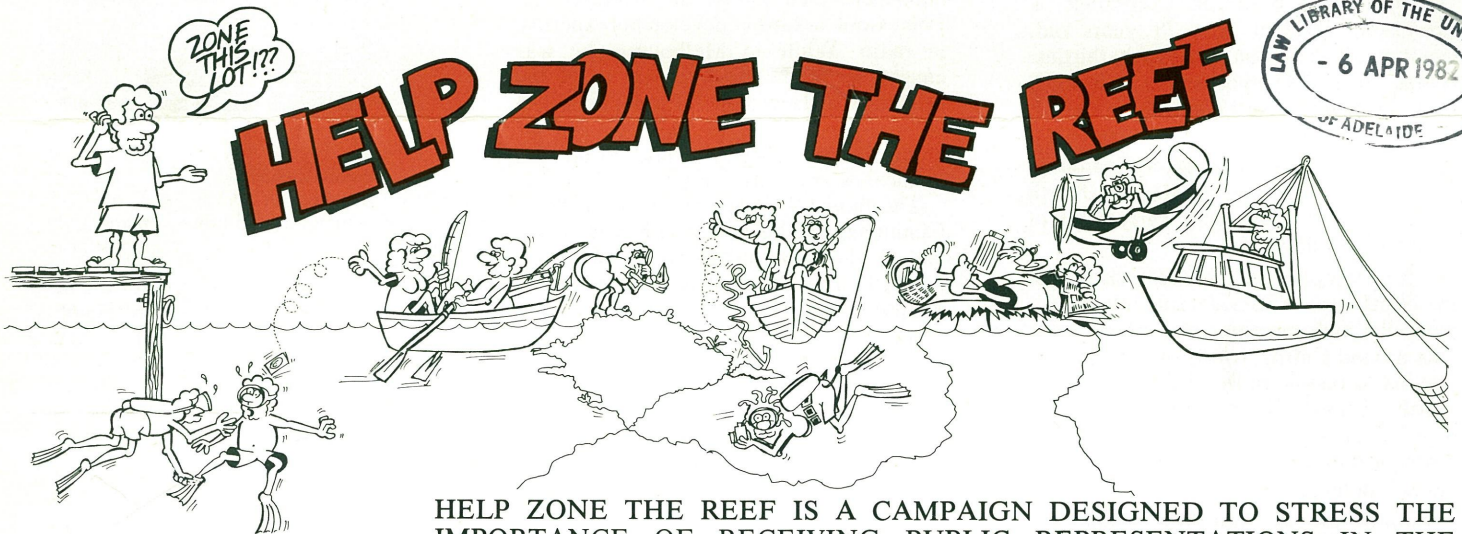




Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority



HELP ZONE THE REEF IS A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF ZONING PLANS FOR THE CAIRNS AND CORMORANT PASS SECTIONS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK.

The campaign involves direct interaction with the public and is being conducted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during February and March.

During this period, information displays will be set up and manned in coastal centres from Cooktown to Townsville. Additional displays have been arranged for Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.

The Marine Park concept provides for the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef, for today's generation and for the generations of the future. Within the park, the objective is to allow for all reasonable use consistent with the conservation of the Reef, whether that use be as a source of livelihood or as a source of pleasure and recreation. The wide range of "people-activities" under these two broad headings clearly indicates the need for continued access for people to the Reef.

Zoning defines areas of usage within each Section of the Marine Park, with some areas designated for specific uses.

Different zones are designed to provide suitable areas for the widest range of different activities and to separate conflicting activities.

On 1st July, 1981 the first Section of the Park—the Capricornia Section—came into operation. The zoning plan for Capricornia has been designed to ensure compatibility between activities in the zones and to minimise disturbance of the Reef's natural qualities. For approximately 80% of its area the only restrictions are the prohibition of mineral exploration or production for commercial purposes, commercial spear-fishing and spearfishing with SCUBA. The Capricornia Section of the Marine Park was the world's largest Marine Park. The Cairns Section now assumes that title.

Successful zoning of each Section of the Marine Park requires the gathering of detailed, accurate information about the most suitable areas for specific activities.

The Cairns and Cormorant Pass Sections cover 36,000 square kilometres. Within the declared outer boundaries, the current and most important stage of development is to zone the two Sections to accommodate the activities of the various users.

Public awareness and public involvement are essential if sound management policies are to reflect the needs of both present use and future conservation of the Reef—an attrac-

tion of such great significance in the future development of Queensland.

The Authority wants to hear from those with an interest in the Cairns and Cormorant Pass Sections. In particular, the Authority welcomes suggestions and ideas on the types, size and locations of zones which should be established; and on possible regulation of activities within those zones.

Further information to assist members of the public in making a representation may be obtained from Authority staff present at the displays or from the pamphlet **Help Zone the Reef**. This pamphlet is also available from the displays or by contacting:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
P.O. Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE, Q. 4810.
Tel. (077) 71 2191

Representations must be in writing and must be received at the Townsville office not later than April 2.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ?

We are updating and correcting our mailing list. If any of the following applies to your listing, please let us know.

- change of address
- change of title
- mistake in present address or name as listed

Pioneer Reef Photographer

"In those days, people weren't a bit interested in the Reef! They went for the swimming, or the fish they could catch. But coral was nothing, or any of the other creatures."

The speaker is Bruce Cummings, a Townsville resident now 79 years old, recalling life in Cairns in the early thirties. A time when, as a young camera enthusiast, he was filming a North Queensland which was still novel even to its own residents.

Apart from the periodic visitor, Cummings was the only person filming in North Queensland in those very early days of colour cinematography.

If his footage of the life and landscape of the North was of considerable interest for naturalist club meetings and other occasions around Cairns, it was of even greater interest to people in the South, for whom North Queensland was an unknown territory. "They said goodbye to anyone coming north, as if they never expected to see them again," notes Cummings.

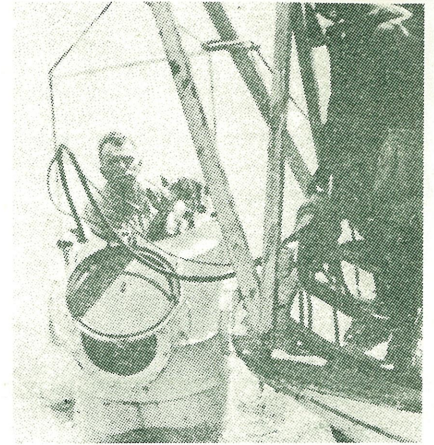
Though not his full-time occupation, Cummings' filming could hardly be termed amateur. A strong scientific and technical

bent was evident early, as was great initiative and energy. At 16 and "mad on radio" he built one of the earliest wireless sets in North Queensland. He undertook a Marconi School of Wireless course by correspondence, then joined the R.A.A.F. at Point Cook to further develop his expertise in radio. While in Melbourne, he was caught up in the development of X-ray equipment and techniques. From Melbourne he went to Hobart. In 1931, he and Dr Hugo Flecker came to Cairns to pioneer medical X-ray work there.

The choice of Cairns was not accidental. Cummings had been born in Ravenswood, and in the Tasmanian winters had languished for the North. For Flecker, a keen naturalist, and later a discoverer of several plants and animals in North Queensland, (e.g. *Chironex fleckeri*—the notorious box jelly fish) the North had one indispensable element—the Great Barrier Reef!

"It was a valuable association," recalls Cummings. "I had the interest to film many of these wonderful things, and Dr Flecker was a man of great knowledge."

For the "Cairns Post" of the thirties, the more noteworthy of Cummings' films were



Bruce Cummings in his one-man, submersible cylinder which allowed him to photograph reef life at more than 60 feet below the surface.

probably those headed south for the newsreels, especially the feature film, "Typhoon Treasure", in which he worked in collaboration with film-maker and writer Noel Monkman. But Cummings' abiding interests were his nature studies—"the life histories" as he terms them—of creatures like the osprey sea eagle and the freshwater crocodile.

"I filmed a lot of things, but when I discovered the Reef, it was so vast and wonderful that it more-or-less took over."

Green Island: Can You Spot the Difference?

The photo on the left was taken in 1931; the photo on the right in 1981. Three obvious changes to Green Island and its surroundings have occurred in that 50 year period. Can you spot them?

1. The island has changed its shape. The sand spit has shifted from the southwest to the northwest of the island and new vegetation has grown on the new spit. Cay shapes can be altered due to natural phenomena (e.g. storms, cyclones, sea level changes) or by man's interference (e.g. built structures and dredging).
2. Something has been built at the end of the jetty. For those who don't know, it is the underwater observatory built in 1953/54 by Vince Vlasoff of Cairns.
3. There is a large dark patch to the left of the island in the 1981 photo. This is a large

patch of seagrass growing over the sand. It is not known why this patch of seagrass has grown here.

1931 Photo courtesy of Bruce Cummings.

1981 Photo courtesy of Australian Survey Office.



1931



1981

IN PRODUCTION

TYPHOON TREASURE

Directed by
NOEL MONKMAN

Special Submarine Photography by
BRUCE A. CUMMINGS

Featuring **GWEN MUNRO**
CAMPBELL COPELIN
JOE VALLI
KENNETH BRAMPTON
NORMAN FRENCH

Produced by

COMMONWEALTH FILM LABORATORIES PTY. LIMITED
Studios, Cook Road, Centennial Park, Sydney - FL2882

In pursuing shots of the underwater world he found so enthralling, he worked first at low tide, then through a waterscope, and next with a "Ned Kelly type helmet" with the camera in a waterproof box. He found this unwieldy, and thought there must be a better way.

"I wanted something that would let me get well down in the water, (he was subsequently able to work at more than 60 feet)

and something that would withstand the water pressures. It needed optically flat windows to be able to film through them, an air supply and a means of talking to people on the boat".

What he designed and built was a diving cylinder, which became his means of underwater filming for many years to come. At the time, he knew of no precursors to his idea.

REEF ADDED TO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

A very significant step in the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef took place in October with the inscription of the Reef on the World Heritage List. The decision was made by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO which met in Sydney to consider the three Australian sites nominated and inscribed. (The other two nominations were Kakadu National Park in Arnhem Land and the Willandra Lakes region of south-

west NSW.) Dr. Joe Baker, Member of the Authority, was a member of the Australian delegation.

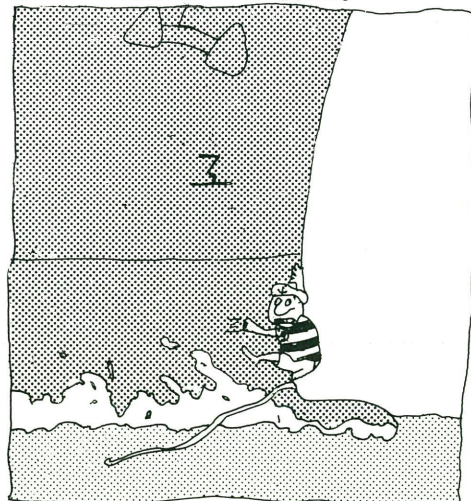
The UNESCO convention, under which the World Heritage Committee was established, and which has been signed by more than 60 nations, aims to ensure international co-operation for "safeguarding the globe's irreplaceable heritage—sites that each nation should hold in trust for the rest of mankind".

The listing carries implications for the future protection of the Reef. Each World Heritage site is governed by a strict set of rules. If these are broken, the site is reconsidered and may be deleted from the list.

Sites already listed include the Grand Canyon National Park, The Great Pyramids of Egypt and the Valley of Kathmandu, Nepal. Both natural and cultural sites may be listed.

After the Sydney meeting, several members of the Committee visited the Barrier Reef at Lizard Island, where they swam, snorkelled and were introduced to the delights of the Reef. All were most enthusiastic about their Reef experience.

Don't anchor in shipping lanes.



Cartoon courtesy of Department of Harbours and Marine.



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In recent years, he has loaned a model of the diving cylinder to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The most noteworthy change in the Reef he is aware of over this long association, is the present spread of the crown of thorns starfish. He remembers his wife in 1935 calling him to look at a new kind of starfish, only six or eight inches across. In the next few years they saw only half a dozen. He speculates whether the crown of thorns proliferation has been caused by the removal of one of its predators, the triton or trumpet shell, which has been one of the most popular shells with collectors.

He uses the example of over collecting and its damaging effects to illustrate his sense of the need for education, for guides and rangers in popular areas "to tell people about the Reef, so that they can understand it and not cause damage". He saw his films in the same light. "The more that people see of these fascinating things, the more they will value them."

One might expect that at 79, Bruce Cummings would simply be looking back. Not so. He still has plans and more designs for equipment—"a pontoon arrangement"—that would increase his accessibility to the Reef and its myriad life.

It is the Reef which has remained Bruce Cummings' longstanding love. "There's a lot of other wonderful things in Australia, but there's only one Barrier Reef. That's why we just can't take any chances with it. We've got to do everything possible to protect it."

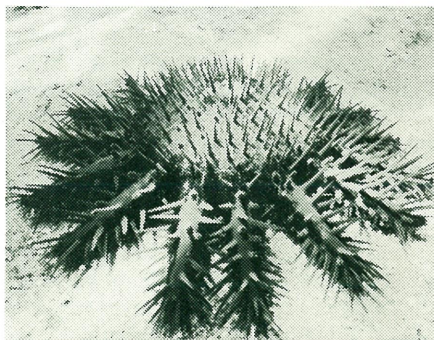


WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE A CROWN OF THORNS?

Have you seen any crown of thorns starfish on the Reef recently? The Authority would like to know.

Reports of sightings of crown of thorns starfish by reef users and visitors will greatly assist the Authority in its efforts to monitor the situation.

If you are interested in helping, please contact us and we will send you special forms with reply-paid envelopes for recording starfish sightings on the Reef.



☆ Notes on Capricornia ☆

PARK MANAGEMENT WORK BEGINS

Park management work in the Capricornia Section has begun with staff from the Marine Parks Section of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service using charter boats. Week-long visits to the Park by staff in their new boat, "Shearwater II", have also been undertaken. Additional staff are being recruited to extend park management activities.

OUT IN THE FIELD

Liaison officers Geoff Mercer from Queensland Marine Parks and Len Zell from the Authority recently visited **Yeppoon**, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Gladstone. They talked with charterboat operators, Harbour Board personnel, tackle, dive and boating shop proprietors and others frequently in contact with Reef visitors. The two were seeking information on the problems experienced by Reef-related businesses, especially in connection with the Park and its zoning. They also provided information on the Marine Park, its regulations, publications and services.

REEFS REOPENED

The reefs surrounding Hoskyn Islands and Fairfax Islands have been closed to visitors since 1st November, 1981 in order to protect important seabird and turtle nesting sites from the effects of human intrusion during the breeding season.

As from Tuesday, 2nd March, 1982 these reefs are no longer closed to visitors.



Measuring tagged trout before returning it to the water.

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

During late November and early December the internationally known cruise ship, "Lindblad Explorer", visited the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Park management staff met the ship at Heron Island to inform passengers about the Park and assist with activities such as reef-walking. Lady Musgrave Island was their second stop in the Capricornia Section.



The Lindblad Explorer provides a floating educational holiday for passengers. Ron and Valerie Taylor shared their knowledge of the Great Barrier Reef with those aboard when the ship visited the Region.

FISH TAGGING PROGRAM

The chances of persuading an enthusiastic deep-sea angler to throw back the beautiful coral trout he has just caught would usually be rated slim, to say the least!

But staff from the Authority and the Marine Parks Section of Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service apparently had little trouble in finding nine club members from Gladstone and Bundaberg to join a twelve-day trip in early November to catch and tag fish. With relatively few laments over the "nice pan-sized" fish they were releasing, Lance Palmer, Tom Newton, Ken Austin, Greg Mcpherson and Mick Chadwick of Gladstone, together with Eric Hood, Keith Duncan, Jack Neilsen and Ron Cathcart of Bundaberg succeeded in bringing in 896 fish by handline, in areas between North Reef and Lady Musgrave Island.

Results of the program will assist in understanding the effects of temporarily closing reefs for replenishment purposes.

Research and tagging teams are appealing to any fishermen catching tagged fish to return the tags to: Marine Parks Section, G.P.O. Box 46, Brisbane. Q. 4001.

Please include the date and location of the catch, and if possible its length and weight.

A \$5 reward will be forwarded promptly for each tag returned. And ALL fisherman will benefit from the information gained from the tagging program!



WHAT'S REASONABLE?

The question of what constitutes a reasonable use of the Marine Park is one which will need continuing interpretation and testing in these first few years. Is the collecting of aquarium fish and shells, for example, a reasonable use of the park? Should these activities be permitted in the general use zones which are intended for a wide range of uses?

The Authority believes that the broadest possible interpretation should be given to "reasonable uses"—that activities in the Park should be assumed to be reasonable and allowable unless they can be demonstrated to be detrimental to the Reef and its resources.

We are convinced, however, that activities like shell collecting and aquarium fish capture should require a permit (as provided for in existing regulations). This will allow the particular activity to be assessed over a period of time.

NEED SOME INFORMATION?

Need to know more about the Great Barrier Reef? the Marine Park? the Authority? . . . one of the following publications might help.

Leaflets

- The Coral Polyp
- The Great Barrier Reef Region
- The Great Barrier Reef, Cairns to Lizard Island
- "Under Capricornia" a guide to the Capricornia Section of the Marine Park

Booklets

- World Heritage Nomination for the Great Barrier Reef
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—Capricornia Section Zoning Plan
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 1980/81 Annual Report

Maps

- Great Barrier Reef Region Map
- Zoning Plan Map for Capricornia Section of the Marine Park
- Boundaries of the Cairns Section of the Marine Park

Acts and Regulations

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act (1975)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—Capricornia Section Regulations (1981)

Posters

- A set of five posters depicting various aspects of the Great Barrier Reef is available.

These publications are available from: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, P.O. Box 1379, TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

