

**Serendip Wildlife Research Station, Lara.**

**Potoroo**  
*Potorous tridactylus*



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**Bearded dragon**  
*Amphibolurus barbatus*



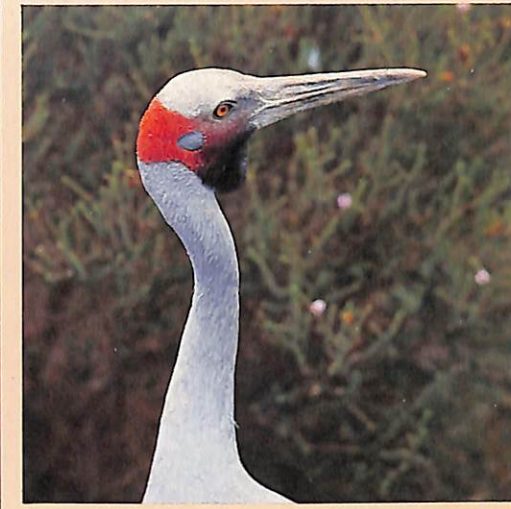
Volunteers also helped with tree planting and setting up nest boxes. Within ten years the property had taken on a completely new character, its thick vegetation cover providing shelter for many species of wild and captive animals.

The devastating bushfires at Lara in 1969 set back all this good work. Most of the buildings were saved — but tree planting had to start again.

Not all of the wildlife species at Serendip are the subject of current research. Some, such as the Cape Barren Goose, were studied in the past but have now become part of a management programme designed to maintain a feral flock in the region. Others, such as the Brolga, are part of a long-term husbandry programme, slowly building up a captive flock for later studies and re-colonisation programmes. And some, like the Ibis and Spoonbills, are attracted by the wetland habitats which were originally provided for ducks and other waterfowl.

Cunningham, Cummings & Associates: designers  
F. D. Atkinson, Government Printer, Melbourne.

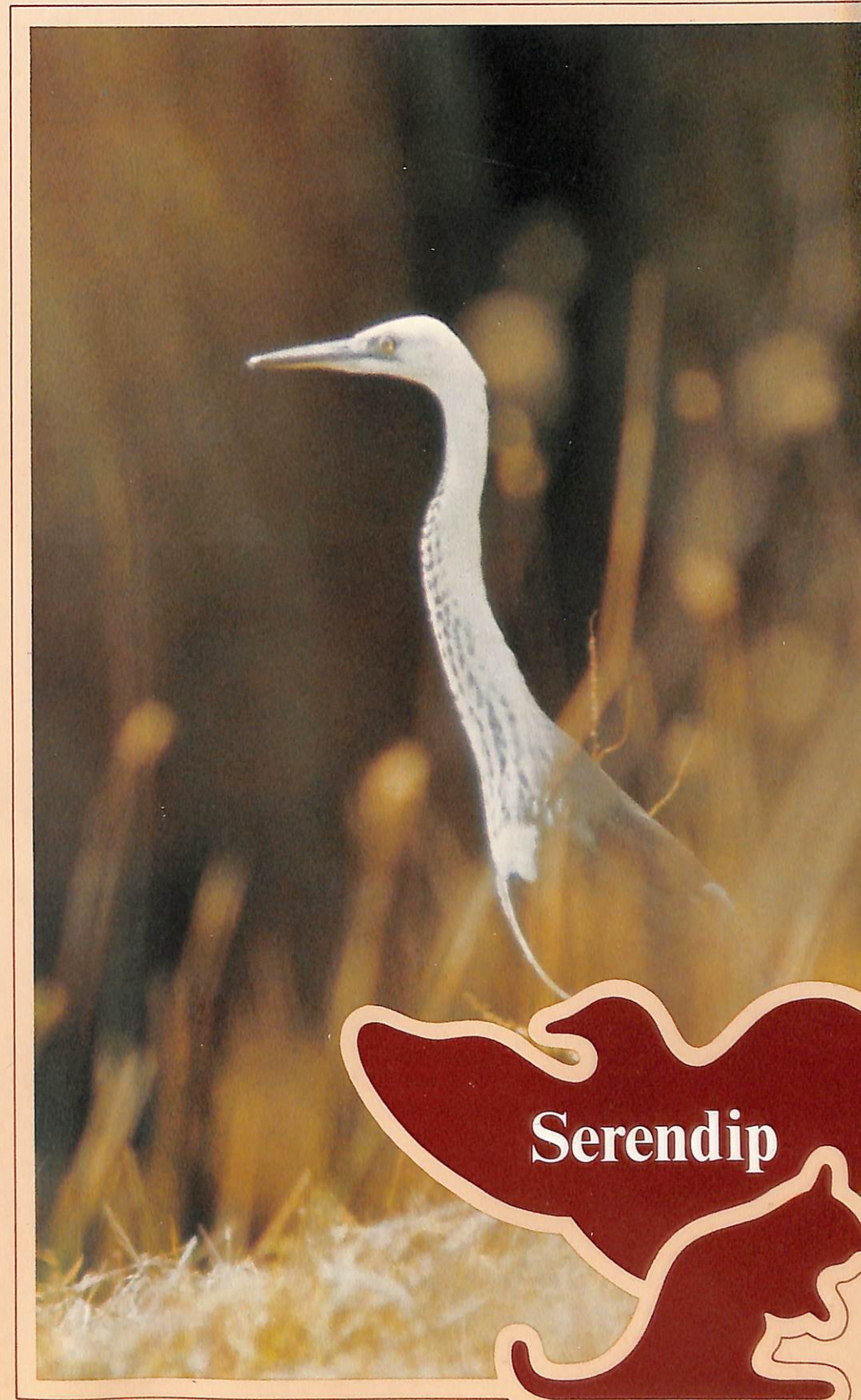
**Brolga**  
*Grus rubicundus*



In recent years, it has become possible to open Serendip to school parties and other groups. A public viewing area has been constructed, with a raised walkway giving a clear view of enclosures for Deer, Brolga, Magpie Geese and Bustards. There is a walk-through aviary for parrots and other native species; a brushwood 'hide' allows visitors to view the lake without disturbing the birds; and there are display ponds where visitors can identify local species of waterfowl.

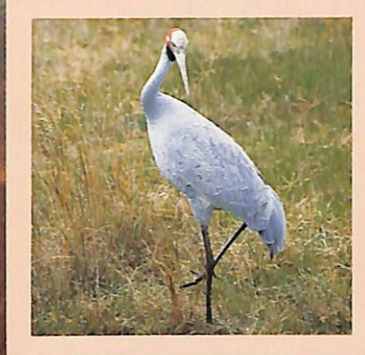
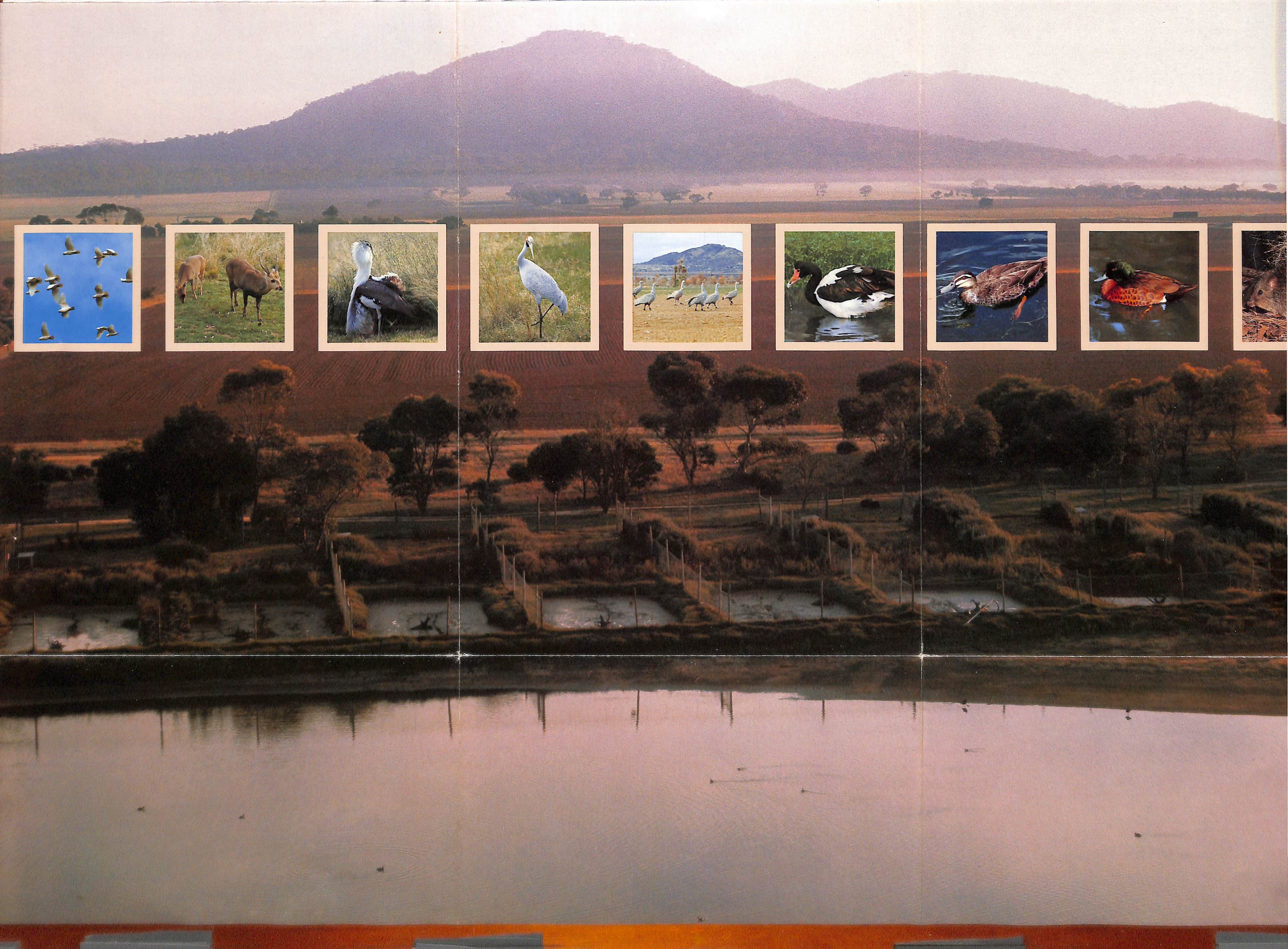


Visits to Serendip can be arranged by telephoning the Guide on: (052) 82 1584 or by writing to:  
The Serendip Wildlife Research Station  
Fisheries and Wildlife Division  
Ministry for Conservation  
P.O. Box 2  
LARA. Vic. 3212.



**Wildlife Research Station**







**Long-billed Corella**  
*Phalacrocorax tenuirostris*

They are sometimes seen in flocks when feeding, but are in fact quite rare birds at Serendip aim to studies of minimising crop caused by Long-billed in south-western — the only area in the here they occur.

**Hog Deer**  
*Axis porcinus*

At Serendip, breeding studies are underway on one of the few captive populations of Hog Deer in Australia. Hog Deer roam the heathlands along the south Gippsland coast — the only wild colony outside their native Indo-China. They do not herd, but move in family groups of two or three.

**Bustard**  
*Ardeotis australis*

Now largely confined to northern Australia, this species was common on the basalt plains of western Victoria and on the northern plains, at the start of European settlement. The male has a spectacular mating display.

**Brolga**  
*Grus rubicundus*

Now found only rarely in Victoria, the Brolga mainly occurs in coastal regions of northern, eastern and south-eastern Australia. It builds a circular nest 1.5 metres across, in very shallow wetlands. Brolgas can often be seen dancing and displaying at Serendip.

**Cape Barren Goose**  
*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

Semi-tame Cape Barren Geese wander the grounds of Serendip, veterans of a breeding study some years ago. These geese pair for life, and vigorously defend their breeding territory. In summer, flocks concentrate to graze on pastures in south Gippsland and western Victoria.

**Maggie Goose**  
*Anseranas semipalmata*

The Maggie Goose occurs in the wetlands of northern Australia, but formerly was also present in the coastal regions of south-eastern Australia. It often breeds in trios, both females laying in the one nest, and all three sharing the incubation duties. Small feral colonies occur on wildlife reserves at Kerang, Sale and Tower Hill in Victoria.

**Black Duck**  
*Anas superciliosa*

One of the major wild species to use the lake at Serendip, Black Duck are trapped for weighing and banding before release. The premier game species in Australia, Black Duck are — together with Grey Teal — the most common waterfowl seen throughout the continent.

**Chestnut Teal**  
*Anas castanea*

Divisional research staff have carried out extensive moult studies on Chestnut Teal at Serendip, to establish such matters as the relationship of moulting to the breeding cycle. The species occurs in coastal swamps throughout south-east and south-west Australia.

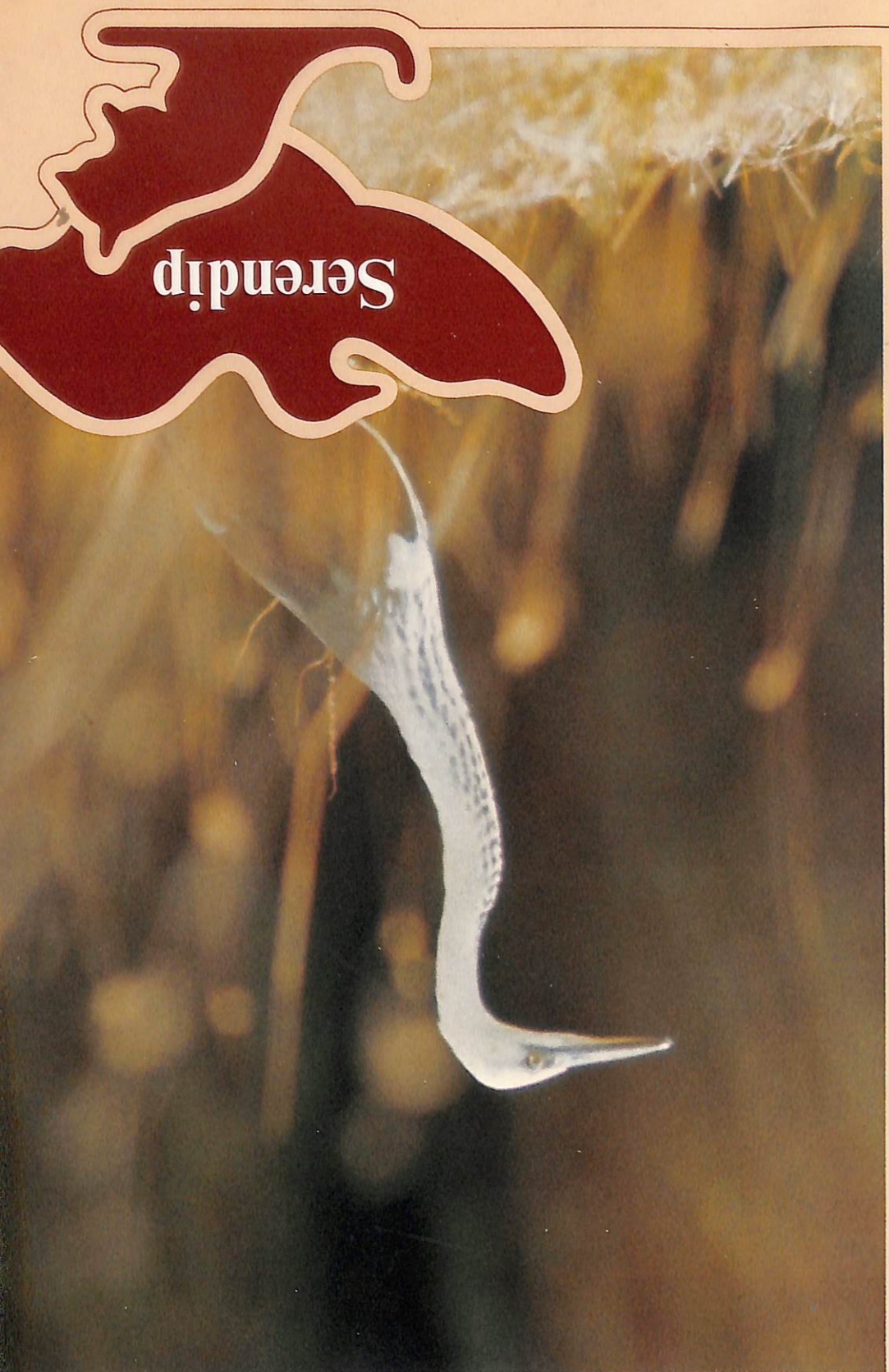
**Potoroo**  
*Potorous tridactylus*

This small member of the kangaroo family prefers heathlands and other heathlands, often a eucalypt overstorey. It occurs along the Victorian coast in the Grampians, as well as in Tasmania. Serendip is one of the few places in Australia where potoroos can be seen.

**Serendip Wildlife Research Station, Lara.**

A place where captive and wild populations of Victoria's wildlife are fostered to further our knowledge of their needs, and their place in our modern environment.

**Wildlife Research Station**



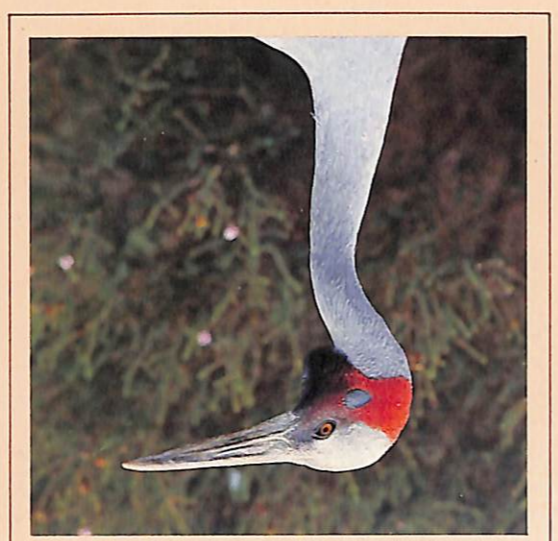
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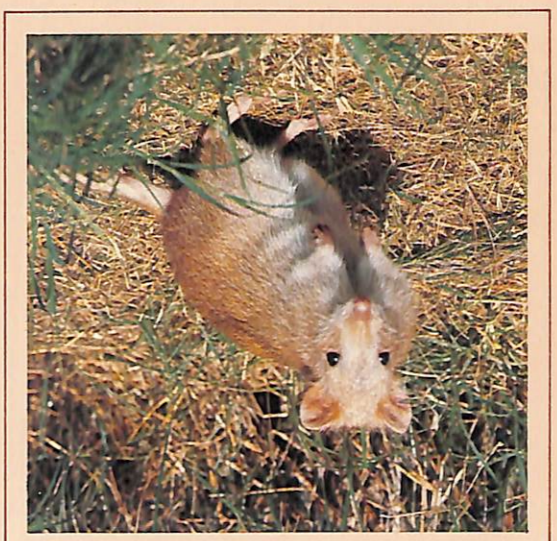


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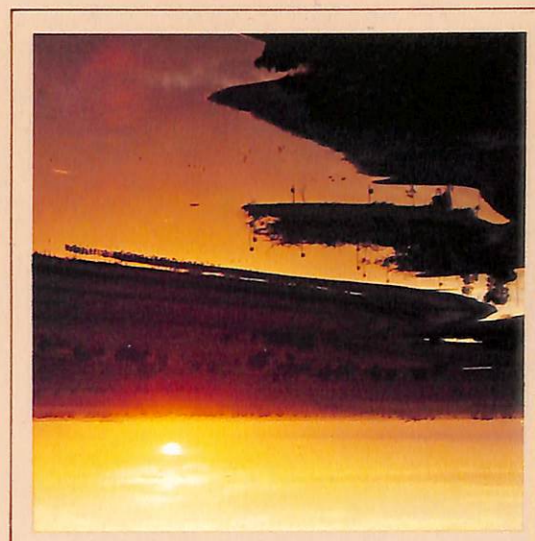
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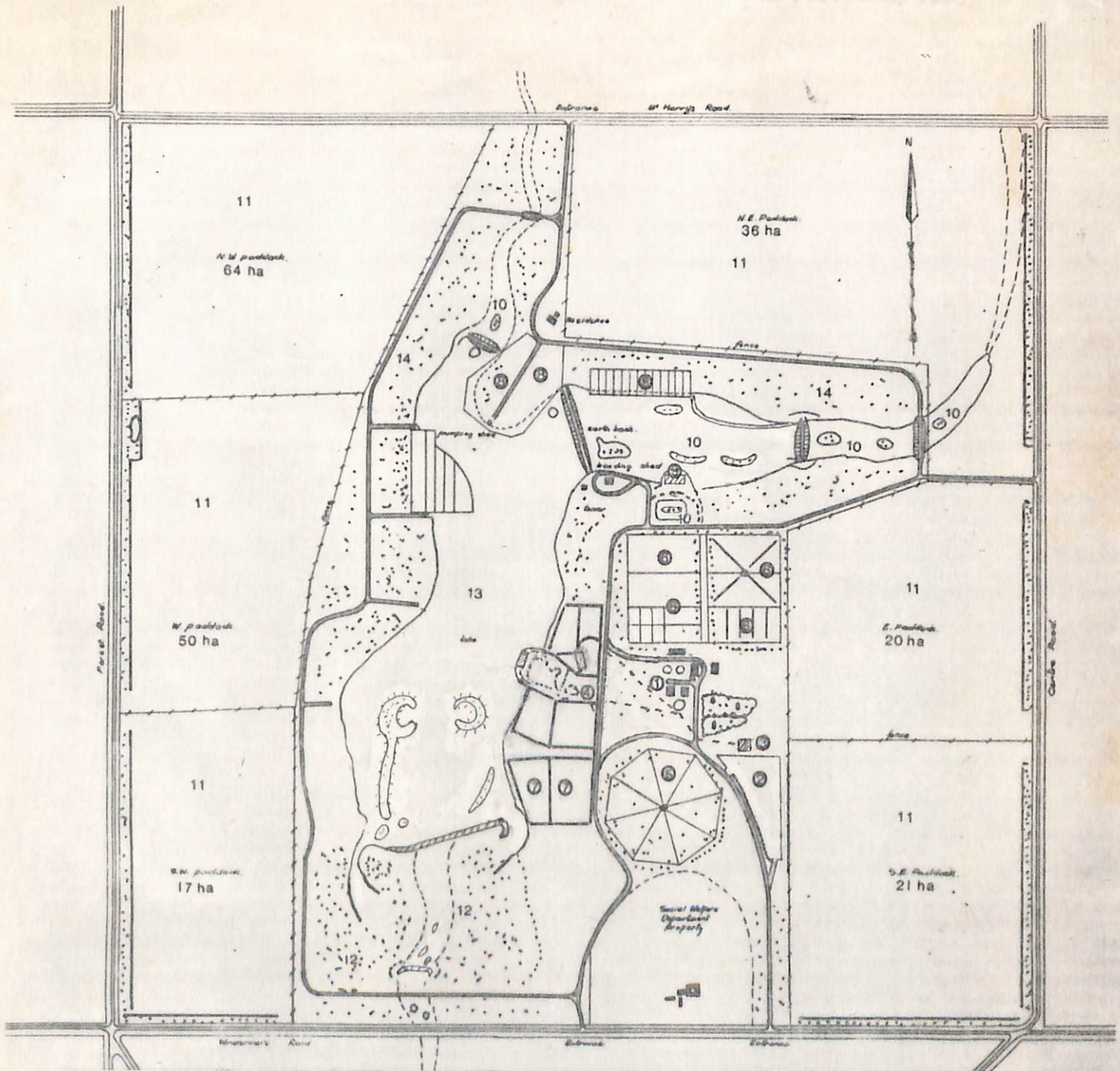
Two hundred years ago, Maggie Geese were well known in Victoria. But as the early colonists moved in — clearing the scrub, draining swamps and grazing cattle — these shy, handsome birds moved out. In the course of time they disappeared completely from the late. Today, Maggie Geese are breeding again in Victoria; three colonies have been established and more are planned. The work that made this possible was carried out at the Serendip Wildlife Research Station, Lara. Serendip, 40 kilometres from Melbourne covers 250 hectares and Wildlife Division, Victoria. At the centre of a 30 hectare lake, home for thousands of ducks, swans, coots and other waterbirds; found it are wildlife enclosures and breeding pens, together with fields sown down to crops.



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# SERENDIP WILDLIFE RESEARCH STATION



KEY TO RESEARCH STATION FACILITIES AND LAND USE AREAS

1. Research Station Centre (Animal house, Services block, workshop & equipment shed, pens and enclosures) 36 ha.
2. Car park (visitors)
3. Proposed Education Centre (visitors)
4. Wildlife display enclosures (visitors) 2.5. ha.
5. Breeding enclosures - bustards 3.2. ha.
6. Breeding enclosures - Hog deer, bustard, broilga, small marsupials. 4.8. ha.
7. Enclosures - Fallow and Red deer. 2. ha.
8. Breeding enclosures - Magpie geese 2.5. ha.
9. Observation Hide.
10. Demonstration Farm Dams.
11. Farmland. 140 ha.
12. Farm woodlot and wetland 8. ha.
13. Lake and dams 36. ha.
14. Wildlife buffer area 28. ha. ( 2.5. ha food crops, 4 ha lucerne crop).