# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1979/80 started as a rather disappointing year, as there has been little progress made with environmental issues and a minimum output from our Environment Centre.

This was due to a lack of funds and expertise of the Council, excentuated by a general lack of interest by our members.

However, during the latter part of the year, we made some progress into the organization of our centre by the employment of an office assistant, yet another attempt to catalogue our library, and the possibility of gaining some access into schools.

There is now a funding project in motion, in conjunction with the Queensland Conservation Council, aimed at gaining enough funds to employ a Research Officer for a minimum period of three months. Hopefully this project may not only update information on our environmental problems, but stimulate interest in the Conservation Council and bring new and active members into our association.

With the massive environmental problems in Central Queensland, we need a strong and active council.

There was some hope of gaining a higher level of funding, but as the overall Government Grant is the same as 1978/79, there now seems to be little hope of a raise in our funds.

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As yet the allocation of our funds to our council has not been revealed.

We have had more assistance from the Queensland Conservation Council this year, and there is hope of gaining even more assistance in the future.

If we cannot obtain extra funds, then we must use more personal effort, or face failure of the Conservation Council.

In the latter part of the year we suffered a great loss by the death of our Treasurer, Ron McCabe. Ron had been our Treasurer since 1975, and was one of our longest standing members.

In the past weeks, I have perused the Treasurer's books, Financial reports, Audit reports and minutes of the Council meetings, since its beginning. I now realize more than ever, how efficiently he carried out his task.

His death caused a great loss, not only to our Council as Treasurer, but to those of us who knew him as a friend.

Unfortunately the forecast for the coming year seems to be, once again, the reliance of Voluntary Help.

Everyone has something to offer and our Council will accept assistance from anyone who is willing to offer any service, what so ever.

We need people to research environmental issues, assist in the centre, do nursary work, collect information, raise funds, write letters on environmental issues or any other assistance they wish to offer.

Before concluding, I want to thank those who have given assistance to the Council, with a special mention to Martin Brady who has successfully kept our nursary alive with his constant attention, for over twelve months, to the watering of the plants and other needs of the nursary.

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I wish the Conservation Council and affiliated groups every success in the future, and hope we can grow into a recognized, appreciated and effective body, to help protect our society and environment.

JOHN SHEPHERD
PRESIDENT