

# **LAKE PEDDER: VALUES AND RESTORATION**

The Proceedings of a Symposium held on 8th April 1995 at the University of  
Tasmania, Hobart.

Edited by Chris Sharples

Occasional Paper No. 27, Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania

This volume provides the refereed versions of all the papers presented at a symposium to examine the proposed restoration of Lake Pedder, held at the University of Tasmania on 8th April 1995, with the exception of a paper on platypus presented by Professor Nigel Forteath who declined to publish in these proceedings.

First edition, published 2001

Published by: The Centre for Environmental Studies, Department of Geography and  
Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart. GPO Box 252-78, Hobart,  
Tasmania, 7001, AUSTRALIA

Copyright: © Centre for Environmental Studies, Department of Geography and Environmental  
Studies, University of Tasmania, 2001

Series Editor: John Todd  
Volume Editor: Chris Sharples  
Editorial Assistance: Nick Sawyer  
Louise Gilfedder  
Peter McQuillan  
Design: Chris Sharples  
Printing: UniPrint, University of Tasmania, Hobart

ISBN 0 85901 9705

ISSN 0810 - 4395

**Note:** Individual authors in this volume are not responsible for comment and opinions other than those in their individual papers. Individual authors do not necessarily agree with all comments and opinions expressed in this volume, other than those expressed in their individual papers.

Suggested Citation:

SHARPLES, C., (ed.), 2001: *Lake Pedder: Values and Restoration*; Occasional Paper No. 27, Centre for  
Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania.

## **LAKE PEDDER: VALUES AND RESTORATION**

### **CONTENTS**

	Page
FLANNERY, T. - Foreword	v
SHARPLES, C. & SAWYER, N. - Introduction and overview	1
KIERNAN, K. - The geomorphology and geoconservation significance of Lake Pedder	13
TYLER, P. - Lake Pedder - a limnologists lifetime view	51
PEMBERTON, M. - Soils in the Lake Pedder area	61
BALMER, J., & CORBETT, E. - The vegetation of the Lake Pedder area prior to flooding	67
LAKE, P.S. - The fauna of Lake Pedder - changes after the flooding and thoughts on restoration	87
McCONNELL, A. - The cultural heritage of the Huon - Serpentine Impoundment, and an assessment of the effects of restoration of Lake Pedder	99
GEE, H. - Social and cultural grounds for the restoration of Lake Pedder	109
DUCKETT, T. - Practical cost effective rehabilitation of the current Lake Pedder impoundment	117
SANGER, A. - Prospects and problems for the restoration of the Pedder galaxias	125
LIVINGSTON, A. - Hydrological and engineering issues associated with draining and restoring Lake Pedder	131
KIERNAN, K. - Restoring Lake Pedder: a geomorphological perspective on recovery prospects and likely time scales	153



**Frontispiece:** Lake Pedder and the Maria lakes from the air prior to flooding. Northeast at top, main beach approximately 2.5 kilometres long. Vertical airphoto taken 14th May 1972, immediately prior to inundation of the lake (Project F345, Run 1, Image T603-106, © Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment, Tasmania).

## **FOREWORD**

It is a very great pleasure to pen this foreword to a book dedicated to the restoration of Lake Pedder. Over the past two centuries Australians have worked very hard to destroy their futures. Just imagine what it would be worth to Tasmanian tourism today if a few thylacines had escaped the century of persecution that sealed their fate. And imagine how much richer life would be if the unique and intriguing culture of the original Tasmanians had not been so ruthlessly and thoroughly destroyed by earlier European generations.

Unfortunately, neither the unique cultures of the Tasmanian Aborigines nor the Thylacine can ever be recovered. They are lost forever, leaving us the inheritors of a poorer, less interesting world whose future looks ever more doubtful. There is one gross mistake, however, that can be rectified: the flooding of Lake Pedder.

Before that act of officially sanctioned vandalism, the lake was the jewel in the crown of what is arguably Australia's most significant wild region. The plant communities growing on the hills surrounding Lake Pedder are little changed since the age of the dinosaurs. Evidence has been found that similar communities, including an archaic Huon Pine, grew on Seymour Island on the Antarctic Peninsula 65 million years ago. What nature crafted over the ages we destroyed in a moment.

The flooding of Lake Pedder resulted in one of the greatest thefts of humanity's common wealth to occur in the 20th century. To restore the Lake and its environment in the 21st would be one of the greatest gifts to the future we could give.

Tim Flannery<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Director, South Australian Museum.

