

LIZARD ISLAND RESEARCH STATION GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

A facility to support coral reef research.



No. 1

NEWSLETTER

October 1974

PHASE I COMPLETED

The first phase of the building program is completed. This primary facility on Lizard Island includes temporary living quarters for the Resident Director and a small temporary air-conditioned laboratory. The laboratory has an open-air verandah with aquarium benches. Aquaria and a sea-water system are being installed. Electricity (240 Volt) is provided by two generators and there are refrigeration and deep freeze facilities.

Limited accommodation and some basic equipment are available for scientists wishing to visit Lizard Island. Sleeping accommodation and kitchen facilities are in tents at present. Two 12' x 12' tents are available for visitors. Each tent comfortably accommodates 3 people.

The second phase of construction has been begun and it is hoped that the first of the permanent accommodation buildings will be ready by the end of 1974. Three buildings - the cottages for the Resident Director and Maintenance Officer and visitors' accommodation - are being constructed.

A FIRST LOOK AT THE ISLAND AND ITS REEFS

During December an examination was made of Lizard Island reef, which includes the fringing reef of Lizard Island, Palfrey, and South Islands, the connecting reef between these three islands, and the lagoonal reefs enclosed by the islands.

A first impression is that of the tremendous diversity of the corals; in genera alone the fauna is much richer than that of the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. An increased number of species is also apparent; for example in the Capricorn and Bunker Group only one species of Pocillopora occurs, while at Lizard Island there are at least three. Coral genera that are rare or absent further south are common; examples are Pachyseris, Pectinia, Physogyra and Trachypyllia. Another striking feature of the northern fauna are the giant clams (Tridacna gigas) which are common in the lagoon, along with Tridacna squamosa and Hippopus hippopus, none of which occur at the southern end of the Reef. The fish fauna

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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Lizard Island Research Station Committee of Trustees comprises:

Dr A. Bartholomai, M.Sc., Ph.D

Dr M.F.C. Day, Ph.D., F.A.A

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F.R.Z.S(NSW)., F.R.S.A.

A Board of Consultants has also been formed to aid and advise in designing a research station which will be in harmony with the needs of scientists from a broad range of disciplines. The following Board of Consultants has been set up:-

Dr K.J.C. Back, M.Sc., Ph.D

Dr J.T. Baker, Ph.D.

Professor C. Burdon-Jones, Ph.D., F.Inst.Biol.

Professor Zelman Cowen, C.M.G., Q.C., D.C.L.M.A., LI.M., LI.D.

Dr R. Endean, M.Sc., Ph.D

Dr G.F. Humphrey, M.Sc., Ph.D

Professor M.G. Pitman, M.A., Ph.D.

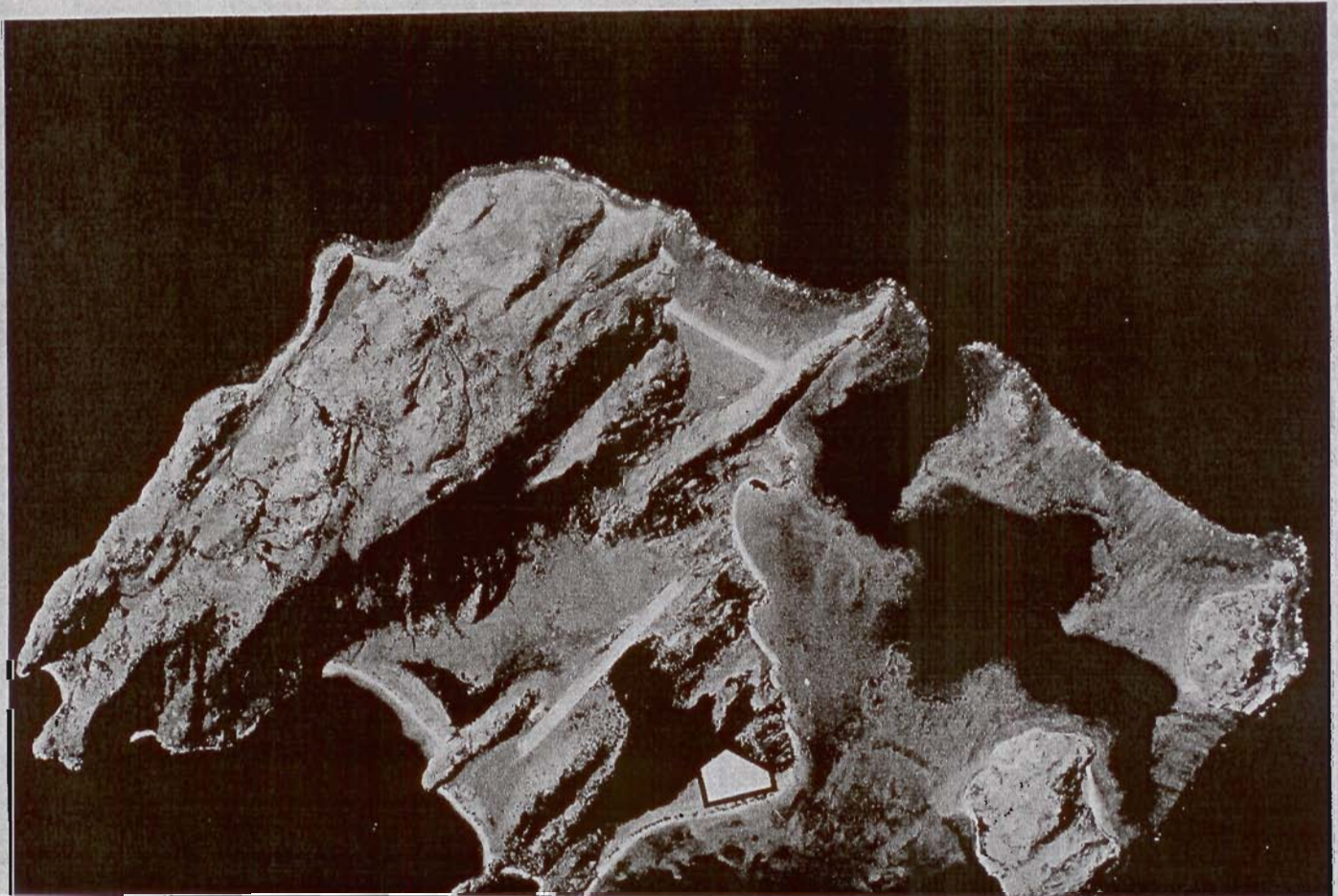
Dr P. Sale, Ph.D.

HOW TO USE THE ISLAND

The cost to scientists using the Lizard Island Research Station has been set initially at \$30 per week per person. No charge is made for use of diving equipment, compressed air or workboats. Because of the limited accommodation it is not possible to accept student parties at present. All correspondence should be to the Resident Director, Mr.S.Domm, P.O. Box 1474, Cairns, Qld. Telegrams can be sent to: Domm, Lizard Island Research Station Outpost Radio, Cairns, Qld.

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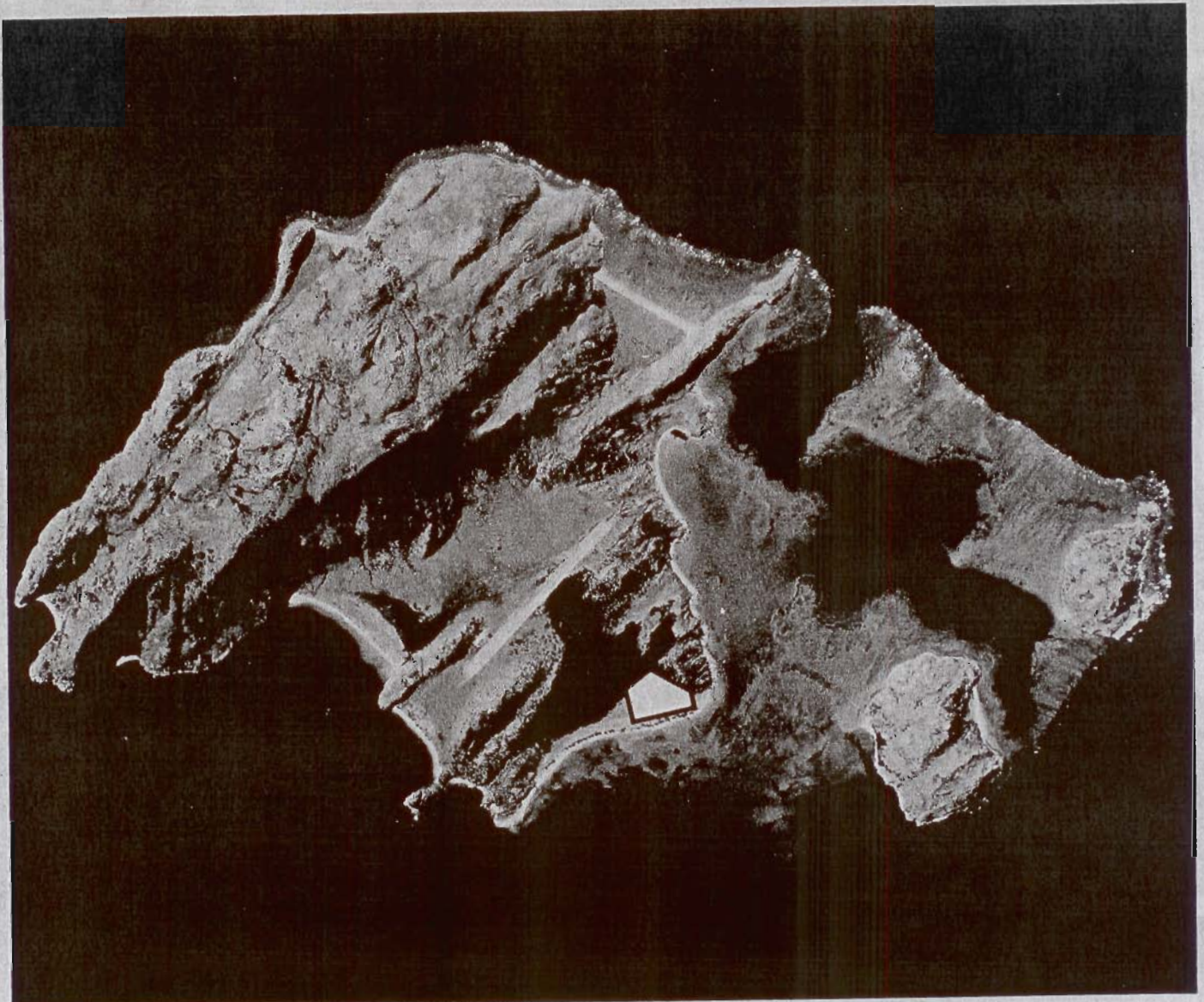
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Scale: 1 inch = 1/2 mile.