Green scene with BILL ORD

Talented writer-photographer and film-maker Rob Rankin was in two minds about whether to publish his recently-launched "On the Edge of the Wilderness — Wild Places Near Brisbane".

"On the one hand, communicating my love of these magnificent places to many more people than know about them at present could lead to the degradation or diminishment of their wilderness values because of the sheer pressure of visitors," he told Green Scene.

"But on the other hand, the more people know about them the more likely they are to love them, protect them and demand more of the same thing."

Thank goodness Rankin published his book, for it contains a stunning collection of color and black-and-white pictures of Lamington National Park, Mount Barney, the Great Dividing Range, the Cooloola area and Moreton Island, and some of the wisest words about the wilderness experience I've ever read.

Rankin is, as we all are, glad that Brisbane is bordered by some of the world's most beautiful national parks, but sad there are too few of them protected by national or environmentsl park status.

He made the point that most of them were on the uplands of the ranges and they needed to be extended further down the lower slopes and watercourses to conserve complementary animal and plant life and landforms.

Rankin's work, which he published himself, is splendidly produced and a great credit to its Brisbane printer, James Ferguson Pty Ltd.