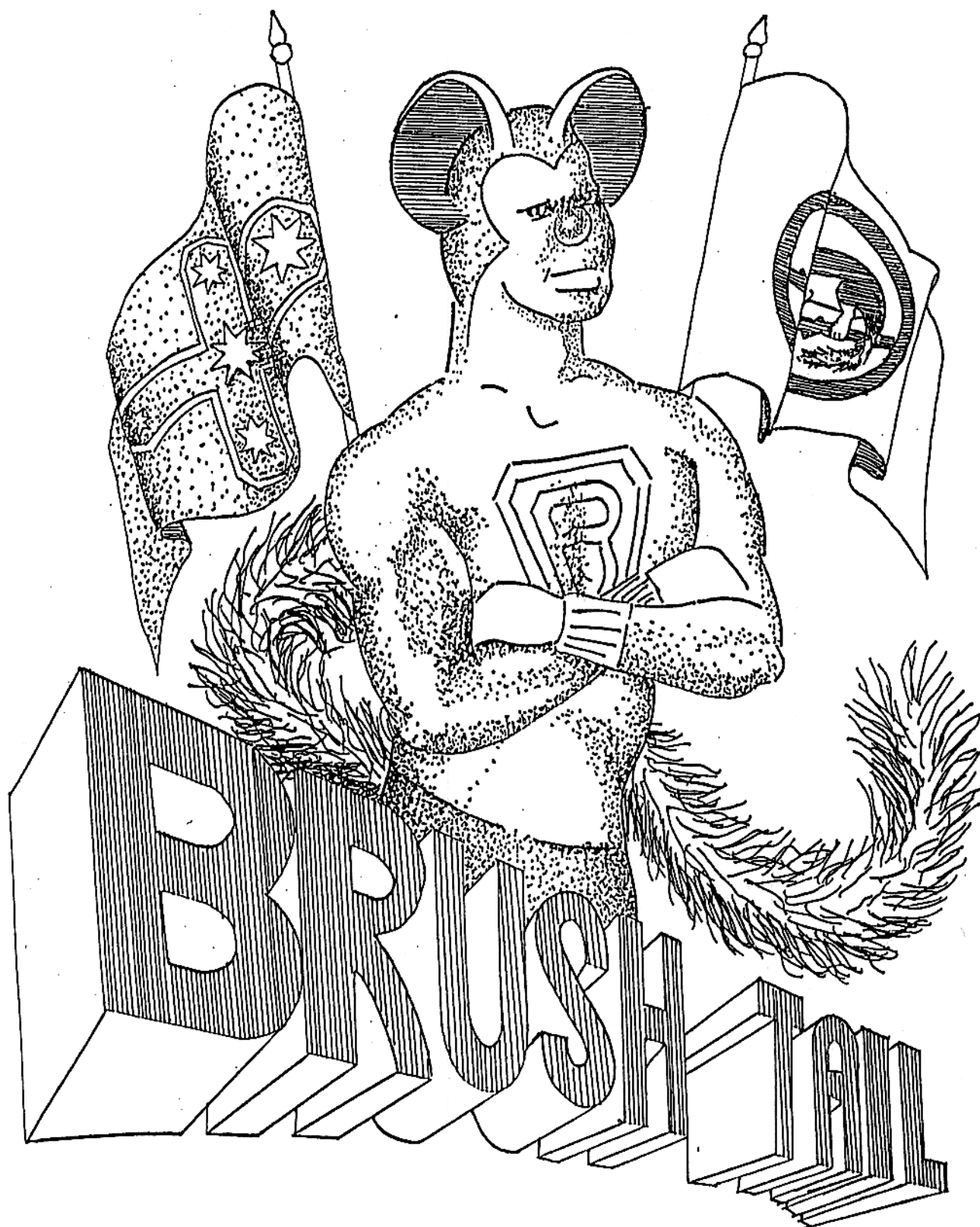


News in the Southern Region



Editorial

Apparently, it's the done thing for the person who uses office No 3 at Moggill to write an editorial for Brushtail.

The previous incumbent - some of you might remember him - a hippy-ish sort of fellow, Gil somethingorother, was his name - has gone west in search of fame and fortune. So you're all stuck with me.

In the past few years, the Service's emphasis on interpretation has been growing. Park interpretation programs have been developed largely through the enthusiasm of field staff. Rural nature conservation is receiving a higher profile in many communities, materials providing specific information about national parks or nature conservation issues have been produced.

There is furthermore a growing demand for talks, displays and activities at local shows, with community groups and especially with schools which is becoming increasingly difficult to meet.

All of this activity takes time - time to organize, time to do and time to evaluate.

Given our serious staff shortages which will, hopefully, one day be rectified, it is important to design interpretive programs which reduce staff commitments elsewhere. For example, if litter is a problem at a particular site then it may be more effective in the long term to have a ranger regularly at that site running a program which emphasises visitor's responsibilities, rather than have that person emptying the bins, and the clientele leaving as blissfully ignorant as when they arrived.

The integration of interpretation with each of the Service's roles (and especially management) can bring benefits in both the short and long term.

Dave Batt

Everytime I've looked up you have all been stressed out with budgets & CEP projects so I haven't wanted to pressure people for articles.

Your articles would be welcome. If you don't feel you can write, talk over your ideas with your interpretative officer - or just send your article in as rough notes.

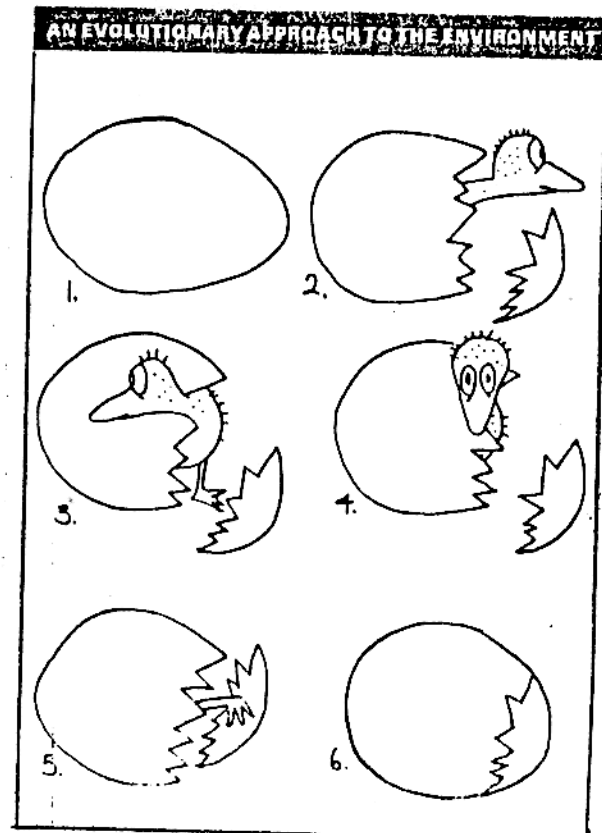
Length: However long it takes to say what you have to say

How to send: Please give them to your interp officer or send them direct to Moggill marked 'for Brushtail'

Time: by 31 July

Thanks again to Elaine for the typing and to Jacqui Bird and our regular anonymous artist for all their work.

Dot Finch



Wildlife

What About Bandicoots?

Bandicoots seek out their invertebrate prey at night with the aid of their extraordinary sense of smell. When this activity is carried out in suburban lawns, these little 'raiders of the lost park', literally overnight, become instant enemies of the sensitive urban gardener.

Anyone who has witnessed the effects of their dining out will sympathise with the householder who it would appear, is already faced with a formidable array of gardening problems.

In the past the Service has permitted the trapping and 'relocating' of the offenders, a strategy of doubtful value both for the trapper and the trapee. We must accept that the 'relocation' of any highly territorial animal would have an appalling success rate.

In addition, this trapping merely invites reoccupation by the dispersing offspring of nearby adults to the now vacant territory. Where it has been claimed that the trapping has been satisfactory, the result has usually been misinterpreted. Bandicoots simply cease the attack of their own accord. This happens as soon as the prey species have been exhausted. Further attacks may not occur for years - or ever!

Naturally where the lawn area continues to supply food, the activity will continue but these occasions are rare.

Many hours of discussion with home gardeners, professional greenkeepers, Department of Primary Industry officers and Service colleagues support this view.

It is pleasantly surprising to know that a good percentage of gardeners will accept bandicoot activity in their lawns

when they become aware that although unsightly and occasioning some trouble on their part the long term effect is in fact of benefit and this activity may well be short term and sporadic.

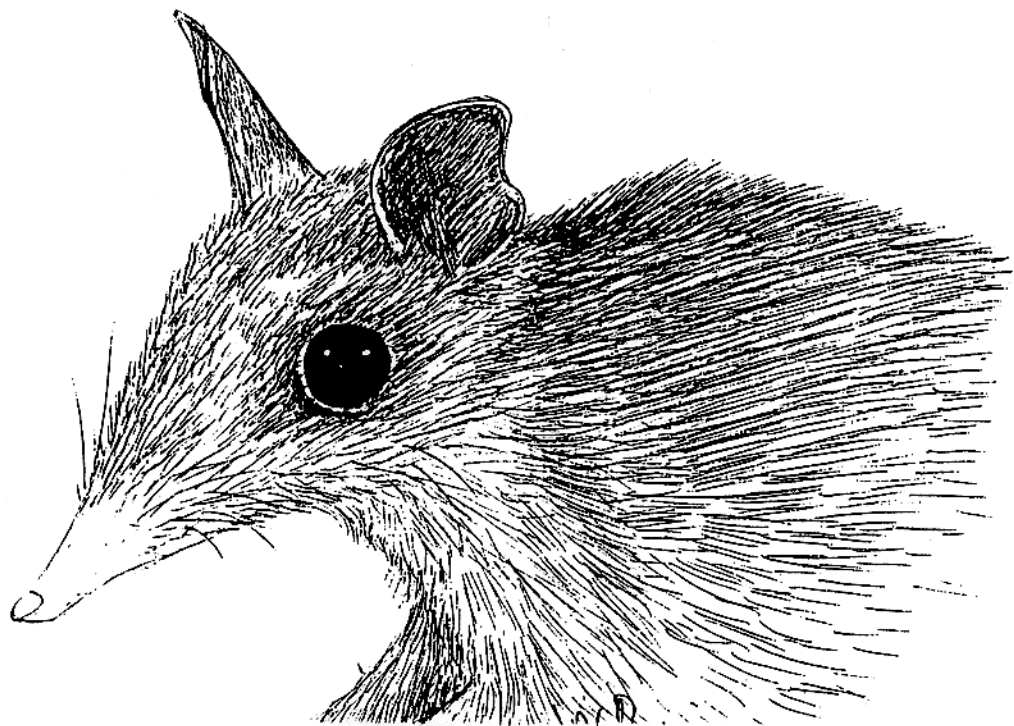
I firmly believe that this is the most desirable of the three suggested solutions but it is a little tricky to achieve and will definitely be inappropriate in a good proportion of cases. Don't ever try it (as I nearly did) on a fanatical lawn lover whose \$2000+ electric mower suffered considerable damage from the stones brought to the surface during bandicoot excavations.

Use sympathy and gentle questioning to establish the degree of inflammation in your complainant. This will lead you to the appropriate solution.

Fencing the animals out is sound and if done properly is a completely satisfactory long term solution. The fence needs to be of reasonable quality but not high - 40cm is more than adequate.

The fencing suggestion however won't appeal to many enquirers on aesthetic or economic grounds.

The third solution is relatively simple. Eliminate the food source and you eliminate bandicoot activity. No self respecting hungry bandicoot digs holes in support of the cause of vandalism. Bandicoots are not punk.



There are known to be approximately 30 species of beetle whose larvae develop in the root structure of lawns. Loosely referred to as 'curl grub', bandicoots adore them - professional greenkeepers break out in a cold sweat at the mere mention of them. As the grubs feed on the roots of various grasses a serious infestation can destroy sufficient grass as to render the surface unplayable for golf, tennis, croquet, bowls etc. Club members don't like that.

These beetles mate and lay their eggs in spring and summer, so intensely managed lawn surfaces are sprayed at three week intervals from September to January with a product containing 'Carbaryl'. Advice from the Department of Primary Industries indicates that this is the 'safest' of the available insecticides having an effective life of only three days. The eggs laid by the beetles take more than three weeks to hatch and so are eliminated by this programme.

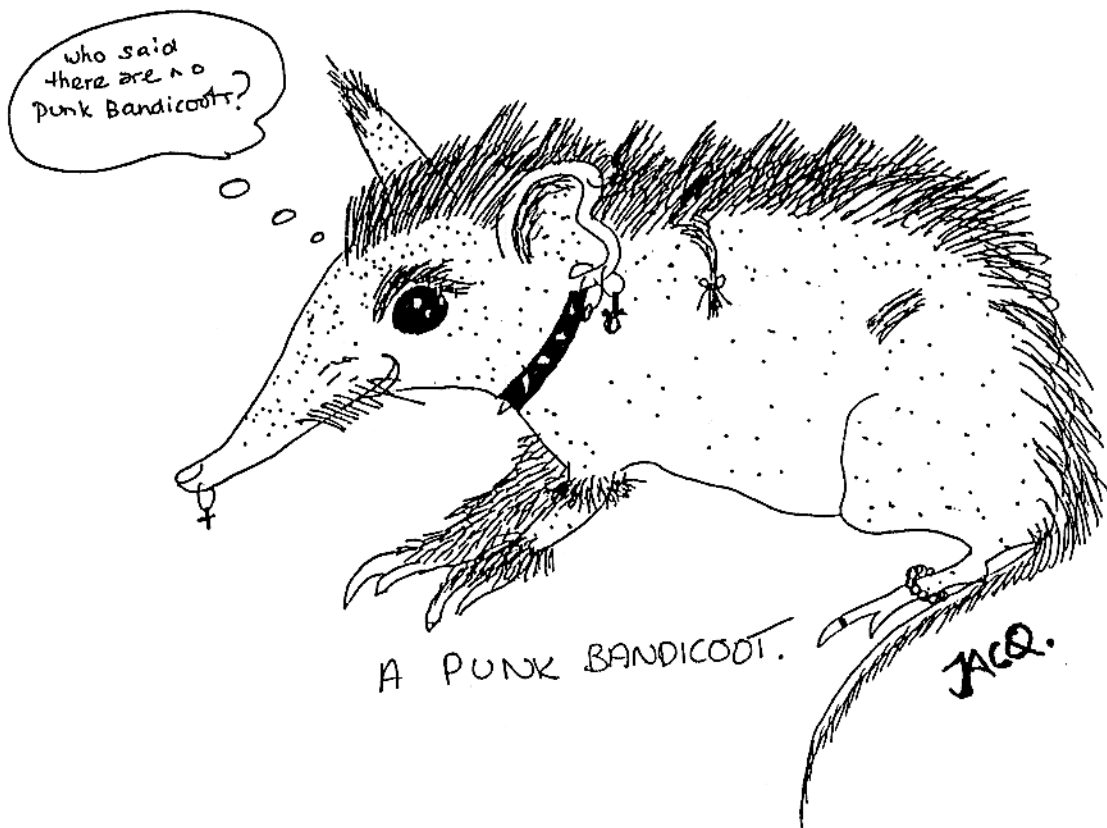
As this third solution involves the use of an insecticide although considered safe it may in turn be unacceptable to the environmentally conscious and lead you back to one of the other two solutions.

By way of a last word, forget the old blood and bone trick you're better off tying garlic around your neck to keep the vampires away.

As with all attempts to find acceptable solutions to wildlife 'problems' input is vital from all staff who become specifically involved. If the above solutions fail on any grounds, please don't keep it to yourself, let us know and we'll start again.

My thanks go to Service staff Greg Gordon, Jim McDonnell, Debbie Hotchkis and Peter Chapman for their time, expertise and experience, John Lane (chemical company representative), Mat Florence (retired greenkeeper), many other local greenkeepers for their time and advice and all the bandicoot battered anonymous members of the public who made this 'problem' possible.

By Ric Natrass



Research & Planning

An update on Research and Planning activities is given here.

1. Taxon Review. The Internal Operational Audit Service carried out a review of wildlife management last year and one of their recommendations was that a regular review of the conservation status of each fauna species should be carried out. In this review, each species will be classified into categories such as Safe, Vulnerable and Endangered, and will be given a rating as being in need of re-examination at x years in the future to assess any change in its status. Thus a vulnerable species might be reassessed in 5 years time whereas a safe species might only be assessed every 20 years or so. This project has now commenced and is being carried out by Mr. Allison.

2. American Express Koala Survey. Mr. Ross Patterson, a CEP employee, has just commenced work on this project. This is part of an Australia wide survey of koalas that is being funded by American Express and being organised by the wildlife authorities in each State. We will be looking for full co-operation from Parks staff for this survey so as to assess the status of koalas on Parks and Reserves.

The aim of the survey is to gather up to date information on where koalas are located, how abundant they are, and the status of their habitat. This information will then be used to identify key areas for koala conservation and to develop regional and national management plans for koalas and their habitats.

Park staff will be asked to complete data forms for koalas occurring on Parks and Reserves in their districts, so as to give a comprehensive listing of the status of koalas on reservations in Queensland.

3. Koala Management Plans - Bremer Catchment. A grant of \$79,000 has been made to the Service by Kagoshima Zoo to fund work on koala management and conservation. The funds will be spent initially on developing a management plan for koalas in the Bremer catchment.

4. Koala Reports/Problems. Forms for recording all koala reports and phone calls relating to koala problems are

being trialed at Moggill and will be extended to other offices later.

5. Yellow-footed rock wallabies. Greg Wellard has received a grant from Earthwatch to study yellow-footed rock wallabies near Charleville. This includes the supply of about 20 volunteers for field assistance.

National Koala Survey

A survey of wild koala populations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia is underway. The survey is being co-ordinated through the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the individual state wildlife authorities.

The aim of the survey is to gather up to date information on where koalas are located, how abundant they are and the status of their habitat. This information will then be used to identify key areas for koala conservation and to develop regional and national management plans for koalas and their habitats.

People wishing to participate in the survey should write to me at PO Box 42, Kenmore, Qld 4069.

By Ross Patterson



Nature Conservation Notes

Koalas



Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service

Brochure available from Ross.

What the Moggill Researchers are doing.

(Through the eyes of Captain Batt)

Greg Gordon 202 2040

- . research co-ordinator;
- . zoologist specializing in koalas
- . currently involved in an Australia wide koala study (which is partly funded by American Express, no less);
- . also involved in a detailed survey of koalas in the Bremer River catchment.

Ross Patterson 202 0216

- . assists Greg Gordon (or pretends to while stealing bits of information about Queensland's koala design specifications and sending them to the Australian National parks and Wildlife Service so they can copy them and usurp the market which is rightfully ours.

Dick Allison 202 0218

- . zoologist specializing in bats and bat parasites (a very worthy cause indeed but I'm getting bloody sick of being caught in that damn net everytime I go to the dunny).
- . has an extensive personal library and a broad experience in overseas (ie non Australian) fauna.
- . compiling a list of animal species correlated to the biogeographical region in which they occur.

Peter Ogilvie 202 0227

- . marine zoologist;
- . writing a book about coral cays;
- . has a fairly good beard.

David McFarland 202 0219

- . zoologist specializing in birds;
- . currently undertaking ecological study of the ground parrot (including how many? Where? What they eat? etc etc)
- . found 267 small yellow seeds.
- . wears extremely exaggerated shorts and also spies for the Australian National

Parks and Wildlife Service).

Peter Young

- . botanist specializing in rainforests;
- . spies sometimes for BFP (Brisbane Forest Park , you dill).

Gordon Wilkinson 202 0225

- . scientific dogsbody (alright, alright, he's got a degree in Australian Environmental Studies, at least);
- . currently involved in:
 - reserve assessment and acquisition;
 - rural nature conservation;
 - conservation review (what's already reserved on national parks);
 - general natural resource management.
- . extremely tall person;

Paul Grimshaw 202 0211

- . botanist
- . retired park management person;
- . currently devotes time to the conservation review;

Carolyn Sandercoe 202 0228

- . botanist;
- . currently undertaking an exhaustive survey of plants at Cooloola;
- . also involved in general fire/plant research;
- . has been observed collecting and drying vegetative material for "research";

Gary Innis 202 0222

- . zoo-botanist specializing in what, where and how fruit pigeons live (especially in rainforests);
- . quite famous for a picnic on Mt Glorious in the 1970's.

Wendy Drake 202 0219

- . botanist
- . involved in resource assessment and acquisition and Moreton Island management planning;

. much shorter than Gordon Wilkinson.

Rob Atherton

. Rob has left Q.NPWS for the time being. We'd like to wish Rob all the very best and hope to see him back with us some time in the future.

Youth on the Rim

This event was renamed a few times last year. 'Youth on the Run' (in a letter from the Police Department) or 'Youth up the Rim' by several staff involved in the walk. This year it's straight old '1986 Scenic Rim Walk' - safe!

If you would like to partake contact Brett Porter at Hermitage on (076) 61 3710.

Proposed Schedule

August

- 16 Day 1 Mt Beau Brummel to Kangaroo Mountain.
- 17 Day 2 Kangaroo Mt to Sylvester's Lookout.
- 18 Day 3 Sylvester's Lookout to Cunningham's Gap.
- 19 Day 4 Cunningham's Gap to Mt Double Top.
- 20 Day 5 Mt Double Top to Lower Panorama Point.
- 21 Day 6 Lower Panorama Point to Lizard Point Side Trip - The Steamers.
- 22 Day 7 Lizard Point to Teviot Gap Side Trip - Lincoln Wreck.
- 23 Day 8 Teviot Gap to Mt Clunie
- 24 Day 9 Mt Clunie to Mt Ballow
- 25 Day 10 Mt Ballow to Mt Lindesay
- 26 Day 11 Mt Lindesay to Lever's plateau (Mt Tanya) Side Trip - Climb Mt Lindesay.
- 27 Day 12 Lever's Plateau to Richmond Gap Side Trip - Long Creek.
- 28 Day 13 Richmond Gap to Tweed Trig
- 29 Day 14 Tweed Trig to Mt Throakban Side Trip - Breadknife.
- 30 Day 15 Mt Throakban to Binna Burra Side Trip - Mt Hobwee.
- 31 Day 16 Binna Burra to Springbrook.

To be Decided

September 1 & 2 Day 17 & 18

Springbrook to Point Danger via Mt Cougal.

OR
Springbrook to Burleigh Heads via Tallebudgera Ridge.

SALE

Looking for a good pair of walking boots?

I have a pair for sale that have only been worn in the bush once - they were too small. They are Scarpa gottex and leather boots size 42 (8 1/2 - 9) and green in colour.

If you're interested in buying them, please phone Jenny Schultz in Head Office on 227 5466.

Smoke Rings

Well, it's the end of two years of regionalization. Thanks for the way you've all pulled your weight and at times made personal sacrifices to get a job done. Planning, implementation of projects, accounts and even wages payments are on the improve. I hope we are able to keep this trend going so that we can attract better support and increase the area of parks and the facilities in them.

We have now developed a five year plan for staffing and capital development in the region. This will help us put better cases to Treasury and the Public Service Board and let us plan more efficiently rather than be reactive to situations.

The most pleasing thing for me was the way district staff have accepted responsibility for the wildlife and rural nature conservation program. We will plan a support program this year to provide you with the training and back up you need to operate effectively. From what I have seen so far in a few districts this will improve our standing in the community.

Another significant area of import that I have noticed is the high standing that you are now held with Shire Councils. I know that a few of you have worked very hard at this and it is paying off.

Greg Gordon has completed a listing of research and monitoring needs for the Southern Region based on information you supplied. The implementation of this has been discussed with Dick Grimes and we will be sending copies of this document out to universities to try and interest them in taking up some of the issues.

You will notice that a lot of the emphasis in this note is based on planning for the future. This is the way we must go. In some cases we will fail but if we have a plan and stick to it, generally we will succeed.

I am off to Minchinbrook and the Daintree for my well deserved RE-CREATION. See you when I return.

Noel Dawson



Wages Positions Review

Following submissions to EMG approval has been given in recent times for the appointment of two review committees to look at wages positions and their deployment within the Service.

One committee, comprising Bob McTaggart, Kevin Bade and myself (Des Boyland), has been asked to look at the positions with respect to a possible new award. This is to look at duties and responsibilities etc. The other comprising only Bob McTaggart and myself and will be concerned more with the distribution of staff both within and between regions. Normally the distribution within the regions will involve much liaison with region staff and employees. The discussion of wages employees between the regions will be look at critically by the hopefully unbiased review panel. I have not found the Regional Director yet who states he has more than adequate staff.

The reasons for their review are very obvious. The first "panel of three" really needs no, or little, explanation. The second may need a few words.

In travelling around the state there appeared to be some discrepancies in the way wages employees were allocated. Some areas appeared to have a surplus to need, others totally inadequate. In some areas the actual number of employees has decreased with a corresponding increase in visitation and workload. Some overseers Division III are carrying out duties and responsibilities comparable to a senior overseer. In other situations the position is the reverse. There needs to be a rationalization of the situation.

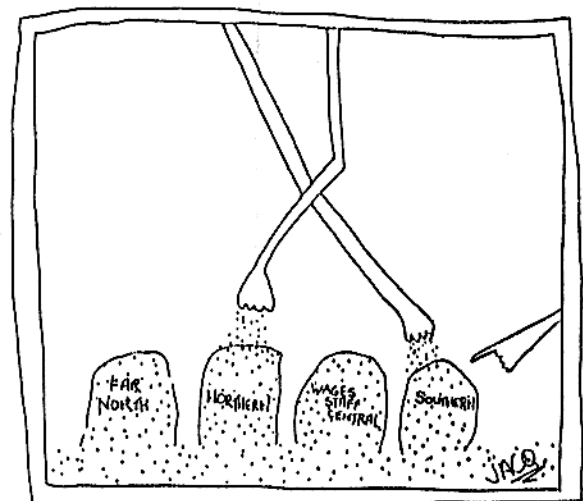
What does it mean to you the Q.NPWS employee. Well you can rest assured you won't find a transfership in your pay from Noosa NP to Betoola Environmental Park or places further west. Like any review within the Service, staff will be consulted and listened to and their ideas taken aboard. If the panel recommends changes in establishment numbers between regions then this will occur with natural wastage (that is resignations, promotions etc.) or a redistribution of funds held for emergencies. In some cases if transfers are warranted and there are people in a position willing to accept a move then that is great. Please do not be concerned about your position. Your

employment status and condition will not change.

The proposed timing of these occurrences is in the next six months so officers charged with the responsibility can fit it into their program. You will be advised in advance of any visitation to your area and you, the employees, will be given every opportunity to express your views.

From my experience I have observed most people are not overconcerned with change. It is the uncertainty that accompanies change that causes problems. We will do our best to minimize any uncertainty and if you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact a panel member to clarify the situation.

By Des Boyland



HOW THE OTHER 1/3 LIVES

The Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is responsible for state forests, national parks, nature reserves and wildlife throughout Western Australia.

The Department employs over 1200 staff within 11 Regions and the Head Office in Perth.

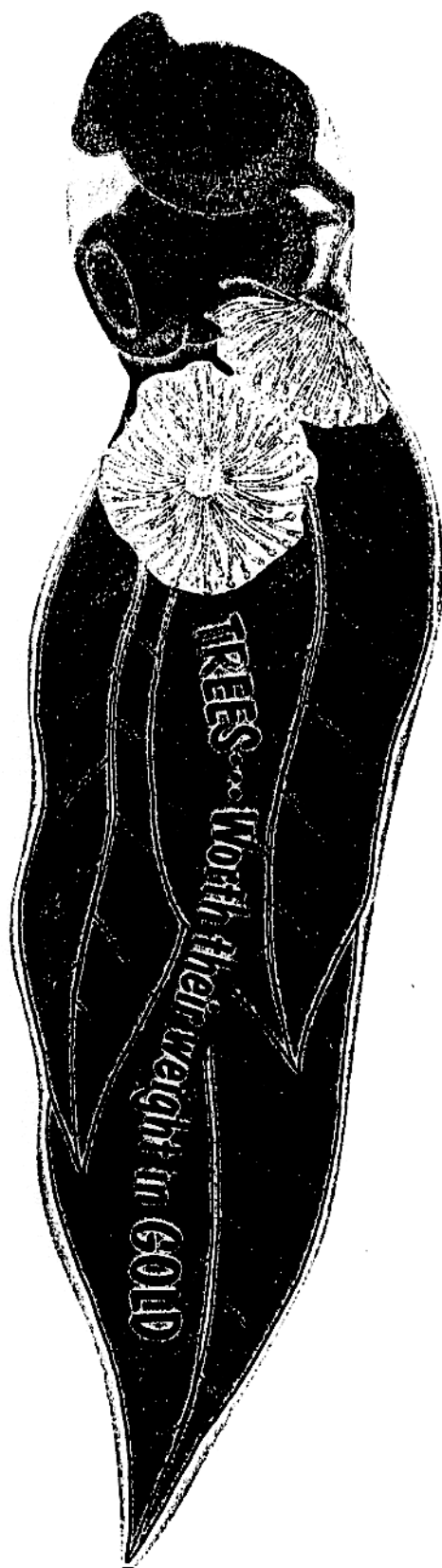
The Regions are responsible for and have appropriate staff for the various operations of the Department but there are significant differences in degree. These are a result of the diversity of the state's natural resources.

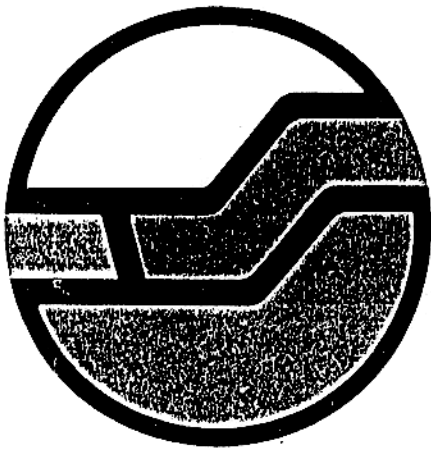
State Forests are confined to the south west and in total area occupy 1% of the state. They are managed from 4 regions: Northern, Central and Southern Forests, and the Wheatbelt. Other forestry operations such as the advisory service for rural property owners in agroforestry, forestry share farming and land management are facilitated from most regions. Of particular interest is the substantial income earning sandalwood industry that involves, the harvesting of the native species (*Santalum* - related to the Queensland species - *Santalum lanceolatum*) for export to the east for use as incense. Its distribution is confined to 3 regions - Greenough, Gascoyne and Goldfields.

National Parks occupy 5% of the state's area and Nature Reserves an additional 5%. Whereas nature recreation is an established component of national park management it is only in very few cases provided for in Nature Reserves which are primarily areas of scientific interest in nature conservation.

Western Australian National Parks are generally of significant size such that they provide a genuine wilderness experience - it being not uncommon to see no sign of human disturbance to the landscape, besides access roads, for as far as the eye can see in every direction.

Whereas many off shore islands are Nature Reserves, Marine Parks are also operative, with Marmion Marine Park on the Perth city foreshore and most significantly at Ningaloo Marine Park adjacent to Cape Range National Park off Exmouth.





Conservation and Land Management



*Forests Department
of Western Australia*

Public participation in management plans for national parks and nature reserves is a significant initiative in Western Australia aimed at addressing public conflict of interests while facilitating a sense of responsibility and involvement in park and reserve management.

Two areas of particular interest are the Lane-Poole Jarrah Forest Reserve and the Shannon Karri forest reserve declared over previous state forest land and to all present management purposes equivalent to national parks but awaiting the outcome of the management plan submissions prior to a final decision of status of reservation.

Community education and interpretation in Western Australia is as varied in application as other operations within the eleven regions. In the forest regions where staff numbers are substantial it is an established program within regional and district offices.

The size of the state and distance from interstate tourist routes has meant that there is more low key approach to interpretation with holiday activities programs virtually non-existent but a new impetus to upgrading and establishing non-personal techniques of publications and interpretive shelter displays throughout the state.

CALM is a significant Department in size and responsibilities. It is approaching these responsibilities with professionalism and commitment dependent upon adequate funding for staff and resources if it is to achieve demonstrative results in the near future.

By Gil Field

"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree."
Joyce Kilmer - Trees



Department of Conservation and Land Management

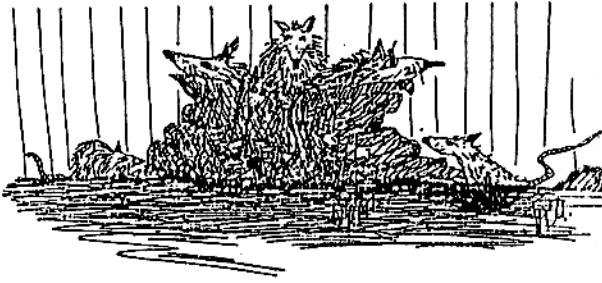


Western Australia Week Council
Trees Committee

Keep Australia
Beautiful Council (W.A.)



Ratbag



Question: What is old and valuable, long and thin, at selected moments can engulf the surroundings in clouds of black smoke, and makes the following noise:

‘pop..crunch..roll..roll..roll..plunk’

Answer: Jim McEvoy’s ‘Sneider’ black powder rifle when used to fire cannon-sized projectiles with a secret formula black powder.

Explanation: Jim McEvoy was heard to exclaim a few expletives (deleted of course) when his prized ‘Sneider’ black powder rifle failed to perform during a recent inspection of the Thruston NP proposal.

Onlookers, G. Wellard and Tony Smith (Jim’s brother-in-law), peering from cover under fallen trees, were treated with the delightful sight of DFO making dents in the bonnet of the vehicle on which he was resting---the dents resulting from enormous bullets trickling out of the end of the barrel and falling the 10cm to the bonnet with terrible results.

Recommendation: That DFO be made to stay in after work and practice loading bullets with ‘proper’ black powder. Alternatively that all Service vehicles be fitted with dent-resistant bonnets.

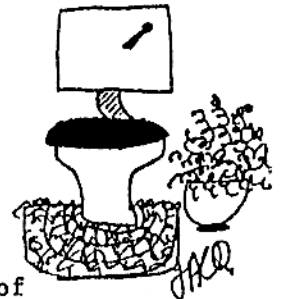
- * An eminent Botanist working for the Service was heard to say about a particular botanical species - ‘The common one is not the rare one.’

- * A Regional Superintendent at a recent Regional Meeting:
‘Koalas. Now they are a different kettle of fish????’

- * At Moggill recently the appearance of a bright yellow mushroom in the courtyard garden bed resulted in an indepth discussion. When the possibility of its use for tripping was mentioned Dick Allison comments from the sidelines was ‘Before you sample that you’ve got to put in an application for travelling allowance’.

- * Toowoomba magpie population got what for during the 1985 spring season with 74 birds being captured, banded, plucked and released. Another twelve birds were recaptured from the previous year. Word is, that among the magpies they ‘sing’ with awe about the ‘mad Sicillian’ who can catch them within five minutes.

Super Horrendous Improvident Toilet Expenditure 1985-86



S.N.I.T. for short.

The following is a breakdown of expenditure directly related to S.N.I.T. in the Moreton Sub-Region.

Toilet Paper	\$2342.00
Snow Palm	50.00
Liquid Bowl	515.00
Deodorant Cones	396.00
Hypo 10	47.00
Cleaning out Toilet septic’s	
Green Mountains - Contractor	1200.00
16 man/hrs at \$7.74/hr	
Moreton Island	
120 man/hrs at \$7.74/hr	

Now you can see the total expense of \$5 605 for S.N.I.T. for 1985-86.

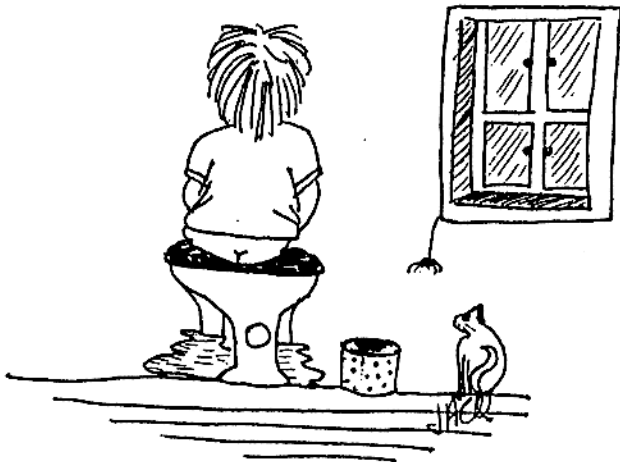
Furthermore, if it is assumed that the mean defecation rate per person per park visit day is 603gms and that the total visitation to these parks is 207 604 (applied social research unit requires) then the cost of the faeces management program of these parks is 0.0044774c per gram of faeces.

Now if this is indexed to the exchange rate between the US dollar and the Australian dollar it becomes obvious.

that our SHIT is much cheaper than the US equivalent.

All that is required is for some entrepreneurial go getter to aggressively market this service in the USA and we'll corner the market. Moreton Island and Green Mountains CAN process the American SHIT at a much cheaper rate.

Advance Australia Council.



Food for Thought - Man has known the need for conservation for a long time.

'The Importance of Forest Preservation'

(Written about 400 BC)

- From Plato (Translation translated from Greek Historical Thought, by A. Toynbee)

Contemporary Attica may accurately be described as a mere relic of the original country, as I shall proceed to explain. In configuration Attica consists entirely of a long peninsula protruding from the mass of the continent into the sea and the surrounding marine basin is known to shelve steeply round the whole coastline. In consequence of the successive violent deluges which have occurred within the past 9 000 years, there has been a constant movement of soil away from the high altitudes; and owing to the shelving relief of the coast this soil, instead of laying down alluvium, as it does elsewhere, to any appreciable extent, has been perpetually deposited in the deep sea round the periphery of the country or, in other words lost; so that Attica has undergone the process observable in small islands and what remains of her substance is like the skeleton of a body emaciated by

disease as compared with her original relief. All the rich, soft soil has moulted away, leaving a country of skin and bones. At the period, however, with which we are dealing, when Attica was still intact, what are now her mountains were lofty soil-clad hills: her so-called shingle plains of the present day were full of rich soil; and her mountains were heavily afforested - a fact of which there are still visible traces.

There are mountains in Attica which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed not so very long ago with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings; and roofs hewn from this timber are still in existence. There were also many lofty cultivated trees, while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost as it is at present through being allowed to flow over the denuded surface into the sea, but was received by the country, in all its abundance, into her bosom, where she stored it in her impervious potter's earth and so was able to discharge the drainage of the heights into the hollows in the form of springs and rivers with an abundant volume and a wide territorial distribution. The springs that survive to the present day on the sites of extinct water supplies are evidence for the correctness of my present hypothesis.

Extracted from 'Save Australia' ed

Sir James Barrett
Macmillan & Co London

LATE NEWS

For those who have deadlines to meet, etc, etc and so forth, Noel Dawson is due back on the 9th July. Our guess is that he'll have lots of new ideas and be rearing to go.

Toowoomba staff have gone forth and multiplied - two new nippers in one week. Congratulations Shamus and Kerry, and Gordon and Jenny.

Parks Patter

St Helena Island

By Stacey Thompson



Rob Squires (The Pointer) and Stacey Thompson

St. Helena Island is the focus of much attention - the bicentennial, the prisoner program and the peacocks! It is Queensland's first historic-site National Park. From 1867 to 1932 the island operated as Queensland's principal prison. The prison history is not the sole aspect of importance. Extensive mangroves surround the island; it is geologically valuable; and evidence of Aboriginal occupation remains.

A Federal grant is being used to develop facilities and restore to a minor degree the historic penal establishment. To be included is a new jetty, a section of tramway, re-roofing the stable building, staff accommodation and reconstruction of the former Chief Warders house to be used as a museum and office.

DMS are involved with survey, mapping and terrestrial photogrammetry of the island. The Education Department have supplied two teachers to handle all school tours. They plan to evolve a variety of programs and activities for different age groups; create displays and booklets, and intend to visit each school prior to their day on St Helena.

Until now, the majority of work has been general maintenance, some minor developments and weed control. To retain its historical significance we are successfully working towards a park-like appearance. When used as a prison, the island was virtually denuded of all native vegetation and the landscape modified to make way for agriculture, grazing and development. Today, only a small remnant of the natural flora

exists. It is ironic that now, fifty-four years after the prison closed, eight prisoners come to work on the island for \$1.20 a day. The program began in June 1985 and will hopefully continue into the future.

Two staff are permanently based on St Helena - myself and Rob Squires. Ian Lewis and Paul Duncombe spend much of their time either working on the island or on the mainland organising equipment and materials for our use.

For both Rob and me, St Helena is our third location with National Parks. Rob has worked at Moreton Island and Glasshouse Mountains. Prior to my island life I spent most of my time at Main Range before a short stay of a few months at Green Mountains. We both completed the Wilderness Reserves and Wildlife course in 1983.

Our roles are broadly defined, although both job areas overlap. Rob is management; I am interpretation. We work alternate weekends - ten days on, four days off roster. The once constant demand for tours has been alleviated by the St Helena Island Education Unit. We conduct tours every weekend subject to weather, and during the week, depending on demand. A self-guide is in process and further signage for identification of the runs has been ordered.

The junk which did belong to the former leasee has started to be removed - a mammoth task.

We are pleased to say that St Helena Island is taking on a whole new appearance



BEFORE



AFTER

District Dialogue

CSR (The district - not the sugar)

During the past three months the CSR staff have been heavily involved in the promotion of rural nature conservation. The first six display panels emphasising RNC and the district were completed prior to our show season by Keith Sullivan (who now knows how to construct the panels). The Kalbar, Boonah and Tamborine shows were a success with enquiries starting to come in from the public.

Another major, and long term situation which has commenced is in the district nursery, based at Binna Burra. The construction, or rather the adaptation, of existing facilities, into a nursery will commence shortly. The idea is to work Bill Flenady, overseer and chief nursery person, until he drops. (Sorry Bill, that's the life of an optimist). The nursery will not be in full swing for a couple of years but should be producing by Christmas.

Green Mountains staff are still recovering from the onslaught of day and overnight visitors during the Easter, long weekends, and Halley's comet. Robin Best has been at Green Mountains for three weeks to supervise the O'Reilly's CEP in national park. The project should result in a track suitable for the disabled to Python Rock.

The Tamborine staff are gearing themselves up for the oncoming CEP project. The \$200 000 project should see a rejuvenation of all public use areas in the Tamborine area. John Johnston, fresh from his recent involvements in track construction schools in North Queensland and down here will be responsible for the project.

I'd like to wish Ned Hansford a happy long service leave and holiday. Sixteen weeks in all.

The Barney area has received a caneing in the past few months. With increased visitation, including - ex-Fraser 4WD'ers and trail bikers, and the lack of a Service vehicle Peter has just about kept his head above water (Not that there's been much of that at Barney this year). Things should be better next year (I think I've heard that before).

Bob Schultz, acting DO has to spend most of his time in Moggill co-ordinating and writing up proposals. Great fun. In

addition to this Bob is still doing all the routing work. Thanks to all CSR staff for their great work in the past few months.

By Jerry van Delft

PS

A recent project undertaken by the Central Scenic Rim was the development of a specific district based display series. The first six panels were constructed for the show circuit and will be continuously supplemented with new panels.

When not used for shows etc the panels will be displayed at Council chambers, visitor centres etc. This will demand different emphasis being placed on each display and also the ability to be interchanged with other panels.

The display series will consist of 3X2 panel series. The first describing nature conservation and rural nature conservation. The second the Service and the district and other concepts such as the Scenic Rim, and the last two are park specific, usually parks in the immediate area.

The text for the first five panels is included. The overall emphasis has been, on conservation using Boonah and Beaudesert as the example.

Great Sandy District

As usual the rush goes on at Fraser Island with the Waddy Point campground, workshop, office and house in full swing. Interpretation has been given a shot in the arm with the acquisition of much needed equipment.

Freshwater is currently gearing itself up for a CEP project to develop a new campground.

By Lyn Pullen

Northern Downs District

Bunya Mountains

The new park office is now well underway. Construction commenced in late February after the completion of the Queen Mary Falls toilet block.

Peter Burchard (the sub-regional

builder) received additional assistance with the appointment of another carpenter in early April. This brings the team up to three, including a carpenter's assistant.

The roof wetting ceremony is expected next week (the week of 9-13 June) - ALL WELCOME. [How did it go Chris?]

Other works on the park recently include landscaping and tree planting at the main picnic area, Dandabah. This will be extended to the Westcott picnic area later in the month.

Ravensbourne

After the completion of a successful CEP project in late March, other continuing works include a new shelter shed and pit toilet in the bottom picnic area.

Boodua Environmental Park

Facilities at this popular EP (near Kingsthorpe just west of Toowoomba) have been recently upgraded and include vehicle barriers and a gravelled loop road. Picnic tables and barbeques are currently being installed.

By Chris Murphy

Southern Downs District

My apologies to Denis Dray for the absence of an article in the last Brushtail concerning his shift from Main Range NP to Kinaba. I did not realize he had gone until I reached for a rum one evening. I was sure one of those kegs was mine Denis.

Denis deserves special thanks and recognition for the tremendous work he did at Main Range, Queen Mary Falls and Mt Mistake. (I hope someone gives them to him one day). He also contributed a lot of assistance to the management of other parks in the Southern Downs District and the Central Scenic Rim during his eight and a half years in the area.

So Denis, on behalf of us all, thank you for your support, tenacity, friendship and legacy of good management. We hope your happy.....because we sure are.

Laurie Shelley doesn't anticipate too many fire problems at Girraween this season. Most of them were burnt recently in deliberately lit wildfires. With that behind them they may now have time to retrain the rubbish bin raiding feral

pigs. They are to be assigned to fertiliser duties.

Many thanks to Bill Goebel for his continuing participation in Girraween interpretive programs. We really appreciate it Bill.

Peter Haselgrove looks sideways these days. He's completed another 6 1/2km of firebreak around Sundowns southern end with the farmliner and back blade. You're going backwards Peter.

By Brett Porter

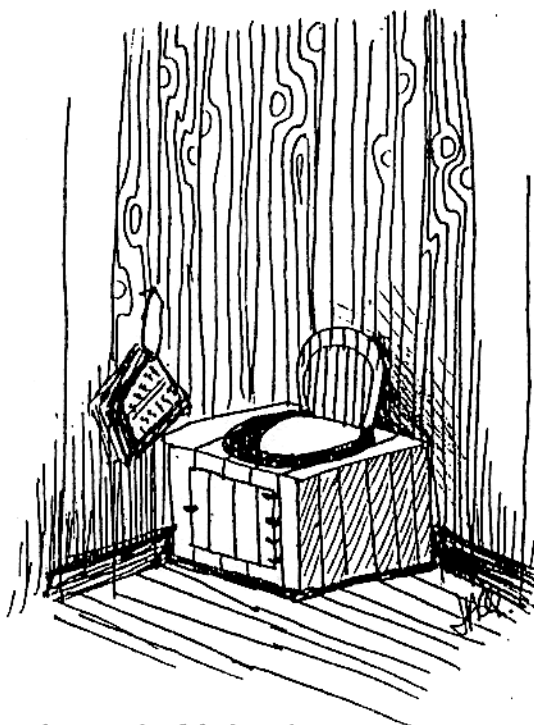
Bundaberg district

1. **Baldwin Swamp EP - Bundaberg:**
CEP Project commenced on 19 May.
Nine people (4 male 5 female) for 32 weeks.

Excavation work has been postponed because of heavy rain, general clean-up of weeds and construction of a walking track.

2. **Cania Gorge NP**
Toilet block work commenced early May will be completed by mid June. Prefabricated building based on Moreton Island design.

Overseer M. Deacon is to be nominated as the 'dunny builder of the year'.



Remember the good old days?

3. Woodgate NP

Service is assisting Council and local Progress Association to construct a beach access ramp at the southern end of the town of Woodgate.

A radio base station has been set up at the park HQ. This will also incorporate the local Bushfire Brigade and the State Emergency Service.

O/S Byrne involved in search after a boating accident in which one man drowned.

4. Mon Repos EP

Woongarra SC has completed the construction of a sealed access road to the Service base and upgraded the carpark under the road subsidy scheme.

5. Eidsvold EP

A new EP located on the Burnett River beside the Eidsvold Theodore Road.

A picnic area is being planned for the park as a joint effort between Q.NPWS, Eidsvold SC and the Bicentennial Scheme.

6. Moonford Base

The Service has acquired the Moonford School, approx 6 km from Cania Gorge NP. It had been closed for about 2 years.

Work has already commenced on upgrading this facility.

By Paul Kummerow

Moreton District

Prisoners, 1 year old

As of 11 June 1985 the prisoner program on St Helena Island NP will be one year old. During this period more than 50 men have participated in the program and their contribution to the management of the island has been invaluable. The program was initially viewed with some trepidation but to date has proved to be an outstanding success.

A team of up to 8 men travel to the island on the Service barge every day, Monday - Friday, weather permitting. On occasions they have also undertaken successful projects at Venmans Reserve, Blue Lake NP and at the Moggill Regional Office.

It is hoped that the program can continue indefinitely as it has proved of enormous benefit both to the Service and to the men involved.

Thanks to Nifty and all the other colourful characters who have helped the program reach its 1st birthday.

By Vic Bushing

Hello Um Err?

Have you phoned Moggill, Maryborough or Toowoomba etc, lately and wondered 'who's this geezer/lady, being ever so helpful, on the other end of the line?'

Well if you phone:

- Charleville you'll be speaking to **Sharon Gallaway**.
- Gympie then you'll be chatting with **Gerri Kluver** or **Bronwyn Gibson**.
- Hermitage, well whoever is closest to the phone and that seems to be **Bob Laws** or **Brett Porter**.
- Maryborough, the odds are you'll be speaking to **Michelle Munyard** or **Debbie Croft**.
- Moggill, then your probably going to be talking to **Brigitte Maki-Nesti** who joined Q.NPWS in May or **Elaine Skinner**.
- Rainbow Beach Office, then you'll probably be talking to **Peter Bargenquest** or **Lyndal Kaye**.
- Toowoomba, then you get to speak with **Liz Farrington**.



See ya.



Recent Staff Training

The two day interpretive training workshop was attended by 16 southern region staff. The workshop was planned to give staff who frequently carry out interpretation and extention (communication) activities a practical refresher. It was also designed to summarise a little theory, to enhance practical skills and to share ideas.

Unfortunately the number of course participants had to be limited to 16 to give the course leader and a managable group and to give the participants a good learning experience. For those of you who missed out this time, another workshop is planned for the new financial year.

During the workshop a session on information resources highlighted the need to produce a directory of Service staff and the areas they specialize in. This is currently being compiled and will be produced for the next issue of Brushtail.

To assist us in compiling this directory could you please complete the Staff Directory Information Form in this issue of Brushtail and return it to Liz Naumann at Moggill by 17 July 1986.

URGENT



We would also appreciate a black and white passport style photograph for this section. This will enable people to put a face to the person on the other end of the phone.

Staff Directory Information

Name:

Address (work):

Phone Number:

Current Job (Give brief outline of duties)

Previously Worked as:

Joined the Service in 19.....

Areas of expertise:

Areas of special interest:

Trade skills/academic qualifications:



Please cut out and return to Moggill.

(Liz Naumann)

Interp Workshop Bardon Professional
Development Centre
15/16 May 1986

QUOTES:

Dave Batt: You have to use the appropriate technique, for example if Ric Natrass tried his not very funny salt-in-the-socks-routine at an association for the protection of rural Australia meeting he would most certainly be shot!

Tim Moore: If he's going to be shot, then maybe we should send him along!

Bill Flenady: They (park visitors) can usually cope if something goes wrong during an interp session. If you act fairly natural they just see you as an ordinary sort of jerk who's cocked-up badly.

Bill Flenady: Getting them hooked on your particular trip is like fishing for flathead. Once they're on the line. There's no drama it's all over but you've got to accept that you're going to lose a lot of rigs in the attempt.

Don Marshall: There's not much in for the next edition of 'Ring Tail' and the deadline was yesterday.

Trevor Vollbon: Oooh! That was a 'cold prickly'!

Trevor Vollbon: One important part of preparing for an interpretive session is getting yourself relaxed.

Ric Natrass: Yeah Gil Field used to swear by two quick stubbles but I still think it takes three.

Tim Moore: Four!

Dave Batt: Six!

Gordon Stone: Does anyone know what this stands for? (Points to K.I.S.S. on blackboard.)

Ric Natrass: I think I vaguely remember.

Tim Moore: I've seen photographs.

Tony Kelly: I've seen a video.

Gordon Stone: It stands for keep it simple stupid.

Seamy snippets

Which highly experienced bush craft person crossed the Brisbane River THREE times during an attempt to successfully navigate between Simpsons Falls and the Annerley Hotel in the early hours of 16 May?

Who asked for a Malibu, got a Kaluha and drove the Porcelaine Bus?

Who thought the Friday commencement time was 9.30 am instead of 9.00 am? clue
THINK PINK.

Which interp persons prefer shoes or socks and why?

Which Workshopppers swing?

Will chains w-like snoring replace Roosternapping as a regular feature?

All of us who shared the two day interpretive workshop at the Bardon Professional Development Centre on 15 and 16 May would like to thank the organizers for their care and efficiency which so greatly contributed to the success of the programme.

So far as we know everyone had a roof over their head, a bed and a most satisfying repast in the form of an enjoyable and worthwhile barbecue on the Thursday evening.
Sincere thanks, organizers.

by R. Natrass.

