

Brushtale



Editorial

Snore Snore brumblerumbleroleover snore. 'Huh? Wha? Who? Oh, Dorothy it's you. Editorial? Brushtail? Now! Bugger! Can't a sub-regional interpretive officer ever sleep on the job? (Alright, alright, any more snide remarks like those and all you wages lackeys are out!)

My colleague informs me it's editorial time again. This is the final edition for 1986 so I suppose it's an appropriate opportunity to acknowledge the personnel by whose good efforts this august rag is writed, compiled, sorted, edited, lost, found, thrown away in disgust, handed back, disclaimed any knowledge of, copied, stapled together (usually with some pages out-of-order-in-the-sequential-sense-for-all-you-smart-posteriors-after-all-there's-no-need-to-be-rude-is-there-? But then again it does add a certain interactive quality which is innovative) and distributed.

First and foremost, since she's unknown to many of the people in the region, and because she's responsible for some of the artwork (like last issue's cover) and because she's leaving us soon (her CEP funding runs out in December) is Jaqui Bird.

Without wishing to boost her ego unnecessarily one could say, if one took the time of course, that she had contributed significantly and cheerfully to some of the most drudgerious tasks inflicted upon the office staff here. Anyone who has reclassified a filing system will understand. Anyone who has been given endless stapling, photocopying and collating work will understand also.

But for goodness sake don't tell her about this - she'll probably think people like her or something.

Another person who deserves a bit of a pat on the back is the Regional Director. You know, Whatsisname. The tallish, thinish, bod with the stained facial hair. He actually lets us waste time on this paper, you know. Lets us have our say, out in the open in full view. He could put the kybosch on it, but he dosen't.

There could, of course, be several reasons for this. He may not be able to read. He may not know its going on. He may be filing it all away as evidence of the mental instability of his staff.

Don't worry about that. You should see the stuff, we, in Internal Security, have on him!

Last, but not least, is the Champion Shoe Chucker of Moggill. Yes Dorothy Finch. A dedicated athlete, Dorothy can be seen practicing her chosen sport, even during working hours, in the corridors of the Southern Region Office. A kindly soul, Dot, has been trying to interest me in this shoe chucking, however, I fear I haven't the stomach for it. Catching a high velocity shoe in my teeth dosen't sound much like fun - not that I, for one minute, would suggest that her assessment of the fun value wasn't accurate.

Seriously though (Oh, look it up in the dictionary) she cajoles, threatens, encourages, collates, co-ordinates and manages the whole plot in between making sure Whatsisname can remember how to open the door of his office.

While we're indulging in some gratuitous mutual admiration I may as well mention the rest of you - the contributors and the readers. There's no Brushtail without contributions, and there's no point in producing Brushtail without readers.

Er hgem, there are some readers out there, I take it?

On a more serious note, you have just survived Christmas and have started a new year. As all the field staff know this is not 'holiday' time. The whole of humanity in all of its (sometimes inappropriate) diversity descends upon our respective patches and proceeds to do its thing.

Whatever happens and despite the unresponsive and confusing system in which we work don't forget the credibility and public image of the Service is established and maintained primarily by its field staff and often in their own time and on their own initiative. That's something to be proud of. Remember that we communicate our professionalism, credibility and passion for our responsibilities in all that we do.

To do that we all need to be able to step back and assess ourselves from time to time. Being protective of our professional reputation places

responsibilities on us all. In these busier than normal (is that possible?) periods, pace yourself to avoid the burn out that can lead to the careless response to a customer that ultimately loses us some support.

Remember, the way this Service will achieve its goals is through attitudinal and behavioural changes in the great unwashed public. Emptying rubbish bins is too subtle a medium for generating these changes in most people. They need much more direct communication than that.

Best wishes to all and don't join the road toll.

Dave Batt



Page		
1.	• Editorial	
3.	• Smoke Rings	Noel Dawson
4.	• So You Think You've Got Worries.	Bill Flenady
5.	• Kangaroo Management !?!	Keith Smith
6.	• Killer Croc Strikes.	
	• Seen any Crocs Lately?	Noel Dawson
6a.	• Warning Advisory Signs.	Gil Field
7.	• Of Mice & Men and National Park Staff.	Innocent Bystander
7.	• When is a Tin Not a Tin?	Felicity Stroppia
8.	• An Evening with Turtle Research & A Beached Whale.	Dave Orgill
11.	• A Short History of Australian Attitudes to Native Vegetation or Beware of the Pot Syndrome.	Gordon Wilkinson
12.	• Earth Education Workshop - A Westerners View.	Keith Smith
12.	• Joey Heroine of the Hour.	Gerry Kluver
13.	• Jacqui's Poem.	Jacqui Bird
14.	• Staff Shortages.	Clippings from Newspapers.
16.	• District Dialogue.	Karren Hunter
		Jerry Van der Velt
		Lyndal Kaye
18.	• Ratbag.	
19.	• District Dialogue.	Denis Dray
		Peter Milne
		Liz Naumann
		Gordon Stone.

PS.

I apologise for the lateness of this addition of Brushtale.

I am going to defy requests to remain anonymous and disclose the identity of our centre fold artist Liam Siddell. I am very sorry to be writing that Liam has resigned and is heading south. Thanks for everything Liam and all the very best for your future.

Dave McFarland, (Ground Parrot Researcher) has done most of the artwork for this issue.

To all of you who have been 'going to' write an article for Brushtale or Ringtail/Newspaws/Volunteer, could you please write them now and send them in by the 15th February (to meet Don Marshall's deadline for his papers).

Thanks.

Regards

Dot Finch.

Smoke Rings

It is great to see that interest hasn't waned in Brushtale and that you are all still contributing.

We are now at the end of the CEP schemes and I would like to thank all those who had some involvement in the supervision of these projects. The schemes were a major milestone for the Southern Region. They allowed us to upgrade our 'public face' and get a lot of those niggly jobs done.

With these projects complete we are now faced with implementing the Rainforest Program which is aimed at acquiring more rainforest areas, improving facilities, interpretation and management.

The emphasis now that we have improved facilities is going to move to better resource management, interpretation and maintenance of facilities and existing programs. We have already started a training program to provide you with the improved skills to handle this change.

Those of you who have been involved in the development of management plans will appreciate your resources much more and also gain some insight into the difficult area of trying to match the 'we want to do everything group' against the 'we want to keep it exactly as it is' group. I believe with proper resource planning from the acquisition stage on we can meet demands from most groups but keep and expand those areas which we most value.

The interpretive program is going very well and we will be undertaking much more training of field staff over the next year. Both 'on the job' training and schools.

Finally a report on the holiday at Surfair. The Senior Management Group addressed the problems facing us looking both at external pressures and internal issues. In summary we have decided that we have to more actively promote our achievement and goals to the outside lobbies (farmers, tourist group, conservationists etc) and communicate better within the organization. Plans were developed to achieve these goals. Copies of the results of this work will be circulated to the Regional Superintendent's once they are complete. Let's us hope we can work towards the establishment of the best Service in Australia, with the best representation of habitats. With this goal - All the best for the New Year.

Noel Dawson



So! You think
you've got



Life's a worry!

It's come to my notice that many Service staff spend considerable time and energy worrying about exceedingly trivial matters such as staff shortages, lack of funds, bushfires, feral animals, where the next load of firewood is coming from, whether it's possible that the entire Southern Region staff could be sent to Simpson's Desert (not the park, just the desert) etc, etc. With this in mind, I thought it high time we had some really **worthwhile** things to worry about. As my contribution to stress-management, I offer the following worries, categorized for easy reference. (If you don't agree with the categories, that's your worry). I'm sure that with a little time, effort and anxiety, you'll find plenty of your own to add to the list.

Science

- * According to the Australian Standards Association, there are 10 000 angstroms in a micron. Don't you think that's far too many?
- * The 1931 Nobel Prize for Physics has never been awarded, but there's probably buggger-all you can do about it now.
- * It may be true that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but it's also true that you're usually in a place where it hasn't struck the first time.

Current affairs

You'll never know for sure whether the events on tonight's news really happened, or whether the reporters just made them up.

Entertainment

- * Every TV program ever broadcast is still being transmitted through space. If there's intelligent life out there, imagine what they'll do to us when they start receiving 'Prisoner'!
- * Since the average weights of Miss Australia contestants and Melbourne Cup jockeys is exactly the same, why is it you can't think of one other thing they have in common?

Politics

- * Today's average child will see 20 000 TV commercials before he reaches adulthood. The scary part is that one of those brain-damaged little monsters will be Prime Minister 50 years from now.

Communication

- * Scientists say that people cannot be understood when they speak faster than 400 words a minute. Since you don't speak that fast, there must be a more serious reason why no-one can understand you.

- * There are about 4 000 languages spoken in the world. In how many of them can you say 'Take my wallet, but please don't kill me.'?

Fashion

- * At this very moment, fashion designers all over the world are planning how to make your entire wardrobe look out-of-date.

Friends and relatives

- * Some distant relative may die this week and leave you all of his debts.
- * If you have at least 2 friends, how can you be sure they aren't engaged in conversation right this minute to exchange malicious gossip about you?

Health

- * You can believe all the TV pain-killer adds you like, but there's a verified medical record of a person who had a headache that lasted 24 years.

- * When you feel a sore throat coming on, just remember that laryngitis is still listed as the official cause of George Washington's death.

- * Some doctors say that you can cure a prolonged bout of hiccups by drinking straight gin. Unfortunately, there's no known cure for a prolonged bout of drinking straight gin.

A parting thought

Since the average human brain weighs 3 pounds, just think how much of you that leaves without enough sense to know what it's doing.

by Bill Flenacy

Wildlife

Kangaroo management ?!?!

The following literary classic was written by an eminent local shooter following the distribution of a Service Wildlife Information Sheet titled 'Identification of Western Grey Kangaroos'.

Two small extracts from the information sheet are; 'Males (Western grey) have a strong curry smell' and 'Males (Eastern grey) have a vanilla smell.'

'The article went on to say 'Please note you must not shoot Western greys.....'

The response from the shooter:

KANGAROO SHOOTERS, GUNS AND NOSES!

If shooters wish to shoot the roo,
and make an honest quid,
they first must get their noses tuned,
the way the doggies did.
They'd have to be like rangers,
come top in all their classes,
for if they wish to shoot a roo
- they first must smell their arses!
To see if they are 'curry arse',
'vanilla' did you say?
Oh, what a sorry state of affairs
our rangers are today!

Imagine first, the perfect pro,
along with his off sighter,
he sees a roo, and then remarks,
'I'd better smell the blighter'.
So off he sets, before he shoots
creeps slowly through the grasses,
until at last he gets within
the perfume from their arses.

He smells them all, about fifteen,
and some of them are rotten!
Returns to car, picks up his gun,
to find he had forgotten which
perfume did each roo disperse?
I sure was in a hurry,
I've lost my sense,
I cannot think
- vanilla or hot curry?

..6/.

from page 5

I've had enough, I'll go to town,
I'm getting far too nervous:

I'll get the oil

- correct I hope

- from Parks and Wildlife Service!

Back in the bush, I did no good,
those rangers strangely muted
said 'We don't know,
but get it right or you'll be
prosecuted!

We do not know or cannot say

- we run the secret Service.

We are just here to take your
dough,

not to supply a Service!

But, if you do not cross

your tees,

and all your eyes you dot,

we're there to take your guns
from you

- in fact, we'll take the lot!

'Who cares if you are

right or wrong,

we won't be very pleasant,
you'll have to learn

- and quickly, too

we are, your public servant!

Anon. shooter

Sent in by K. Smith

Charleville Office.

A Mac Truck towing a fully loaded 40 foot
tri-axle trailer with the name 'CROC'
emblazoned in large letters above the
grille squashed the man in the outside
lane around 3.30am police said.

Volunteer marksman from the pro-human
activist group, Protection of People
(POP) have been out since the early hours
and have shot dozens of semi-trailer rigs
in an effort to find the killer 'CROC'.

From an article in the Telegraph



"Are you sure this species has never faced a camera before?"

From Calm-Hearted (WA)

Killer croc strikes

A man was believed taken by a croc in the
early hours of this morning as he lay
asleep at his campsite on the South
Eastern Freeway near Kurab .

Friends say the man aged 33 was returning
from a riotous evening when he demanded
they stop the vehicle in which he was a
passenger.

'There was no doubt he was unwell and
very tired and only wanted just to go to
bed,' said Barb Hook another passenger of
the vehicle.

Police say the man, Hal Angel, an
unemployed Fluffy Toy Stuffer from
Radship North Queensland had apparently
only just got into his sleeping bag when
the tragedy occurred.

Seen any Crocs lately?

Col Limpus has asked that all Southern
Regional staff advise him of any
crocodile sightings (before the first
bottle of rum) both confirmed and
unconfirmed. He would also like people
to check turtles washed up on the beach
for tags (a smelly operation that needs a
bottle of rum before).

Noel Dawson

Warning and Advisory Signs

Management problem solving involving visitor recreation should consider the total information system and the techniques available within this context. This comprehensive approach avoids inappropriate use of specific techniques that may be the trend or personal preference at that time. It avoids unnecessary duplication of messages and possible sign or publication proliferation and subsequent site pollution (both in visual design aesthetics and in real terms of litter).

Applying this to Bushwalking/ Rock climbing/ off track adventurers consider the 'management plan'. Do we accept it, support it, promote it, discourage it, condemn it? What is our message to the target audience of 'adventurers'? What is our message to the general visitor?

I assume we accept adventurers and are concerned by legal implications of our acceptance and subsequent accidents and insurance claims against us. We are constrained obviously by distance and staff numbers in patrolling to enforce our management policy by personal contact.

Here our non personal information system comes into play.

Consider the following techniques:

- pre-visit publicity
- pre-visit park guide
- information display shelters
- recreational landscape design
- plank signage

Appropriate site development - the recreational landscape design - should direct people to the information display shelter as the initial focal point from which park visitors are oriented, acquire essential information (things you need to know) and make recreational choices as directed by management. Thus most visitors are appropriately directed in their recreational behavior by both information and facilities - the walking tracks, lookouts, picnic areas etc.

Then efficient plank signage will indicate direction of walking tracks and return distance. A good walking track is safe by design.

If it is not possible to construct safe walking tracks for those that stay on them, then I should consider closing the track - not signposting it with safety precaution.

If recreational use cannot be managed by park guide, display shelter safety messages and site track design, you may require specific advisory signs for a specific adventurer target audience. We must avoid creating a demand by advertising the adventurer option through warning signs that challenge the park visitor.

Siting of such signs needs to be carefully considered to meet target audience but not encourage others or become too common to be effective. Signs should always be seen as visual pollution in natural environments - they are a necessary evil. Placement of safety signs is best off the main track but on established adventurer routes.

As regards wording I prefer simple plain signs than wordy screenprinted. Can it be said cryptically such as 'Dangerous access area/Ranger's advice required' or with some cautionary catch phrase such as 'be prepared and be careful'.

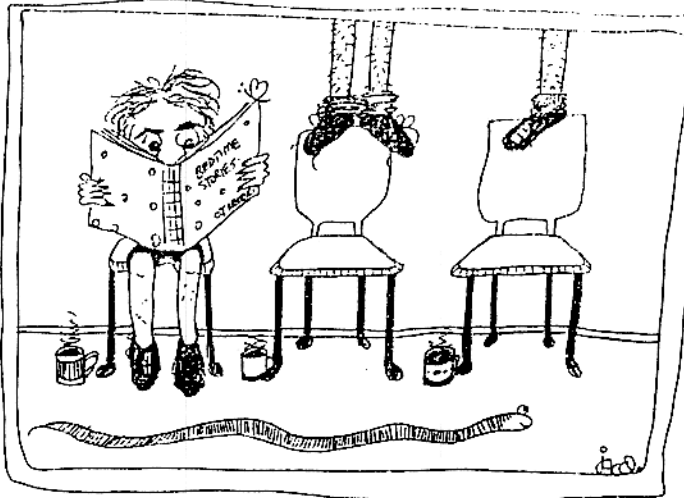
If detailed information is needed then consider statewide standards in size/s, presentation, warning symbol so when necessary use of these screenprinted type signs is immediately recognisable by visitors and adventurers.

My final thoughts are that adventurers are responsible for themselves, take their own risks and if they don't notify the ranger or indicate intentions in an adventurers book that we provide, then they are on their own. Let's not sign pollute our parks for a manic few. They don't want signs either.

(See 'Wilderness zone' sign proposal for Scenic Rim parks, Dave Batt/Paul Grimshaw or Lamington Park Rangers should have a copy. Ask for Warning/Danger logo/symbol from Brushtail readers.)

Gil Field

Wildlife and Parks People.



Of Mice and Men, and National Park Field Staff

It's interesting how a quiet smoko can erupt into activity, no, Noel wasn't springing a surprise visit. A red bellied black snake had just wandered/slithered across a path at a National Park HQ. Suddenly 5 field staff had 5 totally different reactions, from the obvious to two extremes. Two staff didn't want to do anything about it, one just sat there unconcerned wanting to let it go on its way. The other wanted to get well out of its way, preferably up onto the nearest roof. The other three staff thought varying degrees of action were required. I suggest that if we had to remove the snake, for some perceived threat to the public, we should just pick it up, by using a stick to pin it and take it away. No way! Our boss suggested a wire snake pinner. Good idea but, that meant we had to make one first, so off he goes. By this time the snake had disappeared into deep leaf and twig litter, we suspected that it may have gone into a hollow log. Our other staff member promptly suggested shooting it, so off he goes. Soon a large barrelled shotgun appears. I told him not to worry as the snake might be in the log. 'Oh! Well I'll just blast the log apart and get him!' After a discussion on the pros and cons of blasting a log apart we decided to wait till we saw the poor innocent snake again. I'm hoping like hell it's disappeared, others are avidly awaiting a shootout. A few minutes later the boss arrives with his brand new snake pinner, only problem is that it's about 3.5m long and no snake. Another discussion, it's decided to remove the snake, log and all. Our nice front lawn is ripped up as we drag away this 'manace to society'. About 500m

away beside a seldom used track we finally dump the snake (we think), log and part of our front lawn.

To this day the log lies there, the snakes fate still remains a mystery but the 5 big brave field staff? Our reactions still puzzle me. Are we the field staff of NPs really achieving our 'goal' in NP management. If this is our reaction to one snake who then will 'foster harmony between man and the environment, thereby facilitating the well-being humanity, and safeguarding the integrity of nature.' An interesting tale but would you have been able to achieve the 'Q.NPWS goal' in this situation.

'An Innocent Bystander'

Editors Note:

While driving overseas visitors up to Mt Glorious, a friend of mine explained that 'snakes were pretty harmless if you stood back and let them pass by'.

A walk in the rainforest was the next stage of the o/s traveller's education. Lee was in his element, enjoying the role of Australian Fauna/Flora Expert Guide Extraordinaire - until . .

'Hell, a snake!' Quick run -run, run, he yelled as he sprinted off. At 20 metres he realized what he was doing; turned around and went VERY RED. His visitors were 'standing back and letting the snake pass by' with very puzzled expressions on their faces.

*The myth that 'the snake is a threat' is pretty deeply embedded into our minds.

Ric Natrass (07 2020232) has helped a lot of staff to appreciate and understand snakes. I suspect he'd be happy if you or any other staff person asked him to come out and 'do his snake trip'.

When is a tin not a tin?

A recent contribution left at the office door at Bunya Mountains National Park early one morning.

Although a slight odour emanated from this squashed beetroot tin, it was only when the sides of the tin were prized apart that we could see a small set of eyes looking at us and further prising revealed a native rat. 8/.

From page 7.

Apparently a camper had seen this animal; later identified as a Fawn footed melomys native rat, in their camp and had decided that it needed to be identified. Consequently the tin and contents were deposited at the office door and all we could see was the beetroot tin and a printed 'Rat?' It was only later that we found out why the tin and contents had been deposited at our door.



AN EVENING WITH TURTLE RESEARCH AND A BEACHED WHALE

We had just finished the evening meal when the telephone rang. The call was for Dr Col Limpus. He was back two minutes later with the report of two small whales beached on Moore Park beach. A sudden hive of activity followed as people got wetsuits and cameras and made for vehicles. It was 6pm Thursday, 16th January 1987, at Mon Repo's management and research centre. The volunteers on first shift (6pm-12 midnight) were left at Mon Repos as the rest of the volunteers and Service staff involved in the turtle research project headed for Moore Park 35km to the north.

8

We drove on to Moore Park beach just after 7pm and headed north. The lights from torches could be seen some distance up the beach. An impromptu stop on the way to get the tag numbers of a loggerhead turtle, then off to the whales. A large group of 40-50 people were gathered on the beach and as we arrived Dr Limpus, who arrived ahead of us, was wetsuited with head-spot and was heading into the water.

There were two small whales facing up the beach firmly aground with the waves pounding them up higher. Some of the public were trying to comfort the 2.8m female and her 1.5m calf. While Dr Limpus and Ranger Darryl Reimer examined the female and calf for injuries we got some photographs. The female had a couple of old injuries, some cuts near her tail and sand abrasions on her vertical side and near her right eye.

Dr Limpus decided to refloat both whales and swim them out past the breaking waves. We donned wetsuits then slowly lifted and edged the female and her calf out to sea. The female was fairly heavy, requiring eight people to lift her to prevent any more sand abrasion. We swam both mother and calf out till we were neck deep. The mother bucked up and down so we released them. The female swam around us straight back to the beach. We swam ashore and repeated the process but this time we held on to them for longer.

We attempted a second release. The female swam out to sea then veered south. We watched progress then headed for shore as she headed back to the beach. We located her 50m along the beach, this time the calf wasn't with her. The mother had stopped calling and the calf separated. We quickly refloated the mother and sent people searching to the north and south. Dr Limpus and the half dozen people out in the surf did another inspection for injuries. While the search continued for the calf Dr Limpus decided to transport both mother and calf back to Mon Repos. The idea was to place them in ponds behind the headquarters to allow the whales to recover without drying out in the sun as they would if they stayed on the beach.

The calf was located 300m to the north of the mother, on the beach. It was loaded into the back of the troop carrier we came in and driven back to where we waited out in the surf. Dr Limpus waded ashore and informed the

From page 8.

public of his intention to transport the whale to Mon Repos.

It took twelve people to lift the 2.8m female out of the surf and into the back of the troop carrier. The calf was placed beside the female. The female's tail projected .5m out beyond the doors. Four of us in very cramped positions kept the two whales up-right and wet during the drive back to Mon Repos. It must have been an unusual sight for following motorists to see the tail projecting from the back of the troop carrier. We had to stop to try and stem the flow of dark blood coming from the anal vent of the female.

We arrived back at Mon Reop shortly after 9pm. The troop carrier was driven to the deepest pond and we climbed out and waited for Dr Limpus. He arrived shortly after we did and we unloaded the calf and carried it into the pond where it immediately swam to the far side into the reeds. The female was more difficult so we lowered her to the ground first whereupon she started thrashing around then rolled herself into the water.

The back of the troop carrier was wet with thick dark blood from the mother. We guided the calf over to the mother then left them alone. Dr Limpus went to ring Dr Helene Marsh for identification and advice.

The remainder of us headed to the amenities building to clean up feeling very emotionally charged up from the experience.

When I went to Woodgate at 6.30am Friday, 17th January the female and calf were alive, however, upon returning at midday she was dead and Dr Limpus was doing an autopsy. During the night he's identified the whales as being pigmy sperm whales. He'd rang Q.NPWS and Seaworld but they weren't **ABLE** to do anything till they died (New legislation regarding protection of whales). They had a veterinarian over to have a look while I was at Woodgate and the whale had died as she was brought over to the side of the pond. The pond was discoloured from blood.

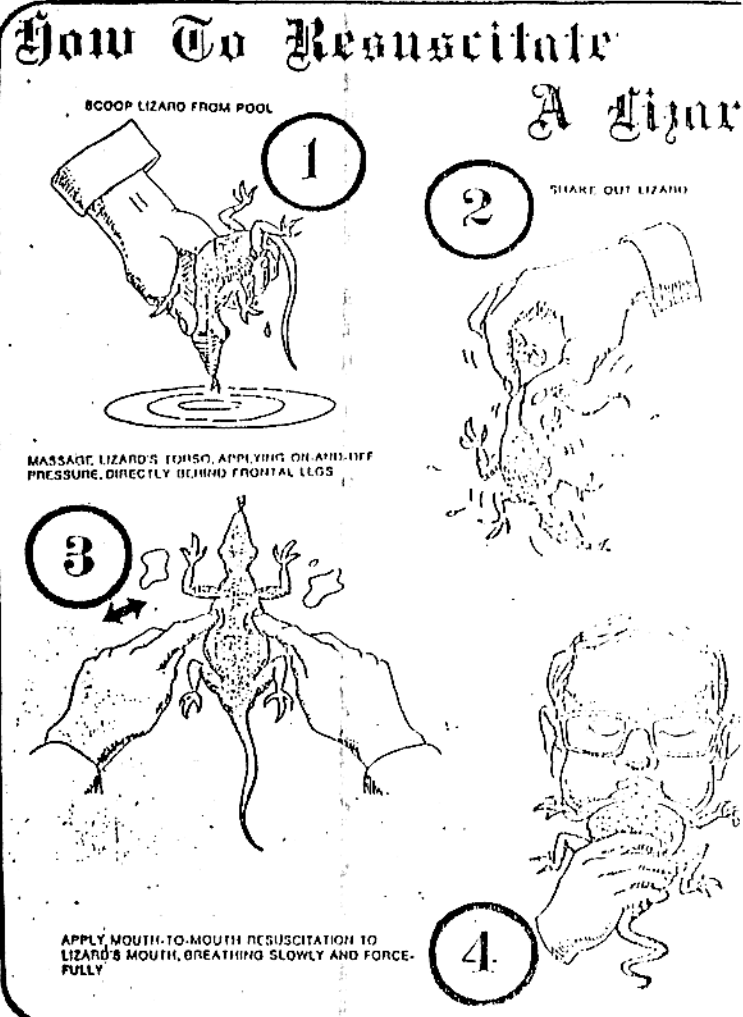
The female was believed to have died from severe dysentery and internal bleeding. After the efforts of the previous evening it wasn't very pleasant to see this magnificent mammal cut open.

9

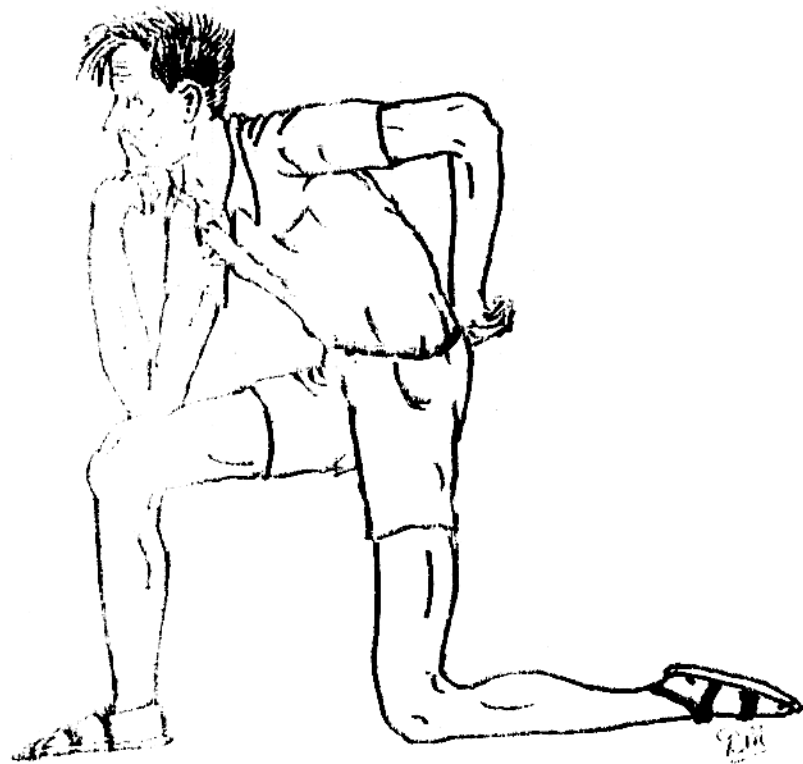
The veterinarian had left an injection to put the calf down as it was presumed to be only a few days old and its chances of survival virtually zero. Seaworld's vets said they had no successful survival of whale and dolphin calves of a very young age. The calf however died at approximately 2pm without any injection.

It was a very disappointed group of people for tea on Friday night but the turtles keep coming out and there's work to be done.

Dave Orgill
Bundaberg District Overseer.



From 'Calm - Hearted' (WNA)



the Thinker.

A short history of Australian attitudes to native vegetation

or

Beware of the Pot Syndrome

by G. Wilkinson

- . Dis one good tucker, dis one makum good Nulla Nulla.
- . Hmm ... yes indeed some right curious specimens in this lot.
- . Bloody stuff. (Axe, matches, oaks, poplars, ryegrass and clover)
- . Considering all factors of population growth and demand and having due regard to the prevailing climate and growth rates of native species it is highly recommended that only *pinus monotonus* can fulfill the nation's timber demand.
- . Bloody stuff. (Bulldozers, clear 1000 acres/year or we'll revoke your lease!)
- . Now children, our activity today is to plant some hoop pines next to these lovely sycamores.
- . Erosion - what erosion?
- . Hey! What's causing the flippin' dieback
- . Blimey, what are all those white crystals down on the flat.
- . Strewth, if it ain't the sunstroke then the blighters freeze to death.
- . Bloody stuff (Hormones, buffel and stylo).
- . Rainforest - what rainforest?
- . Hey Johnno, have you seen my *archeopterixican splendida* at the bottom of my garden that I grew from seed last year? Should go well in Susie's new rainforest at Number 17.
- . Bloody stuff. (Tordon)

- . I say Marmaduke, don't you think it would be a dashed good idea if we planted some of those native thingees in the hills.

Marvellous idea Fortescue, especially for keeping those unemployed peasants out of mischief.

- . Bloody stuff (Valpar)
- . Got to get trees back on the farms but Oh dear - what to plant - um ... how to plant ... controlled random replicated sample trials ... square root of the breast height ... hold a competition. Oh dear. Oh dear. Subsidies, that's it, subsidies. No legislation, that's definitely it, legislation.
- . Roll up, roll up. Get your free unlimited pots of pathogen free, identical, proven, certified, tissue-cultured *Eucalyptus nouveaensis*; ideal for now planting on eroded slopes, salt flats, desert dunes; matures in three years, guaranteed returns of \$2 000 per ha/annum provided each plant is watered twice a day, sprayed once a week, weeded once a month and fertilized twice a year and planted on a 9m x 9m square.
- . Hurray! No more Bloody Stuff.
- . Oops! No more Bloody Stuff?

Postscript 1999

Joseph Blow sued the Government for costs of clearing regrowth after his property was compulsorily destocked for five years due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Key defence witness Nobel prize winner professor Harry Pants-Smartly claimed that Mr Blow could not be held responsible for the mass of grass, shrubs and trees and stated that the young forest resulted solely from successional natural regeneration. Key prosecution witness Councillor Robert Winterset said he couldn't see the Government paying compensation because Council had already reduced Mr Blows rates since Council no longer had to remove silt from the roads adjacent to Mr Blows property.

Earth education workshop: a westerners view.

I recently travelled from the western arid lands to the lush rainforest of the Gold coast hinterlands for a weekend's 'work'.

As you would expect, the rainforest was very hard to take after months of mulga and drought.

This great personal sacrifice was undertaken in an attempt to enlighten this young remote space ranger in the ways of 'earth education'.

Guess what? It was well worthwhile. I found the workshop inspiring and informative. The criticism at traditional environmental education methods by Steve Van Martre was both accurate and constructive.

What is the Service doing sending a western 'Wildlife Ranger' seven hundred kilometres to an education workshop??

Believe it or not, youth education is a major component of our annual work commitment in Western Queensland. We have no parks to utilize, so therefore rely on school camps, property and school visits and of course, school of the air. Where possible we go and visit the students on their home ground.

I commend the Southern Region for its foresight in sending distant staff to training courses.

In the past the Service has chosen to overlook outlying officers because of high transport costs.

For those who have not undertaken the two day workshop I strongly recommend it and support future involvement from the Service.

by Keith Smith

Joey Heroine of the Hour

I've been wondering if there are awards for understanding spouses (US) - but lately my US received his reward.

Going on holidays when you're 'Mum' to fauna that has been brought into you at work does pose problems - especially when that holiday involves spending six days on a boat. But away we went just the four of us (US, self, a young joey, and a hairless sugar glider). I must point out

that our daughter refuses to accompany use on our boating expeditions, but I really can't think why, as we only have one accident per trip!

Everything went well for five days (no throwing overboard of the anchor by US without it being tied on and he didn't fall overboard this time either); the joey had her bag and the sugar glider lived in a small esky. Things really did go well - except for not being able to sleep-in because of the 'demands' for feeding - until the last night.

We'd anchored with quite a few other boats just north of the old jetty on Fraser Island and had settled in for the night when a screaming northerly came barrelling down the straits at us. We gritted our teeth and decided to ride it out. No-one, including the animals, was sick but we decided it was a trifle more comfortable to sleep up on the bunks rather than the double bed. In spite of the heavy pitching, I was sleeping soundly till at 3am when I was rudely woken by a joey jumping up and down on my legs. Of course I can't repeat what was said but those rude words woke US, who, on looking around found the anchor had given way and we were on a collision course with a large sailing boat - Panic stations!!!

Those poor people in that other boat must have received a terrible shock when the big V8 roared into life beside their portholes at 3am or they must have been sound sleepers as not one light came on.

The joey is the heroine of the day and I'm at a loss how she got up onto the bunk in the first place but US will never demur about extra passengers again and I won't worry about lost sleep because of feeds etc either. By the way, we made a run for Kauri Creek and calmer water - didn't make it as I ran us on to a sandbank (on an incoming tide) and there we stayed 'till morning.

I was thinking about applying for a Marine Parks job but ... I wonder!!

by J. Kluver.



Jacqui's poem

In the land of Booraloose
 Nobody ever lost their shoes
 'cos tied to their hats
 in a fashionable way
 was a bird with feathers
 of blue and grey
 And nobody told him what to say
 and nobody told him what to do
 'cos nobody really knowed or knews
 the connection between the bird
 and their shoes.

'Then why', said a 'quissitive passerby,
 'did the birds not screech and
 want to fly'.
 'Now, Now', said a man of the tablecloth,
 'They are not like a dove or a turtlemoth.
 These birds have brains like Mr Bains.
 They know when its sunny, they know when
 it rains'.
 'I know too', said the passerby
 'But if I were a bird, I'd want to fly'.

'Well now', said the Sunburnt maintenance
 man
 'My name's not Stan, they just call me
 Stan.

I left the tap on and the water ran
 all over my brand new broiling pan,
 But I know a thing or two you see
 can't count to four, but can count to
 three
 and 'cos you're a 'quissitive passerby
 I'll tell you the reason the birds won't
 fly.'

And just as Stan, the sunburnt man
 opened his mouth to begin to began
 A great big voice said 'QUIET UP FRONT!'
 it was nobodies friend, it was Colonel
 Bunt
 He talked so loud, with an arrogant air
 when he was seen there was no on there
 But sadly for the sunburnt Stan
 he was left standing while others ran
 whether facing to his back or front
 he'll still be tortured by Colonel Bunt.

And just as the 'quissitive passerby
 was thinking of jam and blueberry pie
 An old, old man with wrinkly shoes
 said 'Tell me son?, have you heard the
 news?'

'What news? What news?' says you and I
 and so did the 'quissitive passerby.

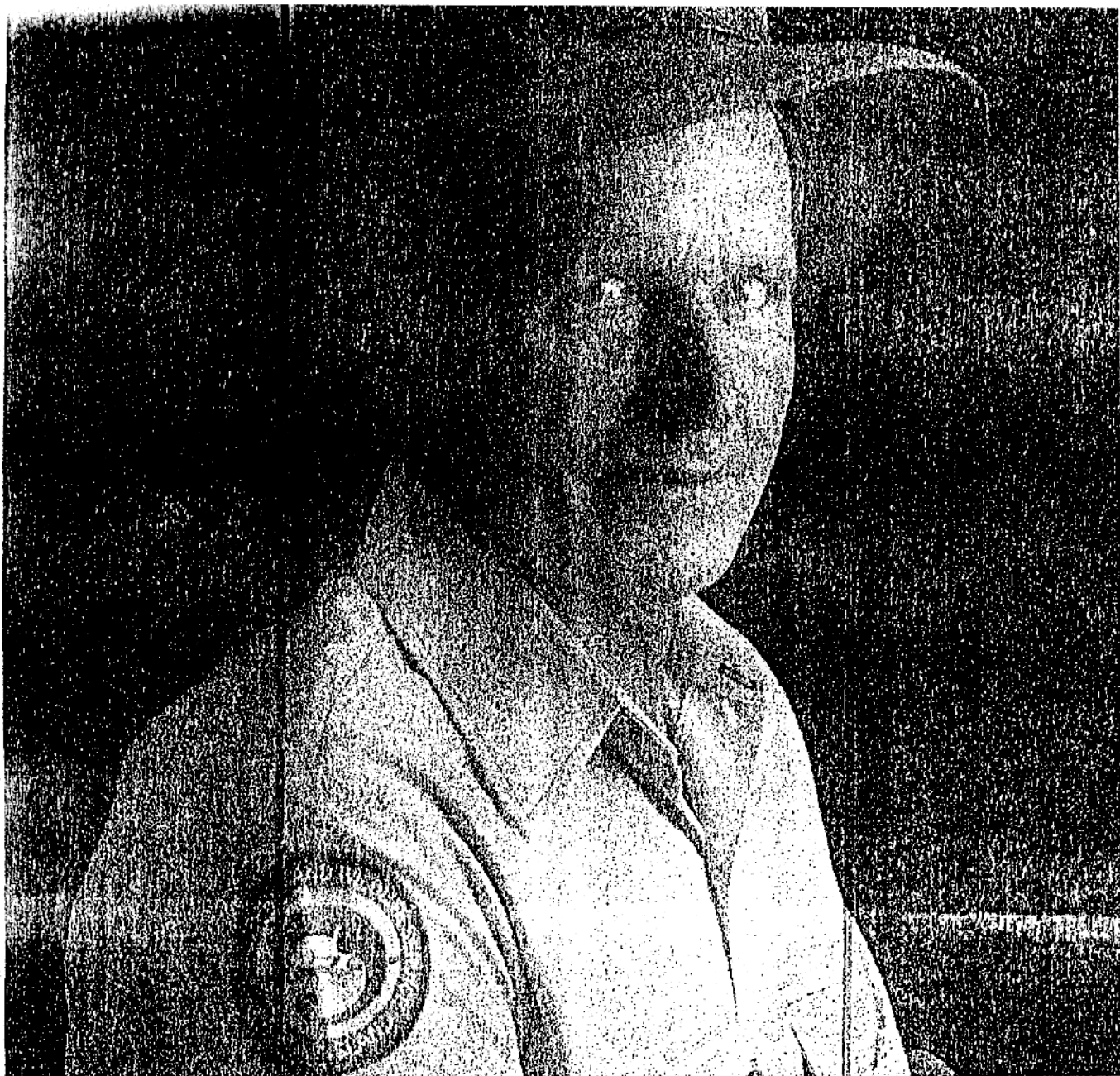
I may be old, and wrinkled and fat
 but upon my head I wear a hat
 and on that hat in a fashionable way
 sat a bird with feathers of blue and grey
 for many so many and long a day.
 Let's stroll a little while my lad
 this tale is long a very sad

It begins in the Maudlin month of May
 and his voice became dim and far away
 And he stood, then he sat
 and he muttered and coughed
 and then said 'Well that's that'.

What's what? said the patient passerby
 But the old, old man just said 'Goodbye'
 'I'm late for tea he said with a wink
 there's food in the oven and plates in
 the sink
 there's baked potatoes and egg noodle
 stew
 I'd go home shortly if I were you
 Don't bother to thank me, the old man
 said
 I've lots of old stories, up here in me
 head.

By now you would think our passerby
 would be ready to slump, with a tear in
 his eye
 but he smiled and thought in a very nice
 way
 what a lovely morning, and wonderfly day
 I'm glad that the people of Boraloose
 never had trouble in finding their shoes
 Birds can sit, and Birds can fly
 Who is to say or question why
 when one is simply passing by.





“Endangered Species”

Without this man our National Parks are not worth a visit!

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife department is presently suffering a major shortage of staff right across the spectrum – in the offices and in the parks themselves. When compared on a usage and area basis, manning levels of National Parks in Queensland have considerably lower levels of staff than interstate or territorial parks.

And every one suffers!

There are too few staff currently employed in these departments to cope adequately with the excess of duties.

Animals in distress or physical danger suffer more so for the lack of staff both in parks themselves and staff required to answer enquiries from the general public.

And the community in general suffers through low staffing levels. National Parks are part of our heritage and if Queensland is to continue to embrace increasing tourist numbers, then it is important to ensure their continued and unique beauty.

“People: – Endanger this natural resource and our parks are a thing of the past!”



**Put people where people
are needed most.
Make sure your next
M.L.A. cares.**

QUEENSLAND PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Credit Union House, 349 Queen Street,
BRISBANE QLD 4000. Telephone: 2210316.

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE

HP0255

Administrative Department
Government of Queensland
APO Queensland

STAFF SHORTAGES

The comments that have floated past my ears regarding this here advertisement/plea for the 'endangered species' are:

"It's sexist!"

"Who is he anyway?", and

"It's good to see someone doing something about the situation at long last."

What do you think?

For wages staff the clear message from H.O. is that it is highly unlikely that there will be any increases to the number of permanent staff or in money to pay overtime.

Regional Superintendents are being asked to make unenviable decisions such as;

- do we run on no overtime and put on extra staff, or
- do we give each staff person their full allocation and put staff off when the funds run out?

At the moment Southern Region pays 'approved' overtime. This means a number of dedicated staff do considerable amounts of overtime at no monetary cost to the Service. There is no such thing as a free lunch and the Service pays for this system through stress/burnout and resignations of good staff.

You will all have the opportunity to help yourself and future employees. A new National Parks and Wildlife Employee's award is being written. All Southern Regional Region staff will be contacted by Ric Natrass or Lyn Pullen. Both are excellent communicators and will ably present your views to the other members of the Working Committee.

Here are the views of two people outside the Service.

Article from 'Toowoomba Chronicle' - 6 October 1986

Staff shortages pose threat to Queensland parks

BRISBANE: Some Queensland national parks were in danger of suffering vandalism or closure because of staff shortages, the Professional Officers Association said yesterday.

POA State secretary Mr Don Martindale said the State Government had failed

abysmally with its national parks management.

'If Queensland is to reap the long term benefits of the international tourist dollar, a fine line between tourism and conservation must be maintained if present attractions are not to be destroyed,' Mr Martindale said.

'This requires a significant investment into research and management of the ecosystems of individual parks to ensure their continued attraction to tourists.

'Officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service openly admit present staff ceilings make it impossible to meet even their statutory obligations under the present Act.'

Queensland national parks had a fraction of the staff provided for parks throughout the rest of Australia.

Mr Martindale said the Central Queensland region was particularly hard hit by the State Government's staff ceiling policies.

Centres such as Mackay and Emerald were only manned by a single ranger.

Springsure, Taroom and Mt Moffatt were all single man centres operated by people below ranger status.

The \$600,000 Cardwell Information Centre housing an \$80,000 display was only open three days a week because no new staff were appointed to man it.

'The people of North Queensland should be aware of rumored proposals to close a number of national parks so staff will be available to man Cardwell,' Mr Martindale said.

Article from 'Gold Coast Bulletin' - Thursday 11 September

Forget Koala Park Bridge

SIR: Regarding the National Park link bridge for Koala Park.

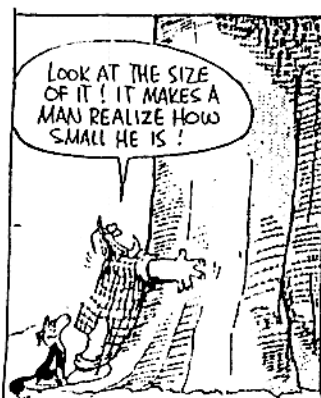
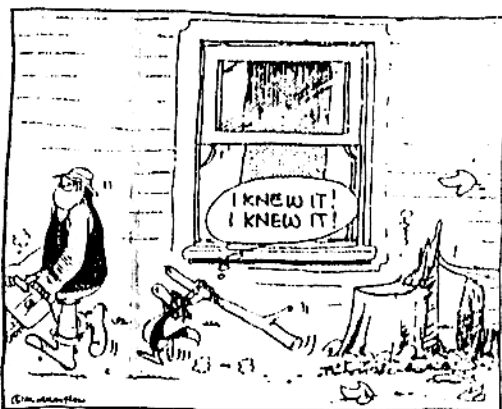
Forget the bridge.

The \$400,000 it would cost would pay the services of a new national park employee - a gondola oarsman - for 25 years. That is, have a Venice canal type Gondola boat, plus oarsman, available always for national park trail walkers, daylight hours only.

The boat should be christened 'The Noel Dawson'.



GRREEEE



District Dialogue

16

Main Range Murmurings (*Part of Nth Downs Dst*) Gidday,

The last couple of months at Main Range has seen the developments at the Main Range campground nearing completion. New barbeques and table slabs are presently being constructed and the toilet block is being renovated. A bore has been put down at our headquarters and campground will be open by the Christmas school holidays.

There has been a turnover in CEP staff, with two new girls comencing work in the last two months. We welcome Marie Kells and Gabrielle Burton to the park.

Fires have been a problem in the park recently. About 90ha on the north-east side of Mt Mitchell (Cunningham's Gap) was severely burnt from a fire starting from the walking track by person/s unknown. The Cunningham Highway was closed for a short period by fallen trees. A wildfire burnt over the range from Swan Creek, burning the park from Mt huntley to below Mt Doubletop and south to Panorama Pt. It was eventually extinguished by storms after burning several square kilometres of national park. Smaller and less damaging fires have also been occurring and staff have carried out prescribed burns, particularly along the Cunningham Highway.

Staff have been working on the Main Range and Mt Mistake management plans when time permits, including meetings with Tony Searle and Greg Oliver. The end of October should see the finish to most of the input by park staff and the difficult task of choosing options for management will begin. The second year QAC students are also developing a 'Communications Plan' for the parks.

Plans for the toilet at the crest carpark are being drawn up at present and construction should begin early in the new year. The toilets will be of Clivus Multrum design and we are all looking forward to seeing how they perform compared to our more conventional (pit) style of toilets.

I've been ordered by higher authorities (Overseer-in-charge) to write a little tale about one of the many interesting occurrences that happen at Main Range. You would all know by now that we have a CEP programme consisting of 4 Warwick ladies, presently working on campground redevelopments.

Incidentally, the campground has been nick-named by some staff the 'Hermitage Driving Course'. To pass the test you have to keep a vehicle sideways for the full circle of the ring road.

An unusual aspect of a national park with a major highway through it, is often while working and living so close to the road, many wide and long loads are seen, being transported east and west. Winch drums, draglines, huge dump trucks and buckets (transported separately) all heading or returning from the mines out west, as well as large prefabricated freezer and coldroom units coming up from Sydney and the occasional house being moved. These loads, with accompanying police and truck escorts usually create some diversion from work for a minute or two when those present stop to have a look. (Please don't dock our pay for this small slackness on our part Noel).

Well back to the story. One day at Main Range, Ganger Mark and 3 CEP staff, Kathleen, Marie and Kelly, were pouring a concrete slab for a picnic table when, speaking of interesting loads, a long black hearse (ie a vehicle used for transporting people who are with us in body but not in spirit) was noted passing by several times, eventually parking at the entrance to the campground.

This created a general topic for conversation (ie jokes) among the workers present, which turned to consternation when the driver of the hearse got out and began walking towards our little group, eventually saying 'Hello'.

After a polite introduction, a request was made for us to allow him to park in the rear of the campground and swap a coffin and contents) from his Brisbane based hearse to the local Warwick hearse. The campground being much more private than the highway. The ganger, being unaware of Service policy on this ...

matter said 'Should be okay mate, no worries'. The driver said 'Thanks' and as he turned to go mentioned 'I suppose you ladies find this is rather funny' (referring to their previous jocular conversation) 'I can understawnd'. Upon that comment several of the ladies concerned began looking for a hole to fall into, not one 6 foot deep, but just big enough to hide in.

The rest of the event happened quite normally, the second hearse rolled up, the vehicles drove to the rear of the campground and parked tail gate to tail gate and the coffin swap occurred with the workers observing a minute silence, between comments such as 'I can't look'. The cement mixer was not turned off, due to the risk of it not starting again, and the two hearses drove away with a hand in the window waving as if to mean thanks and good-bye.

PS Heard this line before?
'Sorry fella's, didn't think she would go that far'. You guessed it. It refers to the practice of burning dead grass to promote green feed for stock.

Bye!

The workshops held on site, at Beaudesert and at Boonah were successful in compiling all the major issues, the considerations objectives and strategies. Although these will require a review and possibly some changes I think we were all glad to finish this first stage. Thanks to Greg who had to put up with sick jobs, side tracking, heated discussions and off the planet hippies, let alone face to face (facial intercourse) interpretive strategies. I'm glad I don't have to make sense of it all and rewrite it.

Preparations are well underway for this year's holiday season. Interpretive activities are being planned for most areas and hopefully our interpretive and educational plan should be well underway for Tamborine. Ray Curtis is responsible for this planning.

Thanks to all my staff for their effort and co-operation in the last three months and I wish you all the best of luck for the Christmas and New Year period.

Jerry

Central Scenic Rim

The last three months have seen major transformations at Tamborine. Most visitor facilities have been redeveloped to meet the increased demands in visitation to the area. These developments include new car parks at MacDonald, Palm Grove and Witches Falls National Parks with associated redeveloped picnic facilities, and erosion control or hardening of certain track areas at Cedar Creek. The project is running to schedule and is expected to terminate in mid December.

The other CEP project, at Green Mountains, is terminating in November. The project sponsors, The O'Reilly Guest House, and the CEP staff have constructed and sealed a track to Python Rock, suitable for wheelchairs. The lookout should be completed by the end of the project. Our thanks go to the O'Reilly's for sponsoring this project in Lamington National Park.

The first stage of the Scenic Rim Management Plan is coming to a close.

Great Sandy District

The Great Sandy District is running smoothly, with both Fraser Island and Northern Cooloola recovering after the August-September holiday period.

Staff on both parks are very busy, catching up on jobs held up by the holiday period. Christmas holidays are just around the corner and promise to be busy with Double Island Point and Freshwater 3/4's and 1/2 booked out respectively. Dundubara and Waddy Point will also be booked out by Christmas.

The CEP staff at Cooloola are doing well with the new Freshwater toilet block and camping area well on the way to completion.

Both Cooloola and Fraser Island have been ablaze with wildflowers over the last couple of months. A wildflower display has been set up on the counter at Rainbow Beach to assist the public in identifying the flowers they have seen.

It's the fire season again with the ...18/.

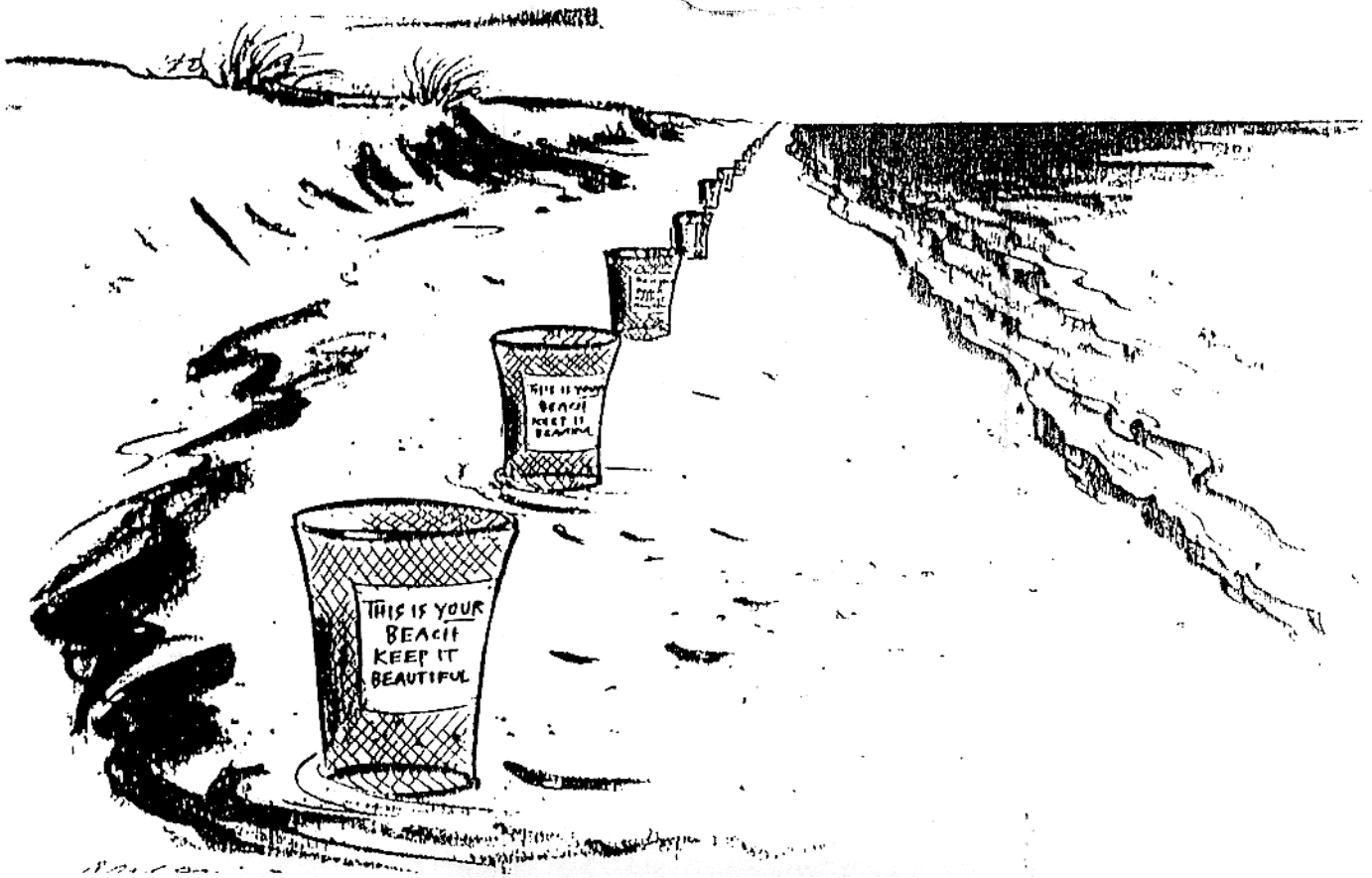
weekend detention roster in full swing.

Staff thought for the day and with regard to the POA advertisement in the Courier-Mail. Is the ranger and endangered species? Has a management plan been proposed for future protection. Perhaps someone should write a thesis on why a ranger is an endangered species.



Recently Bill French was ordered to hospital with a broken finger. His good friends at Maryborough Office decided to send him some literature to broaden his horizon. With this in mind they sent their Admin. Officer off to buy a 'Playboy'.

Bill is still trying to figure out why anyone would send him 'Playgirl for Women', and he is thinking of employing a public relations agent to clear up the rumor floating around the Maryborough Hospital that he is a "little strange".



Southern Cooloola Gains a Lease of Life

Thanks to the eight CEP workers under the control of Overseer Bob Christie, Southern Cooloola is showing signs of development. They have completed a previously unfinished CEP project at Fig Tree Point comprising; construction of a Clivus Multrum toilet block, 150 metres of boardwalk, picnic tables and barbeques in the picnic area and a low key camping area.

The establishment of a base to work from at Elanda with the construction of a workshed and office.

Construction and signposting of the 46 kilometre Cooloola Wilderness Trail between the Mullen carpark on the Rainbow Beach Road and Elanda. The official opening of this trail on 16 August by Dr G. Saunders was only possible by the extended efforts of the CEP workers with the completion of the Mullen Carpark and sign posting a day before the opening.

The main project by this CEP tem is the development of the Noosa River camping area near Harry Springs Hut and camp site 3 on the Upper Noosa River. The project consists of constructing four toilet blocks, four jetties, canoe landings, logging the river bank to prevent further erosion, and picnic tables and barbeques. I must also thank Bill Alston from Maryborough and Merv Toms from Fraser Island for the gravelling of the road and construction of the canoe landings and river bank logging in the Noosa River camping area. Without the use of the MAN truck and Komatsu loader, this project would not have been possible. Thanks also to Mark Johnston and the Freshwater staff for the loan of the County tractor and for transporting building materials to camp site 3.

For a district such as Southern Cooloola, with so little machinery to take on a project of this magnitude and present amazing results, I congratulate the CEP staff and Bob Christie for their pride and dedication.

Denis Dray

Maintenance Savers

In 1985, at the Glasshouse Mountains we averaged about 2 bins full of rubbish per weekend. Not much I know, compared to the Northern Cooloola syndrome nor the more popular parks of the Scenic Rim. We thought we'd experiment with the public anyway, so 3 months ago we removed all the bins, (5) and erected signs in each picnic area.

'Remove all rubbish'

Since then we've collected no more than 1/2 a bin 'period' of scattered litter.

Most people are quite in tune, and will remove all their rubbish. You will still get the yobo's that will litter, but you would get that anyway, regardless of bins.

Rubbish bins seem to attract rubbish.

We're looking forward to our winter busy season to see if our experiment has been fully successful.

Our second maintenance killer, as yet to be instigated is:

'Firewood collection on NP's prohibited, Bring your own.'

We've got to stop spoon feeding people into believing that all facilities will be laid on. A matter of habit and hopefully people will realize that a picnic lunch goes hand in hand with bringing your own firewood. The reason people don't bring their own firewood is because they expect it will be provided.

A long time off, and meanwhile some picnic areas will suffer the ravages of broken branches that are too green to burn anyway, but let's start educating now.

Address change

Gympie Office
Lake Alford
Bruce Highway
Gympie, Qld 4570

New developments

At Kondalilla the main entrance track has been reworked and the track to Picnic Creek sealed. New carpark development is underway.

At Figtree Point picnic and toilet facilities have been completed and the jetty extended.

The camping area in the vicinity of Harry's Hut has been named Noosa River camping area. Three jetties and log retaining walls have been built to prevent bank erosion. Toilet facilities have been provided. A new gravel access road has been built. This road will be closed during wet periods when damage to the road could occur. The old Harry's Hut Road will be closed and revegetated.

At Noosa the main coastal track has been resurfaced and beach access tracks have been built to control erosion.

A walking track has been constructed along the front of the carpark to link the main coastal track with the Noosa Shire Council's coastal walkway.

Closures

At Cania Gorge camping is no longer permitted in the council road reserve picnic/camping area on Three Moon Creek. A new private camping area is located within the gorge 10km north of the park entrance.

Change of fees

Fraser Island from 1 December.

The annual vehicle access fee has been reduced from \$80 to \$40. The single visit vehicle access is still \$10 but is now valid for 28 days.

Farmfest 1986

In September each year, the Service combines with DPI (and this year Forestry) on our joint site at Farmfest, just west of Toowoomba, for the three day influx of farmers and graziers from northern New South Wales and southern and central Queensland.

The 1986 display was the best (and most costly) yet. The three departments combined to present a unified yet separate display with the departments contributing to the cost of common display panels and a common colour scheme and preparation of standard header panels - 'Wildlife', 'Farming' and 'Trees' - scattered around the marquee.

Our display promoted the (then) forthcoming RNC field day at Kelvin and Colleen Turner's Millmerran property. Our newly completed demountable fauna pen was used to display live fauna (native birds) under the caption of 'Wildlife we want to keep'. As usual, the live fauna proved a drawcard and talking point for the public. We were interested to note that a high proportion of farmers and graziers read our display from beginning to end even though there was considerable text. We attribute this to the design of the panels along with the fact that the display featured a 'real' property and a practical demonstration of RNC.

Toowoomba office open day

A recent public contact event in the Downs and South-West sub-region calendar was an open day held at the Toowoomba office.

Two tents were erected to house displays prepared detailing Service activities in park management in the sub-region, wildlife management and rural nature conservation. An afternoon program of movies, combined with routing, fence building and other demonstrations as well as discussion about the live fauna held in the fauna pens proved popular with the 300 people who attended. The open day coincided with the annual Carnival of Flowers and our open day was only one of a large number of attractions available for the public to inspect on the day.

The articles you send in for Brushtale are offered to Don Marshall for the state-wide newspapers - Ringtail, Newspaws and Volunteer. Any controversial or local stories will be returned to Southern Region for use in Brushtale.

The deadline for RINGTAIL, BRUSHTALE NEWSPAWS and VOLUNTEER is the 15TH OF FEBRUARY

We need your articles.

Please write them now and forward to your Interpretive Officer or to Dot Finch at Moggill.