

Newspaws

For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

December 1983



Technical Project Officer Russell Claus caught in the act of working at Dryander by Service photographer Janet Marles. Russell claims he was reading a map, taking a compass bearing, watching birds (feathered) and getting out of a bog all to the tune of Waltzing Matilda. He was last seen imitating some bird trying to take off over the Tasman to the Land of the Long White Cloud!

More to change in 1984

Christmas 1983 sees the Service in a somewhat changed condition to that of 12 months previous.

The changes that have occurred in 1983 have been gradual but necessary. More will follow in the early part of 1984.

This is part of a young Service finding its feet and continuing to grow.

Already a number of the much-needed new positions have been filled and other appointments are pending.

The most important position, that of deputy director and chief executive officer, is about to be re-advertised.

No applicant for the position advertised a few months ago was considered suitable.

You will know that our three senior management director positions have been announced.

In sequence will follow the regional directors and superintendents, branch and program managers and so on.

This time next year in turn I'm sure you will be working under quite a different structure with quite a few new faces in the work team.

Change is an essential part of Nature. No one should have any apprehension about these or other changes likely to occur.

Conservation is a relatively new concept in society. The trials and tribulations that we seem to suffer are to be expected.

The measure of us as managers and innovators will be how we are seen to handle these day-to-day difficulties.

I commend your performance over the last year, wish you the very best during the festive season, and encourage you to look to the new year with an air of optimism and confidence.

Thank you one and all for your loyalty and support.

G. W. Saunders
DIRECTOR

Eye on fauna

The Research and Planning Branch in the Northern Region has two pilot studies for incidental fauna surveys.

They are incidental in the sense that they are carried out as a subordinate activity to other duties performed by personnel in the region and that they are distinguished from the more intensive fauna surveys carried out as major projects.

The incidental fauna surveys are standardised so that basic information is collected such as locality, date, habitat, etc. and to this end field data sheets together with covering notes for filling out the sheets and guidelines for preparation and transportation of material is given.

The basic map used for localities is the 1:250,000 as there is a gazetteer published for this series, together

with the more detailed 1:100,000 where they are available.

The maps are divided into 5 x 5 coded grids so that locality codes can be given and used in cross referencing in a computer for ease of retrieval and use by the Service for management purposes.

Staff are able to have material identified from photographs, road kills, and material brought in by interested land owners.

Fauna rangers working with the rural community often send in venomous reptiles, spiders, centipedes and scorpions for identification.

Unusual sight of specimen records are

also obtained and recorded for reference.

Information about the material sent in is supplied including references to books, scientific papers or journals so that the staff member who may be interested to obtain additional knowledge may do so.

At this stage two pilot studies at Mt Isa and Conway are being used to test methods and solve problems that may arise.

The Mt Isa survey also included a waterbird survey of several dams.

It is hoped that in the longer term this system will be able to cover records from all areas of the State.

Watch your Ps and Qs

How the Service name appears in print is an integral part of its 'image'.

The term 'National Parks and Wildlife Service' appears in the Act.

But these days the term can be applied to several similar Services interstate as well as the Australian organisation.

Common sense indicates that the term Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service should be used in all our written matter.

and the NPWSs

This may be abbreviated Q.NPWS.

Use of this by a Brisbane newspaper recently would have avoided some confusion over a court finding where the 'National Parks and Wildlife Service' really referred to an interstate Service.

Get into the Q.NPWS habit and hopefully the habit will be catching.

Thus National Parks and Wildlife, NP and WS, NP and WLS, National Parks Department and other variations should disappear.

The Service Graphics Manual has other details concerning typographic style and typescript.

Refer any queries to the Service's Design Committee.



Experienced management officers Trevor Vollbon and Dick Clarkson waiting in their sleeping bags for early morning tea. The tent straddled one of the narrowest sections of Moolayember Gorge. Yes, mug Don Marshall who took the picture did get them their cuppa! You will hear more about this gorge in the Carnarvons in future.

In a day's work . . .

About 8 one evening, I received a telephone call. The lady, on the other end, tells me she is concerned about the welfare of a black duck which had suddenly appeared and had been flapping around, ostensibly enjoying itself, in her swimming pool!

I informed the lady that I would come round, in the morning, to relieve her of the unwanted intruder.

Dressed in full Service regalia, I went to the premises in question and I knocked on the door.

While I waited, I noticed a hat stand in the lounge room festooned with a policeman's assortment of uniform caps. (I began to wonder whether somebody had given me a 'bum-steer').

There was no response to my efforts to raise the occupants.

But as I was about to make a hasty retreat, the door was answered by,

yes, the policeman, resplendent in his night attire and very obvious disturbed from a deep sleep.

With much trepidation, I said, 'I believe you've got a duck that you want removed.'

Still rubbing the sleep from his eyes and with considerable relief for me, he said, 'Yes'.

After some polite conversation, I went to the swimming pool to look for the duck. It had disappeared.

Meanwhile, I was confronted by four mischievous, pre-school kids.

One little girl looked at me and said, 'Are you C.H.I.P.S.?'

I was knocked a little off guard but replied, 'No. I don't get a helmet with this uniform.'

One of the small boys in the group, obviously trying to impress the little girl, turned to her and said, 'No, he's in the Army, hey!'

I decided it was time to leave.

Mark Weaver



Symbol sign not in the Q.NPWS system is this one spotted by Gerri Kluver (Gympie) during an overseas holiday this year. Are shanghaies still in a boy's armoury?

Psssssst . . .

Marc Hockings and Gordon Stone joined other interpretive staff from most States and Territories at a weekend workshop organised by the Victorian National Parks Service recently. This was organised in association with the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation conference the following week.

A number of possible ways to exchange ideas and experiences in this developing field will be submitted to senior staff in the next few weeks.

Jenny Schultz (drafting) called her husband Don in DMS recently to make a work-related inquiry.

He refused! His sheepish explanation was that to give an answer was to break union work ban on at present.

Don's union rep by the way stands 190cm tall and tops 110kg.

Special award of the month for devotion to service above the call of duty goes to senior

ranger Damian McGreevy.

While on assignment to Heron Island, he valiantly rescued a mutton bird that had burrowed too far and fallen into a pit toilet.

Artist Bronwyn Holm wishes to thank all those in the Service who have helped her greatly in the last two years. She leaves on 23 December to set up in business as a freelance artist. Thanks too to Pam Harmon-Price, and

Clive offers good advice

The Service deputy director (technical) Mr Clive Price retired on 4 November. Newspaws received the following farewell message from Clive which we are pleased to print.

In a moment of raging at the Cherribah seminar — yes, the fires have not entirely gone out — I had arranged for Don Marshall to photograph me as a centre-spread draped seductively on a kangaroo skin rug.

Well, I hate to disappoint you all especially the girls by saying I've reneged.

Certainly the loss of dignity to the exalted office of Deputy Director (Technical) came into it but there were other reasons too such as

(a) the risk of mass suicide by all envious male staff.

(b) Newspaws has no staples; and to have a centre fold without staples across his/her middle wouldn't be the same.

(c) Marion Newman and Jacki Kent and others might have taken out a contract on me.

(d) There could be problems with the feminist movement about matters of industrial demarcation.

Take heart however; and keep buying People and such magazines. I'll be so fit in retirement with gardening and other outdoor chores that I'm sure I'll win a Mr Wet-Teeshirt title one of these days and will pose for a magazine with far wider circulation than Newspaws.

Instead of a centre-fold, I'll take the opportunity to write this farewell to all staff; and as this issue is the Christmas one, to wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and the very best both for your family and your Service endeavours in 1984.

It is a strange sensation to contemplate retirement from a regular job and a fortnightly pay cheque routine one has been used to for 36 years.

I plan to indulge my liking for woodcarving, wood turning and woodwork generally and to do some community works. As well, we will be travelling a lot in the first couple of years.

Having said all that and even with the surety of not being

bored, I'm still very unsettled and — let's be honest — a little apprehensive.

Looking back, I know I've always had a greater sense of accomplishment in my Forestry work than in this job. I guess that's because I was in Forestry either in man-management roles or in a service role.

These sorts of satisfaction cannot be for the remote administrator. Indeed, since the Service was formed we have been so bedevilled by shortages of personnel and money that I find I take satisfaction that we have survived at all; and I hope I've helped in our survival.

...and an apology to the girls

Long term, maybe my major contribution will be judged to have been my writings — in particular the papers I've written for non-academic conferences and seminars. A couple of these have gone into their third 'editions'. (Eat your heart out Exploration North!).

Maybe I've got more 'trophies' to show; but no matter. I have put a lot of effort into this job; and a lot of hours. I've had moments of great job satisfaction. I've had moments of dissatisfaction. I've enjoyed attending our four Ministers and I've never hesitated to give them advice they sometimes didn't want to hear.

In passing, I'd say that any leader who surrounds himself with sycophants and 'yes' men surrounds himself with enemies. I daresay this is why I've encouraged candour in my advisers too. In this regard though, can I offer some advice (or rather make a plea) to the more junior of you?

Please remember that ultimately your boss has to make the

decisions; and moreover may not be in a position to tell you all the reasons why he (for 'he read 'he' or 'she') has not taken or cannot take your advice.

You may well be right and he wrong.

But if you torpedo him by disobeying his orders, or do a Gandhi and resist passively or 'lose' the file and temporise in other ways you are being disloyal to him.

I confess there have been times in these eight years when I would have traded my temperament for that of Atilla the Hun so I could take stern measures to end the waste of nervous energy of myself and younger enthusiasts who can't read that two letter word No!

I've never worked out whether it is merely the general change in attitude to Authority these days or whether it is that because of the sorts of things we do in this Service, people get more emotionally involved and argue their views or pursue their projects more passionately (and maybe less rationally?) than in other fields of endeavour. It can be wearying for the man at the top.

By and large however you have been a good bunch to work with and to joke with at times. I'm aware of my propensity for seeing humour in most situations; but I hope I've not been judged a clown. I think not; and certainly when I'm working I don't mess about too much.

I hope for the sake of the Service that in six months you'll be saying 'Clive who?'

As far as my ego is concerned I hope you'll miss me like Hell!

Good luck.

Clive Price

In a follow-up letter, Clive wrote that with the money presented to him on his retirement he had bought an AEG orbital sander with vacuum cleaner attachment for his workshop.

He was most pleased with a set of Marples wood carving chisels, the gift of the Moggill Mob.

Bronwyn says all the best to all in ISS.

Several copies of the new 'Complete Book of Australian Mammals' (Angus and Robertson 1983) have been bought by the Library and are being placed at Head Office, Moggill, Girraween, Kinaba, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, Cairns and with the Fauna Squad.

Extra copies will be bought for regional centres if required and funds permit.

The Head Office accounts section has disappeared! In one weekend in November the section was shifted to a more spacious area in MLC Court.

Through some miracle of architecture and construction, the section may still be reached through a marked door on the stairwell of the 7th floor MLC Centre.

Mike Osmond (Marine Parks, Rockhampton) still trying to live down the wrath of an ABC

TV crew off Heron Island. It seems as though a certain good looking named Melissa was Mike's guest for a fishing sequence on the Shearwater.

But every time Melissa was set in the viewfinder on bobbed Mike to take a really close interest in the young lady.

Bill Lavarack left his previous orchids at Pallarenda to take some leave in Brisbane to watch the cricket Test. You guessed. The match was rained out and Bill

had to waste time in head office instead.

Brisbane regional centre was approached recently to issue a camping permit for the bar at the Hacienda Hotel in the Valley. Of course it was only for a little camp in an odd environment.

Aren't ecological benchmarks those two indentations in the research scientists' desks from putting their feet up between trips?