

Newspaws

For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

June 1984

Satisfying the inner man



Caught in the kitchen of the Moreton Bay Ranger Base were (from left) regional superintendent Des Jones, Steve Johnston, Cec Hais, Paul Devine and Ian Lewis. They breakfasted late after the National Parks Minister, Mr McKechnie, had opened the base complex.

More new faces

Further appointments essential for the smooth running of the re-organised Service are expected to be announced soon.

Interviews have started for positions advertised like Deputy Director, and the managers of the research and planning and wildlife-R.N.C. branches.

However, because of high qualifications sought and the positions likely to be held by successful applicants, some months will pass before faces are behind Head Office desks.

Meanwhile, re-organisation continues in a more practical disruptive way.

Anyone at Head Office who has survived the last few months has more than stamina.

He (or she) has lost any sense of hearing by the effects of saws through metal, has been run off his feet seeking other people, and has developed massive biceps from shifting tables, metal furniture and innocuous looking cardboard boxes in which some people store lead bars!

Private phone extension lists have been torn up one after another as Telecom

has created and recreated a maze of ivory coloured wire through ceilings and floors.

People sought had moved desks, sometimes floors, and sometimes offices and regions anyway.

Was it true that Service people in the regions were glad to get through to one right extension that wasn't ripped from the floor?

Then of course there's the new status symbol — your own office.

Really this came about with a few strips of metal, plasterboard and occasionally a wad or two of fibreglass insulation.

Those Works Department men had it worked out. You were someone if you had a 40dB wall. You were someone else if you had a 30dB wall.

Has the theory yet been tested that anyone in a 40dB office will have to

shout twice as loud as before to make himself heard?

Or will it deaden the sound of a bottle top being removed at 2m?

Hopefully at the end some little man will plug the excess holes in the concrete floor and carpet.

Otherwise, what will happen when the flower vase is tipped on the floor above your newly completed park management plan or the urgent ministerial?

Re-organisation does have its pitfalls!

On the serious side, don't hide your criticism if you feel something could be done in a better way. Make constructive comments to your superior now. That goes for jobs and responsibilities too.

Footnote: Commiserations to the Rockhampton staff due to move into the beautiful old Royal Bank building within weeks. This moving will come to an end sometime.

One 'eye' always spying

By Tina Dalton

Who would have thought you could monitor bushfires, predict locations of volcanic eruptions and study kangaroo movements from 890km away?

Landsat 5 is the most current satellite launched by the Americans measuring solar reflected energy, having application in the mineral exploration, agriculture, forestry, oceanography, hydrology, cartography, land use and pollution.

The third Australian Remote Sensing Conference, Landsat 84, was held recently on the Gold Coast.

Many speakers presented papers on remote sensing application to coastal zone management, rangelands and arid environments, fire management, resource management and water resources.

David Jupp, CSIRO Division of Water and Land Resources, has been studying the water circulation around coral reefs using Landsat, planes, ships and current meters.

Landsat imagery has been successfully used to map the topography and biogeomorphological zonation on coral reefs in shallow water.

This Landsat-based data is being used in co-operation with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to assemble a system of maps of the Barrier Reef region which will be available to interested users of the reef.

Landsat satellite imagery is being used by this Service to annually map and monitor prescribed controlled burning programs in remote areas of Queensland.

Grant Allen, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research discussed the potential uses of remote sensing techniques in bushfire monitoring in arid zone hummock grasslands subject to a high incidence of lightning and man-ignited fires.

Mr B. J. Turner addressed the conference on a digital data base for wildlife habitat studies on Isle Royale National Park, USA.

He spoke of the interaction among the vegetation, the moose which feed on it and the wolves which prey on the moose.

Greg Hill, Geography Department, University of Queensland, has been working with the co-operation of Dr Tom Kirkpatrick.

His paper, Landsat, Wheat and Kangaroos, examined the contribution being made by Landsat imagery, in photographic and digital formats, to a research project directed towards defining the status of grey kangaroos as grain pests in the Goondiwindi district.

Papers were also presented on applications of remote sensing discrimination of vegetation types.

Dr G. Arnold, CSIRO Western Australia, presented a paper entitled Discrimination of Areas of Woodland and Heath within the Agricultural Areas of Western Australia. He is seeking to map and measure areas greater than 10ha remaining in the agricultural areas of Western Australia for assessment as wildlife habitats.

Conference proceedings and also taped presentations of nine papers relevant to Service activity are available in the Head Office library.



**Are you ready for our special
Quenpaws X-word in the next issue?**



Wet — outside and in



Damp end to yet another cricket match involving the celebrated Wombats. (Don't all their matches end that way?) The Wombats challenged the Cooloola Monsters at Rainbow Beach on 7 and 8 April, the weekend of that storm that wasn't a cyclone, at Rainbow Beach. The Wombats were ahead on the run rate after 20 overs though the Monsters had not batted!

Jobs in north

Sixteen new positions are to be filled in the Maritime Estate Branch operations based in Cairns.

Approval was given recently for 14 public service jobs and two wages positions.

The positions are being advertised.

They relate to the greatly increased workload as the Service's day to day management role of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is expanded in the north.

Peter Hunnam has shifted from Head Office to Cairns to be part of the action there.

Further Maritime Estate Branch positions will be required as further zoning plans come into effect.

Terry, Des to go

Central Regional Director Terry Vowles and Mainland Estate Branch Manager Des Boyland are looking forward to three weeks in spring.

They have been selected as the Service representatives to the 2nd regional seminar on parks and wildlife management in Australia.

The seminar, from 20 September to 11 October, is organised by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for the Concom working group on education and training.

This is seen as unique training opportunity, particularly for senior field management.

The first was held in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia in 1982.

This one moves to Queensland from the Northern Territory with visits planned to Lakefield, Green Island, Michaelmas Cay, and Townsville Town Common.

In addition, Marc Hockings will be a facilitator for the seminar.

Bob Beeton will be a lecturer for the Queensland part of the seminar.



By the end of this month, all northern regional field staff will have attended special basic plant and equipment maintenance courses (picture above). The courses were designed for the Service by the Townsville College of TAFE. Lecturers were Terry Anstiss and Terry Atkinson. Vehicles, mowers, pumps, tractors, chainsaws, outboard motors and motorcycles were topics covered. A similar course is being organised for the far northern region through the Cairns College of TAFE.

Psssssst . . .

The Concom Ad Hoc Working Group on Education and Training is looking into problems associated with groups using national parks for field studies.

Educational use of national parks is an Australia-wide phenomenon. Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales are especially concerned about this aspect of park use and ways to minimise the impact of group visits.

Have you got any ideas, comments or suggestions about educational use of parks, associated problems and possible solutions?

Some possibilities include pre-booking arrangements, limits on group size, separate facilities for groups, on-arrival talks and slide shows by rangers, on-park supervision arrangements, charging for any vandalism, preparation of park educational kits etc.

If you can help, please write or phone Pamela Harmon-Price at Head Office.

Des Boyland chose an Irish wolfhound-greyhound cross as family security while he is on extended field trips. The rapidly growing hound adopted Des' young son as its particular responsibility, a point Des found when administering mild corporal punishment. At last report, Des was polishing a stern voice as an alternative to having a hand eaten!

With time, the said hound has grown to rather awesome proportions according to pedigree. On trying to step over the said pooch sleeping in the hallway, Des found himself astride the rudely awakened canine. As Des said: "No hound — rather a small horse!"

No one offer interpretive officer Fiona Davie potato crisps or raisins. She has to restrain herself no end to keep her figure or some such reason.

Sorry we don't have a big bingo card in this issue. But watch for the special Quenpaws X-word in the September edition, a result of a certain productions workshop.

A well-known cassanova Chief Ranger on the phone at 4.55 trying to book a call through the switchgirl: 'Have I got time for a quick one?'

Top marks to district disruptive orificer Ima Bushbasher who got his memo to the reasonable superstition T Heboss on the subject of animal resorts by 1 Never 1984.

His summerie: Not a lot of progress has been made re the achievement of objectives. However, it is my pleasure to report that re stress achievement all members of staff have successfully achieved very high levels of stress which has and will continue to manifest itself in all manner of peculiar behaviour patterns!

The International Union of Forestry Research Organisations and the Australian Forestry Council announce a workshop on wildlife management in tropical and southern hemisphere forests at Queensland University on 16, 17 and 18 July with a study tour to follow. Enquiries to Uniquet, the University of Queensland Research Company, U. of Q. St Lucia, 4067.

A cocky laconically informed one national park ranger recently: 'I dropped in a couple of times to get a fire permit but you were out on the job. But don't worry. It burnt well without one, surprisingly well in fact!'

Comment heard in the library recently amid the boxes and cartons used in the shift from the 5th to the 7th floor: 'You wouldn't want to be moving house at the same time, you'd have a nervous breakdown.'

The reply: 'Sue just did — these cartons are on the walls to stop her hurting herself!'

Mike Hall (Springbrook) suggested Herbie wide fronts be the latest Service production. You can show the Service flag and get arrested at the same time.

Maryborough regional superintendent Kevin Bade is looking forward to the school holidays. He hopes his family will join him then to save him commuting to Rockhampton at weekends.

Alan Chenoweth and Alan Don, familiar to many Service staff, have taken spots at Head Office. Alan C. moved from private practice, and Alan D. came from Forestry.

Deputy Director (Administration) Joe Winterton decided to retire on a quiet note recently. He spoke with senior Service staff before late afternoon drinks and savouries.

Des Boyland was overheard muttering about how he's never worked so hard in the Public Service. The Mainland Estate Branch staff at HO is down to two from eight.

Certain Service activity recently resulted in a 'poison pen' letter to a Service office. Such letters of course should be torn to pieces and consigned to the W.P.B.

The same treatment will be given by this editor to any unsigned material such as was received presumably from within the Service recently. This item for publication criticised the efforts of several senior officers.

Alan Rolandsen and Trevor Payne are expecting some lively surprises on Christmas Day.

The Director and dogs continue to disagree. A recent letter to the editor of a morning newspaper by daughter Rebecca was a mistake!

Serves a draftsman right for asking Kathy Buckley such a technical question as the weight of a piece of library card. She handed over a sample and said 'Go away and weigh it but make allowance for the hole!'

Things are not very different in national parks on the other side of the equator if this notice spotted in Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal, is a guide.

Tourist — Homo sapiens touristicus — This migratory form of the extremely abundant and gregarious species Homo sapiens congregates in various habitats throughout the country at certain times of the year.

In Chitwan they are confined to the grassland and riverine forest of the park periphery although occasional stragglers may penetrate quite far into the interior.

Curiously they do not display their usual obstreperous and predatory habits. This must be attributed to behavioral restraints imposed by a small resident population of the species.

During the wet season Homo sapiens touristicus is absent from the park.