

# Newspaws

For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

March 1984

## A rainforest starts with just one tree

One tree does not make a forest but its a start!

At Moggill recently (pictured at right), George Trapnell (left) and Doug Sherrington representing the Save the Trees Campaign planted a series of trees designed as a basis for a rainforest plot.

Their work was watched by (from left) Bill Chadwick, Neil Krause, Miss Jessie McGilchrist and Dr Graham Saunders.

George who says he has hung his walking stick on more trees throughout Queensland than he cares to remember has promised more donations from Save the Trees towards the rainforest plot.

'No one will ever live long enough to find all the trees in Queensland and collect their seeds,' he said.

'And after all, trees are No. 1 in the environment.'

Fred Prant and Greg Gordon assisted with the water, blood and bones and dirty hands at the short ceremony.

The plot and a bragalow plot are being developed in front of buildings' entrance at Moggill.



## Staff setting pace for PS

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff in the throes of re-organisation are setting the pace for the Queensland Public Service.

The financial planning cycle, the program management system and computerised accounting are all 'firsts'.

Service staff should appreciate that the introduction and operation of these will be held as an example for other government departments to follow.

The appointments of assistant directors, three senior management directors and four regional directors (see Ringtail report) have been made and positions taken up.

The Service development program is now into its implementation phase following the final appointments to managerial positions. Regional superintendents named most recently are:

Southern Region, Des Jones (Moggill), Don Seton (Toowoomba) and Kevin Bade (Maryborough). Central Region, Ed Power (Rockhampton). Northern Region, Damien Lavercombe (Townsville), and Far Northern Region, Peter Hensler (Cairns).

Three branches have had managers appointed. They are Technical Services (Trevor Volibon), Mainland Estate Management (Des Boyland) and Maritime Estate Management (Dave Perkins).

Des Boyland is the new face. He has been Department of Primary Industries land resources branch assistant director, and is a former supervisor and senior botanist with 24 years' experience in DPI.

He said he intends getting a firm grip of the new job before venturing out on the mainland estate.

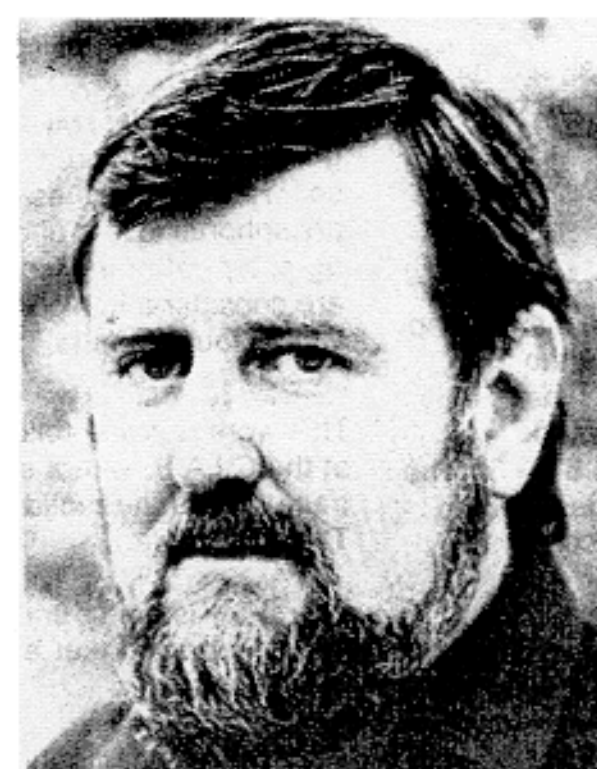
Other appointments include Neal Mee as field operations officer assisting the Director of Fields Operations, Jim McEvoy, and Neil Krause (administration), John Halliday (accounts) and John Martin (management and personnel services).

The Service now has in place its key managers — executive management group, assistant directors, regional directors, regional superintendents, branch managers and chief management officers.

Much care and attention was given to the selection process for all positions, and it is believed that the best combination possible has been arrived at, with a mix of new and existing staff obtaining these positions.

Two branch manager positions, research and planning, and wildlife and rural nature conservation, are being re-advertised.

Fifty-one new faces will be showing in the Service by the end of April. This will bring the Service wages staff to the prescribed 178.



Mr Boyland

## Say it again

Have you lost track of the Service re-organisation along the way? Then consider these principles of the development process.

Q.NPWS as a field-based organisation will have its decision making managers at the site where decisions needed to be taken.

Essential processes including communication patterns, management and supervisory control, levels of delegation and accountability, on-park planning and strategic planning will be centred around a financial planning cycle.

This is a budget evolution process involving staff at all levels in planning, costing and setting priorities.

Supervisory staff will have responsibility for clearly defined management units.

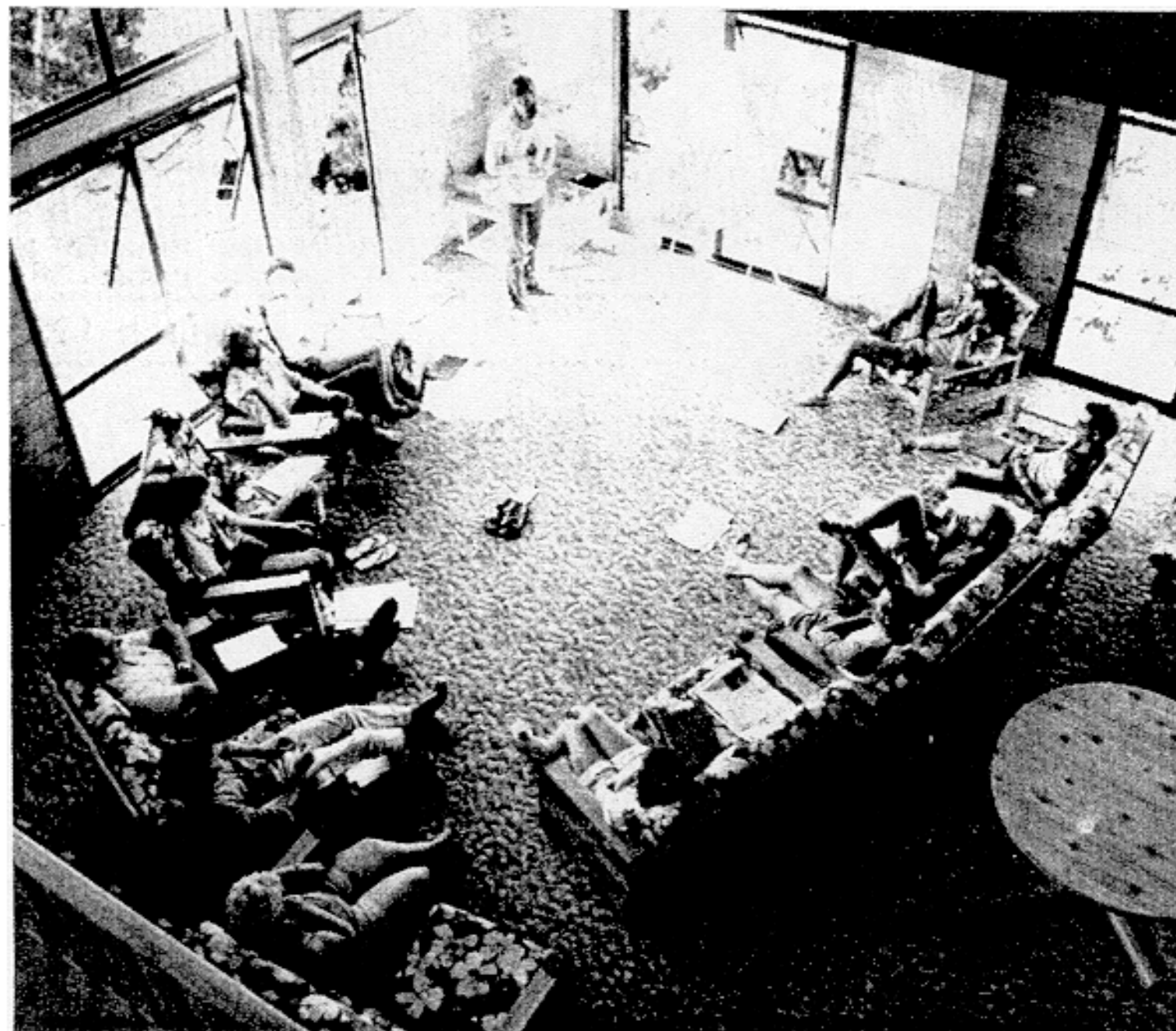
Supervisors will have operational autonomy within a management unit. This will encourage incentive and focus accountability at operational levels.

These are key factors for staff motivation and job satisfaction. Training field staff in specialist skills like planning or interpretation will create generalists who can be used by the Service and who are adaptable to various roles.

The principles of participation and involvement will be applied appropriately from park level planning to the level of executive management. Participation in the development exercise should continue, and all staff should keep being involved. If it's not working change it!



# All of a buzz!



'Interpretation' remains one of those funny buzz words in national park circles.

We seem to understand what it means but all agree there should be a better word but no one can come up with it.

For one week recently, interpretation was banded about the heights of Springbrook by the staff of the extension and training section of technical services branch at a workshop (picture above).

They sought to arrive at a greater understanding of how interpretive activities may best help the Service.

A secondary benefit was to introduce new staff Liz

Stutchbury and Fiona Davie to the section, and discuss what has been done recently, training, techniques and budget.

Chief technical services officer Pamela Harmon-Price and technical services branch manager Trevor Vollbon led discussions.

Two keys to a successful interpretive activity? Violence and sex. Think about that.

In February, Gil Field attended the first national workshop in adult education titled 'Working with Adults as Learners'.

To Gil, two thoughts arose — the similarity in the aims of Q.NPWS and religious institutions i.e. a belief in a

philosophy and a desire for that belief to be accepted.

He also found that adult educators seemed to think program evaluation was not an all-important consideration, with one lecturer suggesting improving a program, not proving it.

In December, Paul Minto and Rob Hughes attended a basic interpretation training program at Brisbane Forest Park.

Keynote to the training was communication as part of park management.

Lectures on theory of communication, public relations, giving talks and the guided walk were backed up by practical exercises.

## Tableland under study

The recently proclaimed national park, Blackdown Tableland, has long been of interest to botanists because of the unique significance of the flora in the area.

The effective physical isolation of the area and difference from surroundings has explained the large number of endemic species of flora found only in a few other areas.

There is, however, a paucity of bird and animal life on the Tableland. It has also been observed that mature cattle grazed on the Tableland for extended periods developed a condition known as osteo malacia (brittle bones).

This condition and a related disease, rickets, have common causes which include deficiencies in vitamin D2, calcium and phosphorus.

To investigate this problem, a study of the soils of Blackdown Tableland was undertaken in the Chemistry Department, Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education.

The study was carried out by a final year student, Neil Hoy, under the supervision of Dr Jeff Hughes.

A Forestry Department logging track was used as a traverse for soil samples.

This recent study on Blackdown Tableland soils is an indication of interest in national parks by organisations other than the Service. Dr Hughes who wrote the report says two other projects will be initiated this year and he hopes to report findings in time.

Ten sites were selected along the crest of a low spur running from the Expedition Range to Stony Creek. Samples were taken at 800m intervals, 10m from the track in sites free from local extremes.

The soils were analysed for pH, conductivity, moisture content, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium and phosphorus.

The soils ranged from almost pure sand near creeks to deep red podzolic soils in the Expedition Range. The pH ranged from neutral to moderately acid (5.8 - 6.5). The soils were all well leached as shown by the low conductivity (0.05mS-cm<sup>2</sup>).

The levels of calcium found were up to 7 meqCa-100g. While these levels were low, they were consistent with values previously reported for red podzolic soils, and appeared unaffected by recent burning.

Magnesium levels were two to five times higher than levels reported for this soil type. This changes the Ca: Mg ratio, and may affect the availability of calcium.

Levels of potassium were extremely low (less than 0.1 meq K-100g, compared to values of about 1 meqK-100g reported for this soil type).

Typical values found for extractable phosphorus were 5 ug-g for top soil and 2 ug-g for subsoil. As 10 ug-g of phosphorus is considered very low, these results do support a phosphorus deficiency existing on the Tableland.

The red podzolic soil type is generally considered an infertile soil. However, values of phosphorus levels of about 38 ug-g, typical of this soil type, are considerably higher than values found on the Tableland.

This work is being followed up at the C.I.A.E. with a study on trace metals in Blackdown Tableland flora.

The study is being undertaken by Mr Robert Parker and Dr Peter Lawson.

They will be comparing data on Blackdown narrowleaf ironbark with similar species found elsewhere.

## Psssssst . . .

Friends and workmates can hardly wait for Tina Dalton to return from work later this month to relate tales of distant Africa.

Among her few snippets of communication was a reference to a day in hospital after a bout of dysentery.

Peter Hensler and Keith Smith (Mt Isa) has an unexpected duty when returning from the egg collecting task at the Gulf last month.

South of Normanton they came across a vehicle overturned with three people injured. They radioed the Royal Flying Doctor who landed on the road, and also called the Cloncurry police and ambulance for help.

Gail Cummins (Head Office) was waving her well-used paper spike. 'Its to deflate egos,' she explained.

Dick Allison wishes to thank all those Service people who came to his help in one way or another after fire destroyed the guesthouse in which he was staying at South Brisbane just before Christmas.

Many of his books and records cannot be replaced but he will not forget the unexpected response to his misfortune.

Extract from official report to Coastwatch, Canberra, from surveillance flight: Cedar Bay, on beach, numerous women in grass skirts running in a circle around two prone naked bodies, three photos!

Who are the Service people in Head Office who keep enough rope in their offices to descend to ground in case of fire?

Proud fathers around the Service recently are Paul Sattler, Ross Blick, Mike Harris and Bruce Lawrie.

Are you receiving sufficient copies of 'Ringtail' to distribute to the public to see you through three months to the next issue? If not, contact your regional office which receives a bulk supply and which can request more from Head Office.

Extreme contrast in weather recently for Don Marshall who went to the Gulf when the days were approaching 40 deg. He was not long back from Nepal where 20cm of snow fell one night while he was camping and the temperature was down to minus 20deg.

Liz Stutchbury intends changing her name to the joy of all phone message takers. She is engaged and intends marrying in September. The lucky man is pronounced Ross Newman, but, wouldn't you know it, he spells it Naumann!

Who is the ranger who requested a dart board graphic design for the Ringtail centrefold map of parks for those district rangers looking for a district?

Service staff who have worked under Senior Zoologist Greg Gordon in his role of Administrative Officer over the past years at Yeerongpilly and Moggill are greatly appreciative of his efforts, particularly in his mild but supportive manner towards his staff.

Thanks Greg — especially for signing all those recent requisitions for us (just before the new Regional Director arrives).

Moggill now will soon have an automatic switchboard.

(What didn't Tricia have to do to get that?); a crocodile pen just in case there's another sighting at Maryborough — meanwhile who needs the Bellbowrie Pool anymore! (Hey, Tim Pulsford); a XXXX windsurfer for Darryl Reimer while on aquatic surveys in the Diamantina; a bus for Research & Planning Branch technicians — and wives, families and girlfriends while on fauna surveys — indoor mobile cricket helps pass the time in transit out west. Come on, Greg!

The Service Head Office now has a vocadex machine for the transmission and reception of documents. You might let prospective users know the phone number at present is 224 6526.

Note new Charleville office telex is AA47784.

Damien McGreevy is sworn off the 'turtle rodeo' — jumping from a boat and catching turtles in the water for research. While on location with a Channel 7 State Affair crew, he tackled an extra large female loggerhead which with one swipe of a flipper cut him in the groin so closely as to have him worry whether he might be a father one day.

Townsville Technical and Further Education College is to be congratulated on running a special course on the maintenance of small plant and equipment for Service staff. The second three-day course will be held on 19-21 June.

Agfa copycolor material is now available for production staff using the artiscopes device at Head Office. This means your map, transparency or color print may now be reproduced in colour quite simply for special jobs like report covers.

During a guided walk at the Bunyas, the new overseer Brett Roberts joined Ranger Frances Hrdina and the group but did not wear his uniform. One old dear whose grandchild was a Junior Ranger (ages 6-10) was heard to ask Brett: 'Are you a Junior Ranger dear?' Maybe a beard is a requisite for every park overseer.

Service morale — isn't that what drops just before you go home early on Friday?

Comment on being a park ranger living on the park — the fringe benefits are great but the side effects are killing.

Talk about being the meat in the sandwich, Col Limpus has got the ultimate tale. While researching the habits of the green turtle in Heron Island lagoon, Col found a suitable female and set out in pursuit. What he didn't know was that an amorous male had the same female in view and very shortly Col found himself stuck between the two and under the hooks on the front flippers of the frustrated male.

Watch your manner when next you are in Head Office library. Remember the 1984 library is more than a place with books on shelves. It's a complete research centre. Congratulations to Kathy Buckley who has just added a B.Sc to her qualifications after six years of part time study. That's on top of her library qualifications.