

# Newspaws

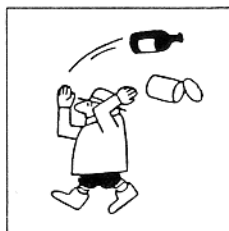
For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

September 1986

## Bitte nicht ...



... Feuer machen



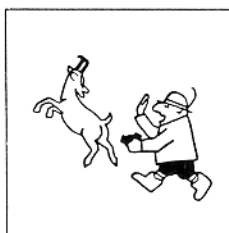
... Abfälle wegwerfen



... lärm



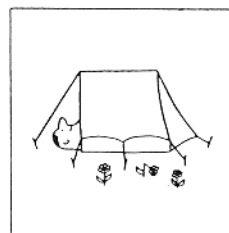
... Blumen pflücken



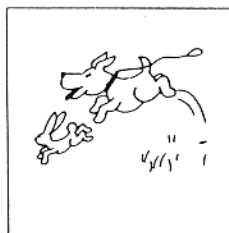
... Tiere beunruhigen



... Wege verlassen



... zelten



... Hunde frei laufen lassen



... biwakieren

So you have an on-park problem. You have decided the most effective solution might be a sign. What sort of sign? That is up to the combined ingenuity of park staff, designers, artists and sign makers. Here is an approach to 'do not' signs in Berchtesgaden National Park, near Munich, West Germany. Are they effective because a knowledge of the German language is unnecessary apart from the heading which has the two most common words meaning 'please' and 'no'? Does the humorous touch pass the message? Discuss with your regional interpretive officer.

## Rubbish bins — yes or no?

On 4 February last, rubbish bins were removed from Eungella National Park.

The time spent and costs of emptying and dumping rubbish were considerable.

With a new camping area under construction, redevelopment of existing picnic and camping areas, and an increasing number of visitors, problems were growing.

Discussions between park and district staff resulted in a list of five possibilities to overcome the task that plagues park managers around the world.

Two of these were considered seriously.

One was to remove bins and ask visitors to bring their rubbish from the park.

The other was to arrange for an outside contractor to supply and empty bulk bins.

The first was set for trial. Bins

were removed from the camping area in June 1985 and the rest of the park followed in February.

The move aroused much comment, some adverse, some favourable.

The biggest test came with the Easter weekend and the following school holidays.

Results exceeded all expectations.

Easter resulted in half a bin of rubbish picked up.

The road between the park and the rubbish tip at Finch Hatton 26km away was mostly clear of rubbish.

Before this time, the amount of rubbish left lying around was minimal. A quick walk was enough to clean the area on Mondays and Fridays.

Some problems have arisen. The kiosk in the park accepts

back any rubbish generated by sales. Some people take advantage of this and at times the rubbish returned is considerable!

A further problem concerns the accumulation of rubbish on roadsides.

In some areas along the 85km road to Mackay, garbage has been appearing.

If these problems continue to grow, the 'no bins' policy will have to be reviewed and the second option implemented.

Hopefully, the public will co-operate and continue to remove their rubbish.

Mike Pyke  
Eungella National Park

How do you tackle the rubbish problem on your park? Or don't you have one? Send your views in writing to the editor before 15 November, the deadline for the next Newspaws.

## Bushfire danger growing

Controlled burning on national and environmental parks for 1986 is ending but that is no cause for complacency about fire by staff or visitors.

Below average rainfall over most of Queensland for months has increased the danger of wildfires which will not ease until substantial rains fall.

Here are some hints about bushfire survival to remind you and for you to give your visitors to bushland areas in spring and summer:

Most importantly, you should be aware of the fire danger. A build-up of leaf litter, windfalls and extensive areas of dry grass are basic evidence.

Continuing clear skies, rising temperatures and longer days as summer approaches, low humidity and winds combine to increase the danger.

Learn to read weather charts in newspapers and on TV to predict abnormally high fire danger conditions such as a hot northerly wind ahead of a weather front.

Heed warnings in weather bulletins, particularly on radio where sudden atmospheric changes can result in amended forecasts.

If you are in doubt about local fire danger levels, telephone Rural Fires Board inspectors at Cairns, Rockhampton, Charters Towers, Barcaldine, Bundaberg, Mackay, Roma or Brisbane.

Of course, don't you be the cause of a fire. Carry meals and drinks prepared at home. If you are a smoker, take extra care with matches and cigarette butts.

Stay out of fire danger areas if you can. Advise visitors to avoid camping or even walking where the bush is very dry.

Think about safe places and escape routes. Note creeks and waterholes or areas without combustible material where you could take refuge.

Carry protective clothing which will cover as much of your body as possible to guard against the heat of a fire.

Remember it is the radiated heat that kills.

Know first aid for burns. Ask your local doctor, hospital or ambulanceman for the latest advice and preparations.

If you are in a vehicle and a bushfire approaches, do not panic; park away from vegetation and stay in the vehicle until the fire passes.

Turn headlights on and the ignition off. Wind up windows and close air vents.

Get on the floor and cover yourself with rugs or clothes to keep out of the heat.

If you are caught in a fire's path while on foot, again do not panic. Move downhill; do not try to climb away from fires which tend to sweep uphill.

Find an open space, away from bush and trees; clear everything that will burn. Lie face down on the ground. Cover all exposed skin.

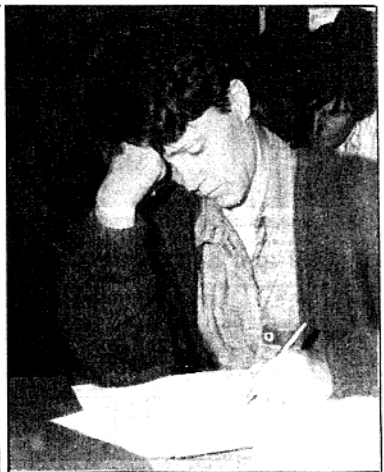
Re-read this article. Fires will occur. Take precautions now.



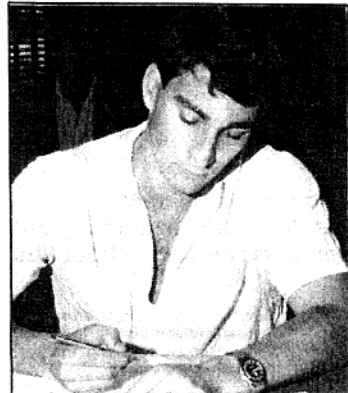
'I know we didn't have a training budget last year. That's why we're cutting it back a little this year.' — From the Weekend Australian 11 May 1986. Was this how the budget discussions at Moggill this month were resolved?



Obviously puzzled by some questions at the writing workshop were (from left) Mike Harris, Jenny Curnow (handicapped a little by a broken leg) and Rose Webster. They were surrounded by equally puzzled Forestry staff.



Caroline Sandercoe with pen, elbow and forearm at work sitting in the front row.



Only Brett Porter, also sitting in the front, seemed in control of the situation.

## Put 'to' and 'too' together

Forty Service and Forestry staff had the opportunity to review their writing skills at a workshop at Gympie Forestry Training Centre in late August.

Though the workshop was for staff involved with preparing scientific reports and papers, the first day was open to some Southern Region general staff.

Don Marshall posed the questions about English grammar, use of words, style, and writing letters and reports.

School days are hard to remember. One student was unsure of the use of 'to' and 'too'.

Dictionaries, the Australian Government Publishing Service's style manual and a draft of the Service's proposed typing manual were put to use frequently.

Ross Hynes introduced the problems of technical writing on day two and referred to a draft of a proposed Service technical writing manual he has prepared.

Participants and helpers worked into the night reviewing texts they had produced about a wide range of topics.

On day three, Tom Kirkpatrick and Alf Said (Forestry) gave complementary

views on the refereeing of technical papers.

Is this the correct use of 'complementary'? Is 'randomized complete block' jargon or an accepted, clear statistical term in technical reports?

These and other arguments will be continued for selected Service and Forestry staff in Rockhampton in early October and in Townsville later in the month.

Prospective students should prepare texts, even a letter or two, now. Don't forget your dictionary.

## Psssssst . . .

Welcome to new staff Declan McNamara, clerk (Accounts), Leah Dol, Fraser Island Recreation Board typist, Darren Jew, photographic assistant (Technical Services), Lynda Evans, librarian (Technical Services), and Jeanette Mombelli, typist (Cairns).

Hardly new is Buzz Symonds, now ranger (Cairns).

Welcome also to new wages employees and those employed under CEP and NESA programs. May your time with the Service be enjoyable and rewarding.

Gary Wieden is ranger (Cairns) while Jon Walsh is overseas. Malcolm Dunning (Maritime Estate) on four months' study leave.

Rob Atherton (Moggill) has retired.

Sue Conroy has transferred from DOS secretary to Education Department.

Resignations: Cindy Pittendreich, clerk (Accounts), now in Canada, Sue Osborne (Maritime Estate), Rockhampton) going to ANPWS, Canberra, Lois Beech (Moggill) and Barbara Hind (Cairns).

Lyn Pullen writes: The workshop conducted by Steve van Matre at Binna Burra recently rejuvenated my enthusiasm for interpretation programs and people in general with his seemingly unlimited energy and encouragement.

Steve is a fascinating speaker who held his audience's attention for the duration of the workshop.

My only criticism of the program falls on the hard-sell tactics which are used on American children to hook them into the program.

For more details, ask those who attended: Tony Monro (Noosa), Felicity Stroppiana (Bunya Mountains), John Ravenscroft (Maiala), Jana Kahabka (Moreton Island), Keith Smith (Charleville), Peter Milne (Caboolture) and Lyn.

Congratulations to Peter Burchard (Toowoomba) who received a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme gold award from the Governor-General recently.

Peter, 22, a builder, hopes to have his latest effort, the new Bunya Mountains office, completed at the end of this month.

Best of luck to Col Limpus and volunteers due to attend a crocodile training course at Mt Surprise this month. Crocs take some training!

Which Service staffers rated mentions in newspapers recently about work-related extra jobs out of hours?

Jim McEvoy between Disneyland and Disneyworld.

Lyn Pullen (Rainbow Beach) recently picked up a dead sea snake — until it came to life in her hand!

Later in the week, an indignant fellow worker wanted to know why she had thrown out from the display aquarium an excellent specimen of a stonefish!

Anyone missing a box of Agia slides of overseas subjects and an automatic slide holder should contact Don Marshall.

Many Technical Services Branch staff busy in recent weeks with CAD! That's computer aided drafting. New equipment has been installed. Now the would-be drivers are training.

Marc Hockings and Jon Walsh on extended leave from the north have met up in London this month.

Marc has been in the US visiting western parks recently. Jono has been tasting the delights of the French wine country. They should be back around Christmas.



New faces in Technical Services are those of Darren Jew (left) who came from a professional photographer's darkroom, former staffer now librarian Lynda Evans who came from Animal Research Institute, and branch clerk Jim McKittrick.

## Eye in the sky

The Australian Government is to spend \$15 million over three years to upgrade the Australian Landsat station.

Though the Service's use of Landsat imagery is minimal, the proposed upgrading should be beneficial for staff.

The Thematic Mapper (TM) has a 30m pixel compared with the 80m pixel of the Multi Spectral Scanner (MSS) in use.

In practice, this will give a resolution of features the size of

an average suburban allotment compared with the size of a football field previously.

Spot is a French satellite capable of black and white and colour modes.

The black and white version gives a resolution of 10m while the colour version has a 20m resolution.

This satellite has the capability of capturing the same imagery every few days and can also provide stereoscopic images.

## Interleaves

Still trying to catch up on interpreting happenings over the last year. Thanks to those who kept up the column in my absence.

Some exciting projects started include interpretive planning for Tallebudgera Greenspace (Fleay's and Burleigh Head Information Centre), and display planning for Gympie Information Centre (due to open next month), Great Barrier Reef Wonderland, Townsville, and a rural nature conservation display for Westech, Barcaldine, this month.

The Heron Island Information Centre display has been completed. A new poster series, Desert to Reef, (based on this year's calendar) has been printed. And the RNA Show display is over for another year.

Brochures going ahead include Living with Wildlife: Darling Downs plants and animals, Reef Notes on whales, North West Reef and Island park guide, and Blackdown Tableland National Park park guide.

Funds for interpretation/education

This financial year are restricted. This is an opportunity to review the past and suggest changes for the future as staff and funding constraints are likely to continue.

Marc Hockings is most enthusiastic about the Service's achievements compared with what he has seen in Canada and the US. He is due back at Christmas to inject his enthusiasm.

Central Region has been lucky to engage former interpretive officer Fiona Davie to prepare an interpretive plan for GBRMPA Capricornia Section.

Good luck to those working hard to get displays, brochures and signs ready for production in time for the Christmas holidays.

I have borrowed from Dana Kelly the following thought for the coming months: 'To excite curiosity, to open a person's mind — there is the challenge... If you hope to change people's attitudes, you must just light the ember that lives smothered under all the ash!'

Pamela Harmon-Price

# SARAS to help study

Next time you want a signature urgently and a workplace is empty, you might blame SARAS!

Who? SARAS is the acronym for Study and Research Assistance Scheme.

This scheme helps public servants undertake courses of study or research by offering special leave and financial support.

Three categories for assistance are for part-time courses and five are for full-time courses or research.

Now you know why chairs are empty for a few hours one day a week in addition to core leave, plus 4pm finishes, sick leave, recreation leave, field trips and training courses.

Study courses may range from certificates to doctorates with preference to those offered by Queensland education institutions.

Research may include observation studies, work placements and field studies.

Eligibility for assistance depends on work position and category chosen.

If you are interested in SARAS assistance, try the following:

- Define your career goals or work needs.
- Identify skills and qualifications for these. Discuss with people working in areas of interest.
- Select a course or outline

Sunday afternoon was balmy and all was peaceful at Cape Hillsborough National Park.

The usual crowds were sunburning on the beach and barbecue fires were contributing to air pollution.

A certain park staffer (anonymous but for a distinctive accent) was on information duty.

A woman approached and mentioned casually one septic toilet would not flush properly as water kept running through.

To action! Establishing no one was occupying the ladies toilet, he approached the offending cubicle and removed the cistern top.

Enter a woman. After overcoming her initial shock, she insisted maintenance continue and she would use the other cubicle.

Ranger turns to the first cubicle and removes the problem — a large green frog keeping the float depressed.

research leading to the skills and qualifications.

- Determine the relevant category.

A completed application for assistance form should reach the Q.NPWS Personnel area well before the course starts — four weeks for a part-time course, or three months for a full-time course or research program. (Forms PSB31 and PSB32 from Personnel)

Application for course attendance leave is included in the form.

An application for reimbursement of statutory fees should be made to the Personnel area through form PSB33 within three weeks of the course results for the year.

Reimbursement of other costs can be sought by letter.

The department head or delegate is responsible for approving or refusing applications and for determining the extent of assistance.

Details of the scheme are in the SARAS manual.

Copies are held by the assistant personnel officer and regional administration officers.

Direct questions to Elizabeth Tunstall (07) 227 5342.

## All in a day's duty

Ranger makes for the door but the frog wriggles free and hops into the other cubicle.

Loud female screams rent the Sunday afternoon air.

Exit ranger before a crowd of agitated/shocked picnickers.

His nonchalant saunter back to the information booth was followed by an afternoon of low profile.

Felicity Stroppiana



Lift up the latch and what do you see? Marianne Ambrose (Head Office) at a find-out-yourself section at the Service's display at the Brisbane Royal Show last month. She was one of a team of Head Office and regional people to staff the stand who had to try to answer those questions that only the public can ask. Twenty thousand copies of a special 12-page edition of Ringtail were distributed in the 10 days.

## LWM Ashes achieved

That time of the year when the (sometimes) annual Low Water Mark Ashes cricket match comes around came on 20 July.

GBRMPA pulled out the big guns in the hope of retaining (their) trophy — a clump of coral stuck on a board.

Being as keen as we are and not wanting to peak early, remarkably the Q.NPWS Possums held two lunch-hour training sessions compared with GBRMPA's supposed solid two months' training.

The big day arrived. GBRMPA won the toss and elected to bat finally achieving a score of a mere 192.

Fielding by the Possums could be described only as brilliant (enough to put the Aussies to shame).

RD Bill Fisher made a magnificent caught and bowled effort.

Not to be outdone, Nev Abbey took a corker on the outer boundary.

Bob Friend was the bowler of the day with 3/54, not forgetting Guy Thomas (Mt Isa) and his pace balls.

'Poor defenceless secretary' Rhondda Leggett took middle stump of a middle order opponent only to have the dismissal disallowed, the batter not having scored.

After a barbecue lunch, the Possums went to work to bring home the trophy.

Paul Curtis retired hurt after falling victim to the hard terrain.

Mark Weaver's wife Leonie, not an experienced cricketer, thus opened with Rhondda for a combined 16.

Bob Friend and Guy Thomas set to work at blistering pace adding another 66.

Nev Abbey hit a massive six just missing a passing car.

Bill Lavarack and CEP worker for the day Gary Cox combined for 42.

A lower order collapse put the Possums in a precarious position. With nine wickets down, all hope was put in Bill Fisher and Mark Weaver.

We need not have worried. They combined for 41 with Mark hitting five fours and a six.

Final score: Possums 230 defeated GBRMPA 192.

The trophy, now held at the Northern Regional Centre, is under lock and key following threats to kidnap the trophy and hold it to ransom.

Anyone not knowing the significance of the Service's right to determine low water mark for the next year should take a friendly constitutional lawyer and engage Marine Parks staff for a day or more.

## Tropical influence

Staff of the Northern Region recently installed seven pit toilets.

The following locations are now blessed — Balding Bay (Magnetic Island), Zoe Bay (Hinchinbrook Island), Yanks Jetty and Pioneer Bay (Orpheus Island), Paddle Bay (South Molle Island), Black Island and Macona Inlet (Hook Island).

A local architect and Proserpine District Ranger Roland Howlett combined talents to produce the design for this unusual pit toilet.

All units were prefabricated in the Northern Region workshop, Pallarenda, and transported to the sites.

The speed at which these toilets can be

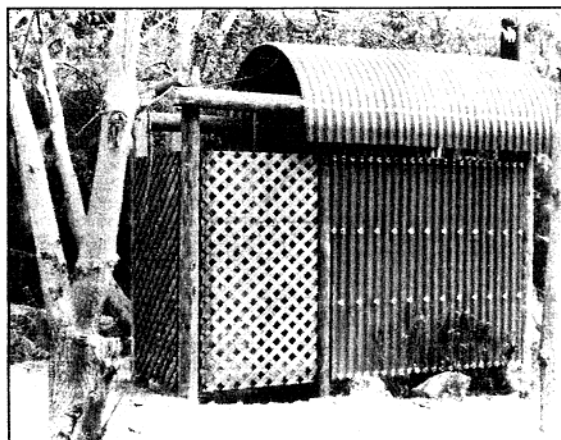
erected under ideal conditions was shown by the experience gained by staff on the first unit at Balding Bay.

All materials were shipped by barge. Don Blake, Jim Denison, Bob Friend and Dale Campbell were on hand to unload.

A camp was erected as Jim and Dale had 'volunteered' to camp for the duration on this famous nudist beach!

From start to finish, the operation took just five days. This was despite the encountering of rock while sinking the PVC pit liner which would have increased the time taken.

The design has attracted many favourable comments by the public.







# Stanley assault

Far Northern Region staff are almost back to normal after a major project in Princess Charlotte Bay.

Over three weeks, they were required to build a ranger base on Flinders Island and undertake extensive cultural site works on nearby Stanley Island.

The remote island group was declared national park in 1939. The surrounding waters are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park far northern section.

A dramatic rise in visitors by boat over the last eight years increased management problems.

At immediate risk were two rock art sites on Stanley Island — a concentration considered to be of national and international significance.

Nineteen people were involved in building two large boardwalks and walking tracks to the Endaen and Ship Shelters.

Eighteen tonnes of materials had to be carried to the site — by barge, helicopter, small 4WD vehicle and people!

Care was taken during construction to ensure the boardwalks and workers caused as little impact on the cave environments as possible.

The walking track circuit was designed to keep people away from sensitive shell mound areas while allowing them to see many interesting areas.

Work in the Endaen Shelter in progress. Foundations for the boardwalk and viewing platforms are at right and the walking track entrance at top left. Dust stirred by the feet of visitors was threatening rock art dominated by marine creatures.

# Give blood to tackle ticks

Many a staff member has shed sweat and tears for the Service. Now is the time to give blood!

Seriously, this is part of a survey for a research program into allergies caused by the Australian paralysis tick *Ixodes holocyclus*.

The program was initiated partially because of requests from the Forestry Department and from several Q.NPWS staff.

Its aim is to identify the allergens responsible and eventually to suggest ways of dealing with the problem.

The program is being conducted by Dr Bernard Stone, CSIRO Division of Tropical Animal Science senior principal research scientist.

It has the approval of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Q.NPWS Director, Dr Graham

Saunders, has approved staff involvement.

Write to Dr Stone, Private Mail Bag 3, Post Office, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068 for a copy of the questionnaire.

This encourages the provision of serum samples and requests staff to give details of tick reactions.

The form has 20 questions and should not take more than a few minutes to complete.

It seeks details of exposure to ticks, times and locations, how was the tick removed, did reactions get worse after the removal, what were the reactions, similarities with other bites or stings, any precautions taken and any other relevant information.

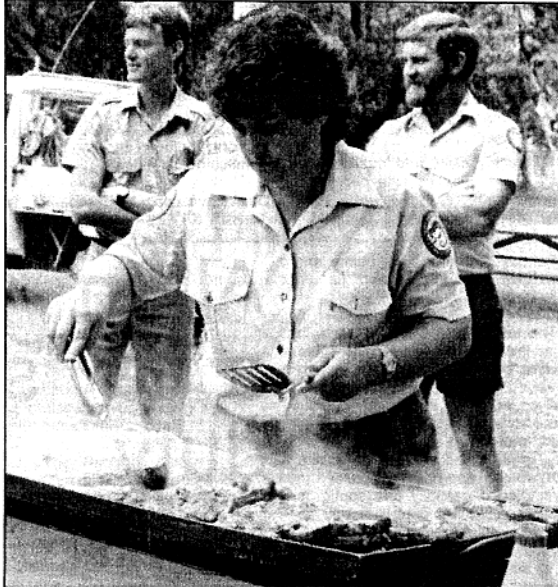
A diagram helps identify the particular tick involved.

A blood sample will be taken by staff of Sullivan, Nicolaides and Partners after the written consent of the volunteer. (See telephone book for collection centres)

Any staff member who has suffered the reaction to the paralysis tick should be most willing to help.

Dr Stone has applied for another grant to extend the study to include other man-biting ticks and to allergic cross reactions caused by these and other biting arthropods.

Effectiveness of tick repellents and first aid treatment of attached ticks would be evaluated.



Steak and onions prepared by Lyn Pullen for the lunch at Dundubara, Great Sandy National Park, for visitors in the official party on the island for the Waddy Point campground official opening last month. Even hungry islanders in the background were fed. See the report and pictures in Ringtail. Those responsible for the great project were Kevin Bade, Mark Johnston, Bill French, Bill Alston, Lyn Pullen, Brian Ciffuentes, Ron Walk, Danny Eckert, Merv Toms, Ross Davidson, Peter Macdonald and Justin O'Connell with help from Freshwater staff Kevin Shaw and Lawrie Spann, Peter Barganquest (Rainbow Beach office) and the Fraser Island C.E.P. workers.

# One tourist's view of Cairns area

Recently I spent two weeks as a typical tourist in the Cairns area. Consequently I am very aware of the important role national parks play in a north Queensland holiday.

Service attempts to make sure the tourist enjoys the tropical wonderland were very evident and I am full of admiration — you gave me some wonderful holiday experiences.

Cairns parks go out of their way to lure people away from the picnic spot mentality.

The walks are nice and short yet take the visitor to the scenic attractions.

The problem of wet underfoot is being tackled with bitumen surfacing of popular tracks.

Unwittingly, we took quite a bit of sticky mud out of Palmerston National Park (instead of photographs) and left it at Tinaroo!

Dunk Island was a bit of a shock. The spot is certainly a

mess and highlights the conflict between national park values and resort development.

I think the new Tablelands brochure should include a section on 'how to do the Tableland attractions in record time and retain your sanity'.

Everyone races around in cars and it's hard to be tempted to linger to appreciate the natural beauty.

Lake Eacham is much improved and the walk around the lake a pleasant diversion.

Mossman Gorge is fantastic but standing room only! Hard to find a space picnic table or parking spot.

Probably the most aesthetic rainforest I've seen.

The Daintree River/Cape Tribulation road is definitely impassable by conventional vehicles after light rain.

On the day we tried, the

Daintree ferry made a killing out of the tourists.

The Outer Barrier Reef cruise from Port Douglas was managed superbly — trained, helpful staff, and informed commentary and audio visuals on the way.

Hartley's Creek wildlife reserve enabled use to show our young daughter some crocodiles. (We certainly didn't see any wild ones).

Unfortunately, the scare-mongering tactics used in the commentary fail to inspire any public support for crocodile conservation. (We were given many useful instructions about how to avoid or survive a crocodile attack!)

Green Island gave us an enjoyable relaxing day — my first visit in nearly five years and so many improvements. So maybe the Green Island management plan expertise was not entirely wasted.

Pamela Harmon-Price  
Technical Services Branch



Waiting politely for late breakfast at Waddy Point were (from left) Peter Cavendish and Neil Krause (Head Office) and Noel Dawson (Southern Region director). Peter, Neil and Roger Newnam left their desks for a few days to arrange (very expertly) the camping and feeding arrangements for guests at the opening.