

Newspaws

For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

Winter issue

June 1987

One fine day for marine camaraderie at Cairns



Caught out of uniform when ready to depart Cairns for the Caretta's first major sea voyage was skipper Gary Sellwood.

The Stores Section has been busy recently ordering uniforms to boost depleted stocks held in Head Office.

With more than 300 employees who receive uniforms and with limits on funds, certain items always seem to be in short supply.

Presently, all uniform requests have been filled from existing stock.

If an employee requests an item and it is not available, the request will be recorded so when supplies are received, the request can be filled.

Unfortunately, there are insufficient stocks to allow regular automatic replacement.

Uniform items are issued on request only and the staff in stores determine whether the employee's quota has been filled at that time.

For the last year-and-a-half, the Stores Section has maintained a card system to ensure that uniforms are distributed equitably throughout the regions and that all staff are given a 'fair go'.

We do ask that if a uniform item

Uniform requests all filled

received is not suitable please return it so you may be issued with the correct item and your personal record card amended.

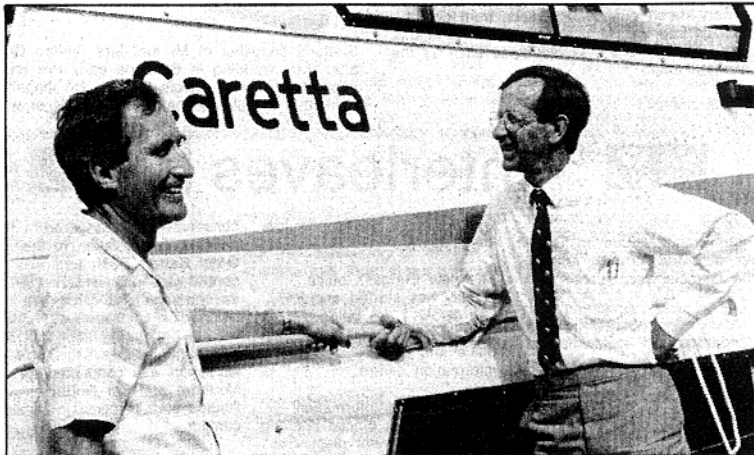
Stores officers who maintain the uniform stock and fill the requests are Leah Dol (07) 227 4741 and Dianne Maccoll (07) 227 5336.

If you have any problems, do not hesitate to give Leah or Dianne a call.

The standard uniform entitlement is a field jacket, five shirts (dress, work short-sleeved or long-sleeved), four pairs of trousers or shorts (dress or work), two pairs of overalls, one pair of dress shoes/boots, a hat, a belt, a tie and three pairs of long socks.

Nicole Grosvenor

Note: All aspects of Service shirts are being considered at present.



Big smiles and camaraderie were greatly evident on the Cairns waterfront one fine afternoon last month.

The occasion was the naming ceremony of the new marine parks launch Caretta.

Whether the cause was the unavoidable absence of politicians, the change in the weather after weeks of rain, or the chance for all guests to have a face to face chat about some of their mutual problems is not known.

Speeches were short and to the point before a good peek and a poke about the new workboat. Then came afternoon tea ashore.

A run to Fitzroy Island followed for Q.NPWS and GBRMPA senior staff.

Next day was work; a concrete mixer, construction materials and stores took the place of guests for a scheduled trip to Princess Charlotte Bay.

Like with every new boat, once the gremlins are ironed out, the Caretta should prove to be a most valuable acquisition for the Far Northern Region.

Director of Field Operations Jim McEvoy, representing the Director, and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority chairman Graham Kelleher at the naming ceremony.



Landlubber Peter Stanton (Far Northern Regional Director) and the seadog Dave Perkins (Maritime Estate branch manager) chatting on board Caretta.

Fine response to survey

Interesting responses were received in the survey conducted throughout the Service to gather information for writing a new wages award.

Ninety-one per cent of all wages staff surveyed were contacted personally by one or more of the wages award working party (Lester Harth, Lyn Pullen, Lyn Gough, Ric Nattrass and Gary Sellwood) to ensure the highest possible level of participation.

This method proved highly successful resulting in a 73 per cent return by the end of March.

As well, quite a few late returns were received. This is an excellent response.

The working party has completed preliminary analysis

of the information provided and compiled a draft summary document.

Some of the significant points to emerge include:

- Eighty per cent of those submitting returns chose 'ranger' as the appropriate designation for all wages staff.

- Eighty-nine per cent would prefer a higher base rate wage with fewer differentials.

- Eighty-three per cent believe working hours should be more flexible.

- Eighty-nine per cent feel wages employees should serve a probationary period.

- Eighty-two per cent think

there should be special allowances and conditions to compensate for remote and/or costly areas.

- Seventy-seven per cent support a state-wide performance appraisal system.

During analysis of the survey information, the working party identified several areas for policy development.

Currently, senior management perspective is being canvassed and work has commenced on developing alternative classification structures.

Many thanks to all who returned survey questionnaires and to others who made written or verbal submissions.



"And if you look up now, you will see the rescue helicopter."

Dingo popular Wedding bells . . . and snaps

A recent survey of the Service's 11 sales outlets indicated that the dingo poster is the most popular with koala, kestrel and red roos close behind.

Popularity of posters varies from place to place. The kestrel is most popular in Townsville and Moggill while the koala featured in Maryborough and Toowoomba. The dingo won first place in Brisbane, Cairns, Charleville and Gympie.

Even though the Desert to Reef series was released relatively recently, Green mountains is showing its popularity with more than 140 sales in the three months. Next is Coral cay with 100 sales.

More than 3000 posters were sold in the January-March quarter. Proceeds from poster sales go into the Service's trust fund to enable production of more saleable items such as the Lakefield map.

Danuta Kolarski



Staffer's snapshot of Mr and Mrs Clifford Grosvenor after their wedding in Brisbane early this month. We knew the bride as Nicole Waters. No longer will she carry that terrible nickname of 'Muddy' or won't she?



Mr and Mrs Merve Toms snapped after their wedding recently. The former Christine Harvey and Merve met when she was employed on a CEP program on Fraser Island. Mrs Toms now works for Forestry.



Interleaves



Lots of activity in the interpretation/education field in recent times with the end of the financial year rush!

Wildlife information sheets on kangaroos and koalas have been printed as have visitor information sheets on Kondalilla, Mapleton Falls, Tamborine, Southern and Northern Cooloolia, Binna Burra and Blue Lake, and the Blackdown Tableland park guide.

Local productions have included Cape York parks, Bunya Mountains, Northern Region parks and Mt Archer information sheets.

New park guides coming from the printer any day are on Whitsunday Islands and the Hinchinbrook to Dunk Island area.

The Reef Wonderland display should be completed by publication time in advance of the opening late this month.

Congratulations to all the Northern Region staff who worked so hard to get it ready.

Kinaba display is finally finished and looks great.

Gympie office has a new low-key display.

The new Eungella office display has started and low-key displays are being prepared for Bunya Mountains office and Girraween information centre.

Burleigh Head Information Centre had its official opening and its permanent display is being produced.

Children's activity sheets for Cape Hillsborough and Eungella National Parks have been produced. This innovative approach could be used at other parks with significant visitation by children.

Nine titles in a new series, Discovering nature, for teachers and students have been produced to fill another information gap about national parks and wildlife.

They are titled: Conservation bibliography, Conservation information sources, Q.NPWS publications, Q.NPWS reserves, National park management, Environmental parks, Wildlife conservation, Field excursions and Teachers' guide.

Further brochures on the role of Q.NPWS in nature

conservation, endangered species, conservation of the Great Barrier Reef, and central Queensland parks for environmental education are planned.

A communications skills workshop was conducted for Northern and Far Northern Region staff involved in public contact.

One for Central and Southern Region staff should be completed by the time you read this.

A teachers' seminar on national parks held in Brisbane proved popular with secondary science and social science teachers. This is certainly a great way to promote nature conservation — teach the teachers!

A course for the guides for St Helena Island National Park was conducted before Easter and another is planned for operators wishing to take guided tours of the historic ruins.

Watch out for regional interpreters with plans for interpretive training, planning and evaluation after a three-day workshop in Brisbane early this month.

Pamela Harmon-Price

Psssst . . .

Looking forward to seeing some very familiar faces behind their usual desks soon.

The sick list has included Director Graham Saunders, Maryborough RS Kevin Bade, and Central Services clerk (but recently in Cairns) Dave Ritchie.

We know it rained at Springbrook recently (some 300 mm in one night) causing Mike Hall and staff more than a few headaches with damage.

But was the Lismore flood so great marine parks staff had to visit the inland city this month?

Something about an estuarine data base was the explanation offered.

Reminder if one is needed that QAC students should be on the loose doing work experience from 22 June to 19 July.

Alert readers would have noticed the Head Office mailing address has been changed.

Officially at least our letterhead paper and brochures become outdated on 1 August when the postcode becomes 4002.

The following changes have occurred for salaried officers since the last Newspaps:

Christina Boorman started as a typist in Head Office, and George Kreiger became a ranger at Pallarenda.

Botanist Dr Earl Saxon began a two-year secondment with the Mapping and Surveying Department, Cairns.

Debbie Wuota left accounts and Emese Gyures left Pallarenda.

Many staff will lose a good friend and worker for nature conservation when Ross Blick departs the Service scene later this month.

Anyone who can follow all the staff comings and goings in Southern Region had best let Joanne Shambler in Head Office typing pool know for an update of the Service staff list, that most useful document for spelling people's names.

That might be quicker than the 1987 government directory which was printed in late May. Copies are like hen's teeth.

Yes, the Annual Report for 1985/86 was released after presentation with scores of others in the last session of Parliament. Printing of very distinctive covers and binding delayed its release (in very limited numbers).

In the baby boom, Warren and Sue Oxnam now the proud parents of daughter Rhianna, Chris and Roslyn Lahey ditto about son

Rhys, and Rob and Kathryn Schaffe ditto about son Christopher. And, at press time, a son to Carrie and Mike Harris.

Records section clerk Marianne Ambrose had a daughter recently.

Chillagoe's Dave Flitt flitted about the NSW and ACT countryside in May seeing what they had to offer in the way of caves on the other side of the border.

Dick Clarkson presently on the other side of the Pacific again visiting relations. Probably cursing his luck at missing the early snow season in Australia.

Mike Harris looking forward to getting the financial year's camping permit returns to confirm early findings about who really does take advantage of national park camping facilities.

Cairns winter sunshine not good enough for RD Peter Stanton. He's off in early July for six weeks at the University of Hawaii.

Peter Ogilvie also looking forward to holidays soon and a lecture cruise on the world's largest sailing ship from Bali to Fiji via various stops including Cairns.

The rumour confirmed bachelor Damian McGreevy was to marry during a western holiday recently, got a little out of hand.

Who sent the congratulations card he found on his desk on his return?

New faces coming to Rockhampton soon. Terry Walker off to marine parks, Townsville, while Dean Lee and Mike Osmond have shifted to Gladstone.

Rod Mackey appointed temporary ranger Fitzroy in the absence of Les Bleakley on six months' leave.

Alan Oldroyd another on long leave, away from the new Innisfail office too.

If you don't believe the Service has permits to collect offshore islands, you had better ask for file B91/20.

Many mumbings among the troops about the very non-Service style publication featuring bits of cork and stuff which materialized recently.

No prizes for the first person noticing the ghost possum on one of the recent publications. The best made plans . . .

Then there's the production believe-it-or-not story of the month where two lines of type disappeared from the original artwork between the office and the printers.

Yes, the problems were detected in time.

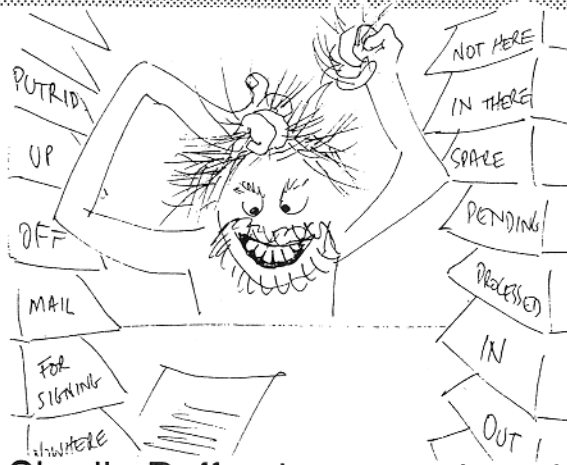
Useful guide

Shipley Associates is a prominent US business operations consultancy.

A copy of the firm's Business Writers Quick Reference Guide has been added to Head Office library.

This is a compendium of 308 pages — a glossary covering topics such as abbreviations, clichés, editing, redundant words, wordy phrases, jargon and metrics; model documents like letters, field notes and meeting minutes; and reports (technical, descriptive, informative, abstract and scientific).

The authors say the book is for those who communicate business and technical ideas in English.



Charlie Roff to be remembered

With the kind permission of the family, the Queensland Beekeepers' Association has initiated the Charles Roff Memorial Lecture.

This will be given at the association's annual conference each year in memory of Charlie Roff, chief management officer (wildlife) when he retired from the Service.

For many years previously, he was chief apiculturalist and wildlife ranger with the Fauna Conservation Branch and before that Entomology Branch of the Primary Industries Branch.

The lecture series will be a fitting tribute to a man who contributed so much to nature conservation and beekeeping in Queensland.



Getting the nitty gritty

For two weeks, I was sentenced to hard labour at the St Helena Prison.

My brief as archaeologist was to uncover historical items under the 120-year-old Chief Warden's residence which is, at its highest point, 60 cm above ground level.

The reason was to salvage any history which might be lost or destroyed when the building is restumped and restored in the near future.

A dismal rainy day was not the best starting date for this task which necessitated wriggling and burrowing among the cobwebs and dark underneath the house. Some stumps had been rechecked with bits of timber offcuts. Some had piles of bricks to support them.

Most had a gap between the top and the floor joists, a fact which was not reassuring as all the antcaps had long disappeared.

In the quiet there was just my breathing and the gentle munching of the white ants devouring the last of the pine timbers.

I had noticed that most of the window sills were hollow — just five layers of paint revealing their original shape.

The warden's home had been their dinner for over 20 years.

Avoiding the decayed patches of flooring, I removed the surface scatter of roofing iron, coral garden edgings, bricks, old timbers and guttering and began to scrape the soil with my trusty trowel.

It was easier with clear ground. I could see what was crawling around with me!

From the rich, red clay, objects began to appear. The thrill of archaeology ran down my spine (or was it a redback I wondered?)

The inventory began. A broken tea cup with handle, a corn cob pipe bowl, a guttering bracket, gnawed bones (evidence of a dog), glass marbles and two knuckle bones (evidence of children), an old shoe, a rusty washing-up dish, goat droppings (evidence of a goat), and a multitude of various nails.

With great relief I was at last able to drag the scraped soil to the outside for sieving. Standing up was the joy which overcame all hardships.

The objects are now at Moggill ready for sorting and interpretation.

Most are recent, post-prison era but there are enough older items to build a picture of the warden's home life.

Even small pieces help to complete the giant jigsaw puzzle.

My visiting student daughter with the wisdom of youth took one look at me at work and exclaimed: 'You're just cleaning up under the house!'

Yvonne Reynolds

More from Central

Another episode about Central Region staff from that Newsdays correspondent who chooses to remain anonymous.

Doug Crossman — normally a really quiet family man, reportedly working in the 'red light' district of Epping Forest National Park. Ask Ranger Bob Thompson, Doug's offside, about these stranger sights.

Jim Davie — can really say he's 'been to Bali too'. Has a soft spot for things Micronesian. Holidaying there with Fiona and Pippa.

Alan Don — in 'deep water' over some park proposal or other between Gladstone and Bundaberg.

Dana Kelly — with her own brand of energetic zap is hard to pin down in the region or Head Office.

Ed Power — regional 'super' who's now almost forgotten a few weeks earlier this year running on 'unleaded' in Canada.

Peter Tierney — bridled naitail expert who offers his specialized field technique for insomniacs — a bullet fired 25mm above the skull and between the ears which stuns a roo into taking a nap!

John Toop — 'Batman' who's taken enforcement too far. Fitzroy Caves NP now has

more security gates than nearby Mt Etna Prison.

Terry Vowles — RD known to have survived after three days locked in a laboratory with Dave and Dick though ether stocks are getting low.

Steve Domm — has developed effective ways of combating stress in the marine parks workplace by playing his violin and 'eating' Maggi meals.

Bill Morley hasn't found any mice in the typewriter lately so no excuses for weird odours.

Michael O'Connor — into 'displaying' his bird calling techniques.

Ranger's Nightmare

The campgrounds are overflowing. Full of people back to the joys of camping. The rubbish bins are bursting at the seams. Emptied twice this morning — know what I mean? Campers and day visitors coming thick and fast. Will that ranger's endless patience last? Toilet blocks need cleaning. Septic tanks need pumping. Blocked toilets again. Help! Hose and mop for suction — do it yourself. Timber pile needs replenishing. Truck and chainsaws need refuelling. It's time to go out on patrol. What a way to grow old! There are dogs in the picnic grounds. Trail bikes going round and round. 4WDs stuck in a bog. People chainsawing a live log — Nothing else could possibly go wrong. Uh-o, flat tyre. What was that song? Paper work, mountainous reams. You wish this was all a bad dream. The day (thank God) has nearly ended. Campfire's lit, old yarns remembered. The Ranger now would like some rest. For you have done more than your best. A knock on the door as you lie asleep in bed. Excuse, sorry to disturb you. It's raining and we are wet. No wonder the Ranger is an endangered species. Perhaps someone should sit and write A long management thesis. — L. Kaye

Work, some play at Magnetic

Island workshop

Blame Northern captain Guy Thomas for the following, said to have been composed after a certain grudge cricket match during a break in the communications workshop at Magnetic Island. (Some communication! — Ed.)

The Cardwell Cup

Once there was a strange request
Coming from a Fisher-man,
Asking for some blood sport between two regions
So they formed in to a cricket match,
The Cardwell Cup was to-be won
Let's get 'em Northern and give 'em some.

Chorus:

Stick it up Far Northern,
Stick it up Far Northern
You'll come and stick one in Far Northern with me,
With Billy boy and Marc the ump
The Cairnsites 'r gonna get a thump
You'll come and stick one in Far Northern with me.

Down came the Northerners
Steaming to the popping crease,
Down went Cairns wickets one, two, three
A dazzling catch, a run-out chance
We're gonna flog their underpants,
Let's get 'em Northern and give 'em some.

Chorus

The match is done
O! Townsville won,
Bennett couldn't make a ton
We got 'em Northern and served 'em one.

Chorus

To the tune of Waltzing Matilda after a moderate to large consumption of alcohol... Queries about some of the terms used should be directed to participants.



Action in the Cardwell Cup grudge match (to decide which region the centre should really be in). Cardwell's Fay Page with the bat did her bit.



Team of enthusiastic Q.NPWS and other department staff engrossed with the meaning of the telling words of consultant Bill Andrew (at top of table) at the communications workshop at Magnetic Island.

Design vital for long life of building

Most people think the maintenance starts after a building has been built. Quite the contrary.

Maintenance must be considered well before a building is deteriorating.

The design of a building has a direct effect on the maintenance costs of a building.

A poorly designed building will deteriorate faster and will be difficult to maintain.

The following points show how design is the first step in maintenance.

Materials selection—

After the building is constructed there is little chance of replacing defective materials economically.

Materials chosen for the job will influence deterioration therefore the choice of the correct material for its purpose and environment is of critical importance.

Paint is one common material that fails due to improper design. Of the 12 types of paint available, acrylic paints perform the worst under extreme conditions.

When designing a paint system, the surface treatment, primer, undercoat and finish coats must be selected to perform under the temperature, humidity and sunlight extremes encountered at the location where the paint must be used.

Compatibility—

Building materials vary in life span, physical and chemical structure. If incompatible materials are in contact with each other, problems will eventually result.

Common problems include paint failures due to mixing brands of paint, rusting due to incompatible metals, concrete failures caused by unbalanced composition of ingredients and tile glue failing due to poor qualities of the backing material.

Maintainability—

Where a building material is not accessible to paint or inspect, then that part may deteriorate or fail without visible signs.

A well-designed building can be inspected and maintained without having to pull the building apart.

Common design considerations include: making sub-floor areas and termite barriers accessible for inspection; using inspection openings at critical points in drainage systems; and spacing fence palings so that edges can be painted.

Where a part can't be painted after assembly, then it makes sense to paint it before assembly.

In the drive to 'stretch the dollar', building researchers have developed ways to design, build and maintain buildings economically.

Life cycle costing is the method of selecting the most economical design by costing out the building's maintenance and running costs over its life cycle.

Design is the first step to infrastructure maintenance. Future articles will discuss workmanship during construction and maintenance when the building is complete.

Ageing of the Infrastructure from the CSIRO Division of Building Research is a useful publication.

Peter Burchard



Prehistory? No! Just MSA continued . . .

BC module is front door and a window

BC — the letters provide a convenient handle for MAS's Budgetary Control module — a module that is the 'front door' for most documents and input operators and the 'window' on budgetary information for managers.

BC manages to provide both these functions by dint of flexibility.

First it allows many input operators to access the available funds files in BC at one time by locking and unlocking individual files as required.

For example, two operators input two different purchase order lines which reference the same vote code at almost the same time.

The second operator who is a fraction slower will see the message AFF REC IN USE BY OPERATOR XXXX displayed on the bottom of the screen.

This indicates that the first operator is updating the funds file for that vote code and that access will not be allowed until he or she is finished that line of the document.

The file is thus updated correctly by the two operators in turn with minimal interruption to the flow of work.

A second example of flexibility in Budgetary Control is the option of setting various funding check levels for different types of funds.

A project like UC/370/-/2DST, Dept. of Science and Technology for Sea Turtles, cannot be allowed to go over budget so documents with this vote code are checked by the system at the budget level (third roll-up level) UC/370/00/2DS0.

However, a region may require more latitude to spend its allotted funds so again BC will check funds for documents at a higher level than just budget level.

Level 3: B1/2A0/-/2BUD	Budget \$4,497
Level 3: B1/2A0/-/2NRR	\$134,201
Level 4: B1/2A0/00/2000	\$138,698

Funds to a total of \$138,698 may be spent from either of the two lower level vote codes without concern for the individual budgets.

Note well that you cannot spend \$138,698 out of each centre's vote code.

This facility can extend right to the top of the account coding structure in Q.NPWS and this will be used in the new vote code structure for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to allow funds control at line-item level and still provide program budget information.

This will simplify both the recording and reporting of expenditure information with GBRMPA funding.

The 'window' referred to earlier is the final example of flexibility in BC.

The account coding structure used by Q.NPWS relies on roll-ups to record higher levels of accounting information.

This information may be accessed by a number of reports or by online enquiry. Either way the information supplied can be up-to-the-minute data.

This is an extremely useful facility when you may be sailing close to the edge of your budget around the end of June!

In a management role, BC is a very responsive system.

It can handle possible operator conflicts, provide a flexible attitude towards funds checking (where appropriate), and provide instant budgetary information when required.

The provision of these functions is part of the ongoing process of fine-tuning Budgetary Control to the needs of users within Q.NPWS.

Next issue we will look at our suppliers of goods and services through the screens of the Accounts Payable module or 'Why do people keep sending Vendor Set-ups to Accounts?'

Tony Hall
Acting Systems Development Officer.

Some find Service work such a pleasure

What motivates people to give up a week to six months of their leisure time to work for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service?

A brief talk to volunteers working out of the Southern Region office, Moggill, revealed these people come from many walks of life and are motivated for a variety of reasons.

Helena Gill is travelling round the world. She spent the last six years as a computer consultant in London.

She intended to stay on Moreton Island for two weeks but loved the place and extended her stay. She hopes to return after a period at Moggill.

'It was a complete contrast to my normal job — fresh air, physical work, beautiful surroundings, and a chance to pursue my hobby of

birdwatching in ideal conditions,' Helena said.

Allison Dunning collected resource information on Woodgate National Park and assessed its management implications.

She completed a master's degree at Armidale. She said her Q.NPWS work was 'a good way to keep her arm in'.

Peter Theilemann is a volunteer who achieved his ambition. After working at Moggill for nine months as a volunteer, he was employed on the permanent staff.

The Service is happy to provide work experience for motivated people.

Regional Director Noel Dawson says: 'We evaluate people's backgrounds, motives and ambitions and try to offer volunteers a meaningful experience.'



Allison Dunning at a Moggill desk.



Helena Gill back to her proper job at a computer terminal at Moggill.

Many fine specimens



Lake Broadwater EP Ranger Vic Wood showing specimens from the Lake Broadwater Museum to National Parks Minister Geoff Muntz (right) and some members of his Parliamentary conservation committee during an inspection visit on National Parks Day recently.