

Newspaws

For, of and by Q.NPWS staff

September 1987

Meeting decides

Survey to check resources

Distribution of resources within the Service is to be examined and reported on in the next three months.

Resources include manpower, finance, and plant and equipment.

The decision to appoint a small group to make the examination was made at the senior management group meeting in Brisbane recently when allocation of funds was determined.

Dick Grimes (Manager, Research and Planning Branch) and Des Boyland (Acting Director of Field Operations) were given the task and Clive Hughes (Mainland Estate Branch senior clerk) was asked to assist.

The Executive Management Group will act as the review panel.

The team will start work in early October and their job has to be completed by the end of December.

Regional directors are keen to co-operate.

Not all staff will be involved personally but, as the team will be using a sampling approach, you

may be a participant during the data collecting phase. The Service believes such a project is essential.

Regionalization has been in place for more than three years, Service trusts have varied, and the economic environment has become less friendly.

The Service also wishes to adopt a proactive stance to the suggested review to be undertaken across all departments of the Public Service.

The Service wishes to ensure resources are being directed towards the stated goals and major thrusts the Service has adopted.

Staff should not be worried about this exercise which is looking more at effort and resource allocations being put into the various programs and considering whether Service priorities are being met.

A circular containing more details will be distributed this month before the team starts work.

Word from the Minister

It's approaching a year since my appointment to the Tourism, National Parks and Sport portfolio.

In that time, I've managed to acquaint myself with much of Queensland's beauty and natural heritage preserved permanently in the national park estate.

Ours is the most diverse state in the Commonwealth and partly because of this we are Australia's number one tourist destination. I believe tourism and national parks go hand in hand as our beauty spots lure so many visitors.

In my travels from Lamington to the Cape York wilderness, I've managed to meet many Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff. I've been impressed by your loyalty, dedication and professionalism.

Queensland has a long and proud history of nature conservation. Since we declared our first national park almost 80 years ago, the estate has expanded to almost 3 500 000 hectares. In addition we have 147 environmental parks, two fauna reserves, five fauna refuges and more than 1350 areas declared fauna sanctuaries.

The Commonwealth Government has

announced its intention to place wet tropical rainforests on the World Heritage list, a move the Queensland Government opposes for a number of reasons.

One is that North Queenslanders have managed this priceless asset for more than a century. We do not need to be dictated to by centralists in Canberra.

Since the Service was created in 1975, our area of national park has trebled — convincing evidence of the Government's commitment to conservation.

While I have gone about familiarising myself with the portfolio, I could not help but remark on occasions on the high standards set by Service officers.

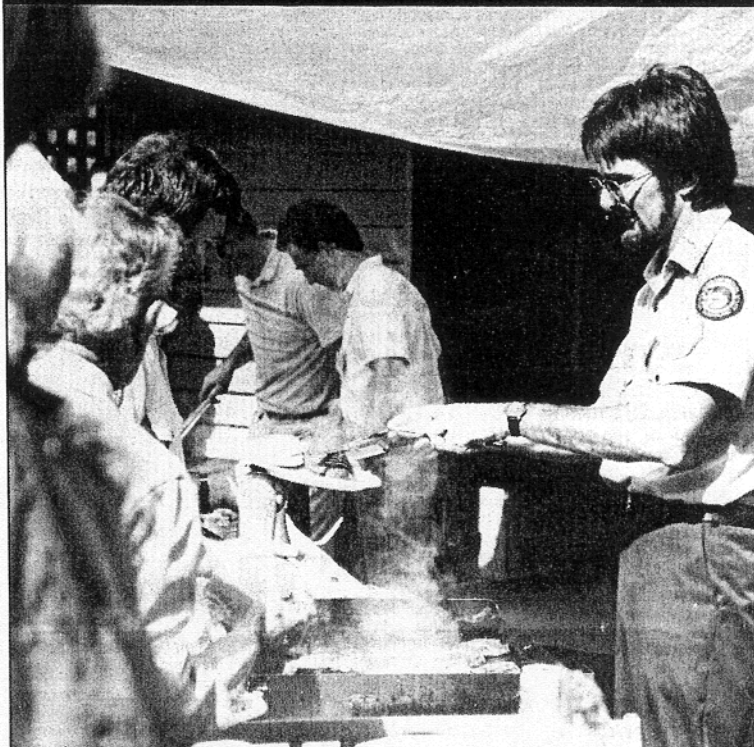
The aim of having significant national parks in all 13 terrestrial biogeographic regions is a worthy one.

As Member for Whitsunday, one of the most beautiful areas of Queensland, I am proud to say I am a nature lover.

Again, my congratulations for a job well done.

Geoff Muntz
Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport

Wildlife steaks



Steaks, source unknown, being served by wildlife ranger Vic Bushing from the barbecue for some of the 200 guests who attended the opening of Fleay's Fauna Centre in July.

A sumptuous spread with a range of liquid refreshments was offered, thanks to many willing hands of Service staff who responded at short notice.

Was there anyone left at Head Office or Moggill that day?

Other officers conducted guests around the complex and showed films and videos.

Newly-appointed manager Greg Wellard, fresh from Charleville, recognized the importance of the occasion and bought a new suit.

The appearance of some staff rated adverse comment.

One group seemed to enjoy the pleasures while others toiled.

But now we know those who had a deprived childhood and who came back for seconds and thirds of the special macadamia nut ice cream made for the day.

Don't feel inhibited if you see a vacancy you believe you have the capacity and skills to fill — go for it. This applies to all employees.

In recent times, the number of applications for positions has been disappointing. This is not a reflection on the successful applicants.

But there is a need for people to put themselves forward for consideration.

There are a number of advantages in applying. It gives notice of your intention to seek promotion and indicates you are prepared to accept change and challenge.

It improves your skills in applying for the one you may really want.

The other aspect you should consider is that positions can be filled consequentially.

The Service has a policy of appointing the most appropriate applicant to a vacancy.

An interview technique where the various qualifications are weighted and each applicant interviewed appraised objectively against qualifications is adopted.

Usually, recommendations are reviewed by appropriate officers before the successful candidate is advised.

You should treat all interviews as a learning experience. Even if you are

Go for a vacancy

successful, you should follow up with the panel how to improve your performance next time.

I have heard disquieting rumours that cause me considerable concern. There are suggestions it is pointless applying for certain positions as people have been given the nod or are told they are set before interviews.

I can assure applicants nothing can be further from the truth.

Naturally people are given encouragement by their supervisors and told they have potential. This should not be interpreted as being set for positions.

Similarly, some people have experience and skills which make them obvious choices for positions. This cannot be construed as being given an inside run.

If you have any concerns, contact me. If you want assistance or advice, ask. But above all have a go!

Des Boyland

From the Director

The messages in the form of cards, letters and telephone calls both direct and through Ruth Marshall which have come to me and my family over the past 15 weeks have been simply overwhelming.

From the bottom of my heart to each and every one of you, thank you for your concern, your support, your thoughts and your prayers.

You will have heard by now that the 12 weeks intensive program of chemotherapy has 'cured' my cancer. The trick now is to hold it in permanent remission.

I plan to be back in the saddle by early October.

Graham Saunders

Thanks

To so many wonderful people from all regions of the Service throughout Queensland for flowers, gifts, cards, phone calls and gestures of support which I have received since Kath's death. The realisation that so many of you show such care and concern has been an inspiration both to myself and to the children.

Please accept my most sincere thanks for being such supportive friends at such a sad time for our family

Geoff Cole and the children

Record system to alter

Findings of the review into the Service's records management system were submitted to the Records Review Steering Committee in August.

Significant changes to the existing system are recommended. Key recommendations include:

- total rationalization of the existing non-tenure filing system;
- introduction of a document classification system based on the Service's program management structure;
- changes to the tenure filing system which would eliminate ministerial files and allow the introduction of project files; and

- progressive introduction of computerisation to assist in key areas such as indexing and file tracking.

A work group of Jim McKittrick, Greg White and Mike Stapleton has been appointed to implement the report's recommendations.

Initially, all changes will be implemented on a trial basis within Head Office before being extended to regional offices.

Changes to the system will become evident to users by Christmas when new file covers and structured file titles will be introduced.

Letter to the Editor

On 29 June this year, we had the good fortune of being served in your Cairns office by John Cornelius and Daryn Storch.

We were extremely impressed by the ability of these gentlemen to articulate the complexities of both on and off-shore management plans in relation to our queries concerning flora and fauna protection in the range of park environs.

We deeply appreciate the strong inter-personal and interpretive skills which these men possess. They are a valuable asset to your organization.

Sincerely,
Doug Worley, Sigre Swenson
1812 Newell Ave, Walnut Creek
CA, USA, 94595



Interleaves

The new financial year has started quietly but a few interesting projects are under way.

The personal communication courses proved popular with field staff and two more courses are planned to train key public contact staff in face-to-face communication skills like active listening and assertion. The first course will be held in late October in north Queensland.

The recent rural nature conservation field day at Goodiwindi was a great success — we all need to look outside parks for ways to promote nature conservation. The field day demonstrated how farmers are making provision for native wildlife while making a living off the land.

New brochures include marine parks, magpie nesting, visitor rights, Fleay's field guide and several visitor information sheets (Springbrook, Bunya Mountains, Baldwin Wetlands, Walking Tracks of Far Northern Region and Cape York parks).

The new Burleigh Head display is almost completed and a revamp of the Heron Island Information Centre display is planned. Aboriginal history panels for Carnarvon Information Centre are completed.

Several parks will soon have new visitor orientation signs — Kondallilla, Mapleton Falls, Lawn Hill, Blackdown Tableland, Noosa, Girraween and South Molle Island. Interpretive signs for Lark Quarry Environmental Park should be installed next month.

Liaison with tourist operators is emerging as a major Service role — the latest seminars for tour operators were conducted at St Helena Island and Port Douglas (rainforest tourism in north Queensland).

The RNA Show is over for another year. Many thanks to all the staff who helped out both at the Service display on Queensland habitats and at the store.

The RNA sale items like the sticky-tongued echidna and duck quacker attracted some criticism from field staff. For the first time, the Service had a shopfront in the Show Bag pavilion — we shared the Chann1 7 store and contributed items like Agro's Fun Book to the Channel 7 show bag.

People familiar with the RNA Show will realize that selling items like a sticky-tongued echidna was quite appropriate for the venue and clientele. The Service also sold posters, postcards, a magpie cap, and bird caller and made a substantial profit.

If you are concerned about commercialization associated with nature conservation you should try to suggest some alternative money-making ventures. Your regional interpreter or Technical Services Head Office staff would love to hear your ideas.

The CONCOM Working Group on Community Education and Interpretation met in Brisbane in early September. Visits to Brisbane Forest Park, St Helena and Fleay's allowed Service staff to mix with some of the best interpretive brains in Australia.

The Capricornia public contact plan which has just been completed should provide a useful framework for all public communication and education activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Best wishes to staff involved in September school holiday interpretive programs.

Pamela Harmon-Price

Shoptorque

Units ready to fire

The Government Garage workshops at Zillmere in Brisbane have been constructing a number of 'slip on, mop up' fire units for use by the Service throughout the state.

All materials were provided by the Service with labour and paint provided by the Government Garage.

The units will slip on to Toyota Landcruisers, Hilux four-wheel drives and Daihatsu tip trucks. They will be one man operational and, when not in use, will stand on self-supporting legs.

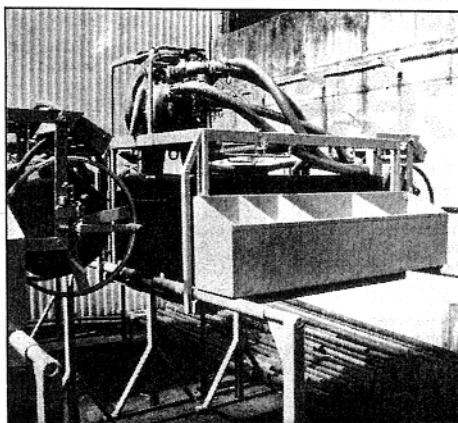
The advantage of this design is that the tanks can remain full and ready for immediate operation.

Fifteen of the units have

been completed to date with two already in service at Venman's Reserve and Bundaberg. Difficulty in obtaining some critical parts has caused delays in construction. However these have now been received.

It is envisaged that they will be distributed on a 'one to one' basis with the older units being returned to the Government Garage for refurbishment and relocation.

This redistribution will be co-ordinated by the Chief Management Officer, Mainland (Dick Clarkson), who will be in contact with regions shortly seeking information on present fire fighting resources.



The long-term aim is to have these standard fire units strategically located throughout each region to respond to fire emergencies.

Care has been taken to ensure these units are compatible with fire equipment used by the Forestry Department. Most rural fire brigades are

gradually upgrading to compatible equipment.

Other items currently on the Government Garage Reburishment Program include transportable accommodation units, caravans, International Acco trucks and a vintage International bus for use on St Helena Island.

Peter Cavendish

Psssssst . . .

The following is dedicated to the staffer (considerably embarrassed) seen recently conveying a rather ancient bicycle for his lady friend.

Rumour has it the hasty agreement to transport the machine was made under circumstances of diminished responsibility!

There was a young man from Mt Isa Who delivered his girl's bike to entice her.

Now the bike it was old, but the boy he was bold.

May the machine (alone) not have sufficed her?

Lew Thompson sparking again after surgery and holidaying before work again in Head Office despatch.

Dave Ritchie, also back at work after surgery, heading to Townsville to relieve while Paul Curtis goes on long service.

Moggill staff missing Dot Finch's cheery smile. Biometrician Cathy Nance leaves soon to be a consultant actuary.

Media unit's Tina Dalton preparing to accept an invitation to spend three months working with the BBC's Natural History Unit, Bristol.

Noel Dawson and Mark Weaver off to the US to observe national park management techniques and practices.

Ross Hynes presently in Denver, Colorado, representing the Service at the 4th World Wilderness Congress.

Bill Fisher going to Perth for a CONCOM seminar.

Travelweek 1987 Award for marketing, promotion and stand design has gone to the Service for its recent Sydney Holiday and Travel Show display.

Chuck Wilder is still washing out his mouth after recent communication from Dave Savage.

Instructions were the fax was so secret it had to be eaten after perusal!

Favourable comments received for Bill Morley and staff at Carnarvon Gorge for their friendly campfire presentations to holidaymakers.

If only the billy tea wasn't stewed by the time staff got their cups . . .

Bob Speirs, John Barton, David Flett and Libby Winter plus the Mt Isa boys have all had input to plans for Carnooeal Caves National Park — our latest.

David Flett hit the Tableland headlines as Chillagoe Outback and Historical and Bushcraft Festival Committee president.

Would you believe the Eastern Scenic Rim district office which did not move had three addresses assigned in one month? We're assured they're now at Hollywell, not Coombabah or Paradise Point.

To Jono Walsh and Bronwyn — a girl, Emily. To Peter Hunnam and Jos — also a girl.

All of Rainbow Beach talking about the smell of yoghurt after an Acting Regional Superintendent became airborne in his vehicle.

Which Cape York District Ranger skinnydipping at Fruit Bat Falls, Heathlands, one cool night recently found the 'king brown' snake attacking him was really only an eel searching for a tasty small worm?

Too close for comfort for an ex-wildlife ranger!

Marine Parks, Cairns, Ministerial brief recently noted a swinging population of dugong.

Are surveillance flights nothing more than aerial voyeurism?



Congratulations to our bridled nalltail wallaby curator Peter Tierney, advised of success with his QIT Masters in Applied Science.

Emergency pay granted

A major breakthrough has been achieved with approval to grant overtime to rangers called out in emergent situations.

The Service has recognized the need for an extension of the Public Service Award to meet emergent situations unique to our needs.

emergent overtime to be worked. Before work starts, both parties must understand the work involves overtime payment.

In future, overtime will be paid where a ranger is called from his or her normal abode and instructed to undertake duties associated with an emergent situation.

In circumstances where prior approval was impossible to obtain, justification for payment will have to be provided by the officer and endorsed by the Regional Director.

This includes wildfires, wildlife attack, or assistance given to outside organizations such as the fauna squad or in search and rescue.

A Ranger Emergency Overtime Authority form has been prepared, and this must be completed, endorsed and attached to the overtime claim before payment will be made. Overtime claims will not be processed until this form has been received.

Overtime will not be paid where the situation is an extension of an on-going event or some previously planned event.

Claims for emergent overtime are to be met from Regional funding for overtime and allowances.

In these cases, normal conditions of equivalent time off prevail.

Rangers should ask regional offices for clarified details about overtime at weekends and public holidays.

Prior approval of the Regional Director or Executive Management Group member is necessary for

More show \$ for trust fund



Michael Quinn and Danuta Kolarski in their commercial sales guises to face the public in the Service's section of the Channel 7 stand at the recent Royal Brisbane Show.

Reaction to a range of nature products offered was good, and our excellent relationship with the television station in several fields was reinforced by our participation.

This outlet was in addition to the Service's presentation in the Queensland Government pavilion.

Rec. leave stops at 40

Here is a formal reminder about recreation leave provisions. Cut it out and keep for reference to avoid confusion!

A Public Service employee may not accumulate recreation leave of more than 40 working days, or 50 working days for those working in northern and western areas.

A wages employee may not accumulate recreation leave beyond 40 working days wherever he or she works.

Where an employee allows recreation leave to accrue in excess of the maximum, the leave beyond the maximum will be regarded as having lapsed as recreation leave and will be transferred to undrawn leave.

This undrawn leave is available for sick leave if an employee has used the entitlement of sick leave on full pay.

It may also be made available for other purposes such as attendance at conferences or conventions.

This undrawn recreation leave does not attract loading.

It is possible for recreation leave to be deferred for departmental

reasons. However, deferral of recreation leave is not to be used as a means of circumventing the maximum accumulation provisions or to suit the convenience of the employee.

At least one month's notice is desirable when an employee applies for recreation leave. This allows for the application to be processed, for relief arrangements if applicable, and for a cash advance to be arranged where appropriate.

If you have any enquiries regarding holiday leave, call me on (07) 227 5342.

Elizabeth Tunstall
Assistant Personnel Officer

STOP PRESS: With the changes in organization and working conditions announced in this month's State Budget, some major decisions will have to be made by the Service. Details will be sent to all staff as soon as they are fixed.

Claims continue

● Award paper ● Second tier

The draft working paper of the Wages Award working party was completed in late July. This comprises information from survey questionnaires by wages staff and data from the workshop in late 1986.

The paper proposes a nine-level classification structure grouped in four 'bands' for a career structure. Also proposed are conditions and provisions to be covered by the new award and/or Service policies.

Lester Harth has discussed the paper with Regional Directors, Regional Superintendents and branch managers to get reactions and to formulate a management viewpoint. The Public Service Board industrial division has also had the chance to comment.

The paper with a summary of reactions and comments will be submitted to the EMG soon. When Service/PSB discussions have been held, relevant unions will be contacted.

Not a big response was received to the Public Service Board's request for matters which might be considered in negotiations about the second tier of wage rises.

Lester Harth thanks those who participated.

These were the themes raised and passed to the Board:

Public Service management structure; rationalization of staffing ratio (technical to administrative); lack of delegation of authority; time spent on low priority activities; servicing of Government vehicles; increased flexibility in purchasing; overtime payments for field staff; overlap between State and Federal bodies; casual employment; locality allowances; leave in remote areas; and Wages Employees Award.

Faces in places

Numerous staff changes in recent times will affect many areas of Service operations.

Most important among these is the establishment of a marketing component within Organizational Services, an outcome of the Surfair strategic management conference.

Bob McTaggart has taken over as manager (Marketing and Property Management Branch) and has Michael Quinn, Roger Newnham, Peter Cavendish, Nicole Grosvenor and property management staff to assist.

An organizational chart is with Regional Directors and branch managers.

Other recent staff movements include:

Salary commencements: Monica Garner and Steven Keable (Head Office), Peter Baylis and Lesene Anderson (Parramatta), David Briggs (Rockhampton), and Stephen Goosom (Cairns).

Positions filled: Anthony Hall (systems development officer, Head Office), Gregory Wellard (special duties, Fisay's Fauna Centre), Joseph Minehan (regional administration officer, Cairns), Adriana Isola (technical services clerk, Head Office), Paul Kummerow (Ranger Div. 2, Moggill), and James McKinnick (assistant administration officer, records and communication).

Transfers: Dean Lee and Michael Osmond (to Gladstone), Brenda Dutton (to Prisons Dept.), Declan McNamara (to Chief Office).

Salary terminations: Maria Wrench, Leonie Lee, Margot Hodgins, Tony Williamson, and Cathy Nance.

Wages commencements: Peter Stevenson (Carnarvon), Marvin Lynch (Lakeland), Samuel Di Bella (Mt Spec), John Keegan (Cairns), Bartholomew Klear (Cairns), Ronald Allford (Moggill), Christopher Nash (Townsville).

Transfers: Robin Best, Sean Conlon and Raymond Curtis (to Beaudesert), Peter Chapman (to Pine Ridge), Cameron James (to Blackdown), Graham Johnson (to Green Mountains), Tom Mumbray (to Townsville).

Position filled: Anthony O'Keefe (Overseer Div. 1 Moggill).
Wages terminations: Hague Best, Dorothy Finch, Kevin Lees.



Double check of the paperwork by our hard-working staffers Dianne Maccoll and Leah Dol in the organized shambles of the stores, property and whatever else section of Head Office seventh floor.

Too often many staff take their duties for granted. But they can smile at times, even under extreme

duress by someone who wanted something not only yesterday but the day before that!

Now Nicole Grosvenor is in charge, Kanwal Josan is outnumbered by the girls.

Seriously, thanks to all in the section for a very hard job well done.

Into training for your job in future

Service staff participated in the second residential Management Development Workshop at Lake Persverance in June.

This was conducted with the Valuer General's and Local Government Departments.

Service participants were Pamela Harmon-Price, Danuta Kolarski, Warren Oxnam, Neil Krause and Konrad Beissen. Mike Stapleton (Management Services) attended as a workshop staff member.

Overall, Service staff acquitted themselves well in the competitive environment. Highlight was the major exercise 'Futureville' in which work groups came up with some innovative strategies to deal with competing groups.

The next such workshop is planned for Magnetic Island from 20 November. The Service will be taking its own cook for the week!

In other training activities, a communications workshop is planned for Townsville (26-30 October), and a project management course for Southern Region staff will be held at the Queensland Agricultural College before the year's end.

More green for north Queensland



Lake Eacham district senior overseer Gary Wieden in the nursery of the Lake Eacham base of which he and his staff can be very proud.

With limited resources but plenty of experience and planning, they have brought the nursery into producing many thousands of trees every year for planting on and off the Service estate.

A number of projects including protection of Barron Gorge National Park adjacent to the Cairns-Kuranda railway will benefit from the raising of a limited range of selected rainforest trees and their exposure to months of open conditions at Lake Eacham before planting out.

Our odd spots

The Toowoomba office is into nightwork — spotlighting! Eighty local residents took part in attempts to find nocturnal native fauna on two nights in July.

Who can blame the fauna for not performing to expectations in that climate? At least some knowledge of local fauna was imparted along with billy tea and damper around a campfire.

Another two nights were planned for this month.

Wildlife and landscaped grounds are the reasons the South West District Office, Charleville, gives for causing more locals, school children and visitors to pause there.

The office has been so successful in its public education goal that at last count a birthday and eight weddings had been celebrated in the grounds this year!

Be a 'dobber'

How would you like to 'dob in' a person who with skill and dedication seeks to achieve excellence in the field of the environment?

Your chance is to nominate the person for this section of the Bicentennial BHP Awards for The Pursuit of Excellence.

The reward may be a grant of \$40,000 plus a trophy. Additionally, a \$10,000 grant will go to a person under 25 in

one of the six broad categories in the rules.

You may nominate yourself or find yourself nominated by someone else!

Some copies of the detailed entry form have been distributed in the Service. Or you may obtain copies by writing to the Award Secretariat, GPO Box 8003V, Melbourne, 3001.

Entries close on 2 October.

Cope with disaster

All of us have been or will be exposed to a disaster situation of some proportion in our lifetime. Firefighting and search and rescue are examples.

When it happens, most often we are not aware the effect the disaster or stress situation is having on our behaviour, or the effect it is having on our workmates, friends or family.

The Macedon Digest, Vol 2 No 1 1987, featured an article on short term human response to disaster which identified our different responses and offered suggestions on how to assist in recovery.

The Australian Counter Disaster College, Mt Macedon, 3441, produces the Digest. Reading the article in full is recommended.

Rare plants guide — at last

DPI senior botanist Bill McDonald and experimentalist Megan Thomas have done the Service a great service in producing a new book, Rare and Threatened Plants of Queensland.

At last staff will have a updated, most relevant reference for the odd plants they have to consider, as well as an answer to innumerable queries from students about the topic.

The book names 1115 vascular plants including orchids, ferns, shrubs trees and grasses, about one-seventh of the state's flora.

This is more than double the previous estimate of rare or 'at risk' plant species.

Data was compiled from Queensland Herbarium computerised records with help from botanists in Queensland, interstate and overseas, and is the first systematic review of the status of Queensland plants.

Copies from DPI Information Centre, GPO Box 46, Brisbane, 4001, at \$8 each plus \$2 surface postage and handling or \$3.50 airmail.



Another apparently placid meeting between media unit members Tina Dalton and Damian McGreevy with Agro, of the children's TV program Wombat. Tina, with Damian's help, appeared in nature conservation segments with Agro twice a day during the recent Royal Brisbane Show. Trouble was that Agro's mentor Jamie Dunn was just under the elevated stage whispering comments trying to break up the straight-faced presentation of our rangers.

Keep a red eye on your visitors

Anyone in the Central Regional Office with hearing acute enough to pick up a faint clicking sound every time they pass a particular pot plant can relax.

The click is only the sound of the counter unit on a 'people counter' recording the passage of yet another pilgrim to or from the front counter.

The counter, designed to count users on park walking tracks automatically with minimal staff effort, is being tested.

The counter consists of two units. A sender unit transmits an infra red beam to a receiver unit which activates a counter each time the beam is broken.

The counter has been developed and built by the proprietor of a local security alarm firm (in his spare time) to a specification supplied by Fitzroy District overseer Rod Mackey.

Essential features of the counter units are:



• Light weight; each unit weighs about 4.5 kg.

• Capable of being sited up to 50 m apart (important to aid concealment).

• Compact; units measure 180 mm by 170 mm by 155 mm.

• Easy to carry; fitted with carry handles which double as sights as the units have to be aligned for the system to work.

• Battery powered; each unit has a 12 volt rechargeable lead paste battery which can last nine or ten days.

• Waterproof.

The units will be tested shortly on the Mt Archer Environmental Park track. Performance will be monitored closely to determine if any 'bugs' occur in the field.

The counter is designed to gauge use of the Mt Archer walking track. But provided the units prove reliable and can be concealed, there is no reason why the use of other tracks cannot also be assessed.

Rod Mackey

EIAs for parks?

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process to assess the consequences of proposed developments on the environment.

Most EIAs have been general in their approach, inadequate in their predictions, and of little value to managers.

Recent developments on parks have caused environmental damage which will be difficult and expensive to rectify.

More careful site selection and consideration of consequences may have avoided this damage.

Instances include pollution of a lake such that water used from it must be chlorinated,

building of pit toilets on land with a high water table, construction of campgrounds where there are hydrological problems, and the poor siting of walking tracks resulting in extensive erosion.

A recent paper in the Journal of Environmental Management on the management of Heron Island pointed out succinctly that management statements made by the Service were attempting to rationalize the presence of development rather than look at environmental effects.

Act obligation

We have an obligation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to preserve the parks intact for future generations. The biophysical aspects of development within parks must be taken into account.

We appear to have a professional approach to site layout and development design but lack it in site selection and in considering long term impacts.

A properly conducted EIA would be of benefit in park management and could be a helpful component of park management planning.

I suggest an EIA proforma be drawn up by the Service (with technical input from Research and Planning Branch) with questions designed to minimize future problems in site selection.

This is necessary even where management plans exist as these plans are based only on the available information which may be inadequate, particularly in the biological area.

The EIA report should be examined by a review committee of branch managers before funds are allocated.

Monitoring of areas which are subject to development is essential to note changes which may not have been predicted in an EIA.

We must adopt a balanced approach to park management rather than seeing park management as purely recreation management.

K.R. McDonald
Research and Planning
Branch
Pallarenda

Rosier, J., Hill, G. and Kozlowski, J. 1986. Environmental Limitations: A Framework for Development on Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, Journal of Environmental Management, 23: 59-63.

[This is one officer's view. Statements are made about the judgments of others. Comments are invited for inclusion in the next Newspaws.— Editor]

Deadline

All staff are reminded the deadline for contributions to the next edition of Ringtail with Newspaws supplement is 15 November in time for production and distribution by the school holidays.