



# Ranger Rambler

## QRA Chairperson Resigns

Yes it is true - I have resigned as QRA chair. This was a difficult decision for me to make but I believe it is the best one for both the QRA and myself. It has been a challenging few months for me in my role as a ranger. I did not believe that I was going to get through it until I applied for the Seiner Ranger role in Atherton and was successful. So I am picking my family up and moving to the North to look after the Tablelands North. It is due to this new role that I feel I can no longer give the QRA chair role the dedication it deserves and have therefore resigned my post to concentrate on my new role and my family. I will be staying on in the executive group to help in the transition to a new Chairperson and will also be continuing as the deputy chair of the Australian Ranger Federation

As I stated before, it has been a tough few months with a number of disappointments at the hands of the Agency. I can hear a number

of you saying "I now what that is about". If there is one thing I have learned as QRA Chair, is that this Agency is not good at managing change. It seems to want to embrace change and re-focus roles of rangers but imparting that knowledge and focus onto the coalface is left wanting at so many stages. I urge the QRA Executive and all members to continue to try and assist in this change process by informing your supervisor when it is handled badly. By suggesting how it can be done better, how you want to be treated and how the grapevine is not the way to find out about changes. I am not saying this is occurring in every district but it is certainly more prevalent than it should be.

Rangers are funny people. We not only deal with the general public who all think we have the easiest job in the world and therefore are a bunch of ... (see page .. 15), But we also have to deal with a bureaucracy that often does not support or

has very little understanding about what we do or why. We are dedicated to the role of rangers and love what we do often giving more of ourselves and our time than we are ever compensated for but do we care?... not really. We continue to do this because we love what we do and what we can achieve given the correct resources and the support. I want to tell a small story about why I became a ranger: I was travelling around Australia when my partner and I decided it was time to settle down. I decided I would become a teacher. We were in WA heading back to QLD to go to uni, when we climbed the Gloucester Tree, which is a large kauri that is used as a fire tower (if you get a chance to do this go for it you will never forget the experience). I got to the top and was looking out across the forest and said to myself "I should become a forest ranger. That would be a

## Cattle on parks

*their effects, our obligations and where to from here...*

### **Cattle on Parks: their effects, our obligations and where to from here.**

Stock grazing (both cattle and sheep) has been an integral part of the northern Australian landscape since European settlement. In fact stock grazing has been so widespread that pockets of ironbark woodland deep within Charters Towers' Great Basalt Wall, may be some of the very few woodlands in northern Australia that have never been grazed by stock.

Cattle are selective in their choice of feed, and pasture composition is influenced by both the intensity and season of grazing. It is well documented that persistent heavy grazing pressure will cause soil erosion, alter pasture composition, spread weed seeds, increase weed density, reduce grass cover and inhibit seed production in palatable grasses and herbs. Reductions in grass cover, herb diversity and seed production are particular concerns given the numbers of

granivorous birds and small mammals that are declining in abundance across northern Australia. A diversity of grasses and herbs provide continual food and shelter throughout the year and this issue is emerging as a key issue for managing sustainable populations of many native animals.

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The Queensland Nature Conservation Act (1992, Section 17) stipulates that the cardinal principle for national park management is to provide for the preser-