

Recognising Rangers on the 50th Anniversary of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)

Queensland Ranger Association would like to personally thank all Rangers for their contribution to protected area management and conservation.

Rangers have been fundamental to the formation of conservation services and the ongoing protection, preservation and management of our natural icons, landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage. For well over 50 years, Ranger roles have evolved in step with the challenges and needs of protected area management, contributing essential knowledge, skills, and leadership across the landscape.

A 'Ranger' is anyone who manages and protects natural and cultural heritage and wildlife in parks and reserves; the term may not be in your title, but if it is in your heart, you are a Ranger.

Some fun facts from the early days:

- Witches Falls National Park on Tamborine Mountain was Queensland's first national park, gazetted on 28 March 1908, and the Bunya Mountains the second, on 1 August 1908.
- In the early 1950s, Forestry Rangers ensured newly gazetted Parks were valued and preserved in a condition as unaltered as possible.
- Our associates in the National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) assisted in over 88 of the early gazettals of National Parks throughout the state.
- Field staff in June 1972 comprised 3 Rangers, 28 overseers and 42 workmen. One zoologist and one botanist were appointed this year.
- The National Parks Branch within Forestry and the Fauna Conservation Branch within Primary Industries started to merge, and over 70 years of land stewardship by Forestry was handed over to the newly formed Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1974.
- Early Rangers proudly toting the brown "Herbie" possum badge were described as tenacious with the ability to work long hours in remote districts, across huge geographic scale and a frightening taxonomic scope to research, monitor and protect as well as to implement innovation necessary for the tasks at hand.
- The exact same can be said for today's Rangers, wildlife officers and our support staff managing over 1000 protected areas in Queensland.

NPAQ Chief Executive Officer, Chris Thomas, also congratulated QPWS on its 50th anniversary.

"For five decades, QPWS has been a dedicated guardian of Queensland's natural and cultural treasures, preserving our unique landscapes and biodiversity for future generations," Mr Thomas said.

"NPAQ is honoured to have played a part in the advocacy for protected areas and continues to support QPWS's vital work in conservation and sustainable park management.

"We thank QPWS Rangers, staff, and partners whose passion and commitment have shaped this incredible legacy."

The Queensland Ranger Association (QRA) acknowledges and thanks our retired Rangers and those who are still in service but now in different roles, those whose passion, grit and isolated work allow us now to work with the freedom, connectivity, allowances, safety and incredible heritage and biodiversity.

Rangers are the custodians of Queensland's natural treasures and recognition is not only deserved, but vital for ensuring the visibility and value of the work done on the ground every day and into the future.

The Thin Green Line Foundation is a global non-for-profit organization, providing support for Rangers in their roles as first responders [For Rangers - Thin Green Line website](#)

In association with QPWS and for this occasion, QRA is supporting a limited run of 50th Anniversary retro “Herbie the Ringtail Possum” t-shirts screen printed locally in Brisbane by Silk+Squeeg, with \$5 from each sale going directly to Thin Green Line foundation <https://www.silkandsqueeg.com/store>

- Ends -

Contacts:

- QRA President Corinna Browne at info@queenslandranger.org or 0498 810 946
- NPAQ CEO Chris Thomas at ceo@npa.org.au or 0427 024 579