



NEWSLETTER



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PERSPECTIVE

by Randy Hawley

Order and rules. . .our world, our lives our parks are based on these. Rules to protect the environment, rules to protect our visitors and rules to aid in the enjoyment of life, our job is to insure use does not turn to abuse. We are protect-ors of land and life in our parks.

We wish for an idealistic setting of singing birds and laughing children. But the low side of society does come our way. If this element threatens our responsibilities, we are the handlers of the situation. Compliance is the goal based on understanding of the rules. Our job is not apprehension or punishment of life's deviants, but protection of our parks from acts against them.

We enjoy a stereotype of flower-sniffing educated, responsible individuals who work in a dream-like environment. We are not viewed with the disdain and misunderstanding that embodies most law enforcement agencies because we have historically avoided aligning ourselves in appearance and attitude with them. We have the opportunity to gain compliance with understanding and reasoning. I see a trend toward the lazy way of enforcement, ie. non-emergency Code-3 vehicles P.O.P.E. gear, controlled-expansion bullets, batons, POST certification and a cold forceful demeanor.

I believe the true spirit and attitude of our profession does not favor this but a humanitarian method for compliance. This mellow attitude is at work and is working in the field. By using "police" tactics of enforcement and visual similarity we are aligning ourselves with those agencies which the public might not regard with trust and willingness to follow requests. A hard core contact by one will make it harder for the soft core ranger as the public image starts to change in respect to a negative contact.

The ranger is a professional with no other intent than to help and serve. The police are enforcers of law and apprehenders of wrong-doers. Their job is necessary, but it is not our job. We can make the choice.

DOWN UNDER

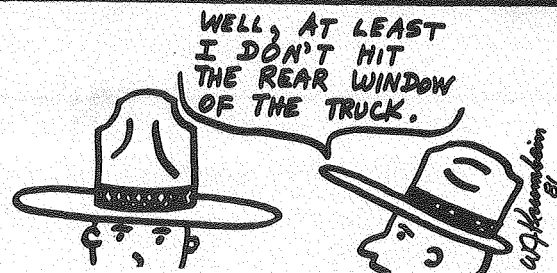
Interpreting Next Door to Alice

by Rick Parmer

The Old Telegraph Station and the Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve are two historical sites of major interpretive significance in the Alice. (Remember, mates this bloke is binging on the Aussie slang so check the previous Newsletter if you are getting bogged) The Old Telegraph Station was the sole reason for European settlement of central Australia when it was founded in 1871. This repeater station was erected on mile north, "up the track" from the present business district. The telegraph wire was strung between Adelaide and Darwin to allow regular transmission of messages across the continent. It was a major feat for the blokes sent out bush to find and repair breaks as related through interpretive displays. In addition, supplies were brought in by Afghan camel drivers through a torturous three week journey from Port Augusta to the south.

25 km. down the track toward Adelaide there is a group of petroglyphs of unknown age and origin. The Ewaninga rock carvings are guesstimated to be the record of a pre-Aboriginal people from over 40,000 years ago. A self-guiding interpretive track meanders through six hectares of spinifex (indicator specie) bush. The emu footprint is recognizable on these carvings however present Aborigines do not understand them or claim historical authorship.

KIOSK KWIPS



Dear Director Dangermond:

When CSPRA protested the planned installation of the BY-WORD system at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, it did so because of the philosophical belief that such electronic devices were not compatible with the natural scene. Included in our plea to stop such an installation was a major concern over the environmental impact of the installation, as well as the excessive costs of the project. However, after receiving assurances from you that the environmental impact would be minimal, since it was to be confined to the existing compacted trail area; and after listening to your commitment to give the system a try, CSPRA did not mount extensive media and political pressure to attempt to stop the project. The assurance of negligible impact by the project due to its confinement to the Redwood Trail was confirmed at every level of management with which CSPRA dealt.

It is now apparent that CSPRA was deceived. Had we known that the installation project would leave the actual trail area and cut a 4-foot to 5-foot swath, along with a trench, through the prime redwood grove that the Department has the obligation to protect

We would have blocked the installation through the use of all resources at our disposal. I am embarrassed that our own resource management directives were violated by the route taken, and am appalled that a categorical exemption was claimed, in violation of the spirit of the E.I.R. process.



CSPRA protests the deception involved with the installation of the BY-WORD cable, and requests answers to several pertinent questions:

1. When was the decision made to go through the redwood grove rather than stay on the trail? Why was CSPRA told the redwood trail would be the route of cable burial, and not told the details of the actual route through the grove?
2. Why was there no resource protection staff member on site when the grove was cleared and trenched? And why was trenching done during a rainstorm rather than after an appropriate wait for suitable weather and soil conditions? The soil permeability in the area may be damaged for years.
3. A four-foot wide swath with a one-foot wide trench cut through the interior preserve of the prime resource is hardly minimum impact. Why wasn't an appropriate E.I.R. completed as mandated by law? What happens when the cable needs repair? Does the grove get trenched again? Or, will the trail be followed then as promised?

In short, CSPRA would like a full management review of the decision-making process which allowed a half-century of protection to be made ludicrous in one morning. A serious look at what our Department stands for, or stood for, needs to be taken so that the public trust is not again violated.



Denzil R. Verardo, President

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