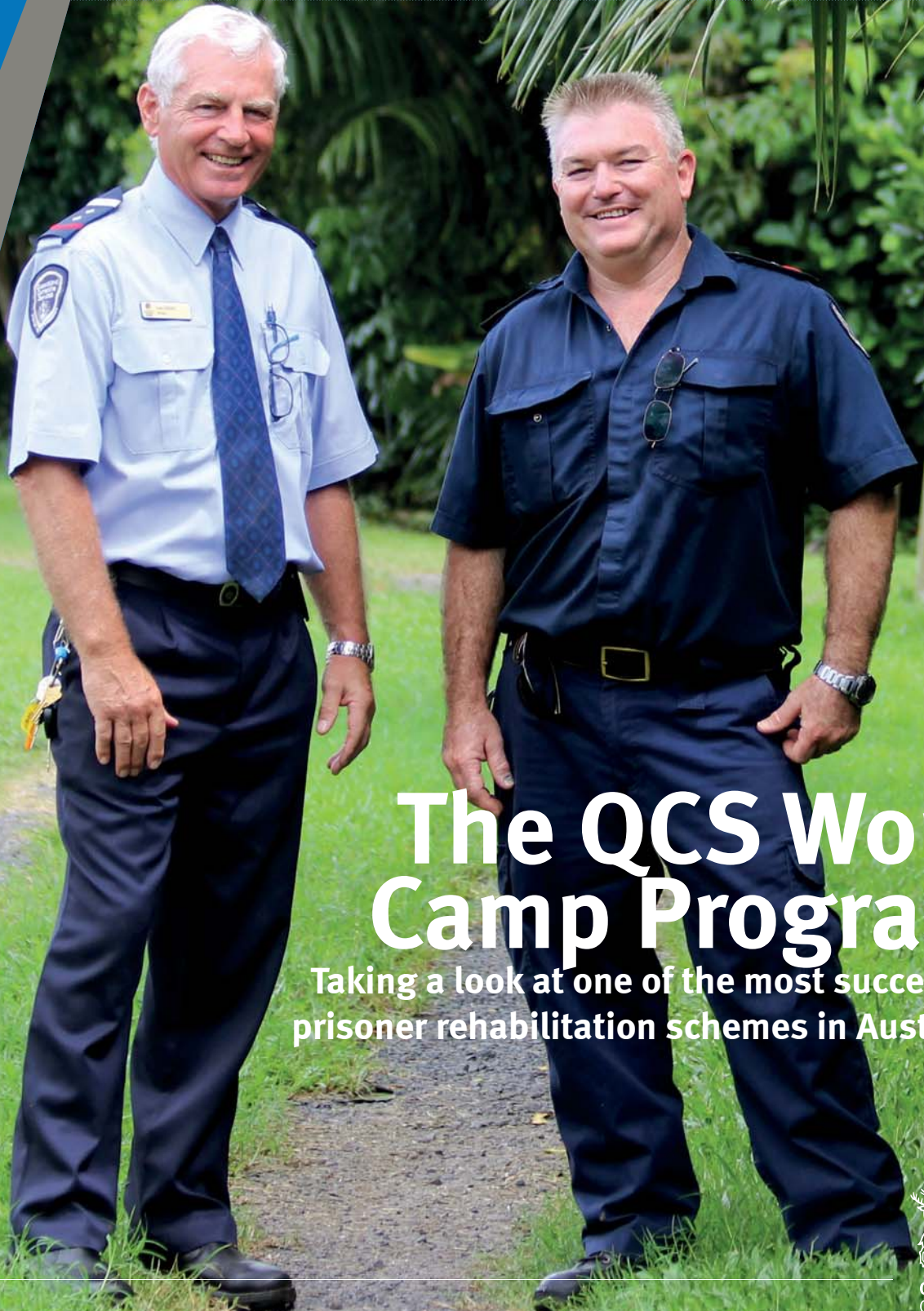


APRIL  
2016

# CORRECTIONS news



## The QCS Work Camp Program

Taking a look at one of the most successful  
prisoner rehabilitation schemes in Australia

# // This Issue

Front Cover: Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Farm Manager, Les Elliott, and Innisfail Work Camp Supervisor, Colin Watson

CORRECTIONSnews is published bimonthly by the Office of the Commissioner Queensland Corrective Services

GPO Box 1054  
State Law Building, 50 Ann Street  
Brisbane QLD 4001  
(07) 3239 3158  
corrections.news@dcs.qld.gov.au

ROBERT WOOD  
Editor

ALEX BURTON  
Designer and Features Editor



3 CHARLEVILLE WORK CAMP  
Supervisor Mark Gillam talks about getting prisoners ready for reintegration into society

5 MITCHELL WORK CAMP  
Supervisor Phillip Somerville has been with QCS since 1984

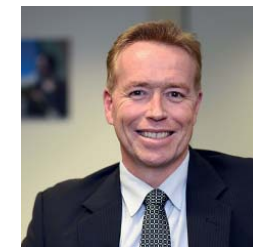


7 INNISFAIL WORK CAMP  
Innisfail Work Camp was established to assist in the clean up after Cyclone Larry

9 SPRINGSURE WORK CAMP  
Supervisor Mark Hunt celebrates 10 years at Springsure Work Camp this may

11 WARWICK WORK CAMP  
Assisting prisoners to develop confidence and gain the community's appreciation

13 JULIA CREEK WORK CAMP  
Officers and prisoners have assisted in restoring a vital transport link to Western Queensland



## MARK RALLINGS

COMMISSIONER  
QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES

I hope you enjoyed the first issue of Corrections News for 2016 as much as I did. It is always a pleasure to read about and acknowledge the continued great work being performed by QCS staff throughout Queensland. Providing an insight into the many divisions of QCS and recognising the devoted individuals that make QCS a national leader in corrections is what Corrections News is all about.

In this issue, we continue to explore the different sectors of QCS with an in depth look at our successful Work Camp Program. Operating now for 26 years, the Work Camp Program originated from an emergency response effort in Charleville to become one of the most successful prisoner rehabilitation schemes in Australia. The Work Camp Program in regional Queensland ensures QCS continues to provide to the surrounding rural communities and offer an opportunity for prisoners to give back to society.

We also meet staff from Charleville, Mitchell, Innisfail, Springsure and Warwick Work Camps as they discuss what working at work camps means to them, the prisoners and the surrounding communities. The dedicated men and women who manage the work camps are a further testament to the success of the Work Camp Program.

Thank you again for your support and I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition of Corrections News.



Prisoners from Charleville Work Camp are assisting with repairs to Augathella Racing Club

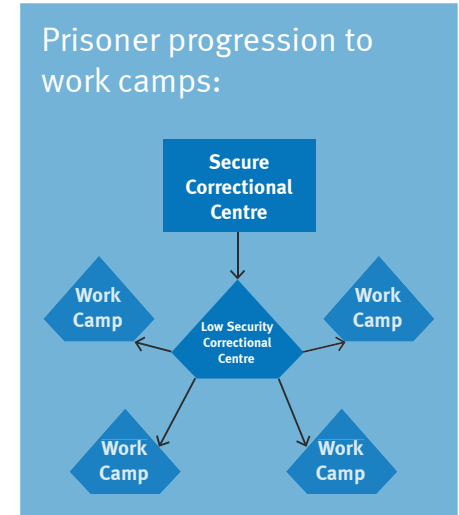
**// skills for life**  
 The QCS Work Camp Program provides valuable labour for community service projects across regional Queensland and promotes successful prisoner rehabilitation

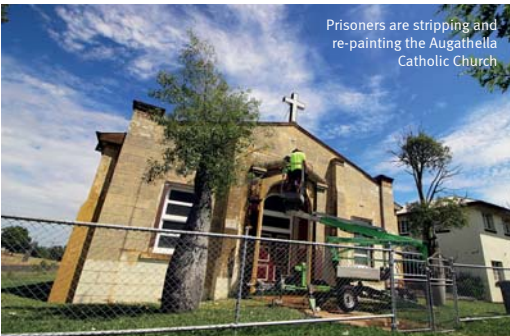
The QCS Work Camp Program is one of the most successful prisoner rehabilitation schemes in Australia, injecting around \$3.5 million worth of labour into regional Queensland through community service in the last financial year. There are currently 13 work camp sites across Queensland, with 11 camps of male prisoners and two camps of female prisoners. Geographically, they are spread from as far south as Dirranbandi, near the New South Wales border, to as far north as Innisfail. The work camps are annexed to correctional centres and in 2014-15, they accommodated 74 low risk male prisoners and 11 low risk female prisoners.

Work camps provide valuable labour for community service projects in regional Queensland, while also providing prisoners with an opportunity to make reparation. Community Advisory Committees (CACs) are made up of members of regional councils, police, local business owners, community groups and local residents, as well as the work camp field supervisors. It is their role to

nominate and assess priorities for community service projects, provide information and advice about the views of the local community, and promote effective relationships between the community and QCS.

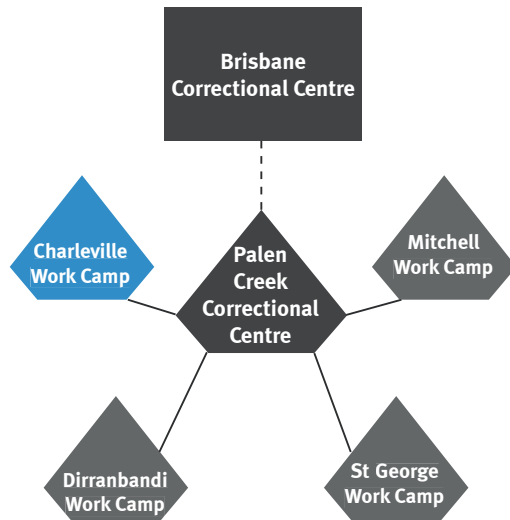
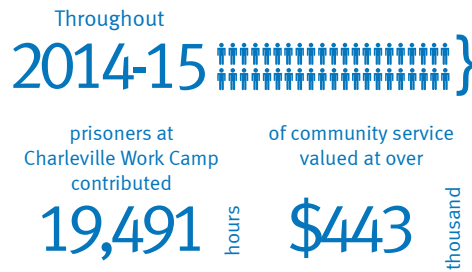
The work camp program began in 1990 as part of an emergency response effort in Charleville following devastating floods. Since this time, the work camps continue to provide emergency assistance across Queensland after floods, storms and other disasters, however, their work extends beyond emergency response. The work completed by prisoners also includes the ongoing maintenance of cemeteries, parks and showgrounds, to the restoration of significant landmarks and buildings of historical importance.





Originally known as the Work Outreach Camps (WORC) program, the QCS Work Camp Program initiated with a focused recovery effort from a crew of officers and prisoners after the floodwaters of the Warrego River inundated the western Queensland town of Charleville in early 1990.

Current projects for the camp include ongoing mowing and maintenance of the Charleville Showgrounds and Racecourse Reserve, as well as the refurbishment of the rails and jockey rooms at the Augathella Racing Club, the re-painting of the Augathella Catholic Church and maintenance at the Morven Race Club.



# CHARLEVILLE

Work Camp Supervisor, Mark Gillam started his career with QCS in 1981 after being discharged from the army. Over the years, he has spent time working at the Boggo Road Gaol, Woodford, Wacol, Darling Downs, Sir David Longland Correctional Centres, and is now based at the Palen Creek Correctional Centre.

In his current role, Mark assists with relieving permanent work camp staff. "I'm lucky in a way - I get to work at all of the camps. This is my first time to Charleville, but I've completed three rotations in Mitchell, and three or four in St George. I've also worked at the Dirranbandi Camp. So I get around and it's good for me," he says.

He acknowledges that appreciation is one of the key motivations for the prisoners in their community service work. "It's hard labour. It's hot. It's dusty. We're helping the community and they're happy with the work and it makes me happy at the end of the

day. It's alright saying thanks to the prisoners, but when the locals walk past and say "Thanks fellas," - a thanks every now and then makes them feel really good."

To earn the right to stay at a work camp, prisoners must demonstrate positive behaviour and attitudes. Mark is passionate about the work camp program and the opportunities it opens up for the prisoners who learn valuable work skills and become engaged in communities, while making reparation. "It's about breaking the cycle of them being 'bad guys'. They're doing good work around the place and saving millions of dollars. I don't get them out of bed every day, they get up themselves and have breakfast and they're ready to go at seven. It's a good thing, and when they leave, they're ready to reintegrate into society and hit the workforce."



Work Camp Supervisor,  
Phillip Somerville

# MITCHELL

Mitchell Work Camp Supervisor, Phillip Somerville, has been with QCS since 1984. A builder by trade, Phillip spent time at the Wacol and Sir David Longland Correctional Centres, focussing on developing prisoner industries. He has been stationed at the Mitchell Work Camp for close to 14 years.

“I enjoy the challenge, I really do. I still gravitate back to the building side of it. I’ve always kept my building licence current. I built Dirranbandi and Julia Creek Work Camps and I’ve completed maintenance on all of the camps over the years,” he says.

The Mitchell community is very supportive of the camp and the prisoners’ contributions. “I get very positive feedback from the local people and these fellas are treated as normal human beings, which is good for their reintegration back into society,” says Phillip.

Having been at the camp for many years, Phillip has seen first-hand

the value in the program for both prisoners and the local community. “I just think the Work Program is such a great enterprise. It gets guys out of the system where they’re behind bars, and they reintegrate them back into a community where they are accepted. It’s quite gratifying to see that it turns people’s lives around, and that’s why I’ve stayed with the Work Program for so long – because it works,” he says.

Phillip highlights the significance of the work camps’ history, in assisting communities to recover from natural disasters. “The Work Program started after the floods in Charleville and we’ve always maintained an emergency response group. We’re ready to go at the drop of a hat – whether it’s chopping up trees after a mini tornado, or re-fencing to get farmers back on their feet. That’s what we’re about – giving back to the community.”



Prisoners are assisting with the refurbishment of railings at the Mitchell Show Ground



Prisoners have constructed jump trailers for the Mitchell Show Society

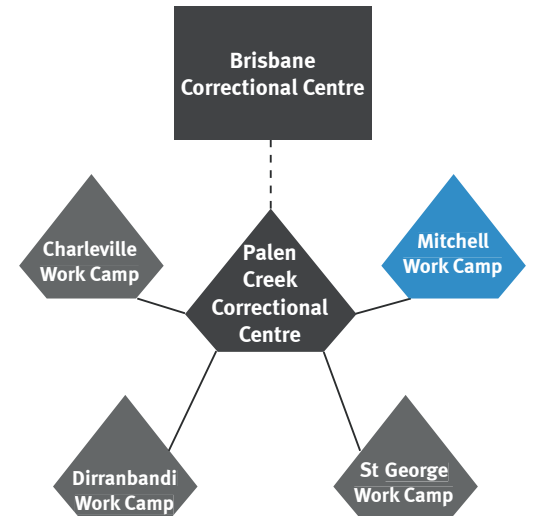
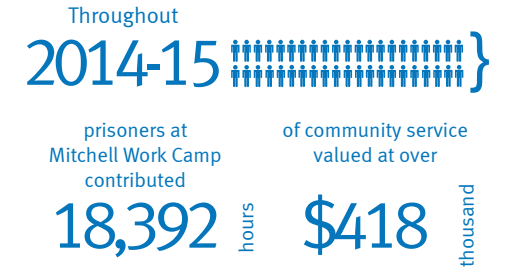


Prisoners maintain vegetable gardens at the camp



Mitchell Work Camp

Among various other projects, Mitchell Work Camp provides ongoing assistance to the Mitchell Show Society, including the refurbishment of railings and construction of jump trailers. The work camp also supports organisations including the Woodlands Pony Club and the Mitchell Rodeo Association.





The Warrina Lakes grounds are maintained by the work camp



Innisfail Community Garden



Prisoners maintain the Innisfail Showgrounds



The work camp assists the council in carrying out general mowing and whipper snipping throughout Innisfail

A significant project for the prisoners at Innisfail Work Camp is the maintenance of the local community gardens, where they carry out mowing, whipper snipping and mulching, and trim the tropical fruit trees. They have also installed drainage and an all-weather access road throughout the gardens.

Prisoners have also assisted with tasks such as relocating the local council library and community events, including the Innisfail Agricultural Field Day.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Farm

Innisfail Work Camp

Throughout 2014-15

prisoners at Innisfail Work Camp contributed

19,259 hours

of community service valued at over

\$438 thousand



Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Farm Manager, Les Elliott, and Work Camp Supervisor, Colin Watson

Innisfail Work Camp was established as a permanent camp in 2006 to assist the community in the clean up after the devastation of Cyclone Larry. Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Farm Manager, Les Elliott and Work Camp Supervisor, Colin Watson, are passionate about the program and assisting the community.

Les and Colin are responsible for the operation of the camp, from maintaining relationships with community stakeholders, to communicating with and supervising the prisoners. Colin highlights the importance of the process by which prisoners involved in the work camp program are screened. "Probably the most important aspect for the smooth running of the camp is the selection process to identify which prisoners are suitable for the work camp," says Colin. All prisoners must be classified as low risk and their behaviour is constantly monitored. Prisoners are regularly required

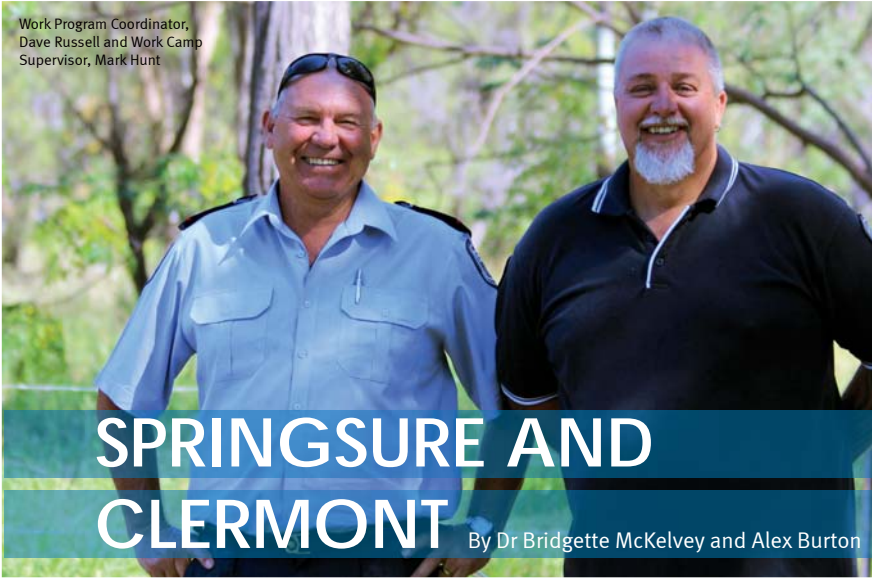
to submit to random drug testing and the QCS Probation and Parole Service and local Police also play an important role in the camp's operation.

The northern region of Queensland is prone to severe storms and cyclones and the Innisfail camp has played a significant role in the clean-ups of recent years. "All aspects of the community engagement that have occurred in the region after the cyclone events have been special. The prisoners have all worked beyond the expected hours and really showed they wanted to assist the community in any way they could. The leadership and mentoring of the staff during these clean up events has been nothing short of inspiring," says Les.

Colin mentions the clean up after Cyclone Ida as a significant achievement for the work camp. "In 2014, Innisfail Work Camp was

deployed to the small community of Cooktown after Cyclone Ida devastated the town. It was interesting to see the change in the community perception of the prisoner group and the amount of work we were able to achieve in the four weeks there," he says.

"This reparation to the community develops a work ethic and sense of worth in prisoners that sets them up for a positive reintegration back into the community," says Les.



Work Program Coordinator, Dave Russell and Work Camp Supervisor, Mark Hunt

# SPRINGSURE AND CLERMONT

By Dr Bridgette McKelvey and Alex Burton

Work Program Coordinator, Dave Russell, and Springsure Work Camp Supervisor, Mark Hunt, have spent years embedding the work camp program in the Central Queensland towns of Blackall, Springsure and Clermont and their surrounds.

“There are not too many streets here in Springsure I can’t drive down and identify work completed by the work camp,” says Mark. “We’re available to the community seven days a week, and as far as the community’s concerned, we’re invaluable to them.”

Dave explains the importance of working with Community Advisory Committees (CACs). “I’m the link between the agency and the community,” he says. Dave provides whatever QCS resources are available to the community and to work camp staff so they can achieve successful results with their community service projects.

One project of particular

significance to Dave is the clean-up effort after the devastation of Cyclone Marcia in Yeppoon. “Good things can come out of misfortune,” says Dave, one year on from the destructive weather event. He describes the traumatic impact it had on the local community, but says it has also allowed QCS to build a strong relationship with the Livingstone Shire Council. Capricornia Correctional Centre and the Council are now exploring future opportunities for projects to benefit the community and give prisoners the opportunity to gain practical vocational skills they can use later in their life, including the manufacture of waste bins at the Centre’s industries workshops for prisoners in high security.

When asked about his experiences and passions for the work camp project, Mark has many. He celebrates 10 years as Work Camp Supervisor this May and takes great pride in the invaluable efforts his team of prisoners contributes to the

communities. “I would like to think I am passionate about any project that when completed provides the community with a lasting benefit – whether it be the construction of a shade shelter in the local park, laying turf and improving the community sporting oval for locals in a small town like Rolleston, or helping the local Country Women’s Association maintain their crisis support accommodation,” he says.

Mark talks about his very first work camp being stationed in Innisfail after Cyclone Larry. “There were many special personal and memorable moments at Innisfail while providing assistance to the community,” he says. “I think the one thing I remember most is being able to see a community come together to help each other and having offenders be part of the solution and not the problem.”



The Springsure Work Camp has conducted significant restoration to the heritage listed Springsure Hospital Museum site



Springsure Hospital Museum



Mark Hunt, Paul De Beus, Dave Russell and Garry Gordon accepted Divisional Excellence Awards as part of the Capricornia Correctional Centre Cyclone Marcia Recovery Team



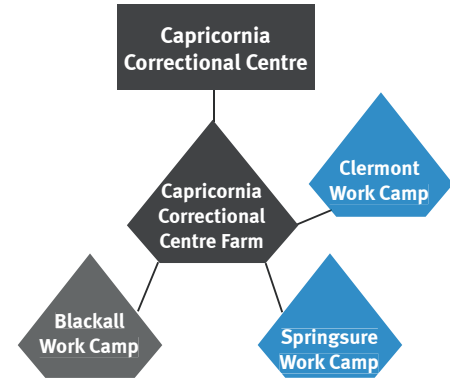
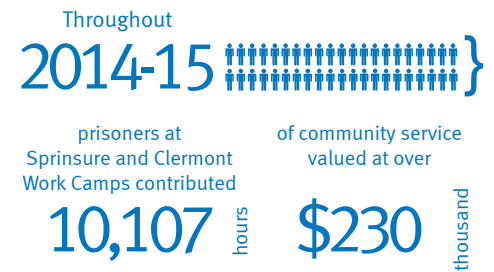
Last year, prisoners from Clermont Work Camp installed a new memorial to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landings

Prisoners rotate between the Springsure and Clermont Work Camps every few weeks.

The site of the heritage listed Springsure Hospital has been a project for the work camp since 2006. The council has plans to reopen the site as a museum to attract tourists this year. Work that has been conducted by prisoners has involved significant restoration, including the replacement of stumps, beams and a significant portion of the verandah.

Prisoners are involved in the ongoing maintenance of the Hoods Lagoon precinct in Clermont, and last year installed a new memorial to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

Prisoners have also played a significant role in the clean-up after natural disasters within the region. On 21 April, the Capricornia Correctional Centre Cyclone Marcia Recovery Team received the Divisional Excellence Award for Promoting QCS. The team was responsible for coordinating the efforts for restoring the Yeppoon coastline to a usable state after Cyclone Marcia and has built a strong relationship with the Livingstone Shire Council.



The work camp maintains the Killarney Showgrounds



The Warwick Work Camp was established as Australia's first female work camp in 1995.

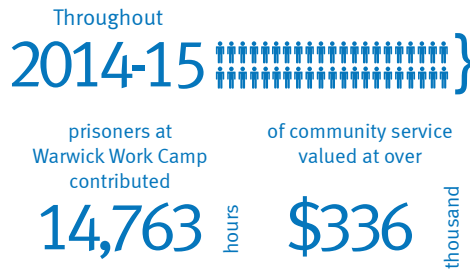
Prisoners maintain the Killarney showgrounds and recreation grounds through mowing, whipper snipping and tidying the facilities.

They play a significant role in assisting with community events each year including the Border Rangers Trail Bike Ride, the Leyburn Historical Motor Sprints, the Warwick Gold Cup Camp Draft and Rodeo, and most recently, the Warwick Horse Trials One Day Event.

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre

Numinbah Correctional Centre

Warwick Work Camp



The work camp carries out mowing and whipper snipping



Prisoners assist with community events, including the Warwick Horse Trials



Suzette Burton-Wright, Field Officer and Kushla Gage, Work Camp Supervisor

At Warwick Work Camp, 130 kilometres south-west of Brisbane, Kushla Gage, Work Camp Supervisor, and Suzette Burton-Wright, Field Officer, work together to get the job done.

Kushla has been at Warwick for six years, after transferring from Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre. Previously she worked at Rimutaka Prison, a male correctional centre in Upper Hutt, New Zealand, for 10 years.

Suzette has been with Queensland Corrective Services since 2006. Before that she worked in adult education for disabilities, and workplace health and safety, training and assessment. Suzette says her previous roles really complement this role.

"I like people, and I think women have got a lot to offer," says Suzette. "This position allows us to develop women in a lot of different roles. So

that's why I love it." Working together, they assess what projects will help the women grow through the development of horticulture skills, budgeting, independence and taking responsibility for a job from start to finish.

Working between the field and office, Kushla manages the women, liaises with council and stakeholders, and runs the work camp. Suzette liaises with community, sets up projects, and supports Kushla and the prisoners when they come into camp.

"I think we complement each other in that I'm a little more into education and learning, and Kush keeps me grounded because she's from a secure background and has a really great grasp on managing the prisoners," says Suzette.

Kushla adds, "I like physical work

too. So I like to be out. I like to teach the women how you work because everything comes into it, time management and taking responsibility for the equipment. This is the last step before their release so they need skills to go out there and help themselves."

What's most satisfying for Suzette and Kushla is seeing the women develop confidence and the community's appreciation. "We get a big bunch of flowers for the women, and they say thank you. That's great!" Suzette says. It's a job well done by everyone.



Townsville Correctional Complex General Manager, Jon Francis-Jones



# JULIA CREEK

Prisoners assist with the clean-up after the train derailment

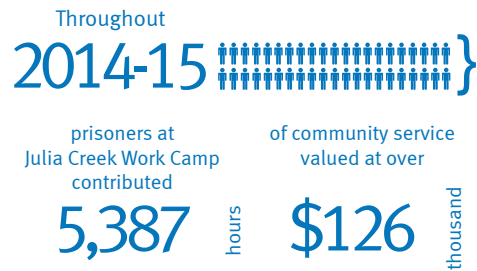


Julia Creek Work Camp officers and prisoners have assisted in restoring a vital transport link to Western Queensland after a train transporting approximately 819,000 litres of sulphuric acid derailed near the town late last year. The closure of the rail line impacted on the ability to transport food, materials and other important resources to and from western Queensland towns, causing a serious disruption.

The closure of the Flinders Highway in several places due to flooding also hampered efforts to get cleanup crews to the area and the work camp stepped in to assist as possible.

On top of the work carried out in assisting with the clean-up, prisoners contributed to the construction of two temporary roads to access the site to enable Queensland Rail to move machinery in to clean up the derailment.

On April 21, Townsville Correctional Complex General Manager, Jon Francis-Jones accepted Divisional Excellence Awards on behalf of Julia Creek Work Camp in recognition for the leadership and work with other agencies undertaken with the Julia Creek train derailment recovery. "This is a fantastic illustration of the good work that is being done by prisoners within our care, for communities," said Jon.



# South-east Queensland Women's Re-entry Service



## July 2016

### Greater support and better outcomes for all women

### More information available soon

For enquiries please email: [Re-EntryProject@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:Re-EntryProject@dcs.qld.gov.au)

## Next Issue...

- » Our Specialist Operations team
- » Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Queensland Corrective Services Academy

# CORRECTIONS news

is published bimonthly by  
Queensland Corrective Services

GPO Box 1054  
State Law Building, 50 Ann Street  
Brisbane QLD 4001  
**(07) 3239 3158**  
[corrections.news@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:corrections.news@dcs.qld.gov.au)  
[news.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au](http://news.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au)