

BORALLON TRAINING AND CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The re-commissioning process is underway for the new centre focussed on offender rehabilitation.

Read more on page 5.



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HON JO-ANN MILLER MP

MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Welcome to the Spring issue of CORRECTIONSnews. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication through the Budget and Estimates process. The centrepiece of the Corrective Services budget is the \$145.3 million set aside over four years to re-open Borallon to address overcrowding in the state's prison system.

Borallon will operate as a no-nonsense, tough, new 'earn or learn' facility from early next year. \$8.1 million has been set aside this financial year to complete the recommissioning. It will be a publicly-run facility housing approximately 500 male prisoners.

For those young offenders behind bars, it won't be the same old Borallon. These prisoners will earn their keep. Once inside, they'll be given two options – work in prison industries or study and gain skills – so that when they are released from custody, they will be best placed to make a positive contribution to the community.

As at 1 July this year, more than 1,400 prisoners were sharing cells designed for one person. Collectively, prisons in south-east Queensland are operating at 112% capacity. When Borallon reopens, overcrowding will ease, these correctional facilities are expected to operate at around 98% capacity. The State Government recognises there is more work to be done in this area and I have asked Queensland Corrective Services to continue to investigate medium and long-term solutions.

This major infrastructure project will generate more than 200 jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

The Palaszczuk Government is also delivering on our election commitment to have the correct prisoner to staff ratios at the Maryborough Correctional Centre. Nine new custodial officers have started work at that centre and QCS is continuing to actively recruit staff from the local community.

The Corrective Services Academy recently embarked on a custodial officer entry program. As a result, 17 new recruits are expected to complete the program this month. The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to creating employment opportunities for Queenslanders and promoting jobs growth. There are few things more important than that.

Again, thank you for your contribution towards keeping Queensland safe.



MARK RALLINGS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES

At the beginning of August, the Board of Management released our QCS Business Plan for the 2015/16 financial year. The Plan highlights our core values of Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Service and Opportunity. The Business Plan gives us direction for this year, illustrates our shared goals and objectives and identifies strategies and key performance indicators for our approach.

In this issue of CORRECTIONSnews, we profile the commissioning of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. The opening of this centre will fulfil a major objective of the QCS Business Plan, by responding to the challenges of the growing prisoner population in a learning and earning focussed custodial environment. The centre will focus on giving prisoners opportunities to turn their lives around by improving education and employment skills, and in turn improve community safety.

The reduction of crime and reoffending is core business for QCS and it's important we acknowledge the invaluable reparation work performed by offenders through QCS Work Camps. This issue of CORRECTIONSnews demonstrates the great work completed by low security prisoners of the Capricornia Correctional Centre who provided significant recovery assistance from the devastation of Cyclone Marcia.

This issue also touches on engagement with our staff and stakeholders as part of the state-wide celebrations of NAIDOC week and our domestic violence prevention initiatives.

QCS is committed to serving the community, to providing a safe, secure and meaningful place of work for all staff, and to offering prisoners and offenders the means to make positive, lasting changes to their lives.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition of CORRECTIONSnews.

community MATTERS



Yarning with the Elders at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre.

ARTHUR GORRIE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Cherbourg, Brisbane and Inala Elders attended a flag raising ceremony. Aunty Alex Gater and Aunty Denise blessed the ceremony before guest speakers including Craig Tapp, Rodney Boschman and Jannette Evans presented. The prisoners put on a cultural display for guests in the Cultural Centre and enjoyed yarning with the Elders.

BRISBANE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Brisbane and Inala Elders were among the guests for whom prisoners performed dances, songs and poems. Prisoners also created artworks that reflected the theme of this year's NAIDOC Week and which also celebrated their heritage in traditionally-themed paintings.

General Manager Bernie Krhuse opened

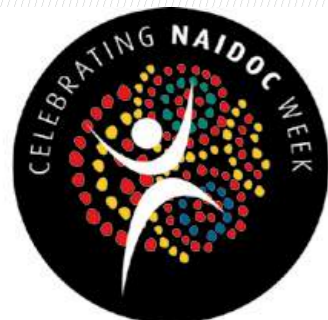
the celebrations by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and noting the relationship between this recognition and this year's NAIDOC theme.

Cultural Liaison Officer Don Williams spoke passionately about the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to gain knowledge of their cultural heritage and learn more about who they are and where they came from.

"The courageous efforts of Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islanders through the decades brought about positive outcomes, ultimately resulting in increased awareness by all Australians of the inequity experienced by indigenous people," Bernie said.

"Brisbane Correctional Centre recognises the vital need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners to take pride in their culture and identity. Without this connectedness, positive change is difficult to achieve."



This year the theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the nation.

This year's theme was also chosen specifically to highlight and celebrate the anniversary of the 'Handback' of Uluru, one of these sacred sites, to its traditional owners on 26 October 30 years ago.

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/about/theme-and-host-city>

We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate

5 - 12 JULY 2015



NAIDOC-themed cakes added to the colourful display of artworks completed by prisoners at BCC.



Cultural Liaison Officer Don Williams emphasised the importance of awareness of cultural heritage at BCC.

MUSGRAVE PARK

2015 Family Fun Day saw more stalls and community participation than ever before.

Several QCS staff volunteered as part of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General display.

Shane Ryan and Scott Morris from the QCS Dog Squad were a crowd favourite and performed several demonstrations throughout the event.



Scott Morris performing a PADD dog demonstration at Musgrave Park



Scott Morris and Stacey Kuzma representing QCS at the Musgrave Park celebrations.



A collection of the paintings on display at Palen Creek.

PALEN CREEK CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Brisbane Council of Elders and Mulinjarli Elders attended a flag raising and lunch. The event showcased a painting display and attendees participated in traditional songs and yarning.



// skills for LIFE

The re-commissioning process is well underway for the new Borallon Training and Correctional Centre

by Alexandra Burton, Engagement Officer

BORALLON TRAINING AND CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

One of the contractors carrying out updates to the centre surveillance systems.

On July 8, the Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services announced that the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre will be recommissioned in early 2016. I spoke to Borallon Project Director, Michael Airtton about the proposed facility, which has the capacity to accommodate 492 male prisoners.

“It will differ from the old Borallon in that it will be operated by QCS and it has a very strong focus on

employment, education and training outcomes,” said Michael. The facility will accommodate prisoners who have been identified as being likely to gain the maximum benefit from a dedicated training prison.

In her announcement, the Minister highlighted the facility’s proposal to assist in the reduction of reoffending. “Fewer than 15 per cent of offenders who go to prison before the age of 21 have finished year 12 – and that’s a big part

of the problem,” she said. “Borallon will focus on curbing harmful behaviours while providing meaningful opportunities for young prisoners to improve themselves and increase their chances of getting a job – which is actually one of the best ways to improve community safety.”

Activities and programs available to prisoners will be tailored to address shortages in the current Queensland labour market and focus on preparing prisoners with skills and opportunities

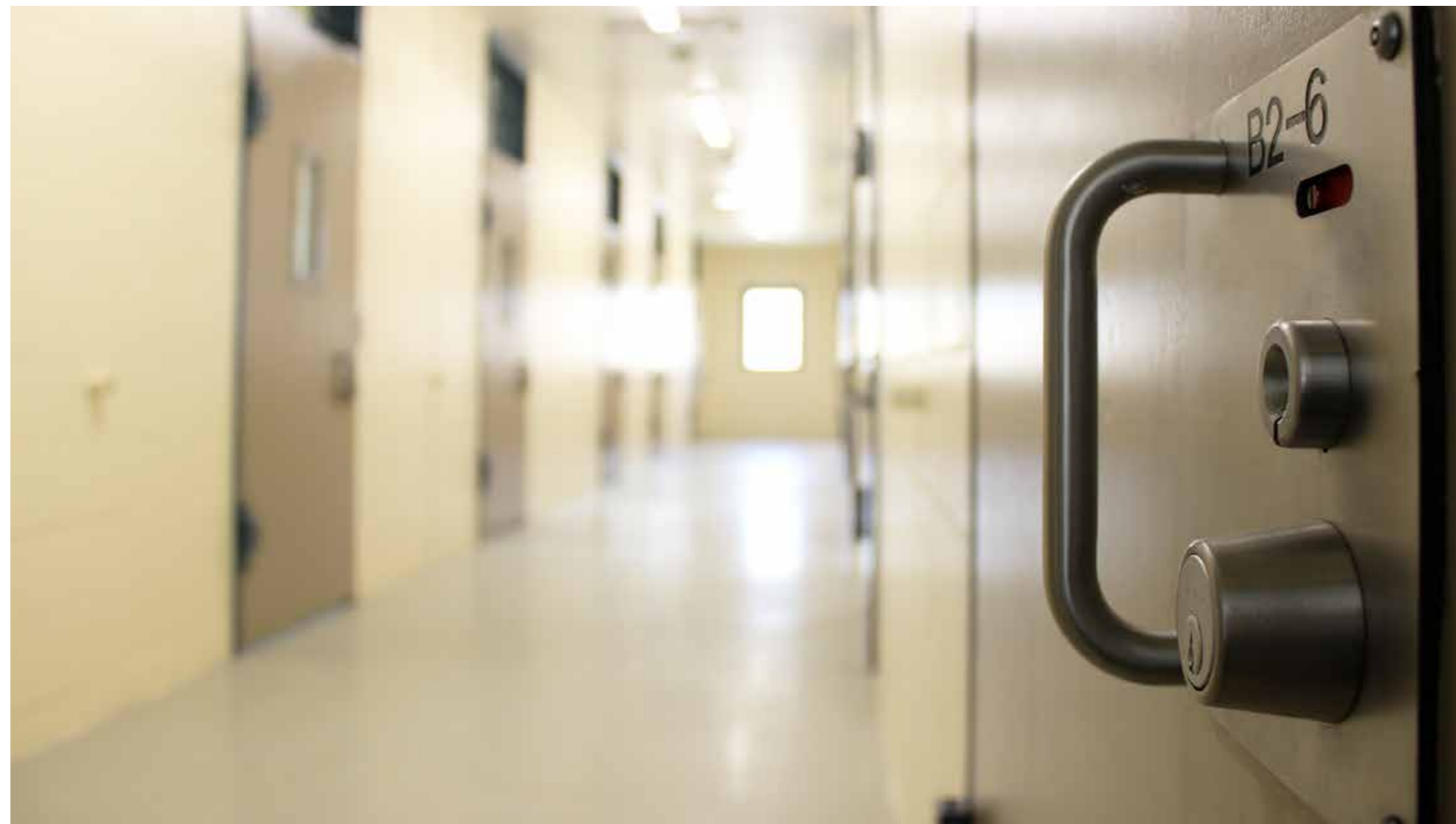
for reintegration and employment upon release. Michael said the government is determined to use the opportunity with Borallon to maximise the positive outcomes that can be achieved through the provision of appropriate employment, education, training and reintegration services. “Staff in corrections are familiar with what works in relation to rehabilitation and desistance and this is an excellent opportunity for us to put that knowledge into practice more effectively.”

The new facility will be high security to maximise its capacity to accommodate all classifications of prisoners. It will also ease prisoner overcrowding across secure centres within the Southern Queensland region.

Michael highlighted the vast scope of the project, with the centre to be commissioned in early 2016. "The re-commissioning process involves a wide range of activities related to the planning and design of the operating model, the recruitment and training of staff, the selection process for external service providers, engagement activities with the local community, testing of the infrastructure and security systems and the selection and transfer of prisoners."

Capital works are well progressed to bring the existing structures up to standard and maximise the working life of the centre, while processes for staff recruitment and transfers are being developed.

Giving prisoners a chance to turn their lives around by improving their chances of finding employment is one of the best ways to make the community safer and turn offenders into productive citizens.



Borallon will focus on curbing harmful behaviours while providing meaningful opportunities for young prisoners to improve themselves and increase their chances of getting a job.

Photos clockwise from top: Hon Jo-Ann Miller MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services visits one of the classrooms | Refurbished cell corridor | Freshly painted A Block prisoner entry to the visits area | Brand new fencing installed along walkways throughout the centre.





Our PEOPLE

Wolston Correctional Centre Sentence Planning Coordinator, **Christine Corcoran** is focusing her efforts on breaking down the communication barriers both in and outside of the prison
In conversation with Alexandra Burton

“It’s always rewarding when a prisoner says “Yeah, OK, Miss, I can understand it. Thank-you very much”

What would an average day “in the office” look like for you?
Sentence Management Services are the ‘go-to’ people in relation to prisoner enquiries about discharges and understanding their court results. There is a lot of prisoner contact and it involves a lot of communication as well. We deal with various external stakeholders, from securing video links and appearances with the courts to organising transport for prisoners with the police. Some staff members deliver notifications to prisoners from the parole boards, and we even liaise with the Australian Border Force at times.

Do you have any memorable experiences?
When you work closely with a prisoner and assist them, especially after they have listened to other prisoners who don’t always know the ins and outs of things like the parole

boards it’s gratifying when you can explain the situation to them and they can understand it. It’s always rewarding when a prisoner says “Yeah, OK, Miss, I can understand it. Thank-you very much.”

What do you like to get up to in your down time?
I am training for the Bridge to Brisbane and focusing on my fitness and health. I also really like to travel. This year I’ve done Sydney and I’m going to Melbourne next month. We went to Thailand for the opportunity to experience different cultures and we went to Fiji and Vanuatu, because I’ve always wanted to go there. Then we did China because my brother studies Chinese, and we climbed the Great Wall and went to Hong Kong. It was really great to experience different cultures and go somewhere English isn’t the first language.

So do you feel like getting to experience different cultures is beneficial to your job?
Yeah, absolutely. It helps you learn how to talk to people who might not have the same understanding of things as you do. Some prisoners don’t understand all of the legal jargon. Breaking it down into layman’s terms so that it’s something that the average person could understand is a big part of my job.

Working in Sentence Management, you learn what certain terms mean and how to interpret what the courts and parole boards write. But for someone else, they would have no idea what that is. So it is a good feeling being able to explain it to someone and have them understand it.



CYCLONE MARCIA ASSISTANCE

by Dave Russell, Work Program Coordinator



Cyclone Marcia struck Yeppoon and Rockhampton on the morning of Friday 20 February 2015, devastating the foreshore and beach areas along the Capricorn Coast.

Low security prisoners from the Capricornia Correctional Centre, like low security prisoners in years past, commenced recovery assistance on Wednesday 25 February 2015.

By the time the works were completed on 17 July 2015, the low security prisoners of Capricornia Correctional Centre (CCC) had provided 7,954 hours of recovery assistance to the Rockhampton and Livingstone regional communities, equating to \$181,118.

Over this period, 10 QCS officers supervised 38 prisoners in the clean-up of nominated public roads and footpaths, parks and gardens and recreational areas. This involved the stacking and removal of cyclone debris, trees and branches.

The foreshore project involved significant foreshore safety barrier fencing – this not only required the removal of debris and trees, but also the removal of damaged barrier fencing – in total, 5 km of new barrier fencing has been erected.

In addition, the prisoners worked to ensure 33 beach accesses were re-established with copper log barrier

fencing and top rails. A further 2.2 km of copper log bollards were installed around recreational areas and foreshore parking areas. Each bollard was hand concreted into the ground and set 1.3m apart – this equates to 1,693 bollards set into place and painted.

This has been a great effort by QCS and the low security prisoners from the CCC – at great value to the local community – as the prisoners make reparation to the Central Queensland region.

On 18 July 2015, the Mayor of the Livingstone Regional Council, Mr Bill Ludwig, said the community owed “a great deal of gratitude to more than 35 low risk” prisoners who

helped with the recovery efforts on the Capricorn Coast.

QCS recognises the importance of community service as an opportunity for low security prisoners to make reparation to the community harmed by their offending behaviour and to develop employment skills.

The Government is committed to supporting the great work of the QCS Work Camps and the invaluable assistance they provide to local communities across Queensland.



Photos clockwise from top: A prisoner constructing foreshore safety barrier fencing | Low security prisoners cleaning up one of the nominated public parks | Bollards installed by prisoners along the boundary of Yeppoon Rotary Park | Field Supervisor, Peter Cronin assisting in the clean up.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

by Alexandra Burton, Engagement Officer



Aleisha Salmon
Maroochydore Probation and Parole

“I really want to see people live their best life,”

Aleisha Salmon started with corrections almost seven years ago as a reporting officer, before moving into assessment and case management. Aleisha spoke with me about the impacts of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) and her experiences with Probation and Parole North Coast Region. “I really wanted to do something that allowed me to make a broader contribution to encouraging people to make good changes in their lives. I mean, that’s why I’ve always done this – I really want to see people live their best life.”

Probation and Parole North Coast Region is currently involved in a large number

of great initiatives to address DFV at its core - through perpetrator behaviour and attitudes.

Partnerships have been established as a successful approach for DFV initiatives in the North Coast Region. Interagency meetings occur between the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) and QCS on a regular basis, allowing them to maintain a strong relationship with District Offices. The meetings have also established key inter-departmental responses for a large number of local families and have

identified mutual target needs.

“When different organisations including government and non-government agencies can discuss families together and have the one goal, it makes reaching a resolution more achievable for all involved,” said Aleisha.

The North Coast Region is currently in the process of establishing relationships with Men’s Behaviour Change Program facilitators and looking for advanced ways to increase participation in and the effectiveness of programs.

PROBATION AND PAROLE NORTHERN REGION WHITE RIBBON NIGHT

On July 31, Northern Region Probation and Parole hosted White Ribbon Nights in Townsville and Mt Isa, raising awareness and funds to help stop violence against women.

In collaboration with the community, the Townsville event raised \$3,376 for White Ribbon through a night of bowls, barbeque, dessert and raffles.

The Mt Isa event symbolically showcased 48 pairs of shoes, each representing a woman who has died as a result of domestic violence so far this year. A candlelight vigil was conducted by Father Mick Lowcock in honour of the victims.

The events focused on spreading messages of preventing harm to women and children and “reclaiming the night”.

Photos clockwise from right: Townsville Correctional Centre General Manager, Jon Francis-Jones joins the game of bowls | Marley Matamua, Silvi Baretta, Lyndelle Ingle and Lauren Bradford setting up the event | Silvi Baretta, Marley Matamua and Chris Zagami at the barbeque in Townsville.



Escort and Security Branch Celebrates 165 Years of Service

By Alexandra Burton, Engagement Officer

On August 7, Escort and Security Branch celebrated 165 years of service from five of their officers. Cliff Patterson, Dave Batt, Andre Ceuls, Desmond Martins and Chris Gould were honoured with plaques commemorating their time working for QCS.

General Manager, Peter Coyne summed up the group’s successes. “These gentlemen have over 165 years of service to corrections between them. That is a remarkable achievement from five remarkable men, five good men, five men who have weathered many of life’s challenges and its deepest hardships - five men who have always remained gentlemen.”

The ceremony was a salute to the service of the men entering retirement, but furthermore a symbolic welcome to new recruits who were also present at the celebration. It featured contributions from many of the officers’ colleagues, including a guard of honour, a performance of the National Anthem and a poetry recitation.

The importance of the day was clearly grounded in the shared appreciation for the officers’ involvement and alignment with the ideals of QCS. “They are good men - gentlemen in the truest sense – who have stood firmly and fairly, and delivered a service both to the community and to prisoners without degrading their values,” Peter said.

Photos clockwise from top: General Manager, Peter Coyne, Desmond Martins, Dave Batt, Chris Gould, Andre Ceuls, Cliff Patterson and Assistant Director-General, Kerrith McDermott | Kerrith McDermott presenting Dave Batt with his commemorative plaque | Kupa Fitsemanu recites poetry during the ceremony | Peter Coyne presents Desmond Martins with epaulettes in recognition of his achievement.



NEXT ISSUE...

- » Taking a new approach to managing female prisoners and improving their lives.
- » Building opportunities for community service.

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