

AAP TODAY

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Dan's diary of distant dramas

A rifle by his side, a thousand bucks in his pocket and a blow-up mattress in the back of his four-wheel drive, he sets off into the wilderness to begin his mission, expectant but confident, a professional prepared for any eventuality.

Who is this doughty character? A big game hunter? A drug runner? A hit man? A thrill-seeker?

None of the above.

He is a humble AAP technician starting a day's work in Western Australia.

WA group manager Bill Bowen explains: "This sort of thing doesn't happen every day, but our reps do go to remote mining sites where the nearest phone or the nearest human being might be 400 kms away.

"We have to equip them with \$800 or \$1000 to make sure they don't run out of petrol or supplies.

"We make sure they have a blow-up mattress in case they get stuck in the middle of nowhere with no hotels or motels.

"Some of them carry rifles, not because of fear of attack by humans but by animals.

"Some people in Sydney think they're going bush if they take a trip to Newcastle. They should try it out here once in a while!"



Above: One of the high spots on the trek . . . the Kumarina Tavern
Above right: Diarist Dan . . . making mountains out of anthills

To find out just what it's like, AAP TODAY asked senior technician Dan Sayer to keep notes on a trip he made to remove one of the company's Skyswitch transportable earth stations, which provide communications from remote sites.

He was accompanied by Len Wright, a colleague from COMCO's Bayswater technical centre in Perth.

This is his report.

TASK: Before the wet season cuts the single access dirt road, remove a Skyswitch station from a mining site at Mt Barnett in the Kimberley region of Western Australia,

driving the company's recently serviced four-wheel drive vehicle.

WEDNESDAY: Depart Bayswater technical centre 0600, complete with nine fuel jerry cans, 45 litres of water, copious clean underwear, t-shirts and a large Esky.

Seven hundred kms later: the 4WD's recently replaced \$350 windscreen is sporting a rapidly expanding \$350 crack.

1,020kms later: Overnight stop at Kumarina (where?). Accommodation in a portable hut. The women here shower in the men's showers!

THURSDAY: Is that strange noise coming from the gear box?

Overnight stop at the Sandfire Road House (where?) which was previously a sly grog shed.

More women in the men's showers! Interrupted a couple making best use of \$1 worth of shower water.

FRIDAY: After 320kms of dirt track and tropical thunderstorms, arrived at mine site to find lone caretaker "Diesel Dave" guarding mine and three months' supply of food and beer.

SATURDAY: Loaded up the 4WD with the telephone system,
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INSIDE YOUR SUMMER EDITION

Parties
galore on
the society
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PLUS
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..AND ALL YOUR REGULAR FEATURES

New MediaNet contract

CANBERRA group manager Greg Holland (left) signs a MediaNet contract with officers of the federal Department of Employment, Education and Training.

It was one of the largest accounts signed in Australia for MediaNet, the service that distributes news releases simultaneously to newsrooms of the subscriber's choice around the nation.

"In signing with us, the Department has taken full advantage of our new fax facility," said Greg.

"This new type of MediaNet agreement will enable the Department, as well as the Minister's offices in parliament house, not only to distribute their press releases to media outlets around Australia.

"They will also be able to fax their media releases and relevant information to a large number of non-media clients, including industry groups and trade unions."



Georgia changes ASPEN's tune...

ASPEN, the voice messaging system marketed exclusively in Australia and New Zealand by AAP's communications company COMCO, has a new voice.

The service for recording, storing and distributing telephone messages has had an American prompting voice since COMCO introduced voice messaging into Australia several years ago.

Now the "antipodisation" of ASPEN is complete.

The new accent more familiar to Australian and New Zealand ears is that of former ABC TV and radio announcer Georgia Brown.

It is her tones that are now on the recorded prompts guiding users through the system.

"This is a great step forward for ASPEN in Australia," said Phil Booth, product manager for ASPEN systems here.

"We now have a known local voice greeting and helping users of our product.

"This will make ASPEN even more friendly to its users.

"We believe this shows our commitment to voice processing by 'naturalising' our product."

COMCO distributes ASPEN in Australia and New Zealand under an exclusive agreement with its manufacturer, the Octel company of California.

Octel representative Steve Cotton flew to Australia to direct the recording sessions,



The sweet tones of Georgia Brown, now in use in Australia and New Zealand, join a growing list of voices on ASPEN systems worldwide.

making sure the strict procedures used by Octel were followed here.

"The high quality master tapes produced in the recording studio have ensured that the resulting ASPEN prompts are the best available," said Phil Booth.

COMCO remains the market leader in voice messaging in Australia, holding some 90 per cent of the market.

Voice messaging, designed to simplify business communications, allows users to communicate with each other independently at times convenient to them.

Messages can be sent to

multiple recipients, marked urgent for priority delivery, copied to others or designated confidential to prevent copying.

Recipients hear the message in the natural voice of the sender, and can check on when and where it was sent from.

At all stages users are guided by human voice prompts which "talk" them through the various steps necessary to gain access to their confidential mail boxes, review or send messages, or use the system's many other features.

It is those human voice prompts that have now been customised to suit local conditions.

DAN'S DIARY

• FROM PAGE 1

hooked on the trailer complete with four metre high satellite dish and departed for cooler climes.

Disaster! The Gibb River Beef Road strikes. Total disconnection of the 4WD's exhaust system.

"Roared" into the tourist town of Broome to find no-one able to repair exhaust until Monday.

What a blow! Two days stuck in a four-star motel complete with swaying coconut palms overlooking a tropical ocean.

Mr Nickolls (Terence Nickolls, COMCO deputy general manager) please note: accommodation only \$34 a night, due to pilots' dispute.

SUNDAY: Rest day.

MONDAY: 11 am: Exhaust effectively muffled. Top speed with dish and trailer now 70-80 kph. Gear box operating on only four out of five gears. Front differential leaking oil. Windscreen crack now 2-3 feet across. Will we make it?

TUESDAY: Departed Port Hedland. Filled the jerry cans for the 470km uninhabited stretch of the new Great Northern Highway.

Decided to pass up the pleasures of overnight in Meekatharra, and continued on to historical Mt Magnet.

WEDNESDAY: Both nursing weary heads - from sampling the Mt Magnet night life, and from the sick gear box (now jumps out of gears at crucial moments). We limped into Perth.

Would we do it again next week? Better ask the 4WD first!

My Darwin evolution

ARRIVE in Darwin at any time in the eight months from September to April and you soon appreciate the meaning of diminished responsibility.

It's a time when no-one should be held responsible for their actions, when words spoken in anger should be quickly forgotten, when the "gone troppo" syndrome is linked to increases in crime, domestic disputes and alcohol consumption.

But you have to be a roof builder or a footballer to truly appreciate the Darwin "wet" or summer.

At least the roof builder can argue his livelihood is his motive for draining himself of all life-sustaining energy.

It's the Australian rules, rugby and soccer players, basically in it for love, whose sanity could be in question.

During the southern summer, at the height of the Territory's madness season, they kick and run in a deadly serious rebuke to the prevailing conditions. And they don't stop for anything bar a cyclone.

Once the rains do arrive, lawns overnight can become a mixture of spear grass and kikuyu, growing before your eyes to overtake driveways, footpaths and kerbing.

Two hours of pushing a lawnmower is a preparation for the knacker.

The 20-metre walk from the front door to the car is as much as should be asked of anyone, and even that small effort can drench a shirt or blouse.

It is the ultimate in insensitivity to ask Top End folk why they don't enjoy these long, sunny days.

WHAT is it like to work in the oppressive heat and humidity of the Northern Territory's annual "wet"? To find out, our series on AAP's far-flung correspondents moves this month to the Top End, where resident journalist Warwick Stanley and his family have been beating the "gone troppo" syndrome for two years.



Our man in Darwin, Warwick Stanley, with wife Leonie, stepson Chris, 17, and son Patrick, three. Stepdaughter Shamala, 18, is a student in Sydney.

Quaint remarks about the weather are left for the "dry", between May and August, when the thermometer drops a fraction and the humidity level falls to five per cent.

That's when the dreaded box-jellyfish depart and leave the oceans free to swim in, and

a barbeque can be planned with impunity from rain.

My wife Leonie and I are now surviving on such memories, although our three-year-old son Patrick gives us lessons in maintaining a youthful exuberance.

In our favour, AAP's rented

three-bedroom ground-level home and in-built office are well air-conditioned. We are also handily placed to the local Olympic swimming pool.

The yard holds three mango trees and a coconut tree, whose fruiting at this time of year is wondrous compensation for the weather.

The AAP house is about five minutes' drive from Darwin's town centre and the usual duty stops of courts, parliament and administrative offices.

A city of about 70,000, Darwin is an unusual mix of cosmopolis and country town.

Because Aborigines make up about a quarter of the population, it is an emphatic reminder of their displacement.

But Darwin's redneck image belies the fact that this is the one area of Australia where the traditional owners and the white ruling class are finding an equal footing.

As the northern gateway to Australia, the city is also a tourist hub for much of the year.

And despite the advent of the road trains and the demise of the drover, a ten-gallon stockman's hat is still a common sight.

An "exotic posting" perhaps, but Darwin is still largely a public service town, motoring along in much the same way as any Australian city of similar size.

Locally-owned private enterprises do it tough, facing a small hometown market and the need to pay high wages to retain staff.

Coupled with inhospitable weather, the general cost of living (about 20 per cent more than in southern states) is blamed for a decrease last year in the Territory population.

Working as a one-man operation here is made easier by the small-town "grapevine".

There is a wide understanding of AAP's place in the national media, and seldom can a story slip under your guard.

The only downside is the persistence of the telephone, but Leonie and my 17-year-old stepson Chris provide me with a redoubtable secretarial service.

After almost two years of this haranguing, they must be regarded as honorary AAP staff.

No Test as Fairfax hit for six

THE flannelled fools of Sussex Street got their summer cricket campaign off to a belter of a start with a resounding victory over close rivals Fairfax.

The Fairfax batsmen were quick to cart the AAP bowlers all over Eastwood Oval, reaching 1-101 after 20 overs, but collapsed to be all out for 181 in the last of the allotted 40 overs.

Facing a formidable target, stand-in captain Mike Osborne had trouble finding volunteers to replace sidelined openers Mike Mullan (sunstroke) and Mike Koslowski (late returning from a hamburger lunch).

He couldn't have thrown two better men in to face the music.

AAP Brisbane visitor Tony Harper and guest player Damien Scholtz combined to wreak havoc with a feeble Fairfax attack.

The first wicket fell in the 19th over with 164 runs on the board when Harper was run out for 93. At the same time Scholtz retired at 66 not out.

Harper's innings included three sixes, one of which broke a window at a neighbouring house, and 12 fours.

The remaining runs were easily picked off for the loss of only four more wickets.



A happy group from Pitt Street sales: Phillip Ostle, Ian Jamieson, Jamilla Mall, Julia Armstrong and Graham Fowler.



Members of COMCO's finance department sharing a joke: Rhonda Bassett (front) and Sandra Duff, Sue Crooks, Steve Hollis and Katie Humphries.



Mike Tarlinton of AAP RES, assistant general manager David Jensen and COMCO Development unit programmer Rod Harrison.

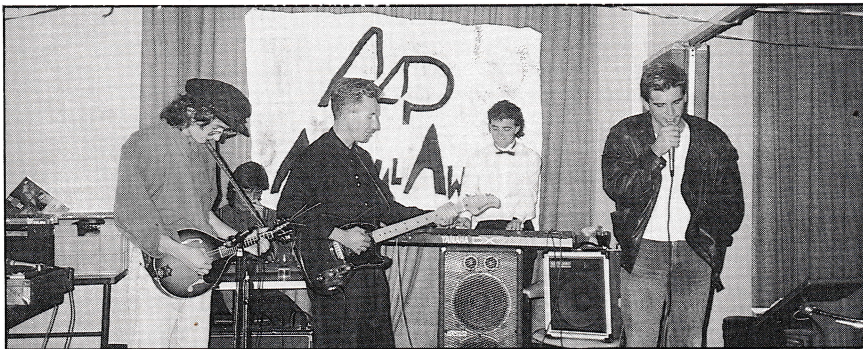
'Tis the s be jolly!

THEY came from far and wide for the official AAP group Christmas drinks party in Sydney.

All divisions were represented as a cross section of the group's 680 staff – from COMCO at Glebe, AAP RES sales at Pitt Street and AAPIS at Sussex Street, as well as a few visitors from interstate – joined in the festivities.

It was the major occasion of the year for staff from all sections to mingle, an event that brought together employees from the computer room, the news room, accounts, administration, sales, marketing, development, you name it and they were there.

The Oscars – a wild night



For one night only: The revue band, from left, Eric Myles, Trevor Marshallsea, Jim Parker, Mike Koslowski, Greg Truman.

THEY never do it like this in Hollywood. The second AAP Academy Awards Christmas party featured more than just Oscar-quality irreverence.

A cabaret of frustrated AAP musical prowess formed an all-star revue band for one night only.

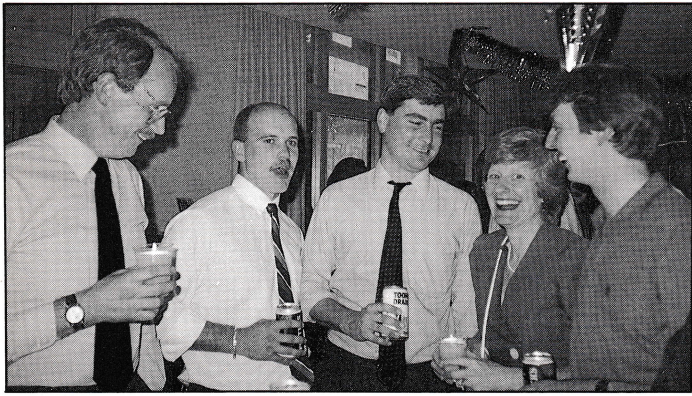
The line-up of Sydney editorial talent included whispering Greg Truman on vocals, Eric The Edge Myles on mandolin, Jim Fingers Parker on guitar, and keyboard kings Michael Koslowski and Trevor Marshallsea.

The highlight of a fund-raising auction was the disposal of the Howard Northey memorial Persian carpet, which the original purchaser was unable to flog himself despite years of once-in-a-lifetime offers.

Mike Koslowski again doled out the awards as master of ceremonies, allowing decorous insult and gratuitous invective to vie for dominance, particularly against targets who were either absent or totally incapable of defending themselves.



Successful bidder Ian Pemberton with THE carpet.



Rosemary Bridge of Comnews Abstracts at Sussex Street with a quartet from the Customer Services division at Glebe: Greg Martin, Ian Pascoe, Andrew Meagher and Ken Cleary.



National media manager Geoff Want with Editorial secretary Caryl Williamson and Toni Elliott and Kerry Meredith of the Finance department.

Season to



Max Gerlach of Data Services at Glebe with Michelle Quinn and Colette Carroll of Comnews Abstracts.



Eddie Collas of Communications Administration, Jenny Sparke of Accounts, and Technical operations manager iary Anderson.



Carol singers in action at the Melbourne festivities, from left to right, Patrick Keane, Robert Windmill, Robin Strathee, Bev Gray, Rita Brown, Marilyn Fox, Jim Linton, Bev Duncombe.



The Trio Los Bravos: Adrian Newington, Elizabeth Rennick and Judy Hughes.

Not so silent night for all

"T'WAS the 33rd night before Christmas and the party was on.

"The system had crashed and the staff were all gone..."

So began the Melbourne office Christmas celebrations, held on the decidedly unChristmassy date of November 22, in the plush Victoria Club.

The timing was enough to daunt the most ardent Christmas fan, but a few enthusiastic staffers

took up the challenge.

Carol singing formed the centre piece of the occasion, and revellers were led by journalists Elizabeth Rennick and Judy Hughes, with technician Adrian Newington on guitar.

The brave trio had prepared a program of 13 carols ranging from Silent Night to Jingle Bells.

They were soon joined by Janet Barklamb, a soprano from

AAP RES, and as they wandered through the crowd more and more staffers joined in the Christmas spirit.

By the end of the evening, a full scale sing-along was underway, led by Adrian on guitar.

Staff reported that Victorian group manager Robin Strathee, joined by Judy and Janet, launched into a rendition of his favourite late-night song, Ol' Man River.

Wedding of the year!



IT was dubbed "the AAP wedding of the year" when Sydney newsdesk sub-editor Steve Dettre and industrial reporter Maureen Hole were married in the chapel at Monte Sant' Angelo, Maureen's old school in North Sydney.

Their marriage was the culmination of the quintessential office romance that was carefully plotted by former EIC assistant Annie Richardson.

For Annie, it was the only success in a long career in matchmaking which usually ended up with the wrong boy pursuing the wrong girl.

"Every time she saw us," said the bride, "she'd ask: 'Oh Steve, WHEN are you going to marry her?'"

Steve and Maureen were determined to make this the



Steve and Maureen with AAP friends past and present, from left, back row: Lesley Merry, Joyce Thompson, Jeanette Fulford, Janet Todd, Doug Conway, Paul Britton, Ian Pemberton, Howard Northey. Middle: Martine Cusack, Lesley Parker, Pam Conway, Melissa Sweet, Paula Hannaford, Ian Telford. Front: Jim Parker, Marie McInerney, Sandra Harvey, Toni Allan, Fiona Gillies, Annie Richardson, Kim Britton.

event to outdo their previous series of cocktail parties, and plenty of their colleagues can vouch that was the case.

However, when it comes to name and place-dropping, few could match their honeymoon destination - ten days on idyllic Norfolk Island as guests of author Colleen McCullough.

Maureen met the Thorn Birds author and her husband Ric Robinson while on assignment covering the devastating effect of the airline pilots' dispute on the island's tourist-based economy.

The hosts were not exactly stuck for space - they live in a large American colonial-style residence, with two separate guest houses and an adjoining house and property, with about 20 staff to help them.

"It was the ideal place to relax and unwind," said Steve.

"The Norfolk Islanders live a very leisurely life style. Tomorrow is an urgent word.

"One of our most difficult decisions was which videos to choose from Colleen and Ric's vast video tape library.

"They've got a selection

which would put most commercial video shops to shame - hundreds of them all catalogued, cross referenced, and with witty summaries written in by Colleen.

"Another of our most pressing decisions was what to do with the buckets of strawberries picked fresh from the property's extensive veggie patch.

"We not only ate fresh strawberries but had plenty of strawberry desserts and strawberry daiquiries as well.

"We seriously contemplated staving there for ever."

Tale of a rat race

FOUR hard-running AAP RES staffers wearing business attire and using a briefcase as a baton were among 44 teams who raised shoppers' eyebrows in a charity relay race through city streets organised by Melbourne's financial community.

The city's financial markets charity ball committee called it the inaugural 333 Collins Street Derby, but the runners dubbed it the Rat Race.

Lisa "Meteor" Marsh got the AAP RES quartet off to a flying start when the race began outside the Melbourne stock exchange.

At the Town Hall she handed the briefcase baton over to Richard "Bullet" Baum, who struggled up Collins Street to

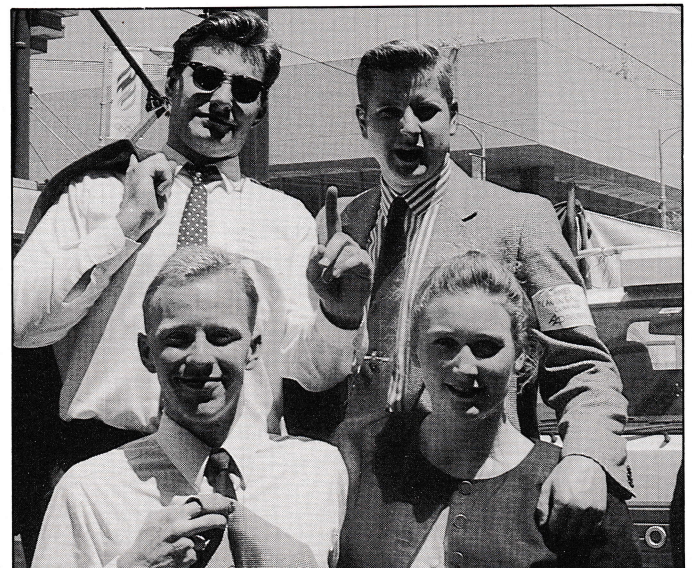
the second check point.

Our man at the Reserve Bank, Chris "Hurtling" Hamon, showed control and poise in stage three, bolting along Russell Street towards the final change-over.

Awaiting his arrival was James "Cannonball" Cuming, who raced down Bourke Street to finish in the mall to thunderous applause.

"Unbelievably, some 30 teams had managed to get in front of us," said James, who is a member of the charity ball committee.

"But in the end this wasn't what mattered, because over \$5,000 was raised for the leukemia auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital."



The quicksilver quartet in Bourke Street mall, top: Hurtling Hamon and Cannonball Cuming, bottom: Bullet Baum and Meteor Marsh.

Leanne looks for Irish luck

LEANNE Ney will be hoping just a little luck of the Irish rubs off when she makes her fourth assault on the world Irish dancing championships this year.

The COMCO technical operations secretary has plenty of New South Wales and Australian credits to her name.

But in the nine years since she first entered the world titles she has discovered it takes more than a slice of good fortune to convince Irish judges adjudicating on an Irish dancing contest held in Ireland that someone who isn't Irish is the best.

"I think I've been unlucky a couple of times," she said.

"It has become very political. The bulk of the adjudicators are Irish, and I think it's true that the Irish girls start with a big advantage."

Leanne, who works at COMCO headquarters at Glebe in Sydney, has been dancing since she was six years old.

"A teacher used to come to our school once a week. I remember it cost 45 cents to join up.

"Everyone thought I'd soon give it away but I just stuck with it."

Her perseverance has paid off.

She has won the past six consecutive NSW titles, and hopes to equal the record of seven in July.

She has been runner-up three times in the Australian championships – in 1985, 86 and 87 – and hopes to make it to number one in October.

But her first major contest of 1990 will be the big one – the world championships in Cork at Easter.

She first entered as a 13-year-old, and feels the experience of having been there three times before will stand her in good stead.

In 1986 she won a lead-up event to the world titles in Dublin, and soon discovered how the Irish covet their own championships.

"When I was leaving to come home, a security guard at the airport examined my trophy and said: 'We can't let you take that out of this country.' I did



Holding the trophy she won in Dublin which the locals were reluctant to export.

take it home – but I got the feeling he wasn't just joking."

Her biggest disappointment came at her last attempt in 1987 when she pulled a ligament during her first heat, collapsed on stage and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

"I was devastated when they told me I couldn't dance on," she said.

"I've had problems with the injury since then, but after a lay-off to give it a rest, I hope it won't give me any further pain."

Leanne has invested a lot of time and money in her dancing.

Practising for the world titles has been taking up four hours a night, and eight hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

And the price of costumes would be almost sufficient to give Imelda Marcos second thoughts about competing.

Her current costume cost about \$4,500. The huge price is

because of the intricate stitching required for the designs and the sequins.

She also goes through a \$100 pair of dancing shoes every few months, not to mention the cost of airfares, accommodation, entry fees, lessons and the hire of practice halls.

"You don't get any money out of winning," she says.

"You win trophies and medals and you meet a lot of people.

"But you definitely do it for the love of it."

Computer operations manager Owen Keogh said Leanne practised harder than Mal Meninga did to win the NSW rugby league grand final.

"Everybody at Glebe is hoping all goes well for her this time, as it could be her last shot at the titles," he said.

"So when you are tucking into your Easter eggs, spare a thought for our lass dancing for the world title in Ireland."

Blooper briefs ...

GREAT minds... A feature by Queensland political reporter Ian Dick previewing last December's state election won wide play in the provincial press – including as an editorial in the Warwick Daily News.

"BRISBANE, AAP – A new type of random testing has shown Queensland girls can spell better than boys." This item was written, of course, by a female.

ODD SPOT from the AAP world service: HUTCHINSON, Kansas – The psychics' convention here has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

FROM the AAP account of a luncheon address by Audrey Hepburn to the National Press Club in Canberra: "I don't think you realise how nervous I am," she told the packed lunch.

Journo Chris's in-depth probe...

FOR a journalist with a passion for scuba diving, Chris Pash came up with the perfect way to spend a holiday.

Chris, a highly qualified diving instructor, led a group of journalists from Europe, North America and Asia on a tour of prime Australian scuba sites.

The trip was organised by the Australian Tourist Commission to promote Australia as a diving destination.

"Visiting three diving areas thousands of kilometres apart in 12 days might not sound like a sensible holiday option," said Chris.

"But it was a great way of using a limited time to show a group of international dive writers what Australia has to offer. A nibble at something tasty will often induce hunger."

The five visitors were from Italy's *Viaggi Magazine*, *Le Monde De La Mer* of France, *Hot Magazine* of Singapore, *New Zealand's Underwater Magazine*, and *Diver Magazine* of Canada.

"The aim was to cover a diversity of Australian geographic locations, from the heat of the north to the cold of the south," said Chris.

"Despite time constraints, the group experienced tropical island diving, cold water diving in a temperate climate and warm water diving again but this time in a frontier-style atmosphere.

"The journalists stood up to the itinerary very well despite the radical climatic changes and the trials of getting to three states in a country the size of Australia.

"The tour started at Heron Island in the southern section of the Great Barrier Reef, which would have to feature in any dive promotion of Australia.

"With its excellent service, buoyed dive sites and warm waters, Heron was an ideal 'soft' start to give the divers a chance to build their skills before moving to more difficult dives."



Beached: Chris (front right) and his international visitors prepare to take the plunge again off the WA coast.

It also gave immediate benefit to the photographers on the tour.

Ariel Fuchs of *Le Monde De La Mer* told Chris: "In terms of jewellery, Heron Island would be one of the brightest and finest stones of the Great Barrier Reef necklace. Diving there is the closest I have come to the idea of Eden's gardens."

The next stop was Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

"It wasn't the best time of the year for diving but the journalists loved the scenery, wildlife and untouched beauty.

"The group managed to get into the water at Snug Cove where we saw crayfish (which were out of season) and collected abalone.

"On the beach after the dive, we cooked the abalone on a portable barbecue alongside steaks and sausages, and

washed the lot down with Australian wine and beer.

"The second day at Kangaroo Island was devoted to a sea lion colony where the photographers shot roll after roll.

"The third and final leg was Exmouth in the north west.

"Western Australia has been keen to promote the Ningaloo Reef as a world class diving destination.

"The coral there is in pristine condition and the reef is as close as 100 metres from shore in some places.

"Most dive sites didn't have a name because no-one, or at least very few people, had dived them before.

"The visiting journalists said it was like being in the middle of nowhere, that diving into the coral gardens gave them the impression they were the first people in those depths."

Sparkle in the fizz quiz

ANSWERS to the last quiz were: 1 - King Louis XVI, July 14, 1789, Bastille Day. 2 - Lawrence Binyon, Ode To The Fallen. 3 - Aconcagua and Vinson, the highest mountains in South America and Antarctica. 4 - Bicycle shop proprietors. 5 - To Kill A Mockingbird. 6 - Victoria Crosses. 7 - Paul Scully-Power. 8 - Pneumonia. 9 - Slim Dusty. 10 - Bob Wyatt in 1934.

The winner is Fiona McDonald of Pitt Street sales.

1- He had two daughters, Susannah and Judith, and a son Hamnet. Name this author.

2- Cricket has featured in the Olympic games only once. Name the silver medallist, a nation incidentally which defeated the MCC last year by seven wickets.

3- Martina Navratilova has won eight singles titles at Wimbledon, tying the all-time record. Who shares the record?

4- Who was Australia's Prime Minister for a week in 1945, the shortest term on record?

5- "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." Which group of people inspired this tribute from Winston Churchill?

6- Who saved the life of the Merchant Of Venice?

7- Basenji, briard, papillon and puli are all... what?

8- What is the family relationship between singers Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick?

9- Which disease killed an estimated 20 million people in 1918?

10- Patrick White's novel *Voss* was based on the travels of which explorer?

The first correct entry wins two bottles of champagne. Entries to: Champagne Quiz, AAP Today, 364 Sussex Street, Sydney.