

*How you leave stock is how you find them.*

*When you take delivery of a mob of cattle, it is important that you work with them after you unload them, to ensure they are calm and settled.*

*If you leave them unsettled, they will be unsettled the next time you approach them. It is a valuable investment of time and patience to simply 'hang around', ensuring they don't run off.*

*Indeed, a small amount of time spent with stock each day for a few days will pay dividends when you finally need to move them to a larger paddock.*

*Trust has been earned and they will be far more likely to cooperate.*

How many leaders never get out and about, opting for 'leadership behind closed doors'? How many managers connect with their people only when they want them to do something? No wonder staff feel unsettled and in a constant state of flight or fight. Hardly anyone takes the time to settle them.

Likewise, many busy parents only have time for their children when they are ferrying them from one activity, sport, or lesson to another. Home to pool, pool to school, school to ballet, ballet to home, dinner and bed. No time to just 'be' with their children; no time to settle them – just a flurry of commands and deadlines.

If you are a parent, leader, a manager or simply a friend, why not create the time to 'settle your stock' this month, with no expectation other than enjoyment and calm.

Children spell love T I M E.

*Desert flowers can be few and far between. Some simply avoid droughts and, when the rains come along, they sprout out, quickly reproduce and die just weeks later.*

*Their beauty is all the more poignant by their brevity and dramatic contrast to the rich, red earth from which they grow. A lone flower shooting out from the rocky earth is enough to make a bushie stop, admire and absorb the beauty before bending down, picking it and taking it home to his partner.*

*Indeed, a bushie can spot a flower 'a mile away'; such is its rarity and pleasure.*

City dwellers can often forget to stop and 'smell the roses'. Corporate workers change from their suits and dresses into their shorts and run through parks in their lunch hour, all the while contemplating the meeting they just had or the client they are about to visit – not even seeing the vast garden beds and the beautiful trees, let alone the ducks on the pond and the birds flying overhead.

How do I know? I was one, and now I coach them.

City workers need to get out of their heads; to take the time to observe a leaf, a flower, a petal, a buzzing bee, a ladybird . . . to lie on the ground and look up to the clouds and the birds or simply the vast expanse of sky.

There is so much peace and beauty to be found in nature.

*When you use force or pressure to ensure animals do what you want them to do, you may have a win the first time. The challenge comes the next time you wish for the animals to follow your cue; you have to use more force and more pressure to get a result.*

*There have been instances in the outback where a property that first used one helicopter to force cattle to move from one yard to another, ended up having to use three choppers to get the same result.*

*Ultimately, no amount of pressure is enough to get the desired result and all the stock can become un-cooperative and stressed.*

Like animals, humans respond negatively to force and pressure. No one has the right to say to someone else, "Do what I say or I will hurt you".

Intimidation in the workplace and the family is inexcusable and ultimately leads to rebellion or resignation.

Force is a poor solution to any situation.