



# **WATER RESOURCES RETIREES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016**

**CLUB CENTRAL  
84 WILLIAM ST, BRISBANE, QLD 4000**

<b>Opening:</b>	<p>The meeting was opened by President Geoff Eades at 11:10 am. He welcomed those in attendance, our special guests in particular.</p>
<b>Present and Apologies:</b>	<p>Members in attendance were: Geoff Eades, Ian Pullar, Ross Stewart, Hein van der Heide, Alan Seabrook, Errol Beitz, Bruce Pearce, Gary Corbett, Mike Merrin, Terry Loos, Eric Davis, Robert Ellis, Peter Noonan, Daryl Brigden, Peter Gilbey, Jon Henry and Patrick McCourt.</p> <p>Accompanying spouses were: Jennifer Pearce and Karla Henry Special guests were Professor Paul Simshauser (DEWS) and Tom Vanderbyl (SunWater)</p> <p>Apologies were received from Peter Jones, Terry Roos, Peter Boettcher, Bill Eastgate, Kev Devlin, Bill Meredith, Rolf Rose, Brian Shannon and Ian Ferrier.</p> <p>Note: In the absence of Secretary Peter Jones, Ian Pullar acted as Secretary for the meeting.</p>
<b>Memorial:</b>	<p>The President noted that a number of our members, family of members and non-member work colleagues had passed away during the year</p> <p>A moment's silence was observed in memory of: Wyn Chamberlain, Edna Scheuber, Bill Stricklan, Bernard Sinnamon, Charles Julian, Theo Ledwy, Ian Fairweather, John Charles, Keith Bedford, John Harvey, Keith Hendrickson, Pat Buxton, Harold Scholz, Bob Sainsbury</p>
<b>Address by Co-Patrons:</b>	<p><b>Professor Paul Simshauser, D-G, Department of Energy and Water Supply</b></p> <p>The following is a summary of Paul's address:</p> <p>I am delighted to have been appointed to my new position in DEWS, principally because it gives me the opportunity to learn about water management (my expertise lies more in the energy sector). I do feel that I have some appropriate pedigree as my mother worked for the Project Engineer on Tinaroo.</p>

There are many challenges for the water interests of DEWS as briefly outlined below:

### **National Water Infrastructure Development Fund**

The Commonwealth has made available \$25 million for feasibility studies across Australia. Queensland has submitted 26 applications for consideration, by comparison with only a few from other states. An announcement on the selected projects is expected in early May. The Commonwealth will make up to \$450 million available to fund new projects, but as always for State Governments, the challenge is to find sources of additional funds given fiscal constraints.

### **Queensland Future Water Supply Strategy**

DEWS is developing a Strategy to communicate to the public about existing infrastructure and investigations into future options. It will provide the policy context for new infrastructure. A problem for government is that it is difficult to get engagement about issues of genuine water security.

### **Local Management Arrangements (LMA) Project**

Under this proposal local irrigators will be responsible for owning and operating the schemes to suit their needs. Provided agreement can be reached on the final terms of the transfers, the Eton, Emerald, St George and Theodore schemes will progress to LMA by the end of the year, with formal execution next year.

Further investigations will be carried out for the Bundaberg, Burdekin, Lower Mary and Mareeba schemes including the preparation of Business cases.

### **Independent Water Utilities**

A small number of new private proponents are interested in the possibility of providing services of water supply and sewerage, instead of relying on the existing service providers (usually council-owned water businesses). This may mean, for example, new estates being serviced directly from regional trunk mains. The Government is in the process of considering the policy implications of these proposals. There is a desire to encourage innovation but not at the expense of local governments or the State if a scheme were to require rescuing. The problem is to get the balance right.

### **Irrigation Pricing**

There is continued attention being given to this issue. Generally the policy has been to increase charges by CPI, or CPI plus \$2 per megalitre if pricing is below 'Lower Bound Cost'. Over a ten year window this policy will bring/has brought most schemes to the lower bound.

### **Somerset/Wivenhoe**

A review of Somerset Dam foundation conditions led to a decision that it would be prudent to declare a Temporary Full Supply Level of 80% of the previous level while further investigations are undertaken (i.e. geo-tech etc). This took place during the holiday season in an orderly manner when recreational use of the dam was at its peak. As a consequence, the FSL of Wivenhoe Dam was also reduced; to 90%.

## **Tom Vanderbyl SunWater**

The following is a summary of Tom's address:

### **New CEO**

A new CEO has been appointed to replace Peter Boettcher. Nicole Hollows, who was formerly with Macarthur Coal, took up her new post this week.

### **Dam Safety Improvement Program**

The SunWater Board has approved the expenditure of \$800 million over the next thirteen years. The program will also include actions to improve the capacity and capability of the staff. Work is continuing on repairs to Paradise Dam.

The need for remedial work on Fairbairn Dam has also become evident – hold-down anchors have been found to be seriously impaired by rust. Works to improve drainage are being undertaken.

Works at Boondooma Dam comprise flood repair, a new erosion control structure and a new spillway structure.

### **A New App**

For anyone who has a Smart Phone, there is a new App available from the SunWater website which provides complete information on storage levels, warnings etc. \$10 million has been allocated for a complete revamp of information systems with a 24/7 control centre being established to provide warnings to downstream communities. The systems are being designed to make them scalable for local governments to use for their infrastructure.

### **Lower Fitzroy Projects**

In conjunction with the Gladstone Area Water Board and the Fitzroy Council, SunWater is currently developing a Business Case for the development of the Lower Fitzroy Project which includes the existing Eden Bann Weir and proposed Rookwood Weir. This a potential project for inclusion in the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

### **Glenlyon Dam Visitor Centre**

SunWater is working with the Border Rivers Commission to refresh the visitor centre at Glenlyon Dam (new lighting, paint, plus new displays) and we propose to place a commemorative plaque dedicating the improvements to Ross Krebs. The upgrade will be of benefit to any member who visits the dam for fishing or other activities.

### **US Field Visit**

Tom recently visited USA, particularly California, and was able to pass on lots of very interesting information including the approach taken to dam engineering in an active earthquake zone.

### **The Bradfield Scheme**

Recently an interesting historical document had turned up. It is an assessment made in 1947 by Dr W.Nimmo, Chief Engineer, Stanley River Works Board (and later Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply) of the scheme postulated by Dr JJC Bradfield, designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which

	<p>continues to this day to be considered by the public at large as a seminal project that should be delivered. The Nimmo assessment identifies serious errors in Bradfield's assumptions and concludes that the scheme was not viable. Tom presented the document to the meeting for copying and return to him in due course. Circulation is not restricted.</p> <p><b>The President thanked both guests for their very informative addresses</b></p>
<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous AGM:</b>	<p>The draft minutes of the previous AGM had been made available to members before the meeting. The minutes were taken as read.</p> <p>Moved Mike Merrin, Seconded Ross Stewart, that the minutes of the 2015 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Carried</u></b></p>
<b>Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nil</p>
<b>Reports:</b>	<p><b>(a) President's Report</b> The President, Geoff Eades, presented his report to the meeting. A copy of the Report is attached.</p> <p>Moved Geoff Eades, Seconded Hein van der Heide that the President's Report be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Carried</u></b></p> <p><b>(b) Treasurer's Report</b> Ross Stewart presented the Treasurer's Report and the audited statement of accounts. A copy of the Report is attached.</p> <p>Moved Ross Stewart, Seconded Pat McCourt, that the Treasurer's Report, statement of expenditure and receipts and the Auditors report be accepted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Carried</u></b></p>
<b>Election of Office Bearers:</b>	<p>The President, Geoff Eades, stood down from the Chair. All positions were declared vacant. Acting Secretary, Ian Pullar, stated that written nominations had been received for almost all positions. Nominations from the floor can be accepted for positions for which no nomination had been received in writing.</p> <p>Written nominations had been received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mike Merrin for President (Eades/Jones)</li> <li>Peter Gilbey for Vice President (Eades/Stewart)</li> <li>Gary Corbett for Treasurer (Eades/Jones)</li> <li>Rolf Rose for Committee member (Eades/Jones)</li> <li>Bruce Pearce for Committee member (Eades/Stewart)</li> </ul> <p>There being no other nominations, these members were declared elected, with acclamation.</p>

	<p>Secretary Peter Jones had indicated his willingness to continue in the position and accordingly was re-elected on the nomination of Geoff Eades and Mike Merrin.</p> <p>Office bearers for 2015/16 are:</p> <p>President – Mike Merrin  Vice President Peter Gilbey  Past President Geoff Eades  Treasurer – Gary Corbett  Secretary – Peter Jones  Committee Members Rolf Rose &amp; Bruce Pearce</p> <p>The two other positions on the Committee, Newsletter Editor (Ian Pullar) and Web Master (Jon Henry), are appointed by the Committee and are not elected by the AGM. Both incumbents had indicated their willingness to continue.</p> <p>The new President, Mike Merrin took the Chair</p>
<p><b>Co-Patrons:</b></p>	<p>Professor Paul Simshauser has indicated his willingness to continue in his role as Co-patron and the meeting was happy to endorse this.</p> <p>It was agreed that Nicole Hollows also be appointed Co-patron subject to her agreement. Tom Vanderbyl indicated that he was sure she would accept.</p>
<p><b>Auditor:</b></p>	<p>Ray Sutherland, the Association’s Auditor for many years, did not wish to continue in that role because he has not renewed his CPA registration.</p> <p>The President suggested that the incoming committee would consider whether an auditor was required under the existing legislation and would make appropriate arrangements. This was agreed on the voices.</p>
<p><b>General Business:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Terry Loos moved a vote of thanks to retiring President Geoff Eades for his valuable contribution to the Association. This was carried by acclamation and the contributions of other retirees, Hein van der Heide, Ross Stewart, Terry Loos and Pat McCourt were similarly acknowledged with gratitude.</li> <li>2. Jon Henry moved “That, in accordance with Clause 5 (1)(c) of our Constitution, Mr Ian Pullar be admitted to Honorary Life Membership of the Association.” Mr Henry spoke of Ian’s contribution to the Association as Newsletter Editor over a period of 13 years. The motion was seconded by Geoff Eades and carried with acclamation.  In response, Ian professed embarrassment at the accolades and honour at being granted this award. He added that he felt particularly privileged to have been given free rein to produce one idiosyncratic edition after another. He also thanked the many members who had contributed interesting articles over the years.</li> </ol>

<b>Closure:</b>	The Meeting closed at 12.35 pm at which time members moved to lunch.

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# **Water Resources Retirees Association**

## **Annual General Meeting 28 April 2016**

### **President's Report 2015-2016**

It is with pleasure that I present this report for the year 2015-2016. This AGM marks the thirty-first year of the Association.

This year the Association has continued to carry out its objectives of promoting social interaction among members, in particular, by our newsletter and, increasingly, through our website. Our newsletter was first issued in September 1989 and continues to be an important source of information.

This year sees a new co-patron from Department of Energy and Water Supply, Prof. Paul Simshauser. The Association welcomes Paul and wishes him well in his new position. Peter Boettcher has recently resigned from his position as CEO of SunWater and consequently is no longer our other co-patron. His place will be taken today by Tom Vanderbyl.

#### **Membership**

The membership of our Association is currently 191, a decrease of 10 compared to last year. The membership comprises 92 ordinary members, 39 country members, 34 paid up members (over 75 years) and 26 widowed spouse members.

Two new members joined during the year. They are John McHugh and Bob Ellis. We warmly welcome these new members to the Association.

Members removed from our register at their own request or at the request of their families are: Carmel Spierings, Una Dwyer, Don Beattie, Roslyn Kimber, David Paice.

Membership of the Association is open to retired or presently serving employees of what was the former Water Resources Commission and its succeeding bodies. These are now primarily the Department of Energy and Water Supply and SunWater, but employees of other water agencies are also welcome.

Maintaining membership numbers is an ongoing issue particularly as responsibility for water management is increasingly fragmented among government agencies. The recruitment of new members has been a focus of the outgoing committee and no doubt will continue to be so for the incoming committee. Unfortunately our contact with Seqwater has not resulted in increased membership. It appears we will have to look to our own parent organisations in that regard and also related departments such as DNRM. I urge all members to assist in identifying potential members and either invite them to join the Association or refer their names to the Secretary. As you know, membership fees are minimal.

We extend our condolences to the relatives and friends of those members who passed away during the year. Where possible, these were acknowledged in our newsletters and we have again remembered them earlier in today's AGM.

The Committee appreciates early advice to the Secretary from friends or relatives, of the illness or passing of a member. A phone call or email will help the Secretary with the timely distribution of such information, so that where possible members have an opportunity to support the family at that time.

## **Functions**

It was another big year for social functions. Seven were organised with attendance as follows:

April 2015	AGM and Lunch at Club Central (21 members and guests)
June 2015	Mid-year luncheon at COTAH (46 members and guests)
August 2015	Golf day at Keperra Golf Club (7 members and guests)
October 2015	Visit to Hinze Dam (12 members and guests)
November 2015	Christmas Lunch at COTAH (37 members and guests)
February 2016	Lunch at Club Central (18 members and guests)

It was very pleasing to the committee to see the high level of interest in these functions. The new committee will be drawing up the program for 2016-17 at their next meeting. Suggestions from members for that program are always welcome.

Our most popular event was the mid-year luncheon where we celebrated our thirtieth year. This gave us a chance to pay tribute to our former committee members and for them to again make contact with each other.

Terry Loos has again provided challenging and enjoyable trivia quizzes at our COTAH Luncheons and by popular demand, they are planned to be included again this year.

## **Newsletter**

Ian Pullar has once again done an excellent job in producing a further 3 issues of our Newsletter. This year Ian has had a good response for articles of interest and hopes this continues. In addition, Ian would very much like readers to send in news of members and former colleagues for the remaining issues this year. Therefore send a note to Ian as soon as you see, hear or read something that may be of interest to others.

The Newsletter is vital for our organisation. Few of our country members can participate in our social functions and the newsletter provides a link between our country and city members. Also some of our older city members are finding it increasingly difficult to attend functions. DEWS, DNRM and SunWater staff members are notified of new issues of the Newsletter through internal emails. Ian, thanks for a job well done!

## **Website**

Our website has been operational since July 2010. We are indebted to Jon Henry (as our Webmaster) for the ongoing maintenance of the site.

More than 130 of our members now receive newsletters and other notices electronically thereby reducing costs for SunWater and reducing the workload for the management committee. In 2015 there were 2995 visits to the website, 6300 pages were viewed and there were 34 767 file hits. The hits included the graphics and other files associated with the web pages. As well as being accessed by

members, our website is attracting attention from others. Our last newsletter featured an article about a former Water Resources employee who now lives in Vancouver. He found our website following an internet search.

The website is a convenient location where past issues of the Newsletter can be viewed. You are encouraged to visit the website from time to time, and make contributions to the Webmaster when you have some appropriate material for publication.

The Minutes of the AGM and the President's & Treasurer's Reports, will be posted in the coming weeks as we have done in previous years.

### **Finance**

The Treasurer will report that our finances continue to remain sound. Our target of running our functions at or near cost has substantially been achieved except for the mid-year lunch where we hosted past committee members to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary. There is a small deficit this year resulting in part from the expenses associated with that event.

It is proposed that membership subscriptions remain unchanged, while the Association continues to receive its current level of support from SunWater and DEWS.

### **Management Committee**

The Management Committee met for 5 formal meetings during the year. Committee members also met on other occasions to arrange the mailouts for the flyers and newsletters.

The committee will undergo significant change in the coming year. I will be stepping down as president and as a consequence Hein van der Heide will retire as immediate past president. Also retiring are the treasurer, Ross Stewart and committee members, Pat McCourt and Terry Loos. I would like to thank Ross, Pat and Terry for their contributions to the club. Terry has been a committee member since 2010 and both Ross and Pat have been in their positions since 2013.

My thanks go to Mike Merrin, our Vice President, and to Hein van der Heide for their support and advice to me and the Committee during the year, and in particular for organising functions and taking over the running of meetings when I have been absent over the last 12 months.

Committee Members have also readily undertaken the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, when Peter Jones and Ross Stewart were absent.

My thanks also to our Secretary, Peter Jones. Peter ably carries out the day to day running of the Association and the organisation of functions and meetings.

Thanks also to our committee member Terry Loos who capably supported the committee with his time and participation and also prepares the tricky trivia questions for the mid and end of year luncheons.

### **Acknowledgements**

We are thankful to our co-patron, Prof. Paul Simshauser, the Director General of Department of Energy and Water Supply, and former co-patron, Mr Peter Boettcher, CEO of SunWater for their strong support of the Association. As stated earlier, Peter recently resigned from his position as CEO

of SunWater. I would like to place on record our appreciation of Peter's assistance over many years. He has recently applied for membership so we look forward to seeing him at future functions.

We would like to thank SunWater staff for their support in the printing and mailing of our Newsletter and providing a meeting place for our management committee over the past six years.

Our thanks go out once again to our Auditor, Ray Sutherland for undertaking the important task of ensuring that our financial statements are compliant with the legislative requirements placed on an incorporated association such as ours. Ray has indicated he wishes to step down from the position this year. He has been our auditor since 2003. I join the treasurer in wishing him the best for the future.

**Geoff Eades**  
**President**

**Water Resources Retirees Association Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting – 28 April 2016**  
**Treasurer's Report – 2015-2016**

I have pleasure in presenting to Members a report on the financial affairs of the Water Resources Retiree's Association Inc. for the 2015 – 2016 year.

The Association's Financial Year runs from 1 April to the following 31 March.

The 2015-2016 Financial Statement shows that the Association has a deficit of income over expenditure for the year of \$103.55.

One of the Association's major sources of income is Membership Subscriptions. Membership Subscriptions received this year (\$1,132.50) is higher than subscriptions received last year (\$292.50). This is mainly due to the larger number of members billed in the financial year and fewer members requesting Paid Up status having reached the age of 75 years.

Interest on the Suncorp Term Deposit (\$423.49) is the other major source of Income and is higher than last year (\$312.68) due to the longer maturing term. Interest rates available for term deposits are lower than last year.

The Association's operating expenditure each year is minimal comprising reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses to the President, Secretary and Treasurer, other operating expenditure and the cost of the lunch following the Annual General Meeting (\$261.50 in April 2015). Operating expenses associated with the ongoing operation of the Association's website (\$214.36) is a cost effective way of communicating with the Members.

A summary of the major expenditure and income of the Association is shown in the attached Statement of Receipts and Payments.

All other functions of the Association are planned to be self funding with those Members attending paying for the cost of the function. The Mid-Year Luncheon this year incurred a loss of \$930.99 due to past committee members being invited to have their meal provided free of charge to the special one off gathering. The event brought many past committee members together for the first time in many years. The Christmas Luncheon made a loss of \$129.00. The Committee pays for visiting guests and guest speakers.

A visit to the Hinze Dam in October was made with the participants paying for their own travel costs and luncheon.

**Term Deposit with Suncorp:**

The Term Deposit has been renewed as required at the best available interest rate of 2.80% and will be next renewed on 25 June 2016.

## **2015-2016 Membership Subscriptions:**

The 2015-2016 Membership Subscriptions are due for payment by 30 April 2016. A total of 54 Membership Renewal Invoices were sent out in February. There is an increase of members choosing to be notified by email from previous years. The committee is successfully moving towards electronic communication with Members and would appreciate those members who have not advised the Secretary of their email address to provide it if they can.

As per this year, Members have been asked to pay four years of Membership Subscriptions at the one time as has been requested in their subscription notice as yearly fees are very low.

Membership is currently 191 comprised of 39 Country members, 92 Ordinary members (Brisbane and surrounding regions), 34 Paid Up members aged over 75 (Country and Ordinary), and 26 nonpaying Spouses.

### **Auditor:**

Ray Sutherland has been the Association's Auditor for many of years and has advised that he would like to stand down as our auditor as he will not be keeping abreast of the appropriate accounting and auditing requirements to audit our books in future. He therefore requests that the Committee search for a replacement auditor for the 2016-17.

The committee thanks Ray for auditing the Associations accounts again this year and wish him the best for his future activities.

### **Secretary:**

I thank the Association's Secretary Peter Jones for his cooperation and assistance in keeping my "Membership Billing Spreadsheet" in sync with the Association's Membership Database thus ensuring that the "Annual Billing List" is correct and also in many other matters in which we work together.

### **Thank You:**

I thank President Geoff Eades and the respective Committee Members for their friendship, assistance and advice during the year which will be my last year as Treasurer.

Ross Stewart  
18 April 2016