



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BIDDIES

(Officially known as Water Resources Retired Officers Association Inc.)

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

MAY 1991

Yes, its about a year since the last Newsletter, but hello again from your Executive Committee (for members see 90/91 Committee), and very best wishes for an enjoyable 91/92 season.

I must offer my apologies for being so slack in not getting out at least one more newsletter within the past twelve months. By way of excuses, Joan and I have been very busy moving out of McDowall and into Carseldine over the past nine months, and helping son David into his own place at Chermside West. There has also been little in the way of correspondence sent in for printing and passing on. Please note my change of address to Stan Ross, 55 Whitehorse Street, Carseldine, Qld, 4034 and phone number to (07) 263 7194.

I promise to improve on my recent performance.

RETIREMENTS

Since last May's listing the following have retired or announced imminent retirements.

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|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Alan Vizer | Head Office | June 1990 |
| Dick Wilson | Head Office | July 1990 |
| Bill Webber | Head Office | October 1990 |
| Keith Edwards | Head Office | November 1990 |
| Harry Mills | Head Office | November 1990 |
| Ray Brown | Head Office | December 1990 |
| Dave Parr | Rockhampton | December 1990 |
| Len Ritching | Mareeba | January 1991 |
| John O'Brien | Head Office | January 1991 |
| Gordon Wilson | Head Office | July 1991 |
| Dave Morwood | Head Office | August 1991 |

(on leave from April)

VALE

We regret to note the passing of Association members Stan Bailey (September), Harry Wright (January) and Eric Robinson (March).

Stan Bailey. Stan passed away in September last year aged 66. He had retired in September 1984 after nearly 42 years with the Commission. He spent the first nine years as a Clerk and Works Clerk in Brisbane, was transferred to Theodore in 1950, then to Accounts Branch in 1951, and then to Clare at the end of 1955. He was back in Brisbane at the end of 1961 and remained in Head Office, mostly as Senior Clerk, Stores and Supply Branch until his retirement in 1984. Stan was a keen sportsman and a long time member of the Pacific Golf Club. He did not marry, and in his later years, much of his time was spent caring for his mother.

Harry Wright, born in Brisbane in 1919, and despite growing up during the depression, which produced considerable family hardship, was able to pass Senior, commencing work as a Cadet Draftsman in the Irrigation and Water Supply Department in 1938. After overcoming various delays and obstacles he was inducted into the Air Force in 1941, and trained in Australia, Canada and Scotland, commencing operations over Europe in 1942. Between then and mid 1944, Harry had done 78 operational flights, a record for an Australian in heavy bombers over Europe, i.e. more than four 'tours', when statistics showed that only 24% survived 2 'tours'. He was the only Australian to receive the D.F.C. and Bar and the D.F.M.

He returned to Australia in 1944, was not allowed to fly in the R.A.A.F. in South East Asia - joined QANTAS as a navigator, then returned to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in 1946 as a draftsman. For years after the war he suffered badly from nervous reaction, but fortunately for him, in 1947-48 he met and married Pauline, and always claimed that she and her calmness were 'his best medicine'. Daughters, Joanne and Patricia were born in 1955 and 1957.

In 1956 on Doctor's advice over his worsening sinus condition, he left the Commission, but about 1961 after intensive treatment returned to the Commission until his retirement in 1984. In 1957, he became involved with politics and the D.L.P. He also formed an organisation to support Australian troops during the Vietnam War, visited the area twice, and was otherwise very active in organising, writing, speaking, etc. for that cause.

An anti-communist, he was invited to conferences in Taiwan five times, and was awarded the Order of the Brilliant Star by the Taiwanese Government. Harry was also awarded the Cross of Merit by the Polish Government in exile. In 1973, he returned to Queensland University part-time and completed his Arts Degree (which he had begun in 1939, but dropped) in 1979.

That year he also completed his novel "Pathfinders Light the Way". He and Pauline arranged the self-publication and distribution here, and in 1986 while in England, had it published there also. In ill health Harry retired from the Commission in 1984, but he remained active in the Path Finder Force Association and the R.S.I.

(These notes were extracted from the Panegyric delivered by Dennis Connellan at Harry's funeral service. I have omitted much of the family detail - I hope you find it acceptable, Pauline and Dennis. Thanks for the copy Dennis, and I had not realised till that day that you were Harry's cousin.)

Eric Robinson. "Robbie" passed away suddenly at his Banyo home in March in his 74th year. He had retired at the end of 1977 after nearly 43 years with the Commission.

Robbie started work as a cadet clerk in 1935 and moved to the drafting field two years later. He studied Civil Engineering at night school and was appointed an assistant engineer in 1946 and an engineer a year later. Apart from a period 1949-52 in charge of the District Office at Rockhampton, all of Robbie's engineering service was in Construction Branch in Head Office.

All who worked with Robbie could not avoid being greatly impressed by his sincerity, his honesty, his humility and his strict adherence to his Christian beliefs. Many young engineers starting their careers with Robbie were constantly urged to take even greater care of public funds than their own - a piece of advice that could well have been heeded in much more illustrious and public circles.

Robbie was a keen sportsman with better than average cricketing skills and was well known as a capable and even a cunning golfer.

Our sympathy goes to wife Peg and family.

(Thanks to Bernie Credlin for the notes about Eric.)

Our sincere sympathies are extended to their families.

SICKIES

Col Llewellyn is still in Canossa Hospital, address previously reported.

Henry Hannam returned to Greenslopes early in the year for his third bout of facial surgery.

Bill Day and Bernie Credlin have had varying waterworks operations, but that is months ago and they are both O.K. Bernie's even skiting that he could now put out a bush fire at twenty paces. Bernie has also lately been acting rather martyrish over his supposed housemaid's knees and dishpan hands, while Sherry is recuperating at home after an eye operation.

Garney Johnson has been pretty crook, had a big operation, has had his ups and downs, but was on the up again at the last A.G.M. and the following smoko.

Paddy is remembered for his surveying skills, the hospitality at his surveying camps, his sense of humour and his intolerance of the foolish and the pompous.

P.K. is enjoying his retirement at 9 Princess Road Townsville with wife Ursula and is looking forward to his 70th birthday in September.

(Thanks to Bernie for the notes about Paddy.)

3. Don and Joy Beattie, grandparents again in November but this time in triplicate. "Les Girls", Alexandra, Madeline and Caroline are keeping their parents, Belinda and Jim, their Nanny and Don and Joy quite busy.

TRAVELLERS TALES

I have had a couple of articles here from Morrie Ochert for many months, sorry for the delay Morrie, but here goes with one of them -

KOALAS AT EPRAPAH - by M. Ochert

In the last "Newsletter" I pointed out that it is not necessary to walk on the Great Wall, or to climb a pyramid, or shove off to the moon, in order to enjoy your life. It is not even necessary to don a scuba and hunt for leopard seals (or leopards) under the Artic Ice Shelf - and if you do, leave your bronze ape at home, anyway!

Well, lately we had a nostalgic and happy day at a bush reserve called Erapah, beyond Capalaba. I did a Training Course there in 1933, in my scouting days, and it remains their Environment Centre. Lots of appropriate activities are carried out there, and on that day they launched their "Scouting Cares for the Land Decade". There were also nature trails, water purity tests, sampling of tiny living organisms from a creek to view them under a microscope, conservation of soil and water, green-house effect, solar energy experiments, animal footprint casting, koala food-tree planting, koala health demos, "Greening Australia", and so on. Erapah has a hospice for sick, injured, old or orphaned koalas, as well as those who've succumbed to the confusion and pressure of trying to live in conjunction with our city life. (Even people succumb to THAT!). Many koalas also live there in the wild, as permanent residents or itinerants. They are all identified and are made welcome. Only by activities of this kind will there be any koalas left in the coming century.

There was a terrific atmosphere all day, lots of weather and food and folks and babies and friendliness and koalas and birds and caring and kids. Especially three little chaps who mounted a high arching tree and yelled over and over -

"I'm the king of the castle
and you're the dirty rascal."

However, someone had sold them a "bum steer", and they had the last word all wrong! (Though it almost rhymed with "castle".) There is a prize for any kiddies who guess what word the little boys were chanting. It reminds me of the inscription embossed upon a little hot-water bottle - an Asian import ...

"For tiny tots when the sandman comes
Stick your bottle where it will do the most good."

Didn't I say you can enjoy unique experiences without even leaving Brisbane? (Thanks again Morrie.)

THAT'S LIFE - (You've probably seen it before - but I think its worth a mention)

In the beginning was the Plan.
And then came the Assumptions.
And the Assumptions were without form.
And the Plan of very little substance.
And darkness fell upon the face of the workers.

And they spoke unto their Senior Officers: "It is a crock of crap, and it stinketh!"
And the Senior Officers went unto their Officers-in-Charge and sayeth unto them: "It is a pail of dung, and none may abide the odour thereof".
And the Officers-in-Charge went unto their Regional Directors and sayeth unto them: "It is a container of excrement, and it is strong, such that none may abide it."
And the Regional Directors went unto their Director and sayeth unto him: "It is a vessel of fertiliser, and none can abide its strength."
And the Directors went unto the General Director who has great power, and sayeth unto him: "It containeth that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."
And the General Director went unto the Politician, and sayeth unto him: "It promoteth growth and is very powerful."
And the Politician went unto the Premier and sayeth unto him: "This powerful new plan will actively promote the growth and efficiency of the Department."
And the Premier looked at the Plan and saw that it was good.
And in time the Plan was implemented.

THE END

After that I had better call it a day. Joan and I will be travelling north and spending some time in the Cairns-Mareeba-Tinaroo area over the next few weeks. Hope to see many of the northern members while we are there. By the time we are back in mid June I expect there will be quite a few news articles sent in and waiting for me to produce another newsletter. Cheerio.