



WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BODIES

(Officially known as Q.W.R.C. Retired Officers Association)

NEWSLETTER NO. 7 JULY 1992

Your newsletter has a new editor for the next year. I begin my sentence with a plea for contributions (literary of course), particularly from country members. Even the shortest snippet about people, places or events will be most welcome. My address is 10 KORDICK STREET, CARINA 4152 (Phone 07 398 5103).

RETIREMENTS

The torrent of retirements reported in the December and April newsletters has now dried up, at least temporarily.

RECOVERIES

Mrs George Pearce is recuperating from the results of a recent fall that led to her hospitalisation. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Frank Learmonth is out of hospital and is making his presence felt (and heard) on the bowling green.

Hands, knees and*

Oleg Vitte is recovering at home after surgery on his left hand.

Des Foster is also back home after a lengthy stay in hospital after a knee operation and consequent complications. Des is again President of the Queensland Golf Union.

(* I am unable to identify a member suffering from an affliction to the third bodily part included in the title of the wartime song).

REMINISCENCES

The many friends of Tom Thomas will be pleased to learn that he is in good health at the age of 83 and still lives at Bardon.

Tom came to Queensland from Wales in 1928 and settled in the Monto area. He later joined the Irrigation Department. When he retired in 1975, Tom was the senior draftsman in the old Project Planning Branch.

Following a car accident last year Tom no longer drives himself and greatly regrets the resulting loss of independence. He describes his present activities as "helping others" an activity that will be pleasantly remembered by scores of draftsmen who trained under this fine old gentleman.

Ken and Mrs Carmichael are now residing in "Sunsetholme", 26 Rochester Terrace, Normanby. It is almost 21 years since Ken retired as Chief Engineer of the old Rivers and Streams Branch. At 86 next month Ken is no longer as active as he was but he would welcome short notes from former colleagues. His daughter, Miss Jenny Carmichael, 6 Warma Street Stafford 4053 would be delighted to read these to him.

Arthur Seabrook has also been retired 21 years from the Hydrology Section of the old Surface Water Branch. After several years of active retirement Arthur was smitten by a stroke. He has regained some of his mobility and is quite alert. He enjoys reading, talking with friends and retirement home excursions. Arthur and Mrs Seabrook are at the Hopetoun Aged Persons Complex, Clivedon Annexe, Corinda (Room 204 Floor B). Arthur accepts his lot without complaint and looks forward to chatting with visitors.

The many friends of **Jim Ole** will be interested to know that he is now living in the "Buckingham Gardens" Retirement Complex at No. 8 Buckingham Street Alexandra Hills 4161 (07 824 4623). Jim is in pretty good shape and would welcome contact with old (and young) work-mates. Jim retired on 10 July. A function to farewell him will be held on 17 July. Members wishing to attend should contact Ms Anne Llewellyn (07) 224 2928.

VALE

Many members will remember Frank Skillington and will be saddened by his death a short time ago. After service with the Royal Australian Air Force in Britain Frank worked with the Commission at Charleville, Warwick and Biloela. He retired in 1979 and moved to Hervey Bay where Mrs Skillington still resides.

RETIREEES UNION

At the May General Meeting a letter was read from Morris Ochert drawing attention to the formation of the Association of **Independent Retirees** "which aims to get some equitable treatment for those who studied, worked and paid high taxes in a long and productive working life". Members seeking further information on the Association should contact Ms Maureen Kingston Box 537 Mooloolabah 4557, phone 074 453310.

Further extracts from Morris' letter are included:

"I feel that many IWS retirees are in the same position as I am. When I retired, I was able to invest my super and other funds, in the expectation that I would be self-supporting thereafter. But lower interest rates have reduced dividends, a few sources have collapsed e.g. Estate Mortgage and Kern etc., ALL costs have shot up - haircuts, stamps, bread, fares, medical, dental, MBF premiums, car registration and insurance etc. etc. Tax stays high. The dollar buys less. One's needs become no less, despite the VERY ill-informed prognoses peddled by those inexperienced people who gave us those lectures at the PSC".

We "... are now in that pathetic group called the 'people with fixed incomes' (we should read falling incomes). So there are millions of pensioners some of whom have not contributed to the national purse through tax etc. and yet who receive great handouts from 'the Public Nipple' (a rare mixed metaphor by Bob Hawke) and whose welfare is looked after by indexation ... and there are us who have paid (and still pay plenty) to establish and maintain our Welfare State."

Morrie went on to make uncomplimentary remarks about some politicians and administrators and listed numerous examples of what he saw as wasteful expenditure including a grant of \$11,000 to design a surfboard to accommodate female contours.

Thanks Morrie.

ROSS REPORT

President Stan Ross has provided these notes:-

The Executive met briefly after the Annual General Meeting on 16 April, then again on 7 May (absent - D. Morwood) and on 18 June 1992 (absent - S. Ross).

The suggestion by Des Foster on paying now for a "Life" membership has been further discussed and the present feeling is that "Life" membership is usually reserved for an honorary recognition of outstanding contribution, but also our Constitution would need Justice Department approved alterations with resulting charges. Our Constitution does allow for "fully paid up" members who are over 75 and have been members for at least 5 years. We, perhaps, could come up with an adaptation of this provision. For the time being, however, the Treasurer has adequate capability for recording payment of a number of years in advance if members wish to take advantage of that, to save the inconvenience of sending only \$5 annually. The question was deferred at the Annual General Meeting to the next general meeting.

The invitation from Roy Maxted on behalf of a Bundaberg group to visit them and tour the Bundaberg District was gratefully accepted and arrangements have been made, as you know, for a visit by other members on 18 July. A fair response has been received from the Brisbane area.

The suggestion for a Bursary/Scholarship to be initiated by this Association (made by John Morse), has been looked into. Since the Graham Jobling Award was to finish this year, it has been thought appropriate to continue with either this, or a similar "Award of Excellence", sponsored by our Association to the extent of about \$100 or so per year. The proposal has been discussed with the Trustees of the Graham Jobling Award and the Commissioner and is viewed favourably. Further action is to be taken at future meetings. Any comments from members is welcome.

Thanks Stan.

REMINDER

The next "drinks and snack" function will be on Wednesday 2 September. NOT the 3rd as advised by the letter of 20 May. This type of function has proved popular in the past and a good attendance is anticipated.

And on the subject of drinks the following notice was observed on a blackboard outside a Belfast Hotel during the drought of 1987.

"During water restrictions all spirits will be full strength".

Cheers,

S. Moran

for Bernie Credlin
EDITOR