

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

Newsletter No. 100

December 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Centenary Celebrations

Our Special Edition Newsletter in June this year focused on the celebrations planned to mark the 100th anniversary of the Irrigation Act 1922, the establishment of the Irrigation and Water Supply Department and the start of government sponsored large scale irrigation schemes in Queensland.

A major part of the celebrations was the program of reunion events in six centres around the State for our members and other past employees to get together, reflect on past achievements, and renew friendships and acquaintances.

The participation in these events, at Mareeba in August with 37 people, Theodore with 18 people, Yeppoon with 41 people, Bundaberg with 37 people, Toowoomba with 26 people, and Brisbane with 41 people, all in October, was wonderful.

The number of people who attended these events is an indication of the strong interest across the State, and the camaraderie, story-telling, and pleasure at meeting old colleagues was clearly evident at all the events. Many have asked when can we do this again!

The function in Brisbane was held on 19 October, exactly one hundred years to the day following the appointment of Queensland's first Irrigation Commissioner, Archibald Frederick Partridge.

He initiated the commencement of the Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme, the first of its type in Queensland, and Theodore, the 'town that water built'. The celebration function in Theodore was held in the Theodore Hotel, which had its humble beginnings as the IWSC Settlers Accommodation House, so becoming the first 'watering hole' of many IWSC workers and, since 1954, the only community owned and run hotel in Queensland. It was a privilege that we had the Mayor of the Banana Shire, the Manager of the Hotel and representatives of the local irrigation community at the luncheon. Theodore is proud of its history – the Hotel's six page "About the Town of Theodore" publication placed in each hotel room is a fascinating read.

I am very pleased that the participation and positive feedback for all the functions far exceeded the expectations of the Association's Committee and the organising subcommittee of Bruce Pearce and Gary Corbett.

I make a special acknowledgement of Bruce and Gary for their commitment over the last year, planning and making these events happen. They were helped by others including Rob Lait and Peter Gilbey for Mareeba, Ed Donohue for Theodore, Mike McKenna for Yeppoon, David Dempster and Ray Maynard for Bundaberg and Dave Free for Toowoomba. Each of these former and present staff members was able to assist in putting together a list of possible contacts to help spread the word about the events and so contributed to their success.

Peter Bevin, our last Commissioner, attended the Brisbane function and emphasised the point that all members of staff of the previous Departments were regarded as family within the organisation and thanked the Association for continuing this role amongst retired people by bringing them together in their retirement. I would also thank our Co-Patron, SunWater CEO Glenn Stockton. Glenn attended both the Toowoomba and Brisbane functions and gave a brief outline of current activities within SunWater. Glenn also ensured there were SunWater senior representatives at all the other functions.

I, along with Bruce, Gary and other Committee members was pleased to participate in the events, the story-telling and genuine camaraderie amongst past colleagues being a highlight.

The celebration has resulted in connection with many past colleagues who we have not had contact over many years, both members and non-members of WRRRA. Of the almost 200 people who attended the functions many were not members of the Association. Some have since joined and I see the contacts created by the celebration events as an opportunity for the Association to grow its membership and its future events.

Chris Robson President

From the Editor's Chair

What an amazing coincidence that the 100th WRRRA Newsletter is being published in the same year that we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the first Irrigation Act. Of course the State was involved in water management prior to 1922, but that year was a particular milestone. So too is the 100th publication of the Association which continues to flourish with new membership from the Oldies and Boldies.

Until next time, au reservoir.

Ian Pullar, Editor

*Best wishes
from
WRRRA for
Christmas, New Year
and 2023*



Centenary Celebrations

From a report by Bruce Pearce to the WRRRA Committee

During the period from late August 2022 to late October 2022, functions were held at six locations throughout the State as part of our celebrations to commemorate 100 years since the passage of the Irrigation Act of 1922 and the formation of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and its many successors which followed. The celebrations took the form of a series of Get-Togethers in Mareeba, Yeppoon, Bundaberg and Toowoomba and two celebratory luncheons in Theodore and Brisbane. The Get-Togethers were a series of informal gatherings while the two luncheons were more formal in nature.

Following the formation of a sub-committee (Bruce Pearce and Gary Corbett) to organise the functions that had been approved by the WRRRA Executive Committee, work began on the huge task of trying to locate and inform all present and past members of WRRRA, other former colleagues of IWSC and all of its successors who were not members of WRRRA including contractors who worked for IWSC and current staff of the various current Water Resource Organisations, of the proposed events throughout the State. Approaches were made to key persons who the Committee thought may be able to assist in each of the local areas. These were Rob Lait for Mareeba, Ed Donohue for Theodore, Mike McKenna for Yeppoon, David Dempster and Ray Maynard for Bundaberg and Dave Free for Toowoomba. Each of these former and present staff members was able to assist in putting together a list of possible contacts in each of their areas. Thus began what became known as the “grapevine” which proved to be a very valuable tool in locating by word of mouth many of our list of potential attendees for each location.

The next task was to select the various venues at each of the locations that the Executive Committee had selected and select the dates for each function. Visits were made to Mareeba, Bundaberg and Toowoomba to assess possible suitable venues at each of these locations paying special attention to venues that had been suggested by our local key persons. Requirements for each venue were preferably a separate private function room or area, availability of catering facilities, access to bars, availability of a projector and microphone facilities, suitable parking and preferably Bistro facilities to which attendees could adjourn, should they wish to have an evening meal following the function.

The following venues and dates were selected.

Mareeba Leagues Club, Mareeba on Monday 22 August 2022

Theodore Hotel, Theodore on Tuesday 4 October 2022

The Clubhouse, Keppel Bay Sailing Club on Thursday 6 October 2022

Brothers Sports Club, Bundaberg on Monday 10 October 2022

‘The Shed’, Royal Hotel, Toowoomba on Wednesday 12 October 2022

The Ship Inn, Southbank, Brisbane on Wednesday 19 October 2022

The date for the function in Mareeba was selected for late August because it was felt that the weather conditions would be more pleasant at that time of year in Mareeba. The remainder of the dates were selected close together in October, to give an

opportunity for participants to attend several functions by travelling a circuit around Central and South East Queensland culminating in the function in Brisbane exactly one hundred years to the day following the appointment of Queensland’s first Irrigation Commissioner, Archibald Frederick Partridge.

Using the ‘grapevine’ along with the existing WRRRA membership lists, an extensive database containing e-mail addresses was compiled. All people for whom we had e-mail addresses were sent special invitations designed by Gary Corbett to all functions throughout the State at the relevant time prior to each function. Those members for whom we did not have e-mail addresses were sent invitations by post. All responses to the invitations were recorded and lists compiled of attendees for each function as well as recording apologies. The list of attendees and apologies for each of the functions is attached to this report.

For use on all correspondence and merchandise specially commissioned for the Centenary celebrations, a series of logos (four in all) were designed and approved by the Committee.

These consisted of a generic logo used at the Mareeba, Bundaberg and Toowoomba functions, a special logo for each of the celebrations at Theodore and Yeppoon and one for the Gala Luncheon held in Brisbane on the centenary date.

In all cases the informal Get-Togethers were wholly funded by the WRRRA in an effort to encourage the local former employees to attend and to give the WRRRA an opportunity to give something back to its country members who had been contributing to the organisation with little return. Finger food was provided. Drinks were paid for by the attendees. The WRRRA presented each attendee with a memento of the occasion in the form of a stubby holder especially commissioned for each function containing the centenary logo.

At each function boasted a display of past photographs going right back to 1922 and depicting many activities during various aspects of life back in the IWSC days, both in construction camps at various sites around the State and in the office and other field activities, most of which were lent by John Ruffini from the Department of Environment and Science and Mike Keane from the Department of Resources. At most venues where projection facilities were available a continuous running slide show was presented during the course of the proceedings.

The formal luncheons took the form of a sit down two course meal which was partly subsidised by the WRRRA and had a cover charge to assist in defraying the cost of the functions. Drinks were again paid for by the attendees. Again the WRRRA presented each attendee with a specially commissioned stubby holder for each of the Theodore and Brisbane luncheons containing the centenary logo.

A brief summary of each function follows.

MAREEBA

A lunchtime function commencing at 12 noon was held in Mareeba at the Mareeba Leagues Club on 22 August 2022. In all 37 people attended with 22 apologies, representing technical, professional and clerical people from the IWSC (members and non members) and its many successors, present people from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water and SunWater, and a number of people who had worked as contractors on the Tinaroo Dam and Mareeba-Dimbula Irrigation project over the years. The attendees and apologies are listed along with some photographic records on the next page.

As was the case for all of the informal functions, the format consisted of a formal welcome from WRRRA to the Get Together, followed by an invitation from the chair for those present to speak and reminisce about their experiences in the IWSC and its successors. This was followed by the serving of a lunch consisting of finger food, after which a group photo to record the occasion was taken. Following this, the function became very informal giving attendees the opportunity to mingle and share stories.



Former President Peter Gilbey made the formal welcome on behalf of WRRRA after which SUNWATER representative, Colin Bendall gave a brief update on SUNWATER's activities in Far North Queensland.

Attendees Colin Bendall, Jeff Benjamin, Jim Blakeney, Craig Cahill, Errol Carlson, Rhonda Carlson, Thelma Carlson, Gary Crane, Shannon Dempster, John Dixon, Sharyn Dixon, Ray Evans, Joy Evans, Peter Gilbey, Lesley Gilbey, Nigel Kelly, Rob Lait, Julie Lait, Leon Leach, Joy Leach, Charlie Martens, Connie Martens, Jim Nunn, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Allan Pollard, Glenda Pollard, Len Richings, Kaye Richings, Terry Roos, Dorothy Roos, Neale Searle, Merle Searle, Murray Smith, Tim Smith, George Wallace, Brian Warburton.

Apologies: Jim Barrie, Dorrie Barrie, Greg Claydon, Graham Gillies, Phil Holden, Peter Jones, Diane Jones, Bruce Keogh, Gary Luck, Ray Maynard, John Maynard, Sandra Maynard, Ernie Melville, Stephen Parker, Geoff Pocock, Michael Rees, Wayne Reinke, Rolf Rose, Brian Shannon, Bill Souter, Frank Van Schagen, William Weaver.

THEODORE

Back in 1922, Premier Theodore himself introduced the Bill for the IRRIGATION ACT of 1922 and the Act was passed on 18 October 1922. The very next day saw the birth of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and the appointment of experienced engineer Archibald Frank Partridge as first Commissioner. He was to be the father with two hats namely 'founding father' of the IWSC community and 'founding father' of Castle Creek Township. All this occurred only a matter of months after Premier Theodore's party made its first official visit to the Castle Creek town site, subsequently renamed Theodore after the Premier.

The first Commissioner exercised executive control over development of the town under special provisions of the Irrigation Act of 1922, making him the man behind the 'town that water built'.

As part of this development the Theodore Hotel had humble beginnings as the IWSC Settlers Accommodation House, becoming the first 'watering hole' of many IWSC workers. Hotel Theodore is therefore a part of a proud heritage enjoyed by its owner/builder IWSC and any number of its successors. Ownership of the hotel passed from our community to that of Theodore, by virtue of the Hotel Theodore Sale Act of 1954.

The WRRRA Committee therefore considered that it would be very appropriate to have some form of celebration at the Theodore Hotel as part of our overall centenary celebrations. A luncheon was held at 12 noon at the hotel on 4 October 2022. In all, 17 people attended with 12 apologies, representing technical and professional people from the IWSC

(members and non members) and its many successors, a representative from SUNWATER, the Mayor of the Banana Shire, the Manager of the Hotel and representatives of the local irrigation farming community. Apologies were received from the Chair of the Hotel Co-operative Board and the Chair of the local Irrigators Board, who had been invited to the luncheon.

Our President Chris Robson opened proceedings with a formal welcome to all present and acknowledgement of all elders, past, present and future who occupied the land on which we met. He especially welcomed the Mayor of the Banana Shire, Cr Nev Ferrier and invited him to speak. The Mayor spoke of the long lasting link between the people of Theodore and the IWSC during and since the construction of the Theodore Irrigation Area. Other people present were then invited to speak, including local past and present irrigators represented by Neville Brownlie and Peter French and their wives. All spoke of the enormous contribution made by the IWSC community to the Theodore area over many decades.

Following the serving of a roast lunch, our President invited the Manager of the Hotel, Peta Duns, to accept a specially framed memento of the occasion to be placed in the Hotel at a suitable location, commemorating WRRRA's contribution to Theodore's planned Centenary celebrations over the coming two years. He also presented a set of six specially commissioned laminated placemats depicting life in the IWSC over the past century to Cr Ferrier as a memento of the occasion.



Attendees: Neville Brownlie, Pitisi Brownlie, Daryl Conway, Gary Corbett, Peta Duns, Cr Nev Ferrier, Peter French, Diana French, Peter Gilbey, Mike Keane, Peter McMahon, Denise McMahon, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Chris Robson, Jenny Robson, Jason Smith.

Apologies: Fred Barlow, Sarah Cox, Ed Donohue, Malcolm Finlayson, Graham Gillies, Peter Jones, Dianne Jones, Gary Luck, Kerrod Marler, Wayne Reinke, Shane Roediger, Frank Van Schagen.

YEPPOON

Past employees of the IWSC and its successors from the Central Queensland region have for a number of years met in Yeppoon round about October for an annual reunion at the Keppel Bay Sailing Club. This has been organised by former Regional Engineer Mike McKenna over the years.

As this was a special year, the Committee decided to approach Mike to see if a combined Centenary celebration could be held in Yeppoon this year. Seed funding was provided to Mike to cover the cost of providing finger food for the Get Together. Upon Mike's agreement it was decided that on this one occasion invitations and responses would be handled by the Organising Committee for all the series of functions throughout the State allowing similar themes and procedures to be followed for all functions.

The Yeppoon Get Together was held at 2.00 pm at the Clubhouse at the Keppel Bay Sailing Club on 6 October 2022. In all 41 people attended, with 18 apologies, representing technical, professional, clerical and administrative areas of the IWSC (members and non- members) and its successors, a representative from SunWater and a number of people who worked as contractors or employees on construction sites and irrigation areas throughout Central Queensland. Many of these people have retired and now live in Yeppoon.

President Chris Robson opened proceedings with a formal welcome from WRRRA to all present and acknowledgement of all elders, past, present and future who occupied the land on which we met. As co-host of the proceedings, he then gave Mike McKenna the opportunity to welcome everybody to Yeppoon and to share in their local group's annual reunion as well as thanking him for his role in assisting with the organisation of the function. Other people present were then given the opportunity to speak. A common theme coming from these speakers was the emphasis of the great family culture that the IWSC had for all of its employees, where many lifelong friendships were made. A highlight was an account of the role the wives and children of IWSC employees played, who lived in construction camps throughout the State. This was given passionately by Beryl Ledwy who outlined what lives were like for these families back in those days. She also indicated that she has a large collection of photographs from these days that the WRRRA may be able to use in the future to assist in developing an historical record of these earlier years in the IWSC.

Finger food was then served followed by a group photo to record the occasion. Proceedings then became very informal with some attendees staying on to have dinner there.



Attendees: Jim Barrie, Dorrie Barrie, Dorrie Beutel, Krys Beutel, Ron Boal, Robin Boon, Maurie Clewley, Lynn Clewley, Gary Corbett, Neal Cox, Doug Crawford, Cec Dinsdale, Debbie Drochmann, Les Edmestone, Neil Farrel, Yvonne Farrel, Robert Gnech, Gladstone Holmes, Warren Hutton, Joan Hutton, Mike Keane, Beryl Ledwy, Bill Legg, Kerrod Marler, Bailey McBeth Cooper, Mike McKenna, Jacky McKenna, Philip McKone, Rosie McLean, Peter McMahon, Denise McMahon, Mick Merrin, Mick Newbecker, Jim Nunn, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Bill Robertson, Chris Robson, Jenny Robson, Lyle Stower, Pam Williams.

Apologies: Kev Archie, Debbie Bianchi, Peter Cannell, Jo Cannell, Greg Claydon, Ed Donohue, Graham Gillies, Bob Gray, Maurie Heness, Peter Jones, Dianne Jones, Nigel Kelly, Merv Leslie, Gary Luck, Wayne Reinke, Bill Steen, Frank Van Schagen, Ross Wheeler.

BUNDABERG

With there being 17 members from the Bundaberg region as members of WRRRA prior to the Centenary Celebrations, it was considered that support from this region would be fairly strong. Our local contact David Dempster supplied the Organising Committee with a comprehensive list of people from the Bundaberg region and with the help of the 'grapevine' it became very obvious that support from the region would be extensive.

The Bundaberg Get Together was held at 3.00pm at the Brothers Sports Club on 10 October. In all, 37 people attended, with 12 apologies, representing technical, professional, clerical and administrative areas of the IWSC (members and non-members) and its successors, representatives from SunWater and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water as well as a number of people who worked as contractors or employees on construction sites and irrigation areas .

President Chris Robson opened proceedings with a formal welcome from WRRRA to all present and acknowledgement of all elders, past, present and future who occupied the land on which we met. He then invited other people to speak of their past experiences in the IWSC and all of its successors. A highlight was an entertaining speech by Ray Maynard outlining some of his experiences while working as a surface water hydrographer in years gone by, undertaking activities which would now be frowned upon under current Workplace, Health and Safety provisions.

Finger food was then served, followed by the usual group photo, with some people remaining to have dinner in the Club's restaurant.



Attendees: Bruce Bass, Daryl Brigden, Lyn Brigden, Bob Brydon, Margaret Brydon, Phil Byrne, Ross Carruthers, Tessa Carruthers, David Dempster, Cec Dinsdale, Francine Hamilton, Peter Hodgkinson, Darren Large, Ken Mann, Ray Maynard, Reg Miller, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Mark Pearson, Dave Pollard, Lois Pollard, David Pollard, Alan Potter, Theal Potter, Max Riley, Judith Riley, Chris Robson, Jenny Robson, Ken Royan, Peter Summers, David Tardrew, Rodney Terry, Noela Terry, Warren Vaschina, Dave Walters, Cynthia Hoogstraten, Ken Ward.

Apologies: Greg Claydon, Roger Cowell, Graham Gillies, Peter Jones, Dianne Jones, Gary Luck, Peter McMahon, Denise McMahon, Wayne Reinke, Frank Van Schagen, Trevor Tuesley, Jim Uhlmann.

TOOWOOMBA

Initial response to the invitation mail-out to attend a function in Toowoomba was not very encouraging, with only about a dozen responses. However following an appeal to Dave Free, our local supporter in Toowoomba, he was able to drum up further local support and thus assure us that a function could proceed as planned.

The function was held at 12 noon at the Royal Hotel on 12 October with 26 people attending, representing technical, professional, clerical, managerial and administrative areas of the IWSC and its successors (members and non-members), representatives from SunWater (including its CEO Glenn Stockton) and several representatives from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water and Department of Environment and Science.

President Chris Robson opened proceedings with a formal welcome from WRRRA to all present, and an Acknowledgement of Country. He especially welcomed our Co-Patron, Glenn Stockton, CEO of SunWater and invited him to speak. Glenn outlined the present activities of SunWater throughout the state pointing out that the core business was intended to change from that of predominantly managing existing assets to the design of new assets including new dams and weirs.

Several other speakers then followed outlining memories of their time working for the government in a Department which really looked after its staff.

A finger food lunch was then provided, followed by the usual group photograph.



Attendees: Ashley Bleakley, Peter Brownhalls, David Burton, Gary Corbett, Rob Craig, Ed Donohue, Orren Ferrington, Dave Free, Peter Galligan, Bruce Gaydon, Pauline Gaydon, Dennis Gilbard, Lyn Gilbard, Gerry Harth, Mike Hopkins, Phil McEwan, Adrian McKay, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Dave Quinlan, Chris Robson, Dennis Russell, Mal Shepherd, Phil Sternes, Glenn Stockton, Ian Young.

Apologies: Fred Barlow, Greg Claydon, Graham Gillies, Peter Jones, Dianne Jones, Gary Luck, Martin Moran, Wayne Reinke, Jenny Robson, Frank Van Schagen, Jim Uhlmann, Jim Weller.

BRISBANE

As a grand finale to the celebrations that had been held in regional Queensland, a gala luncheon was held on 19 October 2022 at the Ship Inn at Southbank, held exactly 100 years to the day following the appointment of the first Commissioner Archibald Frederick Partridge and the birth of our Irrigation and Water Supply community. The venue was an excellent choice with the function room and veranda overlooking Southbank Parklands and the tables decorated in a blue and white theme representing the colours of a past logo (affectionally known as the tadpole) for the Water Resources Commission. Also special laminated placemats were commissioned for the occasion depicting various parts of the past history of the IWSC and its successors and attendees were invited to take these home as souvenirs if they wished.

In all, 41 people attended, with 19 apologies, representing technical, professional and management positions within the IWSC and its successors (members and non-members), representatives from SunWater and representatives from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, Department of Resources and the Department of Environment and Science. Special guests invited to the function included the only surviving past Commissioner, Peter Bevin, and one of our Patrons, Glen Stockton, CEO of SunWater. An apology was received from our other Patron, Linda Dobe, from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

President Chris Robson opened proceedings with a formal welcome from WRRRA to all present, and acknowledgement of all elders, past, present and future who occupied the land on which we met. He especially welcomed our former Commissioner, Peter Bevin, and our Patron, Glenn Stockton to the luncheon and invited them to speak to the gathering.

Peter emphasised the point that all members of staff of the previous Departments were regarded as family within the organisation. He thanked the WRRRA for continuing this role amongst retired people by bringing them together in their retirement.

Glenn gave a brief outline of current activities within SunWater and its changing role into the future where some emphasis would change to once again being involved in design and future supervision of construction of new facilities. Several other attendees then spoke of their experiences within the various Departments over the past years.

A regular activity traditionally undertaken at WRRRA dinners over the years, namely a series of trivia questions, was again introduced by Terry Loos and proved to be quite a challenge as the number of correct answers this time appeared to be lower than usual.

The Special Newsletter No 98 that was distributed to all members and also non-members for whom we had e-mail addresses contained a crossword and readers had been encouraged to reply with a completed version as an entry into a competition to win a \$100 prize. Unfortunately only two responses were received by the Organising Committee. As a result, a decision was made to replace this competition with a Lucky Door Prize of \$100 on the day. With all the names of people attending placed in the ice bucket along with the names of the two people who did respond, our former Commissioner was invited to make the draw. This resulted in the winner being Adrian McKay with the runner up being Paul Martin who took home a box of chocolates.

A buffet luncheon was then enjoyed by all present followed by the obligatory group photograph.



Unfortunately, there is only room for a few of the many photographs taken at all the functions. My apologies for the omissions – Ed.



Apologies: Peter Borrows, Irena Buckman, Greg Claydon, Linda Dobe, Graham Gillies, Peter Jones, Dianne Jones, Paul Lawrence, Gary Luck, Peter McMahon, Denise McMahon, Perry Molloy, Ian Pullar, Wayne Reinke, Rolf Rose, Scott Spencer, Hein Van der Heide, Frank Van Schagen, Jim Uhlmann.



Attendees: Rob Ayre, Kate Eyre, Colin Bendall, Rowland Bendall, Peter Bevin, Ged Brennan, Daryl Brigden, Lyn Brigden, Peter Butler, Anthony Clarey, Ed Donohue, Geoff Eades, Bill Eastgate, Robyn Eastgate, Ian Ferrer, Peter Gilbey, Lesley Gilbey, Lyall Hinrichsen, John Hillier, Bernie Hillier, Mike Hopkins, Bill Huxley, Terry Loos, Mike Marley, Paul Martin, Bob McDonald, Chris McDonald, Adrian McKay, Graeme Milligan, Bruce Pearce, Jennifer Pearce, Peter Read, Chris Robson, Jenny Robson, John Ruffini, Paul Sanders, Brian Shannon, Glenn Stockton, Jim Weller, Graham Young, Peter Zinn.

The whole series of functions to commemorate the centenary has been an outstanding success with all functions happening without any unexpected hitches, which has made it a very rewarding experience for the Organising Committee. We thank the WRRRA Committee for giving us the opportunity to undertake this exercise. In particular it has given us the opportunity to make contact with a number of past colleagues with whom we have not had contact over many years, both members and non-members of WRRRA. The use of the 'grapevine' has enabled us to re-establish contact with many past colleagues. Invitations were sent out to 323 people with a result of approximately 200 attending one function or more.

Of the almost 200 people that attended the functions only approximately 40 were members of WRRRA. (Wives and partners excluded). This indicates that there is a lot of potential out there for the organisation to expand its membership into the future.

Bruce Pearce and Gary Corbett

As editor and a member of the Committee, I must agree with President Chris in commending Bruce and Gary for their mammoth efforts. The idea of the celebration was Bruce's and Gary (Bruno) enthusiastically jumped on board his train of thought. Their many devoted hours brought the whole concept to an outstanding success. All members of WRRRA are enormously grateful – Ed.

Annual Golf Day 2022

Unfortunately due to the loss and illness of some of our stalwarts the field for this year's WRRRA Annual golf day at the Keperra Golf and Country Club was limited to just two groups.

We note with great sadness the loss of Peter Allan who really enjoyed getting out on the course with his former work buddies.

This year's champion is Geoff Eades who carded a very commendable 20 Stableford points, with Peter McMahon runner up with 17 points, followed closely by Tony Clarey with 16 points.

Geoff steadily improved the further the game went with three pointers on the par 5th and 6th and a four pointer for a birdie on the Par 3, 7th hole.

The rest of the field comprised my guest Tony Farrell, Terry Loos and me with apologies from our new President Chris Robson, Greg Claydon, Trevor Sleep, Doug Flanders and Mike Merrin.

Next year we are planning for a change of venue – looks like we will be off to Secretary Peter McMahon's home course at Wynnum.

It was therefore fitting that Geoff took home the prize this year,. Hopefully next year our numbers will bounce back as we emerge from the pandemic. Thanks again Geoff for arranging another great day at Keperra.

See you next year.

Ex President Pete

2011 Flood Class Action Appeal

AWA has published in its water e-journal a detailed article titled *NSW Supreme Court overturns initial Brisbane Flood class action decision* by Bob Ford and Ted Gardner. Members who attended (or did not attend) the technical session presented by John Ruffini and Rob Ayre may be interested in the legal arguments that led to the overturning of the original decision in the appeal by Seqwater.

[Here is a direct link to the original article.](#)

The article was written before a further appeal against this decision was lodged and dismissed.

New Members

WRRRA welcomes the following new members:

Dave Tardrew, Mike Keane, Peter Summers, Adrian McKay, Rowland (Roly) Bendall, Mike Conway and Peter Butler.

LATE NEWS

WRRRA has been informed of the death of former WRRRA President and long term draftsman **Eric Davis**. Newsletter 101 will carry a tribute to Eric for his valuable contributions in both areas.



"The good news is there is a golf course in heaven. The bad news is you're due to hit off next Tuesday."

Dates for 2023

Technical Session at Resources Centre - 23 February – Date and time to be confirmed; Subject to be advised.

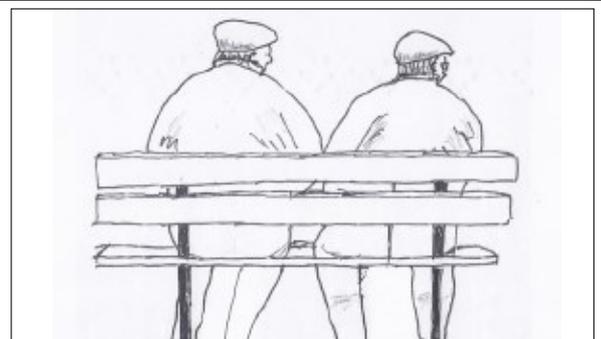
AGM - 27 April Brisbane City Council Library

Mid year luncheon- mid June (date and venue tba)

Lunch and interpretive tour at Ipswich Little Theatre - 20 July

Golf Day Wynnum - 23 August (to be confirmed)

Road trip to Stanthorpe - September (tba)



My daughter persuaded me to watch "West Side Story" with her. Once you got past all the singing and dancing, it wasn't too bad.

Vale William Michael “Mike” Barry 2-8-1939 to 9-11-2021

Mike Barry was born a few weeks before World War II commenced to Bill Barry and Flora Ward. He was their second son and a brother to Gerald. He had an idyllic childhood at Nundah; riding his bike, exploring waterways around the north side of Brisbane and fishing at Noosa River in school holidays. He attended St Joseph’s School Nundah and Gregory Terrace. He went to QIT for his tertiary study. Dad married Margaret Younger and they had three daughters and I am the eldest, Louise.

Dad commenced work as a draughtsman with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in Harris Terrace on George St. Dad loved working in this building – he liked the rabbit warren nature of the office. Work for Dad was always important and he loved weirs, dams and later fish ladders. Being a morning person, he was always in a good mood as he left home wearing his long socks and work shorts. He would usually drive to the train station and park the car before hopping on one of the trains he loved. One time in the 1970s, Dad’s old FJ Holden was stolen from Geebung Railway Station and used in a robbery. When Dad returned from work he was so surprised to see his old car gone- there were much nicer ones around.

After some years in George St, Dad moved to Mareeba. We were there in 1970 and 1971. These were two exciting and different years. Dad loved being able to investigate weirs and dams so close to the office. He was loved working out in the field and he certainly did that in those years. As dams were not enough during the working week, we would visit dams as a family on the weekend. Dad really liked Tinaroo Dam and we would go there on a Sunday to swim and have a barbecue. One year, later in the 1970s, we travelled to Tinaroo Dam for a holiday in one of the houses situated there. Tours of the dam were a necessary part of the holiday.

Upon our return to Brisbane, Dad went back to George St for work. He was mostly in the office but he absolutely loved every opportunity to be on the road. He loved driving the work cars off to places in rural Qld.

The moving of the office across the road to Mineral House was a big deal to Dad and I remember him saying it was great to be able to spread out plans in large rooms.

Later in his career, Dad became interested in fish ladders and he wanted to learn everything about them. He travelled overseas to learn more. He travelled to Japan and California. He liked seeing them in action and attending conferences where he could listen to those who knew a lot about fish ladders.

The last dam I visited with Dad was Six Mile Dam at Lake Macdonald – close to where Mum and Dad had retired to. We walked around the wall and discussed how it had been built and the various advantages of that waterway.

Dad has left me with a desire to visit dams, weirs and fish ladders across the world. Wherever I travel, I find myself discovering the pertinent details of any engineering to do with water.

Dad leaves this Earth a better place – his kindness and gentleness are remembered fondly by his wife, my two sisters and me, his three sons in law and seven grandchildren.

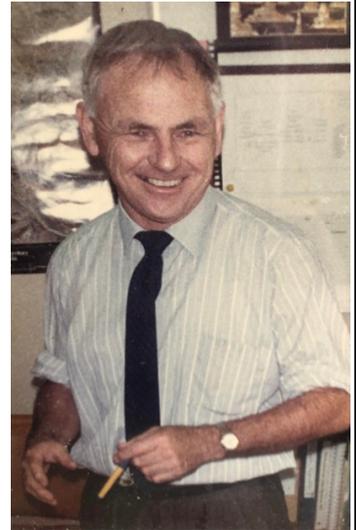
This tribute was written by Mike’s daughter, Louise. She asked if any of Mike’s former workmates could add information about his career. Mike worked as an engineer with me in Project Planning for a number of years on investigations of potential dam sites. He was particularly knowledgeable about a suite of potential sites in the Bremer-Warrill catchments, none of which ever progressed to development.– Ed.

Following his “retirement” from the Department he was employed on a part time basis by SunWater where his immediate supervisor was Daryl Brigden who wrote:

Michael was an incredible gentleman with an innate ability to remember every damsite he ever visited which was, it seemed, every proposed site in Queensland. Michael stays in my mind as a polite, quiet, perfectionist and was a pleasure to work with as he could always be relied on for a detailed description of any damsite you mentioned and always backed his incredible knowledge with seemingly endless anecdotes! He was admired by all he worked with and held in awe by young new starters.

I recall one morning when chatting in the tea room Mike announced that he was going to buy a caravan and drive around Australia. This was met with a mixed reception by all within earshot with comments such as “what are you going to tow it with”, “you won’t make it out of the state”, “have you ever towed a caravan before”. Mike quietly answered the naysayers with “you just wait and see”. Within three weeks or so Mike had purchased a large caravan and a Mercedes SUV and proudly announced that they were off the next weekend. And off they went only to return around five weeks later to inform the gathered Doubting Thomases that they had indeed circumnavigated Australia! Must have been one of the quickest round trips ever! Apparently, according to Mike, it was “just a recce trip” and not a long time afterwards he sold the car and van only to purchase bigger versions of each and the Barrys set out once more on a more leisurely circumnavigation.

Michael was always a man of his word, a true gentleman and the dam engineering world is much poorer for his passing.



Joan Ward, wife of Geoff and mother of Ken, passed away on 12 November at the venerable age of 102.

Answers to Terry’s Trivia (page 13)

1. (ii) Yesterday. 2. (iii) Noise-cancelling headphones.
3. (iii) the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. 4. (v) 83. 5. (v) 80%.
6. (v) 50%. 7. (iii) downward. 8. All. 9. (iii) 22. 10. (vi) 4/7.
11. (iv) Thargomindah.



St Barnabas Bulletin Board

Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Thirty Years a Water Boy

Part 4

Jon Chapman

April 2009 - March 2012 – Department of Environment and Resource Management (Senior Policy Officer Water Policy and Systems Support)

In April 2009, I was moved out of the WMS team, yet I was still the project's only regional support person. My new role in WMS Support started with three weekends of overtime, fixing the system as it failed in the live environment. The Project Director and his team were blamed but the true problem was going live before the system was stable. Politics were at play. Graeme Milligan was transferred and moved on.

My health was still suffering, the number of sick days continued. While I still wore too many hats, I also now worked in an unfriendly and sterile workplace.

The saving grace was the long break I took. I left work on June 1 and returned October 5. In that time, we had a trip to Canada & America, staying in Vancouver, Victoria Island and Calgary. We travelled on the Rocky Mountaineer and saw the chuck wagons at the Stampede. We capped that off with a few days in Las Vegas.

I spent two months camped at the Gympie Muster site, lived off the grid and my main worry each day was nothing. Finally, in September, Tanya got married at Kilcoy Farm Stay overlooking Somerset Dam. Sadly, I returned to work in an environment where the support of my new managers just killed off all my rebuilt enthusiasm. The start of 2010 saw me on sick leave again.

Tom Crothers worked hard to get me back and after a long period of sick leave I started back on a return-to-work plan two days a week, then three days per week.

Once back in the swing, I worked on Water Code reviews, a review of all water material in the Web, Work Practices and then the WMS Support work restarted. This is where I most felt at home.

Just when all seemed to be improving, Tom Crothers, Russ Robson and Paul Mills took redundancies and with more offers for more experienced officers to depart, the year ended as it started – very uncertain!

2011 was another year where the rate of change was way too fast and the lack of interest and enthusiasm by most was soul destroying. The Business Improvement Plan was the new "project".

Of course, the year also started with the infamous Brisbane floods and the blame game was on for John Ruffini and his team.

Redundancies were taken by Will Latham and Bob Bell, while Barney Lund took a sabbatical and Kate McPherson took a secondment in Noumea. Tim McConnell, Ewan Bell, and Kristie McDonald were newcomers to Water Policy.

My struggle with the black dog continued, and at the Gympie Muster a fire burnt our camper trailer to ashes in a matter of five minutes. My typically happy time of year was not the same anymore!

March 2012 - November 13, 2015 Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Senior Policy Officer)

In March 2012 we became Water Policy and Regional Support in a new departmental structure where Environment left us and Lands rejoined us, although who was joining who was very unclear.

New projects included the Mapping Validation Project (trying to get all water maps onto the Lands overlay systems), review all policies, RQM plans, drillers licensing (National Drillers Licensing System), National Water Compliance procedures, review the webpages (again), JIRA for recording issues, IDAS / SPA reform, metering policy review, everything was up for grabs!!

Yet another review of the Water Act and Regulations commenced. Redundancies were taken by Barry Lawson; Peter Hill & Tim McConnel. The never-ending cycle of too much change too often was very demoralizing. I considered applying for a redundancy but, at just 50, I thought it was just too soon.

In 2013, REFORM was the go as we investigated Open Data (giving the public access to all govt data via the web). Fact sheets were removed, and all forms were reviewed to "remove red & green tape". Government reforms were happening as fast as possible. The review of the Water Act and Regulation continued.

Our systems reform became known as the National Water Management System (NWMS), and regular meetings and workshops were required. Lots of déjà vu for me!!

The Operations Forum became my major task. This was a way to engage regions in the reform process. There was a fortnightly meeting to prepare for, but then the minutes and actions regularly assigned most tasks to me!

A new and major focus was an investigation into water licensing and water allocation by the Ombudsman. A complaint was made about water allocations in the Mareeba-Dimbulah scheme, and it grew from there. Each ROP was dissected, then all licensing dealings and our work practices. Next samples were taken from every office and I had to review the dealings for appropriateness according to the Act ROP. The Ombudsman's office then reviewed a sample of my sample. This investigation started in January and ended in October. Sadly, this all came to naught when the government chose to ignore the outcomes. Very frustrating for Leanne Barbelier, Lyall Henriksen and me as the work involved was not only wasted, but the outcomes had been informative. This investigation confirmed that the districts worked under "20 Water Acts" with varying decisions for the same process and legislation.

In late 2013 I was charged with doing the work behind the Operational Policy Reform Activities (OPRA). The pace of change continued to be very demoralising, and when the talk was that "the water culture had to die", the writing was on the wall.

I believe 2014 was the year that broke this camel's back! The reform agenda continued at 1000 miles per hour, and we had the "water culture" beaten out of us. On top of the Ops Forum, we now had a Workflow Coordinators (WFCO) meeting as the transition to DIY and no central helpdesk unfolded. The Newman Govt wanted regions to stand alone from CHQ, regardless of their knowledge and skills, policy direction and compliance with the Act.

I could no longer cope with the workload and lack of reward. A long period of leave before the Muster in August only confirmed I was done because post Muster, I couldn't go back to work under the conditions that existed. When a new young manager said I was just too old and grumpy to handle change, I knew it was time!

I was just 53. I was by now the only 80s version watery left (that I can recall anyway). I had been part of almost every reform since 1990 and at times was up to my neck in it. I heard that packages were still available, but I was refused!

Thirty Years a Water Boy *continued*

My GP of 20 years and a psychologist I saw for 12 months both suggested I seek a way to get out after 14 months of treatment. Q Super sent me to a psychiatrist for a 60-minute meeting and he deemed me fit for work! It was too long a gap and besides, that ship had sailed long ago.

November 12 2015 was the day I resigned. No send-off was offered, and I have had little contact with any former colleagues until I recently stumbled on the Watery Sauces webpage and contacted Bruno.

After just over 30 years as a Watery I was dry! After some reflection, I can say the good times gave me the opportunity to travel the State, meet many good people and allowed me to be financially safe in raising my family. I often said I disliked the 20 years in Brisbane, but it too gave us opportunities inside and outside work that we will always cherish.

Both kids were “captains” at High School. Both have gone to hold great jobs, are married, and have children. Aaron captained the Norths U18 premiers team in 2003 and stands in the records books alongside the likes of Jimmy Maher and Bennett King as U18 premiers captains. Sadly, being a diabetic brickie meant a professional cricket career was a step too far. He’s happy now working for the Moreton Bay Council as a crew leader.

In the latter years I worked with some great people (IT contractors) who genuinely appreciated the work I did. The nights at the Casino where I hardly bought a drink will always be remembered. The years working side by side with Bob Bell and Peter Hill were most memorable.

Leanne and I sold up our Lawnton house in 2015 and have built a new home in Gympie. Our son Aaron remains in Brisbane and works for Moreton Bay Regional Council. After working as brickie for 10+ years, he took the safer route of a permanent job, RDOs, etc. for his family benefit. Good for his back too!

Our daughter Tanya is a schoolteacher and was based in Gympie until recently. In May 2021 she took a transfer to Mackay as her husband has been appointed as a fireman in CQ.

In 2022 Leanne and I hope to tick a bucket list item by doing the Big Lap in a new caravan. We aim to take about 14 months and spend about seven months in WA.

I’ll keep in touch and who knows maybe a blog for the trip could follow.

Many thanks, Jon, for this tale of the highs and lows of your career. I’m certainly sorry for your obvious stresses but thank you for your contribution to the departments. We trust the future is much kinder and that the WA safari did actually eventuate – Ed.

The Aquarius Peoples Award

Edition 98 of the Newsletter promised that “anyone who attends a majority of the Reunions should have a good chance of picking up the lions share of the different designs in the Q100 Collectors Edition coolers ... and at the end of the year pick up an AQUARIUS ‘Peoples Award’ to complement the Q100 collection (which) bestows bragging rights to the holder and entitles he or she to boast ‘I’ve been everywhere, man!’ ”

In the wrap-up of the recent functions, this award has now been made to 17 attendees in all who attended more than one of the recent Q100 functions around the state, and amongst other things the award contained a line ‘I’ve been everywhere man’.

The article also ventured “there was a good chance that ‘anonymous’ would provide the editor in a subsequent edition with a poem like ‘They go anywhere, man!’, complete with rhyme and verse on the legendary off-road versatility of a QG Commodore.” And as promised, here it is.

THEY GO ANYWHERE, MAN

*My QG stopped real fast on a bumpy Bilo Road,
When along came a lorry with a canvas covered load
‘Need to get to Bilo, mate? - with me you can ride!’
So I climbed into the cab and I settled down inside.
He asked me ‘bout my QG - ‘How bad - is this the end?
I said ‘No way, mate – just needs a mend!’.*

*They go any - where, man;
And go every - where, man;
In water - not too deep, man;
Up creek banks - not too steep, man;
Of strife they have their – fair share, man;
Often with the re - pairman;
With you I will now - share man;
They’re not a four-wheel - drive man;
They’re a QG - but they go any - where, man!*



The Q100 Collectors Edition Coolers which were the backbone of the Memorabilia for the recent events. Everyone who attended walked away with one. There were 4 designs in all, with 3 of them being event-specific:-

Left: Get-Togethers at Mareeba; Bundaberg and Toowoomba

2nd left: The Annual Get-Together at Yeppoon - this variant has a 'C' wrapped around the Q100 to identify with CQ

2nd right: Theodore

Right: Brisbane

HEALTH *and beauty*

Warn Your Grandchildren

Going vegan has become an almost inevitable phase of the teenage years. Yet experts warn that the health repercussions of a few months of ill-planned dieting could last a lifetime. The risks could include weak bones, osteoporosis and potential life-changing fractures in adulthood.

The years in which young people are experimenting with plant-based and vegan diets are the years that are critical for bone development. People should be aware that there are limitations, and that even if you work really hard to replace missing nutrients, it is often not possible to compensate completely.

Young women are most susceptible to nutrient shortfalls, but men are not immune. There are advantages to eating more plant-based food: people who do so tend to have lower body fat, a lower BMI and better heart health, but the transition needs to be managed very carefully.

Apart from calcium, too little iodine could harm fertility and thyroid health, with milk being the main source of iodine in a typical diet. *The Times*

Going Nuts

Weight loss is never an easy nut to crack, but according to the University of South Australia, a handful of almonds could keep those extras kilos at bay. Researchers found that a snack of 30-50g of almonds helped people reduce the number of kilojoules they consumed each day.



Exercise those Brain Cells

Arrange the numbers 1 to 8 in the grid so that no two consecutive numbers touch on the vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

	1	2	
3	4	5	6
	7	8	



James McNeill Whistler 1834-1903

Arrangement in Grey and Black No 1

aka Whistler's Mother



"And just how long am I supposed to sit like this, Jimmy? Why don't you just use the camera?"

Happy New Year

The earliest known record of a New Year festival dates from about 2000 BC in Mesopotamia, where the new year commenced with the new moon nearest the spring equinox in Babylonia or the autumn equinox in Assyria as it did for the Egyptians, Phoenicians and Persians. The Greeks used the winter solstice as the start of the new year until the fifth century BC.

In early times, ancient Romans gave each other New Year gifts of branches from sacred trees and started their New Year on 1 March. In 153 BC, though, they became the first to celebrate the New Year on 1 January, confirmed by the Julian calendar in 46 BC.

By this time, wealthier Romans were giving each other gold-covered nuts or coins, as well as gifts to the Emperor, who eventually began to demand these offerings, often imprinted with pictures of Janus, the Roman god of gateways and beginnings. Janus was a fitting choice to have the opening month of the year dedicated to him.

Christians at first strongly rejected the celebration of the New Year on 1 January as a pagan institution, with the Christian church in 567 AD outlawing the custom of gift-giving and other pagan New Year practises ... until welcoming it by changing it into a religious festival commemorating Jesus's circumcision.

By early mediaeval times, most of Christian Europe regarded 25 March, Annunciation Day, as the beginning of the year, although for Anglo-Saxon England New Year's Day was 25 December until William the Conqueror decreed the year start on 1 January.

Later England aligned the date with Christian Europe to 25 March and English rulers realised the benefits of reviving Roman customs by asking their subjects for gifts.

It was not until 1752 that Great Britain and its colonies restored 1 January as New Year's Day in line with the calendar reforms of Pope Gregory XIII (the Gregorian calendar).

As a result, in Norwich Cathedral there is a memorial to the daughter of Frances Frank who was born on April 13, 1736 and died on February 20, 1736. No, the dates are not an error on the part of the mason. At the time, New Years Day was celebrated on March 25, so February did come after April.

Answer to last issue's teaser

Q1. The same three cats!

If the three cats together catch on average one mouse a minute, in 100 minutes they will catch 100 mice.

Q2. 40 minutes

Bribie Island Bob Priest will save the World

God stood with Bob and looked out over the world and thought it had become wicked and over-populated. "I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing, along with a few good humans."

He gave Bob the blueprints, saying, "You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Bob weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Bob!" he roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Bob, "but things have changed. I needed a building permit and I've been arguing with the Council Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I've violated the neighbourhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision.

"Then the Department of Maritime Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted owl and I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go! When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

"Then the EPA ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities and immigrants I'm supposed to hire for my building crew. The Immigration Department are checking the work visa status of most of the people who want to work. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience. To make matters worse, the ATO have seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark." Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

Bob looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?" "No," said the Lord, "**the government beat me to it!**"

Thanks to Peter Gilbey for this contribution.

Paying a Visit

At Versailles on a State Visit, we heard the Queen made Sarkozy a wee request. He said "Oui", so the Duke faced ennuï while his wife had her craved royal wee.

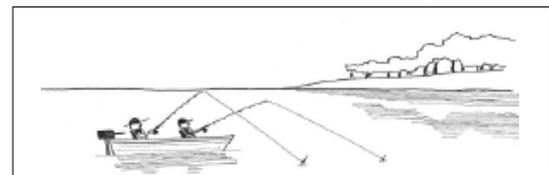
A Sign of the Times

On a Cooma delivery truck

The Van from Snowy River

Terry's Trivia from the Centenary luncheon at the Ship Inn on 19 October. Answers on page 9.

1. Which Beatles song has been recorded the most by others (>2200): (i) Something; (ii) Yesterday; (iii) Hey Jude; (iv) Let it be; (v) Imagine.
2. To make aircraft food taste better: (i) More salt and sugar; (ii) Order Uber Eats; (iii) Noise-cancelling headphones; (iii) No alcohol; (v) More alcohol.
3. Australia's first Jacaranda tree was planted in 1864 in: (i) Grafton; (ii) Sydney botanic gardens; (iii) the Brisbane Botanic Gardens; (iv) New Farm Park.
4. It has been calculated that the percentage of matter in the universe that is dark and undetectable is: (i) 13; (ii) 23; (iii) 43; (iv) 63; (v) 83.
5. According to the National State of the Environment Report 2021 what percentage of our coastal saltmarsh wetlands have been lost since European colonisation? (i) 40%; (ii) 50%; (iii) 60%; (iv) 70%; (v) 80%.
6. How far would a smooth golf ball travel (cf dimpled) when hit with the same force: (i) 200%; (ii) 150%; (iii) 100%; (iv) 75%; (v) 50%.
7. A 'curve ball' in baseball curves: (i) left; (ii) right; (iii) downward; (iv) upward.
8. Which of the following were invented in Australia: (i) Wifi; (ii) Vegemite; (iii) Google Maps; (iv) The Black Box Flight recorder; (v) Feature Films; (vi) Cochlear Implant; (vii) Polymer banknotes; (ix) The Electric Drill; (x) Ultra sound scanners; (xi) Electronic pacemaker; (xii) Ugg Boots; (xiii) Notepads.
9. Approximately what percentage of the world's fresh-water is in Lake Baikal in Russia?: (i) 2; (ii) 12; (iii) 22; (iv) 32; (v) 42.
10. British golfer Sir Nick Faldo, 64, married Lindsay de Marco, 58, in 2020. The marriage count for each is:(i) 1st/1st; (ii) 2/2; (iii) 3/3; (iv) 4/4; (v) 4/6; (vi) 4/7.
11. Which town in the world is reputedly the first to have had its street lighting powered by hydro-power? (i) Victoria Falls (Zambia / Zimbabwe); (ii) Tumut; (iii) Taunton UK; (iv) Thargomindah; (v) Reykjavik.



"But if I don't ask her, how do I know what I did wrong?"

"You're supposed to know already."

"Then the situation is hopeless."

"Now you're getting the picture."

Book Club

Several years ago, we were holidaying in northern France in April and were able to attend the Villers-Bretonneux memorial on Anzac Day. It was a bitterly cold pre-dawn morning as we took our place. The French had the route well sign-posted.

Today at the shrine, there is also a museum dedicated to Sir John Monash, an accomplished Australian engineer as well as commander of the allied troops on 25th April 1916 for the battle of the village, Hamel. They overcame the German line in a turning point of the war. We later visited a memorial, on a hill occupied by Australians, overlooking the village. Nearby, the Red Baron, a notorious German fighter pilot, met his match although NZ forces also claim credit for his downing.

So it was with considerable interest that I read *Monash: The Outsider Who Won the War* by Roland Perry.

The biography of John Monash was captivating reading. He was an established engineer and part-time soldier in Australia before the war. He worked his way up the allied command at Gallipoli and overcame stultified British attitudes for field battles. His capture of Hamel was a masterstroke of mechanised warfare as he coordinated planes and tanks with the troops. His detailed planning of the attack exhibited a great grasp of project management.

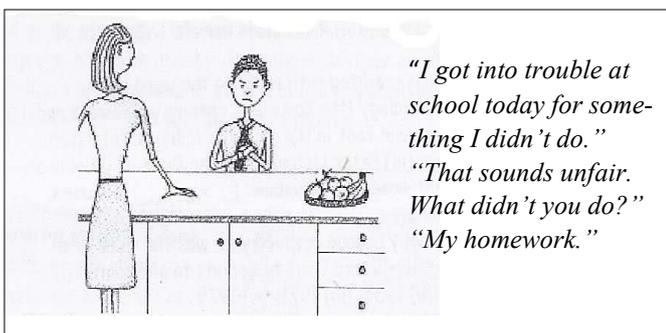
Of course, he left his mark in peace time back in Victoria. I well remember attending ANCOLD Executive meetings in Melbourne with Lee Rogers (Secretary) at a building bearing Monash's name. Even a university is named Monash.

Brian Shannon

For those interested in the military history of World War I, *Victory at Villers-Bretonneux* by Peter Fitzsimons is a detailed follow-up.

Helen and I have also been privileged to go to the sites, though not on Anzac Day.

Ian Pullar



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In what is now a regular service, I am now passing on recommendations of enjoyable books by readers. More contributions are welcome. – just title, author and a brief comment will suffice – Ed.

(from Trevor Ryan) Bill Browder *Red Notice*. A Red notice is issued when a member country seeks assistance to locate and arrest an individual with the aim of having them extradited to face a criminal charge. Bill Browder's paints a graphic portrait of the Russian government as a criminal enterprise with fraud, bribery, corruption and torture exposed at every turn. He was a hedge fund manager in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union and the sell-off of government enterprises. Shares in companies like Gazprom were sometimes sold for a bottle of Vodka. He was expelled from Russia by Putin, after exposing some of the corruption.

(from Trevor Ryan) Bill Browder *Freezing Order*. A Freezing Order prevents the disposal of assets by a respondent subject to criminal charges. This book is a follow on from *Red Notice* and is a true story of Russian money laundering, murder, and surviving Vladimir Putin's wrath.

(from Michael Marley) Hadley Freeman *House of Glass*. This is a memoir produced by piecing together letters, photos and an unpublished memoir, telling the story of her Grandmother and her Grandmother's three brothers throughout the course of the twentieth century as they each made their own bid for survival. Salmon Rushdie wrote: "This is a magnificently vivid re-creation of her Jewish family's experience of twentieth century Europe. Hadley Freeman's book is also an acute examination of the rots, tropes and persistence of anti-Semitism which makes it an urgently necessary book for us to read right now."

(from Helen Pullar) Ruth Wilson *The Jane Austen Remedy*. An uplifting and delightfully bookish memoir about an 89-year-old woman who reclaimed her life by re-reading each of Jane Austen's novels. As she approached the age of seventy, Ruth Wilson was unable to dismiss her feelings of unexplainable sadness, so she made the radical decision to retreat from her conventional life with her husband to the Southern Highlands where she lived alone for the next decade.

(from Ian Pullar) John Baker and Nick Place *Stalin's Wine Cellar*. In the 1990s, John Baker, a Sydney purveyor of rare wines, was mysteriously approached about the possibility of him purchasing a cellar full of antique wines, once owned by Tsar Nicholas and Joseph Stalin, now reposed in a cellar in Georgia. The book tells the amazing adventures in his quest to recover them.

