

SPECIAL OLYMPIC SEDITION
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 19
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A SALTY TALE

A harbour side docking debacle was averted only by the quick thinking actions of the Skipper of a well known small yacht. Notwithstanding, he was threatened with a Court Martial on the grounds that he had hazarded his ship by

- (a) fouling an underwater cable, and
- (b) nearly colliding with a stationary concrete pontoon.

The truth is that his task was not facilitated in any way by the two Flag Officers on board. Their names are withheld because you can be sure they would like to remain anonymous.

Admiral Eng. whose record is in no way flawless, (to wit, racing collisions, a serious grounding in the Cabbage Tree Creek roads which was actually captured on 8 mm film, and the near loss of a motor overboard, not to mention a mangled ship's ladder), on this occasion incorrectly calibrated the ship's propeller submergence, making it difficult if not impossible to manoeuvre the ship in the astern mode.

The bearded Admiral Lookout was derelict insofar as he failed to hail the Skipper (not good of hearing) loudly enough to alert him to the presence of a heavy steel cable illegally being reeled in across the fairway in front of a vessel under way (slow ahead), in sufficient time for the ship to be brought up all standing. They both compounded the collision avoidance problem by racing up to the bow in a state of panic thus further reducing the already inadequate propeller submergence. No collision resulted, and it is now believed that the charges against the Skipper will be dropped, and hopefully, it is now equally likely that both Admirals will be broken to the rank of Common Sailor now that the truth is out.

Thanks Ian Ripley

The reference above to Admiral Eng. brings to mind correspondence in the old Commission's magazine "Aquarius" in 1975 concerning the suitability of

certain sailor members of the Staff to perform as handicappers in big time yachting events including the America's Cup. Following is an extract from one such letter to the Aquarius Editor:

"I take issue with you, however, only on behalf of the unnamed member of the Commission's engineering staff. My engineer friends and I are appalled at the suggestion that the venerable Newport Yacht Club would have any objection to retention as handicapper of any of the super intelligent, handsome, swashbuckling gentlemen referred to. Most of them, of course,

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admirably demonstrate their ability to handicap their Branches, the Sharks or some other part of the Commission's functions."

The same edition of the Magazine also had a contribution from the Townsville Regional Office on the activities of it's staff. Here is one snippet:

"International Jet Setter Russell Jack recently returned from a successful smuggling tour of S.E. Asia. His flat is now overflowing with cartons of cigarettes, watches, radios, cameras, two sampans and a Buddhist temple. In an interview at the Townsville Airport Russell said 'I riked tlip velly much and would like to glo aglen.'"

(The wording of this and other contributions from Townsville bear an uncanny likeness to the style of one of our more frequent and critical correspondents from Alexandra Hills. Ed.)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE WATER RESOURCES GONE NOW???

Well some of the dams have filled up, at least a bit. Fairbairn and Fred Haigh are still critically low, most of the others are between 50 and 100 percent full.

How many of the ex-WR staff are between 50 and 100 percent full has not been closely examined, but a lot of them are still around, now in the Department of Natural Resources.

DPI have returned pretty much to an "Agriculture Department" format, and have retained the "production" functions of forestry. Soil Conservation have moved to Natural Resources.

Natural Resources is an amalgamation of the old Lands Dept. and areas of the recent Primary Industries Department including Water Resources.

Tom Fenwick is the Director General of the Natural Resources Department, and Peter Bevin is his Deputy Director General. Jim Varghese is the Deputy Director General for Corporate Development & Services.

Below them, the Department is divided into five Groups headed by Executive Directors, (which is what "THE COMMISSIONER" became under the arrangement in DPI).

Two of those Groups are "Land Administration" and "Land Information" and don't have many Water Resources people.

The other three Groups are:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Executive Director, Peter Noonan.

This is pretty much the same as it was in DPI, with more input in Land Management. It includes Water and Catchment Management, Forest Resources, Integrated Property Management, Land Sustainability (i.e. Soil Conservation). In terms of the old days, as far as water goes, this is "Stream Control" and "Groundwater Management" and "Catchment Management".

RESOURCES SCIENCES CENTRE Executive Director, Bill Eastgate.

This is a new name for the previous Resource Management Institute, same boss. It is still at Indooroopilly, and still amalgamates the various data collection and analysis functions of water and land management. This is where you find the old Hydrography and Hydrology, Groundwater Assessment, etc. along with Soil Conservation Research, Weeds (incl Water Weeds) and lots of other things.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT Executive Director, Scott Spencer

This is most of the rest of Water Resources. It is divided broadly into " Water Industry Planning and Development" (Lee Rogers) and "State Water Projects" (John Potts). The former includes all of the old Planning functions and a lot of the people, plus dam Safety, plus the old Local Government area. The last contains Design, Construction, (called Engineering Services) and Operations, (now called Water Projects and Asset Services). Bill Meredith is back on this team as Consultant to "Corporate Development", and John Cantor is Principal Manager of "Overseas Consultancies".

Many of the Managerial position are still held in an "acting" capacity, although Peter Bevin is pleased that he has been formally appointed.

REGIONS AND DISTRICTS (Report to Peter Bevin)

The structure in the Regions and Districts has changed quite a lot. There is now/will be an overall Departmental "Regional Service Director" for each of the regions, (North, Central, West, South-East, South plus a Metropolitan District), and there is a District manager for the overall Department in each District with boundaries much as before. In addition there is also a Special Function Manager for the region for Planning and another one for State Water Projects, where these exist. Thus in Southern Region (where I'm more in touch) there are District Managers for "Border District", "Maranoa-Balonne District", "Darling Downs District". There are also region-wide managers for "Resource Management" for "State Water Projects" and for "Planning". Greg Murphy, Frank Walker, and Ross Krebs respectively. (Colonel) Frank van Schagen is Regional Services Manager.

In other regions, Tim Smith is Regional Services Manager for South East, and Mike McKenna for Central.

So ex Water Resources management is well represented, perhaps no surprise to most of us.

Again many of these positions are "Acting" at present. Interviews and final decisions are proceeding.

from David Morwood
(who takes no credit for the above arrangements).

MALCOLM AND THE BIRDS ON THE BAY

Something that readers may not know is that **Malcolm Pegg** has developed a new interest in BIRDS. No, not only his constant companion, **Beth**, but in the feathered variety also. Beth is a real expert in the latter.

During the Boat Trip on the Cat-o-Ninetails on 28th April, Beth and Malcolm made a list of all the birds they saw. No, not **Lindsay, Maureen, Gloria, Cec** etc., who all braved the threatened 30 knot winds and two metre waves but the following;

Little Pied Cormorant (microcarbo), Pied Cormorant (phalacrocorax), Pelican (pelecanus), White Faced Heron (notophoyx), Mangrove Heron (butorides), Sacred Ibis and Straw necked Ibis (threskiornis), Osprey (pandion), Whistling Kite (milvus?), Brahminy Kite (haliastur), Masked Lapwing (coracina), Bar-tailed Godwit (**wilsonii**), Whimbrel (numenius), Eastern Curlew (numenius), Pied Oyster Catcher (**vizerii**), Silver Gull (larus), Gull Billed Tern (gelocheledon), Crested Pigeon (ocypaps), Rainbow Lorikeet and Scaly Breasted Lorikeet (trichoglossus), Kookaburra (daceo), Bald Coot (**jamesii**), Welcome Swallow (hirundo), Fairy Martin (artamus), Happy Jack (**pontii**), Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (coracina), Willy Wagtail and Grey Fantail (rhipidura), Noddy (**munroe**), White-naped Honeyeater (melithreptus), Sparrow (passer), Tit-warbler (acanthiza or **madonna**), Figbird (sphecotheres), Magpie (gymnorhina), and the common old Crow (**bernardii**).

Many thanks to Malcolm and Beth for their observations and to David Morwood for his help with the scientific names of the birds.

? REMEMBER ?

In each edition I have tried to write a few paragraphs about one of our members. This times **George Pearce**, Gentleman George, has been chosen, not only for his long and notable service to the water "industry", but also for his efforts in creating our Association. With typical modesty George was reluctant to provide many details with the comment: "It is so long since I retired, I don't think many people are interested in my doings." Others thought differently.

George was born in Ipswich in 1916. He joined the old Commission in 1934 as a Cadet Draftsman in 1934 and commenced the Diploma Course in Civil Engineering at the Central Technical College. He later worked for the Ipswich City Council as a Draftsman before rejoining the Commission as a Field Assistant on the construction of Cooby Creek Dam.

In 1941 George enlisted as a sapper in the Royal Australian Engineers and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1942. He saw service in New Guinea and New Britain.

George returned to the Commission after the War and spent some time in Head Office on investigation surveys, construction, and surface and underground water work before being posted to Longreach as District Engineer in 1950. Much of the work involved the construction of many watering points along some of the State's most desolate stock routes. After returning to Brisbane George took charge of the Artesian (later Underground) and Stock Water Branch.

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In 1971 he followed Ken Carmichael as Chief Engineer, Rivers and Streams Branch and in 1977 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner (Engineering). He retired at the end of 1978.

George was Chairman of the Border Rivers Commission from 1981 to 1986. He gave unsparingly of his time to public and charitable bodies. His work for the RSL Club at Longreach earned him Life Membership. George was a member of the Professional Officers Association for half a century including 24 years as a Councillor. He rose to the position of Vice-President and in 1985 was made a Life Member of the Association. He was extremely active in the formation of the Oldies and Boldies and was its first President.

George married Iris Curnow in 1944. Two daughters blessed the marriage. Sadly Mrs Pearce died in January 1995. George nursed her for several years before her death.

Today George is test driving a retirement village at Keperra prior to moving from his home in Ashgrove.

We wish George a very happy time in his new surroundings.

RECOVERIES

Joan Wickham has been poorly but is now recovering. The Wickhams have resumed preparations to move to a new abode.

Geoff Ward has been out of circulation while attempts were made to improve his circulation with open heart surgery. Geoff is now up and about and looking to resuming bowls.

Em Soloduhin is another who has spent some time in hospital recently. Em had by-pass surgery but is now fit enough to resume lawn mowing. Em did tell me of the time he and a **young engineer from Brisbane** (surely NOT Admiral Eng.? Ed.) frolicked naked in the Millaroo Pumpwell. Unless he receives a better offer from Woman's Day, Em will reveal all (in the literary sense of course) in our next edition.

Many of our members will remember **Bob Bird** a Hydrographer at Bundaberg who retired a little time ago. Bob owned and flew an ultra light aircraft. Last year Bob and the craft crashed at Kooralbyn leaving Bob seriously injured. Despite predictions to the contrary he is managing to walk again albeit with the aid of sticks. Incidentally **Orm O'Reilly, Graham Gillies and Bob** are "East Coast Hydrographics" providing hydrographic

services in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

REGIONAL NEWS

MAREEBA

About 40 "Oldies" gathered at the new Mareeba Bowls Club to help **Keith Turner** celebrate his 71st birthday on 2nd May. The party was a surprise one organised by Pat Fossett and Marcia Pont. Keith was completely unaware of the real purpose of the gathering and was stunned when the piano struck up "Happy Birthday" on his entry. **Mrs Lottie Hannam** came up from Cairns, **Mary Schwenke**, from Tinaroo and **Kaye and Len Ritchings** from Scarness.

The "Advertiser" had a reporter/photographer record the occasion and **Jack Pont** made a congratulatory speech. Keith was deeply touched by the large number who attended the party and the distances some people travelled. He was most appreciative of the people who organised it.

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REST IN PEACE

Muriel Lyall (nee Vivers) died on 28th March after a lengthy illness. Muriel started work with the Commission in 1952 and was still employed in the service when she passed away. She was born in Bundaberg in 1933 where her father was in the Police Force. The only other child was a brother, who as a Pilot Officer, was shot down and killed in a bombing raid on Germany in 1943.

For many years Muriel's mother kept very poor health and Muriel nursed her at home until she died in 1988. Muriel's husband, Alan, likewise cared for his mother until her death in 1992.

Allan's and Muriel's plans to marry had to be postponed when she took ill and it was not until October 1994 that they were wed at St Paul's church Ashgrove. Muriel took sick again and was in and out of hospital until the end.

Muriel will be remembered for her work in training the girls in the Typing Pool and for her ready defence of them when she considered them to be unfairly criticised by Senior Officers.

She did find time to travel and took a year's leave to take her mother to the United Kingdom in 1966 and again in 1993 when she went to Scotland with Allan to meet his relatives and friends.

Muriel's funeral service was also held at St Paul's, on 3rd April when a large number of workmates and friends showed their respect and affection for Muriel and their support for Allan. We also extend our sympathy to him.

Joe Willis passed away quietly in his sleep on 10th December 1995 at Mareeba. Joseph Frederick Willis was born in County Armagh, Northern Ireland

in October 1920. He joined the Army at 15 as apprentice mechanic and served in Ordnance and the Royal Engineers, Mechanical & Electrical as a Sergeant. With the war finally over, Joe's unit was part of the occupation forces in Germany.

On return to civilian life Joe worked as an inspector in a big motor works before deciding to emigrate to Australia, arriving in 1954 but having to leave behind wife Maud and daughters Pat and Sheila because of bureaucratic foul-up. He was told that it would be a year before they could join him. The late Sir David Longlands took up the Willis case and within three months Maud and the girls were on their way.

Soon after, Joe went to work at Tinaroo and stayed there until the Dam was finished. He moved to Mareeba in 1963 and remained with the Commission until his retirement in 1985. Joe did not like a lot of fuss and bother but in his own undemonstrative way he had an influence for good amongst his peers.

Maud and Joe celebrated their Golden Wedding in April 1995. Our condolences are extended to Maud and her family.

Thanks to Keith Turner.

STOP PRESS

Sadly, Keith Turner passed away on 18th July. A public Memorial service will be held on Monday 29th July.

We hope to bring you more information in our next Newsletter.

In the meantime we extend our deepest sympathy to Sheila and family.

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A SENIOR CITIZEN DEFINED

Stan James sent this from a recent publication;

"A Senior Citizen" is one who was here before The Pill, television, frozen food, credit cards and ball point pens. For us time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers, and a chip meant a piece of wood. Hardware meant hard ware and software wasn't even a word. Teenagers never wore slacks.

We were before pantyhose, drip-dry clothes, dish washers, clothes dryers and electric blankets. We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can one be?).

Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought 'cleavage' was something butchers did.

We were before Batman, vitamin pills, disposable nappies, pizzas, instant coffee, and even Chinese take-aways.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing, pot was something you cooked in. A gay person was the life of the party and nothing more, while AIDS meant beauty lotions or help for someone

in trouble.

We are today's Senior Citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make.
Thanks Stan.

p.s. In P.C. language, "The Young" are "Chronologically Challenged" (Ed)

THE DAM DIGEST

Sheila Lynch loaned me three copies of this publication which was published weekly during construction of Tinaroo Falls Dam. I have reprinted a couple of news items from the Digest:

One Flick and it's Gone (10th May 1957)

"A good way of exterminating your house is to place a Pressure Pack on the stove along with a tin of fat. This was tried successfully down at the Hansen's place this week. Apparently the Pressure Pack explodes when placed on a hot stove, this in turn causes the fat to explode. It all goes off with a loud bang.

The idea is not to gas the cockroaches to death, but to give them heart failure. Anyhow it proved successful in frightening the Hansen family and everyone else in Palm and Barron Streets."

Multiculture (24th May 1957)

"Dear Editor,

For some reason or other I find it impossible to stand by and watch my wife cut the wood. Yet I notice that a lot of the New Australian men make their wives chop the wood and dig the garden. It appalled me to see one New Australian wife struggling away with a big axe chopping the wood while her husband was sitting on the step reading a paper. Is this the usual custom in European countries or are these particular men just plain lazy? I have seen this often around Tinaroo and each time I felt like hitting the husband with the axe. A woman's place is in the kitchen; she shouldn't have to cut the wood or grow the vegetables.
AUSSIE RULES"

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Do You Have a Problem? (24th May 1957)

"Dear Dorothy Dam Sight,

It amazes me how one or two Tinaroo women can turn their hair to any colour. What colour is yours?

Billy the Kid."

"Dear Billy the Kid,

Rather an unusual, odd colour. Speaking of turning, I once saw my late husband turn a bull into a paddock. He was quite a magician. My late husband, I mean, not the bull, though there was a similarity.
....D.D.S."

Thanks Sheila

What price free enterprise?

He who laughs last doesn't get the joke!

from Kemsley.

E. & O. E. (EXCEPTIOINAL AND OMISION ERRERS)

From time to time some embarrassing slip-ups have appeared in our news-letters. **Most** of you have been too good mannered to take us to task. Just to show we are not alone here are a few of other people's mistakes:

"We are sitting on a powder keg that could explode in our faces."

Archbishop Tutu.

"This is the start of a new beginning of continued change."

President Reagan.

"Jacques Cousteau is the famous French underwear explorer."

Channel 13, New York.

"You are the great people of the Government of Israel."

President Ford at a reception for Egyptian politicians.

"There isn't a record in existence that hasn't been broken."

Master Sailor Chay Blyth.

"It's a shame that anybody who didn't turn up wasn't there."

Tony Blackburn, record spinner.

"Why call your baby Arthur? Every Tom, Dick and Harry is called Arthur."

Sam Goldwyn.

"And there he is, reigning supreme at number two."

Alan Freeman, British D.J.

"Johann Kriek has been bitten-no, beaten- by Ilie Nastase of Romania."

B.B.C tennis report.

"This is a great day for France."

President Nixon at funeral for French leader Georges Pompidou.

"He won't serve the 900 years to which he's been sentenced because the system in Northern Ireland allows for up to 50 percent remission for good behaviour."

Belfast T.V.

Thanks to the Sunday Mail.

and on the subject of the Newsletter and Circulars.

Since the Association was formed we have had much help from the Commission and DPI and Natural Resources Dept., including postage and stationery, printing, typing and despatching our many publications. Recent changes mean some of the assistance involving Staff will be limited. Therefore we are asking members to help prepare papers for mailing. This may involve photocopying, collating and folding mail, placing it in envelopes etc. If you would like to help please contact David, or Barrie.

CHEERS

Bernie Credlin

EDITOR