

**WINTER SOLSTICE EDITION**

**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 22**

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**COMING EVENTS**

The following events are proposed for the year:-

A bowls day and social gathering at Aspley Bowls Club on 8th August.

An historical steam train journey to Laidley for that town's Chelsea festival on 13th September.

A visit to Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and possibly the Planetarium in early October.

A visit to a number of projects in SE Queensland in October. Moogerah, Wivenhoe and either Atkinson's or Lake Clarendon Dams are preferred options at this time.

Christmas luncheon at COTAH on 27th November.

A social lunchtime gathering at the Public Service Club in January 1998.

A boat cruise on the Lady Brisbane to the southern end of Moreton Bay or with the Bribie Ferryman in Pumicestone Passage in February/March 1998.

More specific details will be sent to all members before the functions.

**MAY SOCIAL**

The lunchtime social gathering for members and partners was held on 22nd May at the Public Service Club. Although only 14 attended, our **society roundsperson** said all the important people were there and that there was an abundance, even a surfeit, of food.

## MID YEAR DINNER

This function was attended by 30. The venue, the Skyline Restaurant, on the fifth floor of the Cotah building in Merivale Street, South Brisbane, overlooks Southbank, the River and the City and would have to have one of the best views in Brisbane. The food was generally excellent and despite a couple of hiccoughs with seating and waiter service, all seemed to enjoy the occasion.

## BACK TO TINAROO

At the last Annual General Meeting reference was made to a possible function to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the completion of Tinaroo Falls Dam. Our inquiries indicate that there are no plans for such a function.

Plaques at the Dam Lookout show the following dates to be significant:-

13th December 1953 Firing the first shot for the foundations.

17th December 1955 Official commencement of placement of concrete.

1st November 1958 Placement of the last bucket of concrete.

3rd October 1959 Water turned on to Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

and on the Dam parapet ; "Tinaroo Falls Dam

1953 - 1959"

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR

The Executive wishes to draw members' attention to it's desire to offer a bit more to members by way of companionship, perhaps help to attend functions and maybe such other assistance appear to be necessary time to time.

The Executive invites members or spouses or friends to contact one of the Committee if they need help or know of some colleague who does.

In the hope of getting more contributions to the Newsletter, more feedback on the activities of the Association and to help members pay their subscriptions, arrangements are being made for the issue of "Reply Paid" envelopes. These should be distributed in the next few months.

## NONE SO BLIND

A priest, a doctor and a management consultant were waiting to play one morning behind a particularly slow group of golfers.

Management Consultant: What's with these guys? We've been waiting 15 minutes!

Doctor: Why are they so slow?

Priest: Here is the Course Ranger let's ask him.

Priest: George, those fellows in front are slow. What's the trouble?

George: Oh yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight while saving our club house last year. So we let them play any time free of charge!

Priest: That's sad. I'll pray for them tonight.

Doctor: Good idea. I'll contact my ophthalmologist friend and see if there is anything he can do for them.

Management Consultant: Why can't these guys play at night?

## ACES

At the 1995 Masters Games held in Townsville (sponsored by Malanda Milk), **Eric Davis** and **Nev Caton** won Gold and Bronze medals in the Tennis events. At the end of 1996 the same two teamed up with **Lee Rogers** and another to enter the Masters Games held on the Gold Coast. They suffered severe beatings in the teams events. The losses are allegedly due to the strength of the competition rather than the calibre of the additional players.

However in the individual events Eric and Nev had more success, winning silver in the men's doubles (plus 110).

Not to be outdone **Jan Davis** won a silver medal in the Games Netball section.

(If Eric is as hard to beat at tennis as he is to yield information about his sporting achievements, Rafter and others would have to look to their laurels. Ed.)

## REST IN PEACE

**Jim Ole** died on the 31st March at the Buckingham Gardens Retirement Complex at Alexandra Hills. He was buried in Townsville on 4th April from his old Church, the Holy Spirit. A memorial service was held on the same day in the Chapel at the Complex. Both services were well attended by present and past staff.

Jim was born 62 years ago, the only son of Angus and Mrs Ole, and as a child saw a lot of Queensland as his father was transferred from place to place as a Clerk of the Court and later a Magistrate. Towns like Quilpie and Cloncurry were often mentioned in Jim's tales of his boyhood and made to sound like Dodge City.

At 18 Jim started work with the old Commission, working by day and attending Q.I.T. to obtain first his drafting and then his engineering qualifications. He worked in the Farm Water Supplies Section of Rivers and Stream Branch and later as an engineer in Designs Branch.

In 1965 he was appointed District Engineer at Mackay before moving to St George in 1970 and Emerald in 1973. Jim went where he was needed, when he was needed.

In 1976 he was made Regional Engineer in Townsville, an important posting as the early stages of planning and development of the new Burdekin Irrigation Area had been added to the already important tasks in the Region.

Sadly this was the pinnacle of Jim's career. In May 1983, he was driving from an evening industry meeting at Home Hill, when another car came through a stop sign on a blind side road on the highway and into Jim's car. Jim received horrendous injuries. Tom Fenwick, who accompanied him, escaped relatively uninjured.

Jim went through a long period of treatment, recovery and rehabilitation--- and never gave up the fight. He fought incredibly hard to regain and to rebuild his life and to combat his loneliness. He did this with out recrimination or bitterness. He was sustained by a deep belief in his God and his Church.

He continued to work for the Commission, in Toowoomba and in Brisbane, with the help of many of the staff, until he had to retire "for health reasons" in 1992, at the age of 56.

Jim was a compassionate man, a good engineer and a fine leader. He also had a superb sense of humour coupled to a devilish choice of words. He wrote to newspapers under the nom-de-plume ELOJA taking the "mickey" out of journalists or other self-proclaimed sacred cows. The Editor of this Newsletter was not spared, with expressions like "unbecoming editorial liberty", "clean up this insulting rag" and "editorial claptrap" etc. One gem(?) was a letter to thank Sherry for a Christmas cake she baked for him and which I delivered. "Your uncouth, irreverent, disrespectful, suspect courier delivered to me .... a well gnawed Christmas cake. (The courier) blamed distance travelled and hunger as the reasons for yielding to the temptation to nibble the cake.....I am most grateful for your kind gesture. May the New Year see a continued return to good health and domestic bliss."

We express our sincere condolences to Gillian, David, Catherine and Adrian and other members of the family.

(Much of this obituary is taken from David Morwood's eulogy at the Memorial Service for Jim at Buckingham Gardens on 4th April 1997.)

**Lorraine Melville**, wife of **Ernie Melville** would be well known to many of our members. After a nine month battle with cancer, Lorraine passed away at Mount Olivet Hospital on 6th April 1997.

Lorraine had four children, Corinna, Cameron, Scott and Christopher and six grand children. Cameron and Christopher are both civil engineers, carrying on the family tradition.

Ernie would like to thank all of the members who wrote with messages of sympathy.

We extend our sympathy to Ernie and family.

**Harry Rowland** died peacefully at his home Torquay on 4th April aged 89 and was buried on 7th April.

Harry retired from the Commission in 1973 having worked at St George, Roma and Head Office. He also worked in the drilling business at Charleville, Mount Isa and several other places.

He is survived by wife Morvyth, two daughters, a son and grandchildren.

**Ivy Green**, wife of the late **Jack Green**, a Works Supervisor at Mareeba-Dimbulah in the 50's and 60's died in Brisbane in March at the age of 90.

Jack passed away in 1982.

**Stella Curry** passed away in late May. Mrs Curry was the widow of "**Cranky**" **Jack**, the very popular water quality clerk in Groundwater Branch who retired in the mid 80's.

## RECOVERIES

**Jack and Marcia Pont** have both been in hospital but are now home.

**Pat Fossett** is recovering at home after surgery.

**Anne McGruddy**, wife of P.J. (Eric) radio technician at Tinaroo, has been in the Royal Brisbane Hospital for treatment and unfortunately when on a few days leave, fell and broke her wrist. Old acquaintances wishing to contact Anne can do so by 'phoning 0754789327. She is at Unit 49 Palmwoods Retirement Village, Jubilee Dr., Palmwoods.

**Doris Robinson** is up and about and back at bowls. Doris wrote off the recently acquired family car and went part of the way to writing off herself and a few other bowlers.

**Noel Ullman** tried to carry too many suitcases up too many flights of stairs while on holidays and suffered a stroke which put him in Wesley Hospital for a couple of weeks. He is now undergoing therapy in Brisbane and should be back at Helensvale by the time this is printed.

**Shirley Beattie** and **Sherry Credlin** have each had short spells in hospital with affairs of the heart, medically speaking of course.

**Editha Taggart** has also been in hospital.

**Richard Davison**, husband of **Carol**, has had by-pass surgery and is now back at work.

**Cec Christensen** has had a knee replacement followed by an infection and only now is able to move freely.

The T.V. advertisements featuring John Clark and Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf and a common male medical condition may be to thank for a flood(?) of members undergoing hospital treatment. **George Toone**, **Harry Horne** and **Marty Ryan** have been recent patients.

Thanks to **Sheila Lynch** for some of this news and to **Alec Vitte** for the poem, part of which follows:-

## THE PROSTATE POLKA

A shortened version of a poem by William "Shakespeare" Frith of Townsville.

Then he said," Please turn around,"  
and you wouldn't want to know!  
He inserted his middle finger  
as far as it would go!

I took a flying bound ahead  
and gave a muffled shout;  
I was halfway up the surgery wall  
before he pulled it out.

He was feeling for my prostate,  
so the bugger said!  
If he thinks there's one up there,  
He's off his bloody head!

He said I'd be admitted  
and they put me in a bed.  
I had a gown around my waist  
and a bonnet on my head!

They wheeled me into theatre.  
It was full of lights, you see,  
and every one of them  
was shining down on me.

He put a needle in my spine.  
Said the nurse who held my hand,  
"It won't be very long from now  
before you go to fairyland."

I don't remember any more  
'til I woke up in my bed.  
In my legs I had no feeling,  
they seemed to be quite dead.

They had a tube stuck in my nose  
and, much to my alarm,  
they had another, bigger one  
stuck in my bloody arm!

I lifted up the blankets  
and said an anguished prayer!  
They had a length of siphon tube  
down you know where!

Now, I have some information  
that I must give to you-  
if you ever see a specialist,  
there are things you'll have to do.

When you meet this bloke,  
be sure you get a squiz;  
when he shakes you by the hand,  
see how long his finger is.

And if his hand is wide and flat,  
with fingers like a claw,  
You pull your bloody trousers up  
and gallop out the door.

When you reach the open road,  
this advice I'll give to you;  
don't ever think of stopping  
'til you're outside Kakadu!

## WOMEN ON FEMINISM

Dame Margot Fonteyn, when asked if she believed in women's liberation: "Not if it means having to carry the male dancers instead of them carrying me."

Dame Edith Evans: "When a woman behaves like a man, why doesn't she behave like a nice man."

Martha Mitchell: "I'm the most liberated woman in the world. Any woman can be liberated if she wants to be. First, she has to convince her husband."

## AUSSIE WOMENS' NICKNAMES

Dunhill: She's good and expensive.

Star maker: A ward sister whose job is to tell surgical patients "You go to the theatre tomorrow."

Angel: She's always looking around for some poor devil.

Ivy: She's a creep.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON LARGE DAMS STUDY TOUR 1996

by 'Peripatetic' Pegg

While travelling to Santiago for the 1996 ICOLD meeting, Beth and I took the opportunity to stop-over on Easter Island for four days where we joined a pre-meeting study tour which arrived the day before from Chile.

Although there was nothing of technical interest on the island, there was plenty of archaeological material to make up for this and to ensure an interesting time. Unfortunately much of the verbal history of this island was lost late last century when the population was enslaved to work in the Peruvian mines and what was left has been grossly distorted by the unrealistic theories of Thor Heyrdahl and others and by the supernatural theories of Hollywood as portrayed in films such as "Chariots of the Gods".

Despite those theories, the original Easter Islanders were Polynesians from Tahiti. There were probably two migrations from there. Unfortunately a 2000 mile voyage would damage their ocean-going canoes and the island did not produce timber satisfactory for the building of replacements. This meant that for centuries they were completely isolated from the rest of the world.

During this period, they were dominated by their chiefs supported by a religious hierarchy. In this period they built the large stone (a soft scoria) statues and moved them by hand to their resting places.

Not long before Europeans moved in the bulk of the people revolted and slaughtered the upper classes. At this stage the population was approximately 15000. After this civil war the people broke into clans and tribal clusters which often fought together. When one tribe won they threw down the statues on land occupied by the other tribes.

The visit to the island included inspection of the main archaeological sites. Accommodation was of a good standard and the meals (generally 4 courses) simple and delicious.

Following the Meeting in Santiago we took a post-meeting tour to the lakes area in southern Chile. On the bus trip south we visited five dams, mainly earth and rockfill. However the final visit was to Pangué Dam a recently completed concrete gravity dam built using Roller Compacted Concrete.

At Melado Dam, a recently completed earth and rockfill structure, we were entertained by a flight of 8 burrowing parrots. This bird is listed as rare and endangered and one of the objections to this dam's construction was that it would become extinct. The site engineers were therefore very pleased to see so many of these birds still in the valley.

The tour spent the last two days in the Pucon area, one Chile's main holiday destinations. The region is famous for its active volcanoes, hot springs and crystal clear lakes set among lush timbered foothills. The hotel we stayed at lists among its recent guests, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip as well as several presidents from European and American countries. As you can see from this, the accommodation and food were of the highest standard, well up to ICOLD standards.

**Thanks Malcolm.**

## WELCOME BACK

By now **Sheila Turner** would have returned from the UK. We look forward to her next contribution to the Newsletter.

## TOP SPOTS

"The origins of Sydney are unsavoury. Her history is disagreeable to read, her temper is coarse, her organisation seems to be slipshod, her suburbs are hideous, and her politics often crooked, her buildings are most plain, her voices rasp on the ear, her trumpeted Art Movement is I suspect, half spurious, her newspapers are either dull or distasteful." English journalist John Morris writing in the Guardian in 1962.

And did you know that Sydney's famous nightspot area, Kings Cross, was known as Queen's Cross between 1897 and 1905.

Before ex-citizens of Victoria become too righteous they might reflect on Music critic C.N.Bayertz's comments on their city:- "during the whole of my stay I never once saw the sun, and the tinnabulations of the tram bells was almost as exasperating as the weather.....there is no restaurant open on Sunday. There is not one Sunday newspaper. There are no Sunday morning trams or trains. Trains may come on Sunday, but they may not go to the other unregenerate capitals." Although these words were written in 1920 they were still substantially true 40 years later.

The Bulletin in the 1890's would not tolerate this sort of nonsense from overseas writers, particularly English ones. Commenting on a forthcoming Test match the Bulletin wrote:- "The Australians will never consent to be spat upon by dirty little cads whose murdering grandfathers left enough money to get the cads' fathers "ennobled" and to enable the cad to live without work". How times change! Our boys can now 'sledge' with the best at cricket, tennis etc. and the Bulletin could now be mistaken for a defender of the rich, the privileged and the powerful.

## ALL THEIR OWN WORK

"The grouse are in absolutely no danger from people who shoot grouse." The Duke of Edinburgh in an address to conservationists.

"Nigel Mansell is the last person in the race apart from the five in front of him" BBC motor racing authority.

"I don't like chopping off peoples' heads. It's dead wrong." Minister Russell Cooper on ABC when Keith Hamburger took his 'holiday' from Corrective Services.

"When this table was first made it was brand new" Arthur Negus, antiques expert.

"We have film of the astronauts' breakfast, which should be coming up soon." NBC news on space mission.

"The Spirella corset factory is closing because the bottom has fallen out of the market." ITV news reader.

"There are more crimes in Britain now due to the huge rise in the crime rate." Neil Kinnock former Labour leader.

## THE BAD NEWS

**John Moreton** is moving to Brisbane. And the Good News is that **Jill** will be coming too.

Your  
contribution  
could  
have  
been  
in  
this  
space!

**CHEERS.      BERNIE CREDLIN**