



# WAUGHTRY SAUCERS BATTIES & BOWLDIES

**Officially known as Water Resources Retired Officers**

**Association Inc.**

## WORLD CRICKET CUP EDITION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 28

JULY 1999

<b>President</b> 3870 8801	<b>Barrie Fawcett</b>	<b>79 Camp St., Toowong 4066</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Past Pres</b> 9505	<b>Norm White</b>	<b>38 Walu St. Bracken Ridge 4017</b>	<b>07 3269</b>
<b>Vice Pres</b> 3366 3570	<b>Dave Morwood</b>	<b>35 Bellata St. The Gap 4016</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Grahame Bertram</b>	<b>139 Beverley Hills St. Moorooka 4105</b>	<b>07 3848 7283</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim Walls</b>	<b>29 Aster St., Cannon Hill 4170</b>	<b>07 3399 2739</b>
<b>Executive</b> 4605	<b>Allen Seabrook</b>	<b>140 Burbong St., Chapel Hill 4069</b>	<b>07 3378</b>
<b>7247</b>	<b>Gordon Wilson</b>	<b>7 Prout St., Camp Hill 4152</b>	<b>07 3398</b>
<b>Editor</b> 3398 5103	<b>Bernie Credlin</b>	<b>10 Kordick St., Carina 4152</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Auditor</b>	<b>Col Taggart</b>	<b>34 Beaufort St., Alderley 4051</b>	<b>07 3356 3739</b>

The new members on the Executive are Barrie Fawcett and Grahame Bertram. While these office bearers are well known to most members there may be a few in the country whose paths have not crossed those of Barrie and Grahame so we have added a few notes on them.

**Barrie** joined the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in 1961 as a Foreman III within the Farm Water Supplies Advisory Service of Rivers and Stream Branch. In 1963 he was appointed Assistant Water Adviser.

In 1967 Barrie transferred to the Stream Control Section where he remained until the earlier 1980s when he was seconded to help redraft the various Acts administered by the Commission. He later changed over to Administration where he completed his service in 1991.

Although Barrie's service with IWSC, WRC and DPI was based on Brisbane, he relieved at various country centres and in the latter part visited most of the country offices during the course of his duties.

**Grahame** began work with IWSC in February 1951 as a Clerk and saw service in Records and Accounts Branches. He was then transferred to the Burdekin Project as a Works Clerk and spent nearly two years between Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg. He was then based in Head Office and spent the next three years as a Relieving Officer in all parts of the State.

In October 1959 he married Joyce Walker and settled in Brisbane. Work followed in Construction Accounts, Licences, Groundwater, Rivers and Streams Personnel and Supply Branches.

Grahame completed 38 years of service in April 1989 having acted as Secretary and served as Accountant and Internal Auditor.

Grahame wants it known that he is grateful to all personnel who made his time in the Commission an enjoyable and interesting experience.

## THANKS

The sterling services of Norm White and Don Beattie, retiring President and Secretary are acknowledged with gratitude.

## .....COMING EVENTS.....

The following functions have been fixed for the next eight months. Please try and keep the dates free. More information will be sent out closer to each event:-

**Bowls Day** at Aspley Bowling Club on **6th August**

**Smoko** at Public Service Club at 1130 am on **15th September**. (Smoking is not compulsory and in fact it is discouraged.)

**Coach Trip** around selected Dams in South East Queensland on **20th October**. This is still in the planning stage.

**Christmas Lunch** in the Skyline Restaurant at COTAH on **2nd December**.

**Smoko** at Public Service Club on **9th February 2000**.

**The Executive is trying to increase numbers at its functions and is seeking opinions from members as to the type of function they prefer.**

**It also stresses that visitors are very welcome at all our functions, so please don't hesitate to include friends and relatives when you put your names down to attend our activities.**

## .....MORE BLASTS FROM THE PAST.....

Wally Russell of Atherton who was a Euclid driver at Tinaroo tells how he once ran over a large carpet snake. He picked it up and threw it under the seat. Later a fellow on the side of the road wanted a lift back to the job, so Wally stopped for him to climb aboard.

"Watch you don't stand on my snake", said Wally as they drove off and before Wally could say any more his passenger had leapt from the cab and taken off.

**Thanks Sheila Turner.**

The previous story recalls an experience I had at St George in the late '50's.

A scrap metal dealer came to town. His prize targets were huge fly wheels from the old power station which had been dumped in the local rubbish tip. When he couldn't handle them he conned someone from the IWS office to sell him explosives to break up the wheels into manageable bits. The first reports I heard of this (pun intended) were about the dangers to other dump users and the dealer himself from the reckless use of explosives, so I went to the tip and took the gelignite, detonators and fuses from him. I placed the dets on the front seat of the car and the gelly on the back one.

One of the denizens of the dump was an intellectually challenged unfortunate called Alec who had been beaten up by louts who also wrecked his bicycle. I agreed to give him a lift to town but because of Alec's life-long aversion to soap and water I sat him on the back seat. A short distance along the sandy track, Alec asked me what was in the box on the seat beside him. The explosions at the tip must have made a big impact on Alec because when I told him he was sitting alongside gelignite he opened the car door and jumped out at about 60 kilometres per hour. Fortunately the soft sand cushioned him from injury.

## .....REST IN PEACE.....

**Jean Bellion** passed away peacefully on 25th March after a long illness. Bill and Jean were married in Perth in 1947 and later moved to Brisbane where Bill began work as a draftsman in the

old Commission. A quiet family, the Bellions

enjoyed an outdoor life involving travelling and picnicking.

We extend our sympathy to husband Bill, son Bill and daughter Sandy and their families.

**Vince Schmidt** a former Chief Engineer of the Local Government Department died on 23rd May at the age of 83 years. Vince began his professional career with the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply at the same time as George Pearce. Many of his other colleagues of those days are also by-words to many of our members. Names like C.E.Parkinson, W.F.Kearton, A.F.Sharp, H.R.Mortley, W.H.Hiley and F.J.Calvert are sprinkled throughout Vince's biography for the Institution of Engineers.

After four years with the Army, mostly in the Islands, Vince found that he was no longer with the Irrigation Department but had been allocated to the Department of Local Government which he joined after he completed his Engineering studies in 1948. He rose to become Chief Engineer in 1974 and retired in 1978.

Vince was very highly regarded by Departmental staff, the Engineering profession and Local Authorities throughout the State.

His biography contains some whimsical passages. Of his parents' farm in the Lockyer Valley he wrote:-

"It is said that the Irish first settled in the valley but left because they were eaten out by the wallabies.

The Irish were followed by the English who suffered the same fate. The Germans then settled. They ate the wallabies and successfully developed the area."

and on his interview with C.E.Parkinson (who had played Rugby for Australia and who built railways in rugged places like Kyogle and Kuranda), he was asked two pertinent questions:- "(1) did I play football? and (2) could I use an axe?"

The Clayfield Uniting Church was packed for Vince's funeral service with relatives, friends, parishioners, departmental colleagues and local authority representatives.

Our sympathy goes to wife Olwyn, son Kem and daughter Christine and their families.

**Mrs Uhlmann**, mother of Jim and sister of Des Foster died recently. We extend our sympathy to Jim and Cathy and Des and Daree and families.

**Jack Luchterhand** died on 20th June in Townsville a few days short of his 77th birthday after a long illness. Jack began work with the IWS in the 1940's after his discharge from the AIF where he served as a commando. He worked as a driller on groundwater investigations and operated in many areas of the State. After appointment to the staff, Jack was involved in drilling programs, advisory services and groundwater licensing. He was based at Townsville when he retired in 1982.

Jack is survived by his wife Beryl, daughters Carolyn and Dianne and their families and sister Barbara to whom we pass on our condolences.

#### .....FARE IS FAIR.....

From **The Mirror** (UK) "Police arrested a naked man at Piccadilly Underground Station last night. They later released him when he produced a valid rail ticket."

Also from British railways came the following announcement:- The 11:35 Express from Winchester has been delayed by a bovine incursion and will now arrive at 12:10." ( A cow strayed onto the line.)

#### .....IRONED OUT.....

The court battle in Western Australia between the daughter and the widow of mining magnate Lang Hancock prompted the following letter to The Courier-Mail:-

“Would the legal wrangle between Rose and Gina be for the sake of old Lang’s iron.”

There used to be an Irish joke about a riot in a Dublin prison and how the Superintendent ordered the warders to evict the trouble makers. The story is still doing the rounds but the setting has been changed to Queensland’s prisons.

#### .....RECOVERIES.....

**Don Beattie** had major cardiac surgery in April. He must have been very well treated because he went back a couple of weeks later for a bit more attention. Don is now home making very good progress and hopes to be back soon on the bowling green.

In response to a “get well” message from Barrie, Don wrote:-

“The visits by a number of members of the Association and the many phone calls enquiring about my health all contributed to my desire to get well as soon as possible. Many thanks to you and the Association for your kind thoughts”

**Joan Wickham** suffered a broken arm and spent some time in hospital. She is now back home enjoying the tender nursing attention of Alan.

**Lindsay White** has also spent a little time in hospital followed by convalescence at home receiving the ministrations of Norm.

**Ray McGowan** suffered a heart attack and has been in the Ayr Hospital undergoing treatment

#### .....WANDERERS.....

**Len and Cec Redmond** are back from their “Round Australia” venture. They managed to avoid the ravages of “bovine incursions” onto the road pavement.

Not to be outdone **Norm and Lindsay White** flew to Cooktown to spend a few days with daughter Susan son-in-law Andrew and grand-daughter Kiara.

**The Peggs** are back from Darwin where Beth inspected and placed her seal of approval on a new grandchild.

#### .....WAS IT YOU?.....

**Did you send an envelope to the Treasurer** at 29 Aster St., Cannon Hill enclosing a \$5 note and a **blank** tear off subscription form?. The envelope bore the mail sorting date of 4th May. Jim Walls can’t issue a receipt and doesn’t know whose membership to credit. So if the money came from you please phone Jim on 33992739 or write to him.

#### .....THE THINGS PEOPLE WILL DO!.....

**Stan James** appeared on ABC TV demonstrating defence tactics to be used by older people against home invaders and others who prey on the elderly. Private lessons can be arranged by phoning his agent at 3269 9505.

**Joan Ross** is training hard for her debut in the Demolition Derby at the new Speedway at Willowbank. She managed three bingles to her conveyance in as many weeks.

**Alan Vizer** has joined the Wesley Hospital group to support the victims of heart attacks. It wasn’t all that long ago that Alan was giving heart attacks to colleagues.

#### .....CONGRATULATIONS.....

We have more than a passing interest in the Wallabies Rugby team. Captain David Wilson is a nephew of **Gwen Vizer** and David Giffin is a grandson of **Bertha** and the late **Garney Johnson**. The tradesmen have completed their restoration of the Vizer TV lounge following Gwen's exuberance after viewing nephew's first try as Wallaby captain. The same tradesmen are back again following David's try against England.

**Ernie Melville** has been taking a swing and a swipe at the Croquet Championships with considerable success.

### .....**BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS**.....

To be feared even more than pickpockets are the lowlife who "plant" stolen goods in the pocket of an innocent person in an attempt to incriminate the unfortunate. These actions were once confined to London slums during the time of Dickens' Fagin and to a few disreputable Police Stations. Alas the times have changed and the once happy golf course is now frequented by these unsavoury types as your Editor found out to his horror recently. Two of his foursome set themselves apart from the *hoi polloi* and used a motorised golf cart, a **stanmobile** (with apologies to the Holy Father), while the ordinary people walked. At one stage the keys of the cart disappeared and it could not be started. The passengers insisted on a strip search of the **Editor** where the missing keys were found. The thief had planted the keys in the pocket of the Editor without his knowledge. His protests of innocence were ignored.

### .....**FORE**.....

Three golfers, not all of them included above, spoke thus of their spouses:-  
 Golfer A. "My wife got up early and cooked my breakfast so I could be here by 7 am."  
 Golfer B. "My beloved is a treasure, she's mowing the lawn so I could make it today."  
 Golfer D. "Last night my wife came to me on her hands and knees."  
 Golfers A & B. "You're kidding. What happened then?"  
 Golfer D. "She said, 'Get out from under the bed and fight like a man.'."

### .....**SLEEPING POTIONS**.....

During the course of a consultation with her physician a lady was asked:-  
 "Did you wake up grumpy?"  
 "No, I let the lazy sod sleep on." answered the lady.

**"I was once indecisive but now I am not so sure."**

Senior Citizens are the nation's leading carriers of AIDS -hearing aids, walking aids, band aids, and government aids.

### .....**BLOOPERS**.....

I make my share of errors (it would be a lot more if it wasn't for David Morwood's meticulous proof reading)(*I never change a thing, I wouldn't dare: DLM*), so its comforting to see others similarly afflicted.

"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing, but none of them serious." (Alan Minter).

"I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat".(UK soccer manager Ron Atkinson).

"The Port Elizabeth ground is more of a circle than an oval. It's long and square."(Trevor Bailey).

"Lara chanced his arm, and it's come off."(Brian Johnston).

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."(Winston Bennett).

"If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again.".(Socceroos Manager Terry Venerables).

"I can see a carrot at the end of the tunnel".(Stuart Pearce).

"I'll fight Lloyd Honeyghan for nothing if the price is right".(Marion Starling).

and the previously quoted gem from Greg Norman:-"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father".

## .....CHRISTMAS IN JULY.....

### "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Economic rationalists in the European Common Market have decreed that substantial benefits would flow if the old "Twelve Days of Christmas" was brought into line with modern business practices. Furthermore significant savings would be achieved if Christmas could be moved to follow the end of the financial year, eg 1st July. **Benefits flowing from change of Christmas dates include:-**

- If corporate profits are good, payment of bonuses to Senior Executives can be brought forward to 30th June to coincide with the euphoria of the good results. If profits are poor:.....
- Any downsizing may be done quickly in time for the "Christmas" holidays, saving salaries and allowances.

### **The following directive summarises the new procedures for the Christmas song:-**

1. The partridge will be retained but the pear tree, which has not produced the forecast crop, will be replaced by a plastic plant thus producing considerable maintenance savings;
2. Two turtle doves represent a redundancy and their romance during working hours is a costly distraction to other workers. The positions are therefore eliminated.
3. Three French hens will remain. After all everyone loves the French.
4. The four calling birds will be replaced by automated voice mail with a call waiting option. Numbers called by the birds and frequency and duration of calls are being investigated.
5. The five golden rings are to be abandoned following the fall in gold price and the sale of national gold reserves.
6. The six geese-a-laying are an unaffordable luxury. One egg per goose per day is insufficient in view of recent advances in fertilization science. Three geese will be let go and improved genetic selection procedures will be implemented to find their replacements.
7. The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously an archaic number. The current swans will be retrained to learn new strokes thus enhancing their outplacement.
8. The eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEC Agricultural and Equal Opportunity Committees. A male/female balance is sought but militant maids consider this to be a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Maids a-mending, a-mowing or a-marrying may follow mechanisation and automation of the milking process..
9. Nine ladies a-dancing is an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

10. Ten Lords a-leaping is overkill. Due to the high salaries of Lords and the cost of travel, it is proposed that the group be replaced with ten out-of-work politicians from the lower Houses. Leaping ability may be sacrificed, but the over-supply of defeated candidates should drive down salaries.

11. Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming simply means that the band is too big. Significant savings will be achieved with a string quartet, a reduction in new music and elimination of uniforms.

Following an injunction taken out by the Law Society, implementation of the new "Thirteen lawyers a-suing" clause is postponed.

Thanks to **Beth Pegg** who supplied much of this information.

### .....CORPORATE COMMENTS.....

Our own Australian business buccaneers have made their contributions to the news:-

- "I wouldn't want you to write something nice about me - that would ruin your record."  
Robert Martin mining entrepreneur.
- "It's an elephant and mouse situation and the elephant realises it can't go around squishing the mouse. It has to be nice to the mouse because it's awfully uncomfortable for an elephant when it's got a mouse up it's trunk." Peter Vanderspuy talking about the relationship between his company and BHP.
- "As soon as I announced who it was, it was like talking to Manuel in Fawlty Towers. Que, que, que and click." Max Donnelly, Christopher Skase's bankruptcy trustee about the one time he managed to talk to the failed entrepreneur in 1991.
- "I haven't spoken to Paul Keating now for seven months when I think we had a frank discussion where he gave me a free character assessment. And I responded in kind."  
Graham Richardson.
- "They were not seeking justice and truth, only glory by trying to knock off a tall poppy."  
John Elliott on the National Crime Authority.

### .....MID YEAR DINNER.....

The mid-year dinner was held in the Skyline Restaurant at COTAH, Southbank, on 16th June. A very fine meal was served in delightful surroundings. Numbers were down, due in part to absences from Brisbane of some regulars, sickness and the very cold night. Nonetheless the 26 who attended enjoyed the evening.

Maybe the Executive should be asking itself if a switch to a lunch time function for this time of year would be more widely accepted. Perhaps some of us older persons may feel uncomfortable driving at night or walking to and from public transport and would welcome a mid-year, mid-day lunch at COTAH. Please let us know.

### .....TECHNICAL AID TO THE DISABLED QLD.....

In the November 1997 edition of the Newsletter we told you about this volunteer organisation which provides technical assistance to disabled people

**TAD Volunteers design, construct, adapt, install, and maintain technical aids to persons with disabilities** where suitable aids cannot otherwise be obtained. The service is provided free of all labour costs although payment of the cost of materials such as workshop consumables, phone calls and car mileage may be sought.

Examples of aids constructed range from gadgets to turn off water taps, to blocks to raise beds and chairs, to hand driven tricycles, to shower seats, to graded pathways across slopes for wheelchair sports-people. etc. etc.

Greater attention is now being given to helping disabled people to use computers for education, communication and recreation. TADQ has established a computer Loan Service. Donations of computers and equipment have been made by people and companies. **However TADQ now has a strong need for volunteers with computer experience** to provide basic tuition to disabled people. This may involve a small amount of time once a week for a few weeks or even a one-off visit depending on the time available.

TADQ and it's activities are not confined to Brisbane. There are representatives at many country centres including the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Ayr, Townsville, Atherton Tablelands, Emerald, Longreach, and Toowoomba.

**This is not only a call for more volunteers, particularly those with computer experience, it is also an invitation to those members who have some disability and need the help that TADQ provides, to contact the organisation at Box 2334 Fortitude Valley Q 4006, phone (32161733)**

#### .....MAREEBA NEWS.....

**Jack Pont** is expecting to have knee replacements soon. Good luck Jack.

**Sheila Turner** and daughter Corinne were in Brisbane in June when they enjoyed lunch at the Sheraton Hotel with a dozen former Walkamin residents including Dave and Phyllis Coles, Jim and Win Chamberlain, John and Margaret McPaul (ex Ag. & Stock), John and Olive Stevens and daughter Christine (ex Peanut Marketing Board) and Lenore (Bunty) Harvey, widow of Ken,

#### **KEY WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY UNDER WAY.**

We are indebted to Peter Noonan, Executive Director, State Water Projects, for the following notes on some current activities in the Department of Natural Resources:-

The construction scene in DNR is not too active at present, with a range of smaller things happening rather than big dam construction.

In the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area, work is continuing on the upgrade of pipelines and channels to provide for the sugar industry expansion and other crop changes. The automation of the distribution system has saved over 20,000 ML/year of losses which have been sold as new allocation. As well as sugar, there has been substantial expansion of ti-trees and other crops as tobacco is phasing out and some landholders are now looking at the possibility of bananas being a significant new crop on the Tablelands.

The Burdekin River Irrigation Area approved development is almost complete, with some works this year to finalise the distribution area as we know it and associated roadworks. This has included some new farms in the Millaroo area as well. The remaining decision is whether one more small section on the right bank (Leichhardt section) is developed. Any works past that would be part of any new development decision by government.

In the Mackay area, raising of Kinchant Dam is being considered but not yet finalised.

In the Dawson, over \$4.2 million is being spent on refurbishing the Moura Weir. As a timber buttress weir, it was not sufficiently secure - last year a part of the weir was burnt out!

This refurbished weir will complement the new offstream storage at Moura completed in January which was constructed to provide supplies for the new ammonium nitrate plant under development there.



A major increase in capacity of the Awoonga- Callide pipeline is almost signed up. This will service the new Callide C powerstation currently under construction and will transfer more water from Awoonga Dam near Gladstone to Callide Dam near Biloela.

Upgrade works on channels in the St George area are ongoing. The offstream storage proposed adjacent to Beardmore Dam is still being finalised.

A major development initiative not based on infrastructure construction has also been announced by the government:-

The Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative is a partnership between industry and government to improve the use and management of available irrigation water, thereby improving the competitiveness, profitability and environmental sustainability of Queensland's rural industries.

DNR will spend \$41 million over the next four years to achieve:

- An extra \$280 million in agricultural production (equivalent to what would be achieved by supplying an additional 180,000 megalitres (ML) of irrigation water annually.
- The creation of 1,600 jobs in regional Queensland.
- Improved farm profitability and viability of Queensland's rural industries.
- Reduced run-off of pesticides and nutrients into rivers and streams.

The benefits will be achieved by:

1. Adoption of programs to improve water use efficiency on farms managed by rural industry organisations.
2. Reducing water losses from storages on farms. There is over 500,000 ML in 3,000 storages.
3. Financial incentives to achieve best practice irrigation water management.
4. Reducing water losses in irrigation water supply and distribution systems. The improvements in the MDIA noted above are an example of this.

**Thanks Peter Noonan.**

Thanks to Norm White for the masthead and to David Morwood for his help in editing the Newsletter.

Cheers, Bernie Credlin.