

# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

The Official Newsletter of the Water Resources Retired Officers Association  
**Netball Edition 1999**



## NETBALL WORLD CUP EDITION

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

### .....THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN ADJECTIVE.....

No doubt the current climate of nationalism will arouse calls for a new Anthem. C.J.Dennis, author of "The Sentiment Bloke" and other ballads, won an award for his entry to a national song competition in the early years of this century. Having regard to the **Marseillaise**, the national song of the French Republic, he called it "**The Austral-----aise**". Given the acceptance of the use of "**bloody**" in the State Parliament recently, and these calls for a new anthem, maybe a few verses of Dennis' song are worth re-reading.

#### Chorus.

Get a bloody move on,  
 Have some bloody sense.  
 Learn the bloody art of  
 Self de-bloody -fence.

Fellers of Australier,  
 Blokes an' coves an' coots'  
 Shift yer bloody carcasses,  
 Move your bloody boots,  
 Gird yer bloody loins up,  
 Get yer bloody gun,  
 Set the bloody enemy  
 An' watch the bugger run.

Fellers of Australier,  
 Cobbers, chaps an' mates,

Joy is bloody fleetin',  
 Life is bloody short.  
 Wot's the use uv wastin' it  
 All on bloody sport?  
 Hitch yer bloody tip-dray  
 To a bloody star.  
 Let yer bloody watchword be  
 "Australi-bloody-ar!"

W'en the bloody trouble  
 Hits yer native land

Hear the bloody enemy  
Kickin, at the gates!  
Blow the bloody bugle,  
Beat the bloody drum,  
Upper-cut and out the cow  
To kingdom bloody come.

Take a bloody rifle

In yer bloody 'and.  
Keep yer bloody upper lip  
Stiff as stiff can be,  
An' speed a bloody bullet for  
Pos- bloody -terity!

and on other matters poetic from Luenig by

courtesy of **Beth Pegg**

### **The Road to Home**

The road to home is lined with lovely eucalypts and wattles  
and plastic bags and paper cups and empty cans and bottles:  
An avenue of honour for the little Aussie dumper,  
Who ought to have it gathered up and shoved right up his jumper

### **From Spike Milligan**

When a New York optician moved to an island off Alaska he became known as the "Optical Aleutian."  
And when he was about to be toasted at a dinner in his honour, Spike advised a friend with a glass  
eye :- "Drink to me with thine only eye."

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

I heard a short time back from **Ron Afflick** that while **Roy and Iris Maxted** were in Broome on their  
round -Australia trip Iris suffered a stroke at Broome and was flown to Perth for treatment and then  
on to Brisbane where she is was in the Princess Alexandra Rehabilitation unit. I have since been told  
that she has now been discharged and is back in Bundaberg. Unfortunately Roy has since been  
stricken with kidney stones. We wish them speedy and complete recoveries.

**Affo** is well and managing to keep the golf course at bay four times a week. He has also taken time to  
pen a few paragraphs on his experiences on construction jobs over the years. We will include these  
from time to time as **Affo's Anecdotes**.

**Geoff Ward** has been in hospital for a total of a month and all is now functioning well.

**Alan Vizer** has now had major cardiac surgery and is continuing his recovery at home.

**George Toone** has moved from his house in West Bundaberg to the Pioneer Millbank Retirement  
Village in West Bundaberg. His post box no. is 952.

**Dick Hurn** is back home after a week in hospital.

### .....BOWLS DAY.....

Twenty one bowlers and would -be bowlers descended on the Aspley Bowls Club on 6th August to play  
for fabulous trophies. Winners were **Doris Robinson** and **Norm White** and the runners-up were  
**Allan Seabrook** and Norm White. It is significant that both the morning and afternoon teams which  
**lost** by the largest margin had a common denominator - your editor.

The bowlers and a dozen members of their cheer squads enjoyed nibbles and gossip during the day  
and sat down to a hot lunch.

Our thanks go to **Stan and Joan Ross, Doris Robinson, and Don and Shirley Beattie** for  
organising the day .

### .....WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.....

**Vince and Sheila Lynch** celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss on 9th April. They were married at Esk  
in 1939.

We add, belatedly, our own congratulations to those of the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Premier.

**Em and Sylvia Soloduhin** celebrated their 50th anniversary in July and

**Grahame and Joyce Bertram** enjoyed their 40th wedding anniversary with family and friends on the  
9th and 10th of October. We congratulate the Soloduhins and the Bertrams.

### .....CONDOLENCES.....

We extend our sympathy to **Cec Redmond** whose sister, Mary, from Theodore, passed away a little while ago. The Redmonds sorrow has been compounded by the death of Len's brother Geoff on 28th August and we also convey our condolences to Len.

**Henry Thomas Webb** (Harry) passed away on 28/11/99 after a long illness. Harry was born and raised in Cloncurry and served in the RAAF during the war. Harry came to the then Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in the early 70's from the Coordinator General's dept., where he had worked as a drilling supervisor on many projects from the 1950's. He worked on the Tully Falls and Barron Falls Hydro Projects and on many dams, some of which were Koombooloomba, Eungella, Wivenhoe, North Pine and Baroon Pocket.. He was an expert on grouting of dam foundations and you could always get valuable feedback from him on the performance of the grouting specifications. Harry is survived by his wife Maureen, son Mark, and daughter Allison .

Contributed by **Ben Russo**, who regards Harry as one of the finest gentlemen he has ever known.

#### .....CRIME REPORT.....

Thieves recently stole a toilet bowl and cistern from an Ipswich Police Station. A spokesperson for the investigation team said that "the Police had nothing to go on." The Courier-Mail 18th August. We also heard that the thieves were flushed with their success.

#### .....PARADISICAL PURCHASE.....

One day in the Garden of Eden, Adam called out to God: "I know you created me and have surrounded me with this beautiful garden and all these wonderful animals, but I am lonely."

"Well Adam I have the perfect solution. I shall create a 'woman' for you."

"What's a 'woman', Lord?"

"This 'woman' will be the most intelligent, sensitive, caring, and beautiful creature I have ever made. She will be so intelligent that she will know your needs before you know them. She will be so sensitive and caring that she will know your every mood and how to make you happy. Her beauty will rival the heavens and earth. She will unquestioningly care for your every need and desire. She will be the perfect companion for you." replied the heavenly voice.

"That's wonderful." said Adam.

"But there are conditions." said the Lord. "She will cost you an arm and a leg."

Adam thought deeply about this for much time then finally asked God, "What can I get for a rib?"

#### **Wallaby Waffle**

"What's the difference between the All Blacks and Cinderella?"

"At least Cinderella got to the ball.....and had a good coach."

And from the coach of the South African team, Nick Mallett, as he tried to explain his team's losses to New Zealand and Australia comes "It goes back to our inability to cheat intelligently. A lot of players cheat intelligently."

All Black Josh Kronfeld, named as one of these cheats, said "My mum will be pleased - I've got an IQ now".

And in the other rugby code we read about the former International who, when filling-in a business application form was asked to name two referees. He scrawled Bill Harrigan and Bill Hartley.

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

Sheila Turner continues the good work of telling us about our friends at Mareeba. Sheila herself has had knee surgery which when combined with those of Marcia and Jack Pont adds up to five new knees amongst three people.

Joyce Warburton has been poorly of late.

The Local Branch held their Christmas Lunch at the Mareeba Leagues Club on 24th November.

Approximately 40 attended and had a great time. Maryke Truss brought along Noel Leong, Wally

Russell and Carl Luppi who were made most  
feel at home.

welcome. Howard Bloomfield who was also made

And in response to an inquiry from Mareeba, **it is true that the spouses of deceased members are not required to pay an annual subscription.**

**One crow to another "Have you bred any good rooks lately?"  
"there's no time like the pleasant"**

.....**PERSONAL PLATE PARANOIA...**.....

What is it about personalised number plates that brings out the worst in people? Former Assistant Commissioners, Chief Engineers, District Managers and even senior office-bearers of this august Association descend to uncharacteristic levels when they see a colleague with a person number plate, especially a multi-coloured one.

Your editor is the proud recipient of a gift, a red, yellow and black plate; **BLC 27**. It has made me the target of coarse jibes. Try these for size, (pardon the pun):- "Is that your IQ, or your age, (in months of course), or is it your chest measurement, or some other dimension (in millimetres)?"

I suppose it could be worse. I now know how the owner of the battered Holden GFW OO must feel. However on the positive side ex-pat Brit Roy Mincher proudly drives his 786 POM without snide comment.

**"The lawyers get the oyster - the litigants get the shell." The Pastoral Times" 1873 commenting an Equity Court case in Deniliquin.**

**From an other source " Lawyer + Alligator = Litigator"**

.....**KEEP YOUR HAIR ON.....**.....

**"If your neck regularly aches and niggles then check your hair style."** Sometimes a person's haircut is partly to blame. Regularly flicking your neck or tilting your head to one side to keep the hair out of your eyes can cause a small whiplash injury or muscle strain. **The solution?** A bit off the top, use a hair clip or wear a hat." These words of wisdom came from the publication "HEALTHWise 1998" by courtesy of **Stan James** who did not say which solution he uses.

.....**AFFO'S ANECDOTES.....**.....

**Tinaroo Dam**

A party was being held in a prefab at the bottom end of Church Street when Jim Smith (true name) decided to relieve himself out in the back yard. This was after midnight and in the darkness he bumped into what he thought was an assailant. He whipped off his glasses and threw a couple of punches. He hurt his hands something terrible and when he got his glasses back on, he found that he had been punching the prop holding the clothes line.

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"Hec" from the single men's barracks had a terrible bender one Saturday night. Sunday morning saw him struggle to the mess where the waitress served him breakfast. When he was returning to the barracks, the chap in the next room asked him why he had forgotten his trousers. Affo has it on good authority that the waitress hadn't even noticed or perhaps she didn't see anything to smile about.

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When the houses were being built, a 2 feet deep trench was dug between the houses in Palm and Barron Streets to accommodate the water supply pipes. The nightsoil man, while carrying the can from Alf Skarrat's house was so intent on looking down to make sure he didn't step in the trench, that he didn't see the clothes line. The can caught in the line and man and can went head over turkey. Affo still recalls the foreman of the town gang, Jim Flanagan, directing the clean-up from a distance of 100 yards.

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issue.

More of Affo's anecdotes in the next

.....**VISIT TO SOUTH EASTERN QUEENSLAND DAMS.....**.....

Twenty-six members and friends had a most enjoyable coach trip to Maroon, Moogerah and Wivenhoe Dams on 20th October. Many of us had forgotten the great natural beauty of the landscape surrounding these storages. Thanks **Grahame** for organising this excellent day.

## Elections

**"Candidates without ideas, hiring consultants without convictions, to run campaigns without content."**

**Former US President Gerald Ford on presidential elections.**

### **WARNING TO HIKERS, HUNTERS, FISHERMEN AND MOTORCYCLISTS PROPOSING TO VISIT THE MOZAMBIQUE BUSH.**

"We advise the outdoorsmen to wear little noisy bells on clothing so as to give advance warning to any lions that might be close by, so you don't take them by surprise.

We also advise anyone using the out-of-doors to carry "Pepper Spray" in case of an encounter with a lion.

Outdoorsmen should also be on the watch for fresh lion activity, and be able to tell the difference between lion cub droppings and big lion droppings. Cub droppings are smaller and contain lots of berries and fur. Big lion's droppings have bells in them and smell like pepper.

Enjoy your stay in Mozambique."

From a Mozambique Tourist Department brochure.

### **.....JOHN OF JORDAN.....**

**John Potts** will be remembered in a variety of positions in the Commission/Department from District Engineer at Mareeba to General Manager, Commercial. John is now in Jordan working for a private consultant building a Roller Compacted Concrete dam about 80 metres high across a spectacular canyon 500 metres deep - a "wadi". The wadi has been carved into limestone beds and leads to the Dead Sea which is 400 metres below normal sea level.

The Potts have a large flat in the city of Kerak not all that far from the capital of Amman. They expect to be in Jordan until mid 2000.

This story is based on an article in the Staff Newsletter of the Department's State Water Projects group of October 1999. John's address may be obtained from **Doug Flanders 3224 7267**.

### **.....ROCKHAMPTON AND BACK BY TILT TRAIN.....**

Recently **Norm and Lindsay White** travelled to Rockhampton for the weekend to attend a wedding and decided to try out the new Tilt Train rather than go by car.

A booking was made and paid for over the telephone and the ticket arrived a few days later. The service is very popular and it is wise to make arrangements well in advance to secure seats.

The fares are reasonable, being: -

- Single - \$70.00 (Ordinary Fare no concession)
- \$35.00 (Seniors Card Concession)
- \$ 5.00 (Pensioner Concession - Booking Charge)

Return fares are double the single fare.

They joined the train at Caboolture, (the first stop after leaving Roma St). The travel time from there to Rockhampton was 6 hours and 15 minutes and from Roma St. 40 minutes longer.

Luggage can be checked through using the free baggage check service provided, however, there are luggage storage compartments in each carriage and also hand luggage lockers above the seats as in aircraft. Seating arrangements are two side by side on each side of a central aisle, and the seats are reclining aircraft style and are fitted with audio controls. Headphones are provided for audio/visual entertainment and there are a number of suspended TV monitors in each carriage.

Entertainment consists of video movies, radio, music, comedy etc., and also camera views through the driver's front window of with annotated details of the speed, outside temperature and distance to the next stop.

The seats are quite comfortable with footrests and a reasonable space between the each row.

Windows are large allowing good vision and are fitted with curtains for glare control, if required.

Cold water drinking facilities and toilets are provided in each carriage, and a public telephone is available in Car E.

A meal service is provided and hot/cold lunch can be ordered and will be delivered to your seat at a cost of \$6.50.

The meal is served in a disposable plastic container, and comes with plastic cutlery, serviette, condiments etc., and was found to be tasty and of good quality.

Snacks and drinks (hot/cold and alcoholic) can also be obtained from a service trolley, which circulates a number of times during the journey. These can also be obtained from the "Galley" in Car E that is open for most of the trip. Rubbish is collected a number of times which was very satisfactory. The train stops at major centres such as Nambour, Bundaberg, Gladstone, and also stops at intermediate stations as necessary to collect and drop off passengers.

The ride was very smooth with little sense of acceleration/deceleration and the speed varied up to a maximum of 162 kilometres per hour. There was occasional swaying at high speed but it was not uncomfortable.

They found the whole trip to be interesting, enjoyable and relaxing and would certainly recommend it as an alternative method to car or bus travel where time is not important .

Thanks Norm White

**Lost- in the Camp Hill area, one beard, white with a few black strands. Reward. Phone Gordon 3398 7247.**

### .....OUTBACK TRAVEL.....

Few of our members have travelled more in out back Australia than **Jack and Romola Squire**.

1996 saw them fly to Darwin, by coach to Perth, via the Indian Pacific to Sydney and home by air.

In 1997 they visited Cairns, Horn and Thursday Islands using plane and boat and then by coach back to Cairns via Cooktown, Cape Tribulation, Chillagoe and the Atherton Tableland before flying home.

1998 saw them bus it to Birdsville via Bourke, White Cliffs, Tibooburra, Innaminka and Maree before returning by way of Boulia, Longreach and Rockhampton

This year they went to Birdsville and on to Broome via Hall's Creek. From there to Kununurra, Timber Creek, Cape Crawford, Boorooloolah, Lawn Hill, Riversleigh, Cloncurry, Longreach and home.

We hope to bring you some of the highlights of these trips in subsequent editions.

### .....RETIREMENTS.....

#### **TOM FENWICK**

This is a much abbreviated record of a speech by **Mike McKenna** at a farewell to Tom. The figure of Tom Fenwick has loomed large on the scene in Queensland (figuratively speaking, of course) for many of us for more that 20 years. Over that period, Tom carved an enormous reputation, not only for himself, but also for the organisations he has been involved with.

#### **Biography**

Tom was born and educated in Queensland and graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in 1963. He began his professional career with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in January 1963.

Between 1963 and 1970, he worked in water resources planning and development both in head office branches and on major dam construction projects, notably on Wuruma Dam near Eidsvold and Maroon Dam near Boonah.

In 1970, Tom left the Commission to gain wider experience in his profession with Reinhold and Partners, Consulting Engineers, before rejoining the Commission in 1972.

During the period to 1979, he strengthened his credentials for his future leadership roles, progressing from directing investigations into a number of major water related projects (including Three Moon Creek, Barker-Barambah Project, Burdekin River Project, Eton Irrigation Project and a number of power station water supply projects), to the establishment and management of Forward Planning Branch.



Over the period from 1979 to 1985, Tom held the position of Senior Engineer, Special Projects with the Commission, where, in addition to his responsibility for internal coordination of major projects (which included: Burdekin River Project, Boondooma Dam, Wivenhoe Dam, Awoonga-Callide Pipeline, Stanwell Power Station Water Supply and Tarong Water Supply), he was involved in a wide range of policy related matters and management issues generally.

Within the State, he was closely involved in water policy matters including reviews of policies, programs and activities and in 1984, established a Policy and Economics Unit which played a significant role in providing a broader policy perspective to water resources management in this State.

During this term, Tom undertook a review of the overall Commission organisational structure, both in Head Office and in all country centres. As a result of this review and his recommendations, the initial regional structure for the Water Resources Commission was established with a strong central office/regional office relationship, well ahead of similar developments in most other Departments. From that time, Tom maintained a firm commitment to regional arrangements and has been a strong advocate of that concept at all levels of Government.

Following his appointment as Assistant Commissioner in December 1985, Tom was appointed Commissioner of Water Resources in August 1986..

During this term, Tom's attention was focussed on providing a clear corporate direction for the Commission, which saw the introduction of strategic planning, the development of a corporate plan, clear objectives, new strategies and firm targets which enabled successful redirection of the organisation and its establishment at the forefront of water industry initiatives in Australia.

There are a few survivors of that first experience of strategic planning who can no doubt recall the uncertainty, the wonder and the sense of something new and exciting with which we began that journey back in 1987. For many, it began with a significant number of us being locked up for a 3 day weekend in Banyo Seminary !!!! to thrash out some of the goals and strategies for the new organisation.

We doubt if the seminary had experienced anything like that weekend before and often wonder if it was ever the same again. It seems certain that the amount of alcohol consumed on those 3 days was never surpassed either before or after. Certainly, the experience of this process had a fundamental and enlightening impact on those who participated. Restructuring of the Commission's organisation occurred as a result of the strategic planning process, including the final implementation of the regional arrangements, as was the introduction of program management.

This process effectively completed the repositioning and redirection of the organisation, which placed it in a position to manage the emerging era of rapid change resulting from the economic reform agenda which Tom had, with a great deal more vision and foresight than most.

With the incorporation of the Water Resources Commission into the expanded Department of Primary Industries in December 1989, Tom continued in the capacity of Commissioner of Water Resources within the new Department until 1991.

In addition to maintaining the momentum of corporate development within the Commission, he played a pivotal role in establishing a corporate structure in the new Department and in the Commission during this period.

In 1994, Tom was appointed Director General of the Department of Primary Industries, where he provided the strength of leadership required to lead one of the largest and most diverse Departments of the State into a new era of responsive rural services and professional management of the State's natural resources and commercial forest and water businesses.

With the change in Government and the creation of the Department of Natural Resources in 1996, Tom was the "natural" choice to lead and guide the development of this new organisation, another challenging task which required high levels of leadership, vision and skills to bring together the various and diverse elements which made up the new Department.

### **The Fenwick Legacy**

So, a distinguished career spanning nearly 37 years now comes to an end and I think it appropriate to reflect on what Tom has been able to achieve over that period .

Over his extended term as a CEO, initially as Commissioner for Water Resources, then Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and subsequently Director General of the Department of Natural Resources, Tom has been responsible for leading significant change in the way that we deal with the assessment, allocation, use and management of the State's natural resource base.

His significant contributions in this arena of public administration are widespread, but could be simply put in terms of his recognition of the need to deal with these matters on an integrated basis, which recognises the inter-relationships and inter-dependencies between the individual resource elements, rather than the traditional approach of considering these elements in isolation.

This vision and the leadership that Tom provided for it has led to the widespread acknowledgment and adoption of a balanced approach to natural resource use and management in a sustainable environment.

Tom's vision and leadership during this time of restructure is widely acknowledged by other States and the Commonwealth through his relations with them. These included Commonwealth-State involvements in water matters, including Senate inquiries, Commonwealth Grants Commission, Australian Water Resources Council and representation of the State in a range of interstate involvements, including The Murray Darling Basin Commission, and The Border Rivers Commission.

### **Conclusion**

That completes a short but significant summary of Tom's life in the public sector. These few examples of his achievements, though far from exhaustive, highlight some of what I believe are lasting examples of his legacy to us and to the people of Queensland. Without doubt, Tom can be justifiably proud of what he has achieved in a long and distinguished career and many of us who have worked with him over the years are indeed fortunate to have had a person with his vision, drive and overall abilities "steering the ship" for us.

### **WARREN LANE**

Warren retired in July after spending much of his working life "up to his neck" in groundwater. Soon afterwards Warren and his wife embarked on a round-Australia trip which they enjoyed very much. On Boxing Day they depart for Korea to work for ADRA (an overseas aid organisation), teaching English, for 12 months. They will teach seven hours per day for six days per week with short breaks every two months. Warren says that the "tired" in retired will have a lot more significance. We commend the Lanes on their dedication to helping others and wish them every success.

### **And on the subject of achievement in older age it's worth remembering :-**

Churchill led the UK to victory in World War II at 70.

Benjamin Franklin wrote the US constitution at 81.

Michelangelo, Matisse and Somerset Maugham did some of their best work at 84.

Thanks to **Sheila Turner, Ron Afflick and John Squire** for their contributions, to **White Inc** for the masthead, to **David Morwood** for help with editing.

Cheers

Bernie Credlin