

# WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

The Official Newsletter of the  
Water Resources Retired Officers Association  
Easter Bilby Edition 2000



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 31  
2000

MARCH

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## .....CHRISTMAS LUNCH.....

December 2nd saw one of our best attended functions for a long time, and a most successful one. Sixty-nine members and friends sat down to an excellent lunch with very good service in the Skyline restaurant at COTAH's Southbank headquarters.

**Geo and Merle Beran, Jack and Patrea O'Shea, Bob and Vivienne Kay and Noel and Rhondda Ullman** joined Brisbane based friends to renew old associations and to enjoy social chit-chat. It was also pleasing to have the company of the recently retired Director-General **Tom Fenwick** and his wife **Val**.

Your Executive wishes to urge country members to consider attending our dinners, socials and other functions particularly if their visits to Brisbane coincide with these activities.

We also express our thanks to Grahame and Gordon for arranging this delightful function.

**AND:** Gordon is organising a **Mid-Year Lunch** at **COTAH, on 15 June 2000**. Please keep this date available. Details and registration form will be sent to you later.

## .....ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....

We remind members that the **Annual Meeting will be held on 12th April at the Public Service Club**. Finger food and drinks will be available after the meeting. Your Executive urges as many members as possible to attend, to put forward their ideas on where we should be heading as an Association and to offer themselves for election to the Committee. We need new ideas and approaches.

## .....GROUNDWATER MILLENIUM PARTY.....

A gathering of more than 60 past and present workers in the ground water field was held at the Natural Sciences Precinct at Indooroopilly on 17th December. A large number attended including 16 of our members from Brisbane and the country. **Jack O'Shea, Jim Kurtz, Daryl Smith, John Kennedy** and **Kevin and Audrey Brown** were conspicuous amongst those from out of town. At the end of the day those not drenched by pumping tests were suitably covered in drilling mud.

It was gratifying to see that the close personal ties and team spirit that bound the old Artesian and Stock Water Supplies and Groundwater Branches together in years gone by, still exists. None the less today's workers were having difficulty with **UGWEs, SOBs** (both varieties), **SEUWs, CIEs, ACEs** and other acronyms which made many discussions sound like foreign language conversations, conversations that were much enhanced by the flow of malted barley products.

Special thanks go to **John Hillier and Bruce Pearce** for organising a very pleasant day.

#### .....GROUNDWATER SCHOOL.....

While writing about groundwater, some of our members will be interested to know that the 1999 Groundwater School was held in Brisbane for the first time, during the week starting 29th November. These schools began in the mid '60s under the auspices of the Australian Water Resources Council to teach the theory and practice of groundwater exploration, development and management, subjects that had been largely ignored by the teaching institutions. Queensland featured prominently in the design of the courses and provided several of the lecturers. For years the schools were held in Adelaide but they are now being rotated around the capital cities.

#### .....NATIONAL AWARD FOR MAREEBA.....

The Operations and Maintenance staff of the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area have been recognised at a national level. At the 1999 conference of the Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANCID), Mareeba staff received the annual ANCID award for "Improvements in Commercial Water Works".

The award recognises considerable improvements in distribution efficiencies that have been achieved in the MDIA.

The staff implemented a Water Management System which enabled customers to 'phone their orders directly into the Mareeba computer. Software then determined the flow rates needed in various parts of the system. The major regulating structures to be operated by computer from the Mareeba office.

For more information contact **Brett Stevenson**, Department of Natural Resources, Mareeba.

Borrowed from "Scheme News" December 1999, A DNR staff newsletter

We are pleased to report that the recent heavy rain and flooding on the Atherton Tableland did not cause any major problems for our members there. The rail bridge near Mareeba was destroyed however, cutting the line to Cairns.

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

Sheila Turner took ill at Christmas and after a short stay in the Mareeba Hospital is only now returning to good health. We hope you are totally fit soon Sheila ( and back at work as our Far Northern Correspondent).

Jack O'Shea received treatment at the Wesley Hospital as an out patient over a few weeks and completed the course before Christmas with happy results.

Warren Hutton took ill in Rockhampton before Christmas. We believe he is recovering well and is almost back to his usual robust self.

David and June Willmott have been poorly but are now back to normal. June has had a knee replacement and major abdominal surgery while David has had a series of strokes from which he has very largely recovered. These events necessitated a move from Maroochydore to a more physically friendly residence at Buderim. See later for address details. Prior to his illness David was very active in the local group "Sixties and Better", as the editor of its newsletter, chief conference delegate and committee member. On the subject of editing newsletters, members will recall David's work over the

years with "Aquarius", the old Commission Staff magazine. Two articles from the March 1979 are reproduced later in this Newsletter.

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

**William Norman (Bill) Aspinall** died on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. Bill was the policeman at Tinaroo Dam during its construction. Tinaroo was the only Commission Dam job to have its own arm of the law. Bill was well known to residents of the township and a few of its residents were very well known to Bill.

After Tinaroo, Bill became Police Sergeant at Normanton and following retirement he took over the licence of the Purple Pub, a most conspicuous and well patronised hostelry in that town.

Bill was a descendant of the Aspinall family who were pioneers of the Gulf Country.

**Mrs Elizabeth Heness** died in Townsville in February. Mrs Heness was the mother of the three brothers Aubrey (deceased), Ross and Maurie, all of whom worked for the Commission/Department after contract well-boring in various parts of the State. Maurie is still employed with the Department at Rockhampton.

We extend our sympathy to **Jennifer Major and her sisters, June and Roslyn**, on the death of their mother, Mrs Lue Gataker, on 27th January in the Wesley Private Hospital after a short illness. Many of our members will remember the very popular Lue Gataker, a senior officer of the Public Service Board.

.....CHANGES OF ADDRESS.....

**Mrs D. Morrison** (widow of Honk) is now at Unit 5 Legacy Court, 14 Dexter St., BUNDABERG 4670  
**David and June Willmott** are at "Meridian Gardens" 9/38 Mill Road., BUDERIM 4556. 'Phone 5476 5315

**Jim and Cathy Uhlman** are now at 133 Sapphire St., HOLLAND PARK 4121. 'Phone 3420 5168.

**Bob and Una Dwyer** have moved to 13 Ann St., DICKEY BEACH 4551. 'Phone 5438 0046.

and new member **Tom Fenwick and Val** are at 3 Waterford Place, BRIDGEMAN DOWNS 4035. 'Phone 3862 8448.

If you see the headline "**Beattie to Change Houses**", please note that Premier Pete is not forsaking the Legislative Assembly for the Federal House of Representatives. But **Don Beattie and Shirley** are leaving Windrest Av. Aspley for a new home at McDowall.



.....WHAT WOMEN MARRY.....

Generally these may be divided into two broad classes: bachelors and widowers. A bachelor is a mass of obstinacy entirely surrounded by suspicion. Widowers are remnants with possibilities. Husbands may be divided into three sub-classes:- prizes, surprises and consolation prizes.

Making a husband out of a man is one of the highest forms of plastic surgery known to civilization. It requires science, sculpture, commonsense, faith, hope and charity, mostly charity.

It is a physiological marvel that a small, tender, soft, flower-scented thing like a woman should enjoy kissing a big, awkward, stubby-chinned tobacco and rum smelling man.

Man is just a worm in the dust..... he comes along, wriggles around for a while and finally some bird pecks him and gobbles him down.

From an unnamed feminine publication.

**Space here for men to write in replies.**

.....**DECISIONS, DECISIONS**.....

“Women have got us men figured from the moment we were born. When a decision has to be made, a woman will make it and move on. A man will sit there, dribbling, dithering and whingeing. Thank God for them, I say.”- 1960s pop star Adam Faith.

**Ballistic in Ballarat**

In a craft shop in Ballarat the following sign is prominently displayed. **“So many men, so few bullets.”**

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

The late **“Kanga” Kennedy** told of a friend who went into a country pub with some mates. One guy was renowned for his deep pockets and short arms. When it was his turn to shout he was propped up in the corner causing his mates to believe he was pretending to be asleep so they extracted the money from his shirt pocket and paid for the round. When he didn't drink his glass they shook him only to find he had died. **You don't miss your shout in the country.**

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When Affo was going to a dance with some friends, he was amazed to hear the local doctor, who had undertaken to baby-sit the friends' children, say to one of the kids as the adults walked out;- “if you make any noise I will put you back where I got you from.”

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How mean can you get? Residents in the construction village received the first 30 units of electricity free of charge. One guy read his paper under the street light, used a wood stove and when he hadn't used all of his 30 units, asked for a refund.

More true stories next edition. Thanks Ron.

.....**SUPER DROPS**.....

One of our country members who wishes to remain nameless, sent the following story which puts petrol sniffing in a new light.

His friend worked outback at a gold mine for two weeks at a time. While away he ensured his house and garage were securely locked. At the end of one fortnightly shift when he returned ,his neighbour met him to tell him, “You had better have a look in your shed as there have been some strange noises coming from it.”

When the miner opened the door, out staggered his cat looking just about done in. The neighbour suggested a bowl of milk with some petrol in it would give the cat a lift. The moggy drank the mixture, stood up, stretched and then began to run around the yard. After a while it stopped and fell over.

The miner turned on his neighbour, “ Look what you have done. He's dead.”

“No way.” said the neighbour, “He's just run out of petrol.”

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One of our better known draftsmen was returning to camp on the Atherton Tableland one painless Saturday afternoon when his vehicle ran out of petrol. Later a surveyor returning home after a day in the field pulled up and offered help. He had a 44 gallon drum in the truck and in his efforts to syphon petrol into the draftsman's car he managed to spill large quantities over himself and into his mouth,

nose and ears. The draftsman was fascinated and couldn't contain himself. "How many miles do you get to the gallon K.....?" was his endearing comment.

Fortunately the surveyor's subsequent words and actions are not recorded.

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And from another nameless member comes the story of the cook at the IWS camp at Mundubbera when the weir was being built in the late '40s. Bill Thomas was a much better fisherman than he was a cook and he always served locally caught fish on Fridays. One week Bill's angling skills deserted him and corned beef alone was on Friday's menu. The diners were angry and roundly abused Bill. During the following week Bill was still unable to catch sufficient fish and he was desperate. He had been told that snake flesh was indistinguishable from freshwater fish. He caught, skinned, filleted and cooked a large carpet snake which he presented as mullet. The diners were ecstatic and loud in their praises of Bill-- until one of their number found the snake skin. Alas poor Bill was demoted to camp attendant, the most onerous occupation on the job, whose duties including caring for the thunder boxes in the toilets.

**Postscript.** Bill later appeared at Selma Weir at Emerald in 1950 where he stood in for the cook, during which time he served corned beef fritters for breakfast each morning until he was belatedly replaced after the eighth day and returned to camp attendant duties.

There was another Thomas at Selma Weir, a "Billo" Thomas who was an outstanding amateur used car salesman. Billo sold an ancient utility to a gentlemanly, if gullible, colleague who planned to mine sapphires on the Gemfields. The ute was ticking over when the prospector examined it and a short drive later he paid cash for it. He turned off the motor after he returned to camp to gather his possessions. When he attempted to restart the vehicle he found that it had neither starter motor nor crank handle.

The prospector had the last laugh when he later uncovered an immense sapphire which would on today's values would be worth at least half a million.

#### .....MR PLOD AKA JAMES BOND.....

One of our colleagues who spent some time in Charleville tells the following story:-

"Thirty odd years ago Charleville came under the "protection" of a young detective who earned for himself the nickname **006½**. One day he came across several children playing in the River. He rounded them up and herded them up to the Police Station to lecture them on the evils of truancy. It was then that he was told that it was St Patrick's Day and that the kids attending the local Convent school had been given a holiday. When the news leaked out the local wags down-graded him from **007**."

#### .....TOURISM TIPS.....

From a laundry in Rome:- "Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time."

A Bangkok dry cleaner announced:- "Drop you trousers here for the best results."

And outside a Hong Kong tailor's shop a sign reads:- "Ladies may have a fit upstairs."

By courtesy of Bottom Line, The Courier Mail.

#### .....WORD PERFECT.....

A very large computer company decided to have some of it's computer components made in Japan. It specified that it would accept only three defective parts per 10 000.

When the delivery came in, there was an accompanying note;- “We had a hard time understanding North American business practice, but the three defective parts per 10 000 have been separately manufactured and included in the consignment. We hope this pleases you.”

.....**REAL 'RITING**.....

Quite a few of our Commissioners and senior officers have been calligraphically challenged and have caused unintended interpretations of their writings. Few could seriously challenge Howard Willoughby who was an outstanding journalist in the early 1900's and who rose to be editor of the Melbourne Argus. An interpreter was employed to rewrite his articles so that the compositors and printers could understand them. Unfortunately one Monday the Argus reported a cricket match which was won due to the efforts of the "steam boiler" and not the "slow bowler".

Commissioner Fred Haigh ruffled quite a few feathers in the Mines Department when he wrote a strong letter to the Under-Secretary, Mr Clark. Unfortunately the letter was typed to begin "Dear Mr Slack,"

.....**WACKY WARNINGS**.....

"Warning: Never iron clothes on body." On an Australian iron.

"Do not turn upside down." Printed on the **bottom** of a box containing dessert."

"Directions: Use like regular soap." On a bar of soap.

"Use repeatedly for severe damage." On a Taiwanese shampoo.

"Warning: Contains nuts." On a packet of British peanuts."

"Open packet and eat contents." On an Indonesian packet of nuts.

"To avoid condensation forming, allow the box to warm up to room temperature before opening."

Sensible, but the

instruction was on the **inside** of the box containing the new American computer.

"Keep out of children." On a Korean kitchen knife.

"Warning: Product will be hot after heating." On a supermarket bread and butter pudding.

"After opening, keep upright." On the bottle top of a flavoured milk drink.

"Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals." On a Swedish chainsaw.

Borrowed from The Courier Mail 30th Dec 1999

**"Wet floor. This is not an instruction."** Notice in Mens toilet in Leicester General Hospital.

.....**WINE WISDOM**.....

Our Association is richly endowed with members who are most authoritative on the subject of wines. However the following comments come from a Mr Gargett of The Courier Mail:-

***Retsina, the "wine" of Greece.***

If you can't find this in your local bottle shop, try the supermarket between the Pine-o-clean and the liquid Harpic.

***Tanzanian wine.***

This is still undergoing tests as a shark repellent.

***Sauvignon blanc.***

It's flavours range from asparagus, capsicum and canned pea juice to grass, lantana, cats' pee and cooked okra.

***"Where Satan cannot go in person, there he sends wine."*** PROVERB

Not to be outdone The Australian ran a comprehensive article on **Beer** which included these gems of learning:

The first laws made in 2000BC were to regulate brewing.

Moderate beer consumers live longer than teetotallers.

Men who drink beer have more friends.

Beer was one of the provisions on Noah's Ark.

In 500AD St Bridget changed water into beer for the lepers she was nursing.

***"Ale, man, ale's the stuff to drink***

***For fellows whom it hurts to think."*** A.E.Housman 1859-1936

**Oops**

A Middle Eastern news agency reports that a US built Lockheed Martin rocket was destroyed shortly after launching because it was acting **erotically**.

.....RECORDS RECORDS

RECORDS.....

Sydney man Suresh Joachim is attempting his ninth world record for inclusion in The Guinness Book of Records. He plans to stand motionless for 19 hours.(I've seen a few at work who might give this record a nudge.) Other records held by Suresh include balancing on one foot for 76 hours and carrying a 4.5kg brick for 127 kilometres. Mr Joachim also plans to set new marks for hand-clapping and ballroom dancing.

If successful, he would be the world record holder for media stunts, a title currently held jointly held by Greenpeace and a prominent politician.

Stolen from Ben Mitchell of The Weekend Australian.

.....SMILE.....

When complimented on her smile, the receptionist replied, "My father put his money where my mouth is."

.....EXPERT OPINIONS.....

"I showed them my invention for a television. They informed me that they were convinced that the transmission of images - especially mentioning fog as an impediment - was impossible." John Logie Baird.(1940)

"If it weren't for electricity we'd all be watching television by candlelight." George Gobel.

.....STRANGER THAN F(R)ICTION.....

Borrowed from the old Commission' staff magazine "Aquarius" March 1979.

**"Flautist's chin has joined fiddler's neck and guitarist's groin in the growing number of unsuspected hazards of making music."**

According to a report in the British Medical Journal. the friction and saliva on the chins of flautists may cause severe acne.

Dr. M.G.Dahl, from the Royal Victoria Infirmary's Dermatology Department at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, has reported the case of a 32 year-old flute-playing patient who sought help for persistent chin acne. She had not suffered significant acne as a teenager. But with flute playing in recent years, the chin inflammation had become a problem.

Her symptoms rapidly improved with daily antibiotic treatment. 'And she was able to toot her flute in complete comfort,' Dr Dahl said. 'Flautist's chin and fiddlers neck appear to be close companions in the acne orchestra, demonstrating variations on the theme of acne mechanics.'

Other medical workers have described acne on the neck of violinists and viola caused by contact and friction with their instruments.

Examples of guitarist's groin, guitar nipple and even cello scrotum also have been reported recently in the British Medical Journal."

The same magazine contained an informative article by **Doug Flanders** telling of his work with a team investigating and designing a small irrigation area in Sabah in Malaysia. Doug concluded with the strong impression of Malaysia's keenness to get on with the job of developing its country. Twenty years later Malaysia's economic achievements support Doug's initial observations.

.....PUBS AND PUBLICANS.....

Many of us have stories about pubs, particularly in the bush, and the characters who ran them. I have included a couple of my own experiences and passed on another from an "impeccable source".

I began work with I&WSC on 6th March 1949 in the Executive Building. Anxious to create a good impression, I wore my best suit with waistcoat, starched white collar and tie. After work I walked over the Victoria Bridge to check the arrival of luggage at the interstate railway station. Feeling the

heat I walked into one of the pubs in Stanley Street for a cold beer. The barman took one look at my sartorial splendour and called out loudly. "And what will be his excellency's pleasure?" I gulped down my beer to the accompaniment of catcalls and jeers. I had chosen the public bar of the roughest and toughest watering trough in Brisbane.

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And then there was the Waratah hotel at Mungungo near Monto. I spent Easter there in 1950. The proprietor was Jack T.... who was exchanging a life of pulling cows' teats for one of pulling beer. His religious knowledge was somewhat limited because his menu for dinner on Good Friday was hot roast turkey with vegetables (one course only) and Easter Dinner was a spartan one of tinned salmon and a lettuce leaf.

Jack's knowledge of liqueurs was also limited and for a few days he confused creme de menthe with a low cost cordial and sold half glasses of the green nectar topped up with soda water for sixpence (5c.). Your correspondent was one of several who repeatedly took up this outstanding bargain and who spent much of the night and most of the next day regretting their indiscretion and fearing for their longevity.

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The late Harry Hiley told of a stay at a hotel in Quilpie in Artesian Country in the '40's. The menu read thus:

Breakfast Menu :- Bacon and Eggs.  
Pork Sausages and Tomatoes.  
Lunch Menu:- Ham with Salad .  
Cold Pork with Salad.  
Dinner Menu:- Roast Pork and Vegetables.  
Pork Chops with Onion Gravy.

Harry completed his meal with a cup of tea which was strong and acrid. He mentioned this to the waitress who told him that the tea was normal for that part of the world because it was made on bore water. "You don't waste anything of the pig do you." said Harry, implying that she was talking about boar water.

And AT LAST

.....**MINCHER'S ONE**.....

After nearly half a million golf strokes over 40 years, **Roy Mincher** finally achieved a hole-in-one on 1<sup>st</sup> February at the Townsville Golf Club. **Roy intends to keep playing!**

Roy's feat recalls the encounter between Tiger Woods and Stevie Wonder. Stevie played golf relying on a friend to tell him where his ball was and where and how hard to hit it. He had become so proficient that he challenged Tiger to play for a huge bet. Initially Tiger declined, but after persistent cajoling he agreed. "OK, when do you want to play." he said. "Any night you like" replied Stevie.

Cheers  
Bernie Credlin