

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES AND BOLDIES

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35

JULY 2001

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 17th Association's Annual General Meeting was held on the 18th April when 25 members and partners attended. The meeting was followed by a pleasant lunch at the Public Service Club. Although the minutes of the meeting have been circulated, this opportunity is taken to draw attention to the changes in composition of the Executive. **Gordon Wilson** is the new President replacing Barrie Fawcett who did not seek re-election to the position, **Jim Uhlmann** is the new Vice President, **Bill Eastgate** takes the place of Allen Seabrook and Norm White stood down as immediate Past President.

The following brief notes are provided for those who do not know **Gordon**. He was appointed to the Justice Department in 1952 and later transferred to the Auditor-General's Department where he assisted Senior Inspectors in their work in various Departments and statutory bodies. He then moved to work on administration in the Department of Local Government including a time with the Torres Shire Council during which he acted as Administrator. Gordon transferred to the Water Resources Commission with the DLG's Engineering Division 1978-9 and again after 1987. He retired in 1991 as Senior Administration Officer.

Gordon has been a member of the Association since 1991 and an Officer-bearer for the last 6 years. In launching his Presidential Election campaign, Gordon said he had enjoyed the Association's companionship and he would endeavour to maintain the high standards set by past Presidents and to work with the Executive to arrange pleasant and happy functions.

It is appropriate to record our appreciation of the contributions made by those Executive members who are standing down, particularly, Norm White whose service to the Association began even before he retired when he helped Noel Ullman, then President of the Association, with the creation of the Oldies logo and other tasks. Since then he has served almost continuously on the Committee and as Secretary and President and as an organiser of many functions, particularly those in conjunction with the Australian Water Transport Association. With daughter Leanne, Norm also provided us with many of the illustrations that head these Newsletters.

Allen Seabrook also relinquished office after five years. Allen was a quiet but effective member of the Executive who was always amongst the first to arrive when there was work to be done. He was also one of a small number of members who took the time and trouble to send items of interest to the Newsletter one of these appears later in this edition.

Barrie Fawcett continues his lengthy and dedicated service on the Committee as Past President .

A feature of the meeting was a high quality video presentation by Ian Pullar covering the history of the old Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and the Water Resources Commission until its abolition in 1995. The cartoons at the end of this Newsletter are based on part of that presentation.

REST IN PEACE

Mrs Eleanor Schubert, widow of Percy, died in Brisbane on 6th April and was buried in Canberra with her husband. Mrs Schubert was a quiet lady who gave full support to Percy on his water distribution work at locations including St George where he was Water Officer for several years and to her children.

She was the mother of John, dec'd, who worked in clerical capacities at several jobs and of Eleanor who was a very pleasant and efficient clerk typiste in the District Office at St George to whom we pass on our sympathy.

James Wyvill father of Bob died on 9th May at the grand old age of 101 years. Our sympathy goes to Bob and Diana.

Mrs Phyllis Howard, sister of Des Foster and aunt of Jim Uhlmann passed away in April. This follows the deaths of other sisters, Kathleen Uhlmann in 1999, and Dorothy Lewis in September 2000. Phyl, a nursing sister before World War 2, enlisted in the Army Medical Service on the outbreak of war and was in Darwin when it was bombed in 1942. After the war she was matron at Charleville and Gayndah Hospitals. Later with husband Bob they farmed at Gooburrum. She is survived by two daughters.

Nathan Giffin grandson of **Bertha** and the late **Garney Johnson** died on 26th May and our condolences are offered to all members of his extended family. Nathan's brother **David** played a prominent role in the A.C.T. Brumbies' defeat of the South African Sharks to win the Super 12 Rugby final on the same day. Shortly after, his selection in the Wallabies squad to meet the British Lions and play in the tri-nations series was announced. The Giffin/Johnson joy at David's achievements was tragically shattered by the death of **Nathan**.

Samuel (Ewel) McCall son of the late **Sam** and **Mrs Lexie McCall** died suddenly on 1st June. Samuel (Major) was with the Army at Canungra at the time. We extend sympathy to wife Lynn, children Ewel and Finlay, mother Lexie and other members of the family. Later in this edition we have quoted extracts from an obituary in *The Australian*.

Mrs May Thompson, mother of **Peter** died suddenly on 23rd June. A Celebration of her life was held in the Lakeside Chapel of the Albany Creek Crematorium on 28th June. Our sympathy is offered to Peter, brother John and sister Diane and members of the Thompson family.

RECOVERIES

Dorothy Fawcett has recovered after injury suffered in a fall at home. We also wish Barrie well as he undertook the myriad of tasks usually done by Dorothy. Your editor empathises with Barrie.

Joan Wickham has been hospitalised on two occasions recently and we hope she will be out again soon.

Jim Turnbull formerly of the Local Government Department and in the old Commission for a short period, has undergone heart surgery and is doing well.

Stan James continues to give a bit of lip, this time to a surgeon. Stan is well, despite the discomfort.

Grahame Bertram, once of immaculate spick and span countenance is now wearing a grey hairy facial covering. Those expert in these matters are adamant that the beard does absolutely nothing for the face. Anyhow, Grahame, we hope it gets better soon.

On the other hand **Dick Hurn**'s health has deteriorated and he has moved from his house in East Brisbane to **Corinya Nursing Home** at 218 Moray St., New Farm 4034 'ph 3858 2888.

Others who are poorly include **George Toone** of the Pioneer/Millbank Retirement Village in Bundaberg and **Bob Marshall** of 46A King Street in Buderim. We are sure that these members would welcome a call from their old workmates.

U.N. FOCUS ON TURMOIL IN AMERIKANISTAN

The recent shemozzle over the elections in the USA has produced a flood of E-Mails. Here is one:-

“After two decades in which social and financial inequalities widened, the country of Amerikanistan held presidential elections late last year.

Experts on Amerikanistan recall its history of violent revolution, civil war and more recent political violence and assassinations, resignations, impeachments, sexual scandals and corruption in this emerging republic and recommend that the United Nations supervise its elections until the country stabilises.

“It is struggling to emerge from years of political polarisation and turmoil” said a World Trade Organization spokesman, “and its long-suffering people deserve our support.”

“One side of the country declared results before voting had finished in another part” he explained. Moreover, he went on to spell out that the southern province of “Floridalandia,” in which the leadership struggle was fought, is run by the brother of one of the candidates, whose father had previously ruled the entire country, having risen through his control of the nation’s intelligence/security apparatus. Their family is based in a part of the country in which secessionist feelings have long run strong and which was only brought into Amerikanistan after a border war.

Experts on Amerikanistan argue that the U.N. should go in to run education programs, disarm the population, relieve the malnutrition and environmental problems caused by adherence to a staple diet of cheese and burgers, democratize the police forces and above all halt the further development of war machinery. “This country has used dangerous weapons before and often threatened to do so again. But with our help, modernisation, and a stress on human development , it may have a more stable future and join the ranks of the civilized international community”. He said.”

Demonstrators at the recent Stockholm conference of world leaders, have dubbed the Amerikanistan chief

“The toxin Texan”

Absolute power does not corrupt absolutely; it just attracts the corruptible.

PUBS AND PUBLICANS

The relieving Police Sergeant at St George was taking a late evening stroll to ensure that all the town’s pubs had stopped serving at closing time. He saw a dim light in the bar of the Metropolitan Hotel and found the licensee having a quiet one on his own . He succumbed to the licensee’s invitation to join him in a nightcap but before it could be downed they heard sounds of someone approaching. The Sergeant did not wish to be seen in these circumstances so the licensee hid him in the cold room until he could hunt the visitor away. Unfortunately the new arrival was the licensee’s shrew-like wife who berated her husband at great length for drinking on his own, and after hours at that, and telling him how disappointed the nice new Sergeant would be if found that the bar was open after hours. She insisted her husband go up-stairs with her.

The cold room door did not have an internal lock handle so the Sergeant had to wait until the licensee’s wife took a bath before the husband could sneak down-stairs to release the near frozen Sergeant.

The Sergeant may have been nearly frozen but the relationship between himself and the pub’s proprietors was many degrees colder thereafter.

WHAT BIRD IS THAT?

A one-time very senior person associated with the old Commission was walking along a Cairns street one evening when he was accosted by a very old, very dirty and most disreputable female with a small parrot on her shoulder. "Boss, if you can tell me the breed of this bird, you can sleep with me." she offered. Our quick thinking V.S.P., not wanting a bar of the 'prize', said it was an **emu**. "That's near enough." said the 'lady' as she sidled up to our V.S.P.

PEOPLE'S HISTORY

Ian Pullar has provided the following information on the People's History:-

"The People's History is finally written. The text has been reviewed by a number of people including the Department's legal section and has been printed.

The authors, Margaret Cook and Ian Pullar, would like to thank all those who have contributed so willingly to this work. The assistance of the Steering Committee "Old Boys" has been particularly valuable. Bernie Credlin, George Pearce and Alan Wickham could have had no idea of the commitment they were making when they blithely agreed to accept the role. How could they, when the authors didn't have much more?

Mighty Max Merrett has spent countless hours undertaking the desk-top publishing of this 480 page magnum opus, as usual aiming for perfection. The results are magnificent, but please nobody tell him because it may boost his ego."

(Advertisement)

Watery Sauces

A People's History of the Water Resources Commission (Queensland) and its Predecessors 1881-1995 written by Ian Pullar and Margaret Cook has been published. This book, which took nearly three years to research and write, draws principally on a series of interviews with more than 120 people associated with the Commission during its life. It is full of stories of life in the Commission at different times and many places.

The 480 page book is now available for purchase at \$20 per copy (book \$15 plus postage \$ 5). Contact Lyndal Warren at Phone 3224 8965, or c/o Department of Natural Resources and Mines, P.O. Box 2454, BRISBANE 4001.

CONGRATULATIONS

Des Foster who was awarded the Australian Sporting Medal in the year of the Olympics. Des was nominated for the medal by the Queensland Golf Union.

MIDYEAR LUNCHEON

The luncheon at COTAH on 13th June was most successful. Many said that both the meal and the service were even better than on previous occasions. Thirty-two attended the gathering justifying the decision to replace the mid-year inner with a day-time lunch. Gordon's innovation of lucky door and lucky seat prizes was well received.

It was great to see new members **Cliff** and **Gwen McLeod** and **Ted** and **Marlene Dunlop** at the luncheon.

RETIREMENTS

Ian Pullar pulled the plug on 2nd July after almost 35 years of service and was accorded a farewell at the Public Service Club on 28th June. Ian graduated in 1966, Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), from the University of Queensland and soon served in Irrigation Branch, Project Planning Branch and Design Branch before moving to Underground Water for 6 years working on a number of major aquifer systems. He was also associated with groundwater sub-committees of the Australian Water Resources Council.

From 1977 to 1991: Ian worked as a senior engineer in Project Planning Branch as the head of project studies involving engineering and economic matters with growing attention to environmental, financial and social aspects. He then played a major role in studies of rural and some urban/industrial water supplies where the emphasis shifted from the engineering aspects to include many other factors and consultations with a whole range of stakeholders.

He later managed studies on major potential dams on the Comet River and Nathan Dams and catchment studies to identify water needs and possible sources of new water supplies within river basins including the Burnett, Burdekin, Barron and Johnstone. These studies looked at infrastructure (engineering, environmental, social and cultural heritage aspects in particular) as well as examining alternative sources of supply ranging from waste water reuse to the benefits of improved water use efficiency.

Other major tasks related Environmental Management and Cultural Heritage Management Plans to the challenges of Native Title and new legislation and the competing claims of different groups. Ian also provided specialist advice to other departments, particularly the Department of State Development, in its negotiations with a private sector developer of Nathan Dam. He also helped develop the first Resource Operation Plans (ROPs) in Queensland in the Fitzroy and Burnett basins involving new policies for setting allocations and establishing a regime for the trading of entitlements.

At retirement Ian was the Manager responsible for water resource planning under the *Water Act 2000*. This role involves providing guidance to government to balance water resources for consumptive use against environmental objectives.

During his lengthy time with the Department he also found time to contribute to extra-curricular activities including the old magazine, *Aquarius*, and plays and skits at Welfare Club and other functions. As mentioned earlier Ian played a very important role in collecting material for the Peoples History, balancing conflicting contributions, nagging lagging contributors and writing many passages.

Gordon Gracey retired on Friday 12 January. Gordon has been with the Water Resources for 31 years since joining the IWSC in 1970. Before that he worked for the Hydro Electric Commission of Tasmania. Since 1975 he has carried out the dam deformation surveys currently consisting of some 17 SunWater dams and five private dams together with the Wivenhoe Power Station which are undertaken annually.

Before 1975 and when necessary after he was involved in photo control surveys for the mapping of areas such as the Mary River Irrigation Project, Hells Gates dam site on the Burdekin, Major Creek dam site on the Haughton and various schemes in the Condamine. He covered much of the State of Queensland and was highly regarded wherever he worked.

Gordon left with a minimum of fuss as he requested and had almost left the building when Hein brought a chocolate cake for morning tea.

Thanks Doug

Houston

Bill Meredith has been in touch and says he looks forward to catching up some of his former workmates. But in the meantime he's still trying to earn a few bucks given his separation from the Department was a bit earlier than expected. So let's hope it's not too long before he's sharing a drink with us.

ROBBERY

The Viziers suffered a break-in recently. Fortunately little of monetary value was stolen but Alan did suffer the indignity of the loss of a blonde toupee and a photo which *Cleo* magazine had rejected for its centrefold because it didn't measure up.

Come in for a faith lift So reads a sign outside a church in Carindale.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

At Age 4 Success is not wetting your pants.

At Age 12 Success is having friends.

At Age 17 Success is having a driver's licence.
 At Age 20 Success is making love.
 At Age 35 Success is having money.
 At Age 50 Success is still having money.
 At Age 60 Success is still making love.
 At Age 70 Success is still having a driver's license.
 At Age 75 Success is still having friends.
 At Age 80 Success is not wetting your pants.

Thanks Allen Seabrook

MAREEBA MUSINGS

We are again indebted to Sheila Turner for snippets from Mareeba.

Mick and Dawn Henderson attended the anniversary of the World War II battles on Crete and are due home shortly.

We offer our congratulations to Bill and Pat Fossett on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 7th July.

Sheila is hoping that the mid year luncheon will be in July.

Our members who at one time lived in Mareeba will be interested to know that late last year the old Royal Hotel was burnt down. Then the IGA Supermarket was destroyed by fire in November 2000. Old timers will remember this as the old Jack and Newell building which also housed other shops. Work is finally starting on a building to replace the Supermarket.

The old Sawmill was dismantled some time ago and rumour had it that a Franklins Store would be built there, but the same sources now say that poisons from substances used to treat the wood have affected the site and a lot needs to be done before anything else can be built there.

Sheila also notes that very recently the old Post Office building has been demolished and there is much speculation as to what will replace it. ***"It isn't the same old Mareeba anymore!"***

MAJOR SAMUEL McCALL

In the March Edition we were delighted to report the achievements of the family of Michael and Roslyn McEniery. In this issue it is with a mix of great sadness and admiration for a "champion bloke" as he was described in an obituary in *The Australian*, that we quote from that paper to tell of the career of Samuel Patrick ("Ewel") McCall, son of the late Sam and Lexie McCall.

"The Australian Army had lost one of its brightest young officers. During an illustrious career, McCall served in 21 operations overseas including Rwanda, the Sinai, Thailand, Malaysia, Canada, Hawaii and in several Australian states." (He) had many times displayed outstanding qualities of loyalty, leadership and compassion."

"McCall was the senior instructor at the Canungra Regional Training Centre when he suffered a sudden and mysterious seizure from which he died aged 43."

"(Ewel was).... sent to serve with a UN security contingent (to Rwanda) whose main task was to protect Australian emergency medical teams dropped into the war zone. What upset (him) most was the plight of the orphans left behind. Many had been mutilated, dumped and left to die.

In his free time, (he) set about re-establishing a tumbledown orphanage run by two nuns. Seventy children lived there in appalling conditions without proper sanitation or clothing.

"(He) and his team....became the orphanage sponsors. They carried out repairs, dug wells and made sure vital medical supplies reached the children. (They) cajoled families in Australia to send parcels of clothing and at Christmas (he) arranged a delivery of toys. (He) donned a red Santa hat and handed around the gifts on Christmas morning."

"Ewel" was born in 1958 in Longreach where father Sam was District Engineer. The family later moved to St George, Rockhampton and Brisbane. He joined the Army at 19 and subsequently undertook officer training at Portsea. He was promoted to the rank of major in 1987.

COMING EVENTS

Please keep these dates free:

3rd August

21st September

14th or 21st November

Also on dates to be fixed:

February 2002

April 2002

Bowls Day at Aspley Bowls Club

Boat trip to Gold Coast

Christmas Lunch at COTAH

Tour and BBQ at Parliament House

AGM and Social

Heather will continue to send out reminders closer to the function dates.

LOST WITH ALL HANDS?

SPECIAL DEAL

BUNGY JUMPING IN NEW ZEALAND

**Once only in a Lifetime Offer. Down to Earth Prices
NO STRINGS ATTACHED.**

The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.

**Cheers
Bernie Credlin**