

President 3398 7247	Gordon Wilson	7 Prout St.,	Camp Hill	4152	
Past Pres 3870 8801	Barrie Fawcett	79 Camp St.,	Toowong	4066	
Vice Pres 3420 5168	Jim Uhlmann	133 Sapphire St.,	Holland Park	4121	
Secretary 3356 2802	Heather Clarke	60 Davidson St.,	Newmarket	4051	
Treasurer 2739	Jim Walls	29 Aster St.,	Cannon Hill	4170	3399
Executive 3366 3570	Dave Morwood	35 Bellata St.,	The Gap	4061	
	Bill Eastgate	14 Sixth Av.,	The Gap	4065	
Auditor 3356 3739	Col Taggart	34 Beaufort St.,	Alderley	4051	
Editor 3398 5103	Bernie Credlin	10 Kordick St.,	Carina	4152	

BEER JUDGING AT KATHERINE.

Mick Moloney has judged the home brew at the Katherine Agricultural Show for many years. He was recently interviewed by the ABC on his tasting techniques. "You take a glass, hold it up to the light and note the colour and the clarity of the beverage. You take a mouthful and swill it around your mouth." "And you then spit it into the bucket?" asked the interviewer. "Oh Hell no. I haven't used the bucket in 14 years. I swallow the mouthful. If it's a crook brew I have another go to make sure it's crook. If I think it's a good drop I have another taste to make sure it is good.

BON MOTS

All gardening is landscape painting. Alexander Pope.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.
We sow with all the art we know and not a plant appears
A single seed from any weed a thousand children rears. Anon

OLD PROVERBS, NEW IDEAS

A first grade teacher collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked the tot to finish it. Some of the results were brilliant. Some cause concern:-

Better to be safe than.....*punch a 5th grader*

Strike while the*bug is close*
 It's always darkest before.....*Daylight Savings Time*
 Never underestimate the power of.....*termites*
 You can lead a horse to water but.....*how?*
 Don't bite the hand that.....*looks dirty*
 No news is.....*impossible*
 A miss is as good as a.....*Mr.*
 You can't teach an old dog new.....*maths*
 If you lie down with dogs, you'll.....*stink in the morning*
 Love all, trust.....*me*
 The pen is mightier than the.....*pigs*
 An idle mind is.....*the best way to relax*
 Where there's smoke there's.....*pollution*
 Happy the bride who.....*gets all the presents*
 A penny saved is.....*not much*
 Two's company, three's.....*the Musketeers*
 Don't put off till tomorrow what.....*you put on to go to bed.*
 Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....*you have to blow your nose.*
 None are so blind as.....*Stevie Wonder*
 Children should be seen and not.....*spanked or grounded*
 If at first you don't succeed.....*get new batteries*
 You get out of something what you.....*see pictured on the box*
 When the blind leadeth the blind.....*get out of the way*

and the very grown-up.....
 Better late than.....*pregnant*

The worst form of Intolerance?.- Intolerance of intolerance.

“We go where others fear to *thread*” sign on Deshon Street bolt and nut shop.

REST IN PEACE

Tony Bucknell died on 21st August and was cremated in Rockhampton on 24th. A large number of relatives, friends and former work mates attended the ceremony in testimony of the affection that many had for him.

Tony (Bucky) retired as Senior Technical Officer at Rockhampton in September 1991 and moved with wife Glenda to Keppel Sands. Bucky started with the old Commission as a survey labourer and worked in the Central Queensland area with Surveyor Sam Baxter, before moving into Farm Advisory work when it was greatly expanded in the late '50's and early '60's. Centres in which he worked include Roma, Emerald and Rockhampton.

Those who worked with Bucky regarded him very highly. One of his more senior colleagues said:-

“He was one of the most extraordinary or un-ordinary people that I have ever encountered. It was a pleasure to have met him. He was a very positive person, hard working, had original thoughts, was non-argumentative, and had no great desire for material possessions. He loved to communicate, but at his pace and he loved people, his friends, and just about everyone. He also loved the amber fluid. He was an excellent poet and gifted gem cutter. He regularly turned out pieces in each activity to cover appropriate events. He was also an avid fisherman and member of a local fishing club (with George Beran). He set at least one club record.”

“His work was very good. He communicated and related very well with clients and cockies which was no easy task. His appreciation of individual cases allowed him to design excellent projects in the field”

“His most outstanding effort was his trip to Africa. He was sent as an adviser and consultant to assist the locals. I do not know anybody else who could have achieved this task and handled the problems and circumstances that arose. His African stay could fill several books in itself.”

The Association expresses its sympathy to Glenda and family.

Pat Wall died in Brisbane on 28th August after a long illness aged 74 years. He was buried in Brisbane on 3rd September from Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Oxley. Pat and wife Margaret had moved to Brisbane about 21/2 years ago to be closer to their children who live here. Patrick Joseph Wall joined the Commission in 1969 after 15 years as an engineer officer with the Royal Australian Air Force and some time with Local Authorities including Councils at Rockhampton and Bauhinia (Springsure). All of his service with us was in Townsville. He retired in 1987.

Pat's major contribution to the Commission was to the recharge works in the Burdekin Delta, first as understudy to Stan James and then in his own right. He represented the Commission on both Water Boards. The Boards were fiercely independent and very different in their approach to "authority". They required careful handling and it is to Pat's credit that he earned the respect and friendship of members of both Boards. In addition to serving as the Regional Engineer's deputy, Pat was also involved with Farm Advisory work and with some aspects of Ross River Dam. In all respects Pat was a loyal deputy.

Pat was a man of firm beliefs, both political and religious. For many years he was a frequent and dedicated worker for the St Vincent de Paul Society providing meals and support to the disadvantaged in Townsville.

Pat is survived by Margaret and seven children and their families. One great grandchild was born a few days after Pat's death. Our sympathy is offered to the wider Wall family.

Thanks to Dave Munro for his help with this contribution.

Dick Hurn died on 22nd August aged 87 years. The old Commission had more than its share of persons described as "real gentlemen". None wore that description more deservedly than Richard George Hurn. Dick was born in Jundah in 1914, one of 12 children. He worked hard on the small family selection, fencing, horse breaking, shearing and scrub cutting until at 20 he left to go droving. His formal education was limited to a few months in Blackall and a year at Nudgee College which was shortened by drought and the need to return home to cut scrub for sheep. He worked on Brunette Downs as a stockman and cutting wood and tending a steam driven pump delivering water to stock, seven days a week for months on end. His only contact with other humans was monthly when his meagre rations were delivered.

He then got his own droving plant in 1939 and drove bullocks off Brunette Downs and adjacent properties to railheads including Dajarra, Dirranbandi and Walgett. One such trip took 41 weeks without any holidays or free weekends.

The story is told that as "Boss Drover" Dick carried dental forceps and a flask of OP rum. These were designed to discourage his men from developing toothache near en route townships thereby hoping for an excuse to sample the town's fleshpots. Any employee pleading toothache was given a nip of rum and Dick removed the tooth and with it went the excuse to visit the town.

After a period managing "Mudgeacca" near Boulia, he joined the Commission as a chainman at Alice Weir, Barcaldine, when Jack Haren was Longreach District Engineer. He worked hand augering test holes on stock route tank sites scattered from north of Cloncurry to the South Australian border.

When it became obvious that practical knowledge of artesian bore drilling was necessary for further advancement, Dick left the Commission to work for the legendary and difficult Jim Richardson on a bore near Bedourie, Jim's 34th offsider in 18 months. He saw the job out and with the experience gained rejoined the Commission as an Assistant Boring Inspector at Longreach in 1954. He later moved to St George, Toowoomba and Head Office and retired in February 1979.

It might be appropriate to end this contribution with a quotation from the Pullar-Cook book "Watery Sauces" *'Western office staff were a breed of their own-tremendously hard-working, innovative, prepared to live under conditions unacceptable to most others, loyal to the District Engineer (God), workmates and the Commission. They had a laconic turn of phrase and a sense of humour right out of Henry Lawson and Tom O'Brien. People like Dick Hurn, Max Dean, Jack Rassmussen and others were a privilege to know.'*

Largely taken from "Aquarius" March 1979

Mrs Grace Cook mother of Jan, (Mrs Eric Davis) passed away peacefully in her sleep on 4th August after a short illness. We offer our condolences to Jan and other members of the family.

Morrie McArthur passed away on 27th September. Maurice Patrick McArthur joined the I.&W.S.C. in 1955 and at his resignation in 1969 held the position of Superintendent of Diamond Drilling.

Morrie undertook and supervised investigation and foundation drilling throughout Queensland for the Commission and other Authorities. Sites worked included Coolmunda, St George, Borumba, Bundaberg, Nathan Gorge, Cania, Emerald, Ross River, Flaggy Creek and others. Being virtually the first on site he encountered and overcame many difficulties in gaining access and locating, operating and maintaining the equipment. Under his direction the drilling teams were acknowledged to be of a very high standard,

Morrie left the Commission to accept a senior position with a national drilling company. In due course, for a more settled life, he owned and operated service stations and other businesses. In recent years, despite very indifferent health, Morrie maintained contact with friends made during his working life, enjoyed his grandchildren and with his wife Hazel travelled extensively. Hazel (nee Shaw) also worked for the Commission from 1955 to 1963 principally at the Mareeba District Office and later in Head Office.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Hazel and their children Cindy and Gavin and their families.

Thanks Col Taggart

Bill Bellion died on 29th September and was cremated at a private ceremony on 3rd October. His wife Jean predeceased him in March 1999. William Aberg Bellion was born in 1922 in Subiaca, West Australia, and after finishing his schooling as a boarder at Guilford Grammar School he joined the Western Australian State Government as a clerk.

He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force at the beginning of 1941, served in Darwin and the Pacific, was demobilised in 1946 and rejoined the WA Public Service. He married Jean in 1947 and after the birth of their first child, Billy, the family moved to Brisbane where Jean's family lived. A daughter, Sandy, was born several years later.

Bill joined the Irrigation Commission in 1949 in Designs Branch before moving to the Artesian and Stock Water Section in the days of C.E.Parkinson. He later took charge of drafting there and in the expanded Groundwater Branch that replaced it and became Supervising Draftsman in 1970 before retiring in 1982.

Bill was a quiet unassuming person who strove for high quality work from his staff and gave loyalty to the Commission and to his Branch.

Initially the Bellion family lived on two acres at Hemmant which became Bill's hobby farm – he had goats, cows, chooks, cats, dogs, guinea pigs, birds etc. which occupied most of his non-work time. After the kids moved out Bill and Jean shifted to Manly West and 20 odd years later they moved into the Manly Retirement Village.

In retirement Bill and Jean did some overseas travelling and continued his very keen interest, even his passion, in the share market. In recent years he discovered and exploited the Internet. He bought the latest computer technology and 'surfed the net' with the best. He was also a consummate handyman around the house

The family tells the story of Bill's first Drivers License. The examiner's advice was to 'keep off the main roads for a while'.

We pass on to Billy and Sandy and their families our sympathy.

George Toone died on 27th October. We hope to provide more information in our next Newsletter.

MEASURE OF A MAN

Not how did he die? But how did he live?
 Not what did he gain? But what did he give?
 These are the units of a man
 To measure his worth, regardless of birth.
 Not what was his station? But had he a heart?,
 And how did he play his caring part?.
 Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer
 To bring back a smile or banish a tear.
 Not what was his church? Not what was his creed?
 But had he defended those really in need?.
 Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say?.
 But how many were sorry when he passed away?.

Thanks Allen Seabrook

*Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
 Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
 Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.*
 Dalai Lama

RETIREMENTS

Lee Rogers decided to call "stumps" on the 17th August and looks forward to joining many of his former colleagues in the WRRO Association.

Lee accepted a State fellowship with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in January 1960. He graduated from the University of Queensland at the end of 1963 and was posted to Designs Branch under Norm Butler. He worked with Keith Nutt, Mal Robson and later with Pat McMahon on design work, mainly for Leslie, Wuruma, Coolmunda and Beardmore Dams before spending nearly 3 years on construction activity at Atkinsons, Maroon and Beardmore Dams with Jim Meinert, Geoff Ward and John Moreton.

Lee then returned to Designs Branch under Allan Wickham and later Pat McMahon and was involved in many of the major projects of the 1970s and 1980s including Kinchant, Cania, Split-Yard Creek and Boondooma Dams numerous weirs and the Awoonga Callide and Stanwell pipelines. After a brief period as Director, Planning, Lee was then Director of the Design Division for a 4-year period until 1991.

Over the last decade, Lee held various positions at the General Manager level with responsibility at various times for water resource assessment, water management, development planning, dam safety, water industry management and recently, the water reform initiatives.

Lee stresses that he has retired from the Department but not from his various other interests and activities. In his time in "water resources", Lee enjoyed many rewarding experiences, to a large extent helped along the way by his various managers, mentors and supporting staff over the many years.

John Hillier retired from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines on 21 Sept 2001 after 36 years of service. He retired as Principal Hydrologist, Water Assessment and Planning, Natural Resource Sciences, Indooroopilly. John saw the transition from the Irrigation

Commission through the Water Resources Commission to the Departments of Primary Industries, of Natural Resources and lately Natural Resources and Mines.

John started with the Commission in 1965 as a cadet (hydrology) in the Underground and Stock Water Supply Branch in Brisbane. He served in the Rockhampton Regional Office in 1967 before moving back to Brisbane to begin studies in Geology (part time) at University of Queensland and ,after gaining a Government scholarship, to obtain a Science degree (major Geology) in 1972.

He progressed through the Hydrologist divisions to Senior Hydrologist in 1982 and Executive Officer (groundwater hydrology water resources division) in 1988.

After major realignments of Department functions when the Water Resources Commission was amalgamated with DPI, John and his Groundwater Hydrology Group were transferred to Indooroopilly in 1995 where most of the Department's technical work is now undertaken. He was appointed to Principal Hydrologist (Resource Management Institute, Indooroopilly) in 1996.

John was widely acknowledged as a leader in his field and his expert advice was in constant demand especially in groundwater modelling. He has served on numerous interstate committees. For four years, he was the Australian President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, the major groundwater professional society.

John visited the USA in 1995 for detailed discussions with various expert Government and institutional officers concerning groundwater recharge, modelling, and pollution.

John's high level of involvement and recognition in the water industry in Australia has led to a number of collaborative projects with other government agencies, universities and private industry. He has often been an invited lecturer at both national groundwater schools and local university courses and has co-supervised Masters and PhD Students. He has published many papers on a range of groundwater issues.

From notes by Bill Huxley.

Peter Read commenced pre-retirement leave from SunWater at the end of July 2001 and some 40 of his colleagues farewelled him at a function at the Public Service Club on 13 September.

Peter commenced work with the Irrigation & Water Supply Commission at Rocklea as an apprentice fitter and turner on 17 March 1952 and worked on many Commission construction projects including St George weir gates, Moogerah Dam; Leslie Dam and Wuruma Dam.

In May 1968, Peter left the salt mines of Rocklea to work at the salt works near Bajool and about 12 months later moved to Comalco at Weipa.

Peter rejoined the I&WSC in June 1973, and apart from two eighteen month periods in 1976-1978 and 1989-1991 when he worked for the Australian Antarctic Commission in Antarctica, he worked for the Commission and its successor bodies until his retirement.

From April 1981 to August 1989, Peter was in charge of the workshop facility at Rocklea and was responsible for all the special metalwork and mechanical equipment used on the various construction projects that were built during that period.

Following Peter's return from Antarctica in 1991, he joined the Water Production Division and spent the last 10 years of his service writing and reviewing Emergency Action Plans and Standing Operating Procedures for the 25 dams that SunWater owns.

Peter has made a worthwhile contribution to SunWater and its predecessor organisations and everyone wishes Peter and his wife, Margaret, a long, healthy and happy retirement.

From notes by Bevan Faulkner

RECOVERIES

Despite several months in hospital, **Joan Wickham** hasn't been able to return home and is now in nursing care at Stafford Heights. Joan is now progressing well.

Dick Wilson has been poorly but after a period of hospitalisation he is now back to normal.

BOWLS DAY AT ASPLEY

Thirty-one members and friends attended and enjoyed the social bowls day at the Aspley Bowling Club on 3rd August, and the tasty lunch organised and prepared by Joan Ross and Shirley Beattie.

There were different triples combinations of eighteen players in both morning and afternoon bowls games. The most successful bowler of the day was Norm White who won in both games and had the highest aggregate margin. Stu Robinson took out the runner-up prize with one win and the second highest margin.

All seemed to have a lot of fun in these games.

The Association's thanks go to Joan and Shirley, to the day's organisers and to the Aspley Club for the use of it's facilities.

Thanks "Biassed"

BOAT TRIP

The boat trip to the Gold Coast on 21st September on M.V. The Lady was most enjoyable with 13 making the trip. The Lady left at 8:30am and cruised past Peel Island and St Helena before winding its way through various channels and past many of the 350 island. It sailed past Sovereign Islands, Couran Cove and Tiplers Resorts, the Broadwater and Seaworld before arriving at the Marina Mirage about 3:30.

Morning and afternoon teas were served and a BBQ lunch was provided. The return trip was by bus to Robina Railway Station and train to Brisbane.

It was pleasing to see Allan Lyall make the trip. Allen is the widower of the late Muriel (nee Vivers).

SHIRLEY KICKS UP HER HEELS.

Our social correspondent reports that Shirley McArthur managed to lose her voice at "**SHOUT**" before heading off with friend Bev to South Australia to soothe the larynx in the Barossa Valley on their way to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. Then across to Canberra for the Floriade before flying to Tasmania to drive themselves around the Isle. It must have been a fantastic holiday, our roundsperson was green with envy.

FORK LUNCHEON/SOCIAL

About 25 members and friends came to the Public Service Club for gossip, drinks and eats on 10th October. Favourable comment was made on the change to the fork lunch and the opportunity to sit at tables to eat it. However the Executive is always happy to get comments on how these functions (and any others) might be improved.

"Workshop on Building Self-Esteem. Please use back door."

Notice on front door of Church Hall.

SURVEYING AND CAMP LIFE

After much nagging Des Foster has given us accounts of the lives of the surveyors in the real "bush" in the 40's and 50's. We hope to include more of these in future Newsletters. Des writes:-

My experiences began in 1944 when my father "conscripted" me as a chainman in the Main Roads Commission on the Winton-Cloncurry road with the words "It will do you good".

Surveying the line in that country was comparatively easy using a 500 foot chain (a narrow steel band) and placing a peg every 500 feet. However if the surveying was easy, obtaining the pegs was hard., there was no sawmill in that area.

I was sent out to cut pegs with Bill, the leading hand, a Finn, who had muscles on places where I had no places. While using the crosscut saw with Bill to cut logs I remember him saying "I don't mind you sitting on the crosscut, but lift your bloody feet off the ground." Then

came the task of sharpening the beefwood pegs. Beefwood is a wonderful western indigenous timber, but a very hard one and I learnt very quickly.

We were camped in tents and the war was still raging. Some food were rationed, unfortunately much of it was the bushman's staple diet, eg. tea, sugar, and butter. The camp cook baked his own bread. However there was no shortage of meat, and by meat I mean mutton. We were camped some two miles from "Maronan" station and twice a week we got a "killer" (wether) for 10 shillings each and we got back 3 shillings for the skin. Believe me there are only a few ways you can cook mutton in 4 months and more than half a century later I'm still not fond of it.

One of the surveyor's duties was the "watershed traverse". This was a compass and chain traverse to measure the catchment area of a watercourse to help calculate the size of a culvert. Many a long trek I had at one end of a chain clambering through spinifex and boulders. The air would turn blue if, and it often happened, a wallaroo (and they seemed to grow well over seven feet) would cross over the chain breaking it, or at the very least, turning it into a bunch of "spaghetti".

Yes, Dad was right, it "it did me good" and looking back I was so fortunate to have had those early experiences and to meet so many dinky di bushmen.

DON'T GET MAD, GET EVEN.

Ossie Petrie, Des Foster's good friend and hard working Leading Hand of nearly 30 years was a real character. I first met Ossie when he was the very good spare parts man for a General Motors garage at St George. He had a fantastic memory and knew off by heart the five and six figure numbers that identified all Holden parts. The manager sacked Ossie, most unfairly in Ossie's eyes, and he began work with the Commission. Not long after the manager himself was put off and he moved to Caloundra where he became the night shift manager of a hotel. This move was not lost on Ossie. Christmas came and Ossie collected his meagre holiday pay and moved into the same hotel as a guest. For the next few nights, until his money ran out, Ossie made the Manager's lot very miserable as he had him climb the stairs every 15 to 20 minutes all night, each night, with a drink from the bar or a sandwich from the kitchen for his "guest". Ossie rated that short holiday as his best.

Ossie is also remembered for this rejoinder to Des during one chaining job. When an impatient Des at the rear end of the long thin metal chain tried to hurry-up Ossie at the front end all he got was:- "Steady on Des, you can't **push** a chain you know."

Rumours that Melbourne businessman Lindsay Fox might buy Ansett Airlines has produced the smart comment that the 'Flying Kangaroo' is to be joined by the 'Flying Fox'.

WILSON WANDERINGS

Gordon Wilson is back from his safari to the tip of Cape York. A message to colleagues began:- "I have returned from the Cape and in one piece but the car in several". A highlight of the trip was a voyage across Torres Strait to Thursday Island where he was Administrator about 30 years ago. Gordon was agreeably surprised at the extent and quality of the building that has taken place there in recent times.

Hopefully Gordon will share with us some of his experiences in a future Newsletter.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR JACK TAYLOR WEIR

The Jack Taylor Weir will be 50 years old in 2003 A 50 year reunion is being organised by John Barrett for all those who worked on building the weirs and dam at St George.

If you or anyone you know was involved in these projects, could you please bring this to their attention.

John may be contacted at 4625 3555 on 4625 3428. We hope to pass on information to our members as we hear it.

(Advertisement)

WHAT WAS ALAN VIZER'S COMMENT WHEN FRED HAIGH SAW HIM IN HIS UNDERPANTS ? *

The answer to this and hundreds of other intriguing questions can be found in:

"WATERY SAUCES"

By Ian Pullar and Margaret Cook

Copies are still available from Lyndal Warren at Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Box 2454 Brisbane 4001. Phone 3224 8965. The price is still \$ 20 per copy (Book \$15, postage \$5)

(*the answer can be found on page 204)

WHEN HEAVEN GOES HI-TECH

Here are samples of what you might hear on the 'phone when dialling Heaven in the future:-

"I'm sorry, all of our angels are busy helping others right now. However your prayer is important to us and it will be answered by our first available consultant, so please stay on line."

"Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow so that others might get through."

"This office is closed for the weekend for a religious holiday. Please try again on Monday after 9.30 am."

"If you need assistance while our office is closed, contact your local clergy."

heers

C

Bernie Credlin