

WATERY SAUCES OLDIES & BOLDIES

THE YEAR OF FRESHWATER

Glen Lyon Dam

Photo by courtesy of SunWater

NEWSLETTER 41

JULY 2003

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E-mail addresses of Executive Members are shown on page 8

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, the 19th, was held at the State Service Club, Brisbane, on 16th April. Twenty-two members, partners and guests attended and eighteen apologies were received. Gordon Wilson presented his President's report for 2002-3. The report is reproduced later in this Newsletter. Lee Rogers tabled the financial report for the year showing a credit balance of \$7761. All positions were declared vacant and following elections Jim Uhlmann was made President, Eric Davis became Vice-President and John Connolly is the new Secretary. These and other appointments are included in the table at the start of the Newsletter.

YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

Just a few lines to introduce our new President to those who do not know him well. Jim joined the I&RWS in 1955 as a Cadet Draughtsman. He did time in each of the drafting branches, except Construction, whilst undertaking drafting studies at night college at the Central Technical College. He converted to the Associate Diploma of Civil Engineering and was appointed as an engineer in Rivers & Streams in 1968. After a year there and in Stream Control and in Designs, Jim went to Bundaberg District Office as Design Engineer for the Irrigation Scheme. In 1979 he was appointed Regional Engineer Darling Downs. He returned to Brisbane in 1987 as an Exec Engineer in Operations Branch.

Running parallel to his working career Jim was also involved in the Army Reserve. This began, as with most of his contemporaries, with 98 day stint in National Service in 1957 and continued for twenty one years finishing up as Officer Commanding C Company 9 RQR in Bundaberg. In 1959 Jim took three months leave for full time army service as part of a delivery crew re-commissioning a

US Landing Ship in Japan and sailing it to Australia. He also had the experience of a two week visit to Vietnam to observe our army 'at war.'

Following the change in emphasis away from irrigation with the change of Government in 1989, voluntary early redundancies were offered to Commission staff. Jim took this opportunity in 1991 to take on a new calling. After a year at theological college, he was commissioned as a Lay Pastor in the Uniting Church, serving at Lowood and then at Toogoolawah. He retired from the ministry in 1999 and now lives in Brisbane with his wife Cath. They have a son and a daughter, both married. Jim has been a member of the Association since 1992 and an Office-bearer for the last two years. He is keen to work with the committee to provide interesting opportunities for former employees in the State water resources service to continue the friendships they made at work.

OUTGOING PRESIDENTS REPORT

Again it is my privilege and pleasure to report on the activities of the Association, for the year ending 31 March 2003.

The social activities arranged by the Executive provided an opportunity for members to meet, chat and socialise over a convivial drink with victuals. The main thrust by the Executive was to provide pleasant venues where members can gather and enjoy themselves.

The following is a list of activities which were most successful, with the Luncheons at Cotah proving to be very popular:

Activities

Lunchtime Social and Annual General Meeting – State Service Club -April

Luncheon at COTAH- June

Bowls Day at Aspley Bowls Club- August

Visit to heritage-listed Boggo Road Gaol- September

Christmas Luncheon at COTAH -November

Lunchtime Social – State Service Club -February

Finance

The financial statement to be presented by the Treasurer indicates that the Association is in a sound financial position, with assets totalling \$7,761 [\$7,472]. Some members who are attaining the age of 75 years are exercising their right under the Constitution to become fully paid-up members.

Newsletter

The newsletter is the backbone of our organisation and sincere appreciation is extended to the Editor, Bernie Credlin, who maintains a very high-quality publication. Bernie is assisted by Dave Morwood in the technical production of the newsletter. All members must keep in mind that the quality of the newsletter requires a substantial amount of material and we should all keep our ears to the ground to assist Bernie in this regard.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met at regular two monthly intervals to attend to the affairs of the Association. The committee meetings are happy and friendly occasions where all members contribute and are regular attendees.

Membership

The membership of our Association at present stands at 188 [181], including 90 [89] country members. During the year thirteen (13) retirees from the Public Service joined our ranks and have been welcomed in the newsletter.

It is with regret that a number of members, former colleagues, friends and relatives of members are no longer with us and whose deaths have been reported in the newsletter.

Future Focus of Association

You will recall that at our last Annual General Meeting, after 17 years of existence, we amended our Constitution to iron out anomalies and bring it up to date as a result of changing times.

I would have liked to have seen the Association change its name to keep in step with Government administrative changes - the Association to reflect an image which clearly shows current members of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and SunWater that they are eligible and welcome to join their Association now or when they retire.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Terry Hogan and Peter Noonan, our Patrons, for their support. Appreciation is expressed to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for their support in providing facilities, etc. and general administration which enables the Association to be ably administered. This willing and cheerful help is rendered by Wayne Stewart and Josie Alati throughout the year. I would also like to extend thanks to those other organisations and their staff who have made our various functions so successful.

We also extend a "Thank You' to Ray Sutherland for auditing our financial affairs.

As I do not intend to stand for re-election, I reflect on the past two (2) years and say what fun it has been to carry out the position of President. It is with regret I have to advise that Heather Clarke will not be standing for re-election due to family commitments. We will miss Heather's efficient secretarial administration of the Association. I and the Executive wish Heather and her family all the very best for the future.

I would personally like to thank Jim Uhlmann for his back-up and eager attitude and support his endeavours on the Committee.

I also have to advise that Barrie Fawcett will not be standing for re-election due to family commitments. We wish Dorothy and Barrie well and hope the future will be kind to them..

The last twelve (12) months have flown and they have been interesting and enjoyable. I feel it has been worthwhile and constructive. I wish to pay tribute to our enthusiastic Secretary (Heather Clarke), to our Treasurer (Lee Rogers), Editor (Bernie Credlin), Vice President (Jim Uhlmann), Past President (Barrie Fawcett) and to Executive Members David Morwood and Bill Eastgate who have been supportive and have made my job that much easier.

Gordon Wilson

MIDYEAR LUNCHEON

Forty-one members, their partners and guests enjoyed the friendship, fine food, wine and pleasant surroundings of the Skyline Restaurant at Southbank TAFE for the Mid-year Luncheon held on Wednesday 18 June. It was particularly pleasing to see some of our newest members, Jim and Sybil **Mienert**, Ken **Ward** and Andy **Winkler** attending their first "Oldies & Boldies" function. Andy travelled all the way from Burrum Heads and enjoyed recollections of his days as a young bloke working on Jack Taylor Weir back in the early fifties. David **Coles** and George **Pearce** came along, both looking particularly hale and hearty. David made the trip down from Caloundra once again. We were also honoured with the presence of Ray **Sutherland** from NR &M and Hein **van der Heide** from SunWater. The pressures of the corporate world meant that Peter **Noonan** could not make it and despite an eleventh hour notice, Hein very capably substituted for Peter and gave an interesting run-down of the current state of play in SunWater.

FUNCTIONS FOR 2003/04

The following functions are planned for 2003/04:

Bowls Day – Friday 8 August 2003.

Bus Trip to Carnival of Flowers - Monday 22 September 2003

Boat Trip on "Forceful" – October (date to be confirmed)

Christmas Luncheon COTAH – Latest Wednesday available in November – to be confirmed.

Bus Tour of Christmas Lights – December (date to be confirmed)

Lunchtime social, Port of Brisbane – 18 February 2004 (date to be confirmed)

20th Annual General Meeting –21 April 2004.

New Members joining since April 2003.

Fred Barlow , Merv Brand , John Connolly , Cec Dinsdale , Jim Mienert , Bill Souter , Ken Ward and Andy Winkler. We also mentioned eleven other new members in earlier Newsletters during the year.

As foreshadowed by Gordon in his out-going Presidential address, Barrie Fawcett and Heather Clarke have left our Executive. The following notes record their service.

BARRIE FAWCETT

Barrie has stepped down from the Committee after nearly 12 years of service to our Association. We thank him sincerely for his contributions over that time.

Barrie joined us on his retirement in 1991 from the old Water Resources Commission which I think was then an appendage of the Department of Primary Industries. He had been working directly with Commissioners Fenwick and Bevin on revisions of the Water Acts. We understand Tom Fenwick expressed the opinion, "If Barrie says it is OK then it's OK". Our experience in the Association confirms that.

Ever since 1992 he has been involved in the operation of the Association as Committee member. He was Secretary for three (3) years, Vice President for a year, President for two (2) years and Past President for the past two (2) years.

During all that time he has contributed much to the Association, especially through the demanding roles of Secretary and President, but also in Committee discussions where his "back to basics" and common sense approach has helped to keep things moving forward in practical ways.

He also made a big contribution to the revision of the Constitution last year where his unfailing talent for seeing errors and knowledge of "legal issues", no doubt helped by years of poring over The Water Act, were invaluable.

As Editor of the Newsletter I was also grateful for his suggestions, particularly on presentation, spelling and grammar.

Thanks Barrie for your long period of service to an appreciative Association ."

Bernie.

HEATHER CLARKE.

This Association has had only a short list of Secretaries, and all of the ones I have seen in action have been very good indeed in the role. It is probably the most demanding job in the Committee, and I'm sure we're all grateful to them. I think Monica Townsend was first, then Noel Ullman who was inaugural president in 1985 and then Secretary until 1992. Then Norm White, Barrie Fawcett, Don Beattie, Grahame Bertram, and, most recently, the one and only Heather Clarke. I'm sure all of the Committee members join me in feelings of great regret that Heather is not going to continue in the job for years and years more.

I'll admit to some feelings of apprehension when Heather took over. Those of us who knew Heather Murdoch in a past life in the old Irritation and Worries Supply Commission wondered::

-- Whether Heather had changed much? and

-- If not, whether we could keep up with her energy and enthusiasm.?

The answer to both questions has been NO, except that Heather has proved to be very kind, waiting for us to catch up.

Heather has been everything a good Secretary should be. She is lively, energetic and positive about tasks that need to be done, efficient, always on time with everything, a meticulous organiser of functions, and totally reliable. She could have had a problem in that she knew almost no-one in the new Department when she took over, but very soon established friendship with the relevant people there.

She has a special flair for bringing a softer, more artistic touch to what might otherwise be a bunch of rough BLOKES. Little touches like red roses for the ladies at dinner will not be forgotten by the recipients. And her computer processing ability produced outstandingly artistic notices of functions and outings.. perhaps we can copy some of these for future notices

All of this has made life on the Committee very pleasant indeed and an inspiration to us all. So, Thank you very much Heather, for all your work and for all the positive, cheerful contributions to the Association. Long may you continue to enjoy life.

David Morwood.

The Executive fully endorses the above comments on Barrie and Heather. We hope that we will still see them often at our functions and that maybe in the near future they will again agree to stand for office. In expressing our appreciation to Barrie and Heather, we also acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by past Secretaries and other office-bearers. We also thank outgoing President Gordon, particularly for his efforts to lighten up our functions.

BUNDABERG

Our roving correspondents Gwen and Alan **Vizer** have completed their assignment in Bundaberg at great expense and report that they called on Warren **Hutton**, Rod **Kingston** and their wives who are all well. An appointment was also made to see George **Beran** at an appropriate oasis on a subsequent visit.

Daphne **Morrison** was heard (2nd April) competing on ABC Radio in "The Number Plate Game". Keep it up Daph and don't forget even if you don't get near the winners you could win a "Smart State' plates.

ODD ODDMENTS

Thanks be to Jem

If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhoea, does that mean one of them enjoys it?

Old age is when former classmates are so grey and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognise you. God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

"Doctor, I can't stop singing 'The green, green grass of home'".

"That sounds like **Tom Jones** syndrome".

"Is it common?"

"Well....It's not unusual....."

And the **Noble prize for Ingenuity** goes to **Dr Fimber** who crossed a singer with a miracle of modern engineering and got **Englebert Humberbridge**. (the Two Ronnies)

Police arrested two teenagers in Tamworth last night.

One was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other off.

According to **Jay Leno** of **CNN**, the US has a plan to divide Iraq into three parts: **regular**, **premium** and **unleaded**.

From a biography of a former Prime Minister **Hawke**, "He was often outspoken but not by many." **And** giving us a blinding glimpse of the obvious was my Councillor who told the Council that Brisbane was having "a very dry year until it rained".

In English pubs ale was served in pints and quarts. When drinkers got unruly the barman would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. Hence "Mind your P's and Q's".

REST IN PEACE

Mrs Lily Seabrook, mother of Allen, and wife of Arthur (dec'd) passed away on 28th May aged 97 years. Condolences are extended to Allen, Gloria, Rayner and Anne.

Ron Dun died in Mackay on 28th March. After wartime service in the Royal Australian Air Force over Europe and as a Prisoner of War, Ron worked with the old Commission at Theodore and in the Burdekin Irrigation Area in the 1950's before moving to employment with the Mackay City Council. He retired as its City Engineer. His wife Jill predeceased him.

Cyril Bode died on 11th May aged 94. His funeral service was on 15th. Cyril was an electrical engineer in the old Mechanical, later Mechanical and Electrical, Branch where he worked from Head Office on smaller projects. Cyril retired in the late '70's. A colleague recently described him as a "thorough gentleman", all would agree.

Cyril's wife Dawn and daughter Johanne predeceased him. He is survived by Elizabeth and Dr John Laxton, grand and great -grandchildren.

David Munro passed away on 21st June after a long illness. He was born in Port Moresby on 26th February 1925.

He went to All Souls college in Charters and worked in a number of areas like Zambia and Mary Kathleen before joining the old Commission at Ayr in 1964 and working in Townsville and Brisbane. He retired in March 1985. David's brother **Malcolm**, began the Munro/I&WSC connection, working as a hydrographer based in Brisbane in the 1950's before joining the Ministry.

The family's farewell to David at the Centenary Crematorium was joined by a large number of friends and former workmates.

The following notes are taken from Randall **Cox's** reading at the service.

"I first met Dave in 1972 when as a young graduate I was posted to the Townsville office. Dave was responsible for groundwater matters and was therefore my supervisor.

My first impression on meeting Dave, an impression that lasted, was that he was a very polite and decent man. Dave took time to introduce me to people, to introduce me to Townsville itself and to explain the things he thought I might need to know. Dave invited me to his home where I met Betty and the children. After I married, Jenny and I played tennis on a regular basis with Dave and Betty. Jenny and I quickly came to appreciate their company.

Dave was a good communicator. Always ready to give a fulsome explanation and to do it in style, Dave had a delightful propensity to use metaphors. Dave could deliver complete sentences consisting of several metaphors loosely linked with conjunctions. Rich in meaning and subtle in inference Dave's metaphors brought colour and humour to a sometime dour technical workplace. Away from work topics it was always entertaining to hear Dave holding forth on why Richard Nixon should be impeached, the Munro family's position on the legitimacy of the government of South Vietnam or the prospect of an Australian victory at Wimbledon.

Dave was always committed to raising the standard of work and he led by example.

Dave had a deep sense of responsibility and accountability that was apparent to his colleagues. But never once did I see Dave deflecting responsibility for anything that went wrong. While always pushing for higher standards he openly acknowledged his own mistakes and was forgiving of the mistakes of others.

Dave Munro was the first professional hydro geologist to work on a regular basis in north Queensland. There are now many people in both the public and private sectors working in this area. They are supported by: satellite imagery; computer models; a local university; and air conditioning. Dave didn't even have a calculator at his disposal when I arrived in Townsville. Nevertheless, the basic understanding of groundwater systems that Dave was instrumental in developing still forms the core knowledge on which our ever improving understanding of many northern aquifer systems is based. Dave was a pioneer of hydrogeology in North Queensland.

The enduring memories of Dave held by his work colleagues are of:

A very decent person with a well balanced life.

A hard working and responsible colleague who always pulled his weight.

A person who always had an interesting and well considered view of a wide range of matters, from sport through work to politics, and who explained his views with humour, style and completeness.

DR SEUSS EXPLAINS WHY COMPUTERS SOMETIMES CRASH.

If a packet hits a pocket
on a socket
on a port,
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,
and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.
If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted because the index doesn't flash,
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!
If the label on the cable
on the table
at your house
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall ...
and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,
so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse;
then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,

'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!
 When the copy of your floppy's
 getting sloppy
 in the disk,
 and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk,
 then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM
 then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!
 Jim Uhlmann

Thanks

WATER

We all know that water is important, it paid our wages for years and 2003 is now the **Year of Freshwater**. From the United States comes the following:-

Three-quarters of all Americans are chronically dehydrated and in more than a third the thirst mechanism. is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger. Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism

as much as 3%. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a University of Washington study. Lack of water is the major trigger of daytime fatigue. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic maths, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by nearly half, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one in two is less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Are you drinking the amount of water you should every day?

And from the same source comes this information on COKE

In many USA states the highway patrol carries two gallons of *Coke* in the boot to remove blood from the highway after a car accident. And it has got many other uses:- Cleaning the toilet bowl (use one can), removing rust spots from chrome car bumpers, cleaning corrosion from car battery terminals, cleaning road haze from your windshield, loosening rusted bolts, removing grease from clothes (empty a can of *Coke* into a machine load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle).

Coke also has outstanding culinary qualities:- To bake a moist ham: Empty a can of *Coca-Cola* into the baking pan, wrap the ham in aluminium foil, and bake. Thirty minutes before the ham is finished, remove the foil, allowing the drippings to mix with the *Coke* for a sumptuous brown gravy. To dispose of a T-bone steak put it in a bowl of *Coke* and it will be gone in two days.

Now the question is, would YOU like a glass of water or *Coke*?

The water message must be getting through because *Coca-Cola Amatil* is bidding to buy *Neverfail* a bottled water retailer.

Thanks Jem

THE SMART SEX

What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windscreens wipers and laser printers all have in common? They were all invented by women.

And which politician said "If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done ask a woman."?

The commotion about Annika **Sorenstam** playing in what has long been regarded as a "Men only" golf competition takes us back to the origin of the name of the game. When it was invented in Scotland it was for "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden"hence "GOLF". Our Rachael **Teske** has been invited to play in the Queensland Open later in the year.
 Go for it girls.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

VW BEACH BUGGY 1963 Model, Sand Commando Tyres, good rego, Excellent paint work, mechanical A1, R.W.C. \$950 O.N.O. Warren Hutton R. & S.

CONCRETE MIXER 11/2 Cubic Foot Electric Motor. Ian Pryor R. & S.

BEACH HOUSE (For Rent) Surfside Bibie Island. Rental \$25 to \$40 per week. Depending when you want it and for how long. B. Eastgate Systems.

From the Christmas 1975 edition of *Aquarius*.

BEST WISHES

Boris and Jean **Wookovich** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on 31st May. Congratulations.

Noel **Ullman** underwent quadruple by-pass surgery on 12th May following a heart attack earlier that month. He is now home and recovering well. Sherry **Credlin** has had a "pacemaker" implanted and is a new girl. Not to be out done your **Editor** had tests on his heart and stomach. John **Connolly**, Stan **James**, Stan **Ross**, Jack **Squires**, Jim **Uhlmann** and Norm **White** have been unwell.

And as a "stop press" item, we have just heard that Leon **Henry** has had a severe heart attack, and is recovering in hospital.

SARS VS SLOPS

The World Health Organisation (WHO) today issued a new warning against non-essential travel to the entire Western hemisphere, following renewed concerns about the spread of *Severe Loss of Perspective Syndrome* (SLOPS). Officials are warning travellers not to visit the UK, the US, almost all of Western Europe, and Canada, following further outbreaks of the disease, which has led to mass panic among the media, thousands of ecstatic children being kept out of school by their unthinking parents, and increased profits for business as the public rush to bulk-buy face masks and boiler suits.

A WHO spokesman said, "You'd be much better off going to somewhere like Thailand or China, because all you've got to worry about there is SARS and let's face it, you're about as likely to die from that as you

are to get kicked to death by rogue earthworms. "The SARS virus has now claimed a staggering 500 lives in only six months, which makes it considerably more deadly than, say, malaria, which only kills around 3000 people every single day. Malaria, however, mainly effects only coloured foreign people, whereas SARS has made at least one westerner feel a bit iffy for a couple of days, and is therefore considered much more serious.

The spread of SLOPS has now reached pandemic proportions, with many high-level politicians seemingly affected by the disease. The rapid spread of SLOPS has been linked to the end of the war in Iraq and the need for Western leaders to give the public something to worry about. Otherwise, they might start asking uncomfortable questions about domestic issues.

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Bernie Credlin

MORE STORAGE NEWS

At the April Annual General Meeting of the Association, the Chief Executive Officer of SunWater, Peter Noonan, outlined the storage situation at SunWater's dams across the State which, in many areas remained at poor levels.

Apart from cyclone "Bene" which was of major benefit across the Burnett region and along the Curtis coast, Peter commented that the reasonable rainfall that had occurred in many areas had generally not been intense enough to produce substantial surface water runoff. One of the few exceptions was the Balonne River which had at last produced useful inflow into Beardmore Dam at St George. Since the meeting, Beardmore and Jack Taylor Weir both filled to capacity. Those members at the February reunion at St George will remember that Beardmore was at 4% capacity at the time!

Elsewhere, the situation remains grim with Lake Clarendon, Bill Gunn and Atkinson's Dams in the Lockyer Valley all storing less than 5% of capacity, Moogerah 3%, Maroon 15%, and Leslie Dam 7%. Coolmunda, Bjelke Petersen, Boondooma, Wuruma, Callide, Kinchant, and Eungella Dams are all at less than one third capacity.

Even the mighty Fairbairn Dam at Emerald has fallen to 26% capacity with severe restrictions on irrigation supplies now necessary to maintain high reliability supply to the numerous coal mines dependent on the dam.

Recent southern media reports of the breakdown of El Nino and of a breaking of the drought certainly do not apply to much of Queensland. Again, here's hoping that the coming wet season will bring better news for SunWater and their customers.

Thanks Lee

RESIGNATION

This will be my last Newsletter after 34 editions. My first was in July 1992, after Stan Ross had produced all the Association's first editions. I have enjoyed the experience particularly as it gave me the opportunity to contact many members, especially in the country. (Perhaps even more I have enjoyed the many contributions that I wasn't game enough to print). The Newsletter is wholly dependent on contributions from our members. These correspondents deserve our sincere thanks. If these items dry up the publication will probably cease and that will be a tragedy for the Association.

Thanks for your help over the years.

Bernie Credlin,

Editor.